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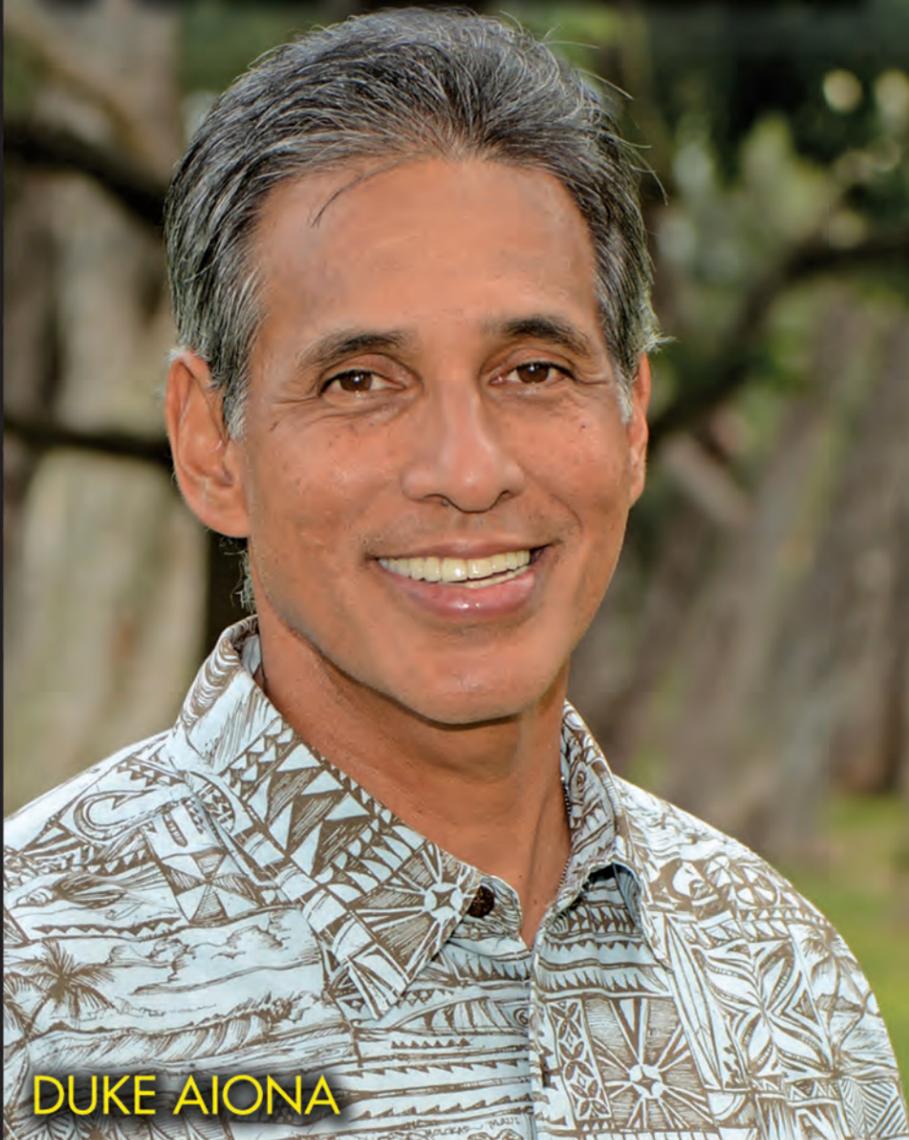
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ OCTOBER 18, 2014 ◆

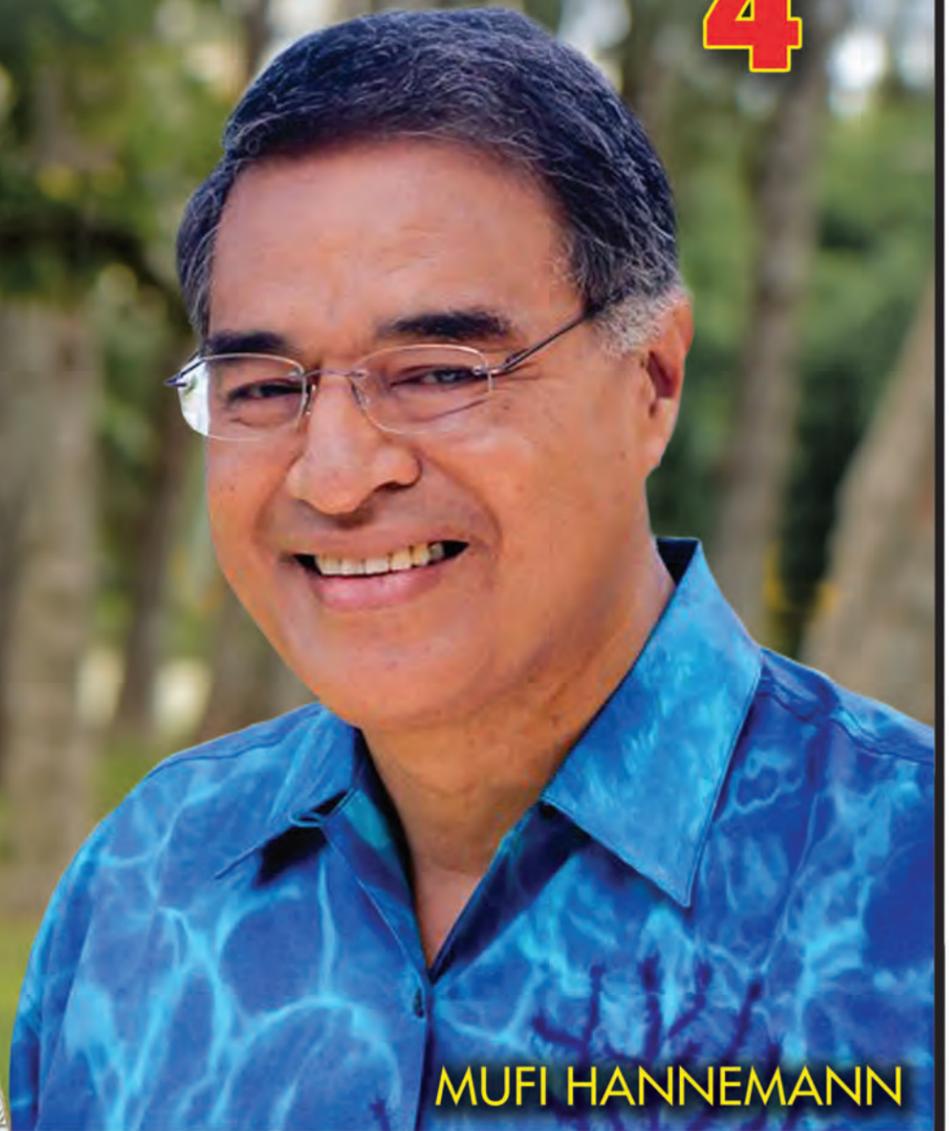
LEADING CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR SHARE VISION FOR HAWAII

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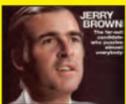
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EDITORIALS

The Unpredictable Gubernatorial Race

Predicting the outcome of any election is a tough enough task. It is even more so for this year's gubernatorial election, where seasoned politicians Mufi Hannemann, Duke Aiona and David Ige are vying for the top executive seat in state government. Hannemann, the Independent Party candidate, continues to enjoy a loyal following among Filipino voters. His close ties with the Filipino community over the years and frequent appearances at parties and community functions make him a favorite among Filipino voters but winning the gubernatorial race outright will be a tough task for the former mayor of Honolulu.

Aiona, the Republican candidate, has done surprisingly well among Filipino voters. His conservative background and deep spiritual beliefs make him appealing particularly to church-going Filipinos. And it certainly doesn't hurt to have the endorsement of world boxing champion Manny Pacquiao. Of the three gubernatorial candidates, Ige the Democrat is perhaps the least popular among Filipino voters. Those Filipinos who are most likely to vote for Ige are union members and long time Democrats.

Despite Ige's unpopularity among Filipino voters, a Civil Beat poll taken in late September shows the former state senator holding a slim 43 to 39 lead over Aiona. Hannemann was third with 8 percent of the vote, Libertarian Jeff Davis got 2 percent and 8 percent of respondents were undecided. A more recent poll taken by the Democratic Governors Association show Ige with a double digit 45 to 33 percent lead over Aiona, with Hannemann garnering 10 percent of the vote and 10 percent undecided.

Hannemann's influence in this election is huge but it remains to be seen whether his presence on the ballot will hurt Democrats or Republicans more when the final votes are tallied. What Democrats certainly don't want to see is a repeat of the 2010 election for Hawaii's 1st Congressional district, when Ed Case split the Democratic vote, allowing Republican Charles Djou to win. With such a close margin separating the leading candidates and a relatively small number of undecided voters, this year's gubernatorial election is simply too close to call.

Again, U.S. Military Intervention Is Not A Solution In Iraq

History apparently is conveniently being ignored once again with the U.S.'s latest decision to approve air-strikes in Iraq, and if need be, Syria, to stop the radical group ISIS from gaining power.

After decades of war in Iraq, and billions upon billions spent first to fight against Saddam Hussein, and second, to prop up a new government and squash militants, guess what, Islamic radicalism lives on, with yet another, newer, dangerous group in ISIS.

U.S. military intervention which resulted in over a million Iraqi deaths in the span of decades has not resolved the situation in Iraq, but exacerbated the problem. It's even reasonable to say that it has helped to lure young Iraqis steep in poverty to join militants. How many more deaths, how many more billions poured into arms or air-strikes will it take for the world community to realize ideas, radical or moderate, cannot be wiped out by military means?

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Here we go again! As of press time, Tropical Storm Ana was less than 600 miles away from Hilo and expected to strengthen into a hurricane with winds between 75 mph to 90 mph. As usual, many residents began preparing for Ana's arrival. Some probably still have leftover bottled water and other supplies from Hurricanes Iselle and Julio which skirted our state in early August. If not, we hope that you have prepared ahead of time for this storm. Stay safe and dry!



Speaking of storms, we can expect activity to pick up as we head towards the November 4th General Election, which is less than three weeks away. In the Chronicle's never-ending attempt to educate our readers on the elections and the major candidates, we have focused this issue's cover story on the top candidates for governor of Hawaii—Duke Aiona, Mufi Hannemann and David Ige. Unfortunately, Ige's campaign did not respond to the questionnaire that was emailed to them. Nevertheless, we hope that you will learn more about these candidates who talk about their vision for Hawaii. If you want to find out more, please turn to page 4. Also, look for the results of the Chronicle's General Election Poll in our next issue!

For our Ilocano-speaking readers, the city of Vigan in Ilocos Sur is among the 14 finalists competing to be named as one of the new Seven Wonder Cities of the World. The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is appealing to the Filipino community to vote for Vigan online and is hoping for a good response, especially since well over 80 percent of Hawaii's Filipinos are Ilocanos. Voting ends December 7th. See page 6 for more details on how and where to vote for the Heritage City of Vigan.

That's all for now. I'd like to encourage you to take a few moments to read through this issue and our many useful and informative columns. And as ever, we are thankful to our readers and advertisers for their faithful support of the Chronicle. It's truly a blessing to partner with them in our mission to serve Hawaii's vibrant and dynamic Filipino community. Please feel free to share with us any story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. Send your email to: filipinochronicle@gmail.com.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

This concept of changing people through education and cooperation over might and coercion is basic enough, yet never fully pursued. In the meantime, the Saudis and oil giants, not only benefit from Iraq's constant warring and instability by having one of the largest world oil reserves in Iraq sidelined from becoming a major player in the oil market, but the Saudis, as well as the U.S., flip-flop in helping to fund and arm various militant groups in the region.

Ultimately, the goal by the West, the Saudis and other oil-rich nations, would be to either prop up a regime that they could control in the way of oil extraction and distribution, or support instability by any means until that mythically western-friendly regime comes along. It's a policy rooted in bad business and becoming more and more transparent, which is why the systemic injustice in the region is producing more violent and far reaching Islamic radicals.

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Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

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Contributing Editor
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Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

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Fiedes Doctor
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Carlota Hufana Ader
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OPINION

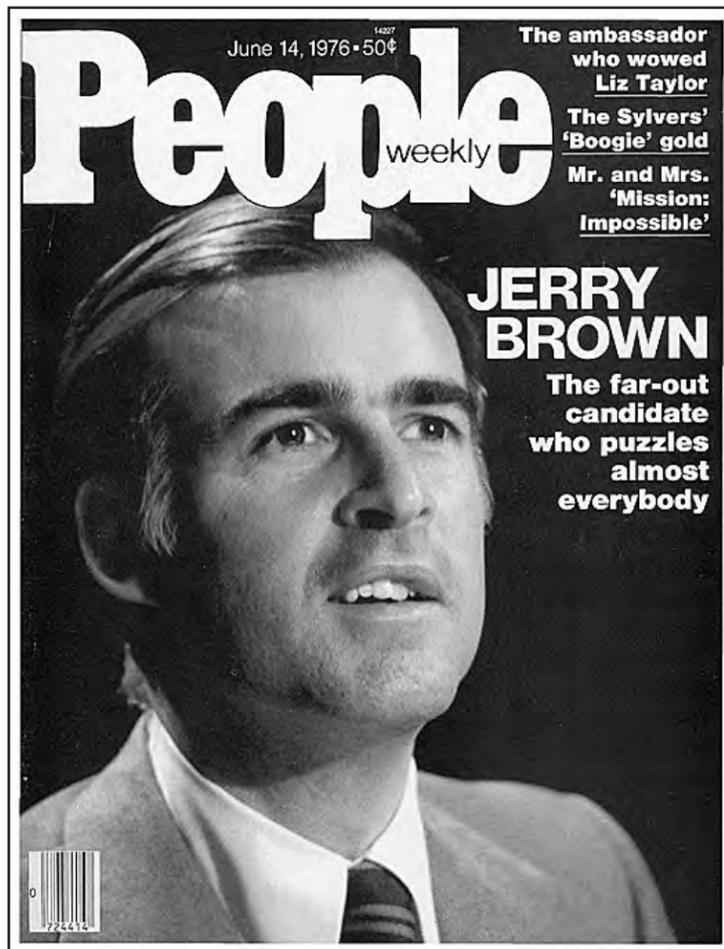
Ex Jesuit Governor, "A Man for Others" Who Helps Undocumented Immigrants

NO LIMITATION
by Ted Laguatan

“While Washington waffles on immigration, California's moving ahead. I'm not waiting.”— Governor Jerry Brown

Since becoming California's governor for the third time, Brown has signed into law six Bills which provide significant benefits to undocumented immigrants. In October 2011, the California Dream Act affording financial aid for undocumented immigrant students brought to the U.S. before the age of sixteen - became law. This was followed in October 2013 by two more laws: Assembly Bill 60 which allows undocumented immigrants to have drivers' licenses and by the California Trust Act which forbids state law enforcers from detaining them for immigration hold when they are arrested for minor and non-violent crimes.

And just recently, on September 27, 2014, Brown again signed into law three more new Bills benefiting undocumented immigrants: One known as the State Dream Loan Program provides more aid to undocumented college students consisting of \$9.2 million for loans to be administered by state universities. Another is the unprecedented Senate Bill



1159 which allows undocumented immigrants to apply for state licenses in the different professions as lawyers, doctors, accountants, nurses, architects, engineers, etc. This is especially beneficial to Filipino professionals who otherwise could not utilize their education and training. The third law allocates \$3 million to non-profit organizations that provide legal representation to undocumented minors.

These six laws significantly benefit not only undocumented immigrants but everyone else. The development of as many men and

women as possible to their full potentials allows for more human achievement in the sciences, arts and humanities benefiting all on this planet.

While these laws were sponsored by well meaning legislators such as Sen. Bill Lara, D, who sponsored the loan program legislation for undocumented immigrant students, without the full support of Brown - it would have been very difficult if not impossible to get these passed. In so many ways, these laws provide a kinder and better world not only for undocumented immigrant beneficiaries but for all of us.

Many are those driven by hysteria, irrational fear, racism, misinformation or hate - who constantly unjustifiably demonize undocumented immigrants and hurl all kinds of false accusations. They fail to see that by helping to improve the lives of those who are less fortunate, their own lives are enriched. Conversely, by making others miserable, their own lives are also made more miserable. Love begets love, hate begets hate. Why is this so difficult to see?

It is an unquestionable fact that many great men and

women whose talents and skills in various fields have contributed so much to a better life for all - came from the ranks of undocumented immigrants.

And even those who may not be as exceptional contribute much to keep food on our table with their agricultural sweat, build houses, work in hotels and restaurants, babysit for children, care for the elderly, clean homes and offices, work for manufacturing companies - and provide so many other valuable services to our society. Studies have shown that in general, undocumented immigrants give more to the system than they take. Even the funds from Social Security deductions taken from them for which they will not benefit because of their unlawful status - amount to hundreds of millions of dollars.

The best leaders are those who sincerely love the people and not those who glorify and enrich themselves in their positions of power. Governor Jerry Brown's love for the people goes further. It stems from his love of God. He does not see undocumented immigrants as separate from other human beings understanding that God commands him to love all.

His father, the very popular and well respected Governor Pat Brown and his mother Bernice Layne, the daughter of a San Francisco police captain, both staunch Catholics, raised Jerry and his four sisters as practicing Catholics and sent them to Catholic schools. Jerry went to St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco, a much respected Jesuit institution.

He went through the usual basic Jesuit spiritual formation of students which includes religion classes, regular masses, communion, silent retreats, and discussions on Ignatian principles of what a person ought to do with his life. Being humble and "a man for others" for the greater glory of God is a core Jesuit belief and principle.

After High School, he went to Santa Clara University, another Jesuit School and spent

a year there. In search for the deeper meaning of life, he entered the Sacred Heart Novitiate seminary to become a Jesuit priest. As a scholastic, he took the initial vows of poverty, obedience and chastity. The most intellectual of all the orders, Jesuits are mandated to take heavy philosophy and theology courses.

Three years later and after much soul searching, Brown decided that being a priest was not his vocation. He would love and serve God as a public servant. After getting his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California in Berkeley, he went to Yale Law School - then entered politics.

After being the top vote getter in the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees in the community. 1969 elections, the charismatic young man ran for the position of Secretary of State in 1971 and won. He went after some of the biggest corporations for electoral law violations - something politicians are not inclined to do as they would lose corporate financial support. Then at 36, in 1975, he was elected governor of California, one of the youngest ever. He got a lot of support from the Filipino-American community. The late community leader Alex Esclamado, organized "Browns for Brown" which was joined by thousands who campaigned for Brown.

He was elected governor for two terms - up to 1983. He did what he sincerely thought was good for the people. He became known as a staunch environmentalist, fought for the rights of minorities, was against the death penalty and did an excellent job with the economy as a fiscal conservative. Successful as governor and having gained national popularity, he was constantly touted as a strong Democratic Party candidate for President. The lack of corporate funding hurt his chances for nomination.

As Governor, he chose to ignore the perks of the office. He did not live in the Govern-

(continued on page 6)

EDITORIALS (from page 5. AGAIN,....)

Terrorism is an act of desperation. The only hope for true peace and stability in Iraq is non-military support and diplomacy. Make no mistake that the U.S. military weapons and training we provide this time around to the groups we are working with, could ultimately be used against us as these same groups become radicalized and become our enemies in the future.

Should the U.S. eventually move to ground troop support in a full-scale war -- that

would be an even larger mistake.

The public should ignore politicians stoking panic and fear over ISIS, along with the typically hawkish mainstream press. ISIS is really an ant-size threat to the U.S. compared to the dangerous political game President Barack Obama and NATO is playing with Russia. Now that crisis is far more risky and consequential to Americans than what's unfolding in the middle east.

COVER STORY

AIONA AND HANNEMANN

Leading Candidates for Governor Share Vision for Hawaii

By HFC Staff

The 2014 Gubernatorial Election will determine the successor for Neil Abercrombie. Will it be David Ige, Duke Aiona or Mufi Hannemann?

To familiarize our readers with the leading candidates, the Chronicle sent a questionnaire to their respective campaigns. As of press time, only

David Ige's campaign failed to send in its response. The Chronicle nevertheless decided to proceed with Aiona and Hannemann's responses. Both candidates spoke candidly about their priorities if elected and their plans to improve Hawaii. Their responses were edited for space and clarity.

Q & A with Duke Aiona

Q: What is your campaign strategy heading into the final weeks before the General Election?



A: It's an exciting time for Hawaii and we'll be bringing that excitement and anticipation everywhere we go. In addition to continuing to release innovative and unique policy solutions to issues like affordability, cost of living and education, I will remain very accessible to the people of Hawaii through rallies, forums and other events.

I know the people of Hawaii have a choice to make—either more of the same or a change in the right direction. I'm prepared to lead with an open heart and trust, respect and balance in Hawaii.

As your governor, I'll work very hard to solve the issues most pressing to the Filipino community, including making Hawaii a friendlier place for small business and addressing the concerns of those employed by Hawaii's Health Care System.

Q: What have you been doing to court the Filipino vote?

A: We've had some great events with the Filipino community and I've really had a great opportunity to listen to members of the community about their concerns. We've done two forums within the Filipino community. And we're very, very proud to announce the endorsement of Manny Pacquiao who felt that we shared similar principles and a willingness to work hard for the people.

Q: If elected governor, what is the first thing you'll do?

A: Several of my initiatives are ready to go and won't require additional funding through the Legislature which means I can get started on implementation immediately. Both of my affordable housing initiatives, one for rentals and the H.O.P.E. incubator for affordable homes, are also ready to start immediately.

Homeless Court, which ensures that our homeless have the opportunity to receive needed treatment while staying out of the criminal justice system, can begin immediately. And I'll also begin by choosing a Board of Education which is balanced, community-representative and ready to begin the work of improving our schools for our students.

Q: What is your plan to address homelessness?

A: My plan, announced in June, addresses both chronically homeless and homeless veterans. Homeless Court, similar to the Drug Court program that I spearheaded while in the State Judiciary, provides opportunities for the homeless to stay out the criminal system through court-appointed treatment for mental health, addiction and job training.

We have one of the country's highest rates of homeless veterans. As Commander-in-Chief of the Hawaii National Guard, I will also implement a peer-to-peer outreach program to ensure that we "leave no service person behind," and to make sure they receive the treatment they deserve so they can once again lead productive and healthy lives.

Q: There is also a critical need for more affordable housing. What will you do to meet this demand?

A: I have announced two programs to address affordable housing and I'm the only candidate who has created innovative solutions for Hawaii for this issue.

The first program, announced in June, allocates 25 percent of corporate taxes

(continued on page 5)

Q & A with Mufi Hannemann

Q: What is your campaign strategy heading into the final weeks before the General Election?

A: We are reaching out to other independents and independent, fair-minded Democrats and Republicans who want to work together to get things done and to break through the political gridlock and partisan politics that have held us back for far too long.

We are asking voters to think of the governor's race as their opportunity to hire the next CEO who will run the State on their behalf. Les Chang and I have a proven track record of being executive leaders. At City Hall, we tackled some of the toughest issues that for years had been kicked down the road—traffic, sewer systems, infrastructure and technology. We not only found solutions but made sure that we ended each year with a surplus without raiding special funds.



Q: What have you been doing to court the Filipino vote?

A: I never thought of the relationships I've developed with the Filipino community in terms of votes. I've developed many friendships because of my love for the people and their wonderful, warm and embracing culture. We share common values such as family, faith and love of food, music and laughter.

I have sometimes been referred to as the tallest Filipino because I am the only candidate for governor who has been to the Philippines. I am also the only one who is an adopted son of several towns and provinces in Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. As mayor, I appointed several talented Filipinos to my cabinet and to numerous boards and commissions. Finally, one of my most cherished honors was given by the United Filipino Council of Hawaii—the Ating Kaibigan Award.

Q: If elected governor, what is the first thing you'll do?

A: My immediate priority is to assemble a non-partisan cabinet based on qualifications and merit and not on politics. Second, review the legislative package that we'll inherit, as well as take steps to begin an audit and review of certain programs to make government more efficient and accountable. Third, reach out to the Legislature to signal a new era of collaboration and invite other elected officials and the community to participate in this dialogue. Fourth, invite County mayors to be part of the Hawaii Council of Leaders which will tackle the State's most challenging issues. Fifth, meet with our Congressional delegation to identify priority issues and to lay out a strategy where we will speak with one voice.

Q: What is your plan to address homelessness?

A: As governor, I will form the Hawaii Council of Leaders comprised of the governor and four mayors. One of the issues we will tackle is homelessness. My plan is to work collaboratively with non-profit social service providers to find solutions that are community-oriented and to leverage State and federal resources.

One of the challenges in dealing with homelessness at the county level is that many of the "wrap around services" for those in need are handled by the State, so it is important that the governor leads the way. I would also leverage every federal grant, including resources from the Department of Veterans Affairs, to assist veterans who are homeless.

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COVER STORY

AIONA (from page 4)

collected towards the Rental Housing Trust Fund. This is not a tax increase—it's a reflection of my priorities as governor. We expect close to 19,500 to be able to enjoy affordable housing by 2017 due to this small adjustment.

The H.O.P.E. (Home Ownership Personal Equity), announced in October, is an affordable housing incubator. Participants in these properties will earn equity for a down payment on a home over a 10- to 15-year period. During this time, they will receive training and mentoring on homeownership and participate in the community's board. After participating, based on \$1,500 a month in rent, over a 15-year period, participants, referred to as Community Owners, will have up to \$74,550 to use for a down payment on a home. This program gives those people who never thought they had the hope of ever buying a home the opportunity to do so, ensuring families who want to stay in Hawaii can stay here.

Q: High schools in West Oahu like Campbell and Kapolei are severely overcrowded. What is your plan to address this problem?

A: I will work with area stakeholders, parents, teachers and community members to develop a plan to address overcrowding while plans for a new high school are developed.

Q: What will your administration do to ensure a vibrant visitor industry?

A: In addition to returning a Tourism Liaison to the governor's cabinet, I also support increased funding for marketing Hawaii, particularly in emerging markets.

Q: How concerned are you with the U.S. Army's proposed force reduction and what is your plan to offset the impacts on Hawaii's economy?

A: We need to do two things to insulate ourselves from changes in federal dollars. First, we need to bolster our own economy through small business growth. Second, we will streamline government to create efficiencies to ensure that our government is making the most out of taxpayer dollars.

Q: Do you see areas where State spending needs to be cut back? If so, where?

A: As the State's largest budget item, I believe that the Department of Education should have an independent audit to ensure it is spending its budget efficiently and in ways that benefit the students.

There maybe other areas where we can decrease spending through streamlining and creating efficiencies. One obvious area is the Lieutenant Governor's office budget which has increased significantly due to the fact that our current lieutenant governor maintains an office on Maui as well as on Oahu.

Q: What state programs need increased funding?

A: I believe that the State has adequate resources but reallocation of funding between departments is possible.

Q: To further diversify and grow Hawaii's economy, what would you propose in terms of offering incentives for businesses? What about tax relief?

A: I will review all tax credits to ensure they are still necessary and relevant. While we must look at ways to reduce taxes on all businesses, we should also make sure that everyone is paying their fair share.

Q: If elected, would you consider holding "talk story" sessions to continue to hear the people's concerns and/or suggestions?

A: Throughout my campaign, I've worked very hard to be accessible to all people in Hawaii and I will continue to do so as governor. It's important that citizens feel part of the process and in touch with the government that they have elected to serve them. I would definitely consider regularly held "talk story" sessions with all members of the community.

Q: In 50 words or less, what is your pledge to those who vote you for governor?

A: People feel disconnected and distrustful of politicians and I can understand why. People don't feel respected as citizens and they don't feel that government listens to them. And finally, our State is in a crisis because we have no balance in our state government. As governor, I will bring trust, respect and balance to government.

HANNEMANN (from page 4)

Q: There is also a critical need for more affordable housing. What will you do to meet this demand?

A: Affordable housing as well as housing for middle class families is an issue I am prepared to address. The state can play a critical role in facilitating the construction of new homes as well as converting and renovating existing units into affordable housing. The State can work with developers and the counties in making state land available, supporting needed infrastructure and working through the permitting and zoning processes.

An example on Oahu is the opportunity to develop mix-use communities that include affordable housing around rail transit stations. The idea behind Transit Oriented Development is to create communities with housing at different price points and places where families can work, shop, eat and play.

Q: High schools in West Oahu like Campbell and Kapolei are severely overcrowded. What is your plan to address this problem?

A: Ewa and Kapolei are growing communities. As such, their schools quickly reach capacity. Ultimately, a new high school will need to be built, but it is critical that Campbell gets its fair share of capital improvement expenditures. Long overdue projects such as air conditioning and other improvements must move forward with renewed commitment. Although Kapolei is a newer school, on-going maintenance needs to be a part of our budgetary priorities to ensure that what was built recently does not fall into disrepair due to negligence or lack of funding.

Q: What will your administration do to ensure a vibrant visitor industry?

A: We should encourage a synergistic relationship with tourism and other aspects of our economy such as health-tourism, edu-tourism, cultural-tourism, agri-tourism and science-tourism. Hawaii should also be known as a great place to do business, invest and learn.

My past experience with tourism in the public and private sectors will come in handy. Having a governor who has the skills and expertise to lead successful tourism missions and promotions as I have done in the past will be a tremendous asset to our State's marketing campaign.

Q: How concerned are you with the U.S. Army's proposed force reduction and what is your plan to offset the impacts on Hawaii's economy?

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Reports Progress in Road Repaving Efforts

City crews are ahead of schedule in Mayor Kirk Caldwell's efforts to repave Oahu's roads.

So far for the third quarter of 2014, crews have repaved a total of 269 lane miles. In 2013, a record 398 lane miles of City roads were repaved.

Currently, the City has 14 on-going road projects valued at \$139 million to repave 504 lane miles of roads. Five construction projects totaling \$40.8

million dollars to repave 91 lane miles of roads have been awarded with work expected to begin soon. There are also an additional 31 projects valued at \$286.7 million to repave 588 lane miles of roads which are currently in the planning and design phase.

Improving Oahu's roads remains one of the Caldwell administration's top priorities. The mayor's ambitious five-year plan called for repaving

an average of 300 lane miles per year in order to repair all 1,500 lane miles deemed unsatisfactory in a 2012 survey.

"Having safe, drivable roads is a primary function of City government," says Mayor Caldwell. "Repaving 398 lane miles of City roads last year was long overdue and shattered the previous record, however many of those roads were easier projects. A greater portion of the 269 lane miles repaved

so far this year were more complex and required greater time and resources to complete.

"We're going to bring all the roads under the City's jurisdiction to satisfactory condition or better, as expeditiously and cost-effectively as possible."

In addition to repaving unsatisfactory roads, the City is proactively maintaining roads that are still in good condition. A slurry seal, or emulsified asphalt coating, is used to extend

the life of good roads.

City crews also regularly patch potholes within 48 hours of being reported by the public. Temporary patching helps to create a smoother ride for drivers until more substantive improvements can be made. The City has filled 30,756 potholes this year and filled 46,470 in 2013.

The public is encouraged to report potholes by calling the City's Pothole Hotline at 768-7777.

Vigan City Among 14 Finalists for 'Wonder City' World Search

Vigan City is a step closer to becoming one of the New Seven Wonder Cities of the World.

Vigan City made it to the top 14 finalists after a second round of voting in the New7Wonders Cities Campaign, joining Barcelona (Spain); Beirut (Lebanon); Chicago (U.S.); Doha (Qatar); Durban (South Africa); Havana (Cuba); Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); La Paz (Bolivia); London (United Kingdom); Mexico City (Mexico); Perth (Australia); Quito (Ecuador) and Reykjavik (Iceland).

The third and final elimination round will be held October 7 – December 7, 2014. To qualify for the final round, Vigan City must finish among the top 7 cities. Voting can be

done by going online to: www.new7wonders.com/en/cities.

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu is appealing to Hawaii's Filipino community to log in and vote.

"We thank our kababayans and friends for their support for Vigan City through voting and spreading word about Vigan City's bid to be recognized worldwide as an emerging wonder city," says Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin. "We are very optimistic that with unprecedented votes from both the Philippines, Hawaii and abroad, we can make it to the final leg of the search."

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inscribed Vigan on the World

Heritage List in 1999, citing the city for its "best practice in sustainable conservation and management of world heritage properties" and dubbed it as the best-preserved example of a planned Spanish colonial town in Asia.



OPINION (from page 3, EX-JESUIT,....)

nor's mansion but rented a simple apartment. Unlike previous Governors, he opted not to ride a chauffeured limousine, but instead walked to his office and drove an ordinary Plymouth sedan. Incumbent Pope Francis, also a Jesuit, has likewise chosen to live not in the papal palace but in a simple apartment. He also avoids the perks and privileges of his office. Governor Jerry Brown was ahead of him in refusing to live like a king.

After his second term as Governor in 1983, Brown did not hold any public office for a long time but continued with his search for a meaningful life. He went to Japan to study Zen Buddhism and also spent some time with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India, ministering to sick and dying poor people.

In 1999, he decided to continue his service to God and humanity as a politician and did an unthinkable thing. He ran as Mayor for the City of Oakland. Why Oakland? Oakland is predominantly a black community plagued with widespread poverty and a reputation as one of the most violent cities in the U.S. Can a white candidate win as Mayor? The black community sensed that Brown, a former governor, was out there to

really do good and not out of blind ambition. They elected him for two terms, from 1999 to 2007.

Brown did much to revitalize Oakland with his connections and experience. He was able to bring in over a billion dollars in investments, rehabilitated blighted districts, tried his best to provide better educational opportunities for young people and reduced the crime rate by 13%. Brown left the city a better place to live in.

With his good record as a true public servant, Brown ran for Attorney General in 2007 and won with one of the widest margins ever in state races. As Attorney general, among other things, he went against the predatory lending practices of financial institutions winning class settlements for the victims.

In 2011, now 72 years old, he ran for a third time for Governor against monied Meg Whitman, former EBay President. Endorsed by practically all the major California newspapers, Brown won by an overwhelmingly wide 14% margin. The oldest elected Governor in California history.

Jerry Brown is a rare politician. He behaves more like a philosopher than a politician. To him, unlike most politicians,

politics which has to do with the acquisition of power, is just a means to a higher end and not an end by itself. Before he is a politician, he is before everything else, a man committed to God and fellowmen. He simply does courageously what he sincerely believes to be the right and good thing to do after much thought and then is indifferent to the results, victorious or not - a way of life and thinking acquired by those who spend much time in solitude and prayer.

The good work that he has done will bear much fruit in the lives of others and the generations to come long after he is gone. If we had more politicians like him, we would have a much better world. Governor Jerry Brown, truly a man for others.

.....
ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is one of only 29 lawyers officially certified continuously for 24 years now as an expert in immigration law by the California State Bar. As a journalist, he recently won the 2014 award in the *Plaridel Awards for Excellence in Filipino American Journalism in the Best Commentary and Editorial category* given by the *Philippine American Press Club*. Email laguatanlaw@gmail.com Tel 650 991-1154. San Francisco area address: 455 Hickey Blvd., Ste 516, Daly City, Ca 94015



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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

On Kolten Wong and More on American Filipino History Month

They are calling the left-handed batsman Kolten Wong of the St. Louis Cardinals the “Hawaiian Punch.”

Wong of out of Hilo, but who attended Kamehameha and UH-Manoa in Honolulu, has emerged as an offensive threat, hitting a game-winning home run in both post-season series with the Dodgers and the Giants.

I hope by time you read this, the San Francisco Giants pitching staff will have solved Wong, and the only Hawaiian Punch any of us will have to worry about is that storm named Ana heading for the islands.

Besides, there was only one “Hawaiian Punch” in my

mind in baseball, and that would have to be the great Benny Agbayani, formerly of the New York Mets, but a proud Honolulu Filipino out of St. Louis High.

Coincidentally, both Agabayani and Wong hit late-inning playoff home runs to beat the Giants.

But I know there are as many Giants fans in Hawaii as there are Kolten fans. He’s got a bright career ahead of him, especially with that tremendous bat speed that can give a little guy unusual home run power.

This is the month of October, and as we all know it is the time for the best baseball of the year. But it’s also Filipino American History Month, which (if you saw last week’s column) I like to call American Filipino History month.

It’s really a unifying phrase that lets people know we are talking about both the American-born Filipino, as well as

Filipinos who have immigrated to America, whether they be naturalized or not. You’re here? This is your history.

By putting the American first, it also let’s everyone else know that we are part of America.

However, we Filipinos tend to be sensitive types. And the thought of some new arrangement of the name has made a few people sulk. Or misunderstand.

At a recent event, a relatively new Filipino immigrant liked my “American Filipino” term. But she made it sound as if the “born-here Filipinos” are somehow different, immune from hardship, implying that maybe we’re even (horrors) white.

We are not white. And don’t claim to be. We may or may not have accents. But if we’re American born, we may tend to sound like our region. Or from nowhere Filipino.

But the woman went on

about how for recent Filipino immigrants to the U.S. life can be very hard, working 2-3 jobs just to make ends meet. And then there’s the accent. And she went on and on—until I was able to rebut her.

If you know your American Filipino history, then you know that even those who were born here have experienced the pain of racism and discrimination.

To say we weren’t is just ignorant. The history from the turn of the century on tells us that racism and discrimination shaped our lives. Indeed, our lives were built and shaped in spite of it.

When my father came to America in 1929, he wasn’t here on vacation. But he was also a colonized American. But he was in California to work.

I’ve often wondered why there was such a gap, nearly 50 years between my dad and myself.

But the gap is due to racism.

When my father came to America the dream was for wealth and opportunity. The reality for the average Filipino was hard labor in the fields, or in the service trades.

There was also no real chance at the real prize, to lay roots in America and start a

family. Not with the double whammy of the imbalanced ratio of men to women—about 10-1. They were brought in as workers, remember?

On top of that, anti-inter-marriage laws were put into effect when white American males actually saw Filipinos as a threat to the white race because of their dalliances with white women.

That made Filipino families very rare, with children from those marriages now in their late 70s. Not many of them.

But for the majority of Filipinos, the baby boom began in the 1950s, once WWII was over and more Filipino women were allowed to immigrate.

That’s just a little bit of history that explains a lot about the American born Filipino.

Just being born was an amazing triumph. But you won’t know it unless you understand what it really means to be an American Filipino.

In spite of racism and discrimination, it was a community that found a way to thrive.

EMIL GUILLERMO served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award winning journalist, he was the first Filipino to host a national news program when he hosted NPR’s “All Things Considered.” He lives in Northern California.

HANNEMANN (from page 5)

A: Working with the military as mayor, the former Director of the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism and an active participant in the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Military Affairs Council will come in handy as we lobby to oppose reductions of Army personnel stationed in Hawaii. However, nothing in life is guaranteed, so we need to be prepared. We will bring together the economy’s three sectors—public, private and nonprofit—to shape public-private partnerships that lead to solutions for our most pressing challenges.

A specific action to encourage business growth in Hawaii will be to advocate for a statewide ferry system. I believe that a ferry system will improve our quality of life, provide another affordable choice to travel inter-island and provide an economic boost. If elected governor, bringing back an inter-island ferry system will be one of my priorities.

Q: Do you see areas where State spending needs to be cut back? If so, where?

A: After conducting an audit and review process that I will put in place if elected governor, I will begin eliminating wasteful spending, getting rid of inefficiencies especially as it relates to collecting taxes that are lawfully due, and start streamlining government. By doing so, we can realize savings as well as collect more revenues.

I would also revisit the budget and determine whether all of the existing priorities should continue. The practice has been that priorities are set but are woefully underfunded. The net result is that little to no progress is ever made on a number of fronts. We would narrow our focus, working on the solutions that offer us our best opportunities to resolve our most pressing challenges.

Q: What state programs need increased funding?

A: Before any commitments are made to increasing funding, I believe a thorough audit and review process must occur. It may be the case that money that has already been allocated can be spent in better ways. That being said, I can say there are two areas where funding needs to increase in order to address two pressing problems—our doctor shortage and the rising prices of electricity.

We have an acute doctor shortage that threatens to undermine our ability to serve the medical needs of our community. We need to increase the number of new doctors graduating from the UH School of Medicine and take other measures to increase doctor retention. With regard to electricity, electricity prices in Hawaii are 300 percent higher than the mainland. This hurts our economy and lowers the standard of living of families and businesses.

(continued on page 13)



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HOME GROWN

GMO Crops: Competing Claims

From CTAHRNotes

On polls taken over the last two years, between half and three-quarters of respondents have expressed concern about GMOs' effects on human health and environmental safety. However, Hawai'i has also seen some potentially positive effects from genetically modified crops. This column offers a brief overview of the issue.

Two common types of genetic modification are used to make crops resistant to chemical herbicides or to cause the plants themselves to become toxic to insect pests. A large portion of herbicide-resistant crops are "Roundup Ready®" (RR) corn, soybean, and cotton. These can survive being sprayed with Roundup®, a glyphosate-containing herbicide manufactured by the company Monsanto, which also developed and sells the

RR crops. Proponents argue that RR crops conserve topsoil and also require farmers to do less work. Opponents are concerned about possible dangers of this herbicide, which they argue leaves residues in the body that affect the beneficial bacterial in the digestive system and have other possible health concerns. At least 14 species of weeds have also become resistant to glyphosate due to its increased use, and the herbicides commonly used instead of glyphosate against resistant species are even more toxic.

However, in Hawai'i the 'UH Rainbow' papaya, developed by CTAHR plant breeders, is used instead to cut the amount of pesticides used: researchers genetically modified papaya to be resistant to Papaya ringspot virus, a disease that was decimating the papaya industry in the late 1990s and could require large amounts of pesticide to control. There may one day be a



Hawaii's "Sunrise" GMO Papayas

conventionally bred papaya that shares this resistance, but one doesn't presently exist, though certain conventionally bred varieties have partial resistance.

Plants genetically engineered to be toxic to pests include corn, potato, and cotton that are formulated to contain proteins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a bacterium used to make pesticides. Insects eating these crops are killed as though they had eaten crops sprayed with Bt pesti-

cide. Advocates argue that because this pesticide can be used on food crops, it is equally safe to eat foods containing this bacterium. Opponents argue that because this pesticide, like others, is strictly regulated—for instance, the label for Bt pesticide directs that if it is swallowed, a poison control center or doctor should be called immediately—therefore foods containing the toxin from Bt should also be regulated.

Allergies in the United States rose more than 50% be-

tween 1997, soon after GMOs were introduced into the food supply, and 2011, though proponents argue no specific link has been found. One Bt protein, Cry9c, was incorporated into StarLink corn, but because it was considered a possible allergen, the corn was only registered for use as animal feed or for non-food purposes. However, a mix-up led to the presence of up to 50% of StarLink corn in food products in 2000. Despite a recall, StarLink corn was detected in foods in the US as late as 2003; it was also found in foods sent to Central American countries in 2005 and in Saudi Arabia in 2013. Fifty-one consumers described adverse reactions to foods contaminated by StarLink corn, though it was not proven that these reactions were from allergies to Cry9c.

It is clear that GMOs are a highly contested subject and that continuing objective research and public debate on the question are needed.

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PHILIPPINES NEWS

Murder Complaint Filed vs US Marine

by Edu Punay
 Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - As investigators piece together the circumstances that led to the death of transgender Jeffrey Laude, his family has filed a murder complaint with the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office against US Marine Private First Class Joseph Scott Pemberton.

Laude's family filed the complaint yesterday through lawyer Harry Roque.

Police, meanwhile, organized Special Investigation Task Group Laude to gather more evidence against Pemberton, who is in the custody of his superiors on the USS Peleliu docked in Subic Bay. The soldier is with the 2nd Battalion 9th Marines based in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Roque told The STAR he and Laude's family would seek the transfer of Pemberton to the custody of Philippine authorities. He said he accepted the case upon request of the victim's mother Julita.

Roque was among the lawyers of the woman known as Nicole in the 2005 rape case, also in Subic, involving four US Marines led by Lance Corporal Daniel Smith.

At Camp Olivas in Pampanga, Chief Superintendent Raul Petrasanta, Police Regional Office-3 director, said the Olongapo City Crime Laboratory, the Regional Investigation and Detective Management Division and the City Provincial Legal Service comprise the newly formed SITG.

Olongapo City police chief Senior Superintendent Pedrito delos Reyes heads the task group.

"After a thorough investigation of the SITG Laude and when all the findings are out, we will abide by the usual judicial proceedings as contained in the Visiting Forces Agreement to guarantee that justice will be served," Petrasanta said.

He said the suspect was identified by witness Mark Clarence Gelviro from a photo lineup provided by the US Navy's National Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

Laude was found dead inside the toilet of a room in Celzone Lodge almost an hour after he and Pemberton checked in Saturday night. The two met at the nearby Ambyanz Disco bar earlier.

Olongapo City Mayor Rolen Paulino assured the family of Laude that there would be "no whitewash" of the case and that "justice would be served."

"It could be an isolated case but we can assure everyone that we will exert all effort to bring justice on the death of Jennifer," Paulino said in an interview.

Congress steps in

At the Senate, the committee on foreign relations said it is set to conduct an investigation into Laude's murder on Wednesday next week.

Committee chairperson Miriam Santiago said that she would invite the staff of Celzone Lodge to shed light on the case, as well as some members of Laude's family.

Santiago said no US authorities would be invited since they cannot be subpoenaed.

"I cannot subpoena. Under Senate traditions, we are not allowed to invite, much less to subpoena, foreigners to our hearings," Santiago told reporters yesterday.

Santiago justified the conduct of the investigation, saying it would be in aid of legislation.

"Once the Senate acts on inquiries in aid of legislation and there is even no quibble whether there is actual legislation, it can be passed legislation, it can be contemplated legislation, it can be legislation for the future, it can be speculative legislation, but as long as it is an inquiry in aid of legislation, then I would have jurisdiction," she said.

Santiago also renewed her call for the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement, citing the problematic issue of jurisdiction and custody whenever cases involving US servicemen arise.

Santiago argued that custody should automatically be with the Philippine authorities once the suspect has been properly identified and charged.

"Because under the VFA, particularly the provision on jurisdiction, if a crime has been committed, number one: within Philippine territory, and number two: is declared to be a crime under Philippine law, automatically jurisdiction belongs to the Philippines," she said.

However, she said that Article 5 paragraph 6 of the VFA provides that: "The custody of any United States personnel over whom the Philippines is to exercise jurisdiction shall immediately reside with United States military authorities, if they so request, from the commission of the offense until completion of all judicial proceedings."

She noted that the VFA also contains another provision which states that, "in extraordinary cases, the Philippine government shall present its position to the United States government regarding custody, which the United States government shall take into full account."

"The disparity is very clear. The Philippines has jurisdiction but, upon mere request by the US, our law enforcement is required to immediately turn

(continued on page 11)

LEGAL FEATURE

MARITAL AGREEMENTS

by Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

A marital agreement (a pre-nuptial or post-nuptial agreement) is a record of the understanding between spouses who decide in advance what will be done in the event of divorce and death. It is the safest way to avoid the cost, uncertainty and chaos that commonly occurs in these situations.

Divorce is often costly. A typical contested divorce in Hawaii averages \$20,000 in attorney's fees on both sides, where the couple is only fighting about property division. Throw in disagreements about the value of the property being divided, or the custody and visitation of the children, and a couple can expect to spend up to double that amount. A large debt at a strongly disruptive period in one's life only adds to the financial drawbacks and adjustments each person has to make.

Divorce is also an emotional time. The legal process

for contested divorces can last two to four years on average. Going through a drawn out period of stress and strife leaves its imprint on the spouses and children, straining their relationships, and making it hard to focus and do their best in other aspects of life, such as school and work. Knowing the outcome reduces the emotional strain.

A common situation where a marital agreement is used is when one person comes into the marriage already owning a home. A woman who has worked hard to save a down payment for a house she bought as a single person, may want that home to remain hers to keep if the marriage later ends in divorce, rather than losing it to her husband (or worse, his girlfriend) and finding herself without a stable residence or with a lessened ability to purchase a new home after having children. Without an agreement, the Family Courts in dividing up the property often order the sale of the marital residence



with a split of the sale proceeds, usually without reimbursing the one who sacrificed and saved up for the down payment. A marital agreement can help the woman protect her ownership of her home. It can also cover child custody and visitation and other issues.

Death is inevitable, and a marital agreement gives protection to the intent of the spouses with respect to how their hard earned money is given after their deaths. Hawaii's probate laws generally protect a surviving spouse, even to the extent and exclusion of children the deceased person may have from a prior relationship. Too often

the children from a first marriage find that their stepsiblings from a parent's remarriage inherit the home and other property that they believed they are rightfully entitled to receive from their parents. The reverse also happens: a second wife may find that her husband conducted a "property grab" without her knowledge, giving all of their property to the children of his first marriage when he dies, thus leaving her homeless and poor in her old age. A marital agreement can protect spouses' long-term plans for financial security and provision for loved ones from prior relationships, in the event of death.

Marital agreements -- whether these are made before or after the wedding takes

place -- can be helpful in minimizing the high financial costs and emotional stresses of a later divorce, and giving certainty to the property distribution plans of spouses after they die. The feeling of keeping some control over one's life in these tumultuous events can give peace of mind and a measure of comfort and certainty that helps individuals deal with the grief of loss and move on with life.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 10, MURDER....)

over the custody of the American military personnel to the US," Santiago said.

Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs have indicated that Manila can always request custody of the suspect but that the US can reject such request.

But Santiago said the US should immediately turn over the soldier to the Philippine authorities now that he has already been identified as a suspect.

According to Santiago, the process of abrogation of the VFA is very simple as it merely involves notifying the US government about this decision.

"We ask the Americans for renegotiation, and if they refuse, give them notice. All you have to do to abrogate is give a one-year notice to the Americans," Santiago said.

'One death too many'

At the House of Representatives, Rep. Terry Ridon of

party-list group Kabataan is asking his comrades to investigate Laude's murder.

In Resolution No. 1568, Ridon asked the committee on foreign affairs and the committee on national defense to conduct a joint investigation on the matter.

"This is the second time that a US serviceman committed a criminal offense in the country. Nine years ago, Lance Corporal Daniel Smith was charged and convicted for the rape of a Filipino woman. His custody remained with the United States of America during his trial, which exposed the lopsided nature of the Visiting Forces Agreement," he said.

The complainant in the Smith case subsequently recanted her story.

"While Philippine authorities are already taking necessary steps to address the (Pemberton) case, Congress must conduct a parallel inves-

tigation to determine how this affects existing agreements between the US and the Philippines, especially the newly signed Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA)," Ridon said.

"The growing threat posed by the continued implementation of the VFA and MDT (Mutual Defense Treaty) and now the EDCA warrants a full-blown congressional inquiry," he said. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Miriam: Binay's 'Forum Shopping' Unlawful

by Louis Bacani
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago said on Wednesday that the continued refusal of Vice President Jejomar Binay to attend the Senate hearing on the corruption allegations against him is similar to "forum shopping" prohibited and penalized by the Supreme Court (SC).

In a speech at the Philippine Christian University, Santiago said it is not enough for Binay to defend himself by

simply delivering speeches accusing his enemies of lying.

Santiago said Binay must present his counter-evidence at the Senate hearing if he does not want his silence to be construed as an implied admission of guilt.

She described Binay's silence to present evidence as "alarming."

"Binay promises to make a detailed defense not in the Senate hearing, but in the Ombudsman, where he is facing plunder and other criminal charges. Unfortunately, the law does not allow Binay to



Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

just choose the forum where he shall make his defense," she said.

Santiago said Binay's attempt to escape scrutiny at the Senate is similar to forum shopping prohibited in the

courts which, according to the SC, takes place "when a person avails of several judicial remedies in different courts, raising substantially the same issues."

The senator quoted an SC decision in 2010 when the court said the rule against forum shopping "seeks to promote candor and transparency, and the orderly administration of justice, prevent undue inconvenience upon the other party, and save the precious time of the courts."

The feisty lawmaker said Binay cannot escape the juris-

prudence of the Senate, which is empowered by the Constitution itself to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation.

"If the VP has truth to tell, what is he afraid of?" she said.

Santiago believes Binay's foes at the Senate cannot use the chamber's hearing to humiliate or prosecute him since the Constitution requires senators to respect "the rights of persons appearing in, or affected, by such inquiries."

"Hence, I do not approve of this curious tendency to be so taciturn, in the face of such damaging charges against his moral character," she said.

(www.philstar.com)

Port Congestion: Investors Warn of Higher Consumer Prices

by Louella Desiderio
Thursday, Oct. 16, 2014

MANILA, Philippines - Port congestion could cause prices of goods to skyrocket in the next eight weeks.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP) president Michael Raeuber said the impact of port congestion on prices of goods is expected if immediate steps are not taken.

"We cannot quantify, but if it is not resolved moving forward, it could lead to bigger price increases. Right now, supply is short," he said.

"There are containers that

simply don't make it to the Philippines. Some shipping lines have suspended operations to the Philippines," he added.

Raeuber said it is important that congestion at the ports be resolved since an increase in cargo is expected in the next two to three weeks as the Christmas season is approaching.

"We are of the opinion that today's serious problems in the supply chains of the Philippines will persist and may even further aggravate within the pre-Christmas season if the root causes of the port congestion and resulting significant cost increases and delays in



moving supplies to the Philippines are not recognized and addressed in a coordinated way," he said.

He cited a joint statement of the ECCP, Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc. and truckers associations.

They are of the view that the present situation is due to the lack of proper coordination between the national and local government.

Absence of long-term strategic planning and infrastructure development is also seen to impede the free flow of cargo and create damaging effects to the supply chain and the economy.

They said regulatory restrictions to the free and unhampered flow of cargo to and from the ports have reduced the productivity per truck every month from 25 to about 13 to 15.

These also increased the demand for trucks serving Manila ports to above 20,000 units from 6,000 to 8,000 units, they added.

They said the lack of trucks has worsened the traffic and tripled the cost of deliveries to Manila ports.

They are proposing a number of remedies to get congestion down and bring back productivity.

These include doing away with the truck ban in other cities in Metro Manila.

Raeuber said they are of the opinion that the national government needs to reassert its power and jurisdiction over national roads across cities in Metro Manila and open express lanes 24/7 for delivery trucks to enable the continuous flow of cargo to and from port.

Raeuber said they also want the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to review the policy of requiring franchises for trucks-for-hire since these vehicles are not public utilities.

They also want to do away with expiration of gate passes

or delivery orders for container vans in port to eliminate endless extensions and the inconvenience and delay of long queues for revalidation of gate passes, as well as streamline the delivery system at port.

They also see the need to review and regulate, through the reactivation of a Shipper's Council, the allowable demurrage and detention charges for containers.

Raeuber said the problem of congestion and the resulting inefficiency of the delivery system in ports of Manila have caused shipping lines to impose unbridled and unrestricted charging of demurrage and detention charges to the prejudice of shippers, importers, consignees and the public in general.

The speedy upgrade of equipment in the secondary ports of Batangas and Subic is also recommended for expanded operations.

They are of the view a direct link from the South Luzon and North Luzon Expressways to the port of Manila will also address the problem.

"We are confident that by considering the above remedial measures and attacking the experienced supply problems at the roots, the situation can be brought under control and the truck productivity be restored, resulting in supply meeting demand, increased competition and reduced cost," Raeuber said. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Atty Gen. Reports on Benefits to Same-Sex Married Couples

The Attorney General has just released a memorandum to the President detailing how the different federal agencies have implemented the Supreme Court decision in *United States v. Windsor*.

The Supreme Court in its *Windsor* ruling on June 26, 2013 found Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the Constitution. The law had restricted the interpretation of “marriage” and “spouse” to apply only to opposite-sex married couples prohibiting federal immigration authorities and other federal officials from recognizing same-sex marriage.

The Attorney General in his memo reports that the “the im-

pact of the *Windsor* decision and the government-wide implementation efforts, cannot be overstated.” Among the benefits now enjoyed by same-sex married couples include being able to file joint tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Same-sex spouses of military service members can now receive the same benefits as opposite-sex spouses and same-sex spouses of federal employees are also eligible for health insurance and other benefits.

The Department of Homeland Security through the USCIS and the Department of State provide same-sex married couples the same immigration benefits as opposite-sex married couples. The USCIS looks to the law of the place where the marriage took place and not the place of domicile to determine the validity of the marriage.

A U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident who is in a same-sex marriage can now

file an I-130 petition on behalf of his/her same-sex spouse.

On June 28, 2013, the first I-130 petition for an alien relative filed by a same-sex married couple was approved. Petitions or applications denied solely because of Section 3 of DOMA were reopened. USCIS undertook a concerted effort to identify and reopen I-130 petitions filed by U.S. citizens denied solely based on Section 3 of DOMA to allow their same-sex spouses to adjust their immigration status in the U.S.

A same-sex spouse is eligible as derivative beneficiary of the principal beneficiary who has been granted family-sponsored or employment-based immigrant visa, refugee status or asylum.

Stepchildren resulting from same-sex marriages may be sponsored by the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident parent. They are also eligible for derivative status of family-based preference peti-

tions, employment-based immigrant petitions and the diversity visa. However, just like stepchildren of opposite-sex married couples, in order to qualify for the benefit, the marriage must have taken place before the child turned 18.

Moreover, where eligibility for discretionary waivers of certain inadmissibility grounds is conditioned on marriage or status as spouse, same-sex couples will be treated in exactly the same manner as opposite-sex couples.

Just like the opposite-sex spouse, the residency requirement for naturalization for the same-sex spouse of a U.S. citizen is three years. The same-sex spouse must also be living in marital union with the U.S. citizen spouse three years immedi-

ately preceding the N-400 application in order to be eligible.

Also, U.S. embassies and consulates abroad are adjudicating visa applications that are based on same-sex marriages in the same way as applications based on opposite-sex marriages.

U.S. citizens who are engaged to a foreign national of the same-sex may petition their fiancé(e) for a K visa. Same-sex spouses and stepchildren may also accompany the principal applicant who is coming to the U.S. to work or to study. Those accompanying students on F-1 or M-1 visas will need to obtain I-201A before applying. Spouses of J-1 exchange visitors will need to obtain an approved DS-2019.

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

HANNEMANN (from page 7)

It is imperative that we make the transition to renewable energy sources, otherwise electricity rates will continue to rise.

Q: To further diversify and grow Hawaii's economy, what would you propose in terms of offering incentives for businesses? What about tax relief?

A: Tax relief is key to growing the economy. This is why we will conduct an audit of the State Department of Taxation as the first step towards tax reform. In addition, we will work to grow the economy in ways that generate more revenue. Growing the economy does not always mean construction. We should develop a knowledge-based industry based on the technology of sustainable energy and environmental management. The key is to more fully integrate the engineering expertise of the University of Hawaii with private-sector product development and marketing ex-

pertise so that we can attract substantial venture capital funding.

Hawaii is the ideal place to develop, test and market innovation in the areas of alternative energy, energy conservation and environmental management. We should provide our best and brightest with an opportunity to work in these lucrative careers without having to move to the mainland to pursue them.

Q: If elected, would you consider holding “talk story” sessions to continue to hear the people's concerns and/or suggestions?

A: Absolutely! Listening to people is one of the most important responsibilities of any public official. Throughout my public service career, I have made it a practice to go out into the community to get ideas, input and advice before making important decisions. Talk Story sessions will always be part of my administration. I did that with my cabinet as mayor and I will do

it with my cabinet as governor.

Q: In 50 words or less, what is your pledge to those who vote you for governor?

A: We pledge to get back to the basics of leadership, governance and accountability by being respectful and responsive. By collaboratively working in a fair, impartial and considerate manner, we will find common ground for common good. It is always about the people and putting people first.



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Why I Can Eat Mexican Food Forever

FEAST WITH ME by Stephanie Zubiri-Crespi

O have always known myself to be an old soul. Deep down inside I know that I have led many past lives. As esoteric as it may sound, it is for me the only logical explanation why I feel such an affinity for certain cultures. Not just because I am fascinated but a true, deep sense of connection — when I step foot in a foreign land and feel that, in fact, it is not so foreign. Where I feel right at home and the blood coursing through my veins resonates with the cosmic vibrations of the ground I walk on. It is in this way that I am as much Filipino as I am Mexican.

My first encounter with Mexico was as a young child at



Tostadas de Pato: Crisp tortillas topped with slow-cooked duck mole and blueberry

the age of nine when I accompanied my mother on a trip. I remember climbing up the steps of Teotihuacan, tasting my first sip of tequila and Mezcal, plus enjoying the company of my first ever babysitter who was a young stage actress and whom I wrote to through snail

mail.

But nothing could beat the feeling I had when I set foot in Plaza Mayor in Mexico City some 14 years later — truly impressive, with a massive Mexican flag emblematically waving in the wind and brimming with people. There were the doomsday sayers, native Indian dancers, witch doctors, priests, families with children blowing bubbles, young lovers, laughing teens, and because it was the Fiesta de la Muerte weekend, surreally thrown into the mix were two huge, gaily dressed, blown-up skeletons

holding hands in the middle of the square. To be honest, it was rather reminiscent of the cultural-mishmash environs of Quiapo Church, with the iconic arbolarios and anting-antings alongside the strong Catholic religious presence. Whether or not it was truly a cosmic connection or the fact that historically and culturally the Philippines — with its unusual mix of the indigenous, Spanish and American — bears more of a resemblance to Mexico than to our Asian neighbors, or simply after having spent months integrated into the Mexican and Latina community in Paris

— where all my best friends called me Esteffi and I spoke just as much Spanish as French — I felt right at home.

And then there's the food.

Not too long ago over a lively dinner party, after finishing off several bottles of wine while nibbling on the cheese, the age-old pseudo-“foodosophical” question arose: “If you could eat only one kind of cuisine for the rest of your life, what would it be?” While most said Italian or Filipino, I said, without hesitation, “Mexican.”

“Why?” they asked, “You would eat tacos and burritos all day?” (www.philstar.com)

GLOBAL NEWS

Meet Berlin's Filipino Grandmama

BERLIN—For a septuagenarian and someone barely five feet tall, Lourdes Lareza Mueller is Berlin's most active Filipino community leader.

Filipino ambassadors have come and gone, but Mueller, 77, is a mainstay of all Philippine Embassy events, from presidential visits to cultural happenings, making her a kind of village elder.



Lourdes Mueller

It is a role befitting the former librarian, the only

Filipino so far who has worked in one of Europe's largest libraries—the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library).

Entering Berlin in 1968, seven years after the Berlin Wall was built, Mueller has seen a generation of Filipinos evolved from groups of families employed at US military bases located in western allied sections of the divided city to now an assortment of struggling scholars, artists and Pinays married to Germans.

“I practically know everyone here in Berlin,” she says at the living room of her modest bungalow, tucked away in the quiet Berlin suburb of Rudow.

“In the late '60s, there was just a small handful of Filipinos studying in East Berlin. They were the sons of Filipino communist leaders,” she says, adding most of the Asians who were there then were workers from communist North Vietnam.

Filipino doctors and nurses based in US military hospitals in West Berlin as well as a motley of Filipinos studying in the western-occupied sectors comprised the bulk of the community.

With her trademark shoulder-length hair tied up in a bun and perfectly manicured nails, Mueller can easily regale a listener with anecdotes about Filipinos who visited the city where Jose Rizal first published “Noli Me Tangere” over a century ago.

A photo sits on a bookshelf, a sepia-colored picture of a young man in Philippine Army uniform. It is her father. He was to become a general in the Philippine Constabulary.

The military would play a tangential role in the life of the

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BULACAN CIRCLE & ASSOCIATES OF HI, REAFFIRMATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS BANQUET & BABY BOOMER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER • SATURDAY • October 18, 2014 | Pagoda Hotel | 6:00 PM | Contact Angie Santiago @angie6696789@yahoo.com.

MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL® BY MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION • SATURDAY • October 18, 2014 | Maui Mall | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

FILM SHOWING: DELANO MANONGS: FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS • SATURDAY • October 18, 2014 | Liliha Public Library | 5:30 - 6:30 PM | For details, please contact Rosalina Burian @burianlyna@yahoo.com.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S 12TH ANNUAL BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER • SUNDAY • October 25, 2014 | Sheraton Waikiki Hotel | 6:00 PM | For details, call FilCom Center at 808-680-0451.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S 12TH ANNUAL BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER • SATURDAY • October 25, 2014 | Sheraton Waikiki Hotel | 6:00 PM | For details, contact Arceli Rebolledo @ 808-680-0451 or Joanne Corpuz @ 808-382-5092.

FILM SHOWING: DELANO MANONGS: FORGOTTEN HEROES OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS •

WEDNESDAY • October 29, 2014 | UH Manoa, Korean Studies Auditorium | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | For details, please contact Rosalina Burian @ burianlyna@yahoo.com.

A CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH A PRESENTATION OF THE HISTORY OF FILIPINO MUSIC AND DANCE IN HAWAII, FEATURING THE PAMANA RONDALYA AND THE TEKNIQLINGZ DANCERS.. THURSDAY • October 30, 2014 | Hawaii State Library | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | For details, please contact Rosalina Burian @ burianlyna@yahoo.com.

PASUQUINIO ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII'S INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS • SUNDAY • November 1, 2014 | Pomaikai Ballroom, Dole Cannery | 5:30-10:30 PM | Contact Froebel Garcia at 386-6559 or Dory Villafuerte @ 397-9718 for details.

MISS PHILIPPINES HAWAII USA PRESENTATION • SATURDAY • November 22, 2014 | Kalayaan Philippines International, Pacific Beach Hotel | 6:00 PM | For more info, contact Ben Pulido @ 421-9747.

PASKUHAN SA CONSULADO, A COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION • TUESDAY • December 16, 2014 | Philippine Consulate Grounds | 5:30-10:30 PM | For more info, call Jeff de Mesa @ 595-6316 to 19 ext. 105.

GLOBAL NEWS (from page 14, MEET....)

general's daughter in Berlin, where she crossed paths with Filipinos and their families on rest and recreation leave from assignments in US Army and Navy bases in South Korea and Vietnam.

"There was hardly any Asian food sold in Berlin. At big department stores, their groceries would sell rice, noodles and canned foods from Asia but they were very expensive. One sayote was worth around 2 euros. The puso ng saging was 18 euros but I bought it once for the kare-kare I cooked for a visiting Filipino delegation. If you knew someone who had access to the US commissaries that helped," she says.

And while Asian staples and delicacies were available at a steep price in West Berlin, inhabitants of communist-controlled East Berlin and much of eastern Germany had to line up for the most basic needs.

"Every time we visited the relatives of my husband in East Germany, we'd bring for them grapes, oranges, coffee and meat as pasalubong. Even though they had the money, people in the East just could not buy the things they need because the things weren't there. At Alexanderplatz (in East Berlin) I'd see people stand in line for things like bananas," she recalls.

Mueller finished Library Science at the University of the Philippines Diliman. She was the Tax Commission librarian in 1968 when she helped the German Embassy and the Carl Duisberg Foundation organize a seminar in Manila for German officials who wanted to assess the usefulness of German-funded ap-

prenticeships and training obtained by some Filipinos in Germany.

As a reward for her efforts, Mueller was given a 16-month travel tour to Germany in 1968.

"After a few months in the country, I decided to apply for a 10-month crash course in the field of documentation at the Institute of Documentation in Frankfurt."

In 1972, she was hired by the Stadtbibliothek and worked there until retiring at 63 in 2000. Mueller attained the status of a "Beamtin" (German civil servant) after passing the required exams in 1986 while still working as a special cataloguer for legal materials at the "Stabi," as the locals call the Library.

"I was at the Anglo-American legal section. I processed the lending requests of various users and researchers from all over the world. We have different languages on legal topics," Mueller says.

Stabi is Germany's largest academic universal research library and one of the most important libraries in the German-speaking world, with its extensive collection and databases as well as materials on legal studies, among other things. Its oldest handwritten book is a Coptic codex of the biblical Book of Proverbs that dates back from the third century. The oldest printed book is an eighth century Buddhist text from Japan, the "Hyakumanto Darani."

At Stabi, amid its more famous collection, such as a Gutenberg Bible, the main autograph collection of Goethe, the world's largest collection of Johann Sebastian Bach's and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's man-

uscripts, and the original score of Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, the German passion to preserve the past has rubbed off on Mueller.

Her archiving skills probably explains also her ability to recall people and details so vividly, making her a walking database of who's who in Berlin's Filipino community.

After the Berlin Wall opened in 1989, she was given the job of cataloguing some legal materials written in old German script which had been deposited at various small libraries in East German territories.

Stadtbibliothek wanted to consolidate the collection of legal materials as well as record where they were deposited.

"In the '80s, before the Wall came down, we were still housed at Bandlerblock (a building complex that served as the headquarters of a group of army officers who carried out the 1944 plot against Adolf Hitler). A colleague and I twice a week would go to an old brewery, a one-hour bus trip away. There we would catalogue the collection deposited there after being retrieved from different places where they were hidden at Allied-occupied sectors. We would work with our coats and scarves still on because it had no heaters," she says.

Toward the latter part of the '70s, Mueller was among the librarians who had to retrieve a vast collection of Asian materials damaged by rains. "The materials were coming into Germany so fast from all over Japan, Korea and China. But there wasn't enough usable buildings to house them. So a big tent was

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set up. It was huge, as high as a three-story building, at the back of what used to be a no-man's land, as it was a death strip on the borders of East Berlin. Then a big storm came and blew away the tent. Around 2 p.m. that day, all of us librarians tried to rescue the materials, working as fast as we could. The German soldiers came to help. The books and materials were already exposed to the rain," she recalls.

"My colleagues and I were carrying the books, hand to hand, on a human chain up to the army trucks. We did that for three days. It was hard work. A lot of books made of pergamano paper were destroyed," she says.

Mueller lives with husband Gerhard. She has a daughter and two grandchildren. (www.inquirer.net)

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