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San Jose denizens show support to protect Coyote Valley

By CESAR ANTONIO JR. NUCUM



San Jose City Mayor Sam Liccardo urges people to embrace the emerging opportunity of building a vibrant Downtown worthy of Silicon Valley's urban center.

SAN JOSE City Mayor Sam Liccardo led a host of other passionate speakers who took turns in addressing a huge crowd that gathered in front of San Jose City Hall to show support to protect Coyote Valley which has been threatened by development for decades. Coyote Valley offers is irreplaceable: wetlands that buffer against flooding, an essential wildlife habitat and migratory area, active farmlands, and open space for all of us to enjoy.

As one of the last remaining undeveloped valley floors in the Bay Area and the only connection between the Santa Cruz Mountains and Diablo Range, rallies emphasized for the need to take action to preserve this remarkable place for people, wildlife and our environment.

"We need to move beyond the outdated and unsustainable model of suburban sprawl, to protect our green spaces and hillsides, and embrace the emerging opportunity of building a vibrant Downtown worthy of Silicon Valley's urban center," appealed Liccardo.

SAN JOSE ▶ 3

After Jolo bombing Duterte seeks all-out war vs Abu Sayyaf

By BETING LAYGO DOLOR, Editor



The Marine Special Operations Group sailed out to surrounding islands in Jolo and conducted clearing operations upon information that ASG members have been sighted in the area.

MANILA - Amid fears that the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) may next target malls and churches in Metro Manila, President Rodrigo Duterte this week declared an all-out war against the terrorist group with links to the global ISIS network, known for its extreme brutality.

The bombing of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in the southern province of Jolo during a regular Sunday mass last Jan. 27 resulted in at least 21 fatalities and more than a hundred church goers injured, with some in critical condition.

Following the explosion of two bombs within seconds of each other, rumors spread like wildfire that the terrorists were eyeing an even bigger target in Metro Manila.

By Wednesday, Jan 30, the Philippine National Police (PNP) tried to alleviate the public's fears by saying there was no confirmed reports of such a plot.

Still, all the major malls in the metropolis were placed on alert with heightened security, including bomb-sniffing dogs. While the National Capital Region Police Office dismissed the reported threats, it still promised to beef up security measures in Metro

AFTER ▶ 12

1st FilAm elected in Oakland to govern by People Power

Part 2 & Conclusion

Adapted from original published with permission from usainquirer.net

By **CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO**
Editor at Large



SOCIAL justice activist Nikki Fortunato Bas (foreground) defeated the incumbent to become Oakland's first FilAm City Council Member.

OAKLAND, Calif. - District 2 is where Oakland's first elected Filipino American City Council Member Nikki Fortunato Bas and her husband Brad Erickson, a lecturer at San Francisco State University, and their 14-year-old daughter Balana make their home. They thrive among working families and individuals of various backgrounds and share hope for a bright future there.

"I decided to run because I love Oakland's community, diversity, and rich cultural heritage, and fear that displacement, gentrification and growing inequality are threatening our very identity as a city," Bas told this writer. "The #BBQBecky and #Jogger-Joe incidents (Ed: Residents who were white called police to complain about residents who were black for engaging in ordinary activities.) at Lake Merritt are wake-up calls for all of us.



The New York native moved California immediately after college graduation to be closer to API and activists.

We must come together to build an inclusive, just and equitable city, and we need independent leaders, rooted in our communities, who will take action. It starts with acknowledging that housing is a human right and prioritizing housing solutions for all Oaklanders."

Her vision is simple: "An Oakland for all of us...governing together with a set of values that we promoted - equity, inclusion, and community participation." All of us' means that I will represent you whether you voted for me or not," she declared after swearing in en masse with fellow new council members Sheng Thao (Dist. 4) and Loren Taylor (Dist. 6) before City Clerk Latonda Simmons.

She recounted the focused steps she took to listen to constituents and hearing a common refrain of feeling "left out."

1st FilAm ▶ 9

Legarda to consider reenacted budget proposal in bicam talks

MANILA - Senator Loren Legarda said Wednesday she would take into consideration the reenacted budget proposal of Senate President Vicente Sotto III in the congressional bicameral conference meeting on the proposed 2019 national budget.

In a text message, Legarda said the technical staff of both chambers of Congress have finished going through the disagreeing provisions of the General Appropriations Bill (GAB), noting that the original plan was to go through each provision and corresponding recommendation line by line.

"However, upon consultation with the Senate leadership and with the Executive Department, I will take into consideration the statement of Senate President Sotto, as I lead the Senate panel in meeting with our House counterpart later today," Legarda said.



LEGARDA ▶ 12

Comelec releases lists of senatorial candidates, party-list groups for May 13 polls

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) released the initial list of senatorial candidates and party-list organizations for the midterm elections on May 13.

There are 76 candidates for senator included in the list. However, Comelec Spokesman James Jimenez said that 13 names on the list might still be dropped from the roster.

"Note that there are 13 names included in this list which are still pending finality. Should a Certificate of Finality be issued, these 13 names will

be stricken off the list," said Jimenez.

The senatorial aspirants with pending Certificates of Finality were Albert Alba, Ernesto Ansula, Hussayin Arpa, Rizalito David, Angelo De Alban, Alexander Encarnacion, Jeremy Geroy, William Iliw Iliw, Josefa Javelona, Norman Marquez, Rolando Merona, Frank Naval, and Eric Negapatan.

Some of the 'big' names included on the list were incumbent and former senators namely; Benigno 'Bam' Aquino, Nancy Binay, Joseph Victor 'JV' Ejercito, Cynthia Villar, Aquilino

COMELEC ▶ 12

3RD ANNUAL OAKLAND WOMEN'S MARCH

Ways we can all be community leaders

By **NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS**
Member, Oakland City Council

Good morning, Oakland!
I am so honored to be your new City Councilmember, representing the district that we are in right now.

I'm also proud to be Oakland's first Filipina Councilmember.

We all know that there is an electric wave of progressive women and women of color winning elected office. Can you feel the earth quake? It's happening right here at home with me and my fellow Councilmember Sheng Thao, the first Hmong city councilmember in the state of California. We are the Oakland women's wave!

As we march today and also honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr this weekend, we are reflecting on the words of Coretta Scott King: "The woman power of this nation can be the power which makes us whole."

WAYS ▶ 9

PWC Calls for U.S. and Philippine Governments to Address Issue of Labor Trafficking After DHS Banned Philippines from H-2 Worker Visa Program

Recently the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) added the Philippines to the list of countries that are banned from participation in the H-2 temporary worker visa program. The ban took effect on January 19, 2019, and will be in place for at least a year as the list is renewed annually by the DHS. Under the ban, workers from the Philippines will not be eligible to work under the H-2 category, which is for temporary or seasonal work. Filipino workers have always been able to get employment in the U.S. under this program, particularly under the H-2B subcategory to work in hotels or construction projects. (H-2A is used to employ seasonal agricultural workers.)

First and foremost, the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) would like to voice its deep concern to the hundreds, if not thousands of Filipino workers who are going to be adversely affected by this ban. This recent decision is bad news for Filipino workers who are currently in the U.S. under the H-2 status. The ban would not allow these Filipino workers from extending and changing their H-2 status. H-2 visas are usually one year in duration, which can be extended annually up to three years.

Common among workers recruited from the Philippines is that they have been charged exorbitant placement fees and processing fees by labor contractors. They left the Philippines deep in debt, thinking that they will be able to work for three years in the U.S., and be able to earn enough to repay all their debts and have something left for their respective families. Now, many of them will be forced to make the hard decision of either returning home to face the prospect of poverty, or continue working in the U.S., consequently overstaying their authorized stay.

Further, many more Filipino workers who are still in the Philippines and in the process of applying for H-2 visas will be affected as well. Those who will be most adversely affected are the ones who already incurred debts to pay placement fees and other processing charges to labor recruiters. PWC is concerned that labor recruiters would find a way not to refund payments from these workers.

In publishing its recent decision, the DHS cited two grounds. According to the DHS "estimate," in the Fiscal Year 2017, nearly 40% of H-2B workers from the Philippines overstayed their visas. Moreover, DHS cited that in the Fiscal Years 2014 to 2016, approximately 60% of victims of trafficking from the Philippines entered the US with an H-2B visa. DHS, in its decision, underscores that not only are H-2B workers overstaying their visas at a high rate, but also that the H-2 visa has become a tool utilized by labor traffickers.

PWC recognizes that the aim of DHS is to maintain the integrity of the H-2 visa program. However, it is unfortunate that those who will suffer most from the ban are workers who simply want to provide a better future for themselves and their families. Now, PWC believes that the conclusions derived by the DHS from the statistical data it presented is not complete. It is likely that the first and second grounds that DHS used to justify its ban are closely related. Granting that those statistics are correct, what is apparent is that many of these Filipino workers were victims of labor trafficking schemes characterized by fraud, misrepresentation, and exorbitant fees; and that could be the reason that drives the overstay numbers upwards.

Many of these workers opted to overstay their visa and continue to work so they can pay debts and interests they incurred as a result of being trafficked; and perhaps, to seek justice against their labor traffickers.

Moreover, PWC does not agree that the H-2B ban is a good response to the issue at hand, particularly to the issue of labor trafficking. With this ban, labor traffickers will simply shift to other forms of visa categories and continue to victimize Filipino workers. PWC believes that this recent development should be an eye-opener to both the U.S. and Philippine governments. In light of this ban, PWC would like to highlight the issue of trafficking of workers in the U.S. that continue to victimize

Filipino workers every year.

Instead of focusing on who is to blame on the recent inclusion of the Philippines on the list of banned countries under the H-2 visa program, PWC calls for a serious review and concrete actions to address the issue of labor trafficking of Filipino workers. PWC calls on the Philippine government to address the following themes or topics related to the issue of labor trafficking: transparency and accountability of labor recruiters; educating Filipino workers about work opportunities abroad, about labor trafficking, and how to exercise their rights; the regulation and enforcement of laws on labor recruitment, particularly on placement fees and charges; and other relevant topics. We propose that there should be a mechanism in place or a formation of a task force that should involve non-government entities and advocacy groups like PWC who are working on issues affecting Filipino nationals in the United States.

CAL FIRE Concludes that PG&E Equipment Did Not Cause 2017 Tubbs Wildfire

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) today issued the following statement in response to the release of information by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) regarding the October 2017 Tubbs wildfire:

Without question, the loss of life, homes and businesses during these devastating wildfires is heartbreaking, and we remain focused on helping affected communities recover and rebuild. The safety of our customers and the communities we serve is our most important responsibility, and we are committed to assessing our infrastructure to further enhance safety and help protect all of the customers we serve from the ever-increasing threat of wildfires.

CAL FIRE has completed its investigation of the 2017 Tubbs Fire and concluded that PG&E facilities did not cause the fire.

The devastating and unprecedented wildfires of 2017 and 2018 have had a profound impact on our customers, employees and communities. Regardless of today's announcement, PG&E still faces extensive litigation, significant potential liabilities and a deteriorating financial situation, which was further impaired by the recent credit agency downgrades to below investment grade. Resolving the legal liabilities and financial challenges stemming from the 2017 and 2018 wildfires will be enormously complex and will require us to address multiple stakeholder interests, including thousands of wildfire victims and others who have already made claims and likely thousands of others we expect to make claims.

Background Information

Given the continued and growing threat of extreme weather and wildfires, and as an additional precautionary measure, PG&E is enhancing and expanding its Community Wildfire Safety Program to further reduce wildfire risks and help keep its customers and the communities it serves safe. PG&E's ongoing and expanded safety actions include:

Real-Time Monitoring and Intelligence

- Coordinating prevention and response efforts by monitoring wildfire risk in real-time from its Wildfire Safety Operations Center.
- Expanding its network of weather stations to enhance weather forecasting and modeling. By 2022, PG&E will add approximately 1,300 new weather stations in high fire-risk areas.
- Installing nearly 600 new high-definition cameras in high fire-threat areas, increasing coverage across these areas to more than 90 percent.

New and Enhanced Safety Measures

- Further enhancing vegetation management efforts with an increased focus on vegetation that poses a higher potential for wildfire risk, such as overhanging branches and limbs directly above and around power lines, and tree species at an increased risk of falling into power lines, as well as dead and dying trees.
- Conducting accelerated safety inspections of electric infrastructure in high fire-threat areas, in addition to routine inspections and maintenance. This includes ground or climbing inspections, as well as aerial imagery captured by drones and in some cases, helicopter, to further complement and enhance visual inspections.
- Taking action right away to address any immediate risk to public safety found during accelerated inspections.
- Disabling of automatic reclosing of circuit breakers and reclosers in high fire-risk areas during wildfire season.
- Proactively turning off electric power for safety, only as a last resort, when extreme fire danger conditions are forecasted, and helping customers prepare by providing early warning notification when and where possible.

System Hardening and Resiliency

- Installing stronger and more

resilient poles and covered power lines across 7,100 miles of highest fire-risk areas over the course of the next 10 years.

- Replacing equipment to further reduce risk to its system and tailoring upgrades based on terrain and weather conditions using more granular analysis of fire-prone regions.
- Piloting new resilience zones to provide electricity to central community resources serving local customers during a Public Safety Power Shutoff event.

Wildfire Risk is Growing

California faces an ever-increasing threat from catastrophic wildfires, extreme weather and higher temperatures. Recent state and federal climate assessments warn the threat is only growing. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment found the average area burned statewide would increase 77 percent if greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. The Assessment also said prolonged drought and higher temperatures will triple the frequency of wildfires.

Multiple factors contribute to wildfire risk across PG&E's service area. These include vast tree mortality following a historic five-year drought. Fire season is now extended due to prolonged periods of high temperatures, extreme dryness, tinder-dry grass and record-high winds increasing the number of wildfires and making them more dangerous. More than half of PG&E's service area is now considered to be in extreme or high fire-risk areas as designated by the CPUC's Fire-Threat Map.

About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric energy companies in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to nearly 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/ and pge.com/news.



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San Jose denizens show support to protect Coyote Valley *From page 1*

Coyote Valley is home to some more than 200 species of birds, offers an inclusive wildlife corridor for the region while bobcats, coyotes, and other wildlife depend on the valley floor for habitat and migration passage.

Many birds such as burrowing owls and the endangered tri-colored black-birds live in the grasslands, wetlands, and fields.

It has more than a thousand acres of wetlands and a secure source of drink-



ing water and natural flood protection reducing the risk of natural disasters by capturing and storing floodwaters like those that devastated San Jose in 2017.

Its more than 4000 acres farmland in production is a source of locally-grown food and absorbs carbon from the atmosphere. It is a counterweight to urban sprawl, which exacerbates traffic conges-

tion and reduces air and water quality. "Two of my priorities are to improve the quality of life and the environment of San Jose. Protecting Coyote Valley offers the City of San Jose a natural way to reduce future flooding risk with beautiful open space that city residents can enjoy," San Jose City District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez echoed.



San Jose City District 2 Councilmember Sergio Jimenez addresses the crowd

◇◇◇◇◇ ONE HEART, TWO FAMILIES ◇◇◇◇◇

The Hechanova and Fardis families united Oct. 6 when Camille Hechanova and Jimmy Fardis exchanged wedding vows at a hotel in Las Vegas. Family members from Manila, Canada and all over the United States witnessed the happy occasion.

The groom is trainer/pharmacy assistant at CVS Vegas. He is from Tampa, Florida.

The bride, a pharmacist at Kindred Hospital Las Vegas, graduated from Roseman University of Health and Sciences. She is from Brentwood, California.



From left: Kristen Fitch and her mother, bride's sister Carla H. Fitch; bride's mother Carmela (Fernandez) Hechanova, the newlyweds, bride's father Ramon Hechanova, and bride's nephew Raymond Fitch.

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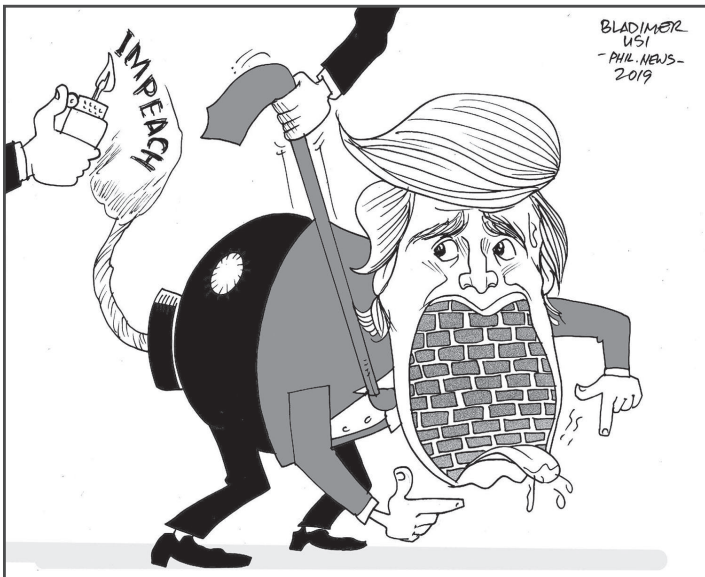
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editorial

No to another shutdown

In finally agreeing to end the government shutdown that lasted more than a month, President Donald Trump said that he was not caving but was still bent on building his wall.

He gave the Democrats until the middle of this month to finalize a deal, otherwise another shutdown was forthcoming. Either that, or he would declare a national emergency.

Either option would be wrong on many counts.

Literally millions of Americans suffered during the longest shutdown in US history. Aside from the 800,000 federal government employees who either went on furlough or worked without pay, there were also their families who bore the brunt of the financial crisis, as well as the countless government suppliers who lost business during that grim period.

If President Trump is unaware of it, or if he refuses to accept the fact that the majority of the American people blame him and his Republican Party for the closure of some 25 percent of the federal government, then he will likely repeat the mistake.

As for his threat to declare a national emergency, this foolhardy plan is doomed to fail. It will almost certainly be contested in court, and it does not take a genius to see that there is no overpowering emergency that requires the declaration.

Such a declaration is reserved for actual, serious threats such as the bombing of Pearl Harbor or when a superstorm causes massive loss of life and property. The fact that undocumented immigrants entering US soil from the south has been decreasing over the years says that there is no emergency that Mr. Trump speaks of.

The POTUS must accept the one undeniable fact that the Speaker of the House is a smart political opponent, one who could run rings around him if she so desires. During the shutdown, Speaker Nancy Pelosi's stock rose in direct proportion to President Trump's fall from grace with the people.

He may still have his fanatical following, but they represent a shrinking minority of Americans.

When even his closest allies at Fox News and a handful of Republican senators joined the Democrats in the failed try to pass a bill to end the shutdown last week, the writing on the wall should have been clear to the president.

It is the wise commander who knows when to go on a tactical retreat as part of a stronger strategy to attain a worthy objective.

Should Mr. Trump declare a second shutdown or issue a presidential decree declaring a national emergency, he can kiss his chances of being reelected in 2020 goodbye. Under a worst case – for him, at least – scenario, he will even face impeachment proceedings sooner rather than later.

The best thing for the president to do is to work with the Democrats who are almost certain to support any plan to strengthen border security without having to put up a medieval border wall, as they call it.

An electronic wall buttressed by thousands of drones should do the trick. This way, Mr. Trump can still claim to have set up the wall that he promised his followers. He started with a cement wall, then a steel barrier or fence. Why not an electronic wall?

Unfortunately, there is no way that Mexico will pay for that kind of wall either.

A groovy FilAm named Joey Smith

Every week and every month, a celebrity passes away. He or she may die of natural causes, accidents, illness or the occasional drug overdose.

This week, it was the Philippines' turn to lose a beloved showbiz figure in the person of Joey 'Pepe' Smith. The singer/guitarist/drummer/composer and occasional actor passed on this week at the ripe old age of 71.

Smith was best known for his work with the Juan de la Cruz band, along with Mike Hanopol (who last year became a Jewish rabbi!) and Wally Gonzalez. The trio scored a number of hits in the handful of albums that they released, with the biggest one the Smith-composed "Himig Natin."

Up until about two years ago when he had a stroke, he had never left the public eye.

In my Facebook page, I said "Pepe Smith lived a long, beautiful, crazy, wild and productive life, didn't he? We should all be as lucky..."

Everyone who loves Pinoy rock has a Pepe Smith story to tell, it seems.

One of his nearly forgotten accomplishments, if it can be called that, was a shortlived TV series based on characters created by the late, great cartoonist Nonoy Marcelo, who was definitely a kindred spirit of Smith. His role was as a guardian of sorts of a kid named Quincy but who was called Kinse. The series lasted only a few episodes, but the acting bug never left the guy named Pepe after that.

A few years ago, he appeared in a Tagalog movie playing a role that fit him to a T. He was the village weirdo who lived and breathed music. I say weirdo in a loving sense, as the guy always gave off the best vibes.

For a short while, he was jailed on drug charges. He accepted his mistake and never tried to hide it after he had been freed. Aside from his admitted occasional drug use, he was a lifelong smoker and drinker. I guess he was lucky to have lived as long as he did.

I will never forget the first time I saw him in concert. I was still in grade school and he was with a band called The Downbeats, where he played the drums. They, along with the Reycard

OFFLINE



Beting Dolor

“He had become the senior statesman of Pinoy rock and he lived and looked the part.”

Duet, were the opening act for The Beatles.

Yes, those Beatles. Smith would later say that Ringo Starr actually gave him a pair of drumsticks. Lucky dog, huh?

During his days with the Juan dela Cruz band, I was watching a movie downtown. I think it was Woodstock. Anyway, who should stroll by but the now popular Pepe Smith. The tall and gangling musician said hi to everyone who greeted him.

One of his lady loves was a model/singer named Agnes Arellano, who later became an accomplished sculptress. I believe they were married, but that didn't last. Anyway, I had a mild crush on Ms. Arellano, who also starred in a shortlived show on television. It was a musical and she sang lead but was not a

member of the featured band.

After Juan dela Cruz disbanded, Smith was rarely out of the public eye. He still made music, still sang anywhere and everywhere he could. He had become the senior statesman of Pinoy rock and he lived and looked the part.

I only learned very recently that Smith had some kids, and even had a reality show with them, ala The Osbornes. That also didn't last.

His kids are all grown now, and none of them became serious musicians. Perhaps their old man cast too large a shadow for them to follow his footsteps.

After his stroke, he had been in frail health, but was still strumming his guitar to the end.

So now Pepe Smith has moved on to legend. There will be no more reunion concerts of Juan dela Cruz. But some of their hits will definitely stand the test of time. Our children's children will be listening to and maybe even singing along to Himig Natin long after we're gone.

For the record, Pepe Smith was born of an American father, a GI who was stationed in the Philippines at the end of World War II, and a Filipino mother. So yes, he was a true FilAm. Yet despite his American looks and named, he was 100 percent Filipino in heart and soul.

So goodbye, Joey 'Pepe' Smith. You can now rock and roll in heaven.

'Wrong Track'

WHEREAS



Atty. Amancio 'Jojo' Liangco

It is a big disappointment to many that after President Donald Trump took over from the administration of President Barack Obama, we now see the United States moving on the wrong track.

Now entering his third year as POTUS, Trump's second State of the Union Address was postponed due to the government shutdown that temporarily ended last week. At issue after the Democrats won the majority during last November's mid-term election is Trump's insistence to build a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico. House speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democratic majority would not give in to Trump's wishes to use the tax money to build the wall.

It is interesting to note that the result of a recently held survey on the state of affairs under Trump does not bode well for him and the nation. The survey shows that majority of Americans believe that the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction under Trump.

A whopping 63 percent believe that the country is on the wrong track while only 28 percent of respondents believed that the U.S. is headed in the right direction.

When respondents were asked to sum up their feelings on the state of the nation, the answers given included these words: "wrong track," "disarray," "turmoil," "polarized," "concerned," "shambles" and "declining."

In other words, people are expressing a grimmer picture of the nation under a president who has been parroting the line "Make America Great Again" or MAGA so frequently these days.

No U.S. president has ever made the promise of building a concrete wall on the border and not even the citizens of border states like California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas are demanding for a wall to be built.

Why does Trump insist on keeping his promise to his electoral base about building a wall at the border?

Does he really believe that a border wall is the solution to the broken immigration system and bro-

ken immigration laws of the United States?

Since the traumatic terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, homeland security has been the top priority of the U.S. government. The "rise" of the administration of President George W. Bush was attributed to his cornerstone policy of "war on terror" and that terrorism could only be defeated by armed response, hence his solution to terrorism was by going to war.

For Trump, he propelled his presidential ambition through the use of strong anti-immigrant rhetoric and he

Painted and blamed undocumented immigrants for almost everything that ails the U.S.—stating that they contribute to the decline of the once-upon-a-time great nation known as the United States of America.

The biggest fantasy solution of all that Trump offered to the

broken immigration system and laws of the U.S. is to build the "great wall"—offering it as a "simple solution" to the immigration issues facing the U.S. Unfortunately, many Americans during the last presidential election believed him and the fantasy solution that he offered and presented.

The nation is in the wrong track. This is the opinion of majority of Americans and perhaps even the people around the world. I still hope that many of Trump's diehard supporters and followers who still believe in building the border wall will wake-up and realize this fact.

It is never too late to realign and to find the right track.

Jojo Liangco is an attorney with the Law Offices of Amancio M. Liangco Jr. in San Francisco, California. His practice is in the areas of immigration, family law, personal injury, civil litigation, business law, bankruptcy, DUI cases, criminal defense and traffic court cases. Please send your comments to Jojo Liangco, c/o Law Offices of Amancio "Jojo" Liangco, 605 Market Street, Suite 605, San Francisco, CA 94105 or you can call him (415) 974-5336. You can also visit Jojo Liangco's website at www.liangcolaw.com.

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"Hostage-taking" has been going on for the past two years: Recalling how POTUS declared his own orders

To date: DACA is still in limbo; not only are dreams on hold, but lives are drastically affected

As President Trump has been dealing with certain legislations that have indicated their implementations, one that stands out conspicuously was his order: To end Dreamers' protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was one which was met with sadness, untold grief, suspension stemming from a great many of the younger generation who likewise had dreams of their own.

A very recent proposal by President Trump "to trade border wall funding for temporary protections for Dreamers," was rejected by the Democrats on the ground they would not "negotiate" until the end of the "shutdown" crisis. As issues continue to proceed, another shutdown could be in the making despite the conclusion of the longest government shutdown in the history of the United States.

The initial offer from Trump in reference to DACA when the first shutdown was going on was: "to exchange temporary immigrant protections for \$5.7 billion to adding 'steel barriers' in high-priority locations" to 654 miles of existing border fencing. Those so-called "protections included a three-year extension on DACA, covering some "700,000 immigrants illegally brought to America as children," likewise called the "Dreamers," as they were identified legally during the presidency of Barack Obama.

Most editorials sounded off prominently in siding with the Democrats vis-à-vis the Trump offer of what was

branded as "temporary relief." The Los Angeles Times strongly stated how "Democrats are right to reject Trump's statement on DACA."

Indeed, POTUS' offer of relief was noted as one that could not be counted upon, as it "wouldn't make the Dreamers much better off than they are now." Too, what seemed as distant from reality is the very recent word from the Supreme Court that it wouldn't "likely consider the Dreamers case until Year 2020."

Therefore, the stand strongly taken by the Democrats in regard to government shutdowns was welcomed by DACA recipients who thanked the Democrats for their efforts. DACA spokespersons claimed how "Democrats are right to refuse to negotiate until the shutdown is over."

Legal practitioners were of the opinion that negotiations cannot be relied upon until after shutdowns will no longer prevail because any effort aimed at DACA while shutdowns persist, would be tantamount to "encouraging Trump to take the government hostage again the next time he wants something Congress won't give him."

Another vigorous voice was heard from a law professor who said: "Trump so-called compromise is a total sham. First of all, the DACA kids already had legal protection until Trump yanked it way in 2017 by executive order. Likewise, the Senate bill that incorporated his temporary DACA protection was loaded up with poison pills impossible for Democrats to swallow."

Reportedly, in the fine print, there were provisions that kept "desperate Central American children from applying for asylum at the border."

Additionally, there was another provision that required Central American children to apply in their home countries. It would limit asylum admissions to a very tiny number: "15,000 a year, and, therefore would "raise the bar for judging asylum claims."

Another requirement surfaced: "requiring that any approval be in the national interest." Wouldn't such a term be considered as vague? Wouldn't it be equated to a justification to turn down or minimize "mass rejections?"

Evidently, despite marked differences in opinions where negotiations appear to be frail, some "Independents" were prone to ask. "Why won't Democrats go through negotiations?"

A Nancy Pelosi supporter forwarded a response: "The Speaker knows how President Trump has been hurt more politically than the Democrats by the government shutdown, and her base has remained unconvinced about that same Trump Wall."

Ronald Brownstein, known as another strong political analyst was heard to state: "The power struggle is not really about a literal wall anymore, but the 'powerful symbol' it has become." How true!

Progressives have not at all been deterred to lend their opinion about the "wall." They have seen the wall as "a symbol of racism."

Deplorably, the chief occupant of

PERSPECTIVES



Ludy Ongkeko

“As issues continue to proceed, another shutdown could be in the making despite the conclusion of the longest government shutdown in the history of the United States.

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, does not cease to defend his initial policies which commenced long before the presidency became his, thanks to the electoral college.

One lingering question that requires an accurate reply: "Is Trump really 'tough' on Russia?"

Media encounters

ROUGH & READY



Venjo Tesoro

“For once, be someone like a bird accustomed to superiority and feel freedom.

ONCE UPON A TIME, I was the voice of Philippine corrections. Anything that matters whether it was a controversy, a scandal, a legislative inquiry or a technical advocacy, I was always at the forefront. And it was fun. I get to know up close media personalities we see every day in news forum. Because of their persuasive style, they have achieved a certain degree of celebrity status. When they interview a person, that fellow becomes an overnight sensation too. He gets the proverbial 15-minute fame.

I was the "go to" guy whenever something materializes in the prison system. I was virtually a luminary during the death penalty execution days in the late 90s. Tri media covered the criminal justice event and my face was on every major channel, interviewed by The Noli de Castro, The Jessica Soho, The Ceres Doyo, The Randy David, The Kris Aquino, The Mike Enriquez, The Erwin Tulfo, Susan Enriquez, Pinky Webb, and lot more of well-known media personalities. It was a grand privilege pitting wit with them in public.

I was almost a permanent fixture of talk shows and a main interviewee during primetime news. Whenever something goes wrong in the penitentiary, even the prison leadership would push me to get into the front to explain everything. I never allowed media to proceed with their own

spin. But media without any credible ideas lifted from interviews would merely submit their own respective spin and it usually is the cause for more controversies and indignities for those concerned.

It was my perception, my own spin and media loved it. More so, it's deeper, well thought of and rational.

My statements were even given a prominent space in a major daily on quotable quotes. In malls for once, people stopped by as soon as they see me. School children who delight watching TV news with their elders would even shout upon seeing me in person. I could not eat alone in any food chain without being lynched with request for selfie. I was that known and recognizable as Mr. Prison or Mr. Executioner.

I was just waiting for some enterprises to make me a product endorser. I was already on that level. But as soon as I have explained the ruckus in prison, nothing follows. Media would just pack up and leave for another sensational news elsewhere. No more commercial break.

How fleeting time and the feelings were. I was like a meteor, bright and shiny, then in an instant, gone. I was an inch closer to stardom.

When the infamous exposure of prison innards went on air, I immediately asked the prison leadership to allow me to trouble shoot it. To my mind, the prison scandal could still be restored to normalcy. Even if for a while the privacy of the incarcerated humanity has been violated it could still be rectified with reasonable explanation and discussion. Of course, it's water under the bridge already. I was not allowed officially to get into the act and hence, I filed my retirement as a consequence. I felt like Mercury who was banished from Olympus because the gods are afraid, he might be worshipped more than the rest of the senior gods and goddesses.

I merely licked in one corner my injured name and reputation. Win some, lose some.

The correctional agency could have been saved from bashing had there been someone courageous enough to discuss all the issues promptly and competently. It was media spin that went ballistic and has exploded on all corners of the universe. It presumed that everything in prison is evil incarnate. The public was left answering issues which no one in prison wanted to explain fully save for some clarifications which were self-serving. Until one fine day, everyone seems to be jumping from a sinking correctional ship!

The national leadership had stepped in, the legislative branch of government had gotten into the picture, every Pablo, Juan and Pilar got an inside view on what ails the penal system and everyone in the agency were made as black as pot and as filthy as filth. The whole correctional system, its posture and integrity went all up in air. Not even a slice of honor was left. The agency and its warm bodies were all humbled and shamed.

I hastily published a novel "Muntinlupa" if only to contribute a figment of an idea (read: spin) into the legislative discussion to save my colleagues from further discomfiture but it came too little, too late. The correctional agency where I earned my spurs and feathers slowly smoldered and almost has turned into ashes.

I was petrified and almost inconsolable for quite some time. I have retired and unable to extend my influence.

I could only look back and review what has been done. The Bureau of Corrections is gradually getting up from where it tripped. But it is no longer the same agency. Its innocence gone, its uprightness remains in tatters. Until someone knowledgeable would step in and save the field called correctional administration

Encountering media, especially social media, is a toss between suicide and homicide. Either way, one loses. That explains why even Government is pissed about its licentiousness. Truth is sacrificed in the altar of sensationalism.

Can Type 2 Diabetes be Reversed?

GENERATION EXILE



Cristina Osmeña

With all the political drama in the US—Liz Warren, Kamala Harris, Howard Schultz... for President; Ocasio-Cortez'

complications, including heart disease, nerve damage, kidney damage, hearing impairment, and increased risk of Alzheimers.

It may almost justify outlawing sugar.

A few weeks ago, I attended an investment conference where I met a company, Virta Health, that claims it can more than manage type 2 diabetes, it can reverse it. One of the differences between Virta and traditional healthcare is that it enables continuous medical supervision. Patients prick their own fingers but all that data is uploaded into an app and analyzed. And a patient's diet and insulin recommendations can be monitored and modified dynamically. This is a great improvement over how treatment is done today where the patient makes a few doctors visits a year, blood is sent out to the lab for analysis, and, with a delay, the new results come out. Recommendations for diet and, more

“There are some human minds All of a sudden, our loved ones can enjoy the comforts of the Philippines while not sacrificing on diabetic treatment.

understanding of economics; and the Trump-Pelosi bully dance—there is enough to write about until the next election. Against that backdrop, I am going to write about healthcare instead.

As someone with a very close relative suffering from type 2 diabetes, I have been steered towards thinking about something I would not have otherwise noticed. And, alas, I discovered that type 2 diabetes is a widespread ailment in the Filipino community.

Type 2 diabetes, otherwise known as hyperglycemia, is the most common form of diabetes and characterized by the body's improper use of insulin. The body may acquire a resistance to insulin or the pancreas may cease production of insulin. People may be genetically disposed to type 2 diabetes and obesity and diet are factors in causing the disease. Perhaps the most alarming threat of type 2 diabetes is its long list of

importantly, insulin doses are much more likely going to be a mismatch with the patient's needs.

Virta is part of a branch of healthcare called telemedicine. While this approach may not be appropriate for all diseases, it may be for diabetes where the frequency of the feedback loop is more important than the precision of your scalpel. Moreover, if it is done remotely, then the patient can be located anywhere. That is another reason this solution is relevant to the Filipino community. All of a sudden, our loved ones can enjoy the comforts of the Philippines while not sacrificing on diabetic treatment.

Much is possible if Virta works. That is why I am meeting with the company on February 5 to learn more about it. I told them that I would bring a group of Filipino community members since diabetes is such an important issue in our community. If any of my readers is interested in joining us, please email me at c@osmenaforcongress.com (I do not use this address much so it will be easy to monitor).

In any case, I will write about my meeting in next week's column and continue to look for solutions like these to our unique problems.



OVERVIEW

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By LYDIA V. SOLIS

APOGLA's new president sworn in; highest award presented

Hi, folks, if Overview turns dark in the next few weeks, it's because I'll be attending the Philippine Women's University's 100th anniversary on February 24. Before that big milestone for Philwomenians in the Southland, I will attend the Solis' family reunion in Taal, Batangas; and to top that, I will also attend the 70th Foundation Day of the former Mabini High School (Mabini, Batangas) now Mabini College of Batangas. The school was founded by my father, Marciano K. Solis, former supervisor of public schools in Batangas, and his siblings, and managed by my aunts and cousins.

Meanwhile, I'd like to share wonderful news from the Alpha Phi Omega Greater Los Angeles: induction of new officers for 2019, and honoring a former correspondent of *Philippine News*.

"Mike Medina, a vascular therapist, was formally sworn in as president of Alpha Phi Omega Alumni (Philippines) of Greater Los Angeles by outgoing president of Alpha Phi Omega Council of North America (ACNA) Irma H. Almazan at Marriott Hotel In Baldwin Park on Dec. 15, 2018."

Mike Medina, a vascular therapist, was inducted president of the Alpha Phi Omega Greater Los Angeles at Marriott Hotel in Baldwin Park, on Dec. 15, 2018.

"I would like to thank our APOGLA members for their trust and confidence in electing me as their leader for 2019," Mr. Medina told the audience of over 200 attendees during his acceptance speech. "I would also like to thank my family: wife Veronica, my daughters Jerelle and Celeste for their much-needed support in this journey. APOGLA is a family. I want you to know that I'm here to serve you to the best of my ability and to implement 100% of our time-honored programs. I'll continue to create a family atmosphere. I believe this will develop, evolve and move this organization forward with a strong membership base. I will listen to members and address their concerns. All we need is to look forward and keep re-inventing ourselves. We'll start fresh for effective, transparent and ethical governance. I know this is a challenge, but together 2019 will be a success."

On the other hand, 2018 outgoing APOGLA President Casey Mansilla told the members, "Thank you for this opportunity to serve this great organization. I was humbled with all your support during my tenure. We were able to achieve what we envisioned and never thought or dreamed that we could achieve them. We had fun and did a lot of service to our community."

On the same occasion, coinciding with the 38th anniversary of APOGLA and 93rd anniversary of APOUSA (founded on Dec. 16, 1925), APOGLA's former president and board chairman, Dan E. Nino was awarded the Dr. Librado I Ureta award, the highest award that embodies the three tenets of the fraternity: Leadership, Friendship and Service. Mr. Nino was vetted and voted by past honorees. Dr. Ureta was the founder of Alpha Phi Omega (Philippines) that was first established at Far Eastern University and bears the first alphabet of the Greek letter Alpha.

In his emotional remarks, the surprised Mr. Nino said, "This is the best gift I ever received this Christmas. Whoever nominated me for this special award, I'm forever grateful. Whoever voted for me, I'm eternally thankful. I hope I deserve this honor. I am honored yet humbled. The beauty of our APOGLA is we highlight the positive in us. We bring out the best in people. We nurture them."

He also waxed poetic when he said, "To whom much is given, much is expected."

Then he quoted the heartfelt lyrics of singer Bette Middler's song as tribute to past awardees, "You are everything I'd like to be. You are the wind beneath my wings. I'll be nothing without you." He also dedicated



FORMER APOGLA President and Board Chairman Dan E. Nino receives the Dr. Librado I. Ureta Award, the highest award given to an APOGLA member with a track record and continuous tenure in the organization, and who exemplifies the fraternity's three cardinal tenets of Leadership, Friendship and Service. Nino is flanked by his wife Myrna, Doms Tunque, the 2017 awardee and Awards Committee chairman for 2018, and past awardees.

the special award to his wife Myrna who had to put up with his myriad activities as freelance journalist, civic and community leader.

Mr. Nino, who graduated from Centro Escolar University (PSI) in 1970, and co-founded the Gamma Kappa chapter (Ateneo de Manila University) in 1973, joined APOGLA in 1983, and became its

secretary general in 1984. He consistently served APOGLA in various capacities.

APOGLA boasts of its various service projects like its involvement in LA. Marathon, Heal the Bay, Blood Bank Donation, Operation Gratitude, Food Bank, sending of relief goods and Medical Mission in the Philippines, providing scholarship grants among others.



ALPHA Phi Omega Greater Los Angeles officers pledge 100% support to their fraternity.

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5 persons - \$63,950; 6 persons - \$68,700; 7 persons - \$73,400

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Units available through the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development and are subject to monitoring and other restrictions. Visit www.sfmohcd.org for program information.



U.S. Filipinos on visa ban: Address roots of trafficking instead of blaming Filipino migrant workers

Reference:
Gary Labao, Migrant USA,
info@migranteusa.org

Migrante USA and GABRIELA USA raise alarm at the recent memo issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) banning Filipino workers from acquiring H-2A and H-2B visas from now until January 18, 2020. H-2A visas are temporary visas given to foreigners for seasonal, or temporary, agricultural work, while H-2B visas are for foreign nonagricultural workers. DHS and the Department of State (DOS) cite the increase in the number of Filipino H-2B holders overstaying (in fiscal year 2017) and the high volume of trafficking victims from the Philippines who were originally issued H-2B visas as bases for the ban.

In response, Philippine Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in an interview that Filipinos in the U.S. “have to face the music” if they have violated immigration laws and that “America is not the only place where our countrymen can go.”

In contrast to this analysis, Migrant USA Chairperson Bernadette Herrera says, “Simply telling them to look for other countries to go to while the ban is enforced is insensitive and futile. Instead of telling our fellow Filipinos to face the consequences of overstaying or finding jobs in other countries, the Duterte administration should take responsibility of the conditions that force Filipinos to find jobs away abroad, which put them at risk of

overstaying and becoming victims of human trafficking.”

“The poor conditions of employment force H-2A/H-2B visa holders to overstay: very low pay, exorbitant visa renewal fees, hardship and debt bondage disabling them to go home after contract. Furthermore, many of our kababayans become victims of human trafficking due to the unscrupulous labor practices of American businesses as well as the deregulated recruitment industry in the Philippines that bureaucrats and private businesses profit of. This ‘guest worker visa program’ is essentially ‘legalized slavery’”, says Susan Pineda, Rights and Welfare Vice-Chair of Gabriela D.C.

The recent DHS decision to ban Filipinos from receiving H-2B visas due to the high volume of H-2B visa-related trafficking stands in contrast to the 2018 U.S. State Department report affirming the 3-year stint of the Philippines in Tier 1 ranking, signifying that the Philippine government is “meeting minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.”

“The U.S. government will continue to resort to such stop-gap measures to mask their poorly regulated, for-profit and anti-worker labor and immigration policies that only benefit the 1%. But ultimately, Filipinos will continue to gamble abroad for a brighter future unless there are real productive indus-

tries with livable wages and land to till back home,” adds Herrera.

Almost three years after Duterte promised that change would come, today, at least 60% of the workforce or 25 Filipino million workers are engaged in contractual labor without benefits and job security. The minimum daily wage stands below \$10 (and as low as \$6 a day in remote regions), about half of the family daily living wage (required to sustain a family of 5) of \$19. Further, the purchasing power of the Philippine peso is reduced by the inflation rate caused by the new TRAIN tax law. Consequently, over 6,500 Filipinos

leave the country every day in search of better opportunities abroad.

Migrante USA is an alliance of Filipino worker and migrant organizations dedicated to fighting for rights and welfare of Filipinos in the U.S. and for the genuine democracy and freedom in the Philippines.

GABRIELA USA is a grassroots-based alliance of progressive Filipino women’s organizations in the United States seeking to wage a struggle for the liberation of all oppressed Filipino women and the rest of our people.

USCIS Makes Two More Applications Available for Online Filing

Applicants Can Now Request Certificates of Citizenship Online

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that applicants can now complete and file Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, and Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322 online.

“One of the major burdens to both benefit seekers and the agency’s adjudicators is the costly, time consuming, and cumbersome process of traditional paper filing,” said USCIS Director L. Francis Cissna. “This addition to our online capabilities is yet another positive advancement toward a more efficient and convenient filing experience for everyone involved.”

Applicants can file Form N-600 to obtain a Certificate of Citizenship for themselves or their minor children if they:

- Were born abroad and are claiming U.S. citizenship at birth through their parents; or
- Automatically became a U.S. citizen after birth, but before they turned 18 years old.

Applicants can file Form N-600K if they regularly reside in a foreign country and want to claim U.S. citizenship based on their parents. Applicants must secure lawful admission to the U.S. to complete Form N-600K processing. Children of U.S. service members have separate requirements for naturalization under INA Section 322.

Forms N-600 and N-600K are part of the growing number of documents that USCIS has made available for easy and convenient online filing. This list includes:

- Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card;
- Form N-336, Request for a Hearing on a

Decision in Naturalization Proceedings;

- Form N-400, Application for Naturalization; and
- Form N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document.

To file a Form N-600 or N-600K online, an applicant must first create a USCIS online account. Through an online account, the applicant can securely and conveniently:

- Complete Form N-600 or N-600K;
- Submit accompanying evidence;
- Upload passport-style photos;
- Pay the filing fee;
- Respond to USCIS requests for evidence;
- Monitor the status of their application;

and

- Manage their contact information, including updating their address.

Attorneys and accredited representatives who have an online account can also file online for their clients and perform the above listed functions.

USCIS still accepts the latest paper version of Forms N-600 and N-600K. Because military service members do not pay a filing fee when submitting Form N-600 on their own behalf, they cannot currently file this application online.

USCIS is using innovation and technology to meet the needs of applicants, employees, and stakeholders. Regardless of the paper or electronic format of an application, USCIS is committed to ensuring a secure and efficient process for all applicants.

For more information on USCIS and our programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook (/uscis).

PG&E Files for Reorganization Under Chapter 11

PG&E Committed to Providing Safe and Reliable Energy, Aiding Restoration and Rebuilding Efforts, and Working Together with Customers, Regulators and Community Leaders to Address Wildfire Threat

Seeks Court Approval to Access \$5.5 Billion in Debtor-in-Possession Financing to Support Operations and Ongoing Safety Initiatives

San Francisco, Calif.—PG&E Corporation (NYSE: PCG) and its primary operating subsidiary, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the “Utility”), today filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California.

Throughout the forthcoming process, PG&E remains committed to:

- Delivering safe and reliable electric and natural gas service to customers;
- Continuing to make critical investments in system safety and maintenance;
- Supporting the orderly, fair and expeditious resolution of its liabilities resulting from the 2017 and 2018 wildfires;
- Working with customers, civic leaders, regulators, policymakers, the financial community and other key stakeholders to consider alternatives to provide for the safe delivery of natural gas and electricity and new safety solutions in an environment challenged by climate change; and
- Assisting our customers and communities impacted by wildfires in Northern California. PG&E’s restoration and rebuilding efforts will continue.

“Our most important responsibility is and must be safety, and that remains our focus. Throughout this process, we are fully committed to enhancing our wildfire safety efforts, as well as helping restoration and rebuilding efforts across the communities impacted by the devastating Northern California wildfires. We also intend to work together with our customers, employees and other stakeholders to create a more sustainable foundation for the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable service in the years ahead. To be clear, we have heard the calls for change and we are determined to take action throughout this process to build the energy system our customers want and deserve,” said John R. Simon, PG&E Corporation Interim CEO.

In conjunction with the filings, PG&E also filed a motion seeking interim and final approval of the Court to enter into an agreement for \$5.5 billion in debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing with J.P. Morgan, Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, BNP Paribas, Credit Suisse, Goldman Sachs, MUFG Union Bank and Wells Fargo acting as joint lead arrangers. PG&E expects the Court to act on an interim basis on the DIP motion in the coming days. The DIP financing, when approved, will provide PG&E with necessary capital to ensure essential maintenance and continued investments in safety and reliability for the expected duration of the Chapter 11 cases.

“Through this process, we will prioritize what matters most to our customers and the communities we serve – safety and reliability. We believe that this process will make sure that we have sufficient liquidity to serve our customers and support our operations and obligations,” Mr. Simon said.

“I know that our 24,000 dedicated employees remain steadfastly focused on delivering safe and reliable natural gas and electric service for the 16 million people across our service area,” said Mr. Simon. “Each day I see the hard work and resilience of our team, and I thank them for their continued dedication to working safely and delivering for our customers.”

As part of the filings, PG&E also filed various motions with the Court in support of its reorganization, including requesting authorization to continue paying employee wages and providing healthcare and other benefits. In the filings, PG&E also asked for authority to continue existing customer programs, including low income support, energy efficiency and other programs supporting customer adoption of clean energy. PG&E expects the Court to act on these requests in the coming days. PG&E also intends to pay suppliers in full under normal terms for goods and services provided on or after the filing date of January 29, 2019.

In order to help support the Company through the reorganization process, PG&E has appointed James A. Mesterharm, a Managing Director at AlixPartners, LLP (“AlixPartners”) and an authorized representative of AP Services, LLC (“APS”), to serve as Chief Restructuring Officer. In addition, PG&E appointed John Boken, also a Managing Director at AlixPartners and an authorized representative of APS, to serve as Deputy Chief Restructuring Officer. Mr. Mesterharm, Mr. Boken and their colleagues at AlixPartners will continue to assist PG&E with the reorganization process and related activities.

Tubbs Fire

On January 24, 2019, CAL FIRE released the results of its investigation of the 2017 Tubbs Fire, which concluded that PG&E equipment did not cause the fire. The comprehensive analysis underlying PG&E’s decision to pursue reorganization under Chapter 11, conducted with the assistance of independent legal and financial advisors, took into account PG&E’s longstanding belief based on available evidence that its equipment did not cause the Tubbs Fire. As such, PG&E continues to believe that the Chapter 11 process will facilitate the orderly, fair and expeditious resolution of the liabilities that have arisen and will continue to arise in connection with the 2017 and 2018 Northern California wildfires.

Additional Resources

Additional resources for customers and other stakeholders, and other information on PG&E’s filings, can be accessed by visiting PG&E’s restructuring website at www.pge.com/reorganization. Court filings and other documents related to the Chapter 11 process in the U.S. are available on a separate website administered by PG&E’s claims agent, Prime Clerk, at <https://restructuring.primeclerk.com/pge>. Information is also

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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PH AMBASSADOR BRIEFS WHARTON CLUB OF DC ON THE PHILIPPINES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Philippine Embassy hosted a briefing and reception for the Wharton Club of DC at the Philippine Chancery Annex building on 23 January 2019.

Led by their President Alan N. Schlaifer, around 50 club members coming from diverse backgrounds and affiliations, including the US government, private sector, financial institutions, and multinational and marketing companies, attended the event.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez met with the members prior to delivering a comprehensive presentation on the Philippines highlighting its strong economic performance, foreign policy, as well as Philippines-United States alliance, people-to-people ties, and trade relations.

“I can describe the current state of our relationship in seven words: stable and moving in the right direction,” Ambassador Romualdez said.

“The friendship between our two nations could only be reinvigorated and made stronger with the recent return of the Balangiga bells to the Philippines. Their homecoming represents hope, resilience, and respect. Because of the significance of their journey home, the bells provide both the Philippines and the US yet another opportunity to deepen their long-standing ties based on shared values, goals, and most importantly respect,” the Ambassador added.

Ambassador Romualdez also highlighted the country's strong economic performance as evidenced by its strong and consistent GDP growth rates in the past year, as well as the current administration's Comprehensive Tax Reform Program and Build Build Build infrastructure development policy.

“With growth rates of 7-10 % projected for the next decade and an HSBC Global Research Report predicting the country to be the 16th largest economy in the world by 2050, the Philippines is an attractive investment destination,” he remarked.



AMBASSADOR Romualdez greets the Wharton Club of DC President Alan Schlaifer at the reception held at the Philippine Embassy Chancery Annex on 23 January 2019.



AMBASSADOR Romualdez (right) greets Mr. Sonny Busa (left) while Dr. Bambi Lorica (center) looks on.

At the Q&A session, Ambassador Romualdez addressed several questions pertaining to the status and prospects of small- and medium-sized businesses in the country, current infrastructure projects, Filipino remittances, current US immigration policies, local technological advancements, and Philippine relations with China.

The Philippine Embassy served wine and Filipino hors d'oeuvres during the reception. The annual VIP Tour 2019 was also promoted during the event.

The Wharton Club

of DC is one of the largest and most active business school



THE Philippine Embassy served pork adobo sliders, vegetable spring rolls, pork lumpiang shanghai, deep-fried battered shrimp and cassava cake at the reception.



PHILIPPINE Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez delivers a comprehensive presentation on the Philippines and Philippine development for the members of the Wharton Club of DC at the Philippine Chancery Annex building on 23 January 2019.

clubs in the United States. Members of the Wharton Club occupy leading positions in business, finance, government, associations, and non-profit organizations.

PH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DC ADDS ANOTHER 24/7 LINE FOR CLIENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – During the Public Forum on Gender-Based Violence held at the Embassy annex building on 01 December 2018, the Embassy announced the launching of a VAW desk where victims and concerned parties may report to seek assistance and support.

To reinforce the desk and enable victims and other distressed Filipinos staying outside the DC area to reach the Embassy, the diplomatic mission set up a 24/7, joint VAW and Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) hotline (mobile no. +1-202-769-8049).

The hotline is separate from the existing 24/7 duty phone (mobile number +1-202-368-2767), which receives and responds to queries on consular matters and other embassy services as well as information on the Philippines.



WHARTON Club of DC members engage with Ambassador Romualdez during the Q&A session of the reception and briefing hosted by the Philippine Embassy on 23 January 2019.

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1st FilAm elected in Oakland to govern by People Power

From page 1

"We feel the real threats of growing inequality, displacement and gentrification produced by systemic racism and unchecked corporate influence," she mirrored their apprehensions before enunciating her recommendation. "These are problems we can solve if this council along with the rest of our city government - all lead together with a set of values that prioritize equity and real democracy."

She spelled out her plan to curb the housing crisis in an op-Ed (Prioritizing People in our Housing Policies, Oct. 18, 2018) in the East Bay Express, also an endorser:

"First, we must prioritize the development of 100 percent affordable housing projects. Second, we must set requirements for at least 25 percent affordable housing on new development and pass robust community benefits agreements. Third, we must generate new revenue such as charging private, market-rate residential and commercial developers the true cost of their infrastructure burden. Oakland taxpayers should not subsidize profitable, market-rate development. Finally, our council must pass a Public Lands Policy today, not tomorrow, not in three years, but now."

Her oath-taking remarks reinforced her campaign pledge.

"Oakland's housing crisis is out of control and we need experienced, compassionate leadership that recognizes housing is a human right. The need to improve and increase affordable housing and provide options for the growing homeless population requires a champion who can bring residents, developers, and housing advocates together—and collaborate with the county and state—for win-win solutions."

In his endorsement, Assembly Member Rob Bonta, the first FilAm elected to the California State

Legislature, lauded her as a "deeply-rooted District 2 resident and city-wide leader who has fought tirelessly for working families and the needs of Oakland residents."

Bas received 53.70% of total votes to defeat Guillen, who got 8,291 or 39.49%.

The winner represents a demographic that includes working mothers, single, heads of households or "unsheltered," in her lingo.

"Many work in low-wage industries like retail and restaurants and we must ensure they know their rights to minimum wage and paid sick leave. Women who work in industries like hotels are subject to sexual harassment and assault. Oakland voters passed Measure Z in November to help address this." She referred to the measure requiring hotels to provide employees with an emergency contact device such as a panic button to report crime, violence or threatening behaviors. It also sets a minimum hourly wage for hotel workers of \$15 with benefits or \$20 without benefits, and imposes workload restrictions.

Her empathy comes from a deeply personal place.

In a campaign video, she talks to activist Rebecca Solnit about flying to New York to join thousands of women protesting in front of Trump Tower to denounce Pres. Donald Trump's "boasting about sexual assault." She said she disclosed her own experience as a sexual assault survivor at that moment "for my daughter, for children and other women."

Hers was among the voices demanding policies to deter sexual assault everywhere when she spoke at the 3rd Annual Women's March Jan. 19 at the Lake Merritt Amphitheater (see sidebar).

Co-sponsors Black Women for Political Action and the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center quote Coretta Scott King in seeking to "activate our communities and publicly proclaim our commitment to create new homes, new communities, new cities, a new nation."

The Oakland action simultaneously occurred with sister marches around the country in a show of solidarity. To Filipinos, that would be People Power, a concept Oakland Council Member Nikki Fortunato Bas espouses.



STAKING claim for the diverse residents of her town.

From page 1

3RD ANNUAL OAKLAND WOMEN'S MARCH

Ways we can all be community leaders

By NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS
Member, Oakland City Council

We as women leaders care about our communities. We lead with values and a commitment to: equity, inclusion and compassion.

We as women leaders believe in people-powered government with real community participation. That means we make decisions with you, not for you. From the White House and Congress, to the State House, City Hall and the School Board. This is OUR government.

We care for our community, our city, like a mother cares for her child. When there's a rainstorm or the air is filled with dangerous smoke, we make sure our children have safety and shelter.

Here in Oakland, the women power that will make us whole recognizes that housing is a human right - every single person has the right to shelter. We know more and more working mothers can't pay the rent or are living in their cars and on the streets. That's inhumane and we commit ourselves to making sure women and all our neighbors have the basics of shelter and a place to call home.

We, as women leaders, are healing our own trauma and calling for an end to violence. In the Fall of 2016, when Trump boasted about his sexual assault in the infamous locker room tapes, I came out as a sexual assault survivor when I blocked Trump Tower in New York City with other survivors. I had to talk with my daughter about consent and violence. These are conversations we are having with our children at younger ages, every day, because of the patriarchy and misogyny that we must break through.

All of us, not just women and girls, but also trans folks, men and boys deserve to lead lives free of violence. We deserve safety in our homes, workplaces, schools and out in our communities.

There are so many ways that we can all be leaders in our communities. From getting involved in our neighborhood, school or union; to serving on a local board or commission; to running and winning elected office! To campaigning to be a delegate to our political party.

We are the Oakland Women's Wave. We are mothers, daughters, parent leaders, neighborhood activists, elected leaders. We are the power that will make us whole!

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Modification of Child Custody or Visitation Orders

By **ATTY. CATARINA CASTANEDA**

Many clients will be confused as to their rights in modifying a current visitation or custody order. For example, I had a client who had a visitation order 5% due to a prior restraining order. He came to my office and wants to know what his options would be. Since the restraining order had expired, a modification is “necessary or proper” in the child’s best interests. Generally, a custody or visitation order may be modifiable during the child’s minority whenever the court finds a modification is “necessary or proper” and consistent with the child’s best interest.

I suggested reaching out to the opposing party’s attorney prior to filing any motion to see if a stipulation for more visitation time would be available. This not only minimizes legal fees and court costs but is consistent with the duties required in family law of both parties to act in good faith.

If there is no agreement and court intervention is the only means to an end, I will always note in our motion that best efforts were made in order to prevent judicial intervention and increased costs. Depending on the acts or behaviors of both the attorney and opposing party, sanctions for legal fees and costs may be requested.

The standard governing custody adjudications requires the court to review and conclude what is the

child’s best interest. However, if the custody order has been deemed “final”—usually a Judgment has been filed, then a showing of “significant change of circumstances” will be needed. The policy behind this is that modifications to custody or visitation create instability and security is essential to the a child’s welfare.

The paramount goal is to preserve the need for continuity and stability in custody arrangements, unless some significant change in circumstance reflects a different arrangement would be in the child’s best interest. As for my client, there is no final custody order so the best interest standard is the applicable law.

Unless the order is permanent or final, the court is only required to make an initial custody determination of what custody order is consistent with insuring continuity and stability for the child. The burden of proof must be on the party requesting the change—my client.

We must show and persuade the court (1) that a new custody arrangement is in the child’s best interest. If however, your custody court order is final, an added burden is required (2) sufficient evidence of substantial changes in circumstances warranting a modification.

The court’s decision must be based on standards and policies governing all custody determinations—child’s best interest with primary focus on child’s safety, health,

and welfare. The court must also weigh the preference for “frequent and continuing contact” with both parents.

Custody hearings do not need to be a fight but unfortunately the children at times may be placed in the “middle.” Hence, my preference to resolving these issues is to “informally” discuss the custody terms outside the courtroom first. It lowers legal fees and costs but more importantly the acrimony between the parents.

But if court intervention is needed, be prepared since modifying a custody and/or visitation arrangement, especially if there is already an order requires a high burden of proof and persuasion. I have had many clients try to do it “alone” without an attorney and come in to my office frustrated and confused. Doing it right the first time with an effective attorney will prevent delay and costs.

Any questions email me at cicasteda@sbcglobal.net or call my office at 310-601-7144.

To receive updates on legal matters, please like our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/attycarinacasteda/> or follow us on Twitter: @AttyCastaneda and Instagram: @atty.castaneda. You may also visit our website at attycasteda.com.

Article originally published at: <http://attycasteda.com/modification-child-custody-visitation-orders-2/>

SUPERVISOR PINE CHAMPIONS INVESTMENT IN PEER TO PEER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

*San Mateo County Affiliate of
the National Alliance on Mental
Illness Receives \$15,000 Grant*

REDWOOD City – Today, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approved a grant for \$15,000 for the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI SMC).

The grant will support NAMI SMC’s Peer Programs which support Peers as they progress on their journeys to recovery and integration into the larger community.

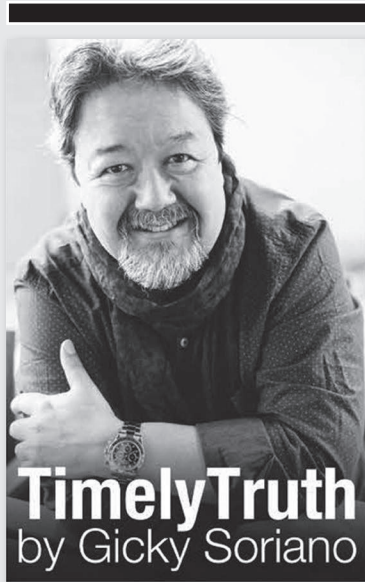
“The provision of peer-led, ongoing support helps those facing mental health challenges on their journeys to recovery and integration into the larger community,” said Supervisor Dave Pine. “NAMI SMC’s Peer programs have the added benefit of giving the Peer Leader, or mentor, the responsibility of connecting with his or her peer.”

NAMI San Mateo County is the local affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI SMC is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education and advocacy. The organization holds educational classes, support groups, presentations in the community and also runs a Warm Line phone line which serves as the first point of contact for many individuals facing mental health challenges, and their families, to access resources, support and understanding on how to move towards treatment and recovery.

“The NAMI Peer programs of Peer to Peer, Connection, In Our Own Voice and Peer PALS are the backbone of our work in supporting Peers in their recovery,” said Jerry Thompson, RN, NAMI SMC’s Board President. “We are most grateful to Supervisor Pine and the SMC Board of Supervisors for recognizing the value of our Peer programs and the difference they make.”

In each of these programs, NAMI SMC “employs” at least one Peer Leader who has gone through recovery and can relate to and mentor the program participants. Often, these paid positions are the first the Peer Leader may have had in many years and represents a significant milestone in his/her own recovery process. As of the end of 2018, NAMI SMC has 14 Peer Leaders participating in one or more of these programs. Without the participation of the Peer Leaders, NAMI SMC would be unable to offer and deliver the Peer programs to the community.

That’s The Good Way



Thus says the LORD: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk in it.”
—Jeremiah 6:16

At some point in your faith journey, you will stand at the edge your Red Sea where everything is going to go south on you—spelling the death of you. Suddenly, your hopes are dashed to the ground and your dreams are broken beyond repair. It’s at this place where you would have done everything humanly possible to reach the impossible obstacle that looms before you. It’s here where you will find the last shred of your faith rise up from the ashes of doubt and fear—a faith that seeds the impossible. It’s here where you will step back and see the Red Sea split wide open. It’s here where the hand of God will lead you to walk on dry ground. And it’s here where God will reveal a new thing in your relationship with him. As you experience an exodus through the dark valley, your crushing burden will be lifted, your new lease on life will be extended, and your season of joy will have just started.

So far, I don’t know what you have been through. And I won’t pretend to know where you are on your journey. I can only be your trail guide and point you in the direction of God’s dream for you: His vision for your future and his provision to get there.

I can only say, “That’s the way toward God, that’s the way that pleases him, and that’s the way you will enjoy each other’s company. That’s the good way ... WALK IN IT!”

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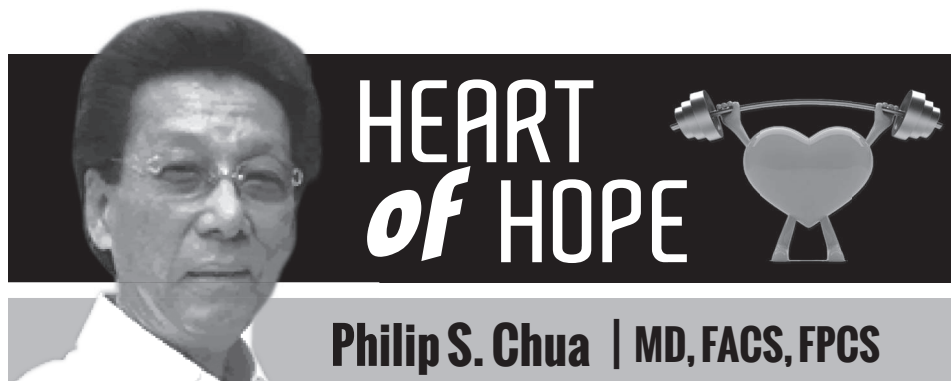
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Philip S. Chua | MD, FACS, FPCS

Whenever I hear the notorious excuse or description “Filipino Time,” I feel a grave insult is hurled at my people, even if the generalization is usually uttered by fellow Filipinos themselves. The defensive rationalization is usually accompanied by a snicker or laughter, a demeanor that trivializes the seriousness of the behavioral impropriety and rudeness.

To accept the insinuation that tardiness is a natural birth trait of the Filipino is to malign our people and irresponsibly admit that we are not educated and cultured enough, and that we are socially uncouth, ill-mannered, and uncivilized. This is no laughing matter and I do not find this funny. And I vehemently object to this unfair characterization.

I have been in the United States since 1963, and over the past 5 decades and a half, I have observed the transformation of Juan(a) de la Cruz, albeit sometimes with stubborn reluctance, to an individual more conscious of time, of the value of punctuality, and of the proper respect for other people’s schedule. There is no question that environment plays a fundamental role, second to training at home and in school, in the development of the behavior, trait, character, attitude and thinking of an individual. With this particular “syndrome,” genetics cannot deservedly take the blame. The culpability rests on the “infected ones” and not on the entire Filipino people.

While I can sense, and am proud of, the improvement in the matter of punctuality among many of our kababayan abroad and in the Philippines, especially among the younger generation, tardiness and the seeming lack of perception of time among a significant number of us is still rampant and bothersome. And what makes it more tragic is the apparent acceptance by many of our fellow Filipinos that being tardy is “normal, acceptable, excusable, or should be tolerated,” because, after all, “it is the Filipino Time.” This vexing acquiescence is unfair and a disservice to our people and to our nation as a whole.

I refuse to surrender, even for a moment, to the notion that we, as a people, are culturally, socially and ethically inferior to the Americans or to any other civilized peoples of the world. Punctuality is not an exclusive trait of the people of the United States or of the Europeans. While I abhor the lack of punctuality among anyone and admit with embarrassment and dismay that many of us Filipinos (and other nationalities, of course) are guilty of this offensive bad habit, I still believe that, with proper training and discipline, starting from the nursery school, the Filipinos will be capable of developing the trait of punctuality, and discipline, among others, in them.

About 13 years ago, my son, Phil, accompanied his 5-year-old daughter, Sam, to a nursery/kindergarten school class (dance) presentation on its foundation day. The “invitation” said 3:30 P.M. When they got to the school, there were only about a dozen other kids waiting, out of the two hundred or so participants expected. The program did not begin at 4:00 or 4:30, not even at 5:30. It started at 6:35, more than three hours late. This delay actually prevented Phil from attending a previous dinner engagement he had at 7:30 that evening.

And this made me wonder. How can we teach our children about punctuality, the value of time, and the respect for other people’s schedule, if we, their elders, especially the school administrator and faculty, display before these young impressionistic minds our own careless disregard for promptness and our lack of respect for other people’s commitments?

Many of us usually come up with a dozen excuses for our misbehavior or misadven-

“Filipino Time” revisited

tures. For being late for our appointment, meeting or party, we blame the Spaniards, our society as a whole, the alarm clock, the traffic, the car battery, the baby sitter, or even the innocent baby itself. The usual rationale we hear from many is “they won’t start on time anyway; we’ll just waste our time waiting there.” And the vicious cycle goes on.

Making excuses or shifting the blame does not accomplish anything and only makes matters worse. Perhaps, its time to look at the mirror to view the real culprit, make the accurate critical diagnosis, and self-prescribe the appropriate treatment – promptly!

Let us set a good example for our children by showing them how we value and manage time, how time lost can never be recovered, and how we respect other people’s agenda. It’s about time we lost that bad reputation.

The “Filipino Time” syndrome is a disease only of those inconsiderate selfish compatriots of ours who simply don’t give a damn, and not of the entire Filipino people. So, when someone is late for an appointment, I beg you to, please, not to mention the lame excuse “Filipino Time” when I am around, otherwise, I won’t be responsible for my inexplicable but prompt ferocious reaction.

Discipline

I often hear the comment that the Filipino people are not disciplined. Against my better judgment, I had refused to believe it...until I experienced it first hand. Several times. And here are a couple of examples.

I once took the WG&A Our Lady of Fatima boat to Ozamiz for a business meeting in Oroquieta. Going down the stairs on the return trip to Cebu, I encountered a chaotic mob of “carriers” with pieces of luggage on their shoulders and around their arms and passengers alike inch their way recklessly to make their hurried exit, almost knocking people down the stairs. The jam slowed down the whole process quite a bit. Why we could not have spontaneously organized ourselves, formed a single line, and walked down the stairs in an orderly, more efficient, comfortable, safer fashion, and faster, is puzzling to me.

Fortunately, the young children, the hope of our country, behave in a more civilized manner. When the teacher announces treats for them, these kids form a single line themselves, and take their proper turns in receiving the goodies. No shoving, no pushing, or taking advantage of one another. Each simply waits patiently for his/her turn. Perhaps, we adults should watch more children’s television shows or go back to kindergarten to learn better manners.

Another observation: Unruly drivers of private cars or cabs who break traffic laws every chance and every which way they can, instantly become law-abiding and model drivers when they enter Clark Field airbase in the Philippines, where strict US-style traffic rules are enforced with severe penalty. Once they get out of Clark, their reckless driving manners return almost instantly. This Jekyll and Hyde behavior is inspired by, and a reflection of, the lack of discipline and responsibility and dereliction of duty among most traffic law enforcement agencies in the country. Why our government, city mayors, and chiefs of police allow this ineptitude is beyond me. I guess when one is corrupt, only money, not the law or the safety of the people, matters.

Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, FPCS, a Cardiac Surgeon Emeritus based in Northwest Indiana and Las Vegas, Nevada, is an international medical lecturer/author, and Chairman of the Filipino United Network-USA, a 501(c)3 humanitarian foundation in the United States. Websites: FUN8888.com, philipSchua.com | Email: scalpelpen@gmail.com

Scientists find how Vitamin A derivative kills liver cancer stem cells

WASHINGTON – Japanese researchers have identified the mechanism that an artificial compound derived from Vitamin A targets one class of liver cancer stem cells, preventing them from giving rise to new tumors.

A study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, provides important hints for decreasing cancer recurrence and curing patients.

Acyclic retinoid has been found to

gression, proliferation, and colony formation, implying that the action of the acyclic retinoid on MYCN was slowing the cancer growth.

They found that high expression of MYCN was correlated with the expression of a number of markers that are associated with cancer stem cells.

The “cancer stem cells” are special cells that are able to survive the onslaught of chemotherapy or other treatments, then differentiating into new cancer cells and leading to recurrence.

“When we then looked at different subpopulations of heterogeneous cancer cells and found one specific group of EpCAM-positive cancer stem cells, where MYCN was elevated,” said Kojima. “We wondered if perhaps the key to acyclic retinoid’s effect was its ability to target these hepatic cancer stem cells.”

Experiments revealed that when exposed to acyclic retinoid, in

prevent the recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), the most common, highly-lethal form of liver cancer, the second deadliest cancer after non-small cell lung cancer. However, scientists were not clear exactly why it worked.

The cancer has a high rate of recurrence. Surgery and other treatments are initially effective, but the cancer often relapses.

A research group led by Soichi Kojima of the RIKEN Center for Integrative Medical Science in Japan looked at the transcriptome of cells that had been exposed to acyclic retinoid, and found that compared to control untreated cells, they had low expression of MYCN, a gene that is often expressed in tumors and is correlated with poor prognosis.

They repressed the expression of the gene in cancer cells, and found that the reduction in MYCN expression led functionally to slower cell-cycle pro-

a dose-dependent manner, the EpCAM-positive cells were selectively depleted.

Also, the researchers took liver biopsies of patients who had been given acyclic retinoid following liver cancer surgery, and found that in four of the six who had received a higher dosage of 600 mg/d, there were decreased levels of MYCN expression.

They looked at data from the Cancer Genome Atlas, and found that elevated expression of MYCN correlated with dramatically poorer prognosis.

“It is remarkable that the acyclic retinoid clearly targets a certain category of cancer stem cells, and this provides us with important hints for decreasing cancer recurrence and truly curing patients. We are waiting to see what clinical data will show us,” said Kojima.

A phase 3 clinical trial of acyclic retinoid (also called Peretinoin), is underway to test the drug’s ability to prevent HCC recurrence. (Xinhua)



Heart disease still leading cause of death in Philippines

MANILA – Ischemic heart disease is still the top killer disease in the country, a heart expert said.

“If we are going to base it on the recent WHO (World Health Organization) list Top 10 Causes of Death, ischemic heart disease and stroke still rank as top two. That has been the trend globally for the last 15 years,” Dr. Gino Quizon, a cardiologist of Medical Center Manila, said during a health forum.

Ischemic heart disease occurs when the heart does not get enough supply of blood and oxygen due to narrowed arteries.

Quizon said that while progress has been made in the treatment of ischemic heart disease, its mortality rate remains high.

He pointed to the choice to lead an unhealthy lifestyle as the main culprit for this disease.

“It is easier to be unhealthy, and it is such an effort to live a healthy lifestyle,” Quizon said, citing as examples poor dietary choices, smoking, and drinking alcohol.

Genes also contribute to the risk of acquiring hypertension, heart attack, or stroke, he added.

“The 2016 European Guidelines on Cardio-

vascular Disease Prevention recommends a low saturated fat diet with focus on wholegrain products, fish, fruits, and vegetables. A study published just last Feb. 20 concludes that a low-fat diet is comparable to a low carbohydrate diet in a 12-month study period,” the cardiologist noted.

He also advised against cigarette smoking and alcohol intake, and recommended sugar and cholesterol control, as well as stress management.

“Addressing all other risk factors would offset and prevent a cardiovascular event,” Quizon said.

Meanwhile, in terms of the treatment available, he said majority of structural and coronary artery disease interventions could now be done percutaneously or through needle-puncture of the skin instead of the “open” approach.

“We can now repair coronary artery and peripheral artery blockages, fix congenital holes/defects, coil aneurysms, and repair valvular diseases without the need for major surgeries. Even the materials we use have evolved and have been updated to provide better care and outcomes,” Quizon said. (PNA)

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After Jolo bombing Duterte seeks all-out war vs Abu Sayyaf

From page 1

Manila.

President Duterte visited the cathedral at the start of the week and then ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines along with the PNP to wage an all-out war against the ASG, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

The president said he had "no doubt" that it was work of the ASG and that he wanted to "destroy" the terrorist group.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lazaro said he was inclined to believe that the bombing was the work of a suicide bomber. He, however, noted that there has never been a suicide bomber in the Philippines.

If the Jolo bombing was the work of a suicide bomber - possibly two, based on an initial theory - it would be the

first ever and would serve as a warning to the government that the global terrorist network of ISIS had indeed gained a foothold on the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Malacang said the words of Mr. Duterte - who has been consistently attacking the Catholic Church and its hierarchy since becoming chief executive - had nothing to do with the bombing.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said it was not the president's words but rather the disrespect of the bombers for the Catholic Church that was the spur for the attack on churchgoers.

Panelo said, "The President is outraged. He's so angry that they have not respected a place of worship - that's why he declared war against all these perpetrators."

Legarda to consider reenacted budget proposal in bicam talks

From page 1

Saying he was "sick and tired" of the numerous "pork" allegations hounding the 2019 budget, Sotto proposed the withdrawal of the Senate-approved GAB and pushed for a reenacted budget.

Senators Panfilo Lacson, Sonny Angara, and Aquilino Pimentel III backed the Senate President's reenacted budget proposal.

Lacson noted that since the present Congress started in 2016, Sotto was among the three senators who approached him and told him he would not avail of "whatever regular allocation", or the so-called pork allocations, if offered. The two other senators Lacson was referring to are Senators Franklin Drilon and Francis Pangilinan.

"I know there are others among our colleagues who have since done the same. Anyway, he must be as frustrated as I am as well, as most of our like-minded colleagues that pork has not left the annual budget even after the SC ruling outlawing the same in a landmark decision," Lacson said.

In 2013, the Supreme Court (SC) declared as unconstitutional the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) or "pork barrel".

Angara said he will support the leadership decision as a member of the majority.

"I think he was getting frustrated with the developments at the bicam given the limited time to pass the budget," he said.

Pimentel said he trusts the good judgment of the Senate President.

Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Ralph Recto warned against a reenacted budget, arguing that it would not be good for job creation and would stall the growth of the economy. He further added that the government's infrastructure program, "Build, Build, Build", would suffer.

Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito explained that the Senate interventions - such as the restoration of the funding for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program of the Department of Health - are mostly institutional.

"It will be sad that all the effort to improve government services will be wasted," Ejercito said. (PNA)

Comelec releases lists of senatorial candidates, party-list groups for May 13 polls

From page 1



PIMENTEL

POE

ENRILE

VILLAR

ESTRADA

AQUINO

'Koko' Pimentel, Grace Poe, Juan Ponce Enrile and Jinggoy Estrada. Also included were former Philippine National Police chief Ronald 'Bato' Dela Rosa, Ilocos Norte Governor Imee Marcos, among others.

Meanwhile, there are 134 party-list organizations included. Jimenez noted that the list for party-list organiza-

tions is also still not final.

In preparation for the national and local elections, the Comelec also conducted mock elections in 60 polling places nationwide last January 19.

During the conduct of the said activity, Jimenez said that the poll body is 90 percent ready for the elections.

"We are still four months out, we say 90 percent ready. But as you very well know, it is the last 10 percent that takes forever," said Jimenez.

He then also urged Filipinos to exercise their right to vote because those who will be elected will "affect the quality of life of the whole Philippines." (Manila Bulletin)

MILF conducting own probe on Jolo blasts

MAIGO, Lanao del Norte - The leadership of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is conducting its own investigation on the two explosions that rocked the cathedral in Jolo, Sulu, on Sunday morning.

MILF Chairman Hadji Murad Ibrahim, during his visit in Maigo, Lanao del Norte on Sunday to lead the grand rally for the inclusion of the six municipalities of the province to the new Bangsamoro government, said the explosion "is definitely not connected with the plebiscite because it is already done".

In his message to thousands of residents of the province, Murad said the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) is for peace and it will protect not only the rights of Bangsamoro people but also the non-Bangsamoro people like the Christians and indigenous peoples.

"We are not dividing the people. In fact, we are uniting the Muslim and the Christian people," Murad said.

On February 6, more than 300,000 registered voters in Lanao del Norte will participate in the Bangsamoro plebiscite to decide if the municipalities of Pantar, Baloi, Tagoloan, Munai, Tangkal and Nunungan will be included in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

This town was attacked by MILF fighters in the years 2000, 2004, and 2008.

Recently, Maigo Mayor Rafael Rizalda and Abdullah Macapaar, also known as Commander Bravo, the leader of the MILF-Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces in North Western Mindanao Front, reconciled to strengthen their advocacy for the success of the Bangsamoro.

Rizalda is the first Christian mayor who declared support to BOL by visiting the MILF camp in Darapanan, North Cotabato and Bravo's Camp Bilal in Barangay Tamparan, Munai, Lanao del Norte.

Meanwhile Presidential Peace Adviser Carlito Galvez Jr. condemned the bomb attack in Jolo, Sulu.

"We have come a long way in our journey to achieve enduring peace in Mindanao. Now is not the time to cower and be intimidated by such a selfish and cowardly deed," he said.

"Instead, let us show that we can work together and push through with our collective aspiration for a peaceful, united, and progressive Mindanao," Galvez added.

He also called on the public to stay calm and refrain from aggravating the situation by issuing speculations, particularly on social media, and wait for the proper authorities to complete the investigation.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters while waiting for her flight back to Manila at the Laguindingan Airport in Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, Vice President Ma. Leonor "Leni" Robredo said it is important that the culprits will be identified and arrested right away.

"What happened in Jolo is sad. We hope it won't happen again. It is imperative that the perpetrators be identified and the victims be given justice. Otherwise, it will only embolden others to do the same attack," she said.

The bombings happened just a few days after the plebiscite on the BOL in the core territories of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). (PNA)



MILF BLAST PROBE. Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chairman Hadji Murad Ibrahim leads a grand rally in Lanao del Norte to support the inclusion of six municipalities in the province in the new Bangsamoro government, a few hours after the explosion in in Jolo on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019. Murad said the MILF is investigating the incident. (Photo by Divina M. Suson)

'Game over' for Marcos poll protest - Robredo camp

THE camp of Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo reiterated on Wednesday that it was "game over" for the poll protest of former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal, lead counsel for Robredo, said that the Vice President's lead remained intact following the conclusion of the recount, revision, and re-appreciation of ballots from the three pilot provinces chosen by Marcos.

Robredo's camp filed an eight-page Supplemental Manifestation before the Supreme Court, acting as Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), to say that Marcos did not make a substantial recovery from Camarines Sur, Iloilo, and Negros Oriental, which he accused of electoral fraud, irregularities and anomalies that resulted in his loss in the vice presidential race. 'Game over'

In a letter dated January 22, the PET confirmed with Macalintal

that the revision proceedings in the Marcos vs Robredo case was suspended last Monday and would only resume until further notice.

"This is to give way for the Tribunal to prepare for the revision using the decrypted ballots and/or election paraphernalia. The revision proceedings will resume until further notice," said Edgar Aricheta, clerk of the Tribunal.

Under the revision proceedings, the revision committee would use the decrypted ballot images from the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to read the ballots. This will be followed by ballot appreciation where the PET will rule on the claims by both parties.

For Macalintal, however, the suspended revision proceedings would have no impact on the protest as a whole.

"I don't see any impact on the ongoing revision or recount. They said we will be advised when the recount is set to resume. But I

don't think there will be another recount since it's already done," the election lawyer said.

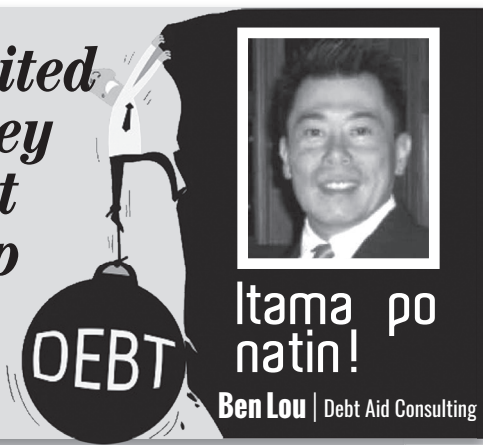
Marcos previously filed a motion for the PET to issue a subpoena duces tecum on some documents involving a technical examination conducted in Lanao del Sur, Basilan, and Maguindanao, which are outside the designation of his pilot provinces.

He still needs to get a substantial recovery in the chosen provinces before the ballot recount could proceed in other areas, which he also questioned in his protest.

Under Rule 65 of the 2010 PET Rules, the Tribunal will determine, "after an examination of the ballots and proof, after making reasonable allowances and taking all circumstances into account, whether the protestant or counter-protestant will most probably fail to make out his case."

Marcos lost to Robredo by 263,472 votes in the May 2016 polls. (TMT)

Q: Can the Limited Power of Attorney that we send out to creditors stop all collection attempts?



A: This requires some explanation. The Limited Power of Attorney or LPOA that we send out is a means of communicating with the creditor that you have hired our services in order to establish an amicable settlement for the money owed to them due to hardship. Yes, hardship is the key to the program. It is not a means to discount someone's debts so they can abuse and escape their responsibility in paying the debt in full. The banks have ways and means to find out if you have full capability of paying your debts in full.

Recently, we got received a call from a client who was very annoyed because she received a call from a creditor. She

called to demand that we send out the LPOA again to her creditors as they are still calling her. My assistant reminded her that her that they have legal rights just as much as she does and the right to contact her in order to collect a debt is a right the LPOA does not take away from the creditor or collector. The client is, however, protected by the law against collection harassment. A call from a collector does not constitute harassment. Some client believe that when they have entered a debt relief program, all collection efforts will stop. This is not so! Anyone who claims so is lying in order to secure your business but you will be disappointed when you start getting calls and they explain exactly what I just men-

tioned.

My role in sending out the LPOA's is to make them aware that my company is representing the client and is limited to handling their debt situation. Thus, the word Limited exists. This LPOA in most cases will manage the collection efforts directed towards the client and most communication will be directed towards my company.

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The opinion and information expressed herein are those of the author and do not reflect the views of Philippine News.

Peso rises; local stocks fall as trading week ends

MANILA - With no major economic reports here or overseas either to inspire or sow gloom, local markets went their separate ways on Friday with the Philippine peso appreciating against the US dollar even as the main stocks gauge fell.

The local currency ended the day at 52.535 from 52.86 a day ago.

A trader said that after the report of the Philippines' growth in 2018, at 6.2 percent from the previous year's 6.7 percent, investors decided to just wait for news overseas.

For the day, the peso opened weaker at 52.90 from 52.65 a day ago.

It surged to 52.53 mid-trade but also moved to 52.91, resulting in an average of 52.728.

Volume of trade reached USD1.02 billion, up from the previous session's USD950.49 million.

The currency pair is seen to trade between 52.50 and 52.90 next week.

On the other hand, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) fell 0.14 percent, or 11.70 points, to 8,053.20 points.

"Philippine shares traded slightly lower after several regional events and economic data did not stir any interest heading into the weekend," said Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital managing director.

He said negative sentiment rose partly on news quoting European Central Bank (ECB) president Mario Draghi, who said risks to the Euro area have shifted to the downside.

This news, along with the wait-and-see stance on the result of the US-China trade talks, made investors a bit jittery.

Hence, the mixed results of the stock indices, with the broader All Shares tracking the PSEi after it dropped 0.16 percent,



or 7.61 points, to 4,853.62 points.

Holding Firms declined by 0.80 percent and Financials by 0.29 percent.

On the other hand, Services rose 0.87 percent and was followed by Mining and Oil, 0.66 percent; Property, 0.47 percent; and Industrial, 0.16 percent.

Volume reached 1.35 billion shares amounting to PHP7.88 billion.

Gainers led losers 101 to 87 while 50 stocks were unchanged. (PNA)

One can't get HIV from eating fish: DOH chief

MANILA - Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque III on Wednesday said one cannot be infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by eating fish from supposedly contaminated waters.

Duque made this remark in response to social media posts warning the public against buying and eating fish from Visayas and Mindanao where syringes suspected of being used for HIV-AIDS treatment were thrown.

"Ang virus na sanhi ng HIV-AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) ay hindi nabubuhay sa labas ng katawan ng tao, at lalo na kung iyan ay mapupunta sa tubig na maasin at maarawan, ay hindi ito pwedeng lumipat sa isda kaya nga tinawag nating (The virus causing HIV-AIDS doesn't live outside the human body, especially if it goes to salty water and under the sun, this cannot transfer to fish that's why we call it) human immuno deficiency virus," he said in a radio interview.

He called on the public to double-check reports and not to spread fear on social media.

"Alam mo naman dahil sa social media ay marami nang mga taong empowered maglagay ng kung anu-ano at ang mga taong walang ginagawa ay pini-pick up ito at kinakalat din. Dapat magsipag tayo at gu-

mawa tayo ng mga bagay na makakatulong imbis na magbibigay ng takot o alinlangan sa ating mga kababayan hinggil sa sakit (You know because of social media many are empowered to post anything and people pick it up and share it. We should be diligent in doing things that can help and not spread fear or worries to our fellowmen about the disease)," he said.

In the Philippines, Duque said the number of HIV cases is increasing, but this is being addressed.

Latest figures from the DOH showed there were 1,072 new cases of HIV in the Philippines as of October 2018. Of this number, 306 are age 15 to 24 years old.

The percentage of youth getting infected with HIV has increased to 29 percent from 13 percent over the last decade.

"Mayroong tumataas na bilang nito. Ito ay tinutugunan naman at mayroong ding bagong HIV-AIDS Act na may maraming probisyon na makatutulong maging mas epektibo ang implementasyon ng batas para mapigilan ang HIV-AIDS epidemic kung magkaroon man (It has increasing cases, these are being addressed and there is a new HIV-AIDS Act with provisions which can help in implementing the law to prevent HIV-AIDS epidemic if there's one)," Duque said. (PNA)

PG&E... FROM PAGE 7

available by calling 844-339-4217 (toll-free in the U.S.) or 1-929-333-8977 (for parties outside the U.S.), as well as by emailing pgeinfo@primeclerk.com.

Advisors

Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP are serving as PG&E's legal counsel, Lazard is serving as its investment banker and AlixPartners, LLP is serving as the restructuring advisor to PG&E.

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PG&E Corporation (NYSE: PCG) is a holding company headquartered in San Francisco. It is the parent company of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, an energy company that serves 16 million Californians across a 70,000-square-mile service area in Northern and Central California. Each of PG&E Corporation and the Utility is a separate entity, with distinct creditors and claimants, and is subject to separate laws, rules and regulations. For more information, visit <http://www.pgecorp.com>. In this press release, they are together referred to as "PG&E" or the "Company."

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City Council Appoints Shawna Maltbie as City Manager

DALY CITY - The City Council of Daly City unanimously voted to appoint Shawna Maltbie as City Manager at the Council meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019. Ms. Maltbie had been serving as Interim City Manager since July 2018. She has more than 20 years of experience in local government, nearly 14 of which have been spent working for the City of Daly City. She was hired as the Assistant Director of Human Resources in 2005 and was promoted to Director of Human Resources in 2007.

Ms. Maltbie was sworn into her role by Mayor Ray Buenaventura. Her family, including her mother, Patricia Marques, daughters Emma and Ella, and both mother and father-in-law were in the audience. Her husband, Jeff Maltbie, was unable to attend because he was at his own City Council meeting in the City of San Carlos, where he is the City Manager.

Mayor Ray Buenaventura said, "Sometimes in life we get lucky. Sometimes it's a matter of timing, it's a matter of opportunity, it's a matter of discovering someone's work product, it's a matter of giving someone a chance. And sometimes who or what we're looking for is just right in front of us. And I truly believe that is what happened in this case. Shawna has been our Interim City Manager for several months now and what she has done for Daly City has been just tremendous." Among the many congratulatory



remarks from the City Council, Councilmember Juslyn Manalo also noted how many policy and program goals were accomplished during her time as Mayor in 2018 by working with Ms. Maltbie while she was the Interim City Manager from July to December of 2018.

In her speech, Ms. Maltbie said, "About 7 months ago, I stood right here when then Mayor Manalo swore me in and I was over the moon at the opportunity to stretch. And now that I have the 'Interim' taken away from the title, my honor, my pride and my

dedication to the City is exponential. You can see just in this meeting alone, the rainbow of things that the city deals with. We are huge city—the biggest city in San Mateo County—but we still function like a family and that's because of your leadership, that's your heart. I'm just here to implement your heart and your passion."

Ms. Maltbie holds a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco, has completed graduate work in Public Administration from San Francisco State University, and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Gerontology from the University of Southern California. Her commitment to community service includes serving on the governing board of the San Mateo County Regional Training & Development Consortium for Public Agencies. She also serves on the Board of the Directors for the Service League of San Mateo County and is a member of CALPELRA, IP-MA-HR, and the American Society of Aging.

Ms. Maltbie said, "This feels right. I've been with Daly City for almost 14 years and it makes sense to be in this role and I'm honored. I thank each of you for this opportunity. I look forward to the years to come and I'm honored to serve this community."

USCIS Announces Online Case Status Feature for Asylum Applicants

WASHINGTON - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced today that applicants who have a pending affirmative asylum application with USCIS can now check the status of their applications online at uscis.gov/casestatus. Only asylum applicants with an application pending with USCIS will be able to use this new feature to check their case status online. It will not cover defensive asylum applicants whose

cases are pending in immigration court.

"The new capability increases transparency and assures applicants that they have the most up-to-date and accurate information about their case, 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said USCIS Director L. Francis Cissna. "We strive to adjudicate all applications and petitions in a timely manner and are working to reduce the impact on processing times

by aligning resources appropriately."

Previously, asylum applicants could only check their case status through an asylum office in person or by phone, fax, or email. Non-governmental organizations and stakeholders within the legal community informed USCIS that asylum applicants have found this process is very difficult. Furthermore, giving asylum applicants the ability to check their case status online allows asylum

office staff to better focus their resources on scheduling interviews and adjudicating pending cases.

This enhancement is a part of our overall modernization efforts to provide a more efficient and effective user experience.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), Instagram (/uscis), YouTube (/uscis), and Facebook(/uscis). *USCIS*



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A day with Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
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Positive Approach to Care. Care Indeed employees gathered at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose, California on January 22 for the Teepa Talk: Respite and Research for Alzheimer's Disease. The company was a premier sponsor for the event hosted by Teepa Snow, a North Carolina based organization with a philosophy to professionally care for and support people living with various forms of dementia. The Teepa Talk, attended by five employees of Care Indeed, featured dementia panels on communication and behaviors as well as caregiving. For more about Care Indeed's home care services and job openings, call (877) 504-3822, log in to www.careindeed.com, or visit one of their Bay Area locations.



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Texas Fil Am students prank McDonald's for Filipino representation

By CESAR ANTONIO JR. NUCUM

At the start of the year, Filipino American actor Darren Criss won as the 76th Golden Globe awardee as Best Actor in a Limited Series or a Motion Picture Made for Television for "The Assassination of Gianni Versace" and dedicated his award to his Filipina Cebuana mom Cerina Bru after which he proudly declared, "this has been a marvelous year for representation in Hollywood, and I'm so enormously proud to be a teeny tiny part of that as the son of a firecracker Filipino woman."

But in July 2018 or some six months ago, two Filipino Americans in Pearland, Texas boldly hung their pictures at their favorite McDonald's branch after they noticed that although there are many posters there, none included Asians.

So the duo, University of Houston students Jehv Maravilla, 21, and his friend Christian Toledo, 25 bought McDonald gears at a local thrift store and created badges, took some pictures of themselves and hung a fake marketing poster with their picture at a blank wall that stayed for 51 days.

Maravilla tweeted about the incident together pictures of the prank they created and the tweet went viral

After the incident, McDonald got both of them to appear for \$50,000 on marketing campaign in the food chain's effort and commitment for diversity and the announcement for the appearance was made in an Ellen de Generes show.

Interviewed through email after the announcement of their appearance in next McDonald's marketing campaign, both Maravilla and Toledo exuded their genuine desire for representation very much like what actor Darren Criss passionately declared during that momentous awards night.

Asked on how the prank would influence experience Asian, particularly Filipino representations in American society, Maravilla hopes after the prank and gaining positive abundance of feedback for it that people want more representation.

"The United States is a melting pot of different cultures, so it's about time for media to mirror that. For Filipinos, I hope this will give them hope as well! Seeing more of us in mainstream media can hopefully inspire them that they can be on there as well," explained Maravilla, whose parents hail from Southern Luzon, with mother coming from Nasugbu, Batangas and father is from Cavinti, Laguna.

Toledo believes, as Maravilla also do, that this is just a part of a bigger movement much like what blockbuster Crazy Rich Asians director Jon Chu and actress Constance Wu described what their movie was all about.

"I would say this is just a reminder that we are here and these issues still exist. We can use whatever we have and no one has to get hurt or offended to make a point," claims Toledo whose parents come from Kawit, Cavite and who also went to college at the University of the Philippines - Manila (UPM) graduating with a degree in Philippine Arts Major in Arts Management and Cultural Heritage aside from having an MA in Media Studies Major in film at UP Diliman.

Talking further on the impact of Crazy Rich Asians, Maravilla thinks that if the movie can help change how Hollywood portrays how movies are casted, then a poster can help push that movement too in different aspects of media.

"Seeing that movie gives me hope that there is a future for Christian and I who want to work in the media production world; hopefully in Hollywood," bats Maravilla who was talking with Toledo about the hit movie at that same McDonald's outlet

"Even before it premiered how people were expecting it to become a movement and we wanted to join that movement. I loved the experience of watching it with other ethnicities because, in the end, all of us react the same way to the movie. It just shows that we don't need stereotypes to make a good movie," Toledo bared.

Going back to the prank experience, they recalled that they noticed the blank wall and the absence of Asians in the McDonald's posters in said branch at the same specific table with blank wall for a month before they decided to do something.

It was Maravilla who had the idea have their



BOTH Jehv Maravilla (second from right) and Christian Toledo (second from left) got the surprise of their lives when TV host Ellen de Generes (extreme right) presented them with a facsimile check for \$25,000 each to be in the next McDonald's marketing campaign. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



JEHV Maravilla is all dressed up as McDonald's crew staff member so they can hang their prank poster in a Pearland, Texas McDonald's branch. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



UNIVERSITY of Houston Fil Am students Christian Toledo (left) and Jehv Maravilla posed in front of their prank poster which went unnoticed for 51 days inside their favorite McDonald's Pearland branch. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pictures taken and posted at that blank wall

with the help of Toledo's camera and editing skills. Maravilla thought it was an insane but an original idea but admitted he usually does crazy and unimaginable things like this making it such an exciting adventure.

"Diversity and representation is a big issue in the United States and even we felt that there was a need to do something about it. As media consumers and practitioners, we felt like if we could do quality work and use it for a cause, then why not?" Toledo stressed.

The whole span of the plan was about 2 months (June and July) with one month spent for planning/taking the pictures/editing, two weeks for poster delivery and another two weeks after before they scheduled the day with friends to hang it up.

Maravilla revealed that they never had any thoughts of totally scrapping the whole thing because each problem they thought of had a solution they can make up. And although they did have hesitations, the rush of adrenaline and the support of their friends Cassandra and Kaitlyn boosted them further.

"We only had hesitations the first day we thought about it. Then we thought of ways to make sure that we wouldn't damage anything and no one would get hurt, not us, the customers and the employees. The other

branding issues we also thought about like how to dress up with no logos and brands because Mravilla and I used to work for the same TV channel," Toledo disclosed.

Maravilla describes as crazy how the past few months with prank really impacted his life as he learned much more about communication skills like networking and public speaking, and how much of an inspiration a 40-by-60-inch poster can be.

"It made me believe in the saying "Do what you love and everything will follow" or maybe I just got lucky. But one thing I know is that I won't let this be a waste. We've always wanted to work for bigger film and TV companies and we know that starting is hard and frustrating but now we have a little slack to work with. What I love was meeting everyone on set and talking about how they got there and everyone always has a different story. There really is no one way to do things and everyone has a good story to tell," Toledo depicted the whole experience.



SAN Mateo County Supervisor David J. Canepa and friends at the San Mateo County employee bowling tournament held at Classic Bowling in Daly City.



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COMMENCEMENT OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS FOR THE AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT RENTAL LEASE AT SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Airport Commission has commenced the Request for Proposals ("RFP") process for the Automated Equipment Rental Lease. This Lease is for the operation of Automated Equipment Rental service at San Francisco International Airport. The Proposal Bond Amount for this lease is \$1,000.00.

An Informational Conference will be held on **Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.** at the SFO Business Center, 575 No. McDonnell Road, 3rd Floor - Finance Conference Room at San Francisco International Airport. This is a time when Staff will discuss desired concept, minimum qualification requirements, address any questions relating to the Lease and receive comments from participants. Small, local and disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to participate.

Please see <https://www.flysfo.com/business-at-sfo/current-opportunities> for additional information or call Tomasi Toki, Principal Property Manager, Revenue Development and Management Department, (650) 821-4500 or via email at tomasi.toki@flysfo.com.

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