

Donaire dominates...

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DOMINATION. Nonito Donaire Jr. (right) lands a right cross to the head of Rafael Concepcion during their 12 round bout at the Hard Rock Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, on August 15. Donaire Jr. captured the WBA Interim Super Flyweight Title by unanimous decision.

AJPress Photo by Robert Macabagdal

why I broke my hand. I think that extra pound he had was definitely an advantage."

Many Filipinos and boxing fans would be hesitant to watch a boxing event without the name Manny Pacquiao on the card but Saturday's (August 15), Pinoy Power event brought in 1,838 screaming fans, most were Filipinos.

The pro-Filipino crowd cheered on Pinoy boxers Mark Melligen, Bernabe Concepcion and Donaire Jr.

Rising star
Pinoy boxing prospect Mark Melligen started off the Pinoy Power event with a bang. The 23-year-old Pinoy from Bacolod City, Philippines looked stellar against Ernesto Zepeda of Mazatlan, Mexico.

"Mighty" Melligen peppered and bloodied up the Mexican with timed one-two punches throughout the bout. The match culminated when Melligen knocked out Zepeda with a perfectly timed left cross that rocked Zepeda's head back. The Mexican slumped on the ropes before falling on his knees on the canvas. Referee Joe Cortez immediately stopped the bout.

This was Melligen's first fight for Top Rank. The organization signed the Filipino a month ago with high hopes.

Melligen said the bout was easy.
"I saw all of his punches coming in," said Melligen to the *Asian Journal*.

Trainer Edito Villamor said it was a good showing for Melligen especially against a veteran fighter like Zepeda.

"He was good," said Villamor. "He was good tonight but we'll go back to the gym to work more."

The real deal disappoints
It may have been a case of immaturity.

There was a lot of talk before the bout whether the 21-year-old Bernabe "Real Deal" Concepcion was ready and capable to dethrone a champion in the prime of his career.

On Saturday, Concepcion proved he wasn't ready.

The real deal disappointed the pro-Filipino crowd when he was disqualified after he hit and knocked out Steven Luevano clearly after the seventh round bell.

Concepcion was fighting for Luevano's WBO World Featherweight Title.

But the 28-year-old titleholder from La Puente, CA frustrated Concepcion throughout the bout. Pawing his right hand like a machine gun in each round, Luevano kept his distance and countered each time Concepcion would lean in.

Toward the final seconds of the seventh round, it seemed that Concepcion hurt Luevano and charged in. However, after the bell rang, Concepcion threw a right cross that landed flush to Luevano's jaw, immediately knocking out the champion.

Referee Jay Nady ruled Concepcion's punch intentional and disqualified the Filipino.

"Bernabe was excited he hurt the guy," said trainer Freddie Roach. "The crowd was yelling and yes, he did hit him late. The disqualification was justified but it was in no way intentional. It was accidental."

Bob Arum said he would immediately set up a rematch for the two sometime in December.

Donaire dominates
Wearing yellow trunks to commemorate late President Cory Aquino, Donaire toyed with Rafael Concepcion of Panama throughout the 12-round bout.

Despite being outweighed by several pounds (Concepcion did not make the 115-pound weight limit), Donaire used his quick feet and timed counter punches to neutralize the bull-like Panamanian.

In the opening round, Donaire's overhand right opened a cut above Concepcion's left eye.

But the Panamanian had a lot of strength in his punches. In the second round, Concepcion landed a flush left hook to Donaire's head, which caused a small mouse under the Filipino's right eye.

Donaire said he broke or may have sprained his right hand while punching Concepcion in the third round. So in the following rounds, Donaire used his footwork and counter punches to avoid the charging Concepcion.

Judge Max De Luca scored the bout 117-111, Duane Ford had it 115-113, and Jerry Roth 116-112 all in favor for the Filipino Flash Donaire.

After the bout Concepcion had harsh words for the Flash.

"If I had known that it was a marathon I would have trained for a run," said Concepcion, referring to Donaire's elusive tactic against him. "I was expecting a real Filipino fighter. I wanted someone to fight, to stand up and fight...I knew he was a great boxer and technician [but] I hope you have more of a warriors heart."

Donaire said the Concepcion is the real coward.

"He's the guy that purposely did not make the weight limit," said Donaire. "I could have not went through with the fight and penalized him for not making weight but I did not want to disappoint the fans. He's the coward. He's the one that said he didn't care about the money or the title he just wanted the Panama and Philippines [boxing] rivalry...I won. I came in there and did my job." (*Joseph Pimentel*)

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide make their voices heard in support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Asian-Americans organize first-ever collective National Week of Action

WASHINGTON, DC—Starting Friday, Aug. 20 Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders across the country will flex their political muscle during their first-ever collection week of action.

They will attend town hall meetings with members of Congress, hold press conferences and petition lawmakers in support of comprehensive immigration reform. People will share their personal stories about how our outdated immigration policies break up families, hurt the economy, and devastate our local communities.

"Immigration reform is a defining issue for the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center. "The right legislation legalizes millions in our communities, reunites thousands of families, and signals that the US welcomes Asian and other immigrants."

Titi Liu, executive director of the Asian Law Caucus explained: "For this national week of action we tell our stories as immigrants, and as descendants of immigrants. We are workers, neighbors, and small-business owners who revitalize communities

and contribute to the economy."

Events are concentrated during the week of Aug. 17-24 but the push will continue into the fall. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are urged to submit letters to the editor, write or visit their members of Congress, and undertake similar actions during this period.

Additionally, the national effort includes a "text-in" day and a postcard campaign. Organizers aim to collect 5,000 postcards that focus specifically on the need to fix the family immigration system as part of comprehensive reform. Distribution and collection will continue until Congress returns from the August recess.

"Asian-Americans have an opportunity now to influence the critical conversation around immigration policy," said Deepa Iyer, executive director of South Asian Americans Leading Together. "We must play a role through grassroots organizing and advocacy to let lawmakers know that the immigration system must be reformed now before it is too late."

Multi-lingual literature aimed at helping community members explain the need for immigration reform will be released during

this time as well. Supporters can use the information to craft letters to the editor, blog posts, etc.

The brochure will be available in five languages: Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Vietnamese and English.

"The time has come for us to mobilize and let other Americans know how the broken immigration system is undermining Asian-American and Pacific Islander families and communities," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). "Any reform of the immigration laws must fully incorporate our shared American values of family, human rights, civil liberties, and due process."

The national groups that are partnering to host this series of events include: Asian American Justice Center, Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian Law Caucus, Asian American Institute, OCA-Embracing the Hopes and Aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans, Japanese American Citizens League, South Asian Americans Leading Together, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, Hmong National Development, Kaya, and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations. ■

National Artists row reaches...

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Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera, Napoleon Abueva and Arturo Luz, academicians, and members of the Concerned Artists of the Philippines—asked that hearings on the matter be conducted and that the restraining order be subsequently made permanent.

Part of the petition read: "The

appointment to the Order of National Artists is a discretionary power on the part of the President. Clearly, however, the discretion is not absolute nor is it unlimited.

"For instance, the President has no discretion motu proprio to appoint one who has not been recommended by the [Cultural Center of the Philippines] and

the NCCA boards; proof of this is that the award is not given every year—the last batch of National Artists was named in 2006."

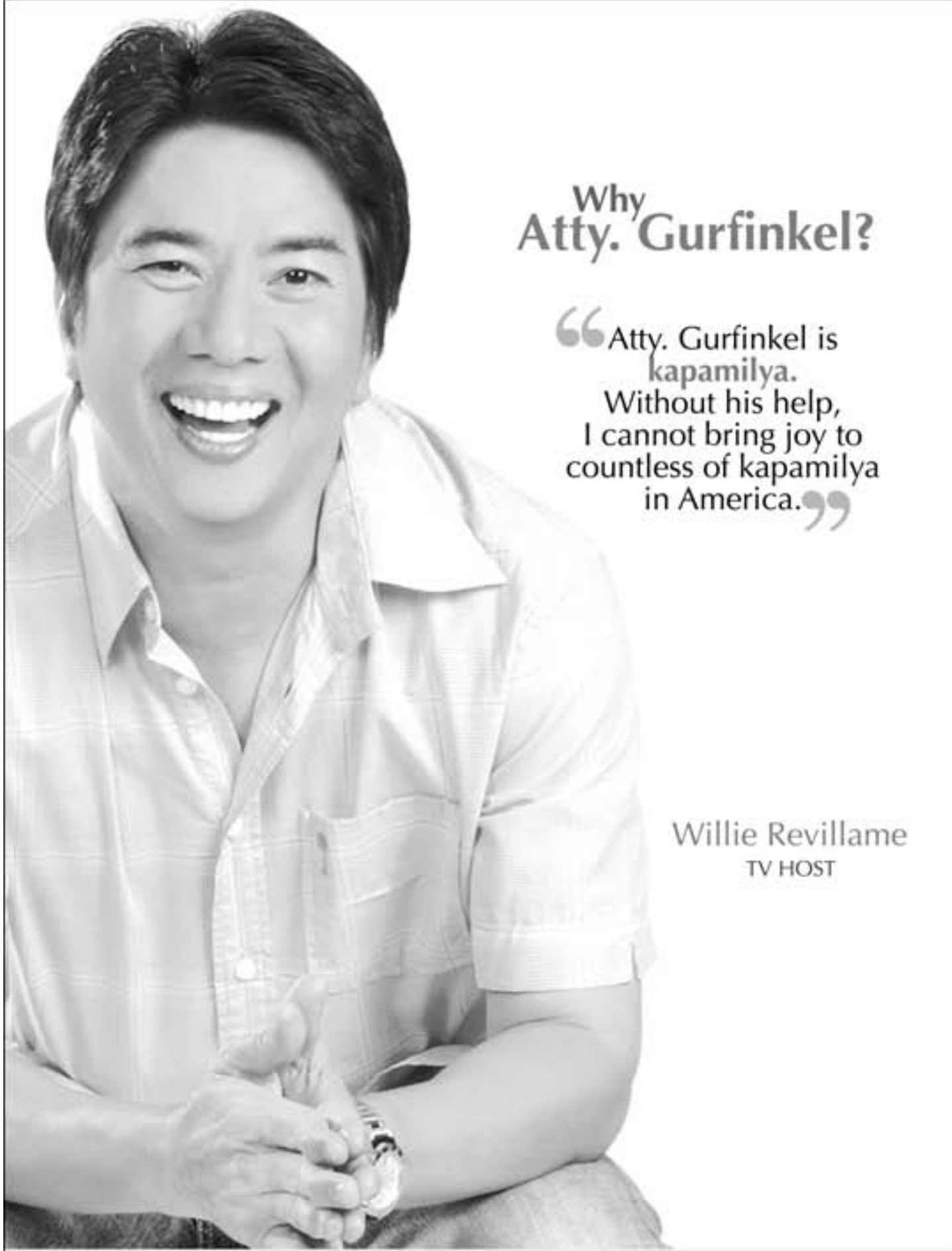
The petition was prepared by Marvic Leonen and Theodore Te, the dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law and UP vice president for legal affairs, respectively.

Malacañang had said it would not withdraw its contested nominations, and both Caparas and

Guidote-Alvarez had vigorously defended their being named National Artists.

Hours after the petition was filed in the Supreme Court, Malacañang said it would conduct a dialogue with the protesters.

But Press Secretary Cerge Remonde did not indicate that the Palace was willing to strike a compromise and reconsider its decision. ■



Why Atty. Gurfinkel?

"Atty. Gurfinkel is kapamilya. Without his help, I cannot bring joy to countless of kapamilya in America."

Willie Revillame
TV HOST

Civic causes advocate turns...

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environmental advocate Nicanor Perlas found inspiration to set forth on another journey in a fight for good governance.

At a recent lunch at his residence, Nick shared with us his vision for the country. He wore a simple polo and slacks that made him look like an ordinary man. But, indeed, he is far from being ordinary. This Alternative Nobel Prize Winner had done big steps to contribute to the society. And at the age of 59, the flame of his youthful idealism is still burning.

Nick declared his intentions to run for the presidential elections on 2010. "There are a lot of people who are longing for a real choice and for something different," he said. And with a new party list, Partido ng Marangal na Sambayanan (PANGMASA), he presents a new agenda of eradication of poverty and corruption. "Poverty is not just an economic problem. It is a systemic problem," he added.

With the clear vision to wake up the people, Nick is trying to embody transformation. He knew that once the people learn the vision by heart, they would start doing something. "This is not about my campaign, this is about our situation and what we really believe in as a nation," he said.

It is from the sentiments of the Filipino people that Nick found what this battle is all about. "And this not only a change for me, but a change for all of us," he said.

He told us a story about a group which is called Bisyon Cafe. It is a very informal gathering where young people sit on the floor. A question is asked and discussed. And at the end, a vision for the country is concluded. "The youth today is looking for the change not only in the Philippines but also globally," Nick said. And he wants to encourage this idealism as he, himself, portrays it. Perhaps change is too big to envision. "It's too much to change the system immediately," Nick said. And he knew that the first step is to set the difference between a good government and a good governance.

There is a need for a reform from within, a need to strengthen the civil society and encourage responsible citizenship and accountability. "I have done enough outside the country. Now, I want to help my country," Nick said. And laughing, he added, "I returned my green card."

This man known also known as the father of organic farming walks his talk even shared his diet with us. "I laughed when I knew Obama's diet is fish and vegetables. That's exactly what my diet is. I drink banana shake and zero fat yogurt."

The journey has just started but Nick is not faced with fear. "Most key historical events are what people thought to be impossible. That's why I'm not scared of all the obstacles," he said. "Traditional politics is the white swan and now the black swan will appear." ■

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