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THE LIFE OF JOVITA ZIMMERMANN: POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND JOURNALIST

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JOVITA AND HUSBAND CARL ZIMMERMAN



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EDITORIALS

Remembering the Legacy of Jovita Rodas Zimmerman

Another living treasure from Hawaii's Filipino community recently passed away. She is none other than Jovita Rodas Zimmerman—political activist, journalist, educator and philanthropist. In the political arena, Zimmerman spoke out courageously against former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his regime, wielding the proverbial pen to express her opposition.

Among the things that she will be remembered for is founding the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW). Fellow members who worked with her on the group's numerous community service projects say she was the type who spoke her mind. Yet, her dogged determination was often the difference that helped to see FAUW's projects through to completion. Such projects were geared towards sharing the rich Filipino culture and traditions with the community at large. One such project was the annual *Pasko!* which has grown into Hawaii's largest and most authentic Filipino Christmas celebration. At *Pasko!*, Christmas lanterns called *parols* are made, Filipino delicacies enjoyed, carols sung, games played and time-honored traditions like *Noche Buena* observed.

Zimmerman, a Filipina who was born in Manila and who married an American, was also a connoisseur of fine art. In 2003, she donated her personal antiques collection to the Honolulu Academy of Arts for a permanent Filipino art collection and exhibit—the first of its kind in the U.S. The exhibit was significant because it helped third and fourth generation Filipinos to expand their knowledge of Filipino culture beyond dancing, singing and food. And as a result, Filipino art and artistic achievements no longer went unknown or unappreciated in Hawaii.

It is unfortunate that today's young Filipinos never had the opportunity to personally meet Jovy who has done much to erase our "plantation mentality" complex. Thanks to her efforts through FAUW and other organizations, young Filipinos now have a lot to be proud of, particularly when it comes to learning and appreciating their culture. It bears repeating that Filipinos as a community have progressed largely by standing on the shoulders of the men and women like Jovy. She truly did much to elevate the visibility of the Filipino culture. And for that, the entire Filipino community is ever grateful. Thank you Jovy! You will surely be missed but never forgotten.

Shame on Airport Employee Scammers

Only in the Philippines. The latest news of corruption that have flooded media outlets and social media involve Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) employees surreptitiously placing individual bullets into the baggages of passengers and then detaining them when the bags alarm during x-ray screenings.

The misunderstanding, passengers are told, can be cleared up—for an under-the-table fee. Investigators say the *laglag-bala* extortion scheme, which has been going on for several years now, targets a conservative estimate of 20 passengers a day but rakes in hundreds of thousands of pesos a day for the scam artists. Victims included a wheelchair-bound passenger, American pastor, elderly grandmother and Japanese tourist. The situation has gotten to a point where some passengers have resorted to wrapping entire *balikbayan* boxes and suitcases in plastic saran wrap, to ward off any unwanted contraband.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

M

ark your calendars for Veterans Day—Wednesday, November 11th! Other than enjoying a well-deserved holiday, I encourage you to take a moment to thank a veteran for his or her



sacrifice. Let us honor these heroes the way that they honored our country and to never forget those who did not come home. As a reminder of the horrors of war as seen first-hand by our veterans, see page 8 for "Remembering the Sordid Effects of World War II."

Our cover story for this issue is about the life of the late Jovita Rodas Zimmerman and her many contributions that have uplifted Hawaii's Filipino community. The story was written by Jovy's contemporary, Dr. Belinda Aquino, who reminisces about this extraordinary woman's accomplishments. Please turn to page 4 for "Remembering Jovita Zimmerman and Martial Law."

For those who are planning a Christmas vacation in the Philippines this Holiday Season, you've probably heard by now about the bullet planting scandal that has shaken Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The news has infuriated many Filipinos in the U.S. who have sharply condemned this heinous extortion and fleecing of their *kababayans*. Please turn to page 12 for the latest update on this story and about the Philippine government's efforts to crack down and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In other news, film enthusiasts are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming 35th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) and the numerous foreign films that are up for screening. Several outstanding Filipino films are on the list, including former Miss Hawaii 2001 Maribel Apuya's short documentary "A Sakada Story" which has been included in HIFF's Made in Hawaii Shorts program (see page 10). For ticket information and a list of the Filipino films that are scheduled to be shown, see page 10.

Lastly, I encourage you to take a few minutes to read the many informative columns and articles we have for you in this issue. Mahalo for your continued support of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. If you have a story idea, suggestion or concern, please email it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. We'd love to hear from you!

Until our next issue time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*... and have a happy and safe Veterans Day!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Not all NAIA employees are dishonest but it takes only a few bad apples to spoil it for everyone. Fortunately, weeding out these bad apples should not be too difficult. Airport baggage screeners are typically low-paid, so those who are found to own nice homes, expensive cars and have kids who go to private school should be promptly terminated. Higher-ups also need to be held accountable and in this case, the targets include Philippine Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya, Manila International Airport Authority general manager Jose Angel Honrado and other top officials. It boggles the mind as to how these acts of extortion could proliferate under their watch, why internal investigations were not promptly conducted and why surveillance cameras in baggage screening areas are sorely lacking.

NAIA is the first and last impression of the Philippines that people will take with them long after their visit is over, so news such as this is particularly disheartening for government officials who have tried hard to shed the country's corrupt image in hopes of luring more investment dollars and tourists to its shores. In light of this, we urge the Aquino administration—which campaigned on a promise to eliminate corruption and institute clean, honest government—to end corruption at the country's premiere airport... just in time for the busy Holiday Season and hopefully, beyond.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Hidden from View: The Gay Manongs



By Emil Guillermo

My dad left Ilocos Norte in the late '20s, when the push was to skip Honolulu and go directly to San Francisco.

But in California, the Filipino American nationals were hardly welcome. Some were lonelier than others.

If you think you've heard the story, then you really should see the narrative presented by

San Francisco's American Conservatory Theatre of Lysley Tenorio's "Remember the I-Hotel," a short story adapted for stage by the Japanese American playwright Philip Kan Gotanda.

It's packaged as "Monstress," the main title in Tenorio's short story collection, and another one-act adapted by Sean San Jose. Together, the two plays are a two-headed tour-de-force of emotional history. But it is "Remember the I-Hotel" that lingered for me. (It's at the ACT/Strand Theater, now through November 22 in San Francisco.)

It's a simple, yet complicated love story involving two Filipino Americans and a white woman. Althea's the hypotenuse in a very irregular triangle involving Nado and Vicente, a love story few Filipinos have shared, or history has told.

At least not if you're a good traditional Filipino Catholic.

As I watched it, I had no reason to be stunned. I grew up in the Mission and saw the Castro change. Bought film from Harvey Milk's store and reported on LGBTQ issues. My only IMDB credit is for the AIDS quilt movie. I'm in solidarity.

But I've never seen the story of the early Filipinos told from Tenorio's perspective.

And I know the story of the first wave of Filipinos to America by heart.

I lived it.

My father came to San Francisco as an American national in 1928. The boats were full of Filipinos, but with more men compared to women, by about 10-1.

Why? Well, you wouldn't want these monkeys to procreate on American soil and start families in our country, would you? That was the plan, and for the most part, it worked.

My father stayed in San Francisco to work the city's restaurants. The shoulder-padded suits, topcoats, and fedoras just seemed to fit better in the city. But most were like Itliong, who went to work in the fields of the Valley. That fostered a severe backlash from white males. They didn't care about the jobs the Filipinos took. They were concerned that the Filipinos wanted the white women. It fostered a palpable sexual tension that expressed itself in beatings of Filipinos on the streets and in the fields. There were also the infamous riots in Watsonville and the murder of Fermin Tobera. Other murders and lynchings were reported in Stockton.

Years later, I found myself working for a paper that in the '30s printed horribly racist, anti-Filipino editorials pandering to its angry white audience. Filipinos were declared "unassimilable."

The strong "ethnic purity" sentiment brought on new laws. In 1934, Filipinos' status went from American nationals to Filipino aliens. Other laws limited property ownership. But the most damning were the laws against intermarriage, the anti-miscegenation laws.

Filipinos who loved to mix had to stop mixing. With few Filipino women, the bachelor society was locked into place. Alone, together.

Maybe that's why as a kid, I never had my own bedroom growing up.

We always rented out a room to a male Filipino on the move. I usually slept in the living room or in my parents' room on a cot. Our three-bedroom flat was practically a Filipino AirBnB. The renters were



Vicente Pacram (Ogie Zulueta, left) serves bagoong to Althea Benton (Kelsey Venter) in his room at the I-Hotel while Fortunado "Nado" Giron (Jomar Tagatac, center) looks on in *Remember the I-Hotel*. Photo credit: Kevin Berne

sometimes a relative, but they all became related. An Uncle Amancio. An Uncle Phil. Manong Pepe. And there was one I just called "the man."

But they all seemed to be the same guy.

I never wondered about their sex lives. All I cared about was that my father was able to find his wife--my mom--and spawn me. Selfish? That's the sociobiology of things, the struggle to marry and have kids is everything. Itliong himself was the macho overachiever, marrying six times yielding seven children.

Most of the others weren't nearly as productive, by discrimination or by choice. Many found there was no one to whom they could pass on their genes. What's left? Do you hum the song "Love the one you're with?"

The bachelor men, if they didn't land in whatever San Francisco flat my family lived in at the time, ended up in an SRO, like the I-Hotel, where they came to depend on each other for everything. In their story, sex becomes loving, then advances with age simply to caring.

"Remember the I-Hotel" is the imagined emotional truth of the Filipino bachelor society of the first wave, and what

they did to survive the shortcomings of American life.

I hate to admit I'd never thought about anything outside of the traditional manong story, the one my dad struggled to have.

But gays were living in America back then too, of course. Just not in an openly gay culture. Remember, Rock Hudson didn't come out until the '80s. In a bachelor society, gay manongs were also present, yet even more repressed. The *bakla*. It's the Pilipino word to describe gays. I heard it used derisively when growing up.

That's all the more reason "Remember the I-Hotel" is an eye-opener. And now we're ready for the tale.

With Tenorio's story adapted for the stage, accompanied by the very first Larry Itliong Day, this Filipino American History Month proves again that our stories are never static, always evolving, with new truths awaiting discovery.

I thought I'd heard them all from my dad. Or from the other manongs, who saw me dating a white woman and said, "We'd get beaten if we were with someone like her."

That was the prevailing narrative.

But there were a few other manongs, too, who just looked at me and smiled.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association, California.

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COVER STORY

Remembering Jovita Zimmerman and Martial Law

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

Jovita Rodas Zimmerman recently passed away in Honolulu at the age of 93. Born in Manila, Jovy was a well-known educator and journalist who was quite prominent and active in community affairs.

Most who knew Jovy would agree that she was an individual unlike any other. She is remembered as a woman of great courage and boundless energy. She continued to participate in community events despite being ill and unable to move around.

Rose Churma, former president of the Filipino Community Center (FilCom) first met Jovy in mid-1987. Churma had been recruited to join the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) and agreed to work on several projects with Jovy, one of which was the book "From Mabuhay to Aloha"—FAUW's first publication and an anthology of essays that focused on the Filipino-American experience.

The group would go on to publish an anthology of literary works by Filipino youth ("Voices of the Youth"), a second anthology on Filipino

women of Hawaii ("Filipina") and a book on visual artists of Filipino ancestry entitled "Kayumangi Presence."

"Jovy was tireless in encouraging us to complete whatever we set out to do," Churma says. "She was also instrumental in convincing the Honolulu Academy of Arts (now the Hawaii Museum of Art) to hold an event devoted to Filipino culture and arts. Thus, *Pasko!* was launched in 1989, which would be held annually at the HMA for more than a decade. It was so successful and attracted a huge crowd that it was moved to McCoy Pavilion to accommodate a larger audience."

In her personal efforts to bring Philippine culture the arts to the mainstream audience, Jovy singlehandedly launched an initiative to establish a Philippine Gallery at the HMA and donated major

pieces of art and valuable Philippine artifacts from her own personal collection.

Churma says that Jovy at times was not easy to work with. Potential FAUW members were scared away during meetings whenever blunt and outspoken Jovy was around.

"She was very direct and you got an earful if you were neglectful of your duties," Churma says. "It did not matter who was around—she'd tell you what she thought of you to your face. But she followed through with what she promised to do. She walked the talk, so to speak and acted on her beliefs the best way she could. She was a unique personality who will be missed."

Over the years, FAUW has served as a beacon of community service especially in the field of promoting Filipino culture and supporting education especially for new immigrants to Hawaii. Jovy is being remembered as an energizing force who enabled FAUW during its first decade of existence to pursue community service projects by itself or in coordination with government and non-profit agencies alike. As Jovy's health declined during the mid-1990s, she slipped into a non-active role but somehow managed to still keep tabs on various projects.

Others like Ethel Alikpala Ward remember Jovy's political activism and work in education. On several occasions, she joined Jovy while canvassing door-to-door in Kalihi to register eligible voters.

"Through her example, I started my eventual involvement through political party affiliation and support of candidates as well as fighting for



Jovy Zimmerman with husband Carl

the rights of Ota Camp residents and protesting martial law in the Philippines," Ward says. "For the latter, Jovy wielded the proverbial pen to express her opposition, while I stood in front of the Philippine Consulate holding up signs against the Marcos regime."

Both women also worked to improve the lives of Filipino youth. Jovy was employed in the University of Hawaii College College system, while Ward was an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Farrington High School.

"We agreed in our concern about the negative image of recent Filipino immigrants, especially teen-agers in gangs and the need to acculturate them to American ways as well as maintaining and promoting Filipino culture values," Ward says.

Personal Reflections

Not many people are familiar with other details of Jovy's life. She was known for speaking her mind and her views regarding Philippine-American relations or about local personalities. In particular, she played a role in the anti-martial law against the regime in the Philippines when Ferdinand Marcos made himself a dictator for

life. That was a dark period in both the Philippines and Hawaii, which has the highest percentage of Filipinos in the entire U.S.

It was a very divisive time among people who were already divided to begin with—politically, geographically, linguistically and in other senses. This fragmentation generated so much tension among friends, relatives and some colleagues who insisted that their positions were superior to others. This was especially brought about by sharp differences and competing values. Others simply didn't care or were just indifferent, because they didn't really know enough of the issue. Although it happened a long time ago and much has been forgotten, there is still a lingering feeling of alienation and animosity in the community.

Jovy and a host of others were deeply embroiled in these events against martial law during that tumultuous period. She demonstrated a lot of courage and guts during that era. Her husband Carl often said that fearlessness was her signature trait. She was not afraid to fight for what she believed in and found it compelling to deal with these issues. She never blinked.

(continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, REMEMBERING)

Every time she spoke, it was with an air of determination and courage to do what she believed was right. She was a unique and remarkable individual, a bit brutally-frank but that was all part of her nature. She did rub people the wrong way at times, which was necessary.

I distinctly recall Jovy's participation in the anti-martial law period, which threw Filipinos into something they did not quite expect. All of a sudden, there was this specter that Marcos had crafted and imposed on the Philippines under martial law. He named his new utopian plan a "revolution from the top." His regime would be called a "New Society" under the more appealing term "Constitutional Authoritarianism." He said at most it would last only a short while, maybe only a year. Most emergencies in history on record only lasted that long.

But of course nobody believed him. He was a very cunning person who knew how to press the right buttons and manipulate unwitting people. He was called an "evil genius" who knew how to play games with people.

Marcos pleaded to the rest of the country to help him in the fight against communism which had become the main problem since he assumed the presidency. He was specifically referring to the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army (CPP/NPA), the two most radical groups from the left at the time.

The paradox of it all was that, despite his passionate and avowed statements against the left, he arrested Benigno (Ninoy) Aquino Jr. as the first in the list of 2,000 communist sympathizers under the custody of the Marcos military.

The CPP/NPA went underground to avoid capture and fought the regime in many ways—the use of force against Marcos's military with its superior resources, educate farmers and peasants to fight for their rights under a genuine land reform program, and enlist other progressive forces in



Jovy Zimmerman (seated in a wheelchair) and fellow FAUW members were among the guests at Ethel Ward's (wearing lei) 80th birthday celebration last November 2014 at the Hawaii Prince Hotel.

the struggle to oust the regime.

But the "promised land" under Marcos's New Society never saw the light of day. The Marcos regime went on until its downfall in the now enshrined "People Power Revolution." People from all walks of life won in the revolution in February 1986 that lasted only four days—the Philippine contribution to the theory of modern revolutions.

This made the people proud for having achieved a true revolution. Some called it "unbelievable" and the beleaguered people thought a miracle had indeed happened. The most memorable statement was given by Jesuit priest Father James Reuter who said in a television news interview: "God was truly watching over the Philippines that day."

Everyone thought it would have taken only a single shot by one of the Marines dispatched to quell the crowd. The EDSA (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue) site of the revolution erupted in wild cheers as the military defied Marcos's orders and sided with the people.

Fortunately, the rebels acted with restraint and the military relented. It's probably unnecessary to present these events in great detail as everyone already probably knows what happened at EDSA that day. The people had won. The regime had fallen. It was a sweet victory for the people and a humiliating climax to Marcos's brutal regime. But more was yet to come.

The Revolution Continues

We had spent 14 long and wearisome years in the trenches, and were eager to re-

turn home for a well-deserved respite from that long struggle. But that was not to be.

The movement back in the Philippines advised us (with Jovy and other activists) to remain in Hawaii to "continue the revolution." In a surprising paradox, Marcos had been exiled to Hawaii of all places. But it was no surprise since there was no other state in the U.S. that would accept him in exile. Marcos wanted to stay in Hawaii where there were lots of Filipinos and Ilokano loyalists who welcomed him with leis and all the money they could spare for a beleaguered but beloved province mate.

But a comedy of errors happened which confused and amused people. The comedy included a joke that Marcos had actually not wanted to leave the Philippines. Apparently, he was already ill at this time and had wanted to be flown to Paoay, his headquarters known as "Malacanang of the North." But a U.S. military escort misinterpreted the request because Paoay actually sounded like "Hawaii" (Hawaii).

True or not, this confused things even more. He wanted to die with his boots on

in his own home in Ilocos. This was unacceptable to the U.S., which was determined to take him out of the Philippines. The plane landed at Hickam Air Force Base on February 25. He had no recourse but to seek refuge in Hawaii, which would be safe and secure with his fellow Ilokanos looking after him.

Marcos in Exile

Because of his continuous effort to destabilize the newly-installed transitional government under Cory Aquino, Marcos was charged and indicted in a fraud case that required him to travel to New York to be arraigned. He began faking illness and used this as a reason to avoid traveling to present his case of "not guilty." So the trial began in New York without him. Imelda and several other defendants were tried in New York, which would result in another irony.

Despite overwhelming evidence against Imelda and the other defendants, they were acquitted of the charges

against them. Many people were greatly disappointed that something like this could happen in a country like the U.S. that prides itself in being the most democratic and open in the whole world.

Imelda thought it was a vindication on her part. She showed her gratitude by walking on her knees in prayer at the St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York's 5th Avenue. It was quite a spectacle, which was typical of her. She had expected that with this decision, they would be able to return to the Philippines. It would be like a "second coming" and at best a reconciliation.

But it was not to be. As fate probably would have it, Marcos died in exile in Hawaii and for him, it was over. Fate had taken its course.

DR. BELINDA A. AQUINO is currently Professor Emeritus of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she was professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and founding director of the Center for Philippine Studies. She retired after many years at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is presently a Contributing Editor of this paper.

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OPEN FORUM

Schools, Education, Sexuality and Children

By State Rep. Bob McDermott

Sex education has been a particularly heated topic in Hawaii ever since the controversy over the so-called “culturally-sensitive” Pono Choices program. This past June, the state Board of Education (BOE) voted to mandate sex education for Hawaii’s public schools. The BOE also decided to throw out Hawaii’s abstinence based sex policy in favor of a comprehensive sexuality education policy, the latter having been long promoted by Planned Parenthood.

We want to remind parents and teachers of how the BOE’s huge shift in policy affects them. First, individual schools will no longer be able to decide for themselves whether or not to teach sex ed—they are now required to teach it and it is going to start in middle school.

Next, those who pushed for government-mandated sex ed knew that an “opt in” policy would undermine their efforts, so they lobbied the BOE to change the policy for public schools in order to herd more students into these classes. Ultimately, the BOE decided after relentless lobbying by Planned Parenthood that Hawaii’s parents weren’t smart enough to advocate for

their children’s interests and teach them about sex on their own, so they acquiesced to the demands of these sex ed proponents and changed the “opt in” policy to an “opt out” standard.

The new policy also requires that a description of the curriculum used by the school be made available to parents before instruction starts. It was also “recommended” that “schools post this information on their website(s) and to send a letter, convene a parents’ night or use other means of communicating to parents” to inform them ahead of time and prior to the start of any instruction.

Parents and teachers need to know that the Office of Curriculum-Instruction and Student Support is supposed to be convening subject matter experts to review new editions of its sexual health education curriculum. Expect the new curricula to roll out for the 2016-2017 school year. Until then, schools will continue to use one of the programs currently on the DOE-approved list of curricula for sex ed. Of the six available options for teaching this subject, nearly all are medically inaccurate and only one that we would rate as “acceptable.” For a complete

review of all programs, visit: <http://ohanapolicygroup.com> where you will find a free download of our assessment.

Finally, parents and teachers should know that the DOE does not track which schools use which curriculum when it comes to sex ed. Thus, those who care about his issue are right to be concerned. We strongly recommend that parents be vigilant when it comes to any new sex ed program scheduled to go into their schools.

Hawaii’s public schools are also exempt from the state’s obscenity laws. Be forewarned that there are a number of components that can be found in most “comprehensive sexuality education” programs that some parents and teachers might find highly objectionable, especially for middle school students who may be as young as 11 or 12 years old.

Here is a list of what is commonly found in these programs:

- Teach children to advocate for their “sexual rights” and various ways to obtain sexual pleasure.
- Promote condoms to children without informing them of their failure rates.
- Teach children to masturbate.
- Encourage children to experiment sexually with in-

dividuals of their own sex or the opposite sex.

- Promote anal or oral sex to children or teach them these behaviors are safe; literally omitting the breathtakingly high HIV risks of unprotected anal sex.
- Conflate anal, oral and vaginal sex as if these acts are all equal with the same risk profiles.
- Promote homosexual behavior as the healthy wholesome moral equivalent of male-female reproduction.
- Promote the mental disorder of transgenderism or gender identify as normal.
- Promote promiscuity as a “right.”
- Provide sexual counseling, information or services to minors without parental consent.

Parents who are pro-life should also know that Planned Parenthood is one of the largest purveyors of comprehensive sexuality education programs in the U.S. This is the same organization currently under scrutiny for the callous harvesting and selling of aborted baby body parts. Planned Parenthood has been pushing the envelope regarding sex education in the public schools since 1970. Sex education for them

has always served as a way to indoctrinate children with their philosophies that include the acceptance of abortion and deviant sexual practices.

We believe these philosophies run directly counter to the cultural values of most of the hardworking taxpaying families of our island population. Parents and teachers should therefore be proactive when it comes to safeguarding their children. Get involved by networking with other parents and teachers in your area who are opposed to having erotica in the classroom.

Many teachers may not be aware of this most recent major policy shift by the BOE and that it will require them to be “trained” to teach this type of sex ed. Be on the lookout for any communication from the DOE with regard to what types of sex ed programs are coming into your school or for bribes that might be offered in order to either teach or take sex ed courses. Ask questions and find out who these sex education subject matter “experts” were who developed and approved the sex ed program for your school.

In the meantime, rest assured that my office will remain on top of this issue to ensure that teachers are protected and that parental rights are not further undermined.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HI International Film Fest to Feature “A Sakada Story”

A documentary by former Miss Hawaii Filipina 2001 and current short filmmaker Maribel Apuya will be among the films screened at the Hawaii International Film Festival as part of the Made in Hawaii Shorts program.

“A Sakada Story” highlights the story of Cipriano Erice, who immigrated to Hawaii in 1946 to work for Waialua Sugar Plantation. The short film will be showing at the following locations:

- November 16, 2015 at 5:45 pm | Regal Dole

Cannery (B)

- November 21, 2015 at 10:45 am | Regal Dole Cannery (H)

- November 22, 2015 at 3 pm | Consolidated Koko Marina (A)

The film made its Hawaii debut in August at the ‘Ohina Short Film Festival at the Honolulu Museum of Arts’ Doris Duke Theatre. Apuya, a graduate of Waipahu High School and the University of Hawaii-Manoa, directed and produced “A Sakada Story.”

Apuya is also working on

two additional short documentaries—one featuring another sakada and the other about a woman to capture the Filipino experience.

“I’m happy that a story about my culture will be shown at the biggest film festival in Hawaii,” she says. “I have found a home in film, where I truly believe more stories need to be told and captured about the Filipino-American experience and the Asian voice.”

Tickets can be purchased online at: <http://program.hiff.org/schedule/> or at the HIFF box office on-site.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

"Tanim Bala" (Bullet Planting) on Passenger Luggage Generates "Fear and Loathing" Among Balikbayans

Tanim bala" or "laglag bala" is a scam whereby a bullet is planted in the bag of an airline passenger in order to extort money.

At least 30 passengers are reported to have been victimized by "tanim bala". In one case an American citizen from Florida who was about to board a plane at the Manila Domestic Terminal 4 with his father, a minister, and his Filipina stepmother, to establish a church in Palawan was jailed for six days and criminally charged with illegal possession of ammunition after a 22 caliber bullet was allegedly found in his bag after it was scanned. He denied the charge, posted a P40,000 bail, and claimed that his refusal to give P30,000 allegedly asked by Office of Transportation Security (OTS) personnel re-

sulted in the filing of charges against him. OTS personnel denied that the bullet was "planted". His case is now pending in court. <http://news-info.inquirer.net/735145/american-nabbed-for-carrying-a-bullet-at-naia-seeks-new-probe>

In another case, a 56 year old woman Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) from Paoay, Ilocos Norte who was about to board a plane for Hong Kong at the NAIA Terminal 2 was arrested and detained after airport personnel allegedly found a bullet inside her carry-on baggage. She denied the charge saying that the bullet was not hers. She said that she knew that it was prohibited to carry such an item. She was barred from boarding and was charged criminally. She expressed fear that she might lose her job.

Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. denounced these incidents. He was quoted as saying that he had heard of "similar incidents before on

this modus operandi to extort money from hapless victims and we all thought that with the media attention and investigations conducted, this won't happen again." Marcos recognized that "strict implementation of security protocols in our airports was necessary," but warned that the government should "be careful against the hasty filing of criminal charges against passengers who may be a 'victim of a frame up.'" Marcos sent his legal staff to provide assistance to the OFW and said that he "will await the report of his staff to find out if there is a need to call for a Senate investigation on the incident." <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/130027/bongbong-marcos-decries-alleged-bullet-planting-on-ofw>.

"Tanim bala" has generated world-wide condemnation of the Aquino administration for not acting swiftly to investigate these incidents and to

prosecute the guilty parties. Calls have been made by legislators for the firing of the Secretary of Transportation and the airport manager. Even the United Nations has warned its personnel traveling to the Philippines about "tanim bala" and to lock their luggage. According to The Adobo Chronicles the U.S. State Department issued "a travel advisory to Americans traveling to the Philippines, including Obama"

who is planning to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in the Philippines. <http://adobochronicles.com/2015/11/02/state-department-advises-obama-to-wrap-his-briefcase-when-he-visits-the-philippines-for-the-apec-summit/>

There is now "fear and loathing" among balikbayans. Many have changed their minds about going to the

(continued on page 9)

EULOGY

REFLECTIONS ON JOVITA ZIMMERMAN

By Florangel Rosario-Braid, Ph.D.

I first met Jovy in 1971, while on the faculty and research staff of the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center. We shared many things in common. Besides being *kababayan* (both of us have roots in Pangasinan), we both work in media and the academe.

Jovy's professional interests straddled between the social sciences and arts and culture. As a political scientist and journalist, she had at one time or another immersed herself in such issues as peace and non-violence, migration and cultural diversity, and futuristics. She had written poetry, essays, plays and several books, one of which was "Hawaii's Filipino Americans" which she describes as

her "personal offering to two important historical events—the Philippines Centennial Celebration and the 90th anniversary of the Filipino community in Hawaii where our cultural mix of *mestizos* or *hapas* now counts with Filipino-Hawaiians, further enriching an ethnic group that is proud of its diverse heritage."

Jovy was one of those rare individuals whom I would describe as "elegant" in the truest sense of the word. She was not merely a connoisseur of art, music and food, as she practiced these arts. In fact, friends looked forward to invitations to dine at her home where they were assured of a delectable meal. Even her prose, as everyone who read her writings now know, was elegant. She would have been a worthy ambassador of the

country because of her knowledge about our culture and history. A collector of Philippine art and antiques, she had donated some of her pieces to the local museum in Honolulu.

Jovy was a dreamer of great dreams. An idealist, she was very much concerned about the political process—elections and the quality of people who offer themselves to serve the public because she felt that our people, especially the poor, deserve the very best—in the delivery of justice and social services.

DR. FLORANGEL BRAID is the first president and founding director of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and a columnist for several daily newspapers, including the *Manila Bulletin* since 1997. She earned her M.S. and Ph.D. from Syracuse University and won numerous awards in mass communications and journalism including *The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award for Literature and Journalism*.

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IN RETROSPECT

Remembering the Sordid Effects of World War II

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Last week we attended a birthday party of my daughter's classmate. Her family had recently moved here from the mainland due to her military dad's being newly stationed here. The celebrant's mother commented that she had never been taught that the U.S. had placed Japanese-Americans in internment camps – it simply wasn't included in the history class. I asked if she had ever been to Manzanar when her family drove cross-country to get here. She said no. I pointed toward Sand Island, where one of the larger ones had been located. I told her how to get to the site in Kunia, where my former boss Sen. Will Espero, had gone to see the remnants during a visit to explore the possibility of an education center at the former Honouliuli camp. I told her how my Japanese grandfather had built a living space underneath their home in Lahaina, to hide in case the authorities came to round them up, and how my mother remembers that during the war, all they had to eat was cabbage or oatmeal.

When I worked for Sen. Espero, a man called once with a story of his mother's life. As he told me the events he'd experienced during WWII, through the tears in his voice, I could see the scenes. For the first time I felt the effects of a war that took place decades before I was born. His father was a resistance fighter in the Philippines. The enemy caught this courageous man and ended his life while the boy, his mother and sisters hid nearby, watching in horror. He saw his village go up in flames. He was afraid of the soldiers, but more afraid of being left helpless and orphaned at age 6 and having to take care of two little sisters, ages 4 and 2. Soldiers put a bayonet to his mother's back

to force the young family to go with them. Imagine the terror of a little boy who saw his father killed then seeing his mother perhaps about to die as well. Her life was spared. Even though she was a young widow, she never remarried. His mother was all he and his sisters had. She fended for herself and her children, exchanging the vegetables she had grown for supplies and other food that her family needed. She sewed to earn a living. She bought a piece of land the villagers thought was haunted because it was the only one they could afford, and with the help of others, built a home on it. His storytelling was so vivid, in my mind I could see an Academy Award film of his mother's life as I listened.

I had been to Dachau, site of the most well-known of the German concentration camps. Arriving by car with three classmates, we got there on a Monday, unfortunately, when it was closed and had to keep traveling on that short spring break during the year we all studied in England. On another trip a year later, I visited Auschwitz and spent four days. Getting there was a bit of a mystery for us Americans without little knowledge of history or geography. A law school graduate who I met hiking the Alps decided to follow me to Auschwitz, she being engaged to a Jewish man and wanting to know his history. Sitting somewhere in Europe in a bus going to the train station, we couldn't see on our Eurail map where Auschwitz was. We were looking in the wrong place - Germany.

The European woman on the seat across informed us that it's not in Germany, it's in Poland. We couldn't find it because the map only depicted the free Europe covered by our Eurailpass, not the communist held areas on



Senator Mike Gabbard and other legislators on June 20, 2013 visited the site of the former WWII internment camp at Honouliuli | Photo credit: Sen. Mike Gabbard

the continent. We have to go to Oswiecim, she told us, Auschwitz is the German name. She and two other passengers warned us, it's a communist country, don't take any medicines with you or they'll think you're smuggling drugs and you won't get back out of the country. Since it wasn't included in our travel privileges, we'd have to take the train to the border, then transfer and buy a ticket on a Polish train. At the station, we checked the timetable and learned we'd have to wait hours for the one that would take us to Krakow, the nearest major city. We found a laundry sink at the back of the station, complete with a place to hang a clothesline. We washed our clothes by hand and hung them to dry in the warm, night air. The thought of crossing the iron border into Eastern Europe, which didn't offer the same liberties we knew as free-born Americans, made us nervous. We searched our backpacks for all the innocent medicines we brought on our trip and threw them all away -- aspirin, Chinese white lavender oil, Chinese Tiger's Balm, and cold remedies.

At Oswiecim, the concentration camp was a short walk behind the train station. The rail tracks leading into the concentration camp had a look of loneliness to it, isolated metal strips set in barren,

rocky ground with a grey sky behind it. Votive candles, the lights lit by Catholics when offering prayers to heaven, lined the rail. Decades after the concentration camp was closed, the candles bore witness to its spiritually dark history. Sadness hung over the dreary landscape, making even the walk to the buildings a somber experience.

Inside were photos of the prisoners, unhumanly gaunt through starvation. Behind glass were masses of hair collected, prison clothing, and possessions taken. They had slept en masse on tiers of wooden platforms wide enough for a few humans crunched together, no softness for their heads or bodies of people crowded together. The humiliating holes in planks of wood functioned as toilets, all next to each other with no allowance for privacy. Showerheads were clustered, again giving no cover for the nakedness of bathing. I had walked through this with two German girls, Ann Marie Weiss and Pia Kuhnle. Viewing the inhumanity left us without words. The unthinkable had been done to fellow human beings, and instinctively we knew to be silent out of respect for their suffering and tragedy.

Two years later, almost at the same time of year, I traveled throughout Japan and vis-

ited Hiroshima. Riding a city bus through the town was the quickest way to see the city. By all visual accounts, it was a modern, bustling, attractive place, with bright colors, clean buildings and streets, and well-dressed occupants going about their daily lives. I couldn't help but feel that the spirits of the dead were riding on the bus as well, and indeed pervaded the whole area. It was if those killed in the atomic blast were trapped on this earth, still walking the streets among the living inhabitants, as if they were bound there and could not escape even after their physical lives had long since stopped. At the education center at the dome, colorful origami hung in memory of those who died, almost in contrast to the story told on its panels.

The internment camps in the U.S. were nowhere near the concentration camps of the Holocaust. The relocation in our country was done out of fear and political hysteria, and caused great emotional and material loss for our fellow countrymen. Senator Espero has long tried to establish an education center at the site in Honouliuli to honor the memory of those who were detained there and teach others the lessons of WWII to prevent it from happening again. With greater support for the center, the education center may one day become a reality.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hirono Supports Social Security Increase For Seniors, Veterans

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and a coalition of 15 other Senate colleagues in introducing the SAVE Benefits Act—legislation that would provide Social Security beneficiaries with a modest cost of living adjustment (COLA) starting in 2016. For only the third time in more than 40 years, seniors will not receive a COLA increase in 2016. The announcement is wel-

comed news for seniors in Hawaii, where one in four elderly relies on Social Security as their only source of income and face higher costs for medication and basic necessities.

“Many Hawaii seniors have told me their costs for essential goods keep rising and yet there will be no Social Security Cost of Living Adjustment come January,” says Hirono. “This is why I support Senator Warren’s SAVE Benefits Act—to provide our seniors with a modest cost of living in-

crease next year. This bill is fully paid for by closing loopholes that currently give taxpayer benefits to millionaires and billionaires.”

The SAVE Benefits Act would give about 70 million seniors, veterans, the disabled and others an emergency payment equal to 3.9 percent of the average annual Social Security benefit or about \$581—the same percentage raise as the nation’s top CEOs. The bill would lift more than 1 million Americans out of poverty, with

the cost of the emergency payment covered by closing a tax loophole allowing corporations to write off executive bonuses as a business expense for “performance pay.”

The SAVE Benefits Act is supported by AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Alliance for Retired Americans, The ARC of the United States, B'nai B'rith International, Campaign for America's Future, Center for Community Change, Center for Effective Government, CREDO, Daily Kos, Democ-

racy for America, Economic Opportunity Institute, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Justice in Aging, MoveOn.org, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, National Council of La Raza, National Organization for Women, OWL-the Voice of Women 40+, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action, Social Security Works, Strengthen Social Security Coalition, UltraViolet and VoteVets.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, "TANIM BALA"....)

Philippines at any time soon – at least not until “tanim bala” is stopped. The Adobo Chronicles reported: “‘Laglag Bala’ Aftermath: Manila-Bound Philippine Air Lines Flight Leaves Honolulu Empty.” <http://adobochronicles.com/2015/11/03/laglag-bala-aftermath-manila-bound-philippine-air-lines-flight-leaves-honolulu-empty/> This report has not been confirmed by other sources. I have advised

radio listeners to take precautions if they must travel to the Philippines. Travelers should carefully check their luggage, especially their carry-on luggage, for contraband items – not only bullets. A list is found at airport departure areas. Travelers to Manila should consider locking and wrapping their luggage with plastic tape. Wrapping the contents of your luggage with aluminum foil has been suggested but accord-

ing to The Adobo Chronicles the Manila airport manager has warned that bags wrapped in aluminum foil will be confiscated because x-ray cameras cannot see through aluminum foil and will not be able to detect bullets and other prohibited items. <http://adobochronicles.com/2015/11/04/naia-airline-passengers-warned-dont-use-aluminum-foil/>

When apprehended, the passenger should follow our

oft-repeated advice “No talk, no mistake. Less talk, less mistake.” The passenger should ask that he/she be allowed to make a phone call to Sen. Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. or Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

When asked for money in exchange for being released, the passenger should refuse. Remember that there are CCTVs and audio monitors at the airport. The passenger could be charged with bribery or attempted bribery, making

the situation worse because the passenger would now be facing two charges – illegal possession of ammunition and attempted bribery.

Passengers should have a contact person in Manila whom they can readily call for assistance if they are arrested and detained. The contact person should have a lawyer whom he/she can call at any time for assistance. The contact person should also have money for bail.

(continued on page 11)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS



HAWAII
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

Filipino Films to Premiere at Intl Film Fest

2:45 pm at Dole Cannery H.

The 35th Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF), scheduled for November 12-22, 2015 and sponsored by Halekulani Hotels & Resorts, will premiere several Filipino films.

The films include:

- **The Coffin Maker**—In one of the most highly-praised Filipino films of the year, a hard working father tries his best to raise a young daughter in a rural area, but he is ill-prepared for what fate throws their way. The film takes viewers on a deeply emotional journey, free of clichés and sentimentality, slowly unveiling the struggles of a man who must confront his guilt and remorse. “The Coffin Maker” will be screened on November 20 at 3 pm at Doris Duke Theatre at the Honolulu Museum of Art.

- **Heneral Luna**—In 1898, Gen. Antonio Luna, commander of the Philippines’ revolutionary army, is spoiling for a fight. After 300 years as a Spanish colony, the Philippines is under American rule but Gen. Luna wants to fight for freedom. However, members of the elite would rather strike a deal with the Americans. The in-fighting is fierce in the new cabinet but the general and his men forge ahead even as his decisions are met with resistance from soldiers loyal to President Aguinaldo. “Heneral Luna” is the Philippines’ official entry into the Academy Awards’ foreign language film category. The film screens November 15 at 5:30 pm at Dole Cannery H and November 22 at 2:30 pm at Dole Cannery F.

- **Honor Thy Father**—Kaye and Edgar are a pair of married white collar swindlers who have cashed in on promoting an investment scheme to their friends and fellow church parishioners. But when they run afoul of their latest victims, their devout investors turn on them and when tension erupts into violence, Edgar seeks the aid of his criminally-inclined family. “Honor Thy Father” is the latest crime drama by Filipino director Erik Matti. Screening is November 14 at 8 pm at Dole Cannery H and November 18 at

- **Kid Kulafu**—Before he became one of the world’s greatest boxers, Manny Pacquiao was a youngster who lived a hand-to-mouth existence, surviving one day at a time. When he discovers a natural talent for boxing, Pacquiao embarks on a brutally intense journey that takes him from the mountains of the Philippines to the streets of Manila—risking everything to become a champion for himself, his family, and his country. “Kid Kulafu” shows November 21 at 4:30 pm at Dole Cannery G and November 22 at 2:30 pm at Waimea Theatre on Kauai and at 5 pm at Dole Cannery F.

- **Violator**—A devastating typhoon is sweeping over the Philippines and slowly approaching Manila. Sensing a looming final judgment, some of the city’s inhabitants behave in ways that are hard to explain. The intriguing mosaic of stories gradually leads us to a police station where the night shift is forced to wait out the forces of nature, while a new prisoner sitting in one of the cells appears to be connected to the mysterious powers concentrated in the storm. The film will screen on November 21 at 8:15 pm at Dole Cannery E.

The HIFF will feature a total of 181 films, with 17 U.S. 14 international and 32 world premieres from 41 countries. Films will be primarily screened at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18, with satellite screenings at Koko Marina 8, Doris Duke Theatre and Ward Village.

Tickets are \$14 for the general public, \$12 for seniors, military, students and children, and \$10 for HIFF Ohana members. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hiff.org or by calling (808) 447-0577.

HIFF’s inaugural program in 1981 consisted of seven films from six countries which were viewed by an audience of 5,000. Today, HIFF is the premiere cinematic event in the Pacific and annually attracts more than 70,000 film enthusiasts from around Hawaii, the nation and throughout the world.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Updates Fraud Prevention Guide

The State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), the Department of the Attorney General (AG) and the Department of Health (DOH) have released the new 2nd Edition of Hawaii's Fraud Prevention & Resource Guide.

To view or print the guide, go online to: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/sec/files/2015/10/Fraud-Guide-2.pdf>. The guide, which helps to raise awareness of various types of fraud and scams occurring in Hawaii, includes a comprehensive resource section that provides up-to-date

contact information for state, federal, county and non-profit organizations.

"We are honored to work with such a dedicated group on addressing fraud schemes that are occurring here in our islands," says DCCA Director Catherine Awakuni Colón. "We want residents to know whom

to contact if they need help."

Hard copies will be available for free during the Celebrate Safe Communities Fair in conjunction with the Leeward Discovery Fair at Leeward Community College on November 7, 2015 from 9 am to 3 pm.

"The biggest benefit of

this guide is to directly assist our seniors, family members and caregivers on how to protect themselves from financial and healthcare scams, fraud and abuses," says DOH Director Dr. Virginia Pressler. "It gives examples, scenarios and red flags of what to be aware of and resources on whom to contact for questions or concerns."

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 9, "TANIM BALA"....)

Passengers victimized by the scam can countersue the arresting officers for unlawful arrest and incriminatory machinations which are punished by the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines, Articles 269 and 363, respectively, although the criminal penalties are light (not more than 6 months). For a case involving incriminatory machinations through unlawful arrest, see *People v. Alagao*, G.R. No. L-20721, April 30, 1966.

The Philippines should enact a statute similar to California Penal Code section 141(a) which specifically punishes planting evidence or making or fabricating evi-

dence and provides for heavy penalties.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

Women 18 and Older Wanted for Clinical Trial of New Contraceptive

The University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) are seeking volunteer women over the age of 18 for a new clinical trial involving a new birth control device.

Those who participate in the clinical trial will receive free birth control and financial reimbursement of up to \$400 for their time. The clinical trial involves a novel vaginal contraceptive ring and is being conducted by JABSOM's Family Planning Division of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health.



According to school officials, the innovative study that will provide women with a new option for safe and effective birth control.

"Participating in a clinical trial can a great way for women to be a part of scientific advancement and discovery and improve health for all women," says Tina Shelton, JABSOM's director of communications, media & government affairs. "Women might feel nervous about participating in a clinical trial but by the time medications or devices get to the point of clinical trials, they have already been highly scrutinized."

For additional details on participating in the clinic trials, please call 375-3785 or email: whrc@hawaii.edu.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Abaya, Airport Chief Face Raps Over Bullet Planting at NAIA

by Michael Punongbayan
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya and officials led by Manila International Airport Authority general manager Jose Angel Honrado face criminal and administrative charges before the Office of the Ombudsman over the laglag-bala or bullet planting mess at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

The complainants led by Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano accused Abaya and Honrado of failing to stop the alleged laglag-bala shakedown scheme.

Also named respondents were Office of Transportation Security (OTS) administrator Rolando Rekomono and Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group director Chief Supt. Pablo Francisco Balagtas.

In the complaint filed yesterday, Cayetano and the petitioners urged the ombudsman to order the preventive suspension of the officials pending completion of the probe.

Abaya, who had earlier said the case was still being investigated, said he wanted to read the complaint first before commenting on it.

Cayetano, along with Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption founding chairman Dante Jimenez and Robert Lim Joseph representing the groups Network of Independent Travel Agents, Tourism Educators and Movers of the Philippines and League of Tourism Students of the Philippines, said the Office of the Ombudsman should investigate the transport and airport officials for possible criminal liability and negligence under Executive Order No. 226.

The complaint alleged the laglag-bala has victimized several Filipino migrant workers and tourists at an alarming frequency.

The scheme involves inserting a bullet in the luggage of an unsuspecting passenger before a shakedown.

The bullet planting incidents were said to be part of an extortion scheme of some airport personnel.

"This scam is by no means new," the petitioners said, citing the case of a journalist victimized by the scam several years ago.

"These incidents cause a chilling effect among OFWs, who instead of feeling comfort and rest in their home country, find themselves fearful of and

vulnerable to the predatory advances of airport personnel," the complaint said.

The petitioners said the scheme leaves "a black spot in tourism efforts" and will scare away potential tourists.

International news outfits like TIME and BBC have also drawn attention to the scam, "bringing this embarrassment to a wider global audience," they stressed.

The complaint alleged that to date, "there are no comprehensive, proactive and preventive efforts undertaken to address the scam once and for all by the government, which has been callous enough to call the number of victims of the scam as 'isolated cases.'

"Instead of acting immediately when the first case was made public in the Facebook post of one of the victims, Rhed Austria de Guzman, respondents continued to treat the case as isolated and continued to do so even if more cases have been reported," the complainants said, pointing out that the DOTC called for a meeting only yesterday.

Cayetano and the petitioners slammed what they branded as "gross inaction" by the officials concerned in the scheme.

This developed as Jose Marie Paz Trias, a 34-year-old housewife, filed a complaint before the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday, alleging airport personnel planted a bullet in the front pouch of her backpack.

Trias said the bullet, which was wrapped in a small transparent plastic, was found in the front zipper pocket of her gray-colored bag.

Trias said she was accosted along with her mother, grandmother and uncle at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 while about to board a Cebu Pacific flight to Singapore on Oct. 27.

She said the handcarried luggage was being passed through the second X-ray when someone told her that one of the bags of her uncle was heavy and



X-ray screening of luggages at NAIA

they had to transfer some of its contents to another bag.

"It was at that time when I lost sight of my bag because our focus was in removing some of the contents from one bag and transferring them to another bag. There is also the possibility that someone might have placed the bullet there without my knowing when I was in the airport because I checked my bag twice before the flight and that front pocket was empty," Trias said.

She was then told to open the bag, and she opened the two big zippers with padlock and removed its contents, but when a female airport personnel checked on the small zipper, the officer pulled out the bullet.

She was then told that a higher official would talk to her. Before the officer arrived she made inquiries if she could talk to a lawyer and the NBI. She believed that the authorities were alerted when she mentioned the NBI.

An older senior airport personnel then approached her and immediately said, "Let us just fix this."

But before the senior official could say anything else, Trias cut her off and said that she is willing to go to jail because she knows she is innocent.

She asked why would a bullet be in her bag when their purpose of traveling was to go to Singapore to treat her grandmother suffering from leukemia.

The officer then offered to let her go and said they would just try to make it appear that the bullet was an amulet. Trias said she was made to sign their logbook with an already handwritten prepared report on the

incident.

She was then allowed to leave the country and experienced no other hitches.

Damage control

Malacañang, on the other hand, left it to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to resolve the issue.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the DOTC is investigating the scheme.

He said the DOTC – which supervises the airports – has "refined the efforts that are being undertaken."

"So, at some point, and hopefully within this week, DOTC will share to the public the measures that will be taken," Lacierda said.

"I can assure you that the measures that are going to be undertaken by the DOTC will take into consideration some of the matters that are being discussed," he said.

Abaya said the DOTC would continue its investigation into the incidents.

"We continue our investigation and information gathering to ensure any operation of tanim bala, if ever there is any, is addressed and halted," he said.

Abaya said the airport authorities have modified procedures in handling baggage where only passengers could handle them.

Lawmakers led by Davao City Rep. Karlo Alexei Nograles called on the Department of Justice (DOJ) to conduct an inventory of all past arrests concerning confiscation of ammunition at the airports.

He said the scheme has opened up serious doubts as to

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Easier Naturalization Test for Elder Applicants

Tegal permanent residents applying for citizenship are required to pass the English literacy exam as well as the history and civics exam.

Applicants must demonstrate basic ability to speak, read and write English. The applicant's ability to speak English is determined by the United State Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) officer during his interview for naturalization.

In order to pass the reading section of the English literacy exam, the applicant must read one sentence out of three

sentences correctly. To pass the writing section, the applicant must write one sentence out of three sentences correctly in English.

The applicant's knowledge and understanding of U.S. history and government is also tested. The applicant will be asked up to 10 questions from the 100 civics questions listed. Out of the 10 questions, the applicant must answer 6 correctly in order to pass the test.

The officer considers many factors in administering the civics test including the person's education, background, age, length of stay in the U.S., opportunity and efforts to learn civics among others.

Applicants who fail the English or civics test will be allowed to take a second test within 90 days of their first attempt. They do not need to pay an additional fee for the second test.

Not everyone is required to satisfy the English literacy requirement. Those exempted are applicants who are 50 years or older at the date of application and who have been permanent residents for 20 years as well as those who are 55 years of age or older and have resided in the U.S. as permanent residents for at least 15 years. They may take the exam in their native language.

Meanwhile, those who are 65 years or older and who have been permanent residents

for at least 20 years are also exempted from taking the language test and may take a simplified version of the civics tests. With the simplified version of the test, the applicant will be asked up to 10 questions from 25 civics questions listed in their native language and they only need 6 correct answers to pass the test.

Reasonable accommodations are made for persons with physical disabilities. The request for accommodation must be made in the N-400 application for naturalization. The manner of conducting the test is modified such that a person whose disability makes it impossible for him to write, for example, may take the history and civics test orally.

Certain persons who are suffering from a physical disability or mental impairment

may be exempted from taking the English and history and civics exam. Those exempt may include persons who suffer from Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, senile dementia, among others. Form N-648 completed by a medical doctor or a clinical psychologist who is "experienced in diagnosing" these disabilities must be attached to the N-400 application.

For persons who are physically unable to complete the N-400 application because of a physical disability or mental impairment may have a designated representative who will attest orally and who will need to submit documentary evidence supporting the person's eligibility for naturalization.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 12, ABAYA.....)

the authenticity and legitimacy of all the previous arrests involving alleged seizures of ammunition.

Nogralles also supported calls for the resignation of Honrado.

"NAIA just used to be the world's worst airport but now, it has become the world's only airport with a bullet farm because of this tanim-bala racket. All these things happened under the watch of Honrado. There was never a time when NAIA was the object of so much ridicule and scandal on a constant basis until Honrado came along," he said.

Party-list Reps. Samuel Pagdilao of ACT-CIS and Gary Alejano of Magdalo said

Honrado should not cling to his post and seek protection of President Aquino, who is said to be a distant relative.

"Nobody should be spared, not even relatives, if he or she is found to be negligent," Alejano said.

Pagdilao, a former police official, said Honrado should resign or be relieved of his post as in the case of police station chiefs found to be remiss in their duties.

Why only now?

Sen. Francis Escudero, for his part, questioned the timing and frequency of the extortion scheme at the airports.

Escudero said it was incredible that all of a sudden

there was an increase in the number of airport passengers carrying bullets in their luggage, whether these were amulets or for whatever purpose.

"Are we to believe that all of a sudden so many people thought of carrying bullets in their luggage? Now that Christmas is drawing near?" Escudero remarked.

He lamented the passengers charged with illegal possession of ammunition were forced to shell out P150,000 in bail.

"Not everyone can come up with that amount. In fact, nobody should ever have to raise bail money for a crime he did not commit," Escudero said.

Apart from the injustice done on the unsuspecting passengers, Escudero said that the scam could erase all of the gains made by the government in promoting the country as a tourist destination.

"The crooks behind this tanim bala are not just planting bullets, they are sowing a sense of insecurity among travelers that will be difficult to address later on. The government has to end this tanim bala scheme now or we will

lose our advantage as an emerging travel destination," he added.

Sen. Grace Poe said the Senate committees on public order and public services would conduct an inquiry soon on the tanim bala incidents.

She said Honrado would be invited to the hearing to explain why this is happening and what is being done to address the issue.

"It is not enough to say

(continued on page 14)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

20 Heads of State Confirm APEC Manila Attendance

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines — Russian President Vladimir Putin and 19 other leaders have confirmed their attendance at the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said on Wednesday.

Washington earlier confirmed that United States

President Barack Obama will attend the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Manila from November 18 to 19.

Almendras said in an interview with ANC's Headstart that Obama may stay "a bit longer than originally anticipated."

"President Putin is coming, all have confirmed basically except... we're still waiting for a confirmation from China. Everyone else is more or less confirmed al-

ready," Almendras said.

APEC currently has 21 members:

- Australia
- Brunei Darussalam
- Canada
- Chile
- People's Republic of China
- Hong Kong, China
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Malaysia

- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Singapore
- Chinese Taipei
- Thailand
- United States
- Vietnam

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Po-

lice have laid down massive preparations for the APEC Summit.

AFP spokesperson Col. Restituto Padilla assured that there is no security threat to the security of the APEC.

"It's safe to say that we have 21 heads of economies coming in so it's 21 times more security preparations," Joint Task Force National Capital Region deputy commander Col. Vic Tomas said. (www.philstar.com)

(from page 13, ABAYA.....)

that you are investigating this. It is important to know what is being done now," Poe said.

She suggested the National Bureau of Investigation should be brought in to conduct its own independent investigation.

"It is both sad and infuriating that this is the way we are repaying our so-called modern day heroes. What we should do now is to replace the people who are securing them (airports)," Poe said.

Poe said Honrado should put an end to the tanim bala scam within a week or step down from his post.

She said Honrado should do everything possible, including personally monitoring all of the inspections taking place within the airports.

Pagdilao, for his part, advised victims of the extortion racket to know their rights and demand the specific violations they allegedly committed.

Second, they should immediately avail themselves of the services of a lawyer or any "responsible officer," who may include even members of the media, to witness the inspection of their belongings, he said.

Sen. Joseph Victor

Ejercito, who filed a resolution calling for an investigation into the laglag bala scam, stressed the urgency to look into the incidents, saying it has become an international embarrassment for the country.

"It is necessary to determine the persons or syndicate responsible and how they conduct their operations for their laglag bala or tanim bala scheme to find out possible loopholes in airport security policies, rules, regulations and laws," he said.

Antipolo City Rep. Romeo Acop, a former police official, said the reforms should start

with the recruitment process of airport personnel.

No effect on tourism

Despite the possible fallout over the bullet planting incidents, the Department of Tourism (DOT) expects a "very busy" last two months with the arrival of tourists in the country.

"We have received several queries but we are not aware of effect on tourist arrivals. The Philippines continues to achieve new highs in arrivals and we look forward to a very busy last two months of the year and to an even busier 2016," DOT Undersecretary Maria Victoria Jasmin said.

Jasmin though admitted it is necessary to immediately resolve the issue because every single incident will definitely affect tourism.

"It can affect in the sense

that there's fear, psychologically they are worried of the possible impact of their travel not only in Philippines but within the Philippines," she said.

Jasmin said the DOT is upbeat that the country's hosting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit on Nov. 18 and 19 will not have any significant negative effect on the arrival of world leaders.

"We really call on our kababayans to be one in the spirit of hosting APEC. This is the best time to show Filipino warmth and hospitality and we hope that if there are groups or syndicates that are involved in this, they would put a stop to this," Jasmin said.

"We are confident we will be able to arrest the situation in the airports not only in Manila but other airports as well," she added. (www.philstar.com)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

VETERANS DAY HO'OLAULEA AND PARADE | November 7, 2015 | 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM | LIHUE, KAUAI | Parade starts at 10 a.m. from Vidinha Stadium to Rice Street and ends at the Historic Kauai County Building. Ho'olaulea starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m featuring food booths, dignitaries, entertainment, arts and crafts and exhibits, at the Historic Kauai County Building. | For more info, call Aida @ 808-246-1135 or Charlene @ 808-346-2422.

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

ANNUAL CAREGIVER'S DAY CELEBRATION | November 14, 2015 | 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM | NANI MAU | Contact: Maria Corazon Cariaga @937-7465 or 959-6760 or email: carriagacora@yahoo.com

CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII'S 7TH ANNUAL RECOGNITION DAY | November 22, 2015 | 6:00

PM | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Constante Domingo @ 839-3091

HOLIDAY LIGHT PARADE | December 4, 2015 | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | LIHUE, KAUAI

SANTANIANS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII-USA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS | December 5, 2015 | ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH HALL (KALIHI) | Contact Julius Soria @ 722-9958 or Aurora Garcia @ 722-3150 or email santaniansofhawaii@gmail.com

PASKO SA FILCOM | December 6, 2015 | 3:30 PM - 7:00 PM | FILCOM CENTER | For more info please call FilCom Center at 680-0451

SAKADA DAY | December 6, 2015 | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | KEEAU COMMUNITY CENTER, HILO, BIG ISLAND | Contact Iris Viacrusis @ 808-895-9742 for details.

SAKADA DAY | December 20, 2015 | 3:00 PM | STATE CAPITOL | Contact: Phl Consulate, 595-6316 ext. 112.

GLOBAL NEWS

UN Food Security Expert Warns About Impact of Climate Change

GENEVA - A UN expert is warning that more extreme weather, higher temperatures, floods, droughts and rising sea levels linked to climate change are threatening people's access to food over the long term.

Hilal Elver, the UN special rapporteur on "the right to food," predicts the negative impact from climate change on agriculture could subject another 600 million people to malnutrition by 2080.

In a statement on Tuesday before a UN climate conference in Paris starting Nov. 30, she recommended a shift from large-scale, industrial agriculture

to "agro-ecology" that supports the local food movement, small-scale farmers and the environment.

Most climate scientists say the climate is changing largely because of the buildup of heat-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and gas. Some public officials and a few climate scientists disagree. (www.philstar.com)



MAINLAND NEWS

USP4GG Condemns Bullet Planting

US Pinoy for Good Governance (USP4GG) issued a public statement condemning the planting of bullets in passengers' luggages at the Philippines' Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

A crime syndicate is suspected of working inside the airport and planting bullets and other banned items in the luggages of passengers and then extorting money from. Most are foreign tourists or overseas Filipinos living and working abroad who decide to pay the money to make their flights and avoid more hassles.

"This news about airline passengers being victimized by planting bullets in their luggage has gone viral worldwide," says Atty. Ted Laguatan, USP4GG spokesperson and legal counsel. "Aside from giv-

ing the Philippines a very bad image, it drives visitors away, drastically affects the tourism industry and results in the loss of millions of dollars."

Laguatan urges the Philippine government to decriminalize finding bullets in passengers' luggages and to prosecute those involved in extorting passengers.

"Bullets alone without a gun are not a threat," he says. "An order should immediately be given that carrying bullets alone is not a security threat and passengers caught with bullets but without a gun should not be detained."

USP4GG is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization founded by philanthropist Loida Nicolas Lewis which aims to promote solidarity and goodwill among Filipinos.



USP4GG President Rodel Rodis, USP4GG spokesperson Ted Laguatan and USP4GG founder Loida Nicolas-Lewis. [TFA photo]

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In the United States' 239 year history, our nation has been involved in a dozen major wars—from the Revolutionary War to the current war on terror. The price of freedom certainly did not come cheap. Millions of our gallant servicemen and women placed themselves in harm's way, often paying for our freedom with blood, tears and their very lives. Our Filipino veterans, particularly those from World War II, were barely old enough to go off to war. Now in their twilight years, they are barely able to

hold a rifle. Yet, they embody the very meaning of courage and sacrifice, even as they continue to wait for long promised benefits that they have yet to realize.

This Veterans Day, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle takes this moment to say how profoundly grateful we are for all of our veterans. Let us never forget that we live in freedom because every generation has produced brave men and women willing to serve a cause greater than themselves. To those veterans who have worn and continue to proudly wear our nation's uniform—thank you from the bottom of our hearts. A grateful America honors you this Veterans Day and vows to never forget your sacrifices.

We salute all Filipino veterans of World War II who fought for our nation's freedom. May you soon realize all that has been promised to you by the U.S. government and may you finally receive your well-deserved individual Congressional Gold Medals. Happy Veterans Day!