



**MA'AM ON WHEELS.** Members of an all-female police motorcycle unit show off their big bikes at the 17th anniversary of the PNP in Camp Crame, Quezon City, where Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo paid tribute to 'Aleng Pulis,' describing women in uniform as armed with both 'sisterly advice' and a 'mean punch.'

Inquirer Photo by Joel Guinto

## Filipino's Vitamin Beer a Hit in Inventors' Gab

BANGKOK – A beer that takes some of the guilt out of drinking, a system to stop would-be car bombers and, yes, even a better mousetrap, are on display as inventors from around the globe gather to revel in thinking outside the box.

It may just be a jam spreader from Taiwan or a "cat averter garbage bag" thought up by an Iranian, but many of the inventors from 27 countries are as enthusiastic about their creations as kids at their first birthday party.

"Every time you give inventors an opportunity to have their ideas seen, that's what starts their blood flowing," said Deb Hess, executive director of the Minnesota Inventors Congress.

More than 150 of their brainchildren are being unveiled at a conference of the International Federation of Inventors' Association, a Hungary-based group celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

While many of the inventions are highly technical efforts – possibly breakthroughs – in the fields of medicine, agriculture and environment, crowds on Saturday at a cavernous convention center in

Bangkok were rather drawn to displays such as the fail-safe hammock and Vitamin Beer.

"If you are looking for an excuse to take a swig, this is it," said Billy L. Lalang, who concocted a beer mixed with Vitamin B, to replace this essential vitamin lost when excessive amounts of alcohol are consumed.

Although yet to be marketed, this "prophylactic for drinkers" as the Filipino inventor calls it, has won a gold medal at the European Union-sponsored Genius-Europe competition.

### No-fall hammock

Lalang, president of the Manila Innovation Development Society, said he had 42 inventions to his name, including a one-a-day lollipop, packed with vitamins and other essentials for undernourished children.

Husein Hujic, secretary general of the Inventors' Association of Bosnia-Herzegovina, extolled the virtues of a hammock so adaptable to the body's shape that "there is no risk to fall off the hammock, even if the user is asleep and unconsciously moving."

Hujic, whose inventions include a patented calendar running from Jan. 1 of the

Christian era to 4619, spoke so convincingly of the swinging bed – "It takes 600 kilograms (1,320 pounds), you can put a whole classroom of children into it," he enthused – that someone asked about placing an order.

"Unfortunately, you must come to Bosnia to get one," he said in elegantly accented English.

From Niger came a pest trap with "automatic rearmament," while the Iranian booth displayed a garbage bag infused with unnamed vegetal and chemical ingredients that are not harmful to humans or the environment but ward off cats, thus reducing urban litter.

### 'Invisible gym'

Among the American inventions was an "invisible gym" – an armchair that converts in 30 seconds into an exercise machine for the arms, upper body, legs and thighs and comes in his and hers configurations.

Next to photographs of buildings devastated by terrorist bombs, Taiwan's Chih-Hong Huang pointed to diagrams explaining his "anti-terror defending facility against car-crash attack" – a

Continued on PAGE 8

## Reflections of a FilAm...

From PAGE 1

with unlimited voyages to undertake.

Last week, in celebration of *Explorer 1's* 50th anniversary, JPL held a series of events inviting the public to commemorate the historic launch. In this Asian Journal exclusive, Filipino American Ralph Basilio, one of JPL's Deputy Project Managers, shared his insights on the event:

### Ralph Basilio reflects

On Thursday, January 31 2008, the 50th anniversary of the *Explorer 1* launch was celebrated. It was the first unmanned US satellite, and was launched into space as a response to the Soviet Union's success with Sputnik.

The space race had officially begun. Pasadena's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) was there at the beginning to pave the way for the manned Apollo moon program. Today, 50 years later, JPL continues to be a world-leader in help-

ing to better understand the planet we call home and the unmanned exploration of the other planets and deep space.

I am proud to have spent nearly my entire professional career to date working for the California Institute of Technology at JPL working with others – many of whom are also Filipino Americans – who continue to strive, have the spirit of discovery, and dare to do what others only dream of doing.

My parents, my brother, and I immigrated to the US when I was just three years old. At that time I was still too young to understand and appreciate what my parents left behind. Questions associated with our newly adopted country began posing themselves: where would we live, would my parents find jobs, would we all fit in and make new friends.

Later on, I realized that not

unlike the original immigrants from Europe, my parents were willing to leave what was familiar and risk it all in the hopes of finding a better life for them and future generations. However, I've also come to realize that there was a little of Amerigo Vespucci and Christopher Columbus in them and undoubtedly in many immigrants. It is all too easy to become comfortable or even complacent, but life should be a series of discoveries or as Helen Keller once put it, "either a daring adventure or nothing at all."

Our adopted country has given me many countless opportunities including a first-class education. One way for me to give back and carry on the traditions of this nation and the people – including my parents – that made it great is to be in the forefront of exploration, taking calculated risks, and reaping the benefits of discovery.

The last 50 years of US space exploration have given us new, exotic materials (e.g., high heat-resistant ceramics), advances in state-of-the-art solar electrical power, and recently Global Positioning System or GPS-based automobile and hand-held navigation systems.

The next 50 years offers even more promise, including a better understanding of carbon dioxide "sources and sinks" in the hopes of one day being able to control global greenhouse gases. In all instances, rest assured that there will be Filipino-Americans and other immigrants who will be playing key roles in science, engineering, technology, and aerospace business management that make it happen." (AJ)

## SC Stops Senate from Arresting Neri

By Joel Roja  
Asianjournal.com

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday stopped the Senate from implementing its arrest order against Commission on Higher Education (CHED) chairman Romulo Neri in connection with his failure to appear on the investigation on the alleged anomalies surrounding the US\$329 million broadband deal between the government and China's ZTE Corporation.

In an *en banc* resolution issued Tuesday, the Court issued a *status quo ante* in favor of Neri, which in effect compels the Senate to maintain the situation prior to the issuance of the arrest order on January 30.

"Now, therefore, effective immediately and continuing until further orders from this Court, you, respondents Senate Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon), Trade and Commerce, and National Defense and Security, your agents, representatives, or persons acting in your place or stead, are hereby enjoined from implementing your order of Janu-

ary 30, 2008," the SC said in a three-page resolution.

Likewise, the Court ordered respondents – Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, Committee on Trade and Commerce and Committee on National Defense and Security – to comment on Neri's petition within 10 days. The SC also set the case for oral arguments on March 4.

The Senate committees order Neri's arrest on January 30, 2008 after he failed to heed its subpoena compelling him to appear at their hearings on September 18, 20, October 25 and November 20, 2007 in connection with the ZTE Corporation.

In his supplemental petition for certiorari filed before the SC on February 1, Neri explained that he failed to show up on September 18, 20, and October 25 hearings because he was then out-of-town.

Neri, on the other hand, noted that he testified on September 26, 2007. During his testimony, Neri disclosed that former Commission on Elections (Comelec) Benjamin Abalos offered him P200 million in exchange for the approval of the project by the National Economic Develop-

ment Authority (NEDA).

Neri was then the secretary of NEDA when the broadband project was approved.

He said he begged off from attending the November 20, 2007 hearing upon the order of the President invoking executive privilege.

"The gross arbitrariness of respondents' order of arrest is patent on its face. This order of arrest elides, and side-steps, the President's invocation of executive privilege in behalf of petitioner," Neri stressed.

In its original petition for certiorari filed on December 7, 2007, Neri maintained that the respondents gravely abused their discretions when they issued on November 22, 2007 a show cause order against him.

The CHED chairman insisted that his invocation of executive privilege is "well-founded" as he is prohibited by law from disclosing communications made to him in official confidence.

He added that his discussions with the President were candid and meant to explore options in making policy decisions. Neri added that their conversations dwelt on the

Continued on PAGE 9

## FilAms Don Red...

From PAGE 1

Last February 1, De La Cruz along with men and women across Orange County dyed their hair red in honor of their loved ones at the American Heart Association's Change of Color, Change of Heart event on National Wear Red Day at the Paul Mitchell School in Costa Mesa.

The purpose of the campaign is to help raise awareness about heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the No. 1 leading cause of death in the US. It's also the No. 1 killer in the FilAm community.

"Heart disease has deprived my children of being with their grandparents," said De La Cruz. "If I can bring some awareness to my family and the Filipino community then I've done my job today."

More than 850,000 people suffer from a heart attack ev-

ery year in the US. Men and women die of heart disease more than any other cause. Yet, many either don't know they are at risk until it is too late.

This is especially true for women, said Kristine Kelley, a FilAm and the communications director for the American Heart Association.

"Every 60 seconds, a woman dies of heart disease. That's nearly half a million heart disease deaths in women every year," said Kelley. "Yet, only 21 percent of women view heart disease as their leading health threat and not many are taking action to prevent it."

Kelley said that women suffer different heart attack symptoms than men and a lot needs to be done to educate women about the early warning signs.

For women, early signs of heart disease or a heart attack is not necessarily feelings of

chest pains that a man may experience. Women suffering from early symptoms of heart disease often dismiss it as only a common cold, nausea or fatigue.

"So it's very important not to put it off to the side," added Kelley. "If you're not feeling well go to a doctor. Sometimes it can be fatal if you ignore it."

### Heart disease in the FilAm community

Members of the FilAm community are most at risk when it comes to heart disease. Heart disease accounts for nearly 31 percent of all FilAm related deaths, according to Kelley.

In 2000, the Journal of Invasive Cardiology studied the FilAm community in Daly City. The study reported that FilAms have a high incidence of diabetes and hypertension – two major risk factors for heart disease, stroke, and kidney failure.

The study revealed that poor diet is one of the con-

Continued on PAGE 9

## Marquez Can't Withstand...

From PAGE 1

Pacquiao has ever prepared for a fight and I've never seen him so focused," said Salud, who has produced three world champions in brothers Dodie Boy and Gerry Peñalosa and Malcolm Tuñacao.

"There were distractions in his previous fights, but now there's none."

Salud said Pacquiao called him recently to say that everything is going on smoothly as far as his training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood is concerned.

"*Iba talaga ang lakas niya ngayon* (Pacquiao has packed more power this time)," said Salud. "Di niya kakayanin (Marquez can't withstand it)."

Salud should know.

He had seen Pacquiao in training before, the longest and closest at his very own gym in Cebu City during the lefty's preparations for Mexican icon Marco Antonio Barrera last year.

Salud watched from ring-side Pacquiao-Marquez I – which ended in a controversial draw in 2004, even though Pacquiao floored Marquez three times in the first round – and noted several changes in both fighters.

He said Pacquiao now packs a mean wallop in both hands, unlike before when "he was basically a southpaw."

While giving credence to Marquez's counter-punching prowess, Salud said Pacquiao

and Roach have thoroughly studied the footage of Pacquiao-Marquez I and are sure to adopt a different strategy for the 12-round fight that stakes the Mexican's World Boxing Council super featherweight crown.

Salud's sharp, discerning eyes also noted Marquez's slower punches.

He said the 29-year-old Pacquiao is on his peak while Marquez, at 34, may no longer be as sharp as when he first fought the Filipino.

"That's the bottom line," said Salud.

Pacquiao's wife, Jingkee, will be planing back to Manila from Los Angeles on Tuesday, he said. Like Jingkee, Salud will fly back to the United States early next month to join Pacquiao in the final phase of his training.

## Immigration, a Major...

From PAGE 2

include strengthening our borders, greater cooperation with our neighbors, strict but fair enforcement of our laws, federal assistance to state and local governments, strict penalties for those who exploit undocumented workers, and a path to earned legal status for those who are here, working hard, paying taxes, respecting the law, and willing to meet a high bar, including learning English. The solution must also protect the sanctity of families and repair the broken, unfair bureaucratic system that forces citizens and lawful immigrants to live apart from

their spouses and children," Clinton said.

Clinton was a strong supporter of the efforts to negotiate a comprehensive immigration reform package in the last two sessions of Congress. In 2007, she introduced a bipartisan measure to reunite hundreds of thousands of lawful permanent residents in this country with their spouses and minor children. She also led efforts for the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act, championed the Access to Employment and English Acquisition Act, and co-sponsored the DREAM Act, which makes it possible for

hardworking young people to attend college.

The other strong Republican contender, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, is less liberal on the issue. "I like legal immigration. I think having people come here from other countries with their skill and education enhances America. But I want to stop illegal immigration. I want to secure the border," Romney said.

Asked to comment on an immigration bill the Senate could debate, Romney said he doesn't agree with some part of the bill. "There's something I don't like in the bill," Romney said. "There's something called a Z visa and the idea behind the Z visa is everybody who's here

Continued on PAGE 9

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