

# PINOY HERALD

ANG DIALING NG MGA FILIPINO SA AMERICA

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## Pacquiao Conquers Golden Boy

By Rodney J. Jaleco  
ABS-CBN North America News Bureau

One legend rides into the sunset, another one rises. Manny Pacquiao won a TKO victory against 10-time world champion Oscar de la Hoya in Las Vegas Saturday night, sparking a national outpouring of jubilation and pride in the Philippines.

Pacquiao, going into the scheduled 12-rounder a 2-to-1 underdog, pummeled De la Hoya into submission. By the end of the 8th round, De la Hoya's left eye was almost swollen shut, and he agreed with coach Nacho Beristain to end the one-sided "Dream Match".

Filipinos here and in the Philippines burst into boisterous celebration when De la Hoya, in a fitting acknowledgment of Pacquiao's mastery, walked from his corner to congratulate him.

"You're a hero," President Arroyo said in a statement.

He was indeed a hero to millions of Filipinos who watched the fight from small battery-run TVs in remote barangays to cinemas that charged patrons \$10 to see the action beamed live by satellite. Reports from Manila said very few policemen could be seen in the streets because they knew criminals were probably watching the Pacquiao fight too.

At a time of growing economic difficulties, Pacquiao's convincing victory was not only an early Christmas gift to his countrymen, but also an inspiration to countless struggling Filipinos. They are familiar with Pacquiao's story – his

humble beginnings, vending cigarettes in General Santos City, to his steady rise in the boxing constellation. For most Filipinos he has come to symbolize a noble spirit, courage amid adversity, and ultimately, triumph through hard work and perseverance.

Philippine Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita suggested Pacquiao's victory could make the task of forging forward amid the gathering crisis a bit easier.

Oscar and Evelyn Bonoan, like so many Fil-Ams in the Greater Washington DC region, hosted friends, offering platters of home-cooked delicacies, so they could watch history together. It united Filipinos, not only in the homeland, but here in the US as well.

"Iba talaga si Manny!," declared Bien Dimailig of Fairfax, Virginia.

That summed the common sentiment as Fil-Ams here watched the fight at the MGM Grand Garden, forking out \$54 for HBO's pay-for-view. "Sulit! (It was worth it!)," they proclaimed after the fight.

Pacquiao, 29, outclassed the 1992 Olympic gold medalist in nearly all departments. He connected with lightning lefts, pounded De la Hoya's midsection, threw uppercuts and jabs with impunity. "Pacquiao was phenomenal," Bernard Hopkins was quoted as gushing.

From the first round, it was obvious De la Hoya, 36, had a tough night ahead. Pacquiao was penetrating his defenses and he failed to get a bead

on the elusive Pinoy pugilist who kept bobbing, moving, dancing away from De la Hoya's 4-inch reach advantage.

De la Hoya, perhaps weighed down by age and a long hiatus outside the ring, was simply too slow to keep up with the frenetic Pacquiao.

When referee Tony Weeks ended the fight, Pacquiao was ahead in all the judges' scorecards. Pacquiao reportedly outscored De la Hoya 47-103 punches.

There seemed a consensus among the Filipino audience that Pacquiao could have knocked De la Hoya out if the fight was allowed to continue. In the end, there was relief and agreement that De la Hoya's decision was the right one – testament perhaps to the deep respect many Fil-Am boxing fans keep for the former champion.

De la Hoya has the distinction of holding titles in six weight classes. De la Hoya had to shed pounds and Pacquiao had to add some so they can meet in the 147-pound category. The California-based De la Hoya tipped the scale at 145 pounds last Friday and 147 on Saturday. Pacquiao weighed 142 pounds last Friday but was reportedly 148 by fight night – making him the heavier combatant at the opening bell.

Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach had taunted De la Hoya before the bout that he could "no longer pull the trigger". When the fight ended, De la Hoya was quoted as telling Roach,

*continued on page 22*

## New Paper for Fil-Ams in Capital Region



Pinoy Herald Editor-in-chief Rene R. Calandria with Phil. Embassy press attaché Gines Gallaga

The Pinoy Herald is proof the Filipino-American media is alive and well, even in the midst of the US economic crisis, ready to serve a growing Fil-Am community.

Pinoy Herald Publisher and Editor-in-chief Rene Calandria is convinced now's the right time to launch the paper. As Fil-Ams struggle to cope with life's daily challenges, the Pinoy Herald can be a ready reminder of what makes Filipinos stand apart amid the diversity – their courage, intelligence, a strong sense of community, humor, perseverance, and abiding Faith.

"The establishment of a new Filipino-American newspaper," Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa said, "is an encouraging sign and indicator of

*continued on page 22*



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# JDV regrets siding with PGMA in coups

By Rodney J. Jaleco

ABS-CBN North America News Bureau

WASHINGTON D.C. Former House Speaker Jose de Venecia said he regrets coming to the rescue of President Arroyo when her government was pushed to the brink by mutinous troops and a post-election scandal, and says current moves to amend the Philippine Constitution had one objective – to keep President Arroyo in power.

“Instead of using the time to accomplish the work to reform Philippine society, to defeat poverty and lift our country’s living and moral standards, she has worsened them,” De Venecia told ABS-CBN’s Balitang America in a side interview following an autograph session for his biography “Global Filipino” at the Heritage Foundation.

As House Speaker, De Venecia’s support was deemed crucial to the President weathering the short-lived Oakwood mutiny in 2003; the “Hello Garci” scandal following the 2004 presidential elections; and take-over in 2006 of the Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio by soldiers disillusioned by lingering charges of electoral fraud.

“I deeply regret helping her during those difficult times to save her government, including herself, from collapse,” De Venecia said.

The opposition concentrated their

heavy guns in De Venecia’s House of Representatives, the sole body empowered by the Constitution to impeach the President. The bicameral Congress launched a series of widely publicized hearings in 2005 to look into the so-called Garci tapes (referring to wiretapped conversations between then Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and a woman alleged to be President Arroyo).

The political storm prompted President Arroyo to make a televised apology although her supporters insist she never admitted to unlawfully influencing the election results. The tapes also included conversations between Garcillano and ranking military officers that helped trigger the 2006 mutiny. Bemedalled officers, including West Point-graduate Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin – for a time, considered the heirs-apparent of the Armed Forces of the Philippines – are still undergoing court martial for their role in the mutiny.

De Venecia seemed to see the early defeat of the latest impeachment complaint against his erstwhile political ally. The complaint was based mostly on his and his son’s expose of the President’s alleged role in the ZTE broadband deal that was eventually repudiated because of corruption charges.

In fact, many see De Venecia’s revelations as the reason he was ousted as House Speaker – a post he occupied

for over a decade – and replaced by a close ally of President Arroyo. De Venecia was with the President when she made a side-trip to the ZTE head office during an official visit to China. Her meeting with top ZTE executives was not bared until a newspaper columnist wrote about it months later.

“This loaded, bona-fide impeachment complaint was filed but because of numbers I think at this very minute, it is being dismissed on the floor,” he told the audience at the Heritage Foundation’s Lehrman Auditorium. He gave his talk Tuesday morning (Manila is ahead 13 hours of Washington DC). “We are going to the Supreme Court with the statement that the (House) committee on justice committed a grave abuse of discretion in dismissing despite the evidence,” he disclosed. As a veteran politician, De Venecia realized the imperative of numbers. “I will help create a powerful, expanded Rainbow Coalition,” he declared, referring to the bipartisan political alliance that used to be his power base in the House. He said this new group will “choose a candidate for president who will win and lead the battle against poverty and corruption” in 2010. De Venecia was mum about his own plans for 2010.

In the meantime, De Venecia is focused on fighting efforts to amend the Constitution before the scheduled elections.



## Charice wows New Yorkers

Charice Pempengco, the 16 year old Filipino pop phenom captivated New Yorkers at the 82nd Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade November 27, 2008. NBC host Matt Lauer introduced Charice as the “You Tube sensation of the Philippines. Charice’s rendition of “Because You Love Me” was watched by 44 million television viewers all over the world.

Earlier in the week, Charice appeared in Good Morning America to promote David Foster’s new CD/DVD “Hitman: David Foster and Friends” where she is one of several performers included in the album together with Kenny G., Josh Groban, Michael Buble, Brian McKnight, Katharine

McPhee, Andrea Bocelli and Dion. David Foster is handling Charice’s career in the U.S.A.

Previous appearances of Charice on U.S. television were with the ever popular Oprah Winfrey and comedian Ellen de Generis. She likewise appeared in London, England at the Paul O’Grady show where she was requested to sing “And I Am Telling You, ‘I’m Not Going’ and “I Will Always Love You”. She also performed with world-renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli at his birthday concert last July 20 in Italy.

Charice is in the United States cutting her first international album which is set for release in the early part of 2009.

## 26 Fil-Am students receive Rizal awards



On November 23, 2008, the Embassy hosted the Awarding Ceremony for the recipients of the Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards. Started in 1993, the Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards is an annual project of the Philippine Foundation for Charities, Inc. in collaboration with the Philippine Embassy.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards recognizes outstanding academic achievements of Filipino American youth in the Metro Washington DC area.

For school year 2007-2008, the following 26 young Filipino Americans received the Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards:

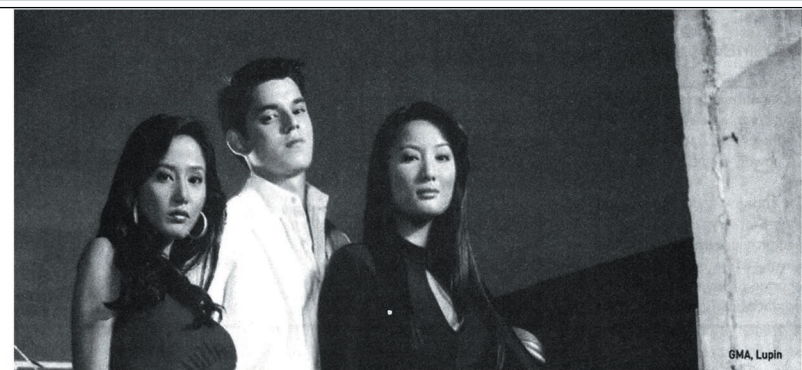
- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Faustinray Abogadie | 15. Tatiana Lozano  |
| 2. Gabrielle Abogadie  | 16. Nicholas Mendez |
| 3. Katherine Argente   | 17. Theodore Mendez |
| 4. Kayla Argente       | 18. William Mendez  |
| 5. Kevin Argente       | 19. Kelvin Moncera  |
| 6. Joseph Chavez       | 20. Nikko Nolasco   |
| 7. Michael Datiles     | 21. Mark Ramada     |

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8. Cecilia Esteban      | 22. Michael Ramada    |
| 9. Emilo Esteban        | 23. Alfred Udquim     |
| 10. Margarita Esteban   | 24. Krizia Udquim     |
| 11. Nariella Fernandez  | 25. Anthony Venida    |
| 12. Natalia Fernandez   | 26. Nicolle Fernandez |
| 13. Jacqueline Loberiza |                       |

Each awardee received a framed certificate of recognition for their outstanding academic achievements which was signed by Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa and by the PAFC, Inc. President, Ador Carreon. The awardees also received an Philippine Embassy engraved writing pens.

The event was also marked by the turn over of leadership of the Dr. Jose Rizal Youth Awards Committee to spouses Roberto and Divina Tamayo. They took over the mantle of leadership from spouses Orlando and Ruby Barbosa who served as the co-chairpersons of the Awards Committee for the last ten years.

(Source: Philippine Embassy, Washington, DC)



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# Ilocano Society of America: A New Leadership Begins



FORT WASHINGTON, Maryland - The Ilocano Society of America, better known in the Washington DC Filipino-American community as ISA, is celebrating the beginning of a new two-year term for its newly acclaimed incoming officers. At the inauguration ball held on November 29 in Springfield Hilton, the festive atmosphere of the Christmas season added to the vibrant colors that ISA's new leadership offers.

Looking very regal and ready to take on the challenges, newly-elected President Matilde Antonio vowed to continue to meet the goals and objectives of ISA, now a 501-C 3 organization. "I am ready and very willing to keep our organization moving forward with your help and support," she declared. Aida Bacarra, the outgoing president, is a tough act to follow. Through her fine and effective leadership, she turned ISA into a 501-C 3 organization. Mrs. Bacarra's efforts won praise from Mrs. Antonio who also commended all the past presidents and outgoing officers for their steadfast commitment to ISA's mission. "Leading an organization like ISA is a collaborative effort involving considerable dedication, flexibility, ingenuity and hard work," Mrs. Antonio added.

Of course, ISA's success is also due in large measure to all dedicated members and leaders, notably Ernie Cordero, one of ISA's past presidents. This year's recipient of "The Most Outstanding Ilocano" award, Mr. Cordero brought prominence to the organization in so many ways. Most recently, as the presiding chair, he skillfully guided the 2008 Philippine Festival committee under the wings of Philippine American Foundation for Charities Inc. (PAFC). Under the stewardship of Mr. Cordero, ISA joins the pantheon of community organizations spearheading the month-long commemoration of Philippine Independence Day, which is celebrated every year in June. The three main events – namely, Philippine Festival Parade, Gala Ball, Family Picnic and Sports Fest – have all been very successful.

The extraordinary collective effort of members and supporters has put ISA at the helm of community service. Also in the new administration are: Paeng Toledo, Vice President; Myrna Caliguiran, Secretary; Corrine Padre, Asst. Secretary; Vangie Toledo, Treasurer; Dolly Paraoan, Asst. Treasurer; Mya Talavera, Ruben Curameng, Sally Dela Cruz, Public Relations Officers; Mila Bernardo, Fred Ramirez, Hod-

ford Brown, Auditors; Gilbert Bernardo, Cesar Dela Cruz, Cesar Pastor, Sergeant-at-Arms; Sancho Alvarado, Abraham Bacarra, MD, Aida Bacarra, Art Caliguiran, Vicky Casibang, MD, Epi Coloma, Ernie Cordero, Jaime Padre, Inocentes Tecala, Esq., Board of Directors.

Mat, as the ISA President is fondly called by family and friends, announces with pride and excitement other upcoming charitable events. One is the Miss Teenage Pageant. Since its inception in May, 1985, the pageant has become the torch-bearer for ISA., making it the most-widely awaited and anticipated yearly event. Mainly, the concept is to showcase the beauty and talents of young Filipino-American girls, aged 13-19. This exciting and glamorous event has helped them bring out their hidden talents and in the process discover new possibilities. Prizes galore await the winner. There is no fee to join. If interested and for more information,

please contact Vangie Toledo, 2009 pageant chairperson, 301-856-1405.

Finally, ISA likes to thank all supporters, friends and relatives for their overwhelming and ever-flowing support. "We are aware that your contributions, donations and volunteerism are integral to our success", the new ISA president beamed from the podium, with a tone of humility in her voice.

After all, ISA's general membership is a roster of dedicated professionals at the height of their fullest potential, creating abundance and success in their lives and now helping and giving back to the world in a positively-nurturing way. In the words of the Inventor and Philosopher Buckminster Fuller: "The purpose of our lives is to add value to the people of this generation and those that follow." This message is what inspires ISA to be an integral part of both family and community life. (By: Mya L. Talavera)

## VA panel proposes friendly policies toward immigrants

Within the next few days, the Virginia Commission on Immigration will submit more than a dozen recommendations to Gov. Tim Kaine (D). Most of which are aimed to help immigrants assimilate their lives into the state. Virginia has been known for tough immigration policies, but, the Commission seems to back off from its hard-line approach to immigration policies, arguing the federal nature of the issue. The exit polls in the last Presidential Election turned out that immigration is the least issue among voters sending a strong message to State officials to focus its resources on helping the growing number of legal immigrants rather than waste the State's money on fighting illegal immigration, which is a federal matter. In an interview with Washington Post, Sen. John C. Watkins (R-Chesterfield), the panel's chairman said "I think some reality set in ... this is really a federal issue. They have pushed it down

towards the states and the time has come for them to deal with it. We have no jurisdiction." Among the highlights of the panel's proposal include an increased number of English classes, reducing of Medicaid residency requirements for qualified immigrants, extending in-state tuition to qualified students and the creation of an immigration assistance office. Other issues considered by the panel, but, are trashed out were forcing immigrants to carry identification cards, fingerprinting of hospital patients who are unable to pay their bills and requiring legal proof of residence as a necessary condition in order to obtain and be eligible for public assistance. The panel likewise is pressing the federal government to pass a comprehensive immigration reform and recommended that more visas be made available to foreign immigrants. The proposals are expected to be adopted by Gov. Kaine. RRC (Source: Washington Post)



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# Manila Archbishop opposes Con-ass

MANILA - The usually low-key Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales yesterday broke his silence and denounced the renewed plan of administration allies in the House of Representatives to amend the 1987 Constitution by themselves through a constituent assembly (con-ass).

In an interview with the church-run Radio Veritas, Rosales said the job of amending the constitution should not be given to those in power because of their vested interests. The Archbishop also opposed the proposal of some of the administration's allies to postpone the May 2010 national elections, which would extend the terms of office of all elected officials, including President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, while a new constitution is being drafted. "Sometimes, people toy with the idea, but, it can't be allowed," the cardinal said.

Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines chairman Archbishop Angel Lagdameo called on President Arroyo to order her allies to desist from pushing a charter change through a con-ass. Cardinal Rosales emphatically stated that political dynasties should never be allowed in the Philippines and that it would be illegal under

the current law. "If we leave that matter to the Congress, they might remove that provision," he said.

A mass demonstration is scheduled on December 10, International Human Rights Day as a prelude to the December 12 interfaith rally dubbed as "Stop Gloria's Cha-Cha Now" (Labanan ang Cha-cha ni Gloria) at the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in Makati City. This will be the first anti-cha-cha mass action since 2003. Side by side, major cities like Cebu, Davao, Baguio, Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro will stage the same event.

Prominent political personalities are expected to actively participate in this mass action, including the likes of Former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, El Shaddai leader Brother Mike Velarde, Jesus is Lord movement's chief Brother Eddie Villanueva, opposition senators, other former presidents and former senior government officials to name a few. Estrada said that he will definitely attend if his physical presence is needed. According to him, we should make sure that our people are not robbed of their chosen leader a third time, this time by means of charter change.

But, amidst all the stark oppo-

sition, House Speaker Prospero Nograles is bent on pursuing charter change to amend the constitution's economic provisions as a "most urgent demand of the times" in light of a possible global recession. Nograles said that everybody is free to bring to the fore issues of public concern including what and how to institute reforms in the constitution because "this is what a democracy is all about." In the same light, Paranaque Representative Roilo Golez supports the idea of a bicameral process of charter change, which allows piecemeal revisions of the constitution.

## CAGAYAN

Mayor Raul dela Cruz of Rizal, Cagayan along with three of his security escorts were killed while four others were wounded after their contingent was ambushed by armed men in Solana town, police said. Reports said that dela Cruz, and security aides Ramon Gundan Jr., Jomar Baluran and Federico Canay, died instantly as armed men open-fired on a local government bus they were riding in Barangay Maddarulug in Solana. Senior Supt. Moro Virgilio Lazo, Cagayan police director, said that the police has set up checkpoints and organized teams to pursue the suspects.

## Capiz

Seven villages of President Roxas town were hit by floods, causing the temporary displacement of 201 families. Mayor Sauro Buenafe of Roxas said that flood levels in the town proper and neighboring barangays rose after days of continuous rains. He said that majority of the water came from the mountain area and from rivers and creeks navigating the affected villages. The affected families were evacuated to the town's civic center and would stay there until the floods subside.

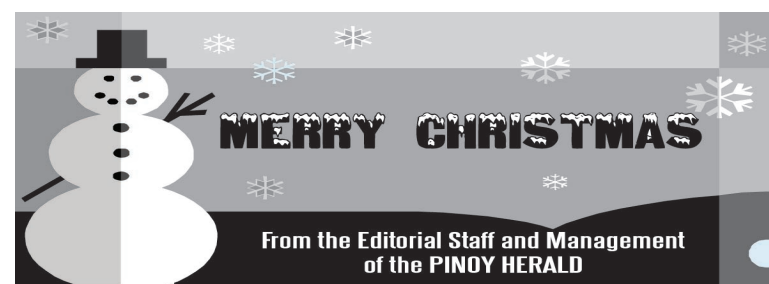
## Davao Del Sur

Bansalan Mayor Edwin Reyes has ordered an immediate investigation after reports surfaced that illegal logging in the Mt. Apo portion of the town involved village officials. Reyes vowed that he will personally see to it that erring village officials will be charged and sent into prison if found guilty of violating the country's forestry laws.

Insp. Emelix Mabalot, town police chief, admitted that they arrested a village official for trying to sneak out forest products from Mt. Apo, which is a national park. Mabalot did not name the said official, but, assured that investigations are well under way.

## Laguna

Sgt. Recarte Yadao, an Army officer who allegedly shot dead a traffic officer, was arrested after an arrest warrant was issued against him. Yadao, an active Army member assigned at the Army Support Command in Fort Bonifacio, allegedly shot Jaime Garcia of the Calamba City Traffic Management Office after they figured in a heated argument on August 19, 2008. Chief Supt. Christopher Tambungan, chief of the Calamba City police, said that Yadao was arrested by virtue of an arrest warrant issued by Judge Alberto Serrano of the Regional Trial Court Branch 29.



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Ilocano Society of America Inauguration Ball 2008: (From L-R) ISA member Corinne Padre with guest speakers, Kris Valderrama Lobo, Senator Muse and Dr. Vickie Casibang.



Ilocano Society of America Inauguration Ball 2008: (From L-R) The program emcee, Realtor Mya Talavera with guest speaker Maryland Senator Anthony Muse, The Most Outstanding Ilocano award-ee, Ernie Cordero and ISA's outgoing vice president, Hodford Brown.



Ilocano Society of America's First Couple, Celso and Matilde Antonio



Alicia "Inday" T. Adizas of Elkridge, Maryland recently celebrated her 70th Birthday with her family in the Philippines



The Rizal Youth Awards Committee for 2008: L-R spouses Roberto and Divina Tamayo, 2008 Rizal Awards Chairpersons, spouses Orlando and Ruby Barbosa, outgoing Rizal Awards Chairpersons, Eileen Nadal, President of La Salle Alumni Association and member of the 2008 Rizal Awards Committee, Myla Fos, Member of the 2008 Rizal Awards Committee, Consul Rico Fos, Co Chairperson of the 2008 Rizal Awards Committee, and Acting Head of Post Carlos Sorreta.



## OLV FILIPINO CHOIR TO SING AT "SIMBANG GABI" MASS

Rehearsing several Filipino songs for the "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass are some of the newly organized choir group members. The choir will be under the direction of trainers, Tony and Edith Viduya of Cagayan de Oro City. Seated from left: Beng Valdelolon, Aida J. Mendoza and Dr. Bambi Lorica. Second row from left: Ric and Meldy Macatangcay, Maria Annabelle Dy, Emma Capule, Virginia Picardo, Marye Salud, Tony Viduya (tenor and base trainer), Edith Viduya (soprano and alto trainer, and pianist), Mike Viduya, John Foz, Ben Alcalde. Third row: Cherry Viduya and Far-



Virginia Beach-Norfolk Filipino Community Top Leaders First row from left: Romy San Antonio, (TOFA 2007), served for 9 years as president of the Filipino American Veterans of Hampton Road; George Daria, Executive Director of the Philippine Cultural Center; Isidro "Cid" Barrera, LCDR, SC, USN (Ret.), (TOFA 2006), president of the Kahirup International Foundation and former president of Filipino-American Veterans, both of Tidewater. Standing same order: Mrs. Francis San Antonio, former Mrs. Philippines; Nenita Cacanindin and Paul Cacanindin, both executive officers of the Philippine Cultural Center; Levy Mendoza-Paler, (TOFA 2008), the honoree; Venus Tomaneng (TOFA 2004), former president of the Filipino Nurses Association, former president of the United Ilocano Association, and former president of the Filipino Women's Club; Rose Daria (TOFA 1997), "Grand Dame of Beauty Queens", Cultural Director of the Council of Filipino Organizations in Tidewater (CUPOT), former president Filipino Women's Club; former president of the Filipino Nurses Association: Aida J. Mendoza of FILIM and PGON; Ofelia Barrera of CUPOT; Coring Padilla (TOFA 2002), one of the founders and first chairman of the Council of Filipino Organizations in Tidewater (CUPOT), spear header extraordinaire of the Filipino community in the region; and Nonoy Mendoza of FILIM and PGON. (PinoyGlobal Photo)



Left to Right, Nonoy Abrajano (Chair, NaFFAA, National Capital Region), Greg Macabenta (NFFAA National Chair), Rosita Lee (NaFFAA National Vice Chair), Deputy Chief of Mission Carlos D. Sorreta, Consul General Domingo P. Nolasco, JoAnn Fields, Maurese Owens (Vice Chair, NaFFAA National Capital Region)



# Pinoy Hark the Herald!

## National Press Club Washington, DC

### November 20, 2008



#### Embassy of the Philippines, Washington DC

1600 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington DC 20036 | Tel: 202-467-9300 | Fax: 202-467-9417 | info@philippineembassy-usa.org

20 November 2008

Dear Mr. Calandria,

I wish to congratulate you on the launching of the Pinoy Herald and commend you for your initiative and effort to reach out through your publication, the Filipino American community in Metro Washington D.C.

The establishment of a new Filipino American newspaper is an encouraging sign and indicator of the growing relevance of the Filipino American community in mainstream society. Filipino American newspapers are effective vehicles in the effort to further empower our community and in promoting our homeland and culture. I look forward to the Embassy and the Pinoy Herald working together towards achieving those common objectives.

I wish you all the best of luck and the Embassy's support in this undertaking.

Very truly yours,

WILLY C. GAA  
Ambassador

MR. RENE R. CALANDRIA  
Editor-in-Chief, Pinoy Herald  
6166 Leesburg Pike, Suite B 504  
Falls Church, VA 22044



Pinoy Herald Editor-in-Chief Rene R. Calandria with Consul Gines Gallaga



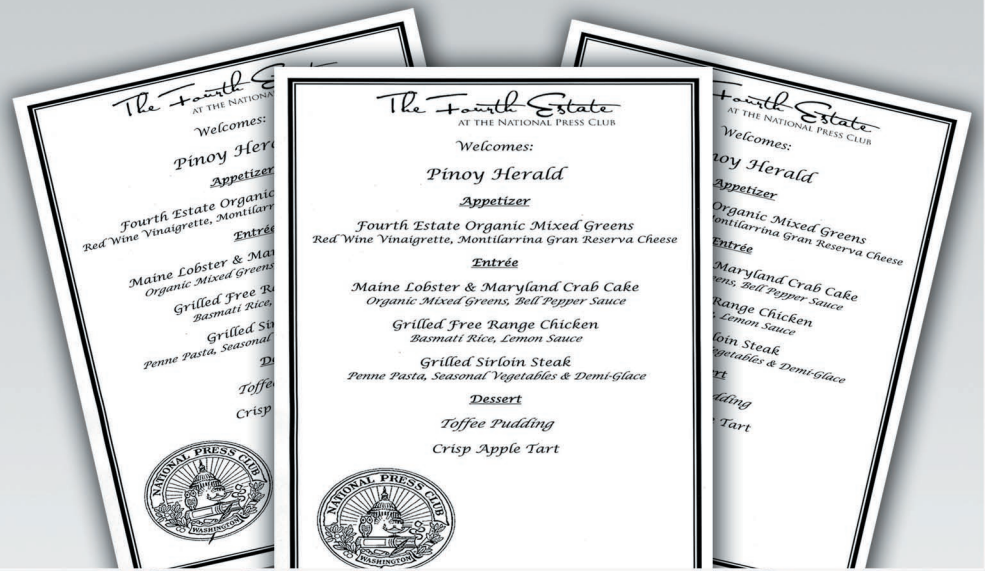
(From L-R) Zeny Uy; Myrna Riel; Fernando Tonolet (Pinoy Herald columnist); Trinidad Tonolet; Rene R. Calandria; Nilda U. Wadhwa, Rosario B. Uy; Vinod Wadhwa (partly hidden); (Front L-R) Florentino G. Calandria (President of Pinoy Herald, Inc.) and Jose "Toty" Uy



(From L-R) Dino Tiongco (columnist); Myrna Riel (Marketing Director), Marilyn Hall (Advertising Director) and Rene R. Calandria



From L-R) Florentino G. Calandria; Rodney Jaleco (standing) of ABS-CBN; John Riel of Bethesda, MD; Trinidad and Fernando Tonolet of Manassas, VA; Rene R. Calandria (standing), Pinoy Herald Editor-in-Chief; and Gines D. Gallaga, 2nd Secretary and consul of the Philippine Embassy





# Crisis changing Fil-Ams' Christmas gift-giving habits

By Rodney J. Jaleco

ABS-CBN North America News Bureau

WASHINGTON D.C. The economic crisis in America is changing the habits of Filipinos sending gifts to relatives and friends back home.

"It is December and people traditionally send their "pamasko" to people in the Philippines," Carmen "Chit" de Jesus, chief finance officer of Chartered Forex Inc., tells ABS-CBN's Balitang America. She explained that recession or not, there is no stopping Pinoys and Fil-Ams here from sending gifts to the Philippines. But economic hardships are changing the way they express their Christmas tidings back home. "You know Filipinos. They would rather scrimp and sacrifice here just to send something to family and friends back home. It's just the way we are. We want to share the blessings we receive here in the US," she averred.

For most East Coast-based Pinoys, Forex

has become synonymous with the ubiquitous "Balikbayan Box" as well as next-day dollar remittance services.

"The priority of people is to send money and Balikbayan Boxes are now luxury items. They still send but if people used to send three Balikbayan Boxes before, now they will just send one," De Jesus explained.

She disclosed that for every Pinoy who sends a "Balikbayan Box" this Christmas season, five more would prefer to simply send dollars home.

Overseas Filipinos sent about \$15 billion home in 2007, half of that coming from Filipinos and Fil-Ams in the US. About \$700 million of the total amount went through non-bank foreign remittance companies.

With Philippine dollar reserves falling, the ensuing rise in the exchange rate has provided added incentive to send cash instead of a Balikbayan Box.

Virginia-based Flor de Guzman has complained to Balitang America that the Balik-

bayan Boxes she sent to relatives in Cabanatuan City last May hasn't been delivered yet. "They said the boxes will get there in 45 days. I don't know what happened because when I call their office, they just kept giving promises," she said. De Guzman alleged she sent her Balikbayan Box through Atlanta-based Fame Cargo International (FCI). ABS-CBN left messages for FCI chief Ernie Agustin but didn't get a response.

De Guzman said her son managed to pick-up one of their boxes in Manila but they had to spend extra money to move the goods to their province. She said she still has to get her other box, as well as three others sent by her uncle, World War II veteran Guillermo Rumingan. In her missing box, De Guzman said, were review books for her daughter who is preparing for the US nursing licensure examinations, and other

goods that she estimates were worth \$600.

"At this time of the year, there will be a lot of Balikbayan Box service companies setting up shop. They will be offering low prices, but this is no guarantee that those boxes will get there," De Jesus explained.

She urged patrons to visit the Federal Maritime Commission website — [http://www2.fmc.gov/oti/lff\\_listing.aspx](http://www2.fmc.gov/oti/lff_listing.aspx) to get a listing of companies accredited to engage in the cargo forwarding and dollar remittance business.

"Balikbayan Boxes" are sent by what's called ocean transportation intermediary that should be licensed by the Federal Maritime Commission," De Jesus elucidated.

"They're called non-vessel operating common carrier, an NVOCC. They would be safe because these companies listed in the FMC are licensed

and bonded. So if they have complaints they can just go to the Federal Maritime Commission," she said.



*With the Christmas holidays around the corner, balikbayan boxes are piling up at the Manila Oriental store, a major drop-off point in Fairfax, Virginia*

## Pinoy siblings crowned "Dancing" champions

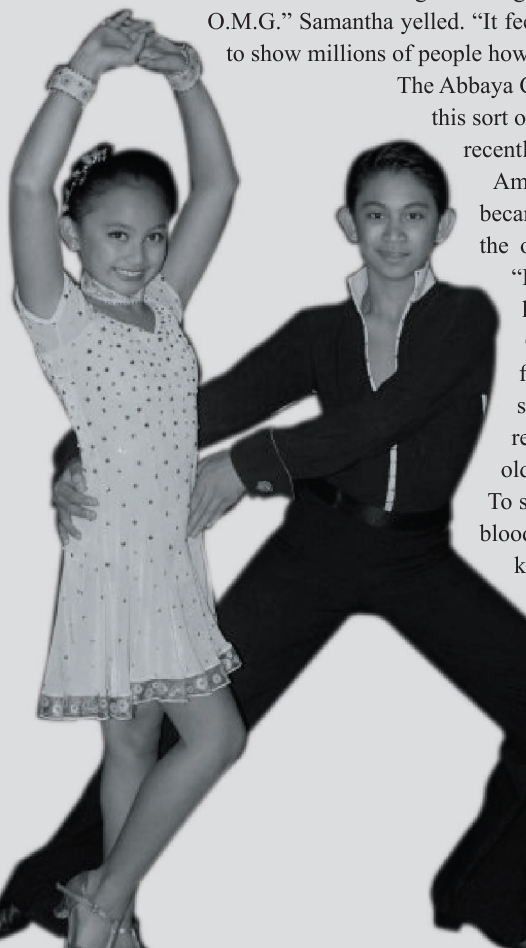
NUTLEY, New Jersey - Finding it difficult to forever live in the shadow of their ballroom-prodigy sister Cara, 13-year old Craig Abbaya Campos and 11-year old sister, Samantha made a name of their own when they were adjudged the Ballroom Kids champions in the popular primetime ABC's "Dancing With the Stars" program.

With the full backing of their family and friends, the dynamic duo successfully advanced to the junior division finals of the said program after electrifying the panel of judges with a 1-minute cha-cha. Obviously, the protagonists themselves were thrilled. "I was pretty excited and thankful that we got this big opportunity," Craig said. "I was like O.M.G." Samantha yelled. "It feels great to be picked to do this. I get to show millions of people how I can dance."

The Abbaya Campos family is not new to this sort of publicity and pressure, as only recently, the youngest of the Filipino-American siblings, 8-year old Cara, became an instant star after making it to the overall junior finals of last season's "Dancing With the Stars" together with her partner, Jaryd Farcon. Although, Cara and Jaryd eventually lost in the finals, they made such a big impression, further raising the expectations rested on the young shoulders of her older siblings.

To say the least, dancing truly runs in the blood of these gifted Filipino-American kids. Irene, the mother of the three, was a former junior ballroom champion herself and won a number of competitions of her own. She revealed that she and her husband originally decided to introduce dancing to their children in the hope that it would help them get some exercise and sharpen their coordination and discipline.

Craig and Samantha attend Nutley High School in New Jersey.



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# Fil-Am leaders plan to help bankroll favored candidates

By Rodney J. Jaleco

ABS-CBN North America News Bureau

WASHINGTON D.C. The recent presidential elections, and victory of Democratic standard-bearer Barack Obama, have changed the political vista for Filipino-Americans.

"It showed there is promise. We now have a person of color who is president of the United States. That gives us hope that who knows, someday we may have a Filipino in office, and he can be president," enthused Rozita Lee, vice chairperson of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations (NaFFAA).

Over 50 NaFFAA leaders from all over America converged in the nation's capital over the weekend to plot the Fil-Am agenda under the Obama administration. The meeting was hosted by the Philippine Embassy here.

"We need political empowerment. We need to elect someone from within our community for all the different political entities we have, especially Congress. That's what we're aiming for — for representation in Congress," Lee told ABS-CBN's Balitang America.

Newly-elected NaFFAA chairman Greg Macabenta said Fil-Ams "have to be politically savvy and build an infrastructure that allows us to endorse candidates for political office, raise funds and contribute to political campaigns."

There was quick consensus during the deliberations to form a Fil-Am political action committee (PAC). A PAC

is a private interest group organized to elect political candidates. Under US federal law, an organization becomes a PAC when it collects or spends at least \$1,000 to influence a federal election. There is a \$5,000 per-candidate-per-election limit for individual contributions to PACs (excluding contributions to political parties, which has a \$15,000 cap).

Macabenta stressed that the idea of a Fil-Am PAC is not new, but for various reasons it's never gotten off the ground. That could now change, said Gloria Caoile, co-chairperson of the FilVote project that carried out voter registration drives in Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Florida during the last elections.

"This is putting our money where our mouth is," she declared. "We've got to produce because the bottom line in any election, in any country that matters, is that Congress people will ask 'Did this group give me money in my campaign?' before they even listen to our issues."

"We realize that now," Caoile averred. "People are excited because of this past election. This is the right time."

His youth belies Ben de Guzman's experience working in Capitol Hill. He is the executive director of the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE), one of the spearheads of the Fil-Am lobby for the Filipino World War II veterans' equity bill.

"People who run PACs become political insiders. They know that when

they call an office and say, 'Hey look, I'm with this PAC and we gave so much to your campaign' you get to talk to them about what you want to talk about, and in DC the name of the game is getting your issue on top of the in-box because you know when you leave there will be three issues on top of it again," De Guzman explained.

However, NAFFAA itself can not branch out to national politics because it will lose its tax privileges. NAFFAA is classified as a non-profit "501" organization that is prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities.

De Guzman said a Fil-Am PAC could have been helpful when they started lobbying for the Filipino veterans equity bill. The bill, embodied in S-1315 that won overwhelming approval in the Senate, is stalled in the House of Representatives. Veterans' supporters are trying to nudge it forward, along with S-3689 and HR-6897 (that aims to provide \$198 million to veterans) in lameduck sessions this month.

Regardless of how these efforts turn out, the Fil-Am community's intense involvement in the veterans lobby as well as this year's presidential campaign have provided valuable experience and fresh insights on how best to promote the community's interests on the national stage.

The veterans lobby has demonstrated the importance of coalition building. Macabenta recently led ceremonies at the Capitol Hilton here to mark NAFFAA's resumption of ties with the Greenlining Coalition, an aggrupation

of 50 mainstream organizations committed to social justice issues.

## Lessons From Veterans Lobby, Presidential Campaign

De Guzman has seen the value of coalitions while working for Filipino veterans' equity. He cited the support given by the Asian Pacific American community. "We wouldn't have achieved significant gains in Congress without the support of these established civil rights organizations," he noted.

"The equity bill has never just been a one-shot deal. It was never just about the veterans although they were our primary focus. It's also been about building the political capital of the community," he told Balitang America. He has been appointed as NAFFAA representative to the influential National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA).

"When NAFFAA was formed 11 years ago," said Macabenta, "the idea was not to create an umbrella organization but to establish links among various autonomous and local groups to harness our collective strength."

He harped on the need to focus on the long-term and the collective interest of the Fil-Am community. This specification fits squarely with the formation of a PAC, which could expand the group's political clout.

Dexter Ligot-Gordon, former NAFFAA National Youth Chairman, told the assembly about the experience of Filipino who worked in the Obama

campaign, especially the construction of a potent data base that became the basis for record-shattering fund-raising and mobilizations.

"This past election cycle really geared up the Fil-Am community to be part of this big political infrastructure here in the US," Caoile told Balitang America. "What I saw that I've never ever seen in my time in the political arena is how involved the Fil-Am community really got with their respective candidates. I'm not talking about partisanship but just how involved we've become," she averred.

Macabenta, citing these lessons and his own emphasis for beyond-the-horizon thinking, Macabenta urged the NAFFAA leaders to become engaged in the 2010 Census that will be starting soon. "It is critical that we are accurately counted so that underserved sectors in our community are properly recognized," he explained. The 2000 Census pegged the Pinoy population in America at almost 2.4 million. Some have put the actual number closer to four million.

## Progressive, Ambitious Plans

Ambassador Willy Gaa immediately congratulated the NAFFAA leaders for "coming out with a progressive and ambitious plan and strategy...to get more actively focused and involved in community advocacy."

"I am confident that the direction

*continued on page 22*



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**Ms. Bosede Oriade, Esq.**  
**Member, AILA, WSBA, ABA**



**Mr. Fernando Tonolet, Esq.**  
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# A "Silicon Valley" at U.P. Diliman campus

Amid widespread fears of a continuous global economic downturn, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) has completed an ambitious project that many people see as the Philippines' future "Silicon Valley": the UP Ayala Land Techno Hub. Using a strategic 37.5-hectare site along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, ALI ventured into the grand project which aims to build a site that will serve multiple purposes. The project, which was estimated to be worth around P 6 billion, included the construction of 10 low-rise office buildings, the UP Science & Technology office and areas for residential buildings for university employees, faculty and students, a hotel and various commercial spaces. Also included in the project is the proposed construction of the UP North Science & Technology Park. This provision aims to replicate the feel of a tree-lined and walker-friendly campus, which is similar to that of UP itself.

According to architect Edwin Yabut of the Integrated Design Group of ALI, the imposing site was built as a technology center that will serve as a hub for IT-related business operations in the country. This means that the techno hub primarily aims to house the business outsourcing ventures (BPOs), facilities that now employ thousands of Filipinos. However, Yabut stressed the fact that the site was constructed not only for this single purpose, as it also aims to host the operations of local and international hardware and software firms, leading to simi-

larities with the world-famous "Silicon Valley". In addition, the undertaking was carried out with the help of the University of the Philippines, which agreed to lease the site to ALI for a very long period. It is a concrete and lifelong tribute to mark the centenary of the university. The project also aims to maximize the ability of the Filipino, in particular, the excellent students of UP, who proponents believe are more than capable to operate facilities more than call centers. In a larger picture, the hub is foreseen as a real-world laboratory for small startup IT firms.

However, the project has also raised a number of eyebrows among the conservatives, especially those among the UP students. Critics view the undertaking as the initial step towards their feared "privatization" concept. Activists believe that the hub would serve as a gateway for private enterprises, who they view as "vultures", into the unmarked grounds of the university. In fact, 7 UP students (namely Sandino Nartea, Jerome Cauag, Menard Seguenza, Diana Villaflor, Jessica Javelana, Anna Marilles and Frances Olayon) were arrested after they protested during the techno hub's inauguration last November 21. The group was subsequently released without charges. The said ceremony was led by no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who said that the venture should serve as one that would jumpstart the country's long dash to progress. (By: Angelo Miguel M. Calabio)

## UN Honors Pinoy Peacekeepers

NEW YORK - The United Nations awarded medals to Filipino peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in recognition of their significant contribution to the country's recovery and stabilization.

The Philippine Mission to the United Nations reported that 165 members of the 10th Philippine Peacekeeping Contingent under Col. Danilo Pamonag received United Nations medals from Ms. Henrietta Mensa-Bonsu, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Rule of Law, during ceremonies in Monrovia on Monday.

Also in attendance were UNMIL Force Commander, Lt. Gen. ATM Zahirul Alam; Sector Commanders Brig. Gen. Ezekiel Olu-Olofinmuagan and Brig. Gen. Jalaluddin Mohammad Akbar; and other senior military and civilian officials.

In her speech, Ms. Mensa-Bonsu commended the Filipino peacekeepers for their significant contributions to Liberia's recovery efforts and urged them to uphold their duty to care for the Liberian people.

"You have been instrumental in improving security systems within the UNMIL compounds and in formulating standard operating procedures to ensure the highest quality of security," Ms. Mensa-Bonsu said as she applauded the Filipinos for the role they play in support of the mandate of UNMIL.

"I salute your country, which you represent

with utmost credit," the deputy UN envoy said, as she commended Lieutenant Colonel Pamonag for his excellent leadership.

In his speech, Lieutenant Colonel Pamonag described the Filipino peacekeepers as "ever-smiling, silent professionals, who tirelessly work on the sidelines to get things done."

He said the UNMIL experience has taught the members of the Philippine contingent the true meaning of peacekeeping. "Making friends, good attitude and good behavior are more powerful instruments than the edge of a sword," he said.

The Philippine contingent was first deployed to Monrovia in 2003 to serve as the Force Headquarters Support Unit, which is in charge of providing area, point and security patrols at the UNMIL Headquarters as well as motor transport coordination and administrative, operational and logistical support. The contingent is also responsible for protecting the Special Representative and the two Deputy Special Representatives, and dignitaries visiting the mission area.

The 165 Filipino peacekeepers deployed in Liberia are among the 621 police and military personnel presently serving in UN peacekeeping operations. Other UN mission areas where Filipino peacekeepers are deployed are Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Darfur, Georgia, Haiti, Kosovo, Sudan and Timor-Leste. (Source: Philippine Embassy, Washington, DC)

### FREE HEALTH SCREENING

Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC) conducted a health screening clinic in cooperation with the Alexandria Asian-American Lions Club District 24-A Virginia and the Fil-Am Ministry of St. Michael. Approximately 400 people availed of the services rendered by volunteer doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals from MHC, AAALC, St. Michael, Philippine Medical Foundation, Philippine Medical Alumni Ass'n. of MetroDC and the Philippine Nurses Ass'n. of MetroDC. The free health screening included cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure test, eye test, hearing test, free flu vaccines and free medical consultations. The Montgomery County Public Health and Services Flu Vaccine Division donated part of the flu vaccines.



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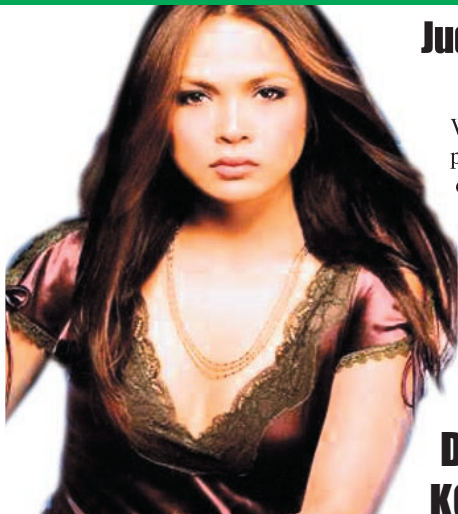
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## Judai at Direk Joyce peace na

When Direk Joyce showed up at Judai's fundraising party, all eyes were on them because they finally settled down their differences. "We're making good relationship," says Direk Joyce. In fact, they agreed that from now on they'll make an effort to see each other once in a while in order to continuously work on the "total recovery of their long lost friendship", adds Direk.

**WOW, super drama. Baka naman mauwi yan sa kung saan. Sabi ng isang reader, "Who cares kung mag friends na sila."**

## Direk Joey maloka-loka kay KC at Richard

Director Joey Reyes hindi malaman ang gagawin kina KC Concepcion at Richard Gutierrez, ayon sa tsika. Both young artists could not agree on the script of the movie they're working on for GMA Films. Si Richard nag complain about the story and wants some changes in the plot. KC on the other, mega-complain din. Maloka-loka ang mga writers at si Direk Joey sa pakikialam ng mga atribidang artistang ito. Hindi tuloy masimulan yung movie. What kung hindi na lang ituloy ang movie o di kaya si Richard at KC na lang ang gumawa ng script. Nagmamamunong pa ang mga super tsikang ito. **Sige Direk tsikahin mo nga yang dalawang yan ng magtanda. Nakakalungkot**



## 2008 is a blessing for both Piolo Pascual and Angel Locsin

Sa ating tsika, Piolo Pascual and Angel Locsin both agree that 2008 has been good to them. Angel's decision to join the Kapamilya channel, though risky, turned out to be a blessing. She has amassed so many fans not only from around the country but even abroad. In Australia, she and Piolo were treated to a dinner by supporters during their shoot for the movie "Love Me Again". Piolo on the other hand, launched his own perfume and clothing line signature by Bench. This is also the year where he got so many endorse-



ments. "It just gets better by the year... talagang napakabait ni Lord sa akin," Piolo concludes. Their movie "Love Me Again: Land Down Under" will have its screening on December 6 in L.A. at sa December 7 in San Francisco, the movie will be out in the theaters by January 15. **Bonggang-bongga talaga si Papa Piolo, very spiritual pa ang dating ... o baka naman tsika lang yan. Si Mother Angel naman mukhang uhaw sa mga fans, sige pa inday maghakot ka ng mga fans. Ewan... maloloka ako sa mga ka tsikahan ng ating mga artista**

## Cristine Reyes: "hindi lang ako basta-bastang artista"



Cristine Reyes was not just happy but very much overjoyed by her new project with ABS-CBN, ang pinakabago na primetime soap ang Eva Fonda. During the entertainment press sa nasabing teleserye, sinabi ni Cristine, "This is my biggest project, kasi this is my first lead role at primetime pa." She never had any regrets with her decision na lumipat sa Kapamilya channel. "Yes natutuwa ako siyempre, kasi ang daming blessings at sobrang pinagkatiwalaan pa nila ako sa lahat ng projects na binigay nila. Hindi ko sila bibiguin. Gagalingan ko talaga," she emphasized. During the press con, kasama ni Cristine ang mga co-stars na sina Jason Abalos, Janna Dominguez, Hazel Ann Mendoza, Baron Geisler, Joross Gamboa, Sylvia Sanchez at Dick Israel. **Super taray ang lola. Talagang dapat mong galingan kasi baka wala ka nang balikan, baka sa basura ka pulutin, tsika lang... Hala humataw ka while you're young and sexy.**

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## The People's Champion

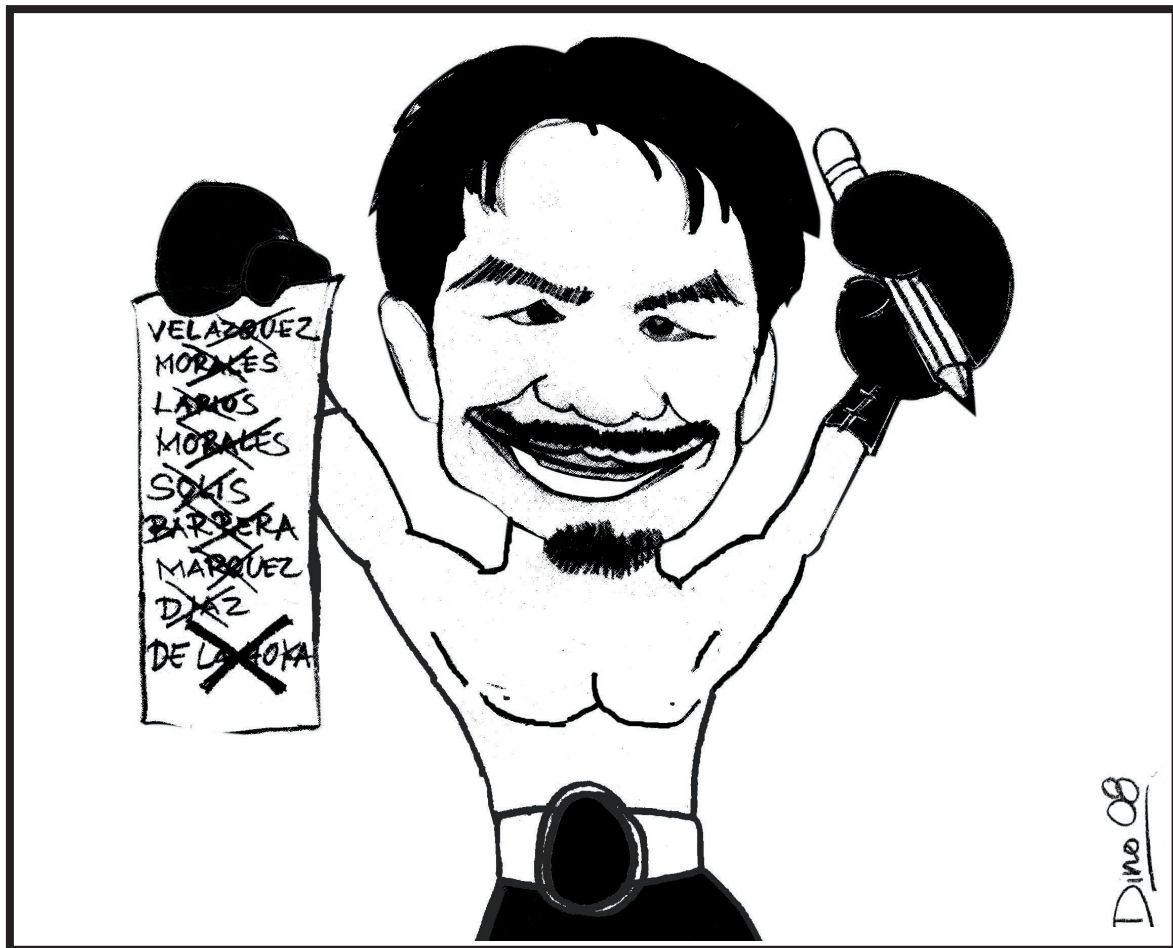
When Manny Pacquaio gatecrashed the world of boxing after his destruction of legendary Mexican fighter Marco Antonio Barrera, analysts and observers said that the young man is destined for greatness. Now, just hours after the Pacman's stunning mastery of boxing's so-called "Golden Boy" Oscar dela Hoya, the same people have been left wondering just how great the Filipino prizefighter could be.

As Pacquaio bravely entered the ring to fulfill his date with destiny, a whole nation located oceans away stood still. On a usually lively and blissful Sunday, streets in the Philippines were quiet and seemingly deserted, with everyone glued to their TV screens eagerly awaiting the fate of the undisputed "People's Champion". With every punch that the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world threw, the hearts and minds of his 85 million-strong countrymen were with him. With every move that the Pacman made, people in his homeland held their breath. And with every shout of victory, Filipinos all over the globe roared in ecstasy.

To the people of the United States and the other countries fortunate enough to witness the fury of the Filipino champion, Manny Pacquaio is viewed as the master entertainer, a massive moneymaking machine. But, to his countrymen, the Pacman is more than a great boxer, he is revered as a cult hero, a champion of the people and as a symbol of national pride. In the words of former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Pacquaio is the "Philippines' most important national resource".

Pacquaio is the Filipinos' genuine symbol of hope and national pride. The only Asian boxer to win world titles in 4 different divisions is a concrete example that poverty is never too big an obstacle to overcome for people to rewrite their own histories. To Filipinos, Pacquaio is a priceless binding force, a regal presence that unites his people to a common goal- something that any politician could never seem to achieve. Perhaps it's a pity that the Pacman could never be someone of acceptable presidential caliber, for he could rally the support of his countrymen in an instant.

It remains to be seen just how far Pacquaio could still go because honestly, there is little that is left to achieve. In our view, the future hall of famer is down to his final 2 to 3 fights, because the wear and tear of all the wars he has been would eventually take its toll. But, perhaps undoubtedly, Pacquaio has cemented his legacy as the greatest Filipino boxer ever- even greater than the immortal Gabriel "Flash" Elorde. Never in our wildest dreams did we ever imagine that a Filipino would ever reach the dizzying heights that Pacquaio has reached. We just hope that the living legend that is the Pacman could be preserved for the coming years, for Pacquaio would be the talk of the town for decades to come. The People's Champion, A Living Legend, A National Treasure...



## INTO REALITY

By Cecile V. Malabanan

### Corruption: The lurking evil in Philippine society



ability to buy palatial houses, posh vehicles and moreso, maintain a juicy fat bank account. It has also surfaced that a number of them have mistresses and families to support. Talk about adding insult to injury! Where did they get all the money for these disgraceful activities? A mystery that remains to be truly unraveled.

The Department of Education, a government agency tasked to mold the minds of the young ranks very high in corruption. Teachers' salaries remain to be one of the lowest in the region, leading the poor instructors to clamor for change and worse, to even reconsider their position in search of a higher paying job. Blatant misappropriation of funds re the building of classrooms, the purchase of textbooks, tables, desks, chairs and other equipment remain to be a chronic problem. Thus, education in our country further deteriorates, especially relative to our more progressive

neighbors, in the passing of time at the expense of Filipino children. Where have all the values gone? We often claim that the Philippines is the only "Christian" nation in Asia. But, why is it that we also rank very high, perhaps even one of the highest, in corruption? Sounds ironic, isn't it? But, it's a very distressing reality we have to face.

We are citizens of this nation, no matter where we may be around the globe, a Filipino would always have an obligation to aid his homeland in any way possible. Thus, we all have a duty to fight corruption. It is our responsibility to safeguard the finite treasures of our country moreso, to make sure that they are used in the best way possible.

If not, our people would continue to suffer. Hunger will become more widespread, poverty will worsen, criminality rise, unemployment and underemployment will become more marked and life will all the more turn out for the worst. In short, a myriad of tragic events would unfold before our very eyes if the lurking evil continues to go unchecked.

Now is the time to act. Let us begin now for tomorrow's sake.



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## COGITO

By Rene R. Calandria

# Kudos! Pinoy Herald

(Message delivered by the Editor-in-Chief during the Launching of Pinoy Herald at the National Press Club, Washington, DC)

First, let me thank you for coming here tonight. We are indeed honored by your presence.

We are gathered here tonight to mark a very momentous event... the launching of the maiden issue of "Pinoy Herald", a newspaper carefully thought of by four "young minds" whose passion for journalism goes far beyond the Philosophy of Logico-Positivism, but rather adopts the Theory of Pragmatism and Eclectic Thinking. It is by the latter's schools of thought that our newspaper can poster diversity --- where every philosophy is welcome, every culture and belief respected and every political doctrine and mantra are given careful consideration for people to read and relish. This newspaper is neither liberal nor conservative, We are who We are, who believe in what Rene Descartes, a French philosopher, said - "Cogito Ergo Sum" (I think, Therefore I am). Our identity then should be judged according to what we think, not according to what is printed.

The making of this newspaper wasn't at all easy. It was pressure-packed, yet, the hardwork and efforts we put into it were all worth it.

This newspaper is written and published for the Filipino-American community in the Metro Washington, DC area. This is your newspaper and it is for you. It is meant to make you

become aware of what's happening in the Philippines even though you are a thousand miles away from home. It brings the Philippines right to your doorstep. This paper is also meant to "bridge the Filipino-American communities around the area by publishing your stories and other news articles involving the Filipino communities in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia areas. It showcases the talents of our fellow Filipinos. Thus, it is with great pride that we give it to you free of charge. Through it, we are able to prove how good and dependable, we, Filipinos are. Our mission is not only to bring the good news (as we are your messengers), but, we hope to educate and entertain our readers.

Let us continue to work hand-in-hand to make this newspaper a tremendous success. Hence, I invite all of you to spread the news, ask your friends and colleagues to share their stories, share their talents and of course, encourage people, organizations and the business community to place their ads in our paper. This way, we can continue our handy work of service to the Filipino-American community. In doing so, we can truly be able to reach out not only to Filipinos, but also, to our American brothers, living in the Metropolitan district. Through the power of the pen and the gift of media, we hope to create a significant difference in your lives.

Long live "Pinoy Herald"! Kudos to us all and good luck to our journey ahead. Thank you and goodnight.



## FAST FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Rudy M. Viernes

# Share the Three T's

There is a popular song, which charismatics sing with gusto. It says: *LOVE is something that we give away...*

*It's like a magic penny  
Hold it tight and you won't get any,  
Spend it, lend it, give it away  
And it comes right back to you.*

Repeat the song four times. Substitute LOVE with JOY. LOVE with PEACE. LOVE with SMILE. LOVE with FRIENDSHIP. As the song is sang, it slowly dawns on one's consciousness that what is being given away is not an uncommon pricey commodity, but, an abstract thing that can easily be shared with anyone and reciprocated with the same.

Take Smile for instance, the third substitute for love in the song. An anonymous writer says a smile that you give away costs nothing, but, creates much. It enriches those who receive without impoverishing those who give. It happens in a flash and the memory of it sometimes lasts. It cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen, for, it is something that is no earthly good to anybody until it is given away.

God has endowed us in gratuity innate qualities, attributes, inclinations since birth which we developed as we grew up. This is Talent which is often creative and artistic and in varying degrees or minutiae. For instance, we may have the talent for music or the arts; the gift for rhetoric in written or oral forms that may teach, inform, inspire and educate. Others have other natural abilities and faculties acquired through studies in the pursuit of a profession or livelihood. Then, as we go through life's daily cycle, God apportions Time that these assets be used for good that could make a difference in

the life of someone which does not make us any poorer, but, richer for its benefits.

We have said that there are people endowed with the flair for rhetoric that make them compelling speakers on the words of God, a role laymen are empowered to help the clergy in the affairs of the Church.

Evangelization is ripe everywhere. In the Philippines, there is an apostolate on TV and radio shows devoted to evangelization. This is conducted largely by eclectic evangelical churches and Christian ministries. Bible-thumpers would stake a microphone at busy street-corners or near market places, strum a guitar and market their product to no one in particular, but, to the one stricken by the Holy Spirit at that moment. Others would board passenger buses, distribute leaflets and do their thing. People of different faith in the bus may feel indifferent or irritated, but, are however respectful of other people's rights to show bigotry or intolerance. This is healthy democracy and free speech.

The success of this endeavor can point to a craving for the product they are selling by those whose religious vents never really have found anchor in their hearts.

In the United States, we see them going around in two's of well-mannered, well-dressed young men knocking at doors or handing out leaflets that tell the Story. They mean nothing more than to explain the Story to those who care to listen and reflect. These are evangelists. Jesus called them fishers of men. When he was going around the Lake of Galilee, he would approach men mending their nets and invite them "Come and go with me



and I will make you fishers of men." They became his first disciples who helped him spread the Gospel.

God had also given us material Treasure--our

income from our labor, business or profession, again in doses He has designed, unless, we are lucky heirs to a legacy or born with the proverbial silver spoon in our mouth. This is a gratuitous gift not meant to obsess on, but, to share it with others as He sees. This is prosperity law, which states that one prospers in direct proportion to the enjoyment one receives in seeing the prosperity of oneself and others.

Luke 6:38 says "Give to others and God will give it back to you...in full measure." The Golden Rule is just as direct: "Give unto others as you would like others do to you."

It is said that it is better to give than to receive. The natural law is about giving and taking. We plant before we reap a harvest. We cast a sprat to catch a herring, they say. We bear the burden before we bear the gain. Nothing comes easy.

Man is sometimes irrational and capricious. He wants the easy life without working for it. He is like Juan Tamad, the lazy man in Filipino folklore who sleeps all the time and daydreams that the fruit hanging up there would eventually fall smack into his open mouth.

The religious laws are more specific about giving. The Bible contains passages specifying the need to give and how much. This is called "tithe." Deuteronomy 14:22 says, "Set aside a tenth of all that your field produces each year..." in short, one tenth of one's earnings. But, most Catholics do not practice tithing. The Lord is

*continued on page 22*

## UGNAYAN

ni Mars Rivera

# Sleepless in Seattle

Greetings from Seattle where we indeed sleep less because of too much Starbucks coffee and too much surfing the internet with our Microsoft kingdom here in nearby Redmond. Contrary to rumors that we have too much rain in Seattle- the truth is, it rains only twice-once in the morning and once in the afternoon! Washington State is called the Evergreen State because you will see green trees and foliage all over, all year round. The climate is cool in summer and mild in winter, normally snowing only one day in a year. Our water is the safest in the country with our Mayor boasting that our faucet water is safer than bottled water. We seldom have hurricanes, tornadoes,



best chance of surviving a heart attack with our efficient 911 and swift-responding firemen and medics. Our hospitals are topnotch. So, why not come West kababayans! Again, biro lamang. Stay where you are and make a difference in your community.

There are 100,000 Filipinos in the state of Washington, 60,000 of which are in the greater Seattle area. I was asked during a Filipino convention in Chicago in 1992 - how many Filipinos there were in Seattle then. My answer- there are 50,000 of us who migrated from the Philippines, of these 10,000 are Filipinos, the rest are Ilocanos! Joke only. The Ilocanos in the audience raised their fists, I raised

earthquakes. Seattle was once declared as the most livable city in the entire United States. It is a city where you have the

my arms in surrender, biro lang po!. Actually, the very first immigrants in Seattle were farmers recruited from Sta. Maria, Ilocos province to work the farms in Eastern Washington, many in Wapato where there are now Filipino farm owners who plant talong, ampalaya, saluyot and all kinds of Pinoy vegetables. After harvest, they spend months in the canneries of Alaska and they were called Alaskeros. The next wave of Filipino immigrants that landed in Seattle were students who studied at the University of Washington, followed by professionals- teachers, nurses, doctors, CPA's and lawyers. As early as November 15, 1935, the UW students and the Manongs and Manangs then organized themselves as the Philippine Commonwealth Council of Seattle and would meet in halls and clubhouses. It was not until October 1, 1965 that the Filipino Community of Seattle (new name) purchased the Empire Bowling Alley in what is now the newly renovated 2-story community center, located on M.L.King Jr. Way So., Seattle. Visit us anytime.

The Filipino immigrants here have contributed their culture and traditions in our local parishes, notably SIMBANG GABI. In my own parish, St. Edward, 75% of the registered parishioners are Filipinos, our pastor is Fr. Felino Paulino from Naga City. Twenty years ago, we started the 9-day novena of SIMBANG GABI. The first year we celebrated the Mass at 6AM, and served breakfast. It was too cold and parishioners had to rush to work after Mass. There were just around 20 of us regularly attending. We moved this to evenings the next

year and the church began filling up. We have a Filipino choir singing Villancicos and Christmas carols, ending with "ANG PASKO AY SUMAPIT" that is sung even by non-Filipinos who have joined us. We have sponsors who serve hot arroz caldo, puto, bibingka after each mass. We are also able to raise \$10,000 for the parish.

Filipinos from all over Seattle now attend our SIMBANG GABI. Halina kayo sa SIMBANG GABI sa SEATTLE. MAGANDANG PASKO PO SA INYONG LAHAT. Hanggang sa susuod. MANONG MARS



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**Start of the registration for overseas Absentee Voters**

The Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. wishes to inform all citizens of the Philippines under its consular jurisdiction that the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) reset the start of registration for overseas absentee voters from December 01, 2008 to February 01, 2009, the end of the registration is still August 31, 2009.

For the purpose of registration, the Philippine Embassy will be open to accept application during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., except during Philippine or U.S. holidays.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC*****The Embassy will be closed on the following dates:***

25 December 2008 - Christmas Day  
 26 December 2008 - Special Non-working holiday (Proc. No. 1463)  
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Sun. 10:00-6:30pm**SOMETHING TO SHARE**

By Melodie Alejandro

**Thanksgiving – what is it really about?**

Thanksgiving...it is the most popular holiday all over America. Why? Let us just enumerate some of the most obvious reasons. One, it is the

your parents frazzled – mothers due to immense cooking, fathers due to immense “honey-do-lists”. Finally, shopping, shopping and more shopping!



holiday that everybody, definitely, makes a point of going back to their parent's house, to spend time with family and truly relax and bond for at least a couple of days. Two, because families will be coming together, it is also the holiday where parents – well mothers in particular – go crazy in the supermarket, making sure they buy everything they need, hoping it hasn't run out yet. This maybe is one of the few times too you would see

Black Friday, the day after thanksgiving, is considered as the biggest sale of the season, if not the entire year. So, if you've seen your mother frazzled from cooking the day of thanksgiving, watch her totally lose it from all those great deals that are clearly unavoidable – or as people would say, “I just gotta have them!” But, this of course does not apply only to women, people of all ages, shapes and sizes fall victim to this yearly tradition – I myself have

fallen for this “shopping frenzy” and the only lasting memory I could come up with now is the headache that I've experienced and was not really happy about.

Now, that we have enumerated why Thanksgiving is the most popular holiday, every year, all over America...let me ask you this, do the reasons I've mentioned here explain exactly what Thanksgiving is all about? Honestly, no...not by a long shot. In my opinion, if I'm going to celebrate something, I would want to know what it's all about. So, to make the story short, after I've read and heard all of the stories pertaining to the origins of Thanksgiving, this is what I've come up with:

“Though many competing claims exist regarding this tradition, the most popular story is that of the Plymouth colonists in 1621. The 1st Thanksgiving was celebrated in this year when the said colonists (Plymouth) and the Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast, symbolizing the cooperation and interaction between English colonists and Native Americans. Also, this feast is said to signify a celebration for good harvest and giving thanks for a successful bounty of crops.

Around the mid-19th Century, a certain Sarah Josepha Hale, a popular magazine editor and author, campaigned to make thanksgiving a national holiday, which eventually led to President Abraham Lincoln declaration to make the final Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. It was in the year 1941 that Congress finally declared Thanksgiving as an official holiday.” (The brief history illustrated here can be found in [www.history.com](http://www.history.com) website)

Interesting, right? Now, that I've satisfied my curiosity for the reason behind this holiday, how come I feel

*continued on page 22***PETHICS**

By Dino Tiongco

**Shedding?**

Shedding, unfortunately for pet owners, is a natural cycle in every pet's life. No wondrous cure exists, contrary to what some product manufacturers would like us to believe. They offer tonics for the pet's coat, tools that claim to remove all of the loose hair in one simple step and of course, the cure-all supplement. Don't waste your money, they will not work.

To help alleviate the shedding dilemma, it is important to examine the facts. It is necessary to determine whether the pet is actually shedding or if it is experiencing coat loss. While the end result is the same, the causes of these two situations are very different.

Shedding typically occurs every spring and fall season, relating primarily to changes in the intensity and duration of sunlight cycles. Pets that live mostly in an outside environment tend

to “blow their coats” twice yearly, according to the natural sunlight schedules they are exposed to. Pets that live most of their lives indoors are exposed to artificial light, which alters this natural shedding cycle, causing the pet to shed excessively.

Most dogs under indoor conditions usually go through at least one major shedding cycle each year, depending upon the breed. Here is the general rule: if the dog requires regular maintenance haircuts, it most likely will not shed excessively. Dogs with shorter hair that require brushing rather than haircuts, usually have double coats and thus, tend to shed much more.

Coat loss is much different than shedding as it is not a natural occurrence. The result is the same, but, actual coat loss can be caused by many different factors. Older pets generally have poor coat quality as their diges-

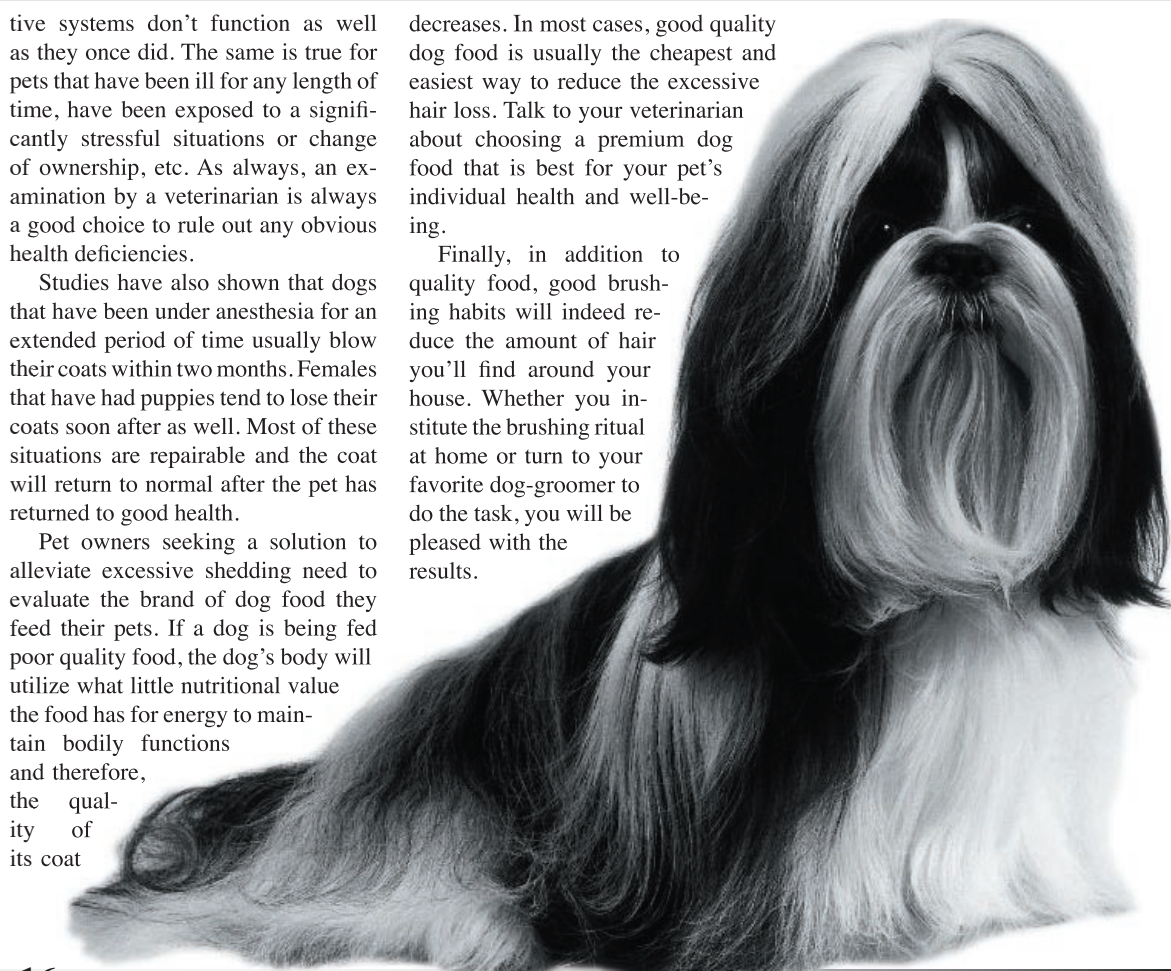
tive systems don't function as well as they once did. The same is true for pets that have been ill for any length of time, have been exposed to a significantly stressful situations or change of ownership, etc. As always, an examination by a veterinarian is always a good choice to rule out any obvious health deficiencies.

Studies have also shown that dogs that have been under anesthesia for an extended period of time usually blow their coats within two months. Females that have had puppies tend to lose their coats soon after as well. Most of these situations are repairable and the coat will return to normal after the pet has returned to good health.

Pet owners seeking a solution to alleviate excessive shedding need to evaluate the brand of dog food they feed their pets. If a dog is being fed poor quality food, the dog's body will utilize what little nutritional value the food has for energy to maintain bodily functions and therefore, the quality of its coat

decreases. In most cases, good quality dog food is usually the cheapest and easiest way to reduce the excessive hair loss. Talk to your veterinarian about choosing a premium dog food that is best for your pet's individual health and well-being.

Finally, in addition to quality food, good brushing habits will indeed reduce the amount of hair you'll find around your house. Whether you institute the brushing ritual at home or turn to your favorite dog-groomer to do the task, you will be pleased with the results.





## IMMIGRATION SESSION

By Fernando Tonolet Esq.

Whether deserved or not and I vigorously assert that it is an unfair generalization based on some undocumented and/or anecdotal accounts that are few and far between, the sad reality is that Manila has historically received the dubious distinction of being a fairly high fraud immigration post, both in terms of the submission of documents and in the statements made by prospective applicants for both immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

We will try to shed some light on some potential fraud issues in the hope that our kababayans will be forewarned and hopefully forearmed, so that, we, as well as our friends and relatives, can avoid the immigration pitfalls that we are about to describe. Again, I reiterate that these are situations that were recounted to me by those who claim to be in the know and therefore, have not been verified. These generic accounts do not even pass the hearsay exclusionary rules in the law on evidence and therefore, cannot be relied upon as gospel truth. Personally, I would even

characterize them as “kwentong kutsero,” since I have not been presented with overwhelming evidence that they even exist or have happened in the past.

The first easily detectable fraud is where the visa applicant or petitioner falsely claims that a child is a biological or legally adopted child, when in fact that is not the case. It could be your tenant's child, a niece, a nephew or a grandchild. It should be emphasized that this is considered by US authorities as attempted alien smuggling and could result in the applicant being excludable on grounds of moral turpitude. Even, if we are motivated by a desire to help our less fortunate brethren or any other altruistic intention, the only proper advice is – don't do it.

Another fairly obvious fraud is the manufacture and use of fraudulent



passports where the photo of the passport holder has been switched. I personally have never encountered anyone who did this, but, I am assured this happens – how often no one really knows.

US citizens seeking pen-pal brides from the Philippines can often run into problems. I am specifically referring to cases where romance blossoms over the Pacific either courtesy of the US Postal Service or via the Internet. I have been told that there are cases where a fiancée visa applicant will have multiple American fiances with approved K-1 fiancée visas on her behalf. In this case, it is for her a game of “taya sa may liso,” in the hope that one marriage will work if the other does not. It is akin to some form of insurance against denial. The problem is that this practice gives rise to questions about the real intent of the applicant, especially her good faith. The credibility gap is further illuminated when there are US senior citizens having fiancées decades younger than they are. This is not illegal per se, but, it does raise some eyebrows at the Consular Office.

## INK SPOTS FROM MANILA

By E.P. Dakanay, Jr.



Returning after two years detention in the United States, Jocelyn “Jocjoc” Bolante (former Undersecretary of Agriculture) has finally faced the Senate in the investigation of the P728 million fertilizer scam of the Department of Agriculture in 2004. For his opening statement in the Senate hearing, Bolante read a carefully crafted text wherein, challenging the Senate's integrity, he laid the blame on it for his non-appearance in the past hearings. This line was debunked by Senator Francis Pangilinan who pointed out that Bolante failed to set things aright with the Senate on the three subpoenas issued him during the period while he was in the Philippines from October 2005 until December 2005 when he fled to the US.

Claiming he is now appearing as an accused rather than a witness, Bolante attempted to lay the ground for refusing to answer questions that could lead to self-incrimination (a privilege of a person accused of a crime)—the same strategy “Iggy” Arroyo (brother-in-law of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) employed in the Senate's investigation of the “Jose Pidal” account (alleged to be the First Gentleman's spurious account) in the earlier years of GMA's presidency. Senator Miriam Santiago promptly demolished Bolante's hope to be selective of the questions he will answer, pointing out that Bolante has already been found guilty in the earlier hearings he evaded and it is no longer the Senate committee's burden to prove his guilt. The burden of proof of his innocence is now his.

Bolante was emphatic that GMA and her husband had absolutely nothing to do with the P728 million scam, the project being entirely a Department of Agriculture undertaking requiring no presidential intervention. Considering the woman's boundless interest in the welfare of the poor she loves, it is incredible she was clueless of the project for them. Witness her endless visits of government projects, construction of roads and bridges, irrigation systems, distribution of aid to victims of calamities, etc. that keep her in perpetual motion 24 hours a day. This remarkable lady is indeed a bundle of energy wrapped in dedication to her duty, armed with great intellect (a gifted economist) and Bolante would suggest she turned a blind eye on his great undertaking to improve the productivity of our poor farmers (we were threatened by a serious rice shortage earlier this year, we had to import from our neighbors at great expense)!

To escape culpability, Bolante would hide behind the specific authority given him by then Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo (whom he said was away most of the time) to disburse the amount of P728 million to agricultural input proponents consisting of 105 congressmen (out of over 230), 46 provincial governors (out of over 70), and 25 municipal mayors (out of

thousands) who in turn will allocate this to various local agencies in their respective districts and jurisdictions. Mr. Bolante claims no direct involvement in the choice of the awardees, the list having been extracted from the database in his office's computer, nor responsibility on how the funds were finally distributed and disbursed, because oversight of this is the responsibility of the Undersecretary for Operations. Current Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap was operations undersecretary for Northern Luzon at that time, but he declares that he had other more pressing concerns at the time to be bothered by the Bolante disbursed bounty.

The thrust of the opposition senators and congressmen is to pin the onus of illegal use for political purposes of the fund in the 2004 elections on GMA, and Bolante was her hatchet man. At every opportunity in the course of the investigation, Bolante would clear GMA of involvement in any manner in the project, claiming at the same time that no law or regulation was breached and nobody is culpable of wrongdoing in the release of the funds. If the funds were misused such as by overpricing and delivery of substandard products, he has no knowledge of this as this should be the concern of the Undersecretary for Operations.

In the two succeeding sessions of the Senate investigation, Bolante was confronted with witnesses and documents that tended to show that he was an active participant in the illegal distribution of the fund and anomalous purchase of fertilizers unsuitable for the purpose at exorbitant overprice. Lower echelon officials gave testimony that purported to his involvement beyond mere release of funds, including identification of product and supplier as well as the price to be paid (in many instances 10 times the normal cost). The Commission on Audit's report confirms the illegal procedures adopted, and an agent of a middleman testified on the modus by which “kick-backs” were paid. The only question to be answered now is the extent of Bolante's involvement with the tacit consent, if not encouragement or explicit order from GMA.

There will probably be a couple of sessions more before the Senate investigation will be closed. The senators will turn to their job of crafting laws that may prevent repetition of this tragic incident. Meanwhile prosecution of the criminals involved in the looting of the government coffers will be the call of the Office of the Ombudsman, which in recent years has been the graveyard of cases involving high officials in the orbit of GMA, with Merceditas Gutierrez performing the function of chief grave digger.

## CAMPUS JOURNAL

By Angelo Miguel M. Calabio

### The Philippine Political Circus

*“Political Instability in the face of global turmoil”*

The mirror of genuine democracy in Asia is in shambles and that is an understatement.

Just days ago, a fourth impeachment complaint filed against embattled President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was dismissed by the House Committee on Justice for being “insufficient in substance”. For the past three years, impeachment complaints have been filed against the president and all have been subsequently junked for the very same reason. However, the 2008 impeachment complaint was quite different from its other predecessors.

In reality, the previous three complaints were filed by none other than the president's allies, formulated to be particularly weak in substance and designed to immunize the President from further complaints for an interval of 12 months once they have been dismissed for lack of technical merit. In fact, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casino branded these complaints as ‘toilet paper’ complaints.

On the other hand, the recent complaint- which was a 97-page document filed by controversial ZTE personality, Joey de Venecia III contained heavy and substantiated allegations against Mrs. Arroyo. The brunt of the complaint revolves on the rising cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN-ZTE) agreement with China, the al-

legedly overpriced Northrail project, the anomalous fertilizer fund scam, alleged bribery of members of the House and lastly, the infamous electoral in the 2004 presidential election- simply known as “Hello Garci”.

The list of wrongdoings and violations attributed to Mrs. Arroyo and her administration has continued to grow longer through the turbulent years of her governance. From human rights violations to corruption to the issue of illegitimacy, the administration has been rocked by shameful allegations during its tenure. But, rather surprisingly, the President has successfully weathered every storm that has come her way. Surprising! Given that in a supposedly genuine democracy, committing a single crime in the list that we have just mentioned would warrant an immediate removal from power. However, this is exactly the shambolic state of politics in the Philippines.

In the chamber of justice and service that is known as Congress, all that



exists is two warring factions aiming to advance their respective political interests. On one hand, there is the desperate and outnumbered minority, once kicked out of power and struggling to find a way to climb back to the top. This faction has been represented by a variety of personalities, from those hardcore “Arroyo haters” all the way to her disgruntled former supporters, angry for being left out of the party for a variety of reasons. On the other hand, there is the cash-rich and numerous majority, pledging their immediate support to the President allegedly in exchange for a number of concessions. Their vast and superior numbers have shielded the President from all her detractors and have made her impeachment basically impossible.

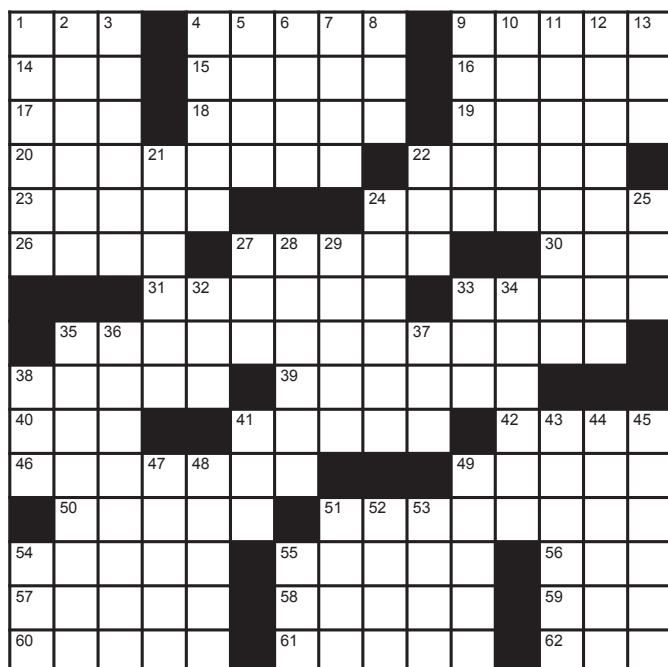
Philippine politics has been transformed into a shameful game of numbers between a group of power-hungry predators, playing their respective cards close to their chests and bidding their time, waiting for the perfect moment to strike. In the wake of the tragic global economic meltdown, the concern of our so-called “duly-elected” public officials is how to extend their terms in office. No wonder, the ordinary Filipino has been left terribly gutted by the turn of events. In the face of a global credit crunch, all he sees is a group of clowns and acrobats trying to find a way to survive the storm waiting in the horizon.

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## CROSSWORD

Pinoy Habits



8. Atlanta-based station
9. Addiction
10. Beside
11. Meet requirements
12. Amelia Earhart
13. Certain digital watch face, for short
21. Accomplishments
22. Elephant's weight, maybe
24. Enter again
25. Hillary, e.g.: Abbr.
27. Noah's vessel
28. Like some Bedouins
29. Bartender on TV's Pacific Princess
32. Peke squeak
33. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
34. Rub
35. Confronted bodily
36. Plane velocity
37. Appropriate
38. Corn holder
41. "For shame!"
43. Gusto
44. \_\_\_\_ Island, Fla.
45. Pinoy game show "Pera o \_\_\_\_"
47. It doesn't hold water
48. Command
49. Squeezing (out)
51. Tab
52. Biblical birthright seller
53. Curb, with "in"
54. Health resort
55. "ER" network

## ACROSS

1. Small child
4. Young salmon
9. Muslim meat
14. Anguish
15. Castrated male chicken
16. Breathing
17. Hill dweller
18. Bond, for one
19. Hollow-horned ruminants
20. Rhine wine
22. Skin problem
23. Cheap
24. Bad booze
26. The "A" of ABM
27. Roswell crash victim, supposedly
30. Before
31. Barry Manilow, for one
33. Dine at home
35. Pinoy travelers' Samsonite
38. To the point
39. Big mouth
40. "\_\_\_\_ the fields we go"
41. Be silent, in music

## DOWN

42. Kuwaiti, e.g.
46. Double-reed instrument
49. Excessive accumulation of fluids
50. Cathedral topper
51. City in California
54. Charger
55. Japanese-American
56. 1969 Peace Prize grp.
57. Annoy
58. Sore
59. Act of transgression
60. Calculator, at times
61. Held on tight
62. Witch

## DOWN

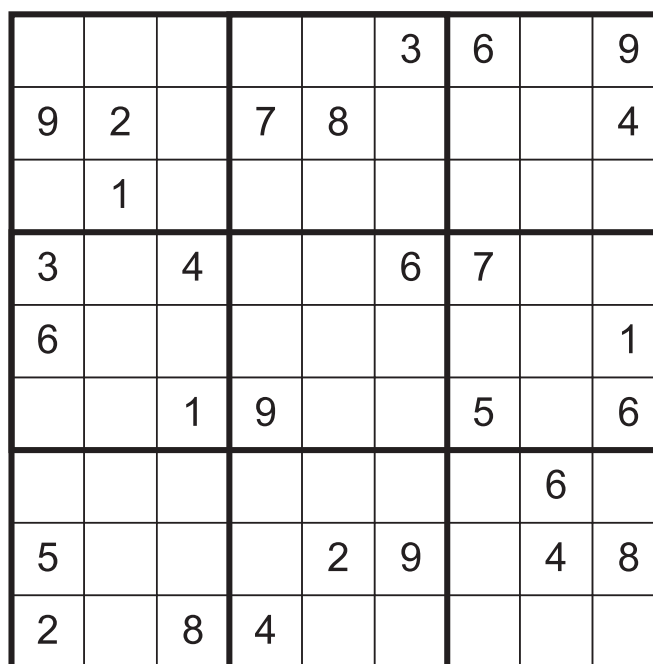
1. Pera, old style
2. Ancient style
3. Discern
4. Like fish skin
5. O. Henry's "The Gift of the \_\_\_\_"
6. Airy
7. Marathon

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION



## SUDOKU

Medium



sudoku-puzzles.net

Fill in the spaces so that the numbers 1 through 9 occur exactly once in each row, column and 3 x 3 box. The numbers can appear in any order, diagonals are not considered. The game board has numbers that are already placed. These numbers cannot be changed. The goal is to fill in the empty squares following the simple rule above. Sudoku is a simple and fun game of logic.

## WORD SEARCH

Christmas



Are you ready for Christmas? See how many words about Christmas you can find hiding in this puzzle horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

For a harder puzzle, cover up the word list and see how many of the seventeen (17) Christmas words you can find on your own.

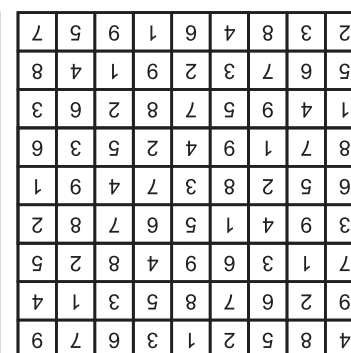
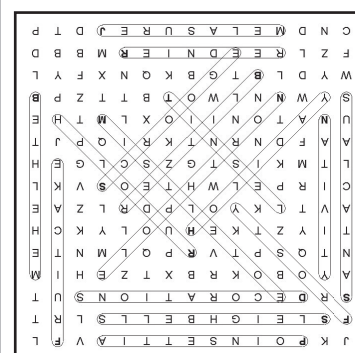
WORD LIST: Bethlehem, Blitzter, Decorations, Frosty, Fruitcake, Holiday, Jerusalem, Mistletoe, Nativity, North Pole, Poinsettia, Reindeer, Rudolph, Santa Claus, Scrooge, Sleigh bells, Tinsel

## SPELLING QUIZ

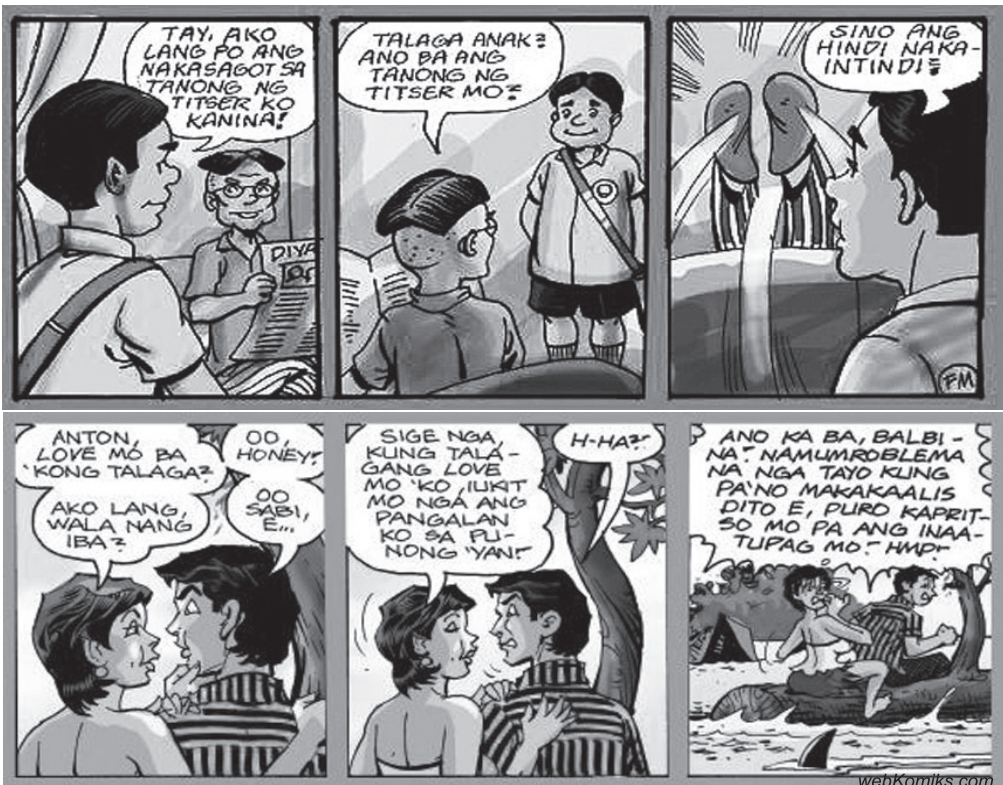
1. The second smallest continent:  
A. Urope B. Europe C. Euroop
2. Eighth sign of the zodiac:  
A. Scorpion B. Scurpio C. Scorpio
3. 44th President of the United States:  
A. Barack B. Barracks C. Barok

## SUDOKU and WORD SEARCH PUZZLE ANSWERS

## SPELLING



## PATAWA





## Tek Tok ni Ka Tato

# 10 Tips to Stay Secure For Free

(This is a continuation of Ka Tato's article from the previous issue of the Herald. *Editor*)

**Secure your Wi Fi.** You can secure your wireless router, by enabling encryption. All wireless routers comes with builtin encryption protection. All you have to do is enable them. To do this please refer to your routers user's manual. What you need to look for is a topic on how to enable encryption or how to enable WEP or WPA. Basically what this does when it's enable is, it will give you a set of alpha numeric keys which you will then enter on every computers that access your network wirelessly.

**C.V.S** - Be cautious, vigilant and suspicious. - Spywares, Malwares, Viruses can camouflage themselves even to the latest antivirus software, they can also hide inside your best friend's or your trusted colleague's email or instant messages. Be cautious of opening email attachments or clicking on any link that might pop up while you are online. Digital crooks are now using a method called Click Jacking (short for Click HiJack-ing) which is an emerging threat for all of us.

**Disable file sharing.** Sometimes it's good not to share. In windows xp professional file sharing is enabled by default, but if don't need it, it is safer

if you turn it off. To turn it off click Start > My Computer. Click Tools > Folder Options. Click on the View tab. Under Advanced Settings, scroll to the bottom and uncheck the option Use simple file sharing. Click Apply > OK. Also, avoid using p2p file sharing utilities. It is not only illegal most of the time, file-sharing also puts you in hacker harm's way.

**According to the Department of Homeland Security:**

*"Using this technology makes you susceptible to risks such as infection, attack, or exposure of personal information."*



**Backup :** Make sure you backup all your important files regularly so that if there is ever any loss of data on your computer, you can still restore your

files from your backup. "Backup Experts recommend you buy an external hard drive and some automated backup software to copy the data from your computer regularly".

**Stop using your computer's Godly power.** Chances are you are using your computer as an administrator. Surely it's easier to use a computer if you have administrator privileges, but it makes you and your computer vulnerable to threats such as malwares, spywares and viruses. If you are using your computer with limited role, you lessen the possibility of being exposed to online threat. To modify user settings or create a new user on your computer Click on Start -> Control Panel, now click on User Accounts, here you can create a new user with limited roles and you can change existing users privileges.

*I gladly welcome any questions, suggestions or even corrections. Just go to our website at <http://www.PinoyHerald.Org/contact-us>. You can also post your comments for this article on our*

*website, just search for the keyword 10 Security Tips and it will take you directly to this article. (By Nesthel Flores)*

## HEALTH NEWS

# Mona Vie

## A New Drink in Town

Like no other, Mona Vie has created a special food process using the Brazilian acai berry found in the Amazon, so people can benefit from this amazing antioxidant fruit.

Acai (pronounced as ah-Sigh-ee) is a small, round, black-purple berry whose appearance resembles that of a grape. The acai berry has been reported to contain a high volume of proteins, healthy fats, fiber, vitamins and minerals. It is believed to contain low glycemic index. Mona Vie, which is available in the market, was able to create the art of capturing an impressive amount of phytonutrients from the acai berry. In fact, Mona Vie is believed to contain an ORAC score of 1,027, which is higher than any other fruit tested so far on a gram-to-gram basis. The acai berry used in

Mona Vie exceeds its Oxygen Radical Absorption Capacity (ORAC) value compared to other known antioxidants in the market such as blueberries, grapes, red wine, green tea, cran-

berries and pomegranates. Acai is known to have 10 times more antioxidant power than cranberries.

What are antioxidants? In a magazine published by Mona Vie Company, antioxidants are said to be agents whose main function is to inhibit compounds known as free radicals. "Free radicals are atoms with at least one unpaired electron and in excess of these can produce harmful oxidation that can damage cell membranes". (Cf Success from Home, p. 63) The antioxidants function as agents preventing these free radicals from damaging millions of healthy and functioning cells. As what Dr. Lyle Mason, president-elect of NBA Physician's Association and founding member of Mona Vie's medical advisory board, "As we age and are exposed to the environment, we are constantly undergoing oxidative processes in the cells. This leads to cell damage and cell death, so, as we age, our total number of cells begin to swing toward those that have undergone that decayed process". The excess of free radicals in our body are commonly caused by tobacco smoking, alcohol, pollution, insecticides, radiation, chemicals at home or work and excessive exposure to sunlight, high-fat diet, stress, insufficient sleep and strenuous exercise. For more information about the Mona Vie, please e-mail us. Remember: Eat good and live well. (RRC)



## FITNESS

# Boxing Workout

There's a workout and then, there's a Workout. THEN, there's a BOXING WORKOUT. Trust me, there's a reason why boxers are able to spend over half an hour in the ring exchanging punches and not going into cardiac arrest. It's because these guys and gals have trained their butts off for months before ever stepping foot in that arena, let alone that ring. But, you don't have to be Rocky Balboa to get the benefit of a boxing workout, which is why I am this week highlighting some of the basic boxing moves that you too can add to your fitness routine.

First of all, be sure to always maintain a proper stance. This means keeping your feet a little more than shoulder width apart, with your dominant foot at the back (in other words, if you're right-handed/footed, then, you want your right foot at the back and for your left foot to lead). Try your best to stay on the balls on your feet, which will allow you to do all your fancy stutter-stepping footwork (or for now, just keep you balanced). Your hands should be made into fists and kept close to your face. Your elbows need to be tucked closely to your body. From here, you're ready to start dotting some imaginary bad guy's eyes.

There are four basic punches in boxing: the Jab, the Cross, the Hook and the Uppercut. To keep things easy, we're going to only focus on the Jab and the Cross. To throw the Jab, you need to flick out your lead hand (which should be the hand that is not dominant -- again, if you are right-handed/footed, that hand/foot is kept towards the rear, whereas the weaker hand/foot leads...which, in this case, is your left). As you extend your arm to throw your Jab, your hand should twist like a corkscrew at the end of the punch. Once you have extended your arm, be sure to immediately bring your arm back, tuck your elbow back into your side and return your fist to the side of your face.

To throw a Cross, you take your dominant hand and throw a straight punch with it, twisting at the waist as you do. Again, you want to twist your wrist at the end of the punch, adding more 'snap' to the motion. Once, the punch is thrown, bring your arm back right away, tuck your elbow back in and bring your fist back next to your face.

By combining these two punches, you are doing a 1-2 combination. A

lot of times, people will throw a few jabs before throwing a cross, which of course is fine (and very much the case in an actual boxing match). Use this punch combination on a large heavy punching bag (the cylindrical kind that hangs from the ceiling or stand) while wearing what are known as bag gloves (lightweight boxing gloves that can be purchased at any sporting goods store or even Wal-Mart).

Boxing is broken into three-minute rounds with one-minute rests in between each round. In accordance with this design, that is how you will also train. Three minutes of, say, shadow-boxing -- using the 1-2 combination I just taught you, followed by a round or two of jumping rope, followed by three or four rounds of hitting the heavy bag and then, finishing off with a few rounds of abdominal work.

Even if you take it slow at first (which I really suggest you do), you'll find that the boxing workout is absolutely exhausting. This is exactly why so many health clubs now offer "cardio-boxing" as a group aerobics class. You'll burn far more calories doing this workout than you will on a stair-stepper or walking on a treadmill and you'll do so during less time. Intensity is the key. Like I said, there's a workout and then, there's a Workout. Finally, there's a BOXING WORKOUT. (By Dino Tiongco)





## CLARET ALUMNI REUNION Batch 1994

WASHINGTON D.C. – NOVEMBER 21 and 22, 2008

CLARET SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY...has it really been 14 years since we have graduated from our high school alma mater? As unbelievable and far-fetched as that may sound, no doubt that the familiar faces I've seen is clear evidence of how many of us has changed – but for the better if I may boldly add.

Saturday, November 22, 2008, the reunion of the Claret Alumni, batch 1994 was held in Washington D.C., in honor of our 3 teachers – whom we discovered to be residing in the Metro Washington DC area. The gathering, which predominantly started on Friday, November 21, 2008 was indeed an enjoyable event and served to unify all participating batchmates once more, as if a 14 year gap was non-existent. Batchmates coming from Las Vegas, California, New York, New Jersey and all around the Washington

DC area all excitedly reunited, eager to catch up and reminisce the good old high school days. We even had attendees from higher batches; making the event even more memorable and clearly showing that age is not the unifying factor anymore, rather our love and allegiance for Claret.

Though most of our high school gatherings in the past consisted mostly of partying and gimmicks, surprisingly, this event took on a different note. Topics and conversations mostly centered on family, professions and plans for future community service projects – both for the individual and the alumni. Of course, an allusion of teasing and a hint of bantering every now and then would come up for most of us hardly consider ourselves mature enough – let alone adults, though our position in society would definitely say that.

It was also nice to be able to mingle with our teachers, to be given this opportunity to relay to them, truly, how appreciative we are for their support and patience they've given us during our high school days. It was also a rare opportunity for us to finally, be able to show them the unique progeny of their tutelage. Hopefully in their eyes, they saw how proud we are of what Claret has given us and how it has molded us to who we are today.

There were a lot more Claretians out there who were unable to attend this reunion and since this is only the beginning of many more gatherings to come – we formally invite all Claretians to contact us and attend future noteworthy happenings to come. We are excited to meet all of you. For Claret Alumni details, please e-mail alejandro7100@comcast.net  
(By: Michael C. Alejandro '94)



(Standing from L-R) Dino Tiongco '94 (Lorton, VA), John Tim Vitto '94 (Dumont, NJ), Cesar Abella '94 (Bergenfield, NJ), Brian Redrico '94 (San Jose, CA), Mark Maure '94 (Las Vegas, NV), Jonathan Fera '94 (Morris Plains, NJ), Benz Quenano '84 (Waldorf, MD), Rudolph Faustino '94 (New Rochelle, NY), Luisito Guerra '94 (Centreville, VA), Ronald Andres '94 (Jersey City, NJ), Mr. Jun Misa 1972-1976 HS Araling Panlipunan (MD) and Michael Alejandro '94 (Clinton, MD). (Seated L-R) Melodie Alejandro, Michaela Alejandro, Mrs. Estrellita Misa 1971-2004 GS Assistant Principal (MD) 2004- present Gwynn Park Middle School at Brandywine, MD, Makenzie Alejandro and Ms. Rina Concepcion (MD); Patrick Ravanera '85 (Vienna, VA) - not in the picture

## Makati Business Club lobbies against Charter Change

The Makati Business Club (MBC) is standing firmly against any move to amend the 1987 Constitution and is warning pro-administration lawmakers not to "underestimate the people." MBC Executive director, Alberto Lim said that the administration lawmakers think that the Filipino people are already apathetic to politics, yet, this issue could even unite the people to a common cause and ignite opposition against them.

The Makati Business Club, which has the largest corporations in the Philippines as its members, previously called for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation in 2005 at the height of the infamous "Hello Garci" election fraud scandal. However, efforts to remove the chief executive from power eventually ended in failure.

On the other hand, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries

(PCCI), the largest group in the country in terms of membership, expressed a more restrained reaction to the issue: "Don't lose focus." In their clamor for Charter Change, which could potentially generate political turmoil, government leaders could possibly lose focus and take their attention off an economy threatened by a sweeping global financial crisis.

Donald Dee, PCCI chair emeritus said that "no one will support any term extensions." He said that he was relying on Malacañang's word that Mrs. Arroyo is not at all interested in staying in office beyond the end of her term in 2010. According to him, pushing for Charter Change at this susceptible point was untimely, especially since the people consider the 2010 elections as a chance for them to elect new leaders that could potentially bring a fresh outlook and new ideas to combat the country's problems. "People look

forward to national renewal in 2010 because we hope to have elections in the near future" Dee added. He further pointed out that businessmen are not against the idea of Charter Change in itself, but, viewed the moves of the administration's allies as ill-timed and simply self-serving. Lim further stated that Charter Change is not the only solution to fix the economy. He said that moves to overhaul the constitution should be done after the 2010 polls and through a constitutional convention, whose members would be chosen from the people for the solitary purpose of voting on amendments to the constitution.

Astro Del Castillo, a director of the Association of Stock Market Analysts of the Philippines, said that the issue of Charter Change was "sensitive" and "emotional" and could potentially lead to political dissent and mass actions.

## TSIBUGAN

### The Noche Buena

"Twas the night before Christmas and all creatures are stirring! Christmas eve is when families and friends gather to celebrate Noche Buena, a festive and sumptuous feast that lasts 'til Christmas day.

Usually, a lechon takes center stage. Other foods like pancit, kare-kare, lumpia, barbecue, relleno, etc. complete the table.

Cooking for others is one way of expressing love and affection. The food need not be elaborate and can be simply prepared. Here are some suggestions to take out the guesswork out of your menu planning this Christmas.

#### Starters

Queso de Bola  
Virginia Ham  
Macaroni Soup

#### Entrees

Lumpiang Ubod  
Sirloin Tapa  
Chicken Inasal  
Rellenong Bangus  
Paella ala Valenciana

#### Desserts

Halu-halo  
Leche Flan  
Buko Pandan  
Fruits

#### Featured Recipe:

#### BACOLOD CHICKEN INASAL

Serves 5-6 persons.

##### Ingredients:

1 Kilo Chicken Thighs

##### Marinade

3 tbsp. Sea salt  
2 tbsp. MAGGI Savor Classic  
2 tbsp. Grated ginger  
8 pcs Calamansi  
1 cup Vinegar  
5 pcs. Bay leaves  
8 pcs. Whole peppercorns, crushed

##### Achuete Basting Oil

1 cup Cooking oil  
2 tbsp. Achuete  
¼ cup Margarine  
1 tsp. Minced garlic  
3 pcs. Bay leaves

##### Basting Sauce #2 (combine)

¼ cup Fish sauce (patis)  
¼ cup MAGGI Savor Calamansi  
2 tbsp. Vinegar  
¼ cup Sugar  
1 tsp. MAGGI Magic Sarap  
5 pcs. Calamansi

##### Preparation

Combine ingredients for marinade in a bowl. Marinate chicken pieces in prepared marinade mix for at least 1 hour. Skewer chicken slices with large bamboo barbecue sticks. Grill over charcoal.

Achuete Basting Oil - Steep achuete, garlic and bay leaves in hot oil and margarine. Baste chicken frequently during the cooking process. When chicken pieces are almost done, baste with basting sauce #2 and cook until done.

Note: Maggi Savor Classic, Calamansi and Magic Sarap are available in Filipino Oriental stores. Substitute lemons for calamansi, adjust quantity.





# Baguio: The City of Pines

By: Rene R. Calandria

I was 18, young, idealistic and adventurous when I arrived in Baguio City, Philippines. I was there not on vacation, but, to get educated at Casiciaco Recoletos along Naguilian Road. Within the next three years, I

will be there, not only to get educated, but, also to be formed into a future religious.

Baguio is not only the City of Pines, but, is a popular destination for summer vacation because the weather does not get too hot on daytime and the afternoons and evenings are per-

fect spring. It gets cold in December, but, not freezing.

Even after my formation years in 1991, I kept going back to Baguio not only because of its natural beauty, but, because the cool weather is perfect for relaxation and outdoor activities such as soccer, biking and boating. It is quite a privilege to be able to study in Baguio because it gave me enough time to actually explore the place. Whenever I am in Baguio during the summer, I usually spend most of the time at Burnham Park because I have always considered it as the mother of all parks. There is a man-made lake in the park where the family can rent rowboats, a soccer field good enough to unleash some calories, the bike and walking trails are shaded with trees which make them more attractive to bikers and joggers, a skating rink, a rose garden, an orchidarium, an Igorot garden, an athletic bowl and the Melvin Jones Grandstand, all of which contribute to the park's natural panoramic beauty. Camp John Hay is one of Baguio's popular destinations, named after the Secretary of State of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. The 690-hectare property has been under U.S. custody for a long time because it served as a recreational facility for the U.S. Military and Department of Defense in the Far East, but, when the U.S.-RP Agreement expired in 1991, it was turned over to the Philippine government which in turn has been leased for a long-term contract



Baguio Pools of Pines

to a private developer. This former U.S. property has a golf course, redesigned by Jack Nicklaus, which hosts the annual Fil-Am Golf Tournament. The Camp John Hay Manor is known for its beautiful amenities and high end services, the Amphitheater is a favorite spot for film production, a shopping center called Mile-Hi Center, the Main Club, the Scout Hill Snack Bar and the Bakery, a newly-built convention center and other numerous stores and restaurants, all point to a sophisticated lifestyle inside the recreation center. The Philippine Military Academy is also a good place to visit especially those who are fascinated by military training and formation. The Academy is considered as the country's elite training facility for military service and is located at Fort Gregorio del Pilar (named after

General Gregorio de Pilar, a hero in the battle of Tirad Pass) on Loakan Road, just about 10 kilometers from downtown area. Mines View Park is an awesome tourist area more than 15 years ago because tourists are treated to a sensational view of the Cordillera mountains and Benguet's gold and copper mines, but, recently more houses have been constructed on the former site, so, don't expect to see the grandeur of the mountains. Another attraction and has been considered as older than the city itself is "The Mansion", the official summer residence of the President of the Republic of the Philippines. Directly across the street from the Mansion is the Wright Park where the so-called "Pool of Pines" is located. The park boasts of a gazebo

*continued on page 22*



## The Heroism of Panasahan Bag-Makers

By: Rene R. Calandria

The memory of Malolos, Bulacan will forever live in the hearts of Filipinos because it is where the seed of independence sprouted. The place brings back memories of the birth of our First Constitution – the Malolos Constitution, born of the courage of the heroes of the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

Just an hour and a half from the Metropolis are contemporary heroes of our time – the people of Panasahan, Malolos, Bulacan, who for more than 40 years now have labored to produce the best bags in town.

As to why the place is called Panasahan, Alberto Santiago, Jr. says, "Kasi noong una, maraming mga nipa at ang mga tao ay nagpapatastas ng nipa para makagawa ng pawid." Contrary to what the name implies, Panasahan today no longer produces thousands of native huts but thousands of beautiful bags.

Apolonia Tolentino, commonly known to the barrio folks as Nana Ponyang, distinctly remembers the days when she started with the "making of polo shirts in Binondo," where she worked as a dressmaker, before going into wallet and bag-making. Her business venture persisted when she married Arturo Tolentino (not the former Senator), who would patiently

advertise her finished products in the town market of Malolos.

When bulk orders started to come in, "kumuha ako ng mga mananahi at tinuruan ko sila. Nang maisip nilang magsarili, pinahiram ko sila ng pardon (pattern) at hanggang sa dumami na," she narrates. Emilia P. Santiago, 66 years old, recalls the days when life was difficult for her and her husband Alberto Santiago, Sr. This made her think of going into business in order to help her husband who works as a carpenter. "Nagsimula ako sa P80 lang na capital noong 1968," Nana Emilia recalls. This amount produced great fruits in abundance for the Santiago family. Their continued subsistence is attributed to the profit generated from bag making.

Indeed, the people of Panasahan deserve the status they are enjoying today. Many Filipino and Chinese businessmen, mostly from Divisoria and Baclaran, have already invested their capital in the village.

At present, there are approximately more than 150 families who are engaged in bag making but "only a little more than 50 of them are registered members of the association," recounts Alberto Santiago, Jr., secretary of the Bag-makers Association of Panasahan. After more than 40 years of continuous bag making, the people of Panasahan

have never falter in their enthusiasm for the trade. Their zeal and dedication is burning like tongues of fire. This heroic endeavor has not only made their days fruitful and meaningful but has made their life a kaleidoscope of colors.

"Sa pag-gagawa ng mga bag, napapag-aral ko ang aking mga anak. Nabigyan ko sila ng bahay at lupa at starting capital para sa kanilang sariling pagawaan," Nana Ponyang says with great pride.

For Wilfredo Panganiban, the barangay captain, bag making is a blessing to the village because it has provided many jobs not only for the barrio folks but also for the neighboring residents. "Hindi lang galing Malolos, iyong ibang mananahi rito ay galling pa ng Masbate, Tarlac at sa Visayas region," he adds. During summer, according to Kapitan Fred, students can earn an average of P1,000 to P3,000 a week.

However, this entrepreneurial endeavor is not a paradise. In most cases, they find themselves at the point of bankruptcy whenever a customer's check bounces. Ask about some government intervention, Jovencio Torres, a former overseas contract worker, confesses, "Mayroong DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) kaya lang hindi ka makakahiram pag hindi ka



member ng cooperative. Besides, and tagal ng processing at maliit lang ang mahihiram mo."

The generosity and unselfish hearts of those who know the skill of bag making has attracted hundreds of followers to the fold of bag makers. Agnes Manuel, a graduate of the Polytechnic University of the Philip-

pines (PUP), admits that she "learned it from Nana Ponyang."

Despite their financial problems, the people of Panasahan will move forward and hold on to their heroic testimony of hard work and dedication. They will continually hope for more financial blessing from above so as not to finally die in green pastures.

**Pacquiao Conquers... from p. 1**

"you're right, I don't have it anymore".

Pacquiao told De la Hoya, "no matter what happens, you are my idol".

Although De la Hoya was mum about his future, most scribes have already consigned him into retirement. Pacquiao declined to speculate about his own future. There was already some wishful chatting about Ricky Hatton or Floyd Mayweather Jr., if he can be lured out of retirement. Pacquiao was leaving his next challenge up to promoter Bob Arum.

For now, Pacquiao is relishing the moment. His convincing win resolved the debate of who's the best pound-for-pound boxer. Another hero's welcome awaits him in Metro Manila – he has been in so many of them. With it, is the inevitable political tug-of-war for the "hottest commodity" in the Philippines today. Conspicuously present atop the ring in Pacquiao's post-victory interview were Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro and Ilocos Sur Luis "Chavit" Singson – both long-time Pacquiao supporters.

That could only be the preview of things to come, as Pacquiao makes his way home to Mindanao. As De la Hoya ponders retirement, Manny Pacquiao has to survey a truly vast horizon.

**New Paper for... from p. 1**

the growing relevance of the Filipino-American community in mainstream society." The Pinoy Herald initially aims to serve the highly dynamic and burgeoning Fil-Am community in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. Coincidentally, this is also one of the fastest growing and most culturally diverse regions in America today. "Filipino-American newspapers are effective vehicles in the effort to further empower our community and in promoting our homeland and culture," Ambassador Gaa averred.

The Philippine's top envoy commended Calandria and the rest of the Pinoy Herald staff for their efforts to reach out to the Fil-Am community. He said he was looking forward to working with the Pinoy Herald to achieving their common objectives. The message was read by Embassy press attaché Gines Gallaga at the Pinoy Herald's launching at the National Press Club in Washington DC. Calandria explained that the Pinoy Herald is a "newspaper of and for the Filipino people". He envisioned the paper as a "bridge" that can not only connect the Fil-Am community with themselves and their native land, but also between the community and the American mainstream. He acknowledged that the Pinoy Herald was the "new kid on the block" but stressed that there shouldn't be any conflict with the other Fil-Am newspapers. He argued that the Pinoy Herald adds to the pool of news and knowledge Fil-Ams can access and use. In addition to current events in the Philippines and community goings-on here, Pinoy Herald will also carry entertainment news, puzzles, games and even that ubiquitous Pinoy past-time – the "komiks". One comic strip will have a humorous theme, while the other is

the popular "Abangan" type series. Through these regular segments in the Pinoy Herald, Calandria is convinced they will be serving a larger segment of the community. He said they want to make readers to develop a habit of reading the Pinoy Herald. "This is your newspaper," Calandria declared to the Fil-Am community during the Pinoy Herald launching ceremonies. "We are your messengers. Your personal stories are our stories, your hope is our hope and together we shall move towards a more informed educated and entertained Filipino-American community."

**Fil-Am leaders...from page 9**

NAFFAA is taking will enable it to effectively harness the potential influence and strength that resides in the 4-million strong Filipino-American community," he said.

"NAFFAA is growing," stressed Lee, saying the organization is being energized by the resurgence of interest and support, especially from its younger members.

"We're working very hard so our kababayans throughout the country are aware of what NAFFAA is doing, we want them to support NAFFAA not just by the giving of their time but also financially because with the money behind us we can do more things as other organizations have shown us," she explained.

"The biggest obstacle for any political exercise is partisanship," Macabenta said, responding to a question of what could block the establishment of a Fil-Am PAC. "We have to be prepared to regard ourselves as neither as Fil-Am Democrats nor Fil-Am Republicans but as Fil-Am Fil-Ams, determined to address issues that are beneficial or threatening to the Fil-Am community."

He is optimistic this obstacle can be surmounted because Filipinos have shown they can unite for a common cause. He cited the Filipino veterans' equity bill that has been supported vigorously by both Democratic and Republican Fil-Ams. "There are possibilities. We just have to agree that these are the issues where we share common interest," he averred.

Macabenta vowed to have the Fil-Am PAC up and running by next year.

**Something to ...from p. 16**

like I'm celebrating this occasion for all the wrong reasons? I've been here in the United States for almost 12 years and all that time, I eagerly await the thanksgiving holiday for 2 – and I might say very shallow – reasons... food and shopping!

As a Christian, it really disturbed me to not celebrate thanksgiving for what it truly is, which is being thankful for everything in your life, blessings and troubles all included. It's easy to be thankful when things are going well in your life and you're extremely blessed with all of your "wants" and "needs". But, how about when things don't go your way? Do we still find ourselves thankful? Probably not. But, because of God's grace, I find myself

# Chevron reiterates commitment to RP growth



Mr. Peter J. Robertson with Amb. Willy C. Gaa

03 December 2008 – Mr. Peter J. Robertson, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Chevron, called on Philippine Ambassador to the United States, Willy C. Gaa, to convey the continued support of Chevron for the economic growth of the Philippines. Mr. Robertson said that Chevron welcomes

the passage of the Renewable Energy Act of 2007, saying that this will greatly boost the partnership between Chevron and the Philippines in the area of energy development and security.

Mr. Robertson extended Chevron's appreciation to the Philippine Government for its continued support of its activities in the country. Chevron's presence in the Philippines, according to Mr. Robertson, is primarily in four areas: 1) Malampaya gas production; 2) geothermal; 3) shared-services; and 4) marketing. Through its operation in the Philippines and Indonesia, Chevron is now considered the world's largest geothermal-producing company.

Ambassador Gaa likewise thanked

Chevron for the socio-civic work being extended by Chevron and its partners in the Philippines. In this regard, Mr. Robertson highlighted the unwavering advocacy of Chevron values in partnering with communities, citing Chevron's immediate response to the creation of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria – a US\$30 million endowment, which will be equally spread over six countries to fight these infectious diseases. In the Philippines, which is to receive US\$5 million from the Chevron grant, through the Tropical Disease Foundation, tuberculosis mitigation and prevention programs will benefit.

Before concluding the call, Mr. Robertson emphasized that the Philippines remains an important and strategic partner of Chevron in the region. (Source: Philippine Embassy)

thankful for every little thing in my life, even if I don't get the "material" desires of my heart, even if I find myself in less than thrilling situations and even if our economy right now is in its worst case ever, still, I find myself extremely blessed and thankful. Simply because I have my family, that we have a roof over our heads and food on our table, that my husband has a stable job...but, most importantly, that I have God in my life and that I have HIS LOVE for all eternity. For all the reasons I've enumerated, this last one is the most that I'm thankful for.

Many would say that Thanksgiving has come and gone, again and everything is back to normal. But, wouldn't it be nice to celebrate thanksgiving everyday, with love and thanks in our hearts, knowing that God made you, has plans for you and will never leave you, no matter what happens? I don't know about you, but, this bit of knowledge is enough to put a smile on my face, give me a heart that's content and be brave enough to face whatever the future holds for me. This thought alone is ENOUGH of a reason, for me, to truly be thankful.

**Fast Food for...from p. 15**

just as pleased when one gives as he pleases "not with regret or out of sense of duty...for he loves the one who gives gladly." From the mystical standpoint, tithing is primarily an attitude of putting God first. It is not because of the money we give, but, because we put the Source first in our lives in many different ways.

There is a huge religious sect in the Philippines whose members, in the legions, are instilled the moral compulsion to follow the tithe law. They take pride to see their collective fixed contribution in the gleaming edifices whose spires dominate much of the urban areas and the countryside. These are centers of worship and much-to-do fellowships--lodestones that attract the naive and less sophisticated person to anchor his religious faith on, if little else. It's a robust and influential

religious sect whose Supremo is often the object of courtship and obeisance of politicians especially during election time because he reins on his flock whose block votes he could sway almost blindly and fanatically to the candidates who carry his favor.

In sum, tithes have an allure that opens heaven to the believer. Malachi 3:10 says, "Put me to the test and you will see that I will open the gates of heaven and pour out on you in abundance all kinds of good things."

I remember the homily of a priest on this religious law during one of our meetings. The love offerings that day topped all previous offerings many times over. His talk must have goaded the conscience of his audience and their pockets. They saw the allure of heaven. They filled the collection box.

Let's then share the three T's -- Talent, Time and Treasure.

**Baguio...from page 21**

Benedict C. Pami at Mines View Park

and a long flight of stairs going down to what is popularly known as the "Pony Park" or the "Riding Circle" where tourists are treated to a great ride with hundreds of ponies for hire. The Botanical Garden features different houses of the Cordillera tribes and a souvenir picture is usually done with the native Igorots in their traditional costumes. Kennon Road is the shortest access to the City of Pines because

it cuts through the Bued River Canyon and one is treated to the winding and zigzag roads that can only be seen on the way to Baguio. The Lourdes Grotto is a famous pilgrimage site among Catholics whose access could either be by climbing through more than 300 steps or by driving up the hill. The Baguio Cathedral located at the very heart of the city is one of the landmarks and popular icons of the place. The church, which stands on Mount Mary Hill, has a magnificent architectural design and is uniquely identified by its twin spires. Mount Santo Tomas prides itself with a 360 degree panoramic view of the City of Baguio and the La Union province. It is a perfect place for picnic and solitude. Sometimes neglected, but, worth an adventure is Asin Hot Spring and Wood Carver's Village in Asin Road. The village is dear to me because it is where I did my Sunday apostolate during my formation years at Casicia-co. The indigenous people in the area are hard-working and their talents and skills in wood-carving which range from small figurines to huge statues personally impressed me. Other interesting places in Baguio are the bust of the late President Ferdinand Marcos along Marcos Hwy., the Crystal Cave near San Pablo Seminary and during Advent – the "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass at Recoletos Seminary along Naguilian Road is something that should not be missed. The Good Shepherd Convent is a good place to shop for goodies and delicacies such as jams and peanut brittle. While the Baguio Market has a variety of souvenir shops, the Asin Village wood-carvers can offer discounted handicraft and artifacts.

Baguio City is not just another piece of destination; it is and will always be my second home because I was educated and the full potentials of my being were discovered and developed at the very heart of the city. I will never get tired and will continue to come back because that's where my heart finds solace and comfort.



# "Simbang Gabi"

## A popular Filipino yuletide tradition

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The preparations are in full gear for the series of Simbang Gabi in nine Catholic Churches in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. with several parishioners and key Filipino community leaders working together. This third annual "Simbang Gabi" to be held at the Our Lady of Victory Church is one of the nine churches of the DC archdiocese participating in the nine-day novena celebrating the coming birth of Christ.

A "Pununuluyan" pageantry will feature the December 20 mass at the OLV church.

Rev. Father David Werning, OLV Pastor and Father Jaime Noel Deslate, a visiting Filipino priest who just graduated summa cum laude with a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology at the Catholic University and who will be departing for the

Philippines the following day, will be concelebrating the traditional "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass. The Choir Directors are Tony A. Viduya and Edith Fuentes Viduya, both seasoned choir trainers and choral group singing instructors, visiting the District from Cagayan de Oro City, Cagayan, Philippines. The Viduyas are award-winning professional choir trainers since 1972 and have been winning awards in the Cagayan Province, Region 10 and other major cities in the Philippines including Metro Manila where they have been garnering national accolades. Visiting their son, Michael, a nurse at the Georgetown University Hospital, Tony and Edith heard the predicaments that the usual Filipino choir that sings every third Saturday is unable to participate this year. They were gracious enough to offer and

volunteer their God-given talents. Key Filipino leaders in the immediate vicinity, especially the various Filipino prayer groups, rallied and volunteered to assist the OLV Filipino parishioners with the once-a-year "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass. Mike Viduya and wife, Cherry Jean, also a nurse at Georgetown University, together with their two children, Farrel May and Fave Allen, spearheaded the weekly practice. Filipino community leaders in the area are extending support to the "Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass. Among the Fil-Am leaders supporting the project are Dr. Ben Oteyza, Dr. Bambi Lorica, Tessie Calderon-Alarcon, Emilie G. Dearing, Jun Pedery, Mike & Ging Aquino, Mel & Lolit Villegas, Pablito Alarcon and the Philippine Embassy staff headed by Consul Rico Fos. (By Nonoy Mendoza, Pinoy Global Online News)

## Simbang Gabi Schedule

Sponsored by Filipino Communities in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

### December 15 • Monday • 6:00 p.m.

"Simbang Gabi" 2008 Advent  
Church of Annunciation  
3810 Massachusetts NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 16 • Tuesday • 12:00 p.m.

St. Anne's Catholic Church  
4400 Wisconsin Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 17 • Wednesday • 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthews Cathedral  
1725 Rhode Island, NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 18 • Thursday • 6:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Catholic Church  
Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 19 • Friday • 7:00 p.m.

Epiphany Catholic Church  
2712 Dumbarton St., NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 20 • Saturday • 5:00 p.m.

"Simbang Gabi" Holy Mass  
Our Lady of Victory Church  
4835 MacArthur Blvd., NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
Fr. David Werning, Pastor • Fr. Jaime  
Noel Deslate (Concelebrating)  
Potluck Dinner Reception  
Hess Auditorium  
Everyone is welcome!

### December 21 • Sunday • 3:00 p.m.

Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament  
6001 Western Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

### December 22 • Monday • 5:00 p.m.

Nativity / St. Dominic Church  
16th St., NW Washington, D.C.

### December 23 • Tuesday • 3:00 p.m.

St. Margaret of Scotland  
410 Addison Road, NW  
Washington, D.C.

### "Simbang Gabi" Filipino Contacts

OLV Parish Office: (202) 337-4835  
Aida & Nonoy Mendoza: (202) 346-6618 / Mel & Lolit Villegas: (301) 942-2694 / Mike & Ging Aquino: (301) 603-8388 / Edith & Tony Viduya (202) 333-0810 / Tessie Calderon-Alarcon: (571) 333-5327 / Emilie G. Dearing: (571) 432-8716 / Drs. Victor & Bambi Lorica (301) 767-0375

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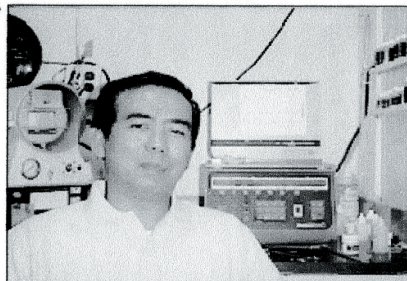
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