

Poll Uncovers Tension Between Ethnic Groups

By Rene Villaroman / Asianjournal.com
 LOS ANGELES—The nation's first multilingual poll of African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans uncovered serious tensions between ethnic groups, including mistrust and significant stereotyping. However, majority of each group also

replied that they would put aside differences and work together to better their communities. "This extraordinary poll reveals some unflattering realities that exist in America today," Sandy Close, Executive Editor and Director of NAM, the nation's first and largest

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Unpaid Wages Campaign for Immigrant Restaurant Worker Launched

NEW YORK CITY - Filipino youth organization Ugnayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan (Linking the Children of the Motherland) launched an unpaid wages campaign for Filipino youth worker Adriane Padilla on the group's 3rd anniversary entitled MAGDIWANG last Friday, December 14. Adriane, a 23-year old



Adriane Padilla

Filipina immigrant, is seeking compensation from her former employers, Santiago Manlapaz and Lilia Reyes, owners of the

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Congressmen Gift Selves with P200,000 Each

By Jess Diaz / Philstar.com
 THIS Christmas season will be merrier for the 240 members of the House of Representatives than for the rest of us ordinary mortals. Members of the chamber went home last night with P200,000 checks in their

pockets. They begin their five-week Christmas break today, and resume session on Jan. 21. There were conflicting claims on what the money is for. Some congressmen said it was their Christmas bonus, while others said it was their budget for their staff and

other expenses during the break. Normally, each House member gets about P250,000 a month for district office staff salaries, travel and other expenses. The amount also includes their basic salary of about P35,000. Reached for comment about

the funds being prepared for distribution Wednesday afternoon, Deputy Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said he was not aware of it. "But I sincerely hope there are indeed funds to be distributed. You know, these are not normal times. It's

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UP FIREWORKS. Thousands of people watch as fireworks light up the sky in the finale of the traditional lantern parade at the University of the Philippines campus at Quezon city Wednesday, Dec. 19. The Lantern Parade, mostly made with recyclable materials and showcased by various colleges at the country's premier university dates back to 1934 as a 'fitting way to end classes for a long Christmas holiday.' AP Photo by Bullit Marquez

Hillary Appeals to Chicago FilAms

By Joseph G. Lariosa
 (Special to the Asian Journal)
 CHICAGO, IL - Presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton seems to have a good following among FilAms in Chicago. Dr. Evelyn A. Natividad, a school teacher in Chicago, made sure she is free a day

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US Raises Visa Fees

WASHINGTON - America's admission price is going up. Even though the dollar is weak overseas, beginning in January most people will have to shell out more money for US visas. The higher charges will help pay for increased processing costs caused by new security measures im-

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Young Filipina Diva Wows Ellen Degeneres

By Maria Sunantha Quibilan and Joseph Pimentel / Asianjournal.com
 LOS ANGELES - Filipina singing phenom, Charice Pempengco, left the studio audience of the Ellen DeGeneres Show breath-



Charice Pempengco

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RP Fugitive Stalls Extradiction

By Joseph Pimentel / Asianjournal.com
 LOS ANGELES - A Filipino national set for extradition on December 15 for allegedly embezzling close to \$2 million from one of the largest banks in the Philippines filed an appeal, effectively stalling the process. Girlie Jimenez Lingad, 36, is accused of allegedly stealing more than P75 million from her former employer, the United Coconut Planters

Bank (UCPB) in the Philippines. Lingad has been living in San Diego for the past three years. She fled to the US in 2004 before UCPB authorities could file criminal charges against her. US Marshalls arrested Lingad late last year. She has since been detained in a Federal prison in San Diego. According to those working closely with the case, Lingad

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HOLIDAY RUSH. A Catholic nun uses her phone's calculator as she buys stuffed toys Saturday, Dec. 15, at Manila's bargain district of Divisoria. As Christmas draws near, bargain hunters flock to Divisoria to buy goods at cheaper prices for gifts to their loved ones. Christmas is one of the special holidays in this predominantly Christian country in Asia. AP Photo

Filipino Girl Gets Second Chance

Mending Kids International brings cheer for the holidays

By Joseph Pimentel / Asianjournal.com
 LOS ANGELES - Marylou Barriga was born with a severe facial deformity, a startling gap on her face that ran from her lip to her forehead. Observers described her living situation as destitute. She is one of three children



Marylou Barriga

living with their mother and father in a small shanty in Danao City, Philippines. Her father has no permanent job. He occasionally works as a house painter charging less than a meal at a McDonalds restaurant for a full day's work. Her mother cooks and sells food in their neighborhood. The family makes an income of less than P30,000 or \$800 a year.

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California's Budget Shortfall Estimated at \$14 Billion

By Rene Villaroman / Asianjournal.com
 SACRAMENTO - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger reportedly told a gathering of social services advocates in

Sacramento on Tuesday that California's expected budget shortfall has widened to \$14 billion, according to the Los Angeles Times. The budget crisis is feared to be the

worst since Schwazenegger took over in 2003. The State Legislature's chief budget analyst has computed that the State is on

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Galing PINOY!

Galing Pinoy showcases the triumph of the Filipino spirit -- the Filipino's innate perseverance to rise above. A double entendre, Galing Pinoy literally translates to both coming from (or brought to you by) the Filipino and Filipino ingenuity.

He Came, He Stayed, He Conquered

By Cynthia De Castro / Asianjournal.com
 FILIPINO-Canadian Steve Mark Gan was 10 years old when his parents decided to go back to the Philippines. At first, he wasn't sure if his parents - medical doctors, Dr William Hoping Gan and Dr Susan Gan - were doing the right thing. More than 15 years later, after finishing advanced prosthodontics residency at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), Dr. Steve Mark Gan was



Steve Mark Gan

offered a \$12,000 a month job in LA. He turned it down and decided to come back to the Philippines, sure that he was doing the right thing. Today, Dr. Mark Gan is a respected leader in the

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WEATHER FRIDAY: Overcast. High 37F. Winds NE at 5 to 10 mph. night: Cloudy. Low 33F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph. SATURDAY: Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the low 40s with temperatures nearly steady overnight. SUNDAY: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid 50s and lows in the low 30s.	Market Summary As of Dec. 13- 3:59pm DOW ▲ +38.37 NASDAQ ▲ +39.85 10-Yr Bond 4.03% -0.04 NYSE Volume 3,526,898,000 Nasdaq Volume 2,027,222,880
Peso-Dollar RATE As of Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007 P41.840= \$1	
PSE INDEX PHISIX VALUE 3,491.96 ▲ CHANGE +25.68 Thursday, Dec.13, 2007	

Another reason to say "Thank God, it's Friday!"
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