

**VERIFIED**  
AUDIT CIRCULATION

This seal signifies that THE ASIAN JOURNAL has met or exceeded Verified's standard of 90% Accuracy of Claimed Circulation.

Verified Audit Circulation Annual Audit Report 2007-08

# ASIAN JOURNAL™

The Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA)



www.asian JOURNAL.com

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Volume 20 - No. 1 • 3 Sections - 28 Pages MIDWEEK EDITION JANUARY 14-16, 2009

## DATELINE USA

FROM THE AJPRESS NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA

### Former patient murders Fil-Am doctor, commits suicide



A makeshift memorial sits in front of Dr. Edna Almaden Makabenta. The doctor was allegedly shot by a patient last January 12.

LAS VEGAS—Police are still trying to determine the motive for the fatal shooting of a Filipino doctor last Monday, Jan. 12.

According to police, 80-year-old Eliseo Santos fatally shot Dr. Edna Almaden Makabenta in her medical office shortly after 9:00 am Monday morning, before turning the gun on himself.

Santos died shortly afterwards. Police officials said they have yet to find a motive why Santos shot Makabenta, a well-regarded internal medicine physician in the Las Vegas area.

Police are continuing their investigation.

Henfel Baria, the owner of the building next door to Makabenta's doctor's

► PAGE A2

### Tragedy for 2 Filipino families

THREE Filipino families from across the United States are grieving because of separate tragic events.

In Baltimore, 17-year-old Conrad A. Utanes, a Baltimore County high school student died after being hit by a car on his way home from school.

The Dulaney High School senior was crossing a street when he was hit by a car driven by a fellow student. The traffic division officer said the accident is being investigated and no charges have been filed.

The victim's mother did not even realize that it was her son who was dying on the street as she drove past the car accident.

► PAGE A2

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

**P 47.550 = \$**

AS OF 5:28 A.M., JAN. 14, 2009

# Bush cautions GOP not to become 'anti-immigrant'

**WASHINGTON**—Down to single digits in his days left in office, President George W. Bush is warning the Republican Party not to become "anti-immigrant" as it regroups from defeat and retools its leadership.

"It's very important for our party not to narrow its focus, not to become so inward looking that we drive people away from a philosophy that is compassionate and decent," the departing president said in an interview broadcast last Sunday, January 11, nine days before his term ends. "My call for our party is to be open-minded."

After Republicans lost control of Congress in 2006, the party took another thumping in November, when Barack Obama won the presidency and Democrats expanded their control of the House and Senate. Bush was not on the ballot either time, but both elections were seen at least partly as a repudiation of him.

"Obviously, we got whipped in 2008," Bush said.

Republican leaders are re-examining both their message and their messengers. Bush said the party need not change its basic tenets such as low taxes



President George W. Bush makes a statement during his meeting with Mexican President Felipe Calderon, not shown, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington.

and a strong defense. But he warned that there ought not be any "litmus tests as to whether or not you can be a Republican."

"We should be open-minded about big issues like immigration reform, because if we're viewed as anti-somebody in other words, if the party is viewed as anti-immigrant, then another fellow may say, 'Well, if they're against the immigrant, they may be against me.' We've got to be a party for a better future."

Bush promised an overhaul of immigration policy in his second term. But it went down to defeat in Congress when some leading lawmakers, including conservative members of his party, thought that provisions such as a guest worker program amounted to amnesty for illegal immigrants.

On other topics, the president said he turned to his father, former President George H.W. Bush, more for "unconditional love" than advice. "I was more in-

terested in the father-son relationship. You've got a lot of people who can give you advice. But you rarely have people who can pick up the phone and say, 'I love you, son,' or 'Hang in there, son,' and provide the kind of comfort that, you know, a president needs on occasion."

He defended as legal the use of tough interrogation methods against high-value terrorism suspects. Obama has criticized interrogation practices that he says amount to torture and has pledged to protect the country while also upholding the nation's values. Said Bush: "I just can't imagine what it would be like to be president without these tools available and we captured a known killer who might have information about the next attack on America."

Bush said his biggest disappointment in the Washington political process has been people who trusted who publicly express their bitterness about his leadership. Without naming names, he said such critics did not show respect to their own office or his. "They don't want to have a logical discussion or a civil discussion about policy," Bush said. "They just want to tear you down."

He first said his dad's "a nut to jump out of an airplane," referring to a series of skydiving jumps in recent years. Then the younger Bush added "Actually, I think it's cool." His father plans to go skydiving once again, in June, to mark his 85th birthday.

George W. Bush appeared on Fox News Sunday, in an interview taped last Wednesday, January 7. (AP)

## Erap's mom passes away at 103

by MARICHU VILLANUEVA & JOSE RODEL CLAPANO  
Philstar.com

**M**ARY Ejercito, the mother of former President Joseph Estrada, died yesterday of heart seizure and aneurysm in the stomach at the San Juan Medical Center. She was 103.

Angel Gonong, Estrada's media officer, said Ejercito died at around 4:15 p.m.

"Her condition started getting critical during the interfaith rally against Charter change (Cha-cha) in Makati, when President Estrada was forced to rush to the hospital and failed to attend the rally. Her condition stabilized, but early yesterday afternoon, Doña Mary's health deteriorated again. She died with President Estrada by her side," Gonong said.

A grief-stricken Estrada himself broke the news to The STAR a few minutes after his mother's death.

"I've lost the best mother I could have," he said.

After kissing his mother on the forehead, Estrada returned to his house on Polk Street in Greenhills, San Juan and refused to see anyone.

Upon release from his rest house detention in Tanay, Rizal last September after he was granted executive pardon, Estrada had gone straight to



Photo taken in December 2006 shows former President Joseph Estrada kissing his ailing mother Mary Ejercito at the family residence in San Juan.

his ailing mother at the hospital.

He even joked that his mother admonished him from her hospital bed: "Ikaw, Joseph, hindi mo na nga nata-

pos ang pagka-presidente mo, pati ba detention di mo rin tinapos? (Joseph, you did not finish your term as presi-

► PAGE A2

**Max's OF MANILA**

**NOW OPEN!**  
at the Puente Hills Mall

Top Pinoy Restaurant Chains also at the Puente Hills Mall:

**Chowking** **Jollibee** **Red Ribbon**

Visit us at: The Puente Hills Mall, Ground Floor (near AMC Theaters), 1600 South Azusa Ave., City of Industry, CA 91748.  
Phone: 626-965-0032 (Max's) / 626-363-1977 (Chowking) / 626-8820-1475 (Jollibee) / 626-369-7118 (Red Ribbon)

**Mortgage Problems?**

We can assist you on modifying your present mortgage loan.... to lower your monthly payments and principal value.

Call now for Free consultation and no UP-FRONT fees

**Mabuhay MORTGAGE**

**1-800-249-3338**

2550 E. Amar Rd., Suite A-8, West Covina, CA 91792

Real Estate Broker, California Department of Real Estate Broker ID 01139771

www.asianjournal.com/print/

**News without the paper.**

it's free!

**Foodfest sa Island Pacific Panorama**

Jan 17 (Saturday) 10am-5pm  
Jan 18 (Sunday) 11am-5pm

Featuring:  
**Chef Cecilia de Castro**

With FREE concert on Jan 18 with Pinoy Jazz artist **Mon David & his 2 kids Nicole & Carlo**