

TERRAPINOISE

Putting the “know” back in Filipino.

Pacquiao Fights Again This Saturday

Filipinos have a lot to be proud of, from historical figures to American celebrity singers. One person that has definitely shown his worth is Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao. He has made himself known throughout the world as the “Pound-for-Pound Best Boxer.” This Saturday, November 12, Pacquiao will face Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez. Before we cheer him on, though, we should find out just what makes Manny Manny.

Pacquiao’s is a true Cinderella story. Pacquiao grew up in poverty in Kibawe, Bukidnon, in the southern island Mindanao of the Philippines. He began his professional boxing career fighting locally. Match after match, he was brought under the spotlight and his fame grew. Since then, he has become a legendary, world-famous, and record-setting boxer. To this day, only Pacquiao has been crowned World Champion in 8 different weight classes, and he has also won 6 world titles. The only notable yet to fight Pacquiao is Floyd Mayweather, Jr., but even he should know that the Pacman is a force to be reckoned with.

With Pacman’s successes, many companies have contacted him to do commercials, including HP and Nike. You can now find his face or logo on various clothes. As a country, the Philippines has gained positive

recognition because of its pride, unity, and support for Pacquiao.

In May 2010, Pacquiao was elected as congressman of the Sarangani province. Recently, there has been word that he expressed interest in running for Vice President, or even President, of the Philippines. With all this attention from this one man, however, there has also been some criticism. Some say that the Philippines is too dependent on the celebrity in letting him govern its people. Pacquiao e says that he only wants to serve the people and that he wants the less fortunate to live in a better environment.

I encourage everyone to look him up and see what he has accomplished. He is an inspiration to those needing a sense of hope. His life invokes the strength needed to endure hardships.

This Saturday’s fight, which has undercard matches beginning at 7:00PM, will be the third matchup between the Pacquiao and Marquez. In their first meeting, the match ended in a draw. In the second, Pacquiao defeated Marquez in a split-decision, thereby winning the World Boxing Council Super Featherweight world title. If you can watch, don’t hesitate to wear your Pacquiao or Philippines gear, sing along with the Philippine anthem, and cheer on your fellow Filipino.

-Peter Tarectecan

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Pacquiao defeated Antonio Margarito last year (from USA Today)

Sunshine's Father Stabbed to Death

On Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the father of Filipino singing sensation, Charice Pempengco, was found stabbed to death in front of a local grocery store in San Pedro, Philippines.

Police reports state that Ricky Pempengco, 43, was stabbed by an ice pick in two areas: the chest and the back. Witnesses claim that Pempengco was drinking before the incident occurred and that the alleged suspect, now convicted murderer, Angel Capili, 35, was drinking as well. Pempengco and Capili got into an altercation about accidentally brushing into each other just before the fight broke out. Sources say that alcohol was a huge factor contributing to the

fight between the two men.

Capili surrendered to authorities and was charged with murder on November 5, 2011.

Pempengco was separated from his family early in Charice's life. After the separation of Pempengco and his family, he grew into a deep depression, which led to the use of alcohol and drugs. Charice grew up from the age of 3 without knowing her father, and credits her mother with raising her. She lived most of her life oblivious to who her father was and his whereabouts. However, despite their lack of communication, Charice went on to say, "I loved him and I will still love him... He's still my dad after all."

When asked if she thought Charice was affected in a negative way because of her father's death, Marie Crisostomo, 22, responded with, "Yes, because she was abused

by her estranged father but she still loved him, him being her father." She went on to add: "Her music will definitely be affected. She will probably create songs that will help her cope."

Filipina parent Susan R. Crisostomo commented on the death of Pempengco, saying, "It's violent! It's a tragic death caused by a violent killer!"

On November 6, 2011, family and friends gathered for the wake and burial of Pempengco. It was an extremely emotional time for all in attendance, including Charice and her. Ricky Pempengco's remains lie at the Divine Mercy Chapel in Muntinlupa City.

Charice continues to pray and hope for the safety of her family members, friends, and her fellow Filipinos.

-Karen Crisostomo

7 Billion Babies and Counting

On October 12, 1999 the world welcomed its 6 billionth baby, a Bosnian boy named Adnan Mevic. Now, just 12 years later, we welcome our 7 billionth.

On October 31st, 2011, Filipino couple Camille Galura and Florante Camacho gave birth to Danica May Camacho, a 5.5 pound baby girl who is now the world's symbolic 7 billionth baby! Danica May's birth was filled with some extra photo shoot time as camera flashes lit the room (as if Filipinos didn't take enough pictures already). The milestone baby was visited by United Nations officials in the Philippines, including UN Population Fund Country Representative Ugochi Daniels,

who presented her with a cake. Other local benefactors also sent gifts, including scholarship grants and a livelihood package that would allow the Camachos to open up a small retail store.

However, Danica's birth is more than just a symbolic milestone; it is also a call to action. As Daniels said, "It's not about counting people, but it's about making people count, ensuring that they have access to education, access to health and to employment. That they have access, particularly for women, to reproductive information and services so that they can plan when they're going to have kids, how many kids they're going to have, and what is the spacing going to be."

Daniels makes a significant point, especially considering that a high percentage of Filipinos live in poverty and have up to 6 or more



Danica May Camacho, the 7 billionth baby (from CBS News)

babies. With the country's population expected to grow to 103 million within the next four years, Senator Edgardo Angara highlights the possibility of the Philippines utilizing its population to ascend the economic ladder and to provide a better quality of life for its people.

(continued on next page)

The “Filipino” in Me (Part II)

Karen’s reflection is continued from the previous issue of TerrapiNOISE.

Growing up in America definitely influenced my ability to speak Bisaya to my family members. A majority of my friends were Filipino when I was younger, yet most of them were born in America, like me. I had no one to really talk to in Bisaya, other than my mom. Being constantly exposed to the English language and American values both in school and outside of school eventually led me to adapt to American culture. As much as I want to be able to experience the full “Filipino” culture, I know that this probably will never happen. I’ve grown up partially Filipino and partially American.

In my earlier years, I would definitely say that my sense of “Filipino-ness” was at its highest peak, and then once high school rolled around, I started exploring more areas of my “American-ness”. I remember in middle school I would be “reppin” my Filipino-ness so hard, all day, every day. I’d go to school wearing the red, white, blue and yellow. I’d decorate my Xanga page with the Filipino flag as my background. I’d hang out with my Filipino friends and say how awesome we were because we were Filipino. I’d go to Filipino parties where Tito Ike would be singing his soul into the karaoke microphone.

Then, high school came around and I started joining different clubs and organizations that seemed to accentuate American

culture more than my Filipino culture. I joined sports teams and clubs that didn’t have any Filipinos in them at all. It was as if I just veered away from my Filipino culture and started to take on another one.

And then I came to college. I didn’t think I would be reunited with my Filipino culture so quickly, but the Filipino Cultural Association proved otherwise. I’m beginning to look back on my roots and I’m growing more eager every day to learn about my Filipino culture. I went on a little break during high school, but I guess now I’m back on track, “reppin” my Filipino-ness, and I’m doing it with pride. Being in the Filipino Cultural Association gave me a nostalgic feeling of when I was back in the Philippines. It reminded me of the many wonderful things that the Philippines has to offer that other places don’t seem to have.

I guess the purpose of all this is to let you know that it’s important to know where you’re from, especially getting to know your family members back in your home country. It is a completely different culture over there, and in some sense, it can definitely be more comforting compared to the fast-paced life in America. All those memories I had in the Philippines seem to stick with me even when I’m not there.

Sure, I have difficulty speaking in Bisaya to my family members, but we’re family so it doesn’t matter. When I’m back in the Philippines, my “igagaw” (cousin) Angel still chills with me on a hammock talking about guys, Tita Christine still teases me about how “womanly” I’m getting, and Kuya Tyrone still speaks with me in English, with a very nice accent, I

might add.

So I was born in America, while my Ate and Kuya were born in the Philippines—odd one out? Not really! I consider myself lucky because they have taught me so much about what being “family” means back in the Philippines. I consider the Philippines my “home away from home” and there really is nowhere else that can compare to it. Just one word of advice to everyone: remember to cherish and appreciate where you’re from because figuring out how beautiful and unique your culture is earlier, rather than later, will help you realize who you are as a person. As for me, it took a while for to realize all this about my family and culture, but I’m glad I finally did.

-Karen Crisostomo

7 Billion (cont’d)

It’s hard to believe that the 7 billionth baby represents a lot more for the Philippines than a population milestone, but it’s important to note how a high population impacts the quality of life for everyone. As Angara states, “The Philippines, in particular must invest in our country’s science and engineering capacity if we are to realize our demographic potential.” If we are unable to utilize our growing population, then the Philippines will spiral downward into poverty, making the future birth of an 8 billionth baby a coming disaster. Danica May Camacho’s birth is not only a celebration for the world and its Filipinos, but a calling to improve on the quality of life for future Filipinos and the Philippine economy.

-Kris Salvador

My Cultural Retreat Experience

Although I have attended Catholic private school for most of my life, I have never attended a retreat of any type, religious or cultural. All of my friends have been on a retreat at some point in their high school career, and many of them have tried to convince me to attend one. Unfortunately, I could not make time in my busy schedule to take a weekend off and go on a retreat. It is one of the few things I regret not doing in high school. Whenever someone would return from a high school retreat, they would have a very pleasant and happy air about them. Their expression only served to feed my curiosity about the "retreat" experience.

When another chance to go on a retreat presented itself, I decided to jump on it. The cultural retreat was something I had been looking forward to for three weeks. I truly did not know what to expect for my first experience.

What was supposed to be a breezy fall weekend, instead, turned out to be a cold, snowy winter wonderland. I thought I would be spending a better part of the day sleeping in the cabin due to the inclement weather and lack of sleep I received the night before. I could not have been more wrong. The Cultural Chairs were able to deliver a fun-filled weekend, in spite of the unfavorable weather conditions. Despite the cold, the snow provided a Christmas-like atmosphere that made the retreat more memorable. Although everyone got up around 7:00 AM in the morning to drive to the retreat grounds, the day only

started when everyone met in the Iroquois lodge of the Hashawa campground. The freshmen were sorted into the six different families, in which everyone bonded and shared their life experiences. The following hours ensued with laughs, tears, and various family-building activities. A couple of icebreakers such as "Mayhem" and "Honey May you Please" helped loosen the atmosphere, while arts and crafts activities, family competitions, and touching stories brought the families closer together and brought us closer to our Filipino culture.

Family time eventually turned into "Ate/Kuya" time, during which each upperclassman was paired with an underclassman so that the younger generation could receive some wisdom from the older. We got the chance to connect with someone who has already been through most of college life and to share in some life-changing experiences and memories.

The final, and probably most memorable, event of the day was the debut of Jasmine Marcelo, Maricar Mendoza, Mylene Baltazar, and Katie Gagan. The expression on each of their faces was priceless as the whole FCA community celebrated their belated or early 18th birthdays. It was a delightful way to end such an eventful day.

FCA made a very good impression with their first cultural retreat. I found the experience to be very unique and enjoyable. We connected with our fellow classmates and learned more about the Filipino life. If given the chance, I would really push for another cultural retreat so that others who did not get the chance

may also experience a great time to bond with friends and peers and to get in touch with their Filipino culture.

-John Osmond



Osmond pumps gas on the return from Cultural Retreat at Hashawa Environmental Center (photo by Karen Levitt)

Upcoming Events:

November 12:

Turkey Bowl
8AM @ Anne Arundel
Community College

November 13:

Cultural Dance Practice:
2PM @ Chemistry Atrium

November 14 and 16:

Modern Dance Practice
630PM @ Chemistry Atrium

November 17:

FACES Fashion Show
7PM @ Grand Ballroom,
STAMP