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HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

♦ NOVEMBER 18, 2017 ♦

Happy Thanksgiving!

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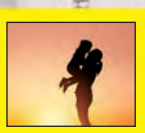

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EDITORIALS

The Newspaper Industry Is Going Through Major Changes That Could Have Negative Consequences

Editor and Publisher's DataBook Listing shows there are 126 fewer daily newspapers in 2014 than 2004. Not only are newspapers closing, but job cuts run deep in the industry as both circulation and advertising revenues decline. In 2016 alone, there have been 400 job cuts, buyouts or layoffs. Circulation of print newspapers is down 7 percent in 2015. Newspaper advertising revenue dropped from about $60 billion to about $20 billion.

It's not breaking news that the newspaper industry is going through tough times. For the past 15 years, the newspaper industry has been on life-support. What is perhaps newsworthy and somewhat underreported is the major structural change of the newspaper industry just to financially survive in the digital Internet era. These changes have directly influenced traditional journalism in ways that are arguably dangerous to society much more than most realize.

Change one: consolidation. Major newspaper chains are more frequently buying out other major newspapers chains. Consolidation in every industry has unhealthy consequences. From a business perspective, it creates monopolization by a few companies of an entire industry affecting competitive pricing and potential for consumer exploitation. In the news business, consolidation translates to less diversity in news content. In other words, consumers of news are limited in exposure and are hearing the same news redundantly by the same news chains with almost identical editorial formats. In radio, we hear the same songs no matter what station we turn to. In TV, the same cycled programs are re-run on multiple stations owned by the same company. The overarching result of consolidation is limitation to diverse dissemination of information.

Change two: the rise of color journalism. Finding a niche or target audience is even more dire as newspapers and the media in general fight for market share. In a cut-throat business environment as what we are seeing in media, newspapers editorial content is fashioned to cater to a specific audience, usually either the political right or political left. In this process of product branding, traditional journalism ethics is secondary and truth in reporting often gets lost to meet set editorial content. Some can argue that this trend is better for journalism because it lifts pretenses of partiality and that the notion that journalism was ever impartial to begin with had been just a myth. Color journalism also breaks the shackles that prevented news organizations from being unapologetic advocates for specific causes. At the same time, it's hard to argue that because of color journalism and in news organizations' more bold positions on slanted re-

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

We are pleased to share the great news that the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle celebrates its 25th Anniversary this month. It's a special milestone and it has been an exciting journey filled with highlights and challenges. Through the years, we've remained firm and true to our mission of bringing relevant and timely news that impact our Filipino community in Hawaii, the U.S. mainland and the Philippines. We are grateful for the multitude of friends and networks we've made; and are humbled by the gracious support we've received from the community, our readers and advertisers. I'd like to thank our current and past HFC staff for their hard work, commitment and professionalism, as well as many in the community who've contributed guest articles, columns, and information on events.

In the 25 years, we've witnessed and chronicled large and small changes in our Filipino community and the state. Some we can be very proud of such as the progression Filipinos have made in many sectors of society; others, like the sad state of homelessness in our state, continue to test us to be a part of the process of finding solutions. Since the very beginning, we've took pride in being not just a newspaper that reports community events, but to be a serious, issue-oriented newspaper, unafraid to tackle tough issues and write bold editorials.

The newspaper industry itself has undergone changes that have posed different set of challenges for us through the years. For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo writes about some of the challenges the media face today: an industry beleaguered with financial hardship; the rise of establishing niche markets that often counter journalistic integrity; and the massive impact technology and the Internet have had on all traditional media, especially the newspaper industry.

Also in this issue, we have an interesting article by Atty. Reuben Saguritan that explores the possibility of the legalization of farm workers. Given the essential importance of agriculture to our country and that an overwhelming percentage of farm workers in the U.S. are undocumented, lawmakers have introduced the "Agricultural Workers Program Act of 2017," that proposes giving legal status to undocumented immigrant farm workers. Senator Mazie Hirono is among the co-sponsors of the bill.

Also, read HFC writer Seneca Moraleda's article on having a thankful heart and being thankful every waking moment. She writes the essence of Thanksgiving is choosing to look beyond tough situations and appreciate the blessings, the valuable lessons and good outcomes from life's tragedies and heartbreaks. In this spirit, we'd like to wish you all a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. May your gathering with family and friends be a special time of bonding for you to cherish for many years.

Lastly, be sure to attend the Community Health Fair sponsored by Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW) on Nov. 18, August Ahrens Elementary, 3:30 to 10 p.m. at the 120th Anniversary Waipahu Town celebration. BCWW will be offering free screenings and health consultations. See you there. Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving Day! Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Support Small Businesses this Holiday Shopping Season

The biggest shopping weekend is fast approaching, the weekend after Thanksgiving that includes Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday. Big box retailers and chain restaurants, with their massive advertising budgets, need little help promoting Black Friday -- and will no doubt draw in crowds to win the lion's share of revenues during the holiday shopping season.

A fast-growing national tradition that Hawaii shoppers should consider supporting is Small Business Saturday, a day of shopping on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Conceived in 2010 by American Express as an alternative to Black Friday, Small Business Saturday encourages people to patron brick and mortar businesses, local retailers and local restaurants. The logic: it's in the best interest for the community to help small businesses thrive, to sustain a diverse economy, and keep money circulating locally. Studies show shopping local keeps a larger percentage of profit in the local economy. It also helps our neighbors, entrepreneurial families, and mom-and-pops who had a dream to risk it all to follow their dream of running their own business.

Holiday season sales have a greater impact on small businesses than large retailers. In some cases, it's a do-or-die season for smaller retailers who rely on that season's gross revenues to carry them through the rest of the year. Small businesses -- in every in-

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Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Dennis Galolo | Edwin Quinabo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Creative Designer
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llena

Administrative Assistant
Shalimar Pagulayan

Columnists
Carlota Hufana Ader
Emil Guillermo
Ron Menor
J.P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera

Contributing Writers
Clement Bautista
Teresita Bernales, Ed.D
Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.
Rose Churma
Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D.
Linda Dela Cruz
Fiedes Doctor
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand
Amelia Jacang, M.D.
Caroline Julian
Raymund Ll. Liongson, Ph.D.
Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.
Maita Milallos
Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.
Renelaine Bontol-Pfister
Seneca Moraleda-Puguan
Jay Valdez, Psy.D.
Glenn Wakai
Amado Yoro

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Millicent Wellington
Maui
Christine Sabado

Big Island Distributor
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Molokai Distributor
Maria Watanabe

Oahu Distributor
Yoshimasa Kaneko
Jonathan Pagulayan

Advertising/Marketing Director
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives
Carlota Hufana Ader
J.P. Orias

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Did Trump Do Anything in Asia?

By Emil Guillermo

The biggest thing Donald Trump did when he went to Asia was not say something stupid to start an international conflict, let alone War War III.

But what Trump cares about he tweets out, and he sure made hay of how he got three UCLA basketball players accused of shoplifting in Beijing out of trouble with the Chinese government. Trump even tweeted on Wednesday how much he wanted to make sure he got a thank you.

Later in the day, he looked more presidential delivering the official statement of the trip in the White House. But half the time, you wondered if he knew what he was talking about, especially when he mispronounced the Philippine President's name "DUARTE."

Trump's wrapup statement seemed like an attempt to make it all sound like he actually did something useful over two weeks in Asia.

Trump talked about his trip's three core objectives: "to unite the world against the North Korea nuclear threat; to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region; and to advance fair and reciprocal economic relations with our trading partners and allies in the region."

And then he tried to sell it to America.

"This is our beautiful vision for the future," Trump said. "This is a future, this dream…, is only possible if America is strong, proud and free…My fellow citizens America is back and our future has never looked brighter."

Convinced?

I followed the trip and it's hard to imagine a greater missed opportunity than the "Donald Trump in Asia" excursion, where the American leader seemed to be using it simply to get out of the harsh spotlight of D.C.

There was the increased heat from the Mueller investigation on Trump ties to Russia; plus, the back drop of sexual harassment claims in the news against power white men was making people realize that the person in the White House is an admitted "pussy-grabber" in chief.

Considering all that, there's nothing quite like an official photo op far, far away to help one look more presidential.

But would there be anything really accomplished? The bar was set low. Go have dinner with some Asian leaders, including the man who some people consider has eclipsed Trump as the most powerful in the world, China's Xi Jingping.

That was a delicate dance, where Trump's jokiness just made him look more oafish than normal.

Trump praised China for taking advantage of America, but didn't hit China hard on trade. That's where Trump could have showed some guts.

But he didn't.

As an American watching Trump in action, it's clear, the Asians see him as the buffoon that he is. They act politely, but in Trump they see the personification of a diminished America as Asia ascends.

In China, there's already the feeling that its hybrid system of economic capitalism girded by an autocratic strong-armed communism is superior to America.

It used to be that freedom was seen as the ultimate, exemplified by the west and particularly the U.S.

But with the artless Trump at the helm, the Chinese from top-to-bottom, no longer seem to look to the west for guidance as they did in decades past.

The trip only showed that Asian self-worth is high.

If democracy gives us Trump as a world leader, they've realized there's a real crack in democracy.

And did Putin put it there?

That was another bit of intrigue about the trip, whether

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EDITORIALS

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porting, consumers of news are further indoctrinated into their own political inclinations. It's easy to just read or tune into news outlets that just echo your political slant and go along not even hearing another perspective. This could be one reason for the increasing gap of understanding in society and the widening divisions Americans are now experiencing.

Change three: influence of giant tech companies on news. In the predigital era, newspapers controlled the new products from original reporting, editorial selection, packaging and delivery. As newspapers enter the digital world, they are finding that some control, particularly in packaging and delivery of news, are not completely in their hands. Rather, tech giants such as Facebook, Twitter, Yahoo, and Google, who have their own agenda, have tremendous influence in how news are delivered through search engines, ad networks, trending topics and algorithms. The result is a tug-and-pull type relationship between the media and tech giants where tech giants are having an influence of news and journalism in ways that might not necessarily translate to sound journalism. The Internet as being a source of news has also led to the proliferation of fake news as questionable news sources saturate the net and literally every social network user has the power to share and produce whatever content he wishes, including fake news.

Clearly, newspapers and the media are undergoing structural changes and face new challenges in the age of consolidation, long-running economic hardship, and the Internet. The list is endless as to the value of newspapers and the importance for most of them to survive. If there are one or two newspapers that speak to the heart of your values, it goes a long way to aid in their success by subscribing or advertising in those newspapers. Help keep the newspaper industry going and support it any way you can.

(from page 2, **SUPPORT....***)*

dustry from retail to services -- must compete with national companies' prices. The slight advantage smaller businesses have is to offer unique products (versus mass produced items) and to offer more friendly, personalized services.

National chains offer great advantages in price and should also be a shopping option this holiday season. It's not an all-or-nothing situation, and shoppers could do both.

Everyone knows how difficult it is for small businesses to thrive in Hawaii with the high cost of lease space, taxes, and regulatory fees and paperwork. Hawaii consistently rates among the worst states for small businesses. Yet, locals remain undeterred to chase after their dream of entrepreneurship. Now, that is true freedom at work, and the finest example of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," as written in the United States Declaration of Independence.

Help keep this cherished freedom alive. Supporting small businesses is supporting freedom, freedom of choice, freedom of pursuing a lifestyle. Imagine a community where that option -- of becoming a small business owner -- is no longer a viable option financially. Our community, without its rich tradition of mom-and-pop, family-run businesses, would be impoverished in ways far greater than we realize. It might just be worth paying slightly more to help that independent store carrying quality, unique products as gifts this holiday season.

It's estimated that Small Business Saturday could exceed $15 billion this year. Compare that to $682 billion expected in sales for Black Friday. Yet nationally, small businesses employ about 50 percent of all working Americans.

Give our hardworking small business owners a break and consider shopping on Small Business Saturday this holiday season and support your local business community. As much as your budget allows, consider being a patron of small businesses all-year-round.

Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

The Newspaper Industry Is On Life Support

By Edwin Quinabo

The Honolulu Star Advertiser's recent announcement that it laid off 15 newsroom employees was a sign of the times for the newspaper business -- employment cutbacks amidst a beleaguered industry struggling in transition.

Editor and Publisher's DataBook Listing shows there are 126 fewer daily newspapers in 2014 than 2004. Job cuts are viewed in the industry as a necessary evil for survival. In 2016 alone, there have been 400 job cuts, buyouts or layoffs. Latest data (2014) shows 20,000 fewer newsroom jobs than 20 years prior.

Dennis Francis, president and publisher of the Star Advertiser, said "RIFs (reductions in force) have been a part of the newspaper landscape even here in Honolulu since the late 1990s."

For the past 15 years, the newspaper industry has been on life-support undergoing structural changes and moving desperately to entrench itself in the future of news delivery -- to have a large presence digitally on the Internet, to be in news cycles of popular social media platforms, and to tech-in to news apps for mobile phones.

In this transitional stage when everyone seems to be losing ground, consolidation is commonplace. Giant newspaper chains devour other giant newspaper chains. Once newspaper stalwarts on their own, E.W. Scripps, Journal Communications and Gannett are now one company. In over a decade, print newspaper advertising revenue dropped from about $60 billion to about $20 billion, leaving veteran newsroom boards who have survived to soul-search for answers.

The upshot is that the print newspaper industry still takes in a sizeable share of overall media revenues, but it continues to slip behind cable TV; and is being challenged by new digital news brands like Vice, Buzzfeed, and Vox that have never printed a single issue off the press, but publishes in what is known as offsite platform publishing -- the future mode of publishing.

"People in Cleveland and Dallas and San Diego have not only stopped subscribing to their local newspapers but in many cases are reading the websites of national news organizations instead of the website of their local paper," wrote Timothy Lee at Vox.

The entire print newspaper industry is scrambling to reinvent news delivery. Legacy newspapers -- the likes of the New York Times, Washington Post -- in trying to establish a greater presence and branding, regularly co-opt with cable news TV to have their print journalists appear on camera as regular news commentators. While cable TV remains strong, TV execs are willing to team-up with their former adversary (print media) because they worry that the freak force of the Internet will also eventually cut into its market share.

CIRCULATION AND ADVERTISING DOWN

While digital/Internet circulation is up, it accounts for only 22 percent of total circulation for print newspapers; and overall print newspaper circulation is still down by 7 percent in 2015.

Similarly, digital/Internet advertising is growing, making up one-fourth of advertising revenues, but traditional print advertising revenue fell by 10 percent in 2015, affecting a drop in total newspaper advertising revenues.

Both circulation and advertising numbers show that the transition to digital platform has yet to become profitable for print newspapers carving out a niche on the Internet. But data shows reader-migration is clearly headed from traditional print to digital platform publishing and desktop-mobile news feeds.

Digital and Traditional Print Presence

Even though data shows providing consumers both traditional print and a digital platform alternative is not necessarily a formula for financial success at this stage, practically all newspapers do it to satisfy consumers who see the benefits of getting news from the Internet.

Kailua resident Teresita Bernales, who gets her news from various sources such as cable TV, newspapers, radio and the Internet, said "Online presence is a must. While print media reigned supreme for so long, the Internet has enabled thousands of individual commentators to communicate directly with others through blogs or instant message services. Cost is another factor, one can get news for free from the internet. A combination of print and online, and other social media platforms, will increase revenue while optimizing delivery of news and maximizing traffic. When an online edition has been established, it is good to adopt and integrate real-time reporting where there are opportunities for comments and feedback. Building an online community is good by having Facebook fan page, LinkedIn group and Twitter, etc."

Bernales mentions other reasons why traditional print news is down: "More and more citizens don't like to read anymore, it slows them down, since one can turn on cable news and hear the news while doing other tasks. We must also consider that the population who is used to reading are aging and declining, thus readership of this age group is now low."

On the future of journalism, Bernales said, "A new kind of journalism is needed, one that will resonate strongly with us humans. Information-only type of journalism is not attracting the reading public as it used to, it lacks passion and does not hold the interest of the readers. It is suggested that journalists provide context and ideas. Journalism will survive but newspapers need to be saved because newspapers provide value to a democratic society. Newspapers have to think outside the box in order to survive. When you have gained the respect of readers, it is a tangible and credible source of reliable news. It is a great resource for marketing, reaching a diversified audience or even specific target market."

Finding a Niche Audience

Targeting a market or finding a niche audience, as Bernales and others talk about,

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A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

An authentic Filipino restaurant near the Kahului airport is for sale.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, CHALLENGES...)

is the future of journalism. In the process of establishing a niche audience in news, a degree of color journalism is unavoidable. The pretense of being impartial as traditional journalism used to be is being replaced with unapologetic color journalism, as a matter of business survival.

From the political left and right, from MSNBC to Fox News, to Huffington Post to Breitbart News, all the giant news players resort to color journalism as a means to establish a loyal core following. Some news outlets clearly are more slanted than others, but it's undeniable the trend toward niche journalism, or anti-journalism is here to stay as long as the current news business environment remains on the same track.

Some people look to Fox News as the greatest example of color journalism and the future prototype of the industry. Fox News is a successful business model in terms of profit. It also established an unbelievably massive base following.

Other news outlets will not necessarily resort to right-wing journalism as Fox News, but cultivating product news through editorial slants is increasingly becoming the industry standard.

Ethical or not, the social experiment of color journalism has real consequences. Political scientists believe Fox News was a major driver in producing the intensity of right-wing extremism rampant today, from its favorable reporting of the Tea Party to its current coddling of the Trump administration.

On the opposite end, liberal news outlets develop editorial content to their left-leaning audience. The result, unintended or not, has intensified an environment of epic division among Americans. Whether the driver of the train (news outlet) is responsible for the train's direction or the driver is simply following the course mapped out for it (by popular opinion) is debatable. But it's undeniable that color journalism is at least facilitating societal trends and how Americans view each other.

Ethnic Media and Advocacy Journalism

While it's debatable if ethnic media fall under the umbrella of color journalism, it is similar in its clear advocacy approach on certain issues such as immigration and editorially targeting a niche audience (immigrants). It's arguable that since ethnic media have been doing niche news targeting for a longer time, it is the reason why it is the only segment of the print news industry that hasn't seen a decline in business and remains fairly stable. The ethnic media's core base has been proven to be among the most loyal. In some cases, specifically the Hispanic news industry, ethnic media continue to experience remarkable growth in TV, Internet and even traditional newspapers.

Anna Davide of Mililani, a student who gets her news from daily and weekly podcasts -- such as NPR Politics, BBC World Service, and Ben Shapiro -- and social media and phone updates, said of the ethnic media, "Ethnic newspapers finger the pulse of minority communities. The content of ethnic newspapers is always important and always matter to its audience. Readers can personally connect with the journalist reporting, or may even know the subjects of the articles. Ethnic papers help to cultivate the communities they are written about and inform to their specific needs."

She adds, "To me ethnic newspapers connect me to my heritage, exposing the unique attitudes and intelligence of my people. Ethnic newspapers help me to feel a part of the community I grew up in, and help make me feel like a more complete Filipino. Being raised in a culture away from its homeland, these are the simple things that help bridge the experience of being an informed American to an informed Filipino."

Bernales sees the business aspect of the ethnic media. "Ethnic media have as a niche audience that seem to be recession proof. While there is a decline in mainstream media readership, ethnic media are up 16% since 2005.

"Ethnic newspapers are important to me because they give me the opportunity to stay connected with my country. Ethnic newspapers in general have a special trusting relationship with their audiences because they have a unique purpose in the community they serve. They provide to readers valuable, pertinent information and resources available from the host country and help to bond readers with their homelands."

As an immigrant, Bernales said "being connected with folks back home validates your own existence; successes and struggles. The ethnic media also serve as the voice of those disenfranchised via opinions and advocacy. Mainstream newspapers reach out to ethnic media when they need real-time news. While concerns of ethnic groups about their host country are not fully addressed in major newspapers, ethnic newspapers write articles, opinions, advice on matters that directly affect them such as the economy, cost of living, immigration, citizenship, health insurance, jobs, schools, food, restaurants, real estate, customs and traditions, social and cultural events, etc. Thus, ethnic newspapers are an important tool for their readers to seek better opportunities for themselves and their loved ones."

Tech Giants Influence on News

If newspapers have yet to see handsome returns on their Internet investments, where is the money being made on the web? Total digital ad spending grew another 20 percent in 2015 to about $60 billion, a higher growth rate than in 2013 and 2014. The big digital ad winners are not journalism organizations, but 65 percent of the revenue pie is gobbled up by tech companies, including Facebook, Google, Yahoo and Twitter.

"Often, newspapers are the source for ground breaking journalism in local communities. It is important for newspapers to survive as it holds a role to be a check and balance to other sources of news. There is a unique benefit to the diversification of news sources and modes of delivery. Just as scientific fields rely on years of research to build upon a deeper understanding of the natural world, the field of journalism builds upon a network of stories to reach some truth."

– Anna Davide

These companies not only integrate news into their web offerings, but are also impacting news content as well that is yet again reshaping the face of traditional journalism in yet another way.

By controlling search engines, ad networks, trending topics and algorithms, giant tech companies have tremendous influence on news content. In the predigital era, newspapers controlled the news products from original reporting, production, editorial selection, packaging and delivery. Tech companies that have their own agenda are now having considerable influence on packaging and delivery of news that over time could even influence newspapers' editorial selection and reporting.

In other words, if the channels of news distribution are largely controlled by giant tech companies, they ultimately could influence newspapers in a tug-and-pull relationship and further shape standards of traditional journalism.

Fake News

An example of giant tech

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State Senators Call on President and Congress to Take Action on Gun Violence Problem

Hawaii state senators sent a letter to President Donald Trump and Congressional Leaders urging them to take meaningful action to address the country's gun violence epidemic.

Senators calling for action on gun violence are Donna Mercado Kim, Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Breene Harimoto and Glenn Wakai.

Just within the span of 33 days, 85 people have been killed in mass shootings in Las Vegas, Nevada and Sutherland Springs, Texas.

"This type of gun violence simply cannot continue," said Sen. Kim. "Recent polls show that the majority of Americans support some type of gun safety so waiting to make changes that can protect the lives of innocent people is not acceptable."

"Senseless deaths at the hands of those who are dangerous or possess guns illegally must be addressed now," said Sen. Dela Cruz. "There are steps that can be taken immediately to make America safer and there is no reason to allow more lives to be taken due to gun violence."

"The occurrence of these mass shootings is far too common today and we hope that Congress will heed the pleas of the majority of Americans who agree something needs to be done to stop gun violence," said Sen. Wakai.

Recognizing this responsibility to take action to protect the public against gun violence, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed HB459, which keeps the guns out of the hands of dangerous people by alerting law enforcement when those who fail background checks try to purchase weapons. The bill was signed into law on June 29, 2017.

"We're fortunate to live in a state where strict gun laws have helped to keep the incidents of gun violence relatively low. However, it is heartbreaking to hear the growing incidences of gun violence taking the lives of innocent adults and children and we, as leaders, must take action," said Sen. Harimoto.

Similar letters on gun control are being sent by other state legislators from across the country who attended the State Innovation Exchange (SiX) Legislator Conference in Washington, D.C. in October.

Lawmakers Hold Health Care Celebration and Rally

Hawaii lawmakers and the community held a Healthcare celebration and rally on Nov. 17 at the Hawaii State Capitol - Rotunda.

"Hawaii has been a leader among states in securing healthcare coverage for its people, therefore I believe we can again lead a balanced approach to ensure essential healthcare coverage while seeking to keep healthcare affordable for our people," State House Rep.

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State Starts Annual Stop Flu Program at Schools

The Hawaii State Department of Health's (DOH) annual Stop Flu at School program started and will continue in more than 167 public schools statewide through Dec. 21, 2017. The voluntary program administers free flu shots to Hawaii students in kindergarten through eighth grade who are enrolled at participating schools. Approximately 35,000 students are expected to be vaccinated during the seven-week program.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an annual flu vaccination for everyone six months and older. Each year, flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations, and thousands of deaths in the United States.

"Vaccination is our best defense against the flu," said Dr. Sarah Park, state epidemiologist. "Since flu can cause severe illness in people of all ages, we encourage everyone to talk to their doctor to learn more and get vaccinated."

For those unable to be vaccinated through the Stop Flu at School program, flu vaccine is available through healthcare provider offices, clinics, and pharmacies. For a list of vaccinating pharmacies statewide, visit the DOH Vaccine Locator at http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/vaccines-immunizations/ vaccine-locators/.

In addition to vaccination for everyone 6 months of age and older, DOH recommends other flu prevention strategies, which include staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and washing hands frequently. For more information about the flu, visit http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/influenza-flu/.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES *(from page 3,* **DID TRUMP....***)*

Putin and Trump would officially meet during one of stops.

But the real news was Trump's apparent acceptance of Putin's denial that there was any meddling in the U.S. elections, despite all the U.S. intelligence that say otherwise.

In other words, Trump would rather believe in lies rather than his own spies.

The Chinese who are masters at intel and espionage must have had a real laugh at that.

Is Trump being stupid? Or was it some kind of master counter-intuitive stroke?

Nah, there's nothing complex here.

It's Trump trying to bury the Russia story. But he's doing it by insulting his intelligence community. That can't be smart.

The worst yet was when it came to the Philippines, when Trump and Duterte (not Duarte) played around, and Duterte ended up serenading Trump with the song, "Ikaw."

Yes, a love song for a narcissist, and anything to keep from talking about serious matters like the Spratlys or the human rights violations in the Philippines.

I doubt if Trump even knows the issues about the extrajudicial killings, and likely just sees it as an autocratic leader in Asia doing his thing. In his wrapup, Trump mentioned praising the Philippines for freeing Marawi from "ISIS."

But on Duterte's killing plan that claims both drug dealers and innocents? Nothing.

Why? I suspect because Trump would like to be an autocratic leader in America.

The trip exposed how low democracy has sunk under Trump.

The west wants to be more like Asia.

And Asia? The U.S. is not the center of any universe they care about.

And what does Trump have to show for the trip? He mentioned billions from Asian companies in jobs and investments, because as a businessman, that's what makes sense to him.

But for the average American who didn't pay attention at all to the trip, they just don't care.

Bottom line: Trump got out of the heat in Washington, and showed what a rookie president he was. And he got the three UCLA guys out of trouble.

But Asia has the last laugh. Trump's visit only confirmed what Asian could sense over the last year. Trump may say "America is back." But the Asian leaders saw first hand.

America isn't what it used to be.

EMIL GUILLERMO *is a veteran journalist and commentator, who was once on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser, and a columnist for the Star-Bulletin. He performs stories from his column in his one-man show "Amok Monologues." See it live in Baltimore Nov.4,5, 11,12. You may contact him at emil@amok.com*

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippines, Japan Firm up Funding for Manila Subway, Marawi Rehab

by Gaea Katreena Cabico
Thursday, November 15, 2017

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines and Japan exchanged diplomatic notes on Japanese assistance to proposed infrastructure projects, including Manila's first subway, and Marawi rehabilitation.

President Rodrigo Duterte and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe witnessed the signing of notes on the sidelines of their bilateral meeting during the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit Monday.

The Japanese government will provide ¥104.53 billion (P46 billion) for the first phase of the Metro Manila Subway Project.

The subway will run from Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City to Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City and end at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Parañaque City.

The Department of Transportation said the country's first ever subway is "on track," with the groundbreaking scheduled in the fourth quarter of 2018.

The signing of the loan agreement will be in January.

The exchange of notes between the two countries likewise cover the construction of a bypass road along the Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway in Plaridel, Bulacan. The loan provision amounts to ¥9.399 billion (P4 billion).

The Japanese government will also provide an aid grant of ¥2.5 billion (1 billion) to fund the procurement of equipment and materials for counterterrorism such as coast watch radars and the reconstruction of the war-torn Marawi City.

In September, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana announced that Japan has pledged P100 million for Marawi rehabilitation.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said these projects were part of the country's financial support of ¥1 trillion yen over the next five years.

Strong ties

During their bilateral meeting, Duterte reaffirmed that the Philippines has strong relations with Japan.

"There's a thing here that says that I should reaffirm, and I am reaffirming this by—in the strongest possible language that we have a very strong bond. It's almost a sentimental attachment for many years," he said.

He likewise expressed his gratitude to Abe for Japan's support during the Marawi crisis and the provision of aircraft and radar to the Philippines.

"We are aware that you have been helping us, especially in Marawi even during the siege and we appreciate it very much. In behalf of the people of Marawi, I'd like to thank you again," Duterte said.

The chief executive also expressed his support to back Japan's stance against North Korea.

"We condemn his several launching of missiles. It is bad. It puts a strain on everybody not only in Japan but all over the world. And he should realize that he'd be responsible for ending life in this planet if his mind goes out of control," he said.

During his press briefing Tuesday night, Abe said that he and Duterte agreed to enhance the cooperation between the two countries.

"President Duterte and I had three summit meetings this year. Collaboration with regards to resolving the North Korea issue, maritime security and terrorism, we have agreed to deepen our cooperation," the Japanese leader said.

Ahead of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and ASEAN summits, Duterte visited Japan in late October to boost ties. His visit came days after Abe's Liberal Democratic Party won an overwhelming victory during the snap elections.

Duterte visited Japan in October last year, which was capped by investment pledges worth $1.8 billion *(www.philstar.com)*

COVER STORY *(from page 5,* **CHALLENGES....***)*

companies effect on journalism is the proliferation of fake news that is made possible because of giant tech companies' lack of screening of news feeds.

Di Zhang, who teaches a class at the University of Washington on fake news, said "We are all empowered now to create (news) content." Through everyone's ability to share news on social media platforms or to outright circulate whatever content the user wants on social media, it's no wonder why fake news is becoming increasingly popular.

Zhang released stats on her findings of fake news: "Two in five people get all their news online, where fake news is most prevalent; 23 percent report having shared made-up news stories; 59 percent of links on Twitter are shared unread and unviewed by the person sharing them; and 64 percent of adults say fake news causes confusion about current issues and events."

Zhang said, "Usually there's a moneymaking scheme behind fake news stories."

But money isn't the only motivation. The biggest politically motivated and most bizarre example of fake news was "Pizza-gate." During the last presidential election season, there was a conspiracy theory being floated around the Internet that Hilary Clinton was involved in running a child sex ring operation at a pizza restaurant where children were being held captive in underground tunnels inside the store. As absurd as the fictitious news is, a man armed with an assault rifle walked into a pizza shop in Washington, DC, allegedly wanting to "self-investigate" the conspiracy theory. This created a scare at the Comet Ping Pong pizza restaurant where the man did his investigating, of course, to find nothing in the end.

James Aleantis, owner of the restaurant, told The Washington Post, "What happened demonstrates that promoting false and reckless conspiracy theories (or fake news) comes with (real) consequences."

To maintain some sort of circulating news credibility, tech companies are beginning to attempt to filter fake news. Some social network platforms are penalizing sources that do not have a strong track record and making it easier for consumers to report false news. Fact checking applications are now being created. Twitter released a new "mute" button for users to manage the quality and type of news they are exposed to. Still, the current solutions are only band-aid fixes as even the President of the U.S. Donald Trump is able to continue using Twitter to promote questionable facts. Remember Trump's tweet claiming that he actually received more popular votes than Clinton if the so called "millions of people who voted illegally" weren't counted (fake news).

Why Print Journalism Must Survive

As the integrity of some newspapers is being compromised by financial pressure, color journalism, and tech-driven filtering, the general consensus is that print newspapers are worthy of being saved.

Unlike TV and radio with limited time blocks, print journalism always had and continue to cover news more thoroughly and substantively than other media due to its more liberal space allotment.

"Print journalism tends to be more in-depth than what is reported on TV news programs," said Davide.

She adds, "Often, newspapers are the source for ground breaking journalism in local communities. It is important for newspapers to survive as it holds a role to be a check and balance to other sources of news. There is a unique benefit to the diversification of news sources and modes of delivery. Just as scientific fields rely on years of research to build upon a deeper understanding of the natural world, the field of journalism builds upon a network of stories to reach some truth."

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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Thanks-Living

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

A messy and cramped house, a toddler who throws tantrums, doesn't want to eat and takes so much effort to put to sleep, limited time with a busy husband – life throws so many things at a mother like me causing my mind to overthink and my heart to be restless.

When my daughter who just turned two started to exhibit stubbornness and disobedience, my patience gets tested and my heart pounds with anger. There are times I just want to throw in the towel; there are moments I just want to ignore her outbursts and be indifferent to her cries. Sometimes, I see myself crying over frustration and discouragement.

Until I heard of a very heartbreaking news from a friend, my heart changed even if my situation did not. He lost his three-year old nephew to high fever. He was a healthy and adorable boy and in just an instant, he was gone. It made me ponder and evaluate my heart towards my daughter. I have focused too much on the discomforts and inconveniences that motherhood can bring that I have neglected to do what every mother is called to do, to enjoy every precious moment and to simply love on her child.

I began to have a thankful heart. Every waking moment, I would praise God for the gift of life, for the air that I breathe, for shelter that keeps me warm from the winter cold, and for food on our table. I would thank Him for every relationship, for friends, for family, for the privilege of being a wife and a mom. I would acknowledge His goodness for giving us perfect health, for providing our every need, for blessing us with every good gift, great and simple.

My attitude started to change. I began to enjoy moments with my daughter and love everything about her -- her giggles and cries, her strong will, her funny antics, even her stubbornness. I also began to be easy on myself for having a messy house and have deeper understanding of my husband's job responsibilities.

I'd rather have a messy house, noisy toddler, and crazy family than an empty, quiet and cold one.

This is the essence of Thanksgiving – choosing to look beyond tough situations and appreciate the blessings, the valuable lessons and good outcomes from life's tragedies and heartbreaks.

And there are many people out there who chose and continue to choose to have hearts of gratitude.

" I recently lost my dad. He was 87. I wasn't by his side when he took his last breath and I couldn't even be in his funeral because I'm overseas and couldn't leave. I am grieving but I am grateful for the life of my father. He lived a full life. Before he died, I had the chance to tell him how much I love him and how grateful I am to be his son. It was precious. It was worth praising God for," says Glenn Cruz, 45, who works in South Korea as a factory worker.

Francis Ludovice, 29, who is in the U.S. to support his family in the Philippines shares this, *"I have spent fatherhood away from my children. They are growing without their father by their side just so they can have a comfortable life. I wish I didn't have to be away from my two kids. I hope I can guide them and be there for them. Many times, I'm heartbroken. But I am grateful for the privilege to provide for them and give them a good life. Every time we see each other online and they still recognize me and call me daddy, it melts my heart and inspires me to work harder so I can be with them as soon as possible. Life is hard, but I am still blessed."*

Indeed, life is tough but we are tougher. We are overcomers.

"I am old, single and unemployed. I have no husband to spend my life with and no children to enjoy. But I am not complaining. I have learned to embrace the life I have been given. It's still a blessed life. God has blessed me with generous nieces and nephews, and grandchildren who love me, and He even blessed me with a dozen dogs who I consider my children. Life is good!" exclaims Virginia Fernandez, 69, who is in Australia to take care of her granddaughter.

Life gives us so many reasons to complain, be furious, frustrated, angry and disappointed – dissatisfied towards our leaders, climate change, heinous crimes that proliferate, terrorism, division, separation among family members because of poverty, and so much more. It's okay to feel these emotions. We have to be mad towards these things. But let us not cause bitterness and anger cloud our hearts and minds. Instead, let gratitude reign in our hearts.

Because you see, goodness and righteousness still exist. Hope still endures. Love still prevails.

The thought that you are still breathing…is worth every ounce of thankfulness.

Charles Spurgeon once said, *"I think that is a better thing than thanksgiving: thanks-living. How is this to be done? By a general cheerfulness of manner, by an obedience to the command of Him by whose mercy we live, by perpetual, constant delighting of ourselves in the Lord, and by a submission of our desires to His will."*

Happy Thanksgiving…or better yet, Happy Thanks-living!

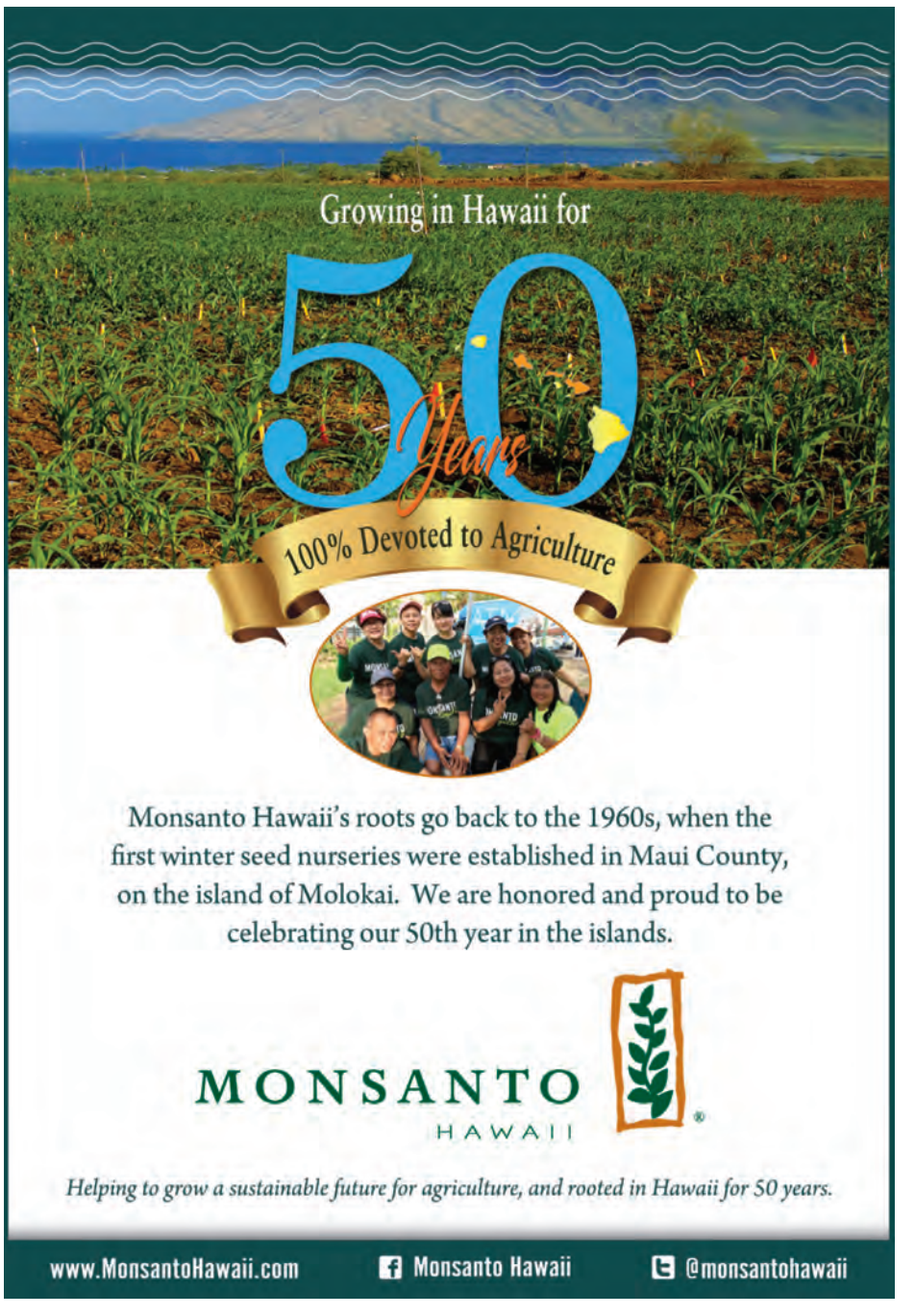
HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS *(from page 6,* **LAWMAKERS...***)*

John Mizuno said. "It will not be easy, but it is essential to address these issues today if we want our state, economy, and our people to excel in life tomorrow."

Mizuno, chairman of the Committee on Health and Human Services, helped organized the rally.

With substantial reduction of Federal Medicaid funding anticipated for Hawaii in 2018 - 2019, state lawmakers and many Hawaii residents are seeking to efficiently address the concerns of access to healthcare and the rising costs of healthcare in Hawaii.

The Healthcare celebration and rally focused on the ability to continue the Pre-Paid Healthcare Act of 1974 and seek possible options to provide even greater access to healthcare for more Hawaii residents.



OPINION

Nowadays, PH Doesn't Have a Christian Society

By Ted Laguatan

Man's first loyalty should be to God and not to political or economic interests and much less to evil, powerful people who engage in all kinds of demonic activities.

How is it that so many church-going German Catholics and other Christians gave their support and loyalty to Hitler, a murderous tyrant, cheering and hailing him even if they knew or pretended not to know that he instigated the genocidal mass murder of Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals, which is clearly against God's laws?

Good and evil inclinations lurk in the hearts of human beings. The Germans who cheered and supported Hitler sided with the evil inside of them and allowed their cowardice and herd mentality to overcome their individual Christian responsibilities of speaking out against and resisting evil. Calling oneself a Christian means nothing unless one lives and even dies if necessary, like a true Christian. A man (or woman) who cooperates with evil with his silence or actively serves and supports evil clearly displeases God. Many Filipinos today who call themselves Catholics or Christians serve and/or support evil forces.

When a leader obsessed with death and violence rules the land by terrorizing the citizens and mocks God with his lies and insolent mouth–and when he wants to kill or imprison or dispose of all of his political enemies–we ought to recognize that terrible demonic dark forces are at work. Such a leader brings out the worst in people. He will drag souls to hell with him.

Millions of Germans were used by Hitler to carry out his evil ways. As Nazi enforcers they arrested, tortured, imprisoned and murdered innocent men, women and children to ingratiate themselves with their evil leader in exchange for some privileges and security. They chose Satan over God. Where are these evil men and women now? Most of them are dead just like the millions they murdered. Are their souls in the same place? The past is a great ocean of truth.

An evil ruler wants to convince the people that the evil things he does are for the good of the country and insists that he is telling the truth when he gives justification for his murderous policies. He knows that men and women desire to know the truth. But, in reality, he is not really interested in the truth. His interest is "to be considered as being in the right." As such, he presents partial or fake truth that strongly argues that he is right. By so doing, he wants to show that his critics are wrong. He needs his critics to be wrong because if he is able to persuade his audience with his lies that he is right–then his untruth becomes truth. His cruelty and violence become virtues. His mass murders are then considered justice.

The Germans under Hitler lived under a tyranny of lies which affirmed itself in establishing power and gained increasing control over men and women's minds and hearts in proportion to their belief that they are doing good in being faithfully obedient to the Fuhrer's commands. People often believe not because they want to know the truth, but because they think they have something to gain even if they sense that what they believe in is false.

Millions of Filipinos know that the Philippines today is governed by a terribly evil man surrounded by opportunistic characters from the top to the bottom of society who see life as primarily one big struggle for money and power. Consider the many sycophantic bootlicking Senators and Congressmen and judges and government officials and individuals who lie and cover up for their evil leader instead of being outraged as decent human beings at the terrible killings and lies that are going on.

A leader instigating the murder of thousands of human beings, fomenting mass fear and hate and causing family members and friends to turn against one another and claiming that he is doing this for love of country is clearly engaged in demonic activity.

The Philippines is 86 percent Catholic. But is it a Christian society? A Christian society does not mean that it is a society run by the Catholic Church or by priests and nuns or by Protestant sects. It is not even one where people go to church. A truly Christian society is one where a true love for God and His command to love our neighbors as ourselves exist in the hearts and minds of the people. Authentically loving God means a commitment to what is true and right and good. Genuinely loving one's fellowmen means respecting him, helping him when he needs help, protecting him and forgiving him when he has done wrong.

As long as we do not have this genuine love for God and man, we cannot call ourselves a Christian society. The Philippines now has a leader with no moral leadership who formulates anti-human policies, openly instigates mass murders and then hides behind legal niceties saying that there is no evidence that he and his men are behind these killings. Everyone knows they are but the ordinary man and woman overwhelmed by fear remains silent or even shows support for this clearly evil regime for his own security. The Philippines clearly presently does not have a genuine Christian society.

We have very short lives. How we live and how we die depends on what we believe in and what we value most. These are trying times in the Philippines when God is putting individual Filipinos everywhere to the test. Either we side with God or with the devil. God created us for only one purpose: For Him to love us and for us to freely love Him. We may have different situations but these are just circumstantial incidentals.

From the first man and woman on earth to the last, human existence has to do with the choices between good and evil that we make which relate to our final destination when we leave this earth. We need to be constantly conscious of this reality. Trading one's soul for ephemeral things such as money, power, fame, pleasures or a sense of security is the worst bargain that a man or woman can enter into. Yet how many people every day engage in killing, hurting others, stealing and lying for these things. In the end, it makes no difference how much suffering and difficulties we face on this earth, as long as we are sincere in truly loving God in every facet of our lives and obey his command to love our fellowmen we win.

The most fundamental God-given right of every human being is the right to life. The due process right of an accuse to prove his innocence in a proper court of law is also a fundamental human right developed over hundreds of years by the human family. The Philippines and its people recognize these fundamental sacred rights. The Philippine Constitution declares unequivocally: "Article XIII sets out the state's duty to promote social justice and protect human rights. It also establishes the Commission on Human Rights."

The Philippines now has a dark anti-human President who openly declares that he does

(continued on page 14)

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PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

It Would Have Been Good Too

By Renelaine Bontol-Pfister

Many Filipinos want to come to America. I didn't.

It was my mother's dream, not mine, to come to America. She was a nurse, and she was supposed to move here when she graduated in 1978. But she got married and had children, and she and my father decided to stay in the Philippines. However, she never lost sight of the American dream.

When I was a senior in high school, I didn't know what I wanted to study in college. So my mother suggested I take up a course that would give me an opportunity to come to America: Occupational Therapy. She didn't even know what Occupational Therapy was. But my brother and two cousins were already taking up Physical or Occupational Therapy, so I might as well join in. In my second year, I switched to Physical Therapy.

I actually enjoyed studying P.T. Then, in my fourth year of studies, I had an epiphany after discovering Filipino writer Jessica Zafra. I realized what I should have studied in the first place: Literature! I've always loved reading and writing.

Of course, my parents didn't approve. Reading and writing? Where would that take me? Not to America. It wasn't practical. It wouldn't bring me success, as they and the world define it. Besides, I was a year away from graduating P.T., which was not an easy feat and I was doing well in class. Furthermore, they had spent a lot of money to send me to P.T. school. They said I could always pursue Literature after I completed P.T. So I finished P.T. and took the long road to work and live in the U.S. And here I am.

What would have happened if I stayed in the Philippines?

I wouldn't make a lot of money, that's an obvious fact. I wouldn't get to travel to all the places I've traveled to. I wouldn't be able to afford all

the possessions I have now. I wouldn't have my own car.

P.T.s here in Hawaii (and note that we make much less than P.T.s on the mainland) earn about $3,000-$4,000 a month, say about PHP 200,000. PTs in the Philippines make about PHP10,000-20,000 a month.

It's a big difference. But then we must remember that the cost of living is lower in the Philippines, while living in the U.S. (particularly in Hawaii) is higher. Rent alone in Hawaii could cost around $2,000 a month.

My older brother, who had also earned a Bachelor's Degree in P.T., decided to stay in the Philippines and study Medicine. Today, he specializes in Pulmonary Medicine and is living a comfortable life with his wife. Occasionally, he travels around the world for free to attend medical conferences, sponsored by pharmaceutical companies. He's not living an extravagant life, but they have everything they need.

Yes, one has to be a successful businessperson, executive, a doctor, a lawyer, or Sharon Cuneta, to have a comfortable life in the Philippines. But you don't have to be any of these to be contented and happy.

I have lots of friends who live in the Philippines and are happy. They are educated and middle class, and I see them being able to travel and own homes and cars and raise their children comfortably. They're not doing bad.

So I'd like to argue that staying in the Philippines, and doing something I enjoy, would have been good too. I wouldn't make as much money. I wouldn't own a lot. Perhaps I'd be a physical therapist; perhaps something that involves Literature and writing. It would have been a different life, but it would have been good.

But that's the thing with life…you only get one. The choices you make impacts an entire cascade of events. If I didn't pursue P.T., would I have met my husband? Would I get to travel? Would I get to live in Hawaii? I chose to pursue P.T., and that has led me right here. And I'm happy to be here.

Oh, I haven't turned my back on Literature. I sent myself to school, studying Literature online while working as a P.T. Thanks to earning as a P.T., I fulfilled my dream to study Literature.

I don't regret coming to America. I've come to fulfill my dreams here, even though I'm confident that staying in the Philippines would have been good too.

MAINLAND NEWS

KIUC Receives Millions in Loan to Build And Upgrade Power Lines in Kaua'i

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperation (KIUC) will receive a more than $60 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to build and upgrade more than 70 miles of power lines and support smart grid projects, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie K. Hirono, and U.S. Representative Tulsi Gabbard jointly announced.

"KIUC is on track to be 50% renewable by 2023 and this funding will help them reach that goal," said Senator Schatz. "This loan will help KIUC continue the work it's already doing to improve resiliency, stay energy independent, and keep Kaua'i clean and green."

"Today's award recognizes Hawai'i's continued leadership in renewable energy," said Senator Hirono. "This competitive funding will allow Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative to invest in needed infrastructure upgrades and technologies that will improve Kaua'i's power grid and help our state reach its 100 percent renewable electricity goal."

"KIUC is driving Hawai'i forward toward our 100 percent renewable energy goal, already generating more than 40 percent of Kaua'i's total electricity from renewable sources," said Congresswoman Gabbard. "This loan provides funds that will further this progress by investing in smartgrid technology, building new lines and improving existing lines, and helping the Garden Isle better manage and optimize its power grid."

KIUC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative headquartered in Līhu'e, Hawai'i that serves 33,000 electric accounts on the island of Kaua'i.

These loans are being awarded through USDA Rural Development's Electric Program which helps finance electric projects and utilities that serve customers in rural areas through direct loans, grants, and loan guarantees.

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.

FOOD & DINING

Restaurants to Dine Out

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

One of the most exciting parts of visiting the mainland is getting to eat at restaurants we don't have here. Some of you may remember the long lines when Five Guys opened in Mililani Town Center or outside Johnny Rockets when it started at Pearl Highlands Shopping Center. Church's is still just one shop at Pearlridge, with its crunchy, juicy chicken. Dunkin' Donuts is coming soon to Kapolei. For those of you planning your Christmas vacations on the mainland, here's some suggestions to spur your dining imaginations.

Bill Gray's

New York

This neon-lit, diner style restaurant lures visitors inside with the promise of comfort food. Besides regular diner offerings of burgers and hot dogs, you can order fried egg sandwiches with bacon or sausage, mushrooms, fried green beans, and frozen custard. Don't be put off by the feature item, known around the region as the "garbage plate". This Rochester, New York creation, is found in restaurants all over the city, made popular by hungry college students salivating over the huge plate of food. Basically, it's the hamburger or hot dog, piled with French fries, baked beans, cole slaw, eggs, onion, and gravy. It's a smoosh of food, messy, mingling flavors you normally would keep separate, but its prevalence in restaurants around upstate New York shows how popular it is.

Boston Market

AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KS, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, PA, RI, TX, VA, WI, WY

Boston Market is food to go on the elegant side – really. Chicken isn't fried here, it's rotisserie, all nice and plump, moist and juicy. Rotisserie turkey is served, too, along with pot pies, St. Louis rack of ribs and meatloaf in place of burgers. Meals come on a plate or you can buy it family sized, with the whole chicken or rack of ribs or big meatloaf, and three or four sides, plus cornbread. Sides complement the entrees: rotisserie potatoes, mashed potatoes with gravy, corn, sweet potato casserole, creamed spinach, southwest rice, cinnamon apples, squash casserole, vegetable stuffing, cornbread, and if you can't make up your mind, the sampler. Chicken soup or salad round out the meal. For desserts, choose from carrot cake, chocolate cake, chocolate chunk cookie, brownie, pecan pie, or apple pie.

Chick-Fil-A

All except Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, Vermont

Say "Chick-Fil-A" to someone from the mainland who's eaten there, and you probably get a satisfied, smiling sigh as they remember the meal. This is the one with the mooing, white with black spotted cow on its TV ads. Breakfast choices, besides the usual muffin or biscuit offerings also include crispy chicken in a biscuit, not a bun; chicken, egg, and cheese bagel; scrambled eggs piled with tater tots, sliced chicken strips, & cheese, all on a plate or in a burrito. After breakfast, there's a variety of chicken sandwiches, wraps, and salads. For sides, Chick-Fil-A offers fruit cups, waffle fries, chicken noodle soup, and yogurt parfait. For dessert, you can try frosted lemonade, frosted coffee, milkshakes, cookies, and ice cream. Sauce options include "Polynesian sauce", which we in Hawaii probably wouldn't call Polynesian, but….

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Cook Out

Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia

This Southern chain features both indoor and outdoor dining, and take out. There's over 40 milkshake flavors, including pineapple, Hi-C Punch, caramel fudge, chocolate cobbler, cheesecake (5 different kinds), besides the traditional and candy flavors. Choose your fixings on the burgers and what style you'd like – Out West (BBQ & bacon), Cook Out (chili, coleslaw, mustard, & onion), Steak (A1 & grilled onions), and Cheddar (cheese, bacon, & grilled onions). Choose your burger size – small, regular, huge, big double. There's also chicken, BBQ pork, grilled hot dogs, chicken wraps, bacon wraps (BLT), and corn dogs. For sides, choose among hushpuppies, Cajun or regular fries, cheese fries, sweet jumbo onion rings, and quesadillas. Cook Out's "Tray" gives you two sides, the entrée, and a large beverage, including floats. Putting coleslaw, bacon, and onion rings on a burger makes it messy and a handful, but the crunchy addition is interesting.

Cracker Barrel

All states except Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming

Shrimp and grits just doesn't get any better than at Cracker Barrel. Its version is buttery, with smooth, creamy grits, full of flavor, and in a portion size that fills you up, served with your choice of sides like a slice of juicy ham or baked apples. If sausage gravy on biscuits is your thing, here's the place to get them. The food is so fresh and healthy that your stomach feels satisfied and content without feeling full. Cracker Barrel is conveniently located along major interstate highway exits, so travelers can see the sign in time to pull over and eat. If you've never been there, the rocking chairs on the long, front porch are for sitting in and enjoying the view just in case you have to wait and don't feel like browsing the charming country store with its lovely country fragrances.

Der Dutchman

Ohio, Florida

Amish life is marked by simplicity, and that freshness is what makes the taste fabulous. Salads include both the chicken-topped and fruity, including Strawberry Poppyseed (spinach, romaine, sugared pecans, strawberries, feta, and charbroiled chicken). You can eat broasted chicken that was fed a vegetarian diet. Roasted turkey is on the menu, along with roast beef, Swiss steak, chopped sirloin, roast pork, cod, salmon, shrimp, and if you're homesick, tilapia. Sides include noodles, stuffing and gravy, waffle fries, sweet potato soufflé, Amish potato cakes, real mashed potatoes, and more. The scene stealer is on the breakfast buffet: Amish breakfast casserole. If you like fried corn mush, sausage gravy with biscuits, home fries, and apple crisp, go for breakfast.

Golden Corral

All states except DE, HI, ME, NH, ND, OR, RI, VT

Golden Corral is such a popular buffet, make sure you get there early to get into the restaurant. The buffet is divided in sections. Pace yourself and take small portions so you have room to try out everything. There's fish, turkey, chicken, pasta, casseroles, beef, pork, soups, a salad bar, rolls, vegetables, potatoes, and a dessert bar with all kinds of treats and even soft-serve sundaes and cotton candy. Yes, you can buy a take-out, sold by weight. If you're on vacation and you feel like pigging out, this is the buffet for you. Your choices are mind boggling. For Sizzler fans trying to imagine it, don't even try. Think of the Sizzler layout, double the pans, and multiple by four or five the size of the course sections and the options in each.

In-N-Out

Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon, Texas, Utah

Okay you California visitors, you know you all rave about In-N-Out Burger. A respectable distance outside the LAX airport, a fellow conference attendee was kind enough to walk me to it to try it out. The charm of the diner is matched by the enthusiasm of the standing room only crowd inside. Then you see the cost of the food and – Hawaii people, you have to see the prices yourselves, and try not to fall down when you do. Hint – you can feed the whole family full and still not hurt your wallet. Thin, crispy fries, milkshakes, juicy burgers stacked with as many patties and cheese slices as you can handle, are all there on the menu for you to enjoy.

Ivar's

Washington state

Ivar's offers 24 casual seafood bars, three waterfront restaurants, and concessions at the Safeco Field, CenturyLink, Cheney, and Alaska Airlines Arena stadiums. The chain focuses on seafood, serving salmon, halibut, mussels, shrimp, claims, crab, calamari, lobster, and cod prepared in scrumptious sauces like white wine, coconut, curry, or in salads,

(continued on page 13)

LEGAL NOTES

Legalization of Farm Workers Proposed

By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

Immigration raids throughout the United States have frightened a lot of undocumented immigrants, especially farm workers. It is estimated that up to 70% of farm workers in California, or about 560,000 people are undocumented immigrants. This is a big problem for the United States because farm workers contribute to the $54 Billion agricultural industry.

If the undocumented farm workers no longer go to work because of fear of arrest, then there would be a substantial lack of manpower to do the necessary job in the farms. Farm labor is essential in ensuring that food is produced and distributed throughout the United States. Hence, addressing the immigration problems within the agricultural industry is important for the continued success of the farm industry in America.

On May 3, 2017, Senator Dianne Feinstein of California proposed the "Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017." The bill was co-sponsored by Senators Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, Patrick Leahy of Vermont, Michael Bennet of Colorado and Kamala Harris of California. This bill proposes giving legal status to undocumented immigrant farm workers. Under the bill which provides for a two-step process, the undocumented immigrant farm worker must comply with certain requirements in order to get temporary residence and eventually a green card. The bill also removes the fines that farm employers face when undocumented immigrants are caught on their premises or it is proven that undocumented immigrants work for them.

First, the undocumented immigrant farm worker must apply for a "Blue Card." The "Blue Card" grants temporary residency and employment authorization to the undocumented immigrant farm worker. The undocumented immigrant farm worker must apply for the "Blue Card" during the one-year application period after the regulations for the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017 are published. To qualify, the undocumented immigrant farm worker must prove his employment in the agricultural industry of the United States for at least 100 work days over the last two years, and that he is not excluded by certain immigration laws. He must complete national security and law enforcement clearances. He must not have been convicted of a felony, aggravated felony, 3 or more misdemeanors or certain crimes, and pay an application fee and a fine of $100 fine.

The spouse and children of the undocumented immigrant farm worker who were present in the United States since or before the date of the Agricultural Worker Program Act of 2017's enforcement would also be eligible for the Blue Card. Once the undocumented immigrant farm worker and his family have the Blue Cards, they may travel outside the United States and return thereafter using the Blue Cards as their legal travel document.

After maintaining the Blue Card, the second step for the undocumented immigrant worker and his family is to apply for the Green Card or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status. In order to apply for the Green Card, the farm worker must have performed agricultural work for at least 100 days per year for 5 years or 150 days per year for 3 years, pay an application fee and a $400 fine, pay the applicable federal taxes, and continue to meet other admissibility requirements.

This proposed bill is a step in the right direction for reforming the immigration system in the agricultural industry. The contributions of the farm workers in feeding America is undeniable. Hence, passing this bill will ensure that America doesn't have a food crisis.

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*

FOOD & DINING *(from page 12,* **RESTAURANTS....***)*

tacos, or sandwiches. How does a salmon BLT sound? You can even get a steak to go with it. Make sure to try the cioppino or Ivar's famous chowders.

Sonic

All states except Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Vermont

Eating at Sonic can be a treat for either kids or old-timers. Sonic is a car hop. With the amazing variety of flavors to choose from, it all fits on a flat, car hop menu board. The amazing thing is with all the varieties of flavors you can choose from, the menu is a flat, car hop menu. Located on the driver's side, you push the button and speak into the intercom to order, then slide your bank card to pay (no cash). When your order is ready, the car hop brings your food out to you. You can eat it in the car or drive away with it. There's no waiting in a drive through line. Each parking stall has its own menu and intercom. There's no need to take the kids out of the car, except for those Sonics with playgrounds (like the one in Tyler, Texas).

Ask someone who has been there, and they probably will mention the well-known cherry limeade slush. Sonic is known for its slushies, frozen limeades and lemonades, frozen soft drinks, with a wide range of flavors to mix in. You can even have your coffee in creamy slushy form, in flavors like French vanilla chocolate or caramel twist, praline pecan chocolate twist, and others. Fifties style food matching the car hop setting include burgers, hot dogs, chicken wraps and sandwiches, boneless chicken wings, popcorn chicken, chicken strips, and coney dogs and toasters. Coneys are hot dogs topped with a meat sauce, mustard, onion and sometimes cheese. Toasters substitute thick slices of Texas toast for the bun and add an onion ring and BBQ sauce. For sides, choose from chili cheese fries, popcorn chicken, mozzarella sticks, onion rings, tater tots, fries, and jalapeno cheddar bites. For dessert, choose from an array of ice cream in "blast" (think mcflurry), waffle cone sundaes, regular sundaes, plain waffle cones, ice cream custards (candy blended in with the ice cream), and ice cream slush.

Steak 'n Shake

AL, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, MS, MO, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, SC, TN

Cinnamon Crunch, Cocoa Krispies, Frosted Flakes, Caramel Frappe, and Honey Smacks – why just eat cereal and milk when you can drink your breakfast as a milkshake? Eat inside in the comfortable diner setting or drive through. After breakfast, milkshake flavors include Nutella, turtle caramel nut, KitKat, peanut butter cup, chocolate peanut butter, Butterfinger, chocolate covered strawberry, Oreo mint, Oreo cookies and cream, birthday cake, and M&Ms. You can even get the usual flavors side by side, two in one glass (half vanilla, half banana for example). The steak refers to burgers in a whole variety of flavors (garlic, western butter Cajun, jalapeno crunch, and more). The Prime Steakburger is made of a beef brisket and chuck steak blend. Other choices are salads, soup, chili, or baked beans. Kid meals come with paper cars (like paper dolls of old) are fun for kids for playing.

Tim Horton's Café & Bake Shop

CT, IN, KY, ME, MA, MI, MN, MO, NY, OH, PA, RI, WV, VA, FL

At Tim Horton's, you can get breakfast until 5 p.m. every day: breakfast sandwiches, grilled wraps, oatmeal. After breakfast, there's grilled panini, sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, chili, and yogurt with berries. Soups are served in your choice of a regular bowl or a bread bowl: turkey & wild rice, roasted red pepper gouda, vegetable, broccoli cheddar, chicken noodle soup, clam chowder, or potato bacon cheddar. The bakery features scrumptious bagels, pastries, cookies, and muffins. What Tim Horton really is known for is donuts and coffee (several flavors), specialty hot and cold beverages, and donut holes called Timbits. Donuts and Timbits comes in about two dozen varieties. Timbits are the perfect size for your baby or toddler. Let them have a couple and see how fun it is in their curious hands before they discover it tastes so yummy. Dine inside or drive-through. Many locations are open 24 hours and some operate combine the bakery and cafe with Cold Stone Creamery.

OPINION

(from page 10, **NOWADAYS...***)*

not respect human rights and instigates extrajudicial killings as an instrument of national policy. Over 14,000 people have been killed since he sat in office. Those who support his anti-human policies are part of a very great evil whose effects on Philippine society and culture will be long-lasting. They are establishing among Filipinos the mindset that it's okay to violate God's and man's laws, that it's okay to engage in violence and murder and that fundamental human rights have no value. In openly and clearly violating the Constitution and disrespecting basic moral values the President has betrayed the citizenry. No one is above the law. By betraying the people, including handing over the country's territories to the Chinese, he has lost his legitimacy to lead the country as its president.

Man's first loyalty should be to God and not to political or economic interests and much less to evil, powerful people who engage in all kinds of demonic activities.

How is it that so many church-going German Catholics and other Christians gave their support and loyalty to Hitler, a murderous tyrant, cheering and hailing him even if they knew or pretended not to know that he instigated the genocidal mass murder of Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals, which is clearly against God's laws?

Good and evil inclinations lurk in the hearts of human beings. The Germans who cheered and supported Hitler sided with the evil inside of them and allowed their cowardice and herd mentality to overcome their individual Christian responsibilities of speaking out against and resisting evil. Calling oneself a Christian means nothing unless one lives and even dies if necessary, like a true Christian. A man (or woman) who cooperates with evil with his silence or actively serves and supports evil clearly displeases God. Many Filipinos today who call themselves Catholics or Christians serve and/or support evil forces.

When a leader obsessed with death and violence rules the land by terrorizing the citizens and mocks God with his lies and insolent mouth–and when he wants to kill or imprison or dispose of all of his political enemies–we ought to recognize that terrible demonic dark forces are at work. Such a leader brings out the worst in people. He will drag souls to hell with him.

Millions of Germans were used by Hitler to carry out his evil ways. As Nazi enforcers they arrested, tortured, imprisoned and murdered innocent men, women and children to ingratiate themselves with their evil leader in exchange for some privileges and security. They chose Satan over God. Where are these evil men and women now? Most of them are dead just like the millions they murdered. Are their souls in the same place? The past is a great ocean of truth.

An evil ruler wants to convince the people that the evil things he does are for the good of the country and insists that he is telling the truth when he gives justification for his murderous policies. He knows that men and women desire to know the truth. But, in reality, he is not really interested in the truth. His interest is "to be considered as being in the right." As such, he presents partial or fake truth that strongly argues that he is right. By so doing, he wants to show that his critics are wrong. He needs his critics to be wrong because if he is able to persuade his audience with his lies that he is right–then his untruth becomes truth. His cruelty and violence become virtues. His mass murders are then considered justice.

The Germans under Hitler lived under a tyranny of lies which affirmed itself in establishing power and gained increasing control over men and women's minds and hearts in proportion to their belief that they are doing good in being faithfully obedient to the Fuhrer's commands. People often believe not because they want to know the truth, but because they think they have something to gain even if they sense that what they believe in is false.

Millions of Filipinos know that the Philippines today is governed by a terribly evil man surrounded by opportunistic characters from the top to the bottom of society who see life as primarily one big struggle for money and power. Consider the many sycophantic bootlicking Senators and Congressmen and judges and government officials and individuals who lie and cover up for their evil leader instead of being outraged as decent human beings at the terrible killings and lies that are going on.

A leader instigating the murder of thousands of human beings, fomenting mass fear and hate and causing family members and friends to turn against one another and claiming that he is doing this for love of country is clearly engaged in demonic activity.

The Philippines is 86 percent Catholic. But is it a Christian society? A Christian society does not mean that it is a society run by the Catholic Church or by priests and nuns or by Protestant sects. It is not even one where people go to church. A truly Christian society is one where a true love for God and His command to love our neighbors as ourselves exist in the hearts and minds of the people. Authentically loving God means a commitment to what is true and right and good. Genuinely loving one's fellowmen means respecting him, helping him when he needs help, protecting him and forgiving him when he has done wrong.

As long as we do not have this genuine love for God and man, we cannot call ourselves a Christian society. The Philippines now has a leader with no moral leadership who formulates anti-human policies, openly instigates mass murders and then hides behind legal niceties saying that there is no evidence that he and his men are behind these killings. Everyone knows they are but the ordinary man and woman overwhelmed by fear remains silent or even shows support for this clearly evil regime for his own security. The Philippines clearly presently does not have a genuine Christian society.

We have very short lives. How we live and how we die depends on what we believe in and what we value most. These are trying times in the Philippines when God is putting individual Filipinos everywhere to the test. Either we side with God or with the devil. God created us for only one purpose: For Him to love us and for us to freely love Him. We may have different situations but these are just circumstantial incidentals.

From the first man and woman on earth to the last, human existence has to do with the choices between good and evil that we make which relate to our final destination when we leave this earth. We need to be constantly conscious of this reality. Trading one's soul for ephemeral things such as money, power, fame, pleasures or a sense of security is the worst bargain that a man or woman can enter into. Yet how many people every day engage in killing, hurting others, stealing and lying for these things. In the end, it makes no difference how much suffering and difficulties we face on this earth, as long as we are sincere in truly loving God in every facet of our lives and obey his command to love our fellowmen we win.

The most fundamental God-given right of every human being is the right to

(continued on page 15)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. ENTERTAIN: A TEKNIQLINGZ CREW PRESENTATION FEATURING TRADITIONAL AND MODERN FILIPINO FOLK DANCES | November 25, 2017 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm | DHAWAII STATE LIBRARY, 478 S KING ST. HONOLULU, HI 96813 | Attendance is FREE! For more information, please contact Gabe at (808) 232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

WAIPAHU 120TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | November 18, 2017 | 3:00 - 10:00 pm | AUGUST AHRENS SCHOOL

OPINION *(from page 14,* **NOWADAYS...***)*

life. The due process right of an accuse to prove his innocence in a proper court of law is also a fundamental human right developed over hundreds of years by the human family. The Philippines and its people recognize these fundamental sacred rights. The Philippine Constitution declares unequivocally: "Article XIII sets out the state's duty to promote social justice and protect human rights. It also establishes the Commission on Human Rights."

The Philippines now has a dark anti-human President who openly declares that he does not respect human rights and instigates extrajudicial killings as an instrument of national policy. Over 14,000 people have been killed since he sat in office. Those who support his anti-human policies are part of a very great evil whose effects on Philippine society and culture will be long-lasting. They are establishing among Filipinos the mindset that it's okay to violate God's and man's laws, that it's okay to engage in violence and murder and that fundamental human rights have no value. In openly and clearly violating the Constitution and disrespecting basic moral values the President has betrayed the citizenry. No one is above the law. By betraying the people, including handing over the country's territories to the Chinese, he has lost his legitimacy to lead the country as its president.

In a world starved for love, kindness and peace, the present Philippine President foments hate, cruelty, violence and death. He even wants the death penalty restored, imprison children as young as 12 and continue with the government policy of extra judicial killings. He openly encourages police and military elements to unhesitatingly engage in these extra judicial killings, plant false evidence of guns against those they kill and claim that they fought back. He assures killer police elements that they will not suffer penalties as he will pardon them. As a result, policemen or policemen disguised as vigilantes have killed thousands. He wants the world to openly know that he is behind these killings but at the same time mocks the law by saying that no evidence can be produced that he ordered these killings. But the situation speaks for itself that he is the one who is behind these murders. The legal principle known as Res Ipsa Loquitor — or in understandable layman's terms translated as "the thing speaks for itself" — clearly applies. If he were not the president, basic logic suggests that these killings of thousands of people would not have happened.

In the future, Filipinos would look at this era of thousands of extrajudicial murders with shame. Any individual with a modicum of moral conscience can easily grasp the great evil in torturing and murdering thousands of human beings without affording them their basic human right to prove their innocence. How so many Filipinos supported this great evil in these times will be remembered with great shame for generations to come. They will ask: How did this terrible distortion of moral values happen to our people in those times? It appears that Philippine society has strayed away from the straight path. Every decent human being who respects the sanctity of life should speak out, condemn and protest against these serial killings that are going on. We must do our part in creating a better society for future generations of Filipinos. We should not accommodate ourselves to the evils of the Philippines' present society and government. Put your trust in God, not in the lies of a demonic leader. Christian principles are definitely counter to the mass murders, the violations of human rights and lies that are going on.

When Hitler was dead and gone, the thousands of Nazis who carried out the mass murders of millions of Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals claimed innocence, saying that they were just carrying out orders. The Nuremberg court did not buy that argument. Many were condemned. But many more escaped. There were so many of them that the courts were overwhelmed by their numbers. But they had sold their souls to Satan and had to live the rest of their lives and maybe even after with that reality. The killers and toadies of a ruthless tyrant president will also have to live with the reality of their cooperation with great evil long after this president is no longer in power. The evil of mass murders going on in the Philippines is obvious and recognizable to even the most ordinary person with a normal sense of what is morally abhorrent. The whole world recognizes and condemns these extrajudicial state-sponsored killings. But toady troll supporters, real or paid or computer generated who threaten the Philippine President's critics with insults, bodily harm and even death shout that only they understand the problems of the Philippines and the world has no business in interfering with Philippine policy. Wrong. Filipinos are part of the human family and when a ruthless tyrant is slaughtering thousands and violating human rightsit is right for the whole global human family to cry out against these anti-human crimes and stop them.

The living conditions in a country's prisons reflect governmental attitudes towards prisoners who do not cease to be human beings even if they are prisoners. Overcrowded, sweltering hot, stuffy, smelly Philippine prisons are the closest thing to hell on this earth. Cells designed to hold a limited number of prisoners are stuffed with 5 or more times than the limited number. They are fed food unfit for human consumption. Toilet facilities are not able to accommodate the great number of inmates. They have to defecate and urinate on the small space on the floor where they sleep. Medical care is hardly available for those who are sick. Many inmates become insane or die or kill themselves because of the horrible conditions. Philippine prisons are the most overcrowded inhumane prisons in the world. The Philippine leadership shows no concern for the plight of the poor inmates and even mocks them, which clearly reflect an anti-human attitude. This is a very important human concern that needs to be addressed.

The spiritual and everyday lives of Filipinos everywhere are now faced with the possibilities and challenges of the present times. A great darkness weighs heavily on the land. We must face this darkness with faith, courage, hope and prayers. For sure, the reign of all evil rulers ends sooner or later. The questions we need to ask ourselves now while we are living in these evil times: Am I cooperating with the evil that is by allowing my fear to silence my conscience? Am I in some way sustaining the present evil by not resisting it and worst, supporting it because I am gaining some material or political advantage? Woe unto those who keep themselves blind to the reality of evil powers and principalities.

ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is a San Francisco area based human rights lawyer and is also one of only 29 lawyers officially certified continuously for more than 30 years by the California State Bar as an Expert-Specialist in Immigration Law. His law firm also does major accident injuries and wrongful death cases. Tel 650 634 8668 email laguatanlaw@gmail.com

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