

THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

April 2007, Vol. XXV, No. 4

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

www.filipinostar.org

RP elections start for absentee voters

According to the latest news, the first absentee voter to cast a ballot has been made by an OFW (overseas foreign worker) from the island nation of Palu in Micronesia, radio dzBB reported on Saturday. Although the general elections are scheduled for May 14, the early voting is permitted for absentee voters for a period of one month, starting on April 14, and ending on May 14, 2007.

Nicanora Maglinis, 56, wrote her candidates on the ballot at about 8 a.m., Saturday at the Philippine Embassy in Koror, the state comprising the main commercial center of Palau, the report said. According to the GMA news excerpt, Maglinis has been an OFW for the last 18 years. She had worked in Hongkong and Saudi Arabia before she stayed in Palu for the last 10 years. DzBB said Maglinis "stay tuned" on the political and electoral events in the Philippines through the television.

Positions being contested include half the seats in the Senate. The 2007 Elections are known as the Philippine midterm election as the election date falls half-way through President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's

current six-year term. All the seats in the Philippine House of Representatives are up for grabs. Representatives are elected for three year terms. The duly elected legislators of the 2007 elections will

of special minorities. Such representatives gain one seat for every 2% of the total number of votes in the national electorate, but are limited to three seats. Local elections for governor, vice governor, provincial board seats (provinces only) and mayoral, vice mayoral, and city/municipal council seats in Metro Manila and the provinces are up for grabs as well.

Hereunder is a list of senatorial candidates:

Edgardo J. Angara (Laban), Benigno "Noy" Aquino III (Liberal Party), Joker P. Arroyo (Kabalikang Malayang Pilipino), Martin D. Bautista (Ang Kapatiran), Felix C. Cantal (Philippine Green Republic Party), Alan Peter Cayetano (Nacionalista Party), Joselito P. Cayetano (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Melchor Chavez (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Anna Dominique Coseteng (Independent), Michael

See Page 4 Philippine Elections



join the elected senators of the 2004 elections and will comprise the 14th Congress of the Philippines.

Most representatives win seats by being elected directly, the constituency being a geographical district comprising of about 250,000 voters. There are 212 seats in total for all the legislative districts. There are also seats for organized representation

Cavite Province

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First gender parity in trimmed cabinet



Dr. Philippe Couillard, Minister of Health, and Mme Monique Jerome Forget, Finance Minister and President of the Treasury Board.

QUEBEC — For the first time in the province's history, half of Quebec's new cabinet is made up of women, a move by Premier Jean Charest to revamp the Liberals' image after last month's bitter election reduced his government to a minority.

Mr. Charest appeared humble in conferring the responsibility on the cabinet of 18, including the province's first black minister, to manage Quebec's first minority government in more than a century.

"In their wisdom, the people of Quebec decided to elect a minority government," Mr. Charest said Wednesday after his ministers were sworn in. "The cabinet I'm swearing in today is one of the smallest of modern times. It's made up of an equal number of men and women. It includes the first ever woman from a visible minority."

"The government will work with the opposition parties who will share with us the responsibility of deciding public policy. The change that Quebecers have voted for starts now."

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Cabinet



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Jean-Pierre Sanchez, Mary Samonas, and Patrick Bedikian

EDITORIAL

Gender parity is a good start in making changes

Premier Jean Charest made history with his choice of a new cabinet that is not only smaller but has an equal number of female and male ministers. He is the first Canadian head of government to have given such recognition to women. This should not be taken lightly nor be ignored as he has taken a pioneering step to institute changes in our political, social and economic structures. Of course, his political critics may say that this is just a cosmetic change and does not go far enough as he allegedly have appointed the same people in the most influential positions. Nevertheless, it goes without saying that Premier Charest must be commended for his initiative and desire to reach out to the majority of the population who are women who have been historically relegated to minor positions in society. Why is it important for society to give women leaders their place in government? It is generally believed that a feminine touch is needed in making things more balanced as it reflects nature itself - we need both men and women in creating life, biologically speaking, and it is only by observing the laws of nature that we can be assured of harmony in human existence. If we really want to have a team effort in coping with various changes in all aspects of life, we need to work in complimentary ways to arrive at solutions which will be more effective. The expression "two heads are better than one" is so true but it is probably truer to say that both men and women are needed if we want to promote real justice in our society.

As we all know, things are slowly changing for the better but there is still a long way to go when it comes to the equality of men and women. For one thing, women are not yet paid the same way although they do the same jobs as men. There are attempts to change such a practice but it is indeed difficult to implement policies of "equal pay for equal work." There are still less women who are CEOs and who are in positions of power. Human society has always been patriarchal and it would probably take many more centuries or

generations to change this age-old tradition. However, with the advent of modern technology and the explosion of knowledge, there is a tendency for progressive thinkers to advocate for the goal of having social justice, towards building a society where we do not have to consider gender, age, race, creed, nor religion and that we should reward people based on merit, not on political affiliations and other external factors.

On the other hand, it is often said that there is no absolute equality between men and women. For one thing, men are physically stronger than women and that there are certainly things that men can do better, and vice versa. But when it concerns the relationships between men and women, it is probably not a question of equality at all but more of an issue of working together complementarily. Moreover, mental superiority cannot be ascribed to men alone as there are other factors involved in the intelligence quotient or IQ. Psychologists have argued that it is a product of both heredity and environment. For this reason, Mr. Charest's move of selecting his Cabinet composed of nine men and nine women is a sign that changes will be forthcoming. As he has promised, he would like to see more women in decision making positions in government, and in other institutions, both public and private.

It is still too early to know how the new Cabinet will tackle the big issues currently facing our province such as reasonable accommodation, global warming, tax cuts, recognition of foreign diplomas, and access to jobs by the so called "visible minority." As part of an immigrant community, we are hoping to see more liberal policies in their immigration laws.

We expect a lot from our elected representatives. We hope that they will have the courage and the will to follow through with their promises. We wish Premier Charest and his new Cabinet more power and Godspeed.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

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Do or die polls for Arroyo

April 20, 2007

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hasn't fully faced down opposition allegations and associated impeachment motions that accused her and her husband of manipulating the 2004 election results that gave her a six-year term.

Now, new opposition allegations are emerging that her government is trying to tilt the electoral playing field in its favor in the run-up to congressional elections scheduled for May 14.

The upcoming congressional polls could represent a do or die political proposition for Arroyo, whose official term is up in 2010. Should Arroyo come up short of the numbers needed to dominate the House of Representatives at next month's polls, an emboldened opposition is likely to launch and possibly win a renewed impeachment bid against her. The political opposition has twice moved to impeach Arroyo on charges of electoral fraud, as well as a string of corruption allegations that point an accusative finger at some of her closest relatives.

Both impeachment motions were blocked by congressmen loyal to her administration.

Members of so-called party-list groups have been among the most vocal in trying to push Arroyo from office; during the 2006 impeachment case, 12 of the 24 party-list representatives voted against her. Under the Philippine constitution, the opposition needs at least one-third of the 200 or so legislators represented in the lower chamber to impeach the president.

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DO OR DIE FOR ARROYO

Only 1% of overseas Filipinos cast votes

April 22, 2007

One week after the overseas absentee voting began, only 1 per cent of the more than 500,000 Filipinos abroad have so far cast their votes for the Congressional polls.

Polling has not begun in Italy and Cambodia as ballots have yet to reach the posts, a senior foreign affairs official said.

Ambassador Generoso Calonge, vice-chairman of the Overseas Absentee Voting Committee, said as of Friday morning only 5,944 voters, of the 504,122 registered overseas voters have cast their votes.

Meanwhile, the Philippine government has allowed "tagging" in the UAE and on a limited basis in Saudi Arabia.

Tagging means allowing voters registered in Dubai to vote in Abu Dhabi and vice versa. Calonge said the government allowed this because Filipinos in the UAE would move back and forth between the two emirates in search for better jobs without changing their address with the Philippine Embassy.

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OVERSEAS VOTING

Suspect named in U.S. Peace corps worker slaying

April 23, 2007

Philippine police have identified a local woodcarver as a suspect in the killing of a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in a northern mountain village, and are following up leads on a possible accomplice, officials said Monday.

Senior Superintendent Pedro Ganir, police chief of Ifugao province, where Julia Campbell's body was found last week in a shallow grave, named the suspect as Juan Dontugan, 25, from the village of Batad in Banaue township.

"We have leads that he was not alone," Ganir told The Associated Press in a telephone interview, but refused to elaborate.

Dontugan has been at large since April 9, a day after Campbell was reported missing during a solo hike to



U.S. Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell paints a school desk while volunteering to rebuild a school damaged by Typhoon Durian in Albay province, Philippines in this February 17, 2007 file photo.

see the area's famed mountainside rice terraces, Ganir said.

He is the husband of the woman who sold Campbell a Coca-Cola before she proceeded with her hike.

A police autopsy showed multiple blows to the head with a blunt instrument killed Campbell. Her arms also were injured, indicating she tried to block the blows, police said.

Ganir said police recovered the suspected weapon used - a bloodstained pole made of hardwood similar to a baseball bat that villagers use to pound rice.

Investigators also found Campbell's camera, umbrella and two pairs of sunglasses along with some

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PEACE CORPS SLAYING

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From Page 1 Charest's Cabinet

The cabinet has the difficult task of winning back the support of Quebecers with the hope of leading the Liberals back to a majority government.

In the March 26 vote, the Liberals were reduced to 48 seats, with the Action Démocratique du Québec forming the Official Opposition with 41 members, and the Parti Québécois reduced to third-party standing with 36 seats. The last time Quebec had a minority government was in 1878.

No fewer than seven ministers

were shut out of the outlying regions of Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, Abitibi-Temiskaming and the North Shore ridings that include Sept-Îles and Baie Comeau.

Women were also given posts such as Education and Transportation, and the all-important Environment portfolios, with Line Beauchamp becoming the first woman appointed to the Environment Ministry.

Yolande James becomes Quebec's first black minister at Immigration and Cultural Communities. And newly elected former Radio-Canada journalist Christine Saint-Pierre

parties to claim that far from a response to voters' demand for change, the Premier was proposing more of the same.

"When you look at the major portfolios it is a lot of the same people at the same place," Opposition Leader Mario Dumont said. "What we saw today however is that on the issue of tax cuts, Mr. Charest appears to be backing away ... he did not give figures."

Similar criticism came from PQ Leader André Boisclair. "I hear a message of renewal but what I see is a message of continuity," he said.

The National Assembly will begin sitting on May 8.

From page 1 Philippine elections

Defensor (Lakas-CMD); Ruben Enciso (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Francis Joseph "Chiz" Escudero (Nationalist People's Coalition), Antonio Estrella (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Richard Gomez (Independent), Gregorio Honasan (Independent), Jamalul Kiram (PDSP), Panfilo Lacson (UNO), Loren Legarda (Nationalist People's Coalition), Oliver Lozano (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Vicente Magsaysay (Lakas-CMD), Cesar Montano (Lakas-CMD), Teresa Aquino-Oreta (Nationalist People's Coalition), Eduardo Orpilla (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), John Henry Osmeña (UNO), Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (Liberal Party), Zosimo Jesus Paredes (Ang Kapatiran), Prospero Pichay (Lakas-CMD), Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel (PDP-Laban), Ralph Recto (Lakas-CMD), Sonia Roco (Aksyon Demokratiko), Luis "Chavit" Singson (Lakas-CMD), Adrian Sison (Ang Kapatiran), Vicente "Tito" Sotto III (Nationalist People's Coalition), Antonio Trillanes IV (UNO), Manuel Villar Jr. (Nacionalista Party), Victor Wood (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas-CMD)

source: inquirer.net

• • •

Canada's New Government Urges Permanent Residents to Renew Vital Document for Travel

April 23, 2007 OTTAWA, ONTARIO—(CCNMatthews - April 23, 2007) - In July 2007, five-year Canadian permanent resident (PR) cards will begin expiring. The cards are a vital document for Canadian permanent residents who travel internationally because they are necessary to re-enter Canada. Canada's New Government is advising Canadian permanent

residents to check the expiry date on their card if they plan to travel outside Canada after July 1, and to apply for a new card before it is too late.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada is launching a comprehensive web, media and poster campaign to remind Canadian permanent residents that they must have a valid PR card to return to the country if travelling internationally.

"We want to help Canadian permanent residents who are planning to travel outside the country," said the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. "That's why we are taking the initiative through this campaign to help inform Canadian permanent residents of the need to renew their cards before travelling outside Canada."

The PR card confirms the holder's permanent resident status in Canada. Permanent residents who travel outside Canada must show the card before boarding commercial transportation (plane, train, boat or bus) when returning to Canada. Without a valid PR card, permanent residents will not be allowed to board, and will need to make alternative travel arrangements at their own expense and inconvenience. Permanent residents who have obtained Canadian citizenship no longer need a PR card.

"We're encouraging people to plan ahead," said Minister Finley. "Permanent residents should check the expiry date on their cards and apply for a new one well before they travel."

The PR card was introduced on June 28, 2002, for new immigrants to Canada with the implementation of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. The cards are valid for a five-year period. In exceptional circumstances, some cards expire after one year.

The PR card increases Canada's border security by improving the integrity of the immigration process. It also provides cardholders with secure, convenient proof of their permanent resident status when re-entering Canada.

Permanent residents can obtain a new card by completing the application kit available online at www.cic.gc.ca or by calling 1-888-242-2100. Applications are currently being processed within 6 to 8 weeks of receipt at the Case Processing Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

To view a graphic of the campaign, please click here: http://www.ccnmatthews.com/docs/PR_C_Postcard_EN.pdf



The new Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities (3rd from left), Yolande James, posing for souvenir with Mme Lise Theriault, Riza Esmeralda, and Zenaida Kharroubi, during the visit of the Philippine delegation to the Quebec National Assembly, November 23, 2006.

lost their jobs in a reduction of the cabinet from 25 because Mr. Charest wanted to make room for a handful of newcomers.

Many of the female cabinet members got important portfolios. Treasury Board President Monique Jérôme-Forget was also appointed Finance Minister. She becomes the first minister to hold both portfolios since Jacques Parizeau in the PQ government of René Lévesque.

"In a few weeks, you will present a new budget. You will reduce taxes for all Quebecers, particularly the middle class," Mr. Charest said, refusing to commit to the full \$950-million income tax cut promised in the election campaign.

In the final days of the campaign, Mr. Charest was criticized when he said he would use a \$700-million increase in equalization payments from Ottawa to cut taxes rather than improve health care.

Municipal Affairs Minister Nathalie Normandeau was appointed deputy-premier, with a mandate to rebuild party support in predominantly francophone regions. The Liberals

takes over the Ministry of Culture and Communications and is Minister responsible for Women's Issues. Newcomer Marguerite Blais will oversee the ministry responsible for the elderly.

Mr. Charest reappointed Philippe Couillard as Minister of Health and Social Services, a position he has held since 2003. Mr. Couillard, viewed in the party as a future leadership candidate, wanted a new challenge but in a minority-government situation, Mr. Charest chose to rely on experience in a highly controversial portfolio.

Many old faces were reappointed to their former duties or switched to new ones. Former Education minister Jean-Marc Fournier was given the delicate job of reaching compromises with the other two parties as the new Government House Leader. Raymond Bachand remains at Economic Development, Monique Gagnon-Tremblay at International Affairs and Benoît Pelletier will handle Intergovernmental Affairs while becoming Minister of Native Affairs as well as deputy House Leader.

This prompted the opposition



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Leaving the Scene

Last weekend, I was speaking with a friend who had already taken out his convertible. He told me that he took a trip into the city and bumped a parked car. He was so happy because he did not damage his expensive little toy. He also told me that because nobody was around to witness it, he simply left.

Did you ever go shopping or drive into town and as you left the parking space, you bumped into a parked car? Then, thought nothing of it and left.

This is something that goes on everyday. However, many people do not realize that leaving the scene of an accident could be CRIMINAL.

In Quebec, two different charges can arise from leaving the scene of an accident. One charge is a violation under the Quebec Highway Safety Code and the other, which is the more serious charge, is a CRIMINAL OFFENCE under the Criminal Code.

Under the highway safety code, drivers involved in an accident must generally remain at the scene of the accident or report immediately to nearest police station to provide their personal information.

A violation under the Highway safety code can result in a penalty of nine demerit points and a ticket of up to \$2000.

As for the Criminal Code, the section regarding the failure to stop at the scene of an accident reads as follows:

252. (1) Every person commits an offence who has the care, charge or control of a vehicle, (...) that is involved in an accident with

- (a) another person,
- (b) a vehicle, vessel or aircraft, or
- (c) in the case of a vehicle, cattle in the charge of another person,

and with intent to escape civil or criminal liability fails to stop the vehicle (...), give his or her name and address and, where any person has been injured or appears to require assistance, offer assistance.

A person convicted under the Criminal Code can be condemned

with a fine, a license suspension and/or worse: a term of IMPRISONMENT.

In addition, if you are found guilty, you will have a CRIMINAL RECORD. Aside from the fine and the possible jail time you may face, the criminal record in itself is a punishment.

Remember, once you have paid your fines and served your time, the criminal record will continue to exist and can have a devastating impact on different aspects of your life such as your academic career, employment or travel.

It always surprises me when I hear a person's reason for leaving the scene was to avoid being sued or paying for damages.

Whose money are they really saving anyway by leaving the scene and not reporting the accident?

We live in Quebec, which means it is generally no longer possible to go before the courts to sue for compensation ever since the introduction of our provincial "no-fault" plan.

Compensation in terms of bodily injury resulting from a motor vehicle accident is covered by the Société de l'Assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), regardless of who is at fault.

As for property damage, such as damage done to a vehicle, it is our own private insurers that are responsible for compensation. Therefore, be sure that your car insurance is in force because the SAAQ only covers personal injuries.

Listen, we pay our insurance premiums to companies that usually have the tallest building in every city and carry a billion dollars in their front pockets.

So think twice the next time you get into a fender bender. Do not panic and leave the scene. Do what you are supposed to do and just let our big brother, the insurer, with the deep pockets worry about the damages.

*You may contact Attorney Domingo of DG Attorneys at (514) 823-8464

From Page 3 DO OR DIE FOR ARROYO

Now, all eyes are on the party-list candidates for the upcoming polls, which, depending on their performance, could make or break a new censure motion against Arroyo's government. Created in 1998, the party-list system was designed to better represent marginalized groups often overlooked by mainstream politicians. The scheme grants a seat in the house for each 2% of the national vote a party list group wins. That year, 13 of a total 123 accredited groups passed the 2% benchmark to win three-year terms in office.

In 2001, 154 party-list groups qualified to contest national elections, and a dozen different groups won a total of 20 seats in Congress, led by the Bayan Muna (Nation First) group, which identified strongly with Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison. In 2004, a total of 16 party-list organizations won a total of 24 seats, up from the previous polls but still considerably fewer than the total 53 seats available for successful party-list candidates.

Now, there are new allegations that Arroyo's government is trying to co-opt the entire party-list system in a bid to pre-empt a possible new impeachment motion. The Akbayan, a breakaway group from the left-leaning Bayan Muna which is opposed to Arroyo, recently proposed a surprising list of new hitherto unheard of party-list groups represented by known Arroyo allies or put up by the Office of the External Affairs, an agency under the Presidential Palace.

If popular perceptions grow that Arroyo and her allies are attempting to subvert the elections in her favor, some political analysts contend she risks galvanizing the sort of mass popular uprisings that coalesced in 2001 to oust then-president Joseph Estrada - which also coincidentally handed her the premiership through less than democratic means. It's a political risk her government apparently takes seriously.

Last November, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) positioned soldiers in 26 different poor communities in Metro Manila, where

polls have shown anti-Arroyo sentiment runs strong. Leftist organizations active in those areas have alleged that soldiers harassed their allied community leaders and urged the local residents to vote against party-list organizations that campaigned against the government.

AFP top brass have denied the charges and said the soldiers were deployed to conduct "community work". Video footage taken by students and a television network showed clearly soldiers in full battle gear advising slum dwellers to vote against certain party-list organizations, contradicting the military's repeated claims of political neutrality.

The case was later brought before the Commission on Elections (Comelec) - which has authority over the armed forces during elections - but did not result in any electoral fraud convictions. Rather, Comelec's chairman, Benjamin Abalos Sr, dismissed the case, saying that people should be "thankful that soldiers are there to protect us". The punch line: all of Comelec's six commissioners are presidential appointees under Arroyo.

Selective actions

Where Comelec has moved slowly in investigating allegations of official harassment of leftist party-list groups and their supporters, it has at the same time expedited its accreditation of new party-list groups that openly support Arroyo. Akbayan party-list representative Loretta Ann Rosales identifies at least 11 new groups recently formed either by allies of the president or a government agency directly under Arroyo's office.

They include: Babae Ka! (You Are Woman), Ang Kasangga (Ally), Akbay Pinoy (Filipinos in arms), Aksyon Sambayanan (Act Nationwide), Kakusa (group of convicts), Ahon Pinoy (Rise up Filipino), Biyaheng Pinoy (Filipino travel), National Alliance for Democracy, Aangat Tayo (We Will Rise), Aangat ang Kabuhayan (Improved Livelihood), and AGBIAG! (Long Live!).

According to Rosales, Babae Ka!, Ang Kasangga and Akbay Pinoy were

Cont. on Page 18 DO OR DIE FOR ARROYO

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COMMUNITY NEWS

An Electronic Media Competition on Immigration

Montreal - Wednesday, April 19, 2007— Today RCI viva, Radio Canada International's Web service for new and aspiring immigrants, launched DIGITAL DIVERSITY, a new creative media competition on the theme of immigration and cultural diversity. Radio podcast or short film submissions are accepted from by June 29, 2007 with over \$16,000 in prizes to be won.

DIGITAL DIVERSITY is an opportunity for the younger generation to express their vision of immigration through sound and image. All permanent Canadian residents and Canadian citizens aged 18-35 are invited to submit a 3- to 8-minute short film or radio podcast that takes an original, constructive look at immigration in Canada or that profiles an inspiring figure or emerging talent from a cultural community. All subjects genres are accepted, including comedy, drama, thriller or, even, science fiction.

A jury consisting of Alden Habacon, Clement Virgo, Ruba Nadda and Mitra Sen will select the top films and podcasts, which will then be webcast on the RCI viva website: www.rcinet.ca/digitaldiversity in Fall 2007. The selections will compete for the People's Choice Awards decided

by Canadians through online voting.

DIGITAL DIVERSITY spokesperson Margaret Gallagher, a regular contributor to the Early Edition for CBC Radio and Living Vancouver for CBC Television, expresses her views on immigration: "Immigration is weaving a new cultural tapestry in Canada, which makes the country a vibrant and fascinating place to live. But with these gifts come challenges, we need to listen to each other to understand our differences and our similarities. This competition is an ideal platform for Canadians from all backgrounds to creatively express issues we'll face as a nation in the years to come."

A French version of the competition has also been launched called Météissé serré.

For more information on the competition, its rules and entry procedures:

www.rcinet.ca/digitaldiversity
Production team: Michel Coulombe, Xuân-Huy Nguyen and Thierry Harris
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And as we let our own light shine,
we unconsciously give other people
permission to do the same. As we
are liberated from our own fears,
our presence automatically liberates
others.

Nelson Mandela

Calendar of Community Activities

Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebec:

- Philippine Heritage Programme: Filipino Language Class - Teacher: Espie Manaoag: Starts: 21 April 2007, Saturday at 1400 hrs at 6767 Cote des Neiges, Room 501; 10 Saturdays: \$25
- Philippine Heritage Programme: Philippine History and Cultural Class - Teacher: Elenita Belgica: Starts: 21 April 2007, Saturday at 1300 at Appleton Centre on Cote des neiges: 10 Saturdays: \$25
- Philippine Terno Ball 2007: 19 May 2007 at the Omni Hotel
- Philippine Guitarist from California - Florante Aguilar Concert - 20 May 2007 at 6767 Cote des neiges - a Voice Production in collaboration with PFASQ, KDT and the Philippine Centre Foundation
- Kalinangan Dance Troupe and PFASQ Heritage Programme Culmination of Activities for Sessions 2006 - 2007 - Saturday, 9 June at 6767 Cote des neiges
- Philippine Bazaar in collaboration with the Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal - Sunday, 9 September at 6767 Cote des Neiges, Montreal
For info: 514-846-8016 - Annie, 514-489-4467 - Riza

RVJ Productions:

- Rex Navarrete Concert on 13 May at Oscar Peterson Hall, Concordia University
Website: www.rexnavarrete.com

Call RVJ Productions: 514-630-1115 for info or tickets

Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal:

- April 28: The Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal invites you

to its Spring Social Dance (Snack and Dance) Centre Socioculturel 490 de l'Eglise, Ile Bizard - Donation: \$20.00, Saturday, April 28, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.
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Take EXIT 52 toward Boul. ST-JEAN
Take the BOUL. ST-JEAN NORTH
Turn LEFT onto Boul. PIERREFONDS
Turn SLIGHT RIGHT to Boul. JACQUES BIZARD, Turn LEFT onto RUE CHERRIER (First Light) Turn RIGHT onto RUE DE L'ÉGLISE End at 490 RUE DE L'ÉGLISE Ile-Bizard QC

For info and reservations: Salve (514) 630-3961

• May 12 - Mother's Day Lunch, Saturday, May 12, 2007 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM, LE SUNRISE - DELI BAR, 7741 boul. Newman, LaSalle, Soup & Salad Bar, Pasta or Sole or Chicken, Fruits Donation: \$20.00 (Taxes & service included Tickets must be paid to your sponsor

• September 9 - TIANGGE Bazaar, Art Exhibition, Silent Auction and Bake Sale at 6767 Cote-Des-Neiges (Centre Communautaire Cote des Neiges) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
For info call: Salve Desprez at 514-630-3961, Carmelita Sideco at 514-738-1856

Filipino Teachers' Association of Quebec:

26 May 2007 - Recognition night - Soups and Noodles Restaurant
Contact Carmen Caro or Joseph Gonzales for info or tickets: gonzjops@yahoo.com

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COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Bigger than what you think

By Jerry Estrada
Philippine Correspondent

The Forerunners of Cooperatives in the Philippines

Cooperatives or Credit Unions are attuned to the Filipino traditions because of our "bayanihan" (cooperation) concepts and practices. After the colonization of the country by the Spaniards and the transformation of the economy from subsistence agriculture to a feudal and commercialized economy, middle class ilustrados (professionals, merchants and artisans) emerged. These ilustrados were the organizers of the "gremios" (local crafts unions and guilds), which were the initiators of cooperatives.

cooperative while in exile in Dapitan in Mindanao. In 1898, another national hero Emilio Jacinto organized another failed commercial marketing cooperative in San Pedro, Laguna. In 1913, Irish-American missionaries and teachers organized some Raiffeisen-type rural agricultural cooperatives after the Americans replaced the Spaniards as the new colonial administrators. Prantel (or Prauter) was among the early rural credit coop organizers. He came in 1898 after many years of credit coop involvement in India. He

through their associations and rural coops. By 1926, there were already 541 credit cooperatives in 42 provinces nationwide.

In 1927, The Americans encouraged the formation of government-initiated farmers' marketing cooperatives. This was reportedly prompted by political motives, that is, to be able to control the rising conflict among the peasantry. Privately-initiated Raiffeisen-type coops steadily grew. This was exemplified by the formal organization of the Vigan Credit Union, Inc. in 1938 at Vigan, Ilocos Sur. This credit union was founded by Rev. Allen R. Huber

Cooperative Financing Administration (ACCFA) was established. Also, the government organized Farmers' Cooperative Marketing Associations (FACOMAs) and Producers Marketing Associations (PROCOMAs) by providing collateral-free loans mostly in Central Luzon provinces of Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac and Pangasinan. The government-initiated FACOMAs failed due to corruption and incompetent management. Only 99 of the 255 FACOMAs survived and of the millions lent, only 28% remained collectible.

Alongside the Roman Catholic



Sen. Butch Aquino (in necktie, seated), Atty. Cua at his left, and other congressmen during the debates on the passing of the Coop Code of the Philippine Congress.

who first came to the Philippines in 1926 and was exposed to the credit problems of the Filipino farmers. Huber went back to the U.S. in 1931 to study and later served as a pastor of the First Christian Church in the U.S. He then organized the first Protestant church-based credit union in the United States. Huber returned to the Philippines in 1937 and trained Filipinos in organizing and operating cooperatives.

Because of the severe food shortages in Manila and other urban areas during the Japanese occupation, the Japanese army with the

Church issued a resolution in 1957 calling for the organization of credit cooperatives in parishes all over the country as part of their social action projects that cater to the socio-economic needs of the poor. Aside from the Catholics, Protestants and Aglipayans continued to be active in organizing coops. The different churches saw in coops the chance to help their constituencies, as well as to gain followers and spread their teachings. This resulted to the organization of private-initiated coops in the urbanized areas that were led by lay leaders who were mostly middle



President Corazon Aquino (3rd from left) signing the Coop Code into law while others look on

Despite its positive prospects in economic development, the Philippines is seriously confronted with the continuing problems of poverty and income inequality. Income inequality comes in two dimensions - the inequality among classes (or the poor becoming poorer and the rich becoming richer) and inequality among regions (or the poor regions are being left behind by the fast paced development of the richer urbanized regions).

Part 1 (1896-1941)

During the latter part of the Spanish colonial regime, Dr. Jose P. Rizal in 1896 initiated an agricultural marketing

supported the Sandiko bill in 1907 through various articles in Manila newspapers.

Gov. Teodoro Sandiko of Bulacan and Rep. Alberto Barreto of Zambales introduced a rural cooperative bill, which was the first attempt to make use of the government in assisting rural cooperatives via legislation. The Sandiko bill was disapproved and it took 8 more years to be able to pass a Rural Credit Cooperative Association Act in 1915, which was authored by Rep. Rafael Corpuz of Zambales, Reps. Palma and Singson. P1 million was appropriated for farmers' credit



Pres. Corazon Aquino, Sen. Jovito Salonga (Senate President), Sen. Heherson Alvarez, and Congressman Pablo Garcia (Cebu) with coop leaders during the signing of the Cooperative Code of the Philippines and the Coop Development Authority Act into law in 1990.

collaboration of the government they organized around 5,000 consumers and producers cooperatives over the 570 rural cooperatives in 1939. After the return of the Americans however, all these Japanese-initiated coops were dissolved.

Part 2 (1941-1986)

The communist and socialist forces returned to underground revolutionary activities after their elected representatives from the Democratic Alliance were ousted in the landlord-dominated Congress. To counter this move by the rebels, the government became very active in organizing farmers' coops.

In 1952, the Agricultural Credit

class and professionals.

Coops imparted to the community the value of Christian charity of self-help. Instead of giving fish to the poor, they were instead taught how to fish for their daily livelihood. In fact, coops have been known for continuous education, which has been the most important factor in their success. Their ultimate goal was community building.

The 6,000 strong cooperatives in Mindanao traced their resurgence from a strong cooperative federation called MASS-SPECC (Mindanao Alliance of Self-help Societies - Southern Philippines Educational Cooperative

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See Page 16 Coop Movement



Dear EarthTalk: Are there any major efforts underway to interest and involve high school and college students in environmental issues?

-- Beth Marin, via e-mail

When a handful of concerned undergrads at the University of North Carolina advertised in the Greenpeace newsletter in 1988 for other student environmentalists to connect with, they weren't sure what kind of response to expect. But within weeks they were deluged with mail, and so they decided to launch the first national network of green college and high school students, the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC).

Today SEAC is made up of over 1,000 student groups at colleges, high schools and middle schools throughout the U.S. and Canada. And since its founding, the group has tallied a number of success stories, including: helping prevent construction of the Hydro Quebec II dam in Canada that would have flooded and destroyed the indigenous Cree Nation's homeland; starting recycling programs at 200 colleges and high schools; persuading office supply giant Staples to phase out virgin papers and to offer more recycled options; and supporting a successful ballot initiative that helped clean up Florida's pig farming business.

Another big player on the student green scene is the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), the young arm of the Sierra Club. SSC conducts national campaigns in which each chapter participates, supported by a small staff at the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C. office. SSC's network of 250 high school and college groups also undertakes local efforts to educate both students and the larger public about the issues. And they provide seminars that teach students how to organize campaigns and lobby Congress. SSC's major effort right now is the Campus Climate Challenge, taking place at more than 530 colleges where students are pressing campuses to be "models of sustainability" in their

transportation, building and energy policies.

There are also organizations that emphasize direct service. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) boasts some 3,000 current members (and 50,000 alumni) in four countries. Calling itself "conservation in action," SCA gets students' hands dirty on a variety of restoration projects that connect participants to the land and provide valuable lessons in the process, hoping that students will be inspired to go on and protect the environment throughout their lives. Founded in 1957, SCA is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2007.

Another approach to student environmental activism is provided by Youth for Environmental Sanity (YES!). Since its founding in 1990 by two teens, YES! leaders have traveled the world conducting week-long student gatherings called "Jams," in which groups of about 30 convene to discuss environmental problems and ways to get involved. YES! Jams have involved some 650,000 students in 65 countries, and YES! says that its alumni have gone on to start more than 400 nonprofits working for positive change.

Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) are also a growing entity on campuses. Each focuses on environmental concerns as well as on other issues such as world hunger and increasing voter turnout among 18-24 year-olds. They give students resources and tools including guides on leadership, media and campaign organizing. PIRGs focus on giving students experience and education in democratic citizenship by giving them skills that allow them to voice their opinions in an effective manner.

CONTACTS: SSC, www.ssc.org; SEAC, www.seac.org; SCA, www.thesca.org; YES! www.yesworld.org; Student PIRGs, www.studentpirgs.org.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

Dear EarthTalk: What's the deal with rBGH, the hormone given to cows that makes them produce more milk? Why do some groups want it banned?

-- David Gray, via e-mail

Cows naturally produce bovine somatotropin (BST) in their pituitary glands, and traces are secreted by the animals when they are milked. More popularly known as BGH, or bovine

growth hormone, BST interacts with other hormones in cows' bodies to control the amount of milk they produce.

In order to increase milk production, scientists working for Monsanto spent years in the lab developing a genetically-engineered synthetic version of the hormone called rBGH, or recombinant bovine growth hormone. Monsanto obtained approval to market rBGH (known by the trade name Posilac) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1993 and began offering it to interested farmers. Today, about a third of American dairy cows are injected with rBGH, which boosts milk production by about 10 percent.

But the use of rBGH is controversial, due to potential health hazards to both cows and humans. According to the Center for Food Safety (and supported by a 2003 study published in the Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research), cows treated with rBGH suffer a 50 percent greater incidence of lameness (leg and hoof problems), 25 percent more udder infections (mastitis), and serious reproductive problems including infertility, cystic ovaries, fetal loss and birth defects.

Such animal health issues can sometimes translate into human ones, as antibiotics used to fight infection can find their way into milk, affecting our disease-resistance. Also, animals given rBGH produce more insulin growth factor-1 (IGF-1). Studies, says the Organic Consumers Association (OCA), have linked high levels of IGF-1 in humans who consume rBGH milk with breast, prostate, colon and other cancers. This suggests that our natural defenses against early cancerous cells may be blocked by IGF-1.

Controversy also surrounds the fact that there are no labeling requirements in the U.S. for rBGH. In February 2007, OCA, along with the Cancer Prevention Coalition and the Family Farm Defenders, filed a joint

petition asking the FDA to require cancer risk warning labels on all U.S. milk produced with rBGH. They also asked the FDA to suspend rBGH approval due to "imminent hazard." Analysts doubt the FDA will take the request seriously, despite not knowing what problems with rBGH might arise down the road.

Monsanto maintains that humans digest so little of the hormone that it has no direct effect on our health. The World Health Organization, the FDA and numerous medical associations concur that milk from rBGH treated cows is safe for human consumption. However, many remain wary and, as a result, several nations have banned rBGH, including all 25 European Union nations, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

In the U.S., despite lack of federal concern, consumer pressure has led many companies to discontinue the use of rBGH. In January 2007 Safeway announced it would go rBGH-free at both its Portland (OR) and Seattle plants. Others following suit include Starbucks, Ben and Jerry's and Chipotle Mexican Grills.

CONTACTS: Center for Food Safety, www.centerforfoodsafety.org; Cancer Prevention Coalition, www.preventcancer.com; Organic Consumers Association, www.organicconsumers.org; Family Farm Defenders, www.familyfarmdefenders.org.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

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3 Asian eggplants
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salt
pepper
8 ounces coconut milk

Preparation:

Prick eggplants in several places with a fork. Roast in 325 degree oven until fork tender. Slice onion very thinly and saute over low heat until translucent (about 5 minutes). Peel eggplants and mash pulp. Add to onion. Add vinegar, salt and pepper to taste. Add coconut milk and stir over low heat about 5 minutes, then serve.

Bistek Tagalog (Beef)



Ingredients:

500 g (1 lb) beef sirloin, thinly sliced
Juice of 12 calamansi
60 ml (1/4 cup) cooking oil
1 medium onion, sliced into rings
60 ml (1/4 cup) soy sauce
125 ml (1/2 cup) water
2-3 potatoes, peeled, cut into wedges and fried
>> Marinate beef in half of the calamansi juice for about 30 minutes.
>> Heat oil in a frying pan and sauté onion rings until lightly brown. Remove onions from frying pan and set aside.
>> Drain beef slices from marinade and reserve marinade. Sauté beef in the same frying pan 1 to 2 minutes, then turn to cook other side for 1 to 2 minutes.
Combine remaining calamansi juice, soy sauce and water. Stir into frying-pan together with reserved marinade.
>> Return onion to pan and simmer about 1 to 2 minutes. Serve with fried potato wedges and rice.

New asteroid named after Philippine physicist

April 13, 2007

An international scientific body honoured Philippine physicist Roman Kintanar by using his name to identify a newly found asteroid that circles the Sun from the orbits of Mars and Jupiter, local papers said.



Dr. Roman Kintanar

The International Astronomical Union (IAU) officially christened as "Kintanar" the asteroid which was originally identified as 6636, in Massachusetts on April 2, local papers said in a belated report.

"This is such a big honour for me. I feel that my efforts in the past are well compensated by this unique accolade," said Kintanar, 77, head of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) from 1958 to 1994. He was also president of the UN World Meteorological Organisation from 1979 to 1987. He received his doctorate from the University of Texas in 1958.

Bulgarian astronomer Vladimir Georgiev Shkodrov discovered the Kintanar-asteroid that measures 4-9km in diameter. ■

6 of 10 Filipinos believe votes matter

April 20, 2007

61% in the Philippines believe that their votes would be a big influence in determining what kind of government Filipinos will have according to a survey by the Social Weather Station (SWS) conducted with 1,200 respondents in February.

This optimism however was more reflective in people who are better educated.

The SWS survey revealed that 72% of college graduates agree that their votes matter. 63% of high-school graduates also believe that votes determine what kind of government Filipinos would have while only 57% among elementary graduates and 55% among those who did not finish elementary school agree.

The survey also showed that those who belonged to the upper class were more likely to believe that their votes matter. 56% of those who are categorized into class E agree that votes are important for the country's future. This is low if it would be compared to 62% of people in class D and 76% for those in the middle-class and above. Despite this high optimism, the country is still divided if winning candidates in the May 14 elections would improve the situation in the country. The survey showed that 35% agreed that "the future of the Philippines will not improve, whoever wins among those running for Senator." 30% disagreed with the statement while 33% were undecided.

The skepticism with the senatorial candidates was led by those who were in class E at 38%. 34% of those interviewed in class D also agreed that the candidates will not lead to an improvement in the Philippines. ■

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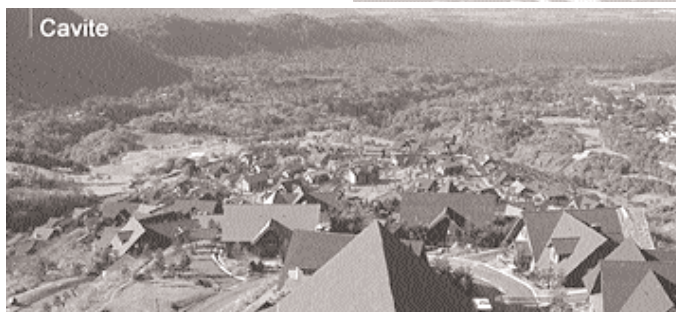
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The province of Cavite abounds with great objects, and subjects, of culture and history. It is the birthplace of a good number of Filipino heroes and it has an interesting range of sites associated with the Philippine Revolution of 1896. Found in the province is the residence of the first president of the republic, **Emilio Aguinaldo**, which is also the site where the Philippine Republic was proclaimed on June 12, 1898.

Located 34 km south of Manila, Cavite teems with natural resources and fantastic landscapes. It is home to **Tagaytay City**, the Philippines' second summer capital, next to Baguio City. The accessing highway offers a breathtaking sight of the world-famous **Taal** formation, a crater within an island

among these popular first class resorts complete with modern facilities.

Cavite stands proudly as a place with a glorious past. Its warm and friendly people, whose ancestors fought for a noble cause, manifest industry and patience in various skills and professions, openly receptive to the entry and exchange of culture and technology that are of value to this wondrous province.

The majority of the 2 million strong population speak Tagalog while those in Cavite City and in some areas speak Chabacano. English is considered as the second language and is widely used as medium of communication in business and higher education. Other indigenous languages are Waray, Bicolano, Cebuano, Ilokano, Pangasinense, and Hiligaynon. Chinese and Spanish are also spoken by some local residents.

Tourist Attractions

Cavite's highest elevation is **Tagaytay City**, a heavenly place overlooking Taal Volcano, with its' cool climate and peaceful atmosphere. Most people who visit Tagaytay go to **Picnic Groove** for picnics and sightseeing.



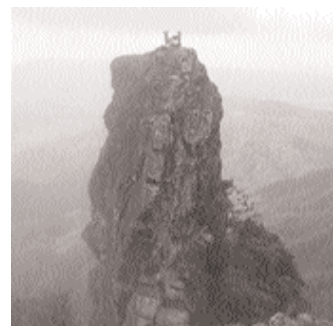
La Pieta, located in Tagaytay City



Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Monument

within a lake. Coconut groves dot the ridges of Tagaytay and classy accommodations give the visiting tourists the pleasures of relaxation, and at the same time, wide opportunities to enjoy the magnificent view of Taal.

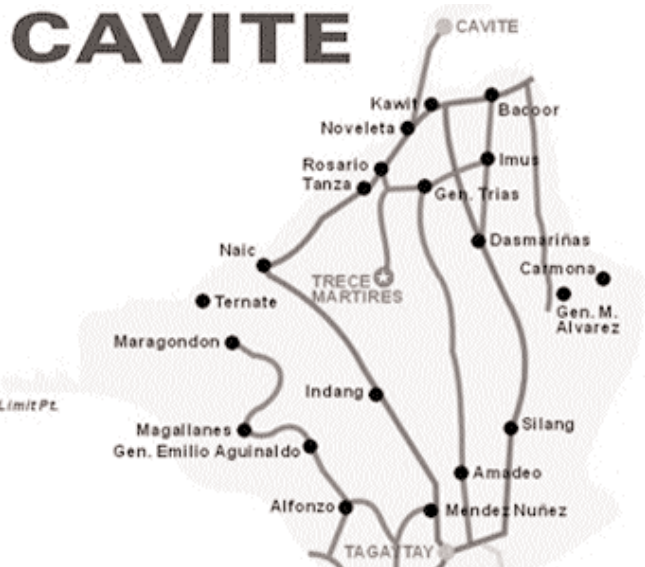
Puerto Azul and **Caylabne Bay** in Ternate, and **Island Cove** in Kawit are



Pico De Loro

The overlook at **Taal Vista Lodge** offers a spectacular view of the volcano (about 15 km distant) and lake. Boat rides around the volcano island are also available for those who wish to go volcano trekking.

Popular festivals include the **Maytinis Festival** celebrated every 24th of December in Kawit and **Pahimis Festival** in Amadeo which is a thanksgiving celebration taking place



Maytinis Festival celebrated every 24th of December in Kawit featuring the re-enactment of Joseph and Mary's search for a place to stay the night Christ was born in Bethlehem



Pahimis is a thanksgiving celebration for bountiful coffee harvest in Amadeo Cavite. During the parade, colorful costumes with coffee cherries are worn as people dance in the street.



View of Taal Volcano from the beautiful & popular Tagaytay Picnic Grove.

in late february.

Corregidor Island, also called "The Rock", is another popular tourist attraction. It features the remains of the gallant last stand made by Filipino-American troops against the superior invasive forces of the Japanese Imperial Army, an event which came to be written in history. It is the largest of the five islands guarding the entrance to Manila Bay.

Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine
The town of Kawit played an important role in Philippine political history. The proclamation of the Republic of the Philippines was made in this town on the balcony of the home of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. Now a national shrine, it was in this house where the Philippine flag was first unfurled. Emilio Aguinaldo became the first president of

the Philippine Republic.

La Pieta - At the back of Pink Sisters Church in Tagaytay City is this large statue, a depiction of the famous "La Pieta." It is arguably one of the most famous rendition of Mary and Jesus. It is especially significant during Lent when the Philippines begins to observe the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Pink Sisters' Church is famous for its piously prayerful nuns who are in pink traditional nun's clothing. They ceaselessly pray for the petitions that the faithful submit to them via small window on the side of the Church.

Pico de Loro offers a magnificent 360 view from the summit. Facing the sea on the north-eastern side of the Manila Bay area., you can actually see ships passing by. ■



Taal Volcano , nestled in Taal Lake, viewed from the ridge of Tagaytay City



View of Taal Volcano from Leslie's Restaurant, a good place to dine and appreciate the stunning beauty of the surrounding landscape.

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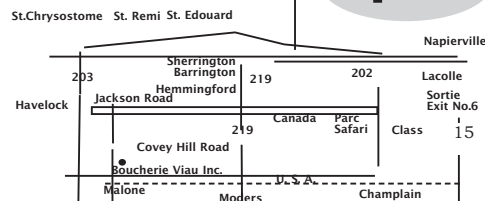
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FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Betty Corpuz (4th from left) celebrated her March 16th birthday with friends on March .23



The Filipino Solidarity Gooperative members pose for souvenir after the gala dinner on March 16, 2007. Standing behind from left: Ben Bade, Coop president, Mr. Claude Lauzon CDEC director, Nada ElKouzi of CDR-Laval.Montreal, and Mr. Roger Côté, CDEC president.



Laging Handa Scouts Investiture Ceremony, March 20, 2007, at the Intercultural Library building, 6767 Cote des Neiges.





Claudine and Gretchen Reconcile



Finally, Claudine and Gretchen Barretto have kissed and made up after a much publicized feud that lasted nearly three years. The reconciliation happened when the sisters met by chance at a supermarket at the Fort in Taguig City before Holy Week. "Totoo yun nagkita kami . . . Biglaan yung pagkikita namin, walang usapan na magkikita kami. It was very emotional and it was a very, very good meeting," Claudine said in an interview. "I don't wanna go into details kasi parang siguro ang tagal naming inantay ito. Siguro mas maganda yung sa amin na lang muna ito." Gretchen confirmed the good news. "Yes, it's true that all is well. Claudine will always be my baby sister, through the not-so-good and good times. I will remember only her good and loving ways. I shall put behind me the past. That goes for Marjorie as well. Life's too short to put to waste." Claudine said that with the

reconciliation, she can now give more attention to her pregnancy. She is on her sixth month of her pregnancy, her first child with husband Raymart Santiago. The Barretto sisters -- Gretchen, Marjorie, and Claudine, who are all movie stars -- began in June 2004 after Gretchen and Dennis Padilla, who is married to Marjorie, had a heated argument about ABC-5 hiring Willie Revillame as host for its noontime show. ABC-5 is owned by Tonyboy Cojuangco, Gretchen's partner. Padilla was formerly Revillame's co-host at ABS-CBN's defunct noontime show Masayang Tanghali Bayan. He blamed Revillame for the show's sudden demise which left him jobless. The private war turned very public after other members of the family took sides in the fight. Claudine and mother Inday Barretto sided with Marjorie and Dennis Padilla. ■

Daboy has six months to live



The doctors have given action star Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez six months to live. The sad news was learned when Daboy and his wife, Lorna Tolentino, were interviewed on the TV show Ricky Lo Exclusives on March 28.

Daboy, 54, is afflicted with fourth-stage cancer (peri-ampullary which has metastasized to his liver). He was advised to undergo chemotherapy twice a month for a total of 12 sessions. He had finished four as of early April. He is flying to Hong Kong, Japan and the United States to seek further treatment. Daboy has chosen to accentuate the positive: "One good thing that came out of this is our receiving a lot of inspiring text messages. Lorna herself reminds me that a positive attitude is the best medicine, better than the strongest drug." Their sons Ralph, 23, and Renz, 21, are coping well, according to Lorna. "There was a time when we all felt depressed. But when we saw Rudy in high spirits, we realized that we should try to be more like him." But Ralph was quoted once as saying, "It was unfair because he had been undergoing chemotherapy only to be told that he has only six months left." Daboy's close friend, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, said Daboy's faith in God had grown stronger with his ailment. ■

Django Rules US Pro Tour



Francisco "Django" Bustamante beat Mika Immonen of Finland and Johnny Archer of the United States in varying fashions to capture the fifth US

Pro Tour Championship crown at the Normandie Casino in Los Angeles, California, on April 1. Bustamante demolished Immonen, a former world pool champion, 7-4, but struggled against Archer in the final game, needing to fight back from a 3-6 deficit to win the last four games and the title. The power-breaking Bustamante took the \$10,000 (around P480,000) purse, about the same prize that compatriot Lee Van Cortezza received when he topped the national pool tilt recently. It was Bustamante's first title this year. His victory underscored the Filipinos' domination of the sport and followed Ronnie Alcano's triumphs in the World 8-ball and 9-ball championships. Last year Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes teamed up to win the inaugural World Cup crown in Wales. Reyes, the former world pool champion and the most revered player in the sport, bowed out early in the US Pro Tour after losing to Ronnie Wiseman, 10-11, and Tony Crosby, 9-11. ■

Borgy in Bar Brawl



Ramp model and television host Borgy Manotoc, son of Ilocos Norte Representative Imee Marcos, faces charges of physical injuries after he and four male friends allegedly beat up two men in the early hours of April 10 outside a bar at The Fort in Taguig City, Metro Manila. Manotoc had just finished celebrating his 24th birthday when got into a fight with a certain Carlo Pardo de Tavera Brown, a nephew of former Social Welfare Secretary Mita Pardo de Tavera. Brown and a male friend were outside the Embassy Bar when he approached a woman he did not know. The woman turned out to be Manotoc's girlfriend, commercial model Ornusa Cadness. Manotoc told Brown not to talk to Cadness and the two men later argued, which led to a violent confrontation between the two groups. Brown and his friend suffered injuries in the head and body. Two days later Manotoc presented himself before Taguig police to give his side of the incident. He made a public apology but insisted it was Brown who initiated the fight. It was at the same bar, the favorite hangout of the rich and famous, where Manotoc nearly figured in a fight in February with former professional basketball player Paul "Bong" Alvarez. Manotoc reportedly confronted Alvarez after the latter mistook his girlfriend for a waitress. Manotoc is Imee Marcos's son by estranged husband, sportsman Tommy Manotoc. ■

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Coming Soon to Montreal: the GK Movie Premiere of "PARAISO"

by Maureen Quinto

How do you get three top movie producers to work together? Apparently-for Butch Jimenez of Jose Rizal and Muro Ami, Tony Gloria of Unitel and Tony Tuviera, beloved boss of Eat, Bulaga! and APT Films-give them a good cause to work for.

These three producers have been handpicked by Tony Meloto of Gawad Kalinga (GK) for the first-ever GK movie. The highly anticipated film, entitled Paraiso (or "Paradise") highlights the stories of ordinary people who have answered the call to be a hero for others in the community-building movement that continues to sweep the Philippines. Jimenez, Gloria and Tuviera have each produced a different segment of the movie trilogy.

Paraiso has an all-star cast featuring Maricel Soriano, Cesar Montano, Michael V, Carmi Martin and Maricel Laxa. The cause touched these mainstream actors so deeply that they all selflessly waived their fees for GK. Award-winning actress Maricel Soriano relates "Narinig ko pa lang, hindi ko pa binabasa yung script, parang may tama na (it hit me)...kakaiba ito (this one's different)."

"[The role] was offered to me by Mr. Tony Gloria, sinabi niya kaagad na Gawad Kalinga ito and the (proceeds of the) movie will go to GK. Hindi na ako nagdalawang isip, tinanggap ko na ito," shares renowned actor Cesar Montano.

Paraiso is the first of its kind, whose making in itself captures the very essence of GK: the "bayanihan" spirit or being heroes for one another. The movie features three short films. The first one, Umiyak Man Ang Langit (Even If Heaven Cries), is based on the life of Jocelyn Llorente who lost loved ones in the mudslides of St. Bernard, in Southern Leyte. Starring Maricel Soriano, this drama captures the pain and internal struggles faced by Jocelyn in her life-changing experiences, and the ensuing healing and renewed hope her family regained through GK.

Ang Kapatid Kong Si Elvis (My Brother Elvis) is the story, on a lighter note, centered on a boy who ate pebbles to satisfy his hunger and the GK volunteer family who adopted him as one of their own. The challenges and rewards of being involved with GK are captured by Michael V. and Carmi Martin, as they portray how GK is peacefully transforming poverty into hope, one family at a time.

The final film, Marie, tells how a tragic loss can be turned into a living legacy and a new beginning. Marie Rose Abad perished in the twin tower tragedy of 9/11. In this touching story, Rudy Abad, played by Cesar Montano, shares his journey to keep the memory of his wife alive.

Paraiso has been premiered in several major U.S. cities since early March, including Chicago and Los Angeles, with great acclaim. Several Canadian cities are scheduled for screenings in the coming weeks. On May 12, Montréal will have its own premiere, with English subtitles, at Concordia University's H-110 Auditorium in the Hall Building (Downtown campus-Guy Concordia Metro) at 7PM. All are invited to attend this momentous event, whose goal is to inspire and challenge us all to be a hero for the poor. Tickets are \$20 and may be obtained through Thelma Arlegui at: (514) 685-8541. For sponsorship information, contact Charlie Hael at: (514) 244-8717. Watch the Paraiso trailer and read actors' comments at: <http://www.ancopusa.org/wowgk/index.htm>

Cesar Montano

Maricel Soriano

Carmi Martin/Michael V.



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From Page 7 Coop Movement

Center) organized by Rev. Fr. William Masterson (SJ), Atty. Mordino Cua, Atty. Aquilino Pimentel, Sr. and other coop leaders. MASS-SPECC was organized in 1966 at Cagayan de Oro City. The main objective was to train coop leaders, which were mostly parish-based and institutional coops like those in National Steel Corporation in Lanao and the Paper Industries

Visayas Cooperative Development Center (VICTO) in 1970 was instrumental to the growth of 250 coops in the region. As the largest cooperative federation in the Visayas, VICTO was organized by the Scarboro fathers in Hinundayan, Southern Leyte thru a parish social action program called "Saving Souls the Credit Union Way".

Before President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, there was lack of cooperation among cooperatives. Each coop considered itself as independent of the others. The different

banks, assurance of being supplied with farm inputs such as seeds, fertilizers and pesticides, etc. Because the formation of the SNs and primary coops of the farmers were haphazard, they were few and weak.

The Samahang Nayons peaked involving at least 3 million farmers. Only 3%, however, survived. The 14-year program reportedly utilized billions of dollars in loans and grants from the World Bank and other international financial institutions.

In 1974, only 41% of the average 118 rice farmers per barrio in 512 barrios surveyed had joined the SNs, while in Japan almost 100% of Japanese farmers became coop members. In all the regions, only 45% of all the respondents understood the coop principles and the loan repayment rate of the SNs was a low 58.3% for all 12 regions

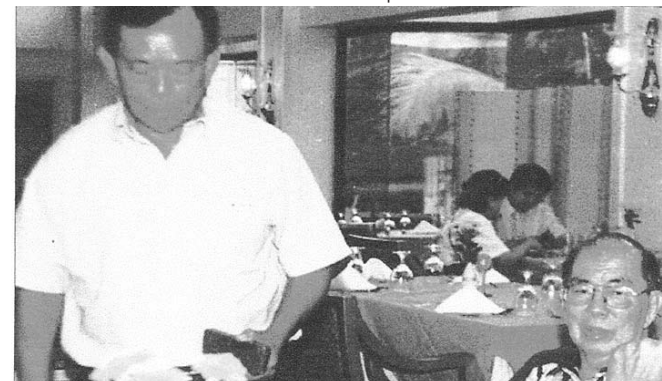
Coops do not have capital and savings programs to become self-reliant. In short, the cooperative thrust of the Marcos land reform program was not widely supported by the farmers who are supposed to be the beneficiaries.

In 1977, NATCCO or the National Confederation of Cooperatives (Atty. Cua was one of the co-founders) was organized as a tertiary-level organization and operates based on the best practices of the Raiffeisenbank and the Desjardins. Among its services are training and education, research and publication, auditing, etc. and programs such as coop financing for small-scale industries,

extension work, women in development, coop insurance promotion, and the inter-coop trading. The NATCCO members include Northern Luzon Cooperative Development Center (NORLU), Tagalog Development Center (TAGCODEC), Bicol Cooperative Development Center, Inc. (BCDC), VICTO, MASS/SPECC, Credit-Life Mutual Benefit Services (CLIMBS) and associate affiliate Cooperative Education Center, Inc. (CECI).

In 1979, Assemblyman Luis Taruc initiated the organization of the National Market Vendors Cooperatives Federation (NAMVESCO) by market vendors from Manila (Quinta, Baclaran, Paco-Soriano and Divisoria), Quezon City (Novaliches), Rizal (Malabon, Marikina and Tanay), Laguna (San Pedro), and Batangas (Lemery). Its services included education and training, inter-lending and management consultancy and auditing. By 1991, NAMVESCO's assets were P 300million and loans granted have reached P 700 million. Also, in 1979, electric coops providing electricity in provinces and cities and municipalities were established.

As of 1985, there were 16,000 SNs, 1,456 credit coops, 300 marketing coops, 132 producers coops, 284 service coops, 50 coop federations, one super-palengke (under KKK which later failed), and one national coop insurance.



Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. (left) and Atty. Mordino Cua, authors of the Coop Code of the Philippines during the NATCCO National Confederation of Cooperatives Congress in Davao City attended by over a hundred coop leaders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. (April 30, 2004).

Corporation in the Philippines (PICOP) in Surigao. MASS-SPECC programs in education and training have catered not only to Mindanao coops but also to Luzon, Visayas and some Asian coops.

Moreover, Atty. Cua (a former City Administrator/City Mayor) traveled extensively to study the cooperatives of advanced countries like the US, Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Spain and Israel. He then shared his knowledge to coop leaders upon his return. Many of these leaders became coop CEOs, Managers, and Officers. He founded/co-founded 14 primary coops (horizontal organizations), and 9 secondary/tertiary coops (vertical organizations like federations) mostly in Mindanao. Most of these are billionaires and millionaire coops now. Atty. Cua is an important figure in the Philippine Cooperative Movement, assumed vital posts in many coops in Cagayan de Oro, Manila, as well as in Asia. He unselfishly spent his 53 years in creating coops and leaders. Because of his noble endeavor, coops then have increased and grown qualitatively and substantially.

In the Visayas, the founding of the

private-initiated coops set-up their own respective education and training centers or federations which serviced only their own primary coops. The government, on the other hand, was also disorganized in supervising and coordinating the various cooperatives in the country.

In order to rationalize the coop movement, President Marcos, using martial law powers, created apex organizations. Its aim was to centralize the coordination of all education and training programs of all cooperatives in the country. However, coop education, training and organization have been haphazardly carried out by poorly trained, underpaid and ill-motivated government technicians with the cooperation of poorly-funded but motivated NGOs (non-government organizations) personnel. Hence, poor coop theory and practice; weak monitoring, evaluation and auditing, poor accountability, unsound business practices, inaccurate statistics and lack of professionalism pervaded the coop sector. Presidential Decree No. 175 in 1973 aimed to "strengthen the coop movement" was tied-up to the Marcos land reform program (PD No. 27), which made it compulsory for a tenant-farmer to join farmer's cooperative or Samahang Nayon (SNs). Benefits would include the right to borrow funds from government banks through the local rural

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For the third time, since the government-initiated coops were too politicized, the programs for the coops and SNs were both failures again.

Part 3 (1986 – present)

During the Aquino Presidency, a new constitution was framed. This new constitution was cooperative-friendly but the mistake of the past in organizing government-initiated cooperatives for political and anti-insurgency purposes was avoided.

The 1987 Constitution provided for the promotion of growth and viability of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice and economic development under the principles of subsidiarity and self-help. Under the said principles, the government recognized that cooperatives are self-governing entities, which shall initiate and regulate their own affairs to include education, training, research and other support services with the government giving assistance when necessary.

President Aquino's cooperative development program learned from the past failures of excessive government loans or credit support to cooperatives as in the FACOMAs and the SNs.

During Pres. Ramos' administration, it continued the cooperative development program of the Aquino administration. The coop movement became the largest socio-economic institution in the Philippines. It has a total membership of 3.2 million and 19.2 million family beneficiaries.

This resulted to the tremendous growth of the cooperative movement. However, there was still a high rate of coop failures. But those that were viable grew tremendously since the total assets of the coop movement grew from P 1.05 billion in 1985 to P 118.4 billion in 1995.

In 1996, the Department of Education issued an Order converting all school canteens in all primary and secondary schools into teachers' coops.

Pres. Estrada's administration created development programs tasked to implement an action plan to ensure the provision of houses, jobs and health assistance to the poor with the help of coops as the main vehicle.

During the party list elections of 2003, Coop-NATCCO Network Party List, the coops' political arm in Congress, won one seat. The incumbent Congressman Guillermo Cua represents the coop sector. Considering that the coop movement has barely flexed its muscles and still fettered by the "non-political" myth, the coop movement is still capable of a stronger showing in future political exercises.

The number of operating cooperatives in the Philippines reached 28,555 in December 2004. Today, there are cooperatives in almost all barangays or villages in the Philippines. Coop membership has grown and it is estimated that the family beneficiaries of the coop movement are around 25 million.

These numbers, aside from being an economic and socio-cultural power center, can also be transformed into a political power center.

It is hoped that this trend continue and be further enhanced by researches and documentation of the best cooperative success stories or "best practices". These documented researches should be disseminated to other coops for their guidance and inspiration to uplift the Filipino people from poverty. ■

Internet to spread the Gospel.

"The launching was timed for Holy Week, it being the most appropriate time to issue short catechesis on the liturgical significance of the celebrations that have been most misunderstood," said Mgr. Pedro Quitorio III, spokesperson for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and director of its Media Office.

The first CBCP video blogs feature Quitorio in a Holy Week series where he discusses various Easter traditions, such as the Washing of the Feet, Visits to Churches and the Veneration of the Cross.

The "CBCP's YouTube account is intended for the young faithful today who are more inclined to listen to the latest technology rather than the age-old-sermon," he said. "It seemed a good way to reach our target audience."

As of April 8, Easter Sunday, the CBCP has posted nine video blogs, the latest of which is the Easter Vigil ceremony, including the homily by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales.


Mgr Quitorio said that issues relating to the environment, gambling, politics, the family would be loaded on the video blog after the Holy Week.

Since its start, the video blog has become a place where many faithful both within and outside the country can interact with the prelates. ■

Filipino bishops celebrating Easter on 'YouTube'

In addition to churches, Filipino bishops celebrated Easter this year on YouTube. They inaugurated in fact their own YouTube video blog last week by posting Church teachings and reflections on the essence of Holy Week for the benefit of Filipinos, especially the young, around the world, thus heeding the call of the late Pope John Paul II to make the most of the






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From Page 3 PEACE CORPS SLAYING

coins scattered on the ground about 25 yards from her body, said Chief Superintendent Raul Gonzales, the regional police chief.

He said police have no arrest warrant yet and are waiting for the required autopsy report and death certificate before filing a criminal case.

A councilor in Banaue township, Jun Addug, earlier said a 13-year-old boy saw the suspect going to the dry creek where Campbell's grave was found.

Another official - who refused to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media - cautioned that police have found only "circumstantial evidence" and have no witness who actually saw Campbell's death.

Dontungan's wife told GMA television her husband was not in Batad when Campbell disappeared, but Ganir, the police chief, said Dontungan didn't leave the village until the following day.

Ganir said investigators were looking into "robbery with homicide or rape with homicide."

Stacy MacTaggart, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman, said Campbell's remains would be brought home to her family in Fairfax, Va., as soon as legal requirements, such as a death certificate, are completed.

The death of Campbell - a freelance journalist who had reported for The New York Times and other media organizations - left 136 other Peace Corps volunteers in the Philippines. She had been teaching English at the Divine Word College in Albay province's Legazpi city, southeast of Manila, since October 2006. ■

From Page 3 OVERSEAS VOTING

Personal voting was the biggest source of ballots cast, with 4,428 votes; voting by mail, 1,503; and modified voting by mail, solely from South Korea, 13.

Hong Kong remains the top spot for personal voting, with 1,172 ballots cast; followed by Riyadh with 915; Al Khobar with 409; Jeddah with 376; Kuwait with 305; Saipan with 196; Abu Dhabi with 186; Dubai with 176; Athens with 127; and Beirut with 115.

Opportunity

"No matter what figures come out, the important thing is the right to vote [of overseas workers] is there. It is our duty to provide them the opportunity to choose our national leaders," Calonge said.

He admitted that no election started in Italy and Cambodia as posts have yet to receive the 20,000 ballots needed to accommodate voters. Calonge said the government is now considering extending overseas absentee voting in these countries beyond May 14.

"We'll see if they're able to receive the ballots and have sufficient time to conduct the elections. After all, the voting period is one month. We'll look seriously into extending the voting period," he said adding that his office is doing everything to expedite the delivery of ballots to these countries., southeast of Manila, since October 2006. ■

the party-list group Ang Kasangga's top nominees is Marilou Arroyo-Lesaca, the president's sister-in-law. Arroyo's security adviser, Norberto Gonzales, meanwhile, is a top official of the newly formed Akson Sambayanan. The other 11 party-list groups were allegedly formed by Arroyo's Office of External Affairs or by Arroyo's allies in government, opposition charges which some of the new groups' members have openly confirmed in media interviews.

If true, the emergence of government-backed party-list groups raises serious legal questions. In the eight-point guidelines released by the Supreme Court pertaining to the party-list system, a marginalized group must be independent from government, including for its finances. Another provision in the guidelines maintains that a marginalized group nominee must come from the same pressure group he or she intends to represent in Congress.

At the same time, Comelec has been quick to disqualify party-list groups known for their anti-Arroyo positions. For instance, the petition for accreditation of the new lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender group Ang Ladlad (The Coming Out) has been junked twice by Comelec for allegedly failing to prove that it has a national

Arroyo not surprised over low OAV turnout

April 16, 2007

The low voter turnout on the first two days of the 30-day overseas absentee voting did not come as a surprise to Malacanang.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said it only mirrored the outcome of the first OAV during the 2004 presidential elections. The Department of Foreign Affairs earlier said there was a 65 percent voter turnout in the 2004 elections, and it was the same target participation rate in this year's senatorial and party-list election that will involve 504,122 registered Filipino voters abroad, including 18,404 seafarers.

In a chance interview with Malacanang reporters, Mrs Arroyo attributed the low voter turn out, particularly in the United States, to the provision that the registrant must have the "intention to come back to the Philippines and live here permanently."

"Doon sila nahihirapan. But the important thing is they have the right to vote and then it's really up to them to exercise it, pero talagang even the last time, low ang turnout," she said.

For its part, the Commission on Elections said it was still too early to be disappointed over the low voter turn out of even to predict that the OAV would be a failure because the 30-day OAV period has just begun.

Speaking to reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo in Quezon City, Comelec chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. Filipinos have a penchant of voting at the last minute and they expect it would be the same for this election year. ■

Philippines election official shot dead

April 4, 2007

A Philippine election official was gunned down in the latest in a series of political murders that have drawn international condemnation, police said Wednesday.

Rights groups say more than 800 activists, officials, journalists and missionaries have been assassinated since President Gloria Arroyo came to power in 2001, and the United Nations has pointed a finger of blame at the military.

Pete Amurin, a local election board official in the city of Puerto Princesa, the capital of Palawan island, was shot dead late on Tuesday, senior police superintendent David Martinez said.

"We have not established the motive behind the killing yet," Martinez said.

The killing comes just weeks ahead of mid-term elections in May 14 that are being seen in part as a referendum on Arroyo, who has been dogged by allegations that she cheated in her 2004 re-election win.

Amurin is the third victim of a suspected politically motivated murder in the past 10 days.

Witnesses said an unidentified man embraced Amurin and then shot him at close range. The man then fled with a companion on a waiting motorcycle.

A UN rights investigator and an independent Philippine commission both concluded that the military has had a role in some of the killings as part of a state-sanctioned policy to target Arroyo's opponents.

The government and military have vigorously denied the charges. ■

Cont. from Page 5 DO OR DIE FOR ARROYO

set up directly by the Office of External Affairs under the Office of the President. If so, it wouldn't be the first time the presidential agency has undertaken controversial means to bolster the president's political standing.

For example, the Office of External Affairs sponsored the 2006 signature campaign to amend the 1987 constitution, which was subsequently ruled illegal by the Supreme Court because government officials rather than local people had organized the initiative. By law such petitions must be "people's initiatives" and its signatories must understand what they are signing onto.

If the petition had passed, the Philippines' present bicameral Congress format would have been transformed into a parliament and next month's pivotal elections would have been cancelled. Instead, the electoral battle ground is focused squarely on party-list candidates. Rather than representing marginalized groups, none of the nominees of the newly-formed pro-Arroyo groups actually represent marginalized groups in society, the opposition claims.

For instance, they note that one of

membership.

"How can you prove that you have a national membership if your members refuse to come out of the closet?" Comelec chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr asked Ang Ladlad nominee Danton Remoto in a hearing. Comelec also recently disqualified the anti-Arroyo Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Progress Movement, which was established by the late actor and 2004 presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr with the Parents Enabling Parents Coalition.

Adding fuel to the opposition's fire, Arroyo is fielding controversial candidates in certain hotly contested constituencies.

Former poll commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who in a wiretapped conversation in 2004 assured Arroyo that she had a 1 million vote edge over Poe before official poll results were released, has recently filed his candidacy to run as a pro-Arroyo representative in a southern Philippine province.

More controversially, recently retired army General Jovito Palparan, known by leftists as "the butcher" for his alleged role in the extrajudicial killings of leftist activists, is running for a newly formed party-list group and has promised if elected to counter-balance left-leaning groups represented in Congress.

At the same time, the government has intensified its actions against known political enemies of the president, including the resurrection of criminal cases against certain prominent left-leaning legislators. Representative Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis (Son of the Poor) has languished in prison for more than year on rebellion charges traced back more than 20 years ago. He was arrested in February 2006 during what Arroyo's government claimed was a planned coup attempt.

Bayan Muna representative Satur Ocampo was recently charged in a multiple murder case for allegedly ordering the purge of communist guerrillas accused of spying for the government in the 1980s. Ocampo is now out on bail by order of the Supreme Court due to a procedural irregularity concerning where he should be detained while awaiting trial. Both opposition legislators are legally eligible to run in next month's polls. But the prospects for free and fair elections next month look increasingly dim for those opposed to the president. ■

- written by **Cher S Jimenez**

COOPERATIVE NEWS

By Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

On April 16, 2007, CDEC held a committee meeting to discuss the case of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative. Mr. Jason Prince advised Mrs. Kharroubi that the committee will make recommendations to the Board of Directors that will be meeting on April 26. As it turned out, it was not necessary to go through the Board. The following day, Mr. Prince had some good news - the Committee decided to grant the assistance, BUT, there is a condition: the \$40,000 will not be released in one payment. They decided to give the money in small installments - first amount of \$3000 will be allocated to the preparation of the financial statements, and the \$12 000 will be allocated to the first six months salary of the store manager to be hired for the Coop, and \$4 000 to be released for the purchase of merchandise for a total of \$20 000. In other words, the grant is not supposed to be used for refunding the Paluagan members. They emphasized that the grant is not to be used for any other purpose but for these items as mentioned. The second payment for \$8 000 will include the funds to pay for the auditors and the \$5 000 for the purchase of merchandise. The third payment of \$12 000 will be made only after six months to pay for the salary of the store manager for the balance of the year.

As of press time, Mr. Prince is waiting for the contract that the Coop needs to sign with the accounting firm so that they can release the funds for the preparation of the financial reports.

In view of this restriction, the

Board has no choice but to find other means of financing. The best and only way therefore is to concentrate on the Membership Drive Contest which has already been launched about a month ago but until this day, there are only a few members who have started recruiting. Prizes are still being solicited and will be announced when finalized. Needless to say, If all members will help in this membership drive, there is no reason why the Coop would not be able to raise enough money needed to pay the accounts payable to Paluagan members totaling approximately over \$13,000. The members must also realize that the only way the Coop can succeed is if all Filipinos living in Cote des Neiges, numbering over 15,000 will patronize the Coop. The excuse some members give is that they have lost faith and trust in the Coop, consequently, they do not feel any obligation to support it. This is indeed an unfortunate attitude to take because no one in the present administration is to be blamed for what had happened. In fairness to the hardwork and sacrifices of the people trying to run the Coop, the Paluagan members should also show some patience and understanding. Of course, they have a right to get their money back but under the circumstances, it would seem difficult if not impossible to give them any money for the time being. The present board has therefore decided to allow them to buy groceries once a month in exchange for the cash that is owed to them for a maximum of \$100. This is due to the



If more members and their friends come to buy from the Coop, it will be good for the whole community as it will help create jobs and economic development. Photo shows members who are patronizing the Coop last Saturday, April 14 while Ben Bade was working at the cash.

fact that the Coop still requires to have a cash flow to pay for other expenses such as rent, electricity, telephone, taxes, insurance and incidental expenses.

CDEC has also required that the Coop should hire a full time store manager. Inasmuch as Ms. Rhoda Tremocha has been doing most of the purchasing, and other administrative duties, she has been recommended to this position. A hiring process will be instituted by CDEC as soon as possible.

Below is the entry form that we encourage everyone to use in joining the Membership Drive Contest. Our goal is to recruit 1 000 members at \$100 each to

raise a capital of \$100 000. If this goal is achieved, with everyone's cooperation, there will be enough money to pay back the Paluagan members and enough cash flow to buy merchandise and equipment, eventually completing the store's facilities such as the sale of fresh meat which requires employing a butcher.

As an incentive, the member who recruits new members and pay their full qualifying shares of \$100 will receive a commission of \$10 for every member recruited.

More news to follow in the next issue of the North American Filipino Star.

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Filipino Solidarity Cooperative Coopérative de Solidarité Filipino

4711, avenue Van Horne
Montréal (Québec) H3W 1H8 Canada
Téléphone: 514-733-8911
Télécopieur: 514-485-3076

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST PARTICIPATION ENTRY

Name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Residence _____ Work _____

E-Mail: _____ Fax _____

That I, a contestant of legal age, of sound mind, do hereby declare that my participation in the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative Membership Drive Contest is voluntary, of my own free will and accord, and any misrepresentation made by me on behalf of the Cooperative be it accidental, intentional or implied, is my own sole responsibility and liability. Therefore, the said Filipino Solidarity Cooperative cannot be held culpable for the same and on my behalf.

Signature of participant: _____

Print name in block letters _____

ADMINISTRATION USE ONLY

Approved by: _____

Contest Committee _____

Date: Montreal, _____

Entry No.: _____ No. of Members recruited: _____

Final submission of membership application forms: _____

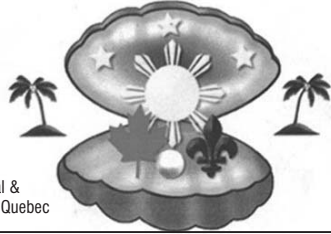
Total amount of membership fees collected: _____

Receipt Nos. _____



Historically Yours,

Lina Fernandez
Philippine Historical &
Cultural Society of Quebec



Historical Trivia 2007

Here's history at a glance in multiple choice. Fill in the blanks with A or B or C or D. Can you score at least 18 correct answers which is the passing grade. Answers in next issue.

1. The first line of Canada's National anthem: (A) Land of the Morning, land of the sun caress. (B) O Canada! Our home and native land! (C) O Come all ye faithful!

2. Who is Canada's head of state? (A) Prime Minister Stephen Harper, (B) Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, (C) Queen Elizabeth II.

3. Canada's Capital is: (A) Quebec, (B) Ottawa, (C) Montreal

4. What country is Canada's trading partner? (A) Europe, (B) Mexico, (C) United States.

5. The Philippines constitute an archipelago of _____ islands: (A) 7,000 islands, (B) 7,107 islands, (C) 7,100 islands.

6. The Philippines is a country in Southeast Asia with _____, as its Capital. (A) Quezon City, (B) Manila, (C) Baguio City.

7. The Philippine National Anthem "Lupang Hinirang" when translated to English is: (A) Chosen Land, (B) The Land that I love, (C) Pinoy Land.

8. True or False: During flag raising and at the first note of the Philippine National Anthem, all Filipinos present stand at attention and salute the flag by placing their right palm over their heart (center to left part of chest). Men remove their hat and uniformed military personnel shall give the salute prescribed by their regulations: (A) True, all of the above, (B) False, none of the above.

9. The Famous training school for future military leaders in the Philippines. (A) University of the Philippines, (B) The Philippine Military Academy, (C) West Point.

10. Who became the First Member of a visible minority to fill the highest public office in Canada? (A) Gov. General Adrienne Clarkson, (B) Jeanne Sauve (C) Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean.

11. Who was the First Filipino-Canadian elected to the House of Commons in 1988 and elected for the fourth term? (A) Dr. Genoveva Santander, (B) Dr. Jesus Pelausa.

(C) Dr. Eddie Sedico, (D) Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan.

12. Dr. Jose Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines, born in Calamba, on June 19, 1861 and died in Dec. 30, 1896, had a maternal great-great grandfather and his name was: (A) Lapulapu, (B) Sun-Yat-Sen, (C) Lakan-Dula.

13. Rizal's fraternal great-great grandfather was: (A) Limahong, (B) Domingo Lam-co, (C) Sun-Yat-Sen.

14. Rizal earned his degree of Doctor of Medicine in: (A) Germany, (B) The Philippines., (C) Spain

15. Rizal studied Ophthalmology in: (A) France, (B) England, (C) Hong Kong.

16. In 1492, Italian adventurer Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue ... according to history books he discovered what country: (A) America, (B) Mexico, (C) Alaska.

17. In 1521, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan claims the Philippines archipelago for what country? (A) France, (B) Spain, (C) England

18. In 1534, Italian Explorer Jacques Cartier, landed in the bay of Gaspé and took possession of the territory in the name of Francois I, King of France. This mark the discovery of what country. (A) England, (B) Spain, (C) Canada

19. In 1642, Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve, then only 30 years old, founded what was to become one of the greatest cities of the world, which is: (A) Quebec, (B) Toronto, (C) Montreal.

20. Canada's First Prime Minister was? (A) William Mackenzie King, (B) Sir John Alexander Macdonald, (C) Pierre E. Trudeau.

21. Kim Campbell, was the First woman Prime Minister of Canada, in what year? (A) 1990, (B) 1993, (C) 1999.

22. Corazon C. Aquino was the Seventh and First woman President of the Republic of the Philippines, her years of service was from: (A) 1986-1992, (B) 1992-1998, (C) 1998-2001.

23. The President of the Republic of the Philippines who officially came to Canada and had a side trip visit to Montreal for the first time was (A)

Joseph E. Estrada, (B) Fedil Valdez Ramos, (C) Ferdinand M. Marcos.

24. The President of the First Philippine Republic (Malolos) and Leader of the Philippine Revolution was: (A) Gen Emilio Aguinaldo (B) Jose P. Laurel (C) Manuel A. Roxas.

25. Who was the First President of the Philippine Commonwealth? (A) Manuel L. Quezon (B) Jose P. Laurel, (C) Manuel A. Roxas.

26. The Philippines President of the Japanese-Sponsored Republic was: (A) Jose P. Laurel, (B) Sergio Osmeña Sr., (C) Mamuel A. Roxas

27. The Last President of the Commonwealth and the First President of the Philippine Republic was: (A) Manuel A. Roxas, (B) Emilio Aguinaldo, (C) Jose P. Laurel.

28. Who was sworn in as the 22nd Prime Minister of Canada? (A) Paul Edgar Martin Jr., (B) Martin Brian Mulroney, (C) Stephen Harper.

29. What animal is an official symbol of Canada? (A) The Caribou, (B) The Grizzly Bear, (C) The Beaver

30. The official animal symbol of the Philippines is: (A) The Dog, (B) The Goat, (C) The Tamaraw.

oOo

China-Philippines relations "at historic high", says top legislator

April 22, 2007

China's chief legislator, Wu Bangguo, Saturday told Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that the two countries' relations are "at an historic high" and vowed to boost cooperation.

In a meeting with Arroyo here Saturday, Wu said bilateral cooperation in trade, agriculture and infrastructure construction has boomed increasing political trust and reinforcing strategic cooperation.

Wu expressed appreciation for the Philippine government's understanding and support for China on the Taiwan issue. He said cooperation between China, the Philippines and Vietnam in the South China Sea is conducive to the peace, stability and development in the region and China would continue to continue to promote the common exploration project among the three countries. The Philippines is a very important member of ASEAN and China would help develop bilateral ties based on the principles of equality, mutual trust and mutual benefit.

China is a friend of the Philippines and other ASEAN countries, said Arroyo, whose country holds the rotating ASEAN presidency. The Philippines would develop reciprocal cooperation in fields like politics, security, trade and resources.

She expressed her appreciation to the active role China has played in addressing international and regional issues. ■

2 Filipinas to compete in 2007 Miss Universe pageant

April 11, 2007

Two Filipino-born women will compete in the Miss Universe Pageant to be held in Mexico City in May.

Aside from Binibining Pilipinas Anna Theresa Licaros, who will represent the Philippines, reigning Mutya ng Pilipinas Kirby Ann Basken will also join the international beauty contest.

But the 21-year-old Basken will represent her "other" country, Norway, following her coronation as Fröken Norge-Miss Universe last Monday. Her victory in the European nation was confirmed in Internet reports.

Lisa-Marie Moen Jünge was proclaimed Fröken Norge-World and will represent Norway in the Miss World pageant in Poland. Anna-Marie Augustin from Fredrikstad was first runner up. The winners were determined using judges' scores and public votes via SMS and the Internet.

This year's competition spanned four months and had about 100 contestants in the beginning. The roster was gradually trimmed to 40, then down to just 20 semifinalists from which the final 10 contestants were selected for the final competition on April 9.

Basken was born in Oslo to a Norwegian father and a Filipino mother. She first joined the Miss Norway search in January last year where she finished as first runner up. Last June, she flew back to the Philippines to represent Europe's Filipino community in the Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant. She bagged the title.

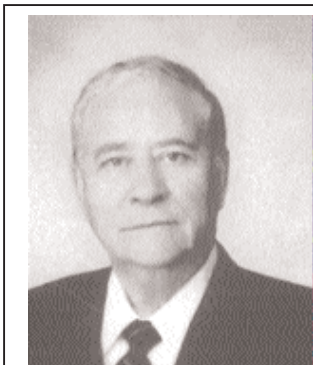
She later represented the Philippines in the Miss Intercontinental pageant in the Bahamas where she cracked the Top 12.

Sources from the Miss Asia Pacific Quest Inc. (MAPQI), owner of the Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant, had earlier confirmed Basken's desire to try her luck anew in the Miss Norway pageant, saying she had been "bitten by the pageant bug" after her string of competitions in 2006.

Upon hearing the news about Basken's victory, MAPQI director and founder Leandro Enriquez said, "We are elated by the news. We are proud that she is a Mutya ng Pilipinas winner and it only proves that Mutya ng Pilipinas deserves international recognition."

He also confirmed that the local organization is not stripping Basken of her local title despite her coronation in Norway.

But Basken will not be able to personally hand over her crown to her Mutya ng Pilipinas successor next month because the Miss Universe pageant requires her to be in Mexico City for three weeks in May. ■



Isaac T. Goodine

Global Perspectives



WOLFOWITZ DETERMINED TO CARRY ON WORLD BANK'S "IMPORTANT WORK"...World Report, Reuters

In the last issue of this column I was happy to comment on the announcement that Canadian Philosopher, Charles Taylor, had been awarded the Templeton Prize, 2007, for "spiritual thinking". Dr. Charles Taylor is the first Canadian to win the prestigious academic honour that is also the most lucrative prize in the world for intellectuals with a cash value of more than \$1.8 million Cdn. He is "filled with joy and humility" he said. His life's work has contributed to peace.

In this issue I am sad to comment on a controversy regarding: World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz, who is under fire for "unethical" conduct in his official capacity. Mr. Wolfowitz has admitted the transgressions and apologized, but so far, he has the support of President George W. Bush, who "nominated" him, and he intends to stay on the job. Prior to his present appointment he was Deputy Secretary of Defense and acclaimed as chief architect of the ongoing War in Iraq. In many ways his life's work related to "war" stands in sharp contrast to that of Charles Taylor's, work related to peace, and in some ways makes him an unusual selection to head the World Bank whose mission is human development.

In any case, the ethics committee of the World Bank's board is faced with a serious breach of professional conduct for the first time in the institution's history by its own President. The case is straight forward and involves direct interference by Mr. Wolfowitz in securing a promotion and lucrative salary increase for his girlfriend in direct contravention of the World Bank's long standing policy framework to prevent such unethical practices. No staff member, including the President, is immune from the regulations governing personnel matters.

The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were created at the end of the Second World, with the Bank to finance long term development, and the Fund to regulate international financial transactions necessary for orderly development. By agreement, the head of the Bank is American and the head of the Fund is European. In theory, the Executive Directors approve the Nominations, in practice no

nomination has failed to receive approval.

Now this case is different. This Bank president has no track record in International Development and appears to be unaware of the significance of the struggle the Bank faces in overcoming systemic corruption in its work in the developing world. Bank staff and Development ministries from around the world have voiced their concern. After a recent meeting of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee, in Washington, officials said:

"The current situation is of grave concern to all of us. We have to ensure that the Bank can effectively carry out its mandate and maintain credibility".

This is a very sensitive issue because of the perception that the institution is threatened from within. I have had over ten years of my most satisfying work experience as a staff member of the World Bank and currently work as a part-time staff member and serve on the Speakers Bureau to help promote the work of the Bank. I am deeply distressed with the leadership issues unfolding in an institution that holds the key to human development for numerous people who are not being reached by any other institution. Its effectiveness depends on credibility and that is a very fragile phenomenon. This is not to criticize anyone or to place blame but rather to show the daunting task faced by leaders in an increasingly complex world bedeviled by the specter of "corruption"—real or suspected.

In September 2000 two International Bodies, held back-to-back conferences in Ottawa, and I had the privilege of participating in both. Transparency International (TI), and the International Institute of Public Ethics (IIPE) held their AGMs, and many of their members also participated in a conference called Ethics 2000. The issues and concerns discussed are of major concern to anyone who has any leadership role to play in any international endeavor. Over and over, we heard from participants that systemic corruption is eroding the integrity system in country after country and all too often the people feel there is nothing they can do about it. In short, there is a leadership crisis in the process of

globalization. Incompetence and lack of decisions lead to corruption.

Corrupt practice, as a way of getting things done, has become so ingrained that it has taken on a life of its own. Irregular arrangements have become so prevalent that corrupt practices can be said to be "systemic". There is a growing frustration that systemic corruption is the greatest impediment to the three most serious issues of sustainable global development: (i) maintaining peace and order, controlling crime, and improving human rights records to a transparent standard in the eyes of the world; (b) addressing the visible maladjustment of wealth and misuse of physical and human resources; and (c) addressing the deep spiritual malaise where many people feel they have no stake in their own country or the global economy and feel that there is nothing they can do about the situation; either legally or ethically.

Lessons from the World Bank: International development agencies, previously the "good guys" have been under attack for several years now. The Asian Development Bank came under attack from Thai Social Movements during its 33rd. annual conference in Chiang Mai, and the World Bank has reduced the duration of its meetings, under threat of civil disturbances in Washington, that the usual week-long meeting would encounter. When things go wrong, or are perceived to be going wrong, the "leadership" must answer. The former President of the World Bank, John D. Wolfensohn, also came under attack from critics both outside and inside the organization a few years ago, although the issues were different from the present situation. He was never accused of lack of personal integrity.

Writing in the Financial Times on August 22 2001, Stephen Fidler, stated, "The World Bank's declining influence is blamed by many on the failings of its president". Critics inside and outside the Bank, accuse Mr. John D. Wolfensohn of presiding over a tragic deterioration of the world's premier development institution, which they described as rudderless and lacking strategic direction. They blamed Mr. Wolfensohn's personal failings: a phenomenal temper, a constant need for approval, and an inability to resist the latest development fad. About that time, a senior staff member, Mr. William Easterly, wrote a book detailing the internal failings of the institution and he came under investigation for possible infringement of the Bank's code of ethics for divulging privileged information to a newspaper or magazine without prior clearance from the Bank. In any case it is clear that the morale of the Staff, at that time, suffered because Mr. Wolfensohn had completely overhauled the institution since his appointment six years earlier and critics claimed that he had not set up an effective management structure beneath him to compensate for the fact that he cannot run the institution by

himself. According to Mr. Fidler's article Mr. Wolfensohn himself made a plea for others to do what many said he was not able to do—separate the institution from its president.

The principle of "Maintenance of Morale"—that I learned at Military Staff College—was at play in that situation as it is now at the World Bank. Low staff morale will seriously impede the President's leadership capacity at this stage and, hopefully he will not be like the man who waited until he was "up to his ass in alligators" before he decided to drain the swamp. In the previous situation Mr. Wolfensohn was right to tell his staff to take charge and do something that would not damage the institution, and it worked. That would be a valuable lesson to apply in the present situation. This is a situation where the principle that there are at least three leaders in any group activity involving complex operations: (i) the accountable leader—the president; (ii) the psychological leader—that people identify with; and (iii) the effective leader—the one people ultimately follow. Rarely do these three "leaders" reside in one "personality".

The World Bank, like most international organizations, requires people with a wide range of specialized knowledge and skills to function effectively. To some extent the personal interests and aspirations of the staff must be recognized and their dignity must be respected by virtue of their professional standing, while at the same time the work of development in the field must be done effectively and economically. This can only happen when the group leader or team leader is sufficiently secure in knowledge and has the interpersonal skills to know when to lead, when to follow and when to get out of the way.

Mr. Goodine is the Author of Leaders Leading Leaders, International Dimensions of Distinguished Leadership (2003). The book includes input from several staff members of the World Bank and is available at: www.canadabooksonline.com

Boris Yeltsin dead at 76

Former Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who oversaw the breakup of the Soviet Union into independent states as its first elected president, died today. He was 76. Interfax reported Yeltsin died of heart failure, citing medical sources.

Yeltsin was president for eight years until he resigned in 1999, the last day of the 20th century. He handed power over to his chosen successor, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, a former KGB operative who gave Yeltsin and his family members amnesty from any charges of corruption.

Yeltsin, was a heavy drinker, and was often photographed dancing at events and always smiling or laughing.

Yeltsin is survived by his wife, Naina. ■

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Tagalog Corner

By
Anna May Tappan



Noong ika- anim hanggang ika- walo ng Abril 2007, muli na namang naglabay ang pangkat ng Tagapagmatyag na LAGING HANDA sa pook ng TAMARACOUTA. Ito ang ika-limang paglalakbay ng pangkat simula ng ito ay itatag.

ay namangha sa kanyang napakagandang talento. Mayroon ding umawit na pinangungunahan ni Neil Gravel. Mayroon ding gumawa ng Salamangka sa pamamagitan ng ubas na pinangungunahan ni Kurt Richard San Miguel, ang Salamangka sa



Nagpupulong ang pangkat para sa kanilang ipalalabas na talento nila..



Habang nag-aagahan ang mga bata, si Cristita Pa-ac (Bing) ay nagmamatyag

Marami ang nagsidalo sa araw na ito , na pinangungunahan ng ating mga kabataang Tagapagmatyag , edad mula lima hanggang labinglimang taong gulang. Ito ay sina Robert Kevin

pamamagitan ng lubid ni Ian Gravel.Si Ryan Masangcay ay gumawa ng "origami". Sila ay ipinangkat din namin sa grupo upang kanilang maipakita ang pagtutulungan at pakikisalamuha sa iba't-ibang edad. Ang grupo nila Sarah Beltran, Kurt San Miguel, Christian Masangcay at Ian Gravel ay nagpakita ng Salamangka sa pamamagitan ng Kard. Mayroon ding mga nagsidula na pinangungunahan nila Joshua Felix Beltran, Ezra Raquero, Ira Paac Alagao at Kurt Richard San Miguel at sila ang nagwagi dahil sa kanilang pagiging malikhain.

Ang pangkat ay naglakad ng mahaba patungo sa bundok at dito ay



Ang "cabin" na may kumpletong banyo.

Araneta, Jean Matthew Sarto, Christian Ian San Miguel, Ira Paac Alagao, Natasha Nuguid, Thomas Nuguid, Kurt Richard San Miguel, Joshua Felix Beltran, Alexandre Felix Itran, Jeremiah Felix Beltran, Sarah Beltran, Ian Gravel, Neil Gravel, Dawn Esmeralda Sarto, Christian Masangkay at Ryan Masangcay. Mayroon ding mga magulang na nagsidalo na sina Shirley at Noel Masangcay, Cristita Paac at ang kanyang anak na si Ezra Raquero na malapit na ding maging kabilang sa pangkat sa susunod na taon, Joselito Sarto, Moises Medina at ang mga pinuno ng Tagapagmatyag na sina Ginang Zenaida Ferry Kharrroubi, Ginoong Claro Bermudez, Ginoong Richard San Miguel, Binibining Ana May Tappan, Ginoong Romeo Valenzuela at Ginoong Arnold Ortiz (Noli).

Nagkaroon ng palatuntunan at dito ipinakita ng mga Kabataang Tagapagmatyag ang kanilang mga iba't-ibang talento. Sa indibidwal na pagganap, may mga sumayaw na pinangungunahan nila Jean Matthew Sarto, Christian San Miguel, Thomas Nuguid at Dawn Sarto. Ang nagwagi ay si Thomas Nuguid dahil sa kanyang napakagandang pagsayaw at ang lahat



Ang mga Scouts ay tumigil muna ng isang saglit bago magpatuloy sa paglalakad

ipinakita namin ang talagang tunay na kahulugan ng Tagapagmatyag na LAGING HANDA, sapagkat ipinamulat namin sa mga kabataang ito na kahit saan man silang pook pumaroon kailangan ay pagiging handa sa lahat ng oras at ang pagiging mahinahon sa mga pangyayaring kanilang masasaksihan.

Kung nais ninyong maging kabilang sa pangkat ng gapagmatyag na LAGING HANDA , kayo ay inaanyayahan naming magsidalo tuwing sabado alas 3:00 hanggang alas 5:00 ng hapon. Magiwan ng mensahe at hanapin si Ginang Zenaida Ferry Kharrroubi sa numerong ito (514)485-7861.



Sa bandang dulo ng ceremonia ng Scouts, sinasabi nilang lahat "till we meet again."

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HANDANG TUMULONG SA INYO!

WBC Champion Manny Pacquiao returns home to a victory parade

Filipino ring icon Manny 'Pacman' Pacquiao along with another Filipino champion Bernabe Concepcion returned home to a victory parade through Manila Tuesday from yet another successful defense of his WBC international super featherweight crown against Mexican Jorge Solis last Sunday in Texas.

Mayor Lito Atienza personally welcomed the Manila 's adopted son who arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) on board Philippine Airlines flight PR113 from Los Angeles , California at 4:30 Tuesday morning.

"Thank you very for your continued support through prayer. I'm so thankful especially to God for giving me strength that I was able to use in giving honor for our country," Pacquiao said in his addressed to the media and well-wishers.

Pacquiao said he was also thankful that even his opponent for congressional seat for the first district of South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio joined million of Filipinos in celebrating his eighth round knockout victory against former unbeaten Solis.

"I'm appealing to my countrymen that this (his victory) is not about politics but unity and honor of our country," Pacquiao said.

From the airport, Pacquiao

entourage proceeded to the Manila Hotel where Pacquiao had breakfast together Concepcion, who retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) Youth Bantamweight title via majority

press conference at the Bulwagang Antonio Villegas where Pacquiao was also joined by other city officials headed by Mayor Lito and his son Ali Atienza.



WBC International Super Featherweight Champion Manny Pacquiao (C) waves to fans before the start of a victory parade outside City Hall in Manila April 17, 2007.

decision victory against Mexican Benjamin Flores underneath Pacquiao-Solis fight.

At 8:30am, Pacquiao paid a courtesy call on Mayor Atienza at Manila City Hall where the boxing champion was warmly received and loudly cheered by city government employees. This was followed by a

During the press conference, Pacquiao answered all questions both to his boxing career and his plans to enter politics.

"You know in boxing, it's always my desire to give enjoyment to my countrymen. In politics, I want to do the same specially to my townmates in GenSan," said Pacquiao.

After the press conference, Pacquiao and the Atienzas went to Malacanang for a courtesy call with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Pacquiao entourage then returned to Manila City Hall for the hero's motorcade around the city, allowing boxing fans to see and greet what many has considered the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world today.

"There is a deep sense of pride that Manny (Pacquiao) has instilled in all of us by showing the whole world that Filipinos are champions. He has always succeeded in uniting the country and bringing his countrymen together," Mayor Atienza said.

Wearing The jubilant Manilans lined up the route of the traditional hero's motorcade organized by Manila city government and showered him with colorful confetti as he went around Manila's streets.

Wearing a red cap, pink long-sleeved polo and khaki pants, Pacquiao was welcomed with fireworks and confetti by the jubilant Manilans who lined up the route of the motorcade organized by Manila city government.

The parade started at Manila City Hall, passing through 37 sites before ending at Manila Zoo. ■

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