

Important Ifs **p.3**



Smartening Up **p.4**

Making a Mark **p.7**



"Where's the Beef?" **p.10**

The IMMIGRANT

Winds of Change

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With sound legislation and economic principles from the current administration, the Philippines is poised, more than ever, to greater heights. **Sonny Coloma** tells the inside story

FROM VICIOUS TO VIRTUOUS CYCLES
“If, given a generous frame of 50 years,” writes Professor Felipe Miranda of the University of the Philippines for a United Nations report, “a regime fails to initiate and make viable the processes and institutions that modern democracies must develop to endure, if most of its citizens are unable to live human lives, then there is a good chance that it is not democratic or truly interested in democratizing.”

Professor Miranda’s assertion is based on Schmitter and Karl’s definition: “Modern political democracy is a system of governance in which rulers are held accountable for their actions in the public realm by citizens, acting directly through the competition and cooperation of their elected representatives.”

As a take-off point for assessing the state of Philippine democracy, he comes up with a working definition:

“As a system of governance, it demonstrably promotes—however slowly or gradually, even allowing for occasional, temporary reverses—a progressively human quality of life for its citizens within 50 years of a regime’s formal democratic institution.”

Professor Miranda goes further to say that “seeking democratization in the Philippines in the past 50 years is like chasing the wind.”

This was the challenge that faced Benigno S. Aquino III two years ago: to establish a new culture and infrastructure of governance anchored upon public accountability that will improve the people’s quality of life.

President Aquino was catapulted into the presidency in what a leading columnist described as “(a manifestation of) Edsa People Power masquerading as an election.” While he won by a huge margin of more than five million votes over his nearest opponent (deposed President Joseph Ejercito Estrada), his share of the electoral vote was only a plurality of 42 per cent over a field of nine other candidates.

Today, President Aquino enjoys the highest popularity and trust ratings in the post-EDSA era. According to the latest Pulse Asia survey, his performance approval and trust ratings are at 78 and 80 per cent, respectively.

Considering that the income distribution profile of Filipinos is heavily skewed toward the poor and marginalized, such high ratings could only be attained because the President continues to enjoy broad support among the “the last, the least, and the lost”. Sixty-seven per cent of all Filipinos belong to Class D while 23 per cent are in Class E. Those in the latter category are the target beneficiaries of the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program that aims to deliver an integrated social welfare and development package to the poorest 4.6 million families.

The CCT program represents a paradigm shift, a radical departure from previous poverty alleviation approaches that



Turn to the next page

Photo by Manny Librodo

Winds of Change

From page 1

followed the traditional trickle-down theory of development. Evidently, previous gains in economic output in the country have favored the elite few over the vast majority of impoverished Filipinos.

While purposively addressing the centuries-old poverty blight, President Aquino has inaugurated a new culture of governance that reverses the flow of authority. ‘*Kayo ang boss ko*’ (‘You are my bosses’), was his clarion declaration as he took his oath of office. He also exemplifies humility and commitment to the rule of law by insisting that even his presidential convoy should follow traffic signals.

“Good governance translates into good economics,” observes Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, chairman of the cabinet’s economic cluster that is credited with creating the fiscal space that has engendered steady economic growth.

Citing “prudent economic policies coupled with political stability (that) will aid in its faster expansion,” Citigroup projects that the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) will grow to 6.3 percent in 2012; and that, despite continuing economic woes in Europe and North America, the economy’s 2013 growth rate will be nearly the same at 6.1 percent.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is steadily progressing toward a near-investment grade rating from all the major rating agencies. This has enabled the country to reduce its outlay for debt repayment significantly. The resulting savings have been plowed into big-ticket programs such as the CCT, thereby completing the shift to a virtuous cycle that begins with good governance and ends in faster delivery of enhanced social welfare services to the people.

Christmas in Manila: Showcasing a Turnaround

In early December 2012 the UN Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) commended the Philippines for installing vastly-improved early warning systems in the aftermath of Typhoon Bopha.

UNISDR Head of Regional Office for Asia, Jerry Velasquez cited the “new automated rainfall and flood prediction systems as being critical to the provision of accurate forecasts and timely warnings as part of Project NOAH (Nationwide Operational Assessment of Hazards), introduced earlier this year by the Department of Science and Technology.”

A fortnight later, the Philippine legislature passed two pieces of landmark legislation on tax reform and on reproductive health and responsible parenthood; key reforms that, according to most observers, would not have been possible had it not been for President Aquino’s exemplary leadership.

Citing Carlos Conde, a human rights advocate, Time reports:

“Only five years ago, many thought the bill would never pass, that the country was too divided,

that the church was too strong. But supporters fought on and found an ally in President Aquino, who took office in 2010. The Reproductive Health Bill will have profound implications for improving the health and lives of women throughout the country. The Aquino administration should be credited for having the political will to muster support for the bill in Congress despite the threat of a political backlash.”

Similar rave reviews reverberated in Manila after Congress enacted a “sin tax” reform law that revises excise taxes imposed on cigarettes, liquor and distilled spirits to comply with World Trade Organization’s policies and to raise revenues vitally needed to fund universal health care programs for the poor. This was achieved despite strong lobbying from well-entrenched tobacco and liquor industry stalwarts.

Within the same week, the President signed into law the country’s two-trillion peso national budget, as the bureau of internal revenue announced that its annual collections breached the trillion-peso mark. For the third year in a row since the Aquino administration took office, the national budget was approved on the same year that it was proposed to the legislature. This is in sharp contrast to nearly a decade of political malaise characterized by sloppy and wasteful spending that created huge budgetary deficits and a largesse of political patronage that bred widespread corruption.

Then on a warm afternoon following the budget signing, the President played host to more than 1,500 children plucked by the Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) from Metro Manila’s urban poor enclaves, in a Christmas gift-giving event held on the grounds of Malacañang Palace where he lives and holds office. About a third of the children came from families that are the beneficiaries of the CCT.

What makes President Aquino an effective leader?

Heredity, humility and hopefulness are three qualities that account for the significant achievements of his administration.

On the 500-peso bill of Philippine currency are photos of the late Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., a martyr for freedom who was assassinated at the height of the Marcos dictatorship, and that of his widow, the late President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino (who became President after the 1986 EDSA People Power revolution that inspired similar uprisings across the globe).

The signature that guarantees the legal tender of the currency belongs to their son, Benigno S. Aquino III. From the father, through the mother, then on the son runs a legacy of commitment to freedom and democracy.

When a framework agreement for peace in Bangsamoro (Muslim-dominated provinces in Mindanao,

southern Philippines) was signed in mid-October 2012 in Malacañang Palace, it was noted that the Muslim uprising in Mindanao was triggered by a speech delivered by Senator Aquino in 1968 on the reported massacre of young military trainees from Sulu province. Then barely seven months into her presidency in September 1986, Senator Aquino’s wife Corazon ventured into the lair of the rebel leader Nur Misuari, a former university professor, and offered peace. Her initiative brought about the creation of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

In August 2011, their son Benigno III made a surprise trip to Japan and talked with the leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and initiated peace negotiations that led to the signing of the landmark peace agreement.

The Aquino political brand, especially that of Presidents Corazon and Benigno III, is characterized importantly by humility—an uncommon simplicity, aversion to publicity, and willingness to listen to common people.

When President Corazon Aquino died in August 2009, millions joined her funeral that lasted for more than eight hours, a virtual repeat of her husband’s funeral in 1983 after he was shot to death on the tarmac of what is now known as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Their son Benigno III (or Noyonoy) rode on the crest of popular clamor for a return to decency and integrity in public service when he was elected President after barely nine months of preparation.

Hopefulness is what President Aquino’s unique brand of leadership evokes. There is renewed confidence in a government that works because it is honest. There is optimism in the prospects of a country where the business environment is fair and offers a level playing field. According to a long-term study by HSBC, the Philippines is poised to become “one of the world’s 16 largest economies by 2050 on account of its present trajectory of economic growth.

The Future

What, then, are the prospects for the future? President Aquino said it aptly last July during his third SONA: “...We are entering the midpoint of our administration. Last year, I challenged you to fully turn your back on the culture of negativism; to take every chance to uplift your fellow Filipinos. From what we are experiencing today, it is clear: You succeeded. You are the wellspring of change. You said: It is possible.

“I stand before you today as the face of a government that knows you as its Boss and draws its strength from you. Whenever I come face to face with any farmer, teacher, pilot, engineer, driver, call center agent, or any normal Filipino; to every Juan and Juana dela Cruz who says, ‘Thank you for this change,’ I respond: You made this happen.” ●

newsbyte

British firm to sponsor scholars to the UK

British pharmaceuticals giant GlaxoSmithKline has signed an agreement with the British Embassy to co-sponsor up to two scholars under the UK’s Chevening Programme.

The partnership will start this school year 2013-14 and will end in 2016.

“The Chevening scholarship has always recognized talent and leadership potential and we believe likewise that there can be no better investment,” said Roberto Taboada, President of GlaxoSmithKline Philippines.

“In 2011, seven Filipinos were awarded Chevening Scholarships. In 2012 that number rose to twelve. We were able to expand the number of scholarships through a new partnership with Cambridge University. Looking to 2013, I would like us to be able to forge additional partnerships, which will allow us to increase the number of Chevening Scholars we are able to fund,” said British Ambassador Stephen Lillie.

Chevening Scholarships are for talented people who have been identified as future leaders, decision makers or opinion formers across a wide range of fields, including politics, business, finance, climate change and energy, the media, healthcare, civil society and academia.

For more information, check out www.chevening.org.



British Ambassador Stephen Lillie with GlaxoSmithKline Phils. President Roberto Taboada

CA confirms appointment of New Ambassadors

The Commission on Appointments (CA) confirmed the appointments of six Ambassadors Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (AEPs) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) last December 19.

They are the following: Erlinda F. Basilio – Chief of Mission, Class I and AEP to the People’s Republic of China with concurrent jurisdiction over the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Mongolia; Elizabeth P. Buensuceso – Chief of Mission, Class I and AEP to the Philippine Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Indonesia; and Alex G. Chua – Chief of Mission Class II and AEP to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The other half are **Sahid S. Glang** – Chief of Mission Class II and AEP to the Kingdom of Bahrain; **Domingo D. Lucenario** – Chief of Mission Class II and AEP to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with concurrent jurisdiction over Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan; and **Lamberto V. Monsanto** – Chief of Mission Class II and AEP to Kenya with concurrent jurisdiction over Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environmental Programme and HABITAT.

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ON THE COVER:

“Hues of Youth”. Named by Scott Kelby in 2009 as one of the Top Five photographers in the world (that you’ve heard of), Manny Librodo holds sold out annual photography workshops worldwide. His captivating photographs can be found in UNICEF calendars, international magazines, covers of some of the world’s leading photography publications, and winner’s circles of top online photography competitions.

live&learn

STOCKS and BONDS

It’s true: the Philippine stocks and bond market is ripe for investing. Business editor **Jimbo Gulle** offers 10 points to ponder

You’re an expat and you’ve just arrived in the Philippines. You read about the roaring local stock market, which seems to hit record highs every day, and want a piece of the action. You’ve got a few thousand bucks to spare. What do you do?

Invest, of course, in stocks and bonds. And thanks to the fine folks at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), they’ve already outlined the ways you can play the stock market with a 16-point online guide (found at this link: <http://fglinc.tripod.com/knowninvest.htm>).

Since that document is too long, we’ve distilled it into 10 points. Also, remember this: investing in stocks and bonds means you could lose your money, but stocks, while riskier than bonds, can provide greater returns.

1. Hire a stockbroker and open a brokerage account. Choose a trustworthy broker, who could be a person or a corporation but definitely must be a member in good standing of the PSE. Then you open a brokerage account, which is much like opening a bank account. This allows you to buy and sell shares of stock any time—just like making a deposit, withdrawal or transfer with a bank.

2. Place an order for stock shares with your broker. When you open a brokerage account, your broker will assign to you a trader, a licensed salesman authorized to buy and sell securities at the PSE. The trader will be your contact person for all your transactions; you just need to tell him (or her) which stock to buy or sell, the number of shares to buy or sell, and preferably the bid price (when buying) or asked price (when selling).

3. You can buy shares of stock for as little as Php1,000 (about \$25). The price of the stock, however, depends on its current share price, and you have to buy the minimum amount of shares for the stock in that particular price range. The PSE’s Board Lot Table is an easy reference (follow the URL above), but in general stocks are classified in price ranges from Php0.001 to Php505 and above. You need to buy at least a million shares in the Php0.001 range (meaning the minimum investment is Php1,000), but just 10 shares in the Php505 and up stocks (for a Php5,050 minimum buy-in).

4. You will incur fees in trading stocks. The typical fees are your brokerage’s commission, transfer fees, cancellation fees, PCD (Philippine Central



Illustration by Carina Samanthia Santos

The Ifs of brighter Philippine economy

While the present administration’s efforts are laudable, real, long-term substantial growth can only be achieved through drastic change. Prof. Gregorio Sicat writes

In an opinion piece, “Assuring robust growth for 2013 and beyond” which appeared in The Philippine Star last January 23, I asked how we can assure that the six percent annual economic growth expectations—some optimists suggest even seven percent—can be translated into reality.

My answer: This is possible. However, the government needs to improve existing policies, especially those dealing with foreign direct investments (FDIs) into the country.

Let me elaborate. The Philippine record in attracting FDIs has been poor compared to other high growth countries in ASEAN. Though there are other reasons for this state of affairs, the “Constitution’s restrictive provisions pertaining to the role

of foreign capital” have held the economy’s expansion in critical sectors—in infrastructure, exports, domestic manufacturing and agriculture.

These constitutional provisions were originally introduced in 1935 when the country’s basic law of the land was adopted. These restrictions were further expanded in the Constitution of 1987. Unlike ordinary laws, the Constitution is difficult to amend.

Most countries—indeed all the ones I have studied—do not contain similar provisions in their political constitutions. They have laws governing foreign investments but they could amend those laws that are not in tune with their needs. Not so in our case. These provisions make it difficult for the country to attract



Illustration by Manix Aberra

Somy Coloma is currently the Secretary of the Presidential Communications Operations Office. He is serving his third government stint. Currently on leave from the Asian Institute of Management as a Professor on strategy and organization development, he served previously as Transportation and Communications Undersecretary in the administrations of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada and Corazon Aquino. He also served the latter as Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Presidential Management Staff. He was a columnist of Businessworld, the Philippines’ oldest business newspaper, from 1988 to 2010.

Smartening Up

Dean Ernesto P. Maceda Jr. lists down things you should know about the Anti-Dummy Law

1. What is the Anti-Dummy Law?

The Anti-Dummy Law ((Commonwealth Act no. 108, as amended by CA 421, RA 134, RA 6084 and PD 715) penalizes persons who circumvent the Nationality rules found in the Constitution, which limits the ownership and/or management of certain enterprises or industries to Filipino citizens or corporations.

Examples of these as found in the Constitution itself are the exploration, development and utilization of natural resources (60% Filipino), operation of public utilities (60% Filipino), and establishment of educational institutions (60% Filipino).

2. How might I violate the Anti-Dummy Law?

You may find yourself violating the Anti-Dummy Law by doing any of the following acts:

- a. Allowing your name or citizenship to be used to evade laws relating to Philippine or any other specific citizenship to exercise a right, franchise or privilege;
- b. Falsely simulating the existence of the minimum stock or capital owned by such citizens, to evade Nationality rules;
- c. Permitting or allowing anyone to use the right, franchise, privilege, property or business expressly reserved to Filipinos when the former is not authorized to do so;
- d. Leasing, transferring or conveying the right, franchise, privilege, property or business to anyone not qualified under the Constitution or law;
- e. Intervening in the management or control of a nationalized activity, in whatever capacity, with or without compensation, except technical personnel whose employment may be specifically authorized by the Secretary of Justice
- f. Knowingly aiding, assisting or abetting in the planned consummation or perpetration of any of the acts above enumerated

3. Do I need to be a foreigner to be liable under the law?

No, even Filipinos can be held liable. The Filipino citizen who allows or permits another to use his name or citizenship to circumvent nationality laws and the foreign citizen who exploits the citizenship of that Filipino are both liable. If the offender is a corporation, the responsible officers, such as the President, Manager or other officer in charge will be liable.

4. What are the penalties imposed for violating the law?

You may be imprisoned for five to 15 years plus you will be fined an amount not less than



Illustration by Manix Aberra

the value of the right, franchise or privilege which was enjoyed or acquired in violation of the provisions but in no case less than P5,000. In addition to such penalty, the right, franchise, privilege, property or business will be forfeited.

5. Are foreigners absolutely prohibited from participating or otherwise engaging in businesses that are considered nationalized?

No, under the Foreign Investment Negative List , there are investment areas or activities open to foreign investors even if they are partially nationalized industries pursuant to the Constitution or by specific laws. Examples of these are private radio communications networks (RA 3846), private recruitment agencies (PD 442), advertising firms (Art. XVI, Sec.11, Constitution), lending companies, financing companies and investment houses (PD 129 as amended by RA 9474).

6. As a former natural-born Filipino, am I also prohibited from investing in nationalized enterprises and classified as a foreigner?

No, under the Foreign Investments Act, a former natural born Filipino is granted the same investment rights as Filipino citizens. But such investment rights are limited to cooperatives, thrift banks and private

development banks, rural banks and financing companies.

7. Does the ban against foreigners also extend to employment in nationalized industries?

Yes, but they may be still be employed as technical personnel in a nationalized industry by the Department of Justice or under special laws. Technical personnel are those employees who possess special, extraordinary or practical knowledge typically found in mechanical or scientific occupations.

8. To what extent may foreign investors participate in the governing body of a partially nationalized business or industry?

Foreigners are allowed to be elected to the Board of Directors of partially nationalized industries, in proportion to their participation in the corporation or association.

The following FAQs are the sole opinion of the writer and should not be construed as a legal advice or legal opinion. •

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The Ifs of brighter Philippine economy

From page 3

FDIs. They represent a major psychological barrier to future investors looking at us. We can have foreign investment attraction programs but if these provisions continue to stare investors in the face, they see visions of uncertainty and risk.

Initially these provisions were merely intended to deal with land, natural resource exploitation and public utilities. Their impact, however, has been to make Philippine economic policy insular in outlook. Many aspects of investment incentives of the Board of Investment (BOI) have followed the implied restrictions behind the constitutional provisions.

But over time, these provisions infected the

national outlook in many aspects of economic policy making. As a result, a good share of FDIs has not moved to us but elsewhere.

Just recently in connection with the issue of “60-40” provisions of equity proportions in favor of Filipino capital versus foreign of companies engaged in public utilities—PLDT’s case for instance, the Supreme Court ruled that this equity proportion follow the ownership of common stock rather than all forms of capital invested in the firm.

This decision casts a change in the way these provisions were being implemented. It renders the most restrictive possible interpretation of those provisions. This ruling will further constrict the Philippines’ ability to

invite foreign investments. The policy does not compare well with those in other developing countries of ASEAN. The implications of this Supreme Court decision on the future attraction of FDIs are serious. Only an amendment of the Constitutional provisions could therefore dismiss this legal issue.

The leaderships of both the Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte want to amend these restrictive economic provisions to sustain economic growth in the country.

President Benigno Aquino still has not signaled support to these essential moves. The window of opportunity for this administration is limited with three more years left. Without

tackling this policy challenge, the country will not be able to maximize and realize the benefits of FDIs. Even if we amend or delete these provisions, we could still regulate via legislation as most countries do.

It would even be possible to liberalize these provisions on 60-40 equity. Allowing wider participation of foreign capital in our public utilities, in the development of property, and in natural resources industries, but taxing their activities appropriately, will raise the country’s tax revenues.

When all is said and done, amending these provisions properly will help raise the country’s potential economic growth rate even above seven percent per year. ●



Next Door Oomph

The iconic Glorietta Mall gets a green, classy, partner condo. Cesar Tordesillas reports

It did create pleasant memories but the old Park Square now has to give way to a more worthy cause.

The concept of living next to a mall is being further integrated to the Glorietta and attention turned to Park Square, once a parking area cum shopping center in the middle of Makati’s commercial district.

A 51-story condominium building called the Garden Towers is being put up right at the lot where the Park Square was located, with a basement connection to the Glorietta’s main entrance to boot.

Glorietta, after all, plays an important part in Makati City’s role and image as primary commercial center in the Philippines so only an equally high standard residential establishment can do justice in creating a mixed use setting for this mall.

The concept behind the Garden Towers, other than providing mall access, is of putting up a vertical garden in the heart of Ayala Center with park-like settings located at each floors.

Despite the highly-priced piece of real estate being utilized, Ayala Land did not skimp in allocating 20 square meters of pockets of greens per floor for their Garden Towers project, according to Cherryl N. Uy, Project Development Manager of ALP - Residential Buildings.

To add a resort-like feel to the property, Ayala Land also introduced the sunrooms, a flexible indoor-outdoor space. This serves as a better option to the balcony, which could be enjoyed even with during rain days and be made an extension of the living room. Of course the natural lighting comes in handy to cut down electric bills.

Ayala also has an in-house traffic consultant to determine the flow of vehicles surrounding the tower in relation to Ayala center as a whole. There will soon be 340 residences spread on 51 stories that range from one to four-bedroom units. Two bedroom units range from 19 to 25 million depending on the location.

Turnover of the residences begin in the first quarter of 2019 and so far quite a number see the vast potential of the project. In fact, as of press time around 60 percent of the buyers have acquired 43 percent of the units as an investment. ●

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Foreign Exchange

Book author **Randy Anderson** highlights some unsung, unknown expatriates who played a part in Philippine history

From the earliest days of the Philippines, expats have been an integral part of the country's business, culture and society. Some are well known—McArthur and Forbes, for example—but many of the most interesting have been lost to history and are unknown to most people.

The King of Sugar

In 1851, Nicolas Loney, the 25-year-old son of a Royal Navy Admiral, arrived in Manila after spending a brief time in South America. He sailed on to Iloilo and soon established the Matabas Estate in Talisay, Negros boasting the largest sugar mill in the Islands.

The demand for sugar was surging and Loney helped spur the efficiency of sugar production by arranging loans for plantation owners and small farmers alike. Through his firm Loney & Kerr Co., he imported modern machinery from Europe into the Philippines.

He knew that increased sugar production would require improved infrastructure and so worked for opening Iloilo to international trade by expanding the port, reclaiming the mud flats along the Iloilo River and construction of the *Calle Progreso* which soon became dotted with sugar warehouses.

The first foreign vessel, an English merchantman, departed Iloilo in 1860 loaded with sugar for Australia. Iloilo's sugar exports continued to skyrocket with most demand coming from England, America and Australia. Driven by the prosperity of the sugar industry, Iloilo became a leading city of the Philippines, second only to Manila. In recognition of his business acumen, Loney was named British Vice Consul.

Although Loney is considered the Father of Iloilo's sugar industry, some historians blame him for the demise of Iloilo's textile sector. Located in an area with an agriculture-dominant economy, Iloilo had developed a robust textile industry. Almost every household had a wooden or bamboo loom for weaving beautiful *sinamays* and *pinas* which were famous throughout the Philippines.

Loney, who some believe was acting as an agent for textile firms in Glasgow and Manchester, began promoting British cloth to compete with Ilonggo fabrics. The Iloilo textile industry soon began to wither as cheaper imported textiles entered the market and finally the once busy looms stopped altogether.

While exploring Mount Kanlaon on Negros Island in 1869, Loney contracted typhoid fever and died. Foreigners and Ilonggos in great numbers attended his burial with hundreds of carriages, some drawn by carabaos, escorting Loney to his final resting place. In 1904, the road along Iloilo Port was renamed Muelle Loney (Loney Waterfront) in his honor.

Today, few people have heard of Loney. A monument found at the corner of Muelle Loney in Iloilo is the sole reminder of his contributions to the region's trade and sugar industry.

The Thomasites

Under Spanish rule of the Philippines, education suffered from a lack of adequate buildings, books and trained teachers. The Spanish language was not taught because of the fear that a common language would unite the Filipinos in revolution.

With the coming of the Americans, a different approach was planned as they began building a vigorous educational infrastructure with English at its foundation. To achieve their goals to develop a new public school system, teach basic education and train Filipino teachers, more than 1,000 American teachers were recruited and sent to the Philippines.

On August 23, 1901 the first of the teachers arrived on the US Army Transport Thomas, a converted cattle transport ship. These early expatriates became known as the Thomasites. While the motives of the teachers varied,

all were excited to be involved in the development of a new educational system.

After an orientation period of about 20 days, the teachers were given their initial assignments. They could be working in the city or on a prosperous sugar plantation or they could be assigned to a rural area with little contact with the outside world. Their students could be Christians in Luzon or Muslims in Mindanao or Sulu.

Mary H. Fee eagerly started her assignment in Iloilo where she was to specialize in agricultural and industrial training. She reported that her school was popular not only with the students, but with goats, too. Flocks of them wandered in and out, coming through the doors or jumping through windows. Meanwhile, Bess Taylor Thompson, in her school in Cebu, organized courses in cooking, sewing for girls, making useful things not only for learning, but also for earning.

The spirit of adventure and a desire to help people in need of education was William R. Hamme's driving reasons for joining the Thomasites. After seven years teaching in Leyte he went to the United States just long enough to marry his college sweetheart then returned to Negros Occidental. In 1946 Hamme and his wife joined the Presbyterian missionaries assigned to Silliman University. All in all, Hamme devoted 22 years to Philippine public education.

Floods, poor roads and typhoons were common difficulties faced by the Thomasites. Marius John was a soldier-turned-teacher who sought to "sow the seeds of democracy in the Philippines." He was assigned to Baao, Camarines, nestled in the mountains between two streams. The town often flooded and for many days, he would come to school in a boat.

Life as a Thomasite was not without danger. Lack of adequate medical care, banditry, and accidents claimed the life of many Thomasites. D. C. Montgomery was murdered while travelling from his home and school in Bacolod to Talisay. After a day's outing near Cebu four Thomasites failed to come back to the city. Their bodies were later found—victims of outlaws. Another Thomasite, Ira Collins, was lost when he fell overboard from a boat crossing the strait from Bais, Negros Occidental to Samboan, Cebu. During an epidemic, Joseph E. Allen contracted smallpox in Naga, Cebu and died.

This year, Manila Mayor Alfredo S. Lim recognized the 111th anniversary of the arrival of American volunteer teachers during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Manila North Cemetery where many of the Thomasites who perished in the country are interred.

"Undoubtedly, the crowning achievement of the Thomasites was the training of 25,000 English-speaking Filipino teachers," the mayor said.

"One hundred and eleven years after they came to our shores, we have come full circle because Filipino teachers are now much in demand in the US, to teach American children, among other things, the English language," Lim further noted.

Quezon's List

The whole world knows about Schindler's List that saved the lives of 1,200 German Jews in World War II but few know about a similar effort in the Philippines that saved about the same number of Jews.

As war clouds formed over Europe in 1939, Philippine President Quezon offered to accept German and Austrian Jewish refugees fleeing the Nazi's brutal repression. Quezon even donated some of his own land to help the Jewish refugees. More than 1,000 Jews came to the Philippines. During the war, the Jewish expats suffered alongside the Filipinos. Sixty-seven Jewish refugees were among the thousands of Filipinos killed by the retreating Japanese.

Quezon's refugees were not the first Jews to come to the country seeking a better life. In 1870 three Levy brothers arrived in Manila. Their first commercial venture was



Photo illustrations by Conrad Javier

importing Swiss watches but they soon diversified into automobiles, perfumes and pharmaceuticals.

During the Spanish-American War a Jewish-American, A.N. Hashim, helped Filipino patriot Jose Rizal escape from Dapitan. Hashim had landed in Manila with a suitcase of watches but after the war built and operated a bicycle racetrack and established the Manila Grand Opera House. He later diversified into government supply, mining, and import-export.

In the early 1900s, Emil Bachrach sailed from the U.S. to Manila with \$1,000 in his pocket and established a furniture company and then an automobile business. From private cars to taxi services, to provincial bus routes, Bachrach became a Director of the People's Bank and helped organize the Philippines' first airline.

There is a long tradition of expatriates contributing to the richness of the Philippine culture, a tradition that continues with the arrival each year of immigrants and expatriates from around the world. ●

Making a Mark

Filipino playwright, essayist and historian **Jose Victor Torres** writes about notable groups of Filipino immigrants throughout history

Filipino seamen would escape and make their way north. These men would later settle in the United States and band together in colonies along the Gulf Coast. One such settlement was in Louisiana, New Orleans known as St. Malo with the residents being known as "Manila Men".

The isolated bayous in the area were an ideal place for the men who had to hide from their masters after jumping ship. Their colonies soon developed their own culture with much of the native customs still ingrained in it. The Filipino settlement in St. Malo only became known when a journalist, Lafcadio Hearn, heard of them and decided to pay them a visit. He documented their way of life, noting the single-room houses on stilts with no furniture inside. The houses served also as their storerooms. Many of the Filipinos were fishermen, shrimpers, and trappers.

Hearn published his article in *Harper's Weekly* in 1883. It was the first time the American public heard of the Manila Men. Later, they would discover that there were more Filipino communities in the area. Apparently, hearing of their countrymen's good luck in the area, more Filipino sailors jumped ship and put up their own settlements, intermarrying with the local women and establishing families. One of these villages was named "Manila Village" after the Philippine capital.

But the story of St. Malo had a sad end: The settlement was destroyed in a hurricane in 1915. Manila Village was also destroyed by another hurricane in 1965.

The Manila Men of Louisiana became the lifelong research work of historian Marina Espina, who documented the lives of these Filipinos and their descendants. She published her findings in a book, *Filipinos in Louisiana*, in 1988. Unfortunately, most of her research files, documents, and photographs were destroyed when Hurricane Katrina hit the state in 2005. It was a tragic loss for a part of our history abroad.

The Reformists in Spain

The next batch of Filipinos who went abroad *en masse* was the men we now know today as the Reformists or members of the Propaganda Movement. They were the men who Filipinos know today as national heroes.

The wealth that resulted from the opening of the Philippines to world trade in the 19th century created a new status in Spanish colonial society. These were the ilustrados or the Filipino middle-class. Most of them were Chinese and Spanish mestizos who saw the potential of investing in the products that many of the foreign houses (American, German, French, etc.) were interested in. These brought an income to the families that made them almost equal in stature to the Spaniards. Soon, the ilustrados began to realize their potential as movers in Philippine society and wanted the best for their families. One of these things was to empower their sons with good education. Thus, they began to send them sons to universities here and abroad.

These young men began as students in Spain but they eventually began to work for a different purpose—the making of a Filipino nation. Exposure to the liberal thinking in the continent made them realize how much their country could gain by being free from their colonial masters.

Since they went to Europe as students, some of them (like Jose Rizal) had to rely on money from their families and relatives in the Philippines. True to the indefatigable Filipino spirit of *bayanihan*, the Filipinos, like Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, Graciano Lopez Jaena, Pedro Paterno, and others helped each other in times of need and banded together to achieve their goals.

Each had their own ups and downs: Jose Alejandrino, Rizal's roommate in Belgium, wrote in his memoirs of the national hero's frugality (to put it more bluntly, *pangunguripot*), doing things like rationing the number of biscuits to eat in a day. Another story told about how Rizal

overestimated the amount of *pancit* (stir-fried noodles) he cooked that he and Alejandrino had to live on it for a week. Marcelo del Pilar had to ask for money from his wife, Chanay, so he could make ends meet while editing the newspaper, *La Solidaridad*. Weakened by hunger and reduced to picking up cigar butts from the streets of Barcelona, he would die of tuberculosis in a charity hospital in the city. Lopez Jaena, on the other hand, took to drinking when he was in Spain (probably also to keep warm in the cold weather).

Still, there were others who made their fortunes abroad. Filipino painters Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo became famous artists in Europe after winning awards in the Madrid Exposition in 1884. Luna was a big spender that Rizal once commented in a letter that the painter spends "like a millionaire" when he has money. Others like Valentin Ventura and Jose Ma. Basa became well-known businessmen.

But the reformists' stay in Europe would soon come to an end. Jose Rizal left Spain when he realized that the fight for reforms should be done in his homeland. He would eventually pay for his work with his life in the execution grounds of Bagumbayan before a Spanish firing squad. Del Pilar and Jaena would die of sickness in Spain. Luna would continue to serve his country as an ambassador of the newly-founded Philippine Republic in 1899 but would die that same year of a heart attack. Many of the reformists would either join the Philippine Revolution against Spain or merely settle abroad, supporting the cause from afar.

The Manongs of America

They were called "*manongs*" for most of them were Ilocanos ("manong" is an Ilocano term for "elder brother"). And they ventured from their province and homeland to find work in the United States and provide for their families back home.

The manongs began to migrate to the United States as early as the 1920s and the 1930s. They settled in states like Hawaii, California, Washington, and Alaska, working in the farms, picking fruits and vegetables from the fields and orchards, or in the factories.

But these dreams did not come easily. The manongs faced racial discriminations from white owners and white workers. They were viewed as the competition by the American workers for they were cheap labor. And the jobs they got weren't exactly the ones with high wages. Many Filipinos had to make do with menial jobs as dishwashers, busboys, factory and farm workers. Some worked for wages as little as 10 cents an hour for 10 hours a day. These conditions plus the fact that the U.S. was entering the years of the Great Depression proved to be difficult times for the manongs.

Soon, the hardships proved to be too much for the manongs. Many of them struggled with depression and resorted to drinking. Loneliness for a companion proved to be difficult for there were few Filipino women and American laws prohibited interracial marriages. By the time they could really start a family in America, they would be too old to have children. Few of them would even be taken advantage of by women who were only after their green card. While a number would eventually become successful, a few just went back to the Philippines and start all over again.

History has shown that nothing much has changed for the Filipinos who want to work abroad. It also reveals to us one obvious trait: the Filipino is always a traveler. It could probably be because of the way our country is shaped—an archipelago surrounded by waters that are always flowing, always going somewhere. But no matter where he went or settled, the Filipino will always have his roots firmly planted in his homeland. ●



Avid surfer **Kage Gozun** offers this insider La Union guide for budding noobs

The boom in surf tourism in La Union, a five-hour drive north of Manila, has been rapid in the last four years. Resorts have popped up to take the place of empty lots. Surf schools line the beach to accommodate the growing number of enthusiasts. You can drive up on a Friday evening and spend the weekend soaking up some sun while learning to surf.

Surfing: Where and When
Urbiztondo in San Juan, La Union is best during the “*amihan*” or northern wind season. This begins around October and lasts until February. Waves during the season get up to double overhead on the face but generally, the waves are about two to five feet in height.
Beginners are given their lessons on the beach break where the sandy bottom offers more safety than the neighboring reef break known simply as “The Point.” During bigger days, instructors move to spots that are a 20-minute drive in either direction from the main beach. If you’re a more advanced surfer and you’re looking for bigger swell, just ask a local for some tips on where to go.

Lessons are standardized at Php400/ hour for a board and a personal instructor. This is the rate all over the beach so don’t bother trying to haggle the locals down although from time to time, discounts are given for all-day group bookings.

Checking In: Where to Stay
As most resorts do not have an early check-in policy, it’s best to call ahead to let them know if they have an early check-in rate. Even if you arrive before check-in time, you can still leave belongings with the front desk so that you don’t have to waste your morning.
San Juan Surf Resort (<http://www.sanjuansurfresort.com>) is one of the oldest and most popular places to check into. The resort has a spacious restaurant with a great view of the beach, a pool table and free WiFi. There is also an in-house surf school and shop. They offer a full range of

accommodations from fan-cooled budget rooms to family bungalows.
Little Surfmaid Resort (<http://www.littlesurfmaid.com>) fronts the break known as “The Point.” All its rooms have aircons while the suites come with in-room safety deposit boxes, mini bars, broadband internet connections and cable television. The rooms that face the ocean have balconies. A restaurant on the ground floor serves a wide variety of cuisines.
Kahuna Beach Resort and Spa is the newest kid on the beach. The villas are a fusion of Filipino and Balinese design, pairing native charm with state-of-the-art amenities. A spacious restaurant fronts the beach where guests can have a leisurely meal while watching the surfers at play. What sets Kahuna apart from its neighbors are its two swimming pools. One is for all the resort’s guests and the other is inside the grounds of the private two-storey villas that are set off to the left of the main resort.

Road Trip: Getting There
If you’re commuting, buses leave for La Union from Manila on an almost hourly basis. The most popular lines are Partas, Viron, and Farinas. The commute is painless and worry-free. Hop aboard a bus heading towards Laoag and Vigan and tell the bus conductor that you’re heading towards Urbiztondo, San Juan, La Union and then settle in for a nice, long sleep. Buses usually let you off in front of one of the main resorts (see above).
Driving up is another option. With the expansion of the North Luzon Expressway and the SCTEX the trip can be done in four to five hours. The roads are good, barring the occasional pothole or two during the rainier months. Gather a group of four to five friends and take turns at the wheel.
If you plan on taking the bus, bring a warm jacket regardless of how warm it might be outdoors. The buses are quite cold and you don’t want to spend the next six hours freezing.
And now that you have the basics, what are you waiting for? Plan that trip up to the surfing capital of the North! ●

Flow Ridding

From page 12

While an LFA will cost you \$400,000 (16 million pesos) in America, the same car is offered locally through Lexus Manila at a recently discounted, 34.8 million pesos. The same goes for Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Audis, Porsches, Jaguars, Bentleys, etc—all of which are available through their official distributors locally.
There are of course grey market importers that offer it for less, but that can end up costing you a whole lot more if you don’t know what you’re doing or who you’re dealing with. Plus you won’t get warranties, which in the case of Ferrari is seven years all inclusive of servicing cost.
Many choose to import a vehicle using a *balikbayan* exemption, which is an exemption given to a Filipino living abroad that wants to bring in their private vehicle back to Manila, but that is something that if you or your Filipino spouse haven’t recently migrated, requires a few, well, fill in the blanks from here.
There’s also Port Irene, which sells high-end pre-owned sports cars that come in through a freeport zone. The prices are significantly less. Problem is, as blatant as it is, it is technically illegal. They are currently operating under a TRO from a Supreme Court ruling that bans the illegal importation of used vehicles—which may seem fine now—but there’s no guarantee that you will be able to renew your registration if executive order 156 is eventually upheld.
Although I will always recommend the official dealers for peace of mind and a complete ownership experience, there’s no denying that owning and driving a proper sports car in the Philippines is an experience as twisted and exciting as any of the exciting roads that they were born to perform on. It comes with a level of risk, of course, but honestly, the rewards are more than compensating. If it is simplicity you’re after, buy a Vios. It is a good car. But for fun...? Well.. sports car ownership, like everything else, is definitely more fun in the Philippines. ●

Burger Mate

From page 12

mouth. That really opened up my palate and whetted my appetite for other cuisines heretofore not very familiar to me,” relates de Terry.
He went on to spend time in Canada where he took up his MBA in management at McGill University in Montreal and deepened his familiarity with North American cuisine, and then on to Hong Kong after graduate school to work before finally coming to Manila in 2008 to stay on a more permanent basis.
Initially, de Terry helped manage Terry Selection, the wine, cheese and specialty foods emporium-cum-Spanish restaurant opened by his father some four years ago, and now, a byword amongst local gourmands. Eventually, with the family business well-established, de Terry felt it was time to do something on his own.
He did a two-year stint at LU, then moved on as a taste, flavorist—if you will—consultant with past involvements in Bubut Quicho and Tonyboy Cojuangco’s La Regalade and now, with the Moment Group.
De Terry’s mark, along with the distinct tastes of each of the individual stakeholders in the group, is fast earning for the establishment a reputation for being notches apart from your average run-of-the-mill burger restaurants which, of late, seems to have sprouted all over the metropolis.
The flavor consultant’s hand is seen in the juicy house patties, comprised of blends combining chuck and short rib for BURGERBAR’s Beef Bomb, sirloin and chuck for the Steak Cut, hanger and brisket for the Big Game and a well-balanced prime beef lean-to-fat ratio for the house blend. Customers can design their own burger sandwich from a choice of patty, bun—whether Kaiser, sesame seed or brioche, and various cheeses and other toppings.
Or they can choose from specials designed to pay tribute to a particular favorite ingredient—whether mushroom, cheese, bacon, egg on meat, lamb or—what could be considered de Terry’s imprint - vegetarian, in the so-called falafel burger.
To be sure, there are other items on the menu—more-than-decent fish and chips and fish sandwich, buttermilk chicken tenders, coney dog, salads, shakes and scrumptious creamy sweets in a jar—but ultimately, hamburgers reign supreme in this joint, as well they should.
Talking about teaming up with his friends in the Moment Group, de Terry relates, “When we first all got together, we were one in thinking that what we’d like to do is create moments for people, with food. That was what really brought us all together, the overlying thought of creating moments with different (cuisine) concepts.”
In a sense, I would imagine that’s what de Terry and the group would also want to cultivate amongst their clientele in BURGERBAR is an experiencing of the hamburger beyond the familiar. I could play along with that, and experiment, on occasion, with my hamburger with flavors I’m not ordinarily accustomed to.
But ultimately I find myself naturally drawn to the classics, that is, sparsely dressed and adorned meat in between a brioche, with which I could allow, maybe, a thin slice of gruyere, but that is all, and spare me sweet or tangy sauce the color of thick blood. No nothing, the better to savor the superiority by which how de Terry and his friends behind this establishment has transformed a traditional fast food staple into something of a scrumptious culinary indulgence. Moments of meaty deliciousness, that’s what you’ll have in this veritable hamburger heaven!
BURGERBAR is located at Greenbelt 2, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. ●

Teodoro Y. Montelibano is a journalist who started his career in journalism with Raul Locsin’s Businessday (now Businessworld) covering political events. Since the early 2000s, he has started writing about more palatable topics such as travel, food and restaurants. He is currently a contributing editor for Rogue Magazine, and likewise, a member of the editorial group in a major Philippine national daily.

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wheels&stuff

Flow Ridding

Renowned motoring editor **James Deakin** enumerates the pros and cons of driving a sports car in the Philippines

Every time I attend an international media launch of a new sports car, the second most asked question I get next to: “Wow, you’re from the Philippines, you speak really good English” (to which I normally reply by saying, “Thank you. So do you.”) is: “Do you really sell cars like this in the Philippines? Do you have any place to drive them?”

The short answer is yes. And yes. But considering that I am paid per word for this article, allow me to expound. The Philippines can be the best place to own a sports car. And the worst. As I am a glass-half-full kind of guy, let’s start with the good.

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, the biggest advantage of having a sports car in the Philippines is that you can actually drive your car the way the good Lord intended a rear-wheel drive, flat-six boxer engine to be driven. Sure we have crappy roads, but we also have some really nice ones. And unlike the beautiful ribbons of asphalt they have overseas, we don’t have a speed camera around every scenic curve. Besides which, in the three expressways where they do enforce a limit, the fines are a far cry from the overseas equivalents, with no points deducted off your license. I’m not condoning, I’m just saying.

For those living in and around Metro Manila, the most favored stomping grounds of any owner with a blood type of 5W 30 are the scenic mountain roads of Tanay heading up to Sierra Madre. Here, you get breathtaking scenery, combined with gently cambered sweeping curves that are a mixture of grade A cement and tar sealed portions. It is a 20 kilometer stretch of road that is very light on traffic, and can give you and your car a thorough work out. Just watch out for the bikes, as it is popular with both bicycles and motorcycles.

I have been to Tanay many times and it is difficult to tire of a place, and although the commute home through the constipated

intersections of Cogeo, Masinas, Marikina and the foothills of Antipolo can pull that smile off your face faster than it got there, it is still a wonderful way to spend a Sunday morning.

The trick is to pick the times you go. You can hook up with countless car clubs that host regular fun runs and who are very familiar with the traffic patterns. All of the ones I’ve tagged along with are always thrilled to host a new member so there’s no reason to be shy. They also host track days in both of our international racetracks, which are a lot safer and still less than two hours drive from Manila.

The clubs I know of range from exotics to classics, but have the same type of members: fanatics. I have had the pleasure of driving around the Philippines (Cebu-Dumaguette-Bacolod-Iloilo-Catclan-Boracay-Mindoro-Batangas-Manila) with the Manila Sports Car Club as they took their E-Type Jags, ’67 Corvettes and a whole bunch of rare classics on a nautical run that will remain ingrained in me for as long as I turn a wheel.

I have also suffered the embarrassment of showing up to a fun run on the Skyway with a 507hp, V10 M5, when everyone else didn’t get much change out of a thousand hp. I felt like the safety car. Just last month I brought a

brand new Mustang GT to the Foil-a-Car fun run in Resorts world where over 80 exotics showed up, including a Carrera GT, LFA, Continental GT, countless 458s, Aventador, and the R8 GT. It was like bringing a spoon to a sword fight. To think that the two Bugatti Veyrons and McLarens that are here didn’t make it. Still, I had my own fun.

Having said that, the downside to owning a sports car here in the Philippines is a paragraph (or ten) that can pretty much write itself. But I’ll point it out anyway.

Firstly, the unwanted attention. Oddly enough, in developed countries, some people buy a sports car precisely to get noticed. In the Philippines, it is the polar opposite. While owners in countries like England, Australia, and some parts of the US worry that the attention they get will lead to their cars getting scratched (or keyed) out of spite and jealousy, here we worry about the tax man and the casual kidnapper.

This leads to some hilarious situations wherein the owner drives his heavily tinted Ferrari around on a Sunday morning but can only go as fast as the Innova his bodyguards are riding in. Don’t be that person. Please.

Secondly, sports cars are generally far more expensive here.

Turn to page 8

wine&dine



Photos by Walter Villa

BURGER mate

Burger, the all-American comfort food, earns gourmet treatment in BURGERBAR—thanks in part to its Filipino-Spanish tastemeister Luis de Terry. **Teddy Y. Montelibano** writes



My introduction to Luis de Terry’s adroitness in coaxing flavors from ingredients he melds into dishes was at LU, the erstwhile eponymous restaurant on the ground floor of Joya Center at Rockwell Center where he had held the reins in the kitchen for two years. He then proceeded to Cue, a restaurant owned by the Moment Group with his friends Abba Napa, Eliza Antonino and Jon Syjuco for whom he helped conceptualized the menu and concoct rubs, marinades, and sauces for its famous barbecued prime meats, among other offerings.

For BURGERBAR, the Moment Group’s second restaurant, the Filipino-Spanish de Terry, who works under contract as its flavorist, brings in a provenance of diverse exposures to various cultures and a worldly palate honed and enriched by the taste and aroma of the cuisine of his land of birth, Spain; the Philippines, where his mom is from; and Mexico, where he and his family lived for nearly two decades.

“I love spices, and concocting mixes for rubs and when I was growing up, I was exposed to a lot of ingredients and that gives one, I suppose, an edge when you’re in the kitchen, knowing what things you can use to substitute, enrich, and change flavors of food,” says de Terry.

It was in Mexico where his penchant for mid-Eastern flavors was initially enkindled, after friends from the rather large Lebanese and Syrian communities in that country introduced him to mid-Eastern cuisine. “I first tasted hummus in the house of a Lebanese friend,” relates de Terry, “and when I did, I jumped out of my seat, exclaiming about the confluence of cumin, lemon, cardamom exploding in my

Turn to page 8



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