

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND



“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

(a message by Linis Gobyerno
www.linisgobyerno.org)

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!!

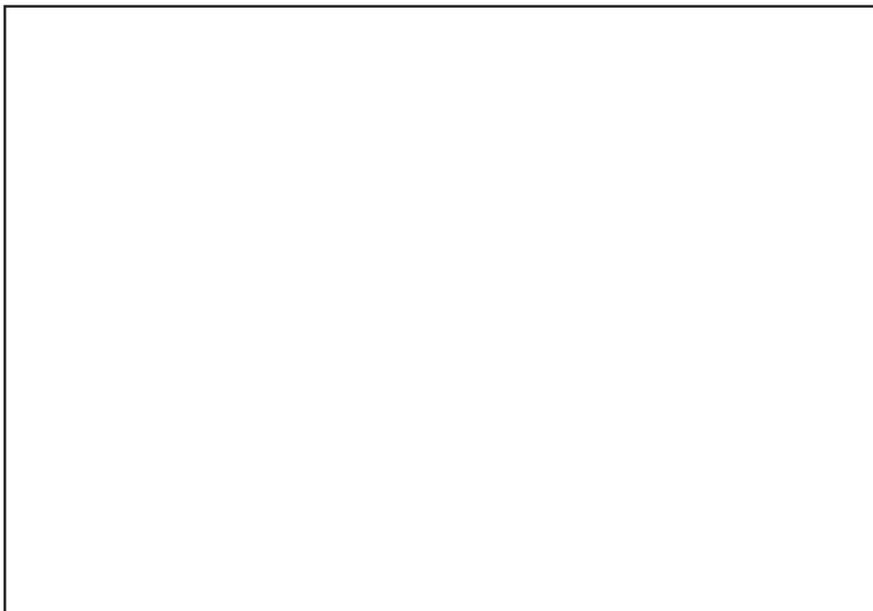
BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang

palaban!!!

Baguio, a city of sin?



BAGUIO CITY – American Duane Lauver wrote a heart – wrenching letter addressed to Baguio city mayor Braulio Yaranon denouncing Baguio as a City of God and a City of Character but rather a City of Sin: City of Pornography, Homosexuality, Bars and Prostitution.

In his letter, he says that Baguio is a, “City where K – lite and other radio stations are allowed to illegally shout out in Rap song obscenities like, “FUCK YOU, MOTHER FUCKER!””, where teens and children alike are being desensitized and corrupted by the extreme violence of video games!

It’s a city where the police will run off sidewalk peddlers and warn jay – walkers but do nothing about the most blatant and publicly displayed from of pornography: wooden carved penis’ of all sizes on ashtrays and key chains, and now also being exported to other countries! This sickening sin creates lust, perversion and homosexuality, destroying the very fiber of morality, Godliness, values and character!”

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Appeals Court Stops NCIP Hearing Busol Fencing Case ...on page 9

Two Cordillera Martial Artists Top World Competition ...on page 11

Tracing Roots. Guandong Province Overseas Affairs Office head of delegation, Wang Ming Hui receives the city’s symbolic key in their brief courtesy call at the City Hall. The 3-man delegation are here to help Fil-Chinese community in the Cordillera to trace their roots in China particularly in Canton and Guandong.

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Depression and The Cure

BY GRACE BANDOY



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Tired of Graft & Corruption?

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Linis Gobyerno is an anti-graft, corruption prevention and detection office.

Datuin remains keen on continuing with BGH Flyover

BAGUIO CITY – Despite mayor Braulio Yaranon's strong convictions against the BGH Flyover pushing through, councilor Elmer Datuin once again issued a public statement insisting that the said project has met all the necessary environmental requirements and concerns raised.

Datuin is reiterating his call to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to implement the project so as to help ease the worsening traffic congestion in the area and consequently improve the city's over all traffic condition.

He also recalls that in public consultations sponsored by DPWH, former city of-

ficials were present including then city councilor Braulio Yaranon. In the said consultations, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) geo – sciences experts and private civil and geodetic specialists affirmed that the flyover project is technically sound, environmentally viable and structurally designed in compliance with public safety standards.

The mayor however remained firm in opposing the project.

Datuin however, found the mayor's anti – flyover policy confusing. He said that Yaranon, as a city councilor in 2002, was among 12 other councilors who unanimously endorsed the flyover project

through Resolution Number 261, Series of 2002.

"Now that he is the Father of the City, he conveniently disregards what his past policy was and is now obviously pandering to what a sector of the community unreasonably wants, to the detriment and in total contempt of what is the greatest good for the greater majority," Datuin adds.

The mayor earlier said that there is no urgent need for the project as traffic in the said areas poses no problems. The mayor also said that there are no available funds for the project as the city is also observing austerity measures at the moment./MGB

What did the city councilors do in their first 100 days in office?

BAGUIO CITY – The new City Council, headed by vice – mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr., recently released its report on their performances in the *Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Baguio* for their first 100 days as officials.

It marked their significant accomplishments backed up by a

quality organizational structure consisting of four divisions of the city council.

The office of the *Sanggunian* received for the first 100 days a total of 1,112 matters needing the legislative body's action. There were 492 letter requests from various government offices, NGO's, PO's and the private

sector while the Barangay had communicated 271 matters for legislative action including their supplemental and annual budgets.

With the authority of the *Sanggunian* to enact ordinances and approve resolutions, the members proposed a total of 249 resolutions and ordinances

Sexually – oriented Baguio crafts may be banned

BAGUIO CITY – Following the publication of an emotive letter addressed to mayor Braulio Yaranon by an American denouncing Baguio as a City of God and a City of Character, Councilor Elmer Datuin issued a proposed ordinance banning the sale, distribution and manufacture of "Barrel Man" and "Men's Sex Organ" (penis ashtrays) wood carvings and the like at all city public market and providing penalties for violations.

Duane Lauver, the American who wrote the letter said the presence of the said wood carvings are the most blatant and publicly displayed form of pornography.

"This sickening sin creates lust, perversion and homosexuality..." Lauver mentions in his letter.

In the said pro-

posed ordinance by Datuin, he explains, "Tourists coming to the City of Baguio have always been amused and attracted and in most times disgusted and in most times the Barrel Man and Men's Sex Organ wood carvings being openly sold at our city public market."

The attention to the said wood carving, he argues, is actually a reflection of what we are indirectly promoting or encouraging to human culture in the City of Baguio contrary to our aspiration to become a City of Character.

The wood carvings are not a reflection of our culture and tradition as we have other more appropriate attractions to offer our tourists for them to promote and be proud of as they have pleasant memories of our city, Datuin adds.

"The wood carv-

ings must now be totally banned for sale, distribution and manufacture in the City of Baguio to erase once and for all the image of the city as promoting objects of sexual desire and pleasure to our residents and to our tourists alike," he pronounced.

In Datuin's proposal, he ordains that, the City Government after notice and hearing shall impose the penalties of violations as: Fine of not less than P3,000.00 for the First Offense, Fine of not less than P5,000.00 and cancellation of Business Permit for the Second Offense, the offender shall likewise no longer be allowed to apply for the same business activity and the banned products shall be confiscated by the arresting officer and shall be disposed of immediately as appropriate./MGB

Overpass-railings to be installed

BAGUIO CITY – There are six overpasses being utilized by pedestrians in the different parts of the city. Recently however, a one – year – nine – month old baby girl fell off from the Y – shaped overpass located at Magsaysay Avenue, the baby survived the said accident despite the height of where she fell from.

The incident has urged councilor Leandro Yangot, Jr. to pass a proposed resolution requesting the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Baguio City District Engineering Office and the Office of the Building Of-

ficial in the city to install center railings and interlink wires on both sides of all overpasses in the city.

Observers, including City Prosecutor Benedicto Carantes, Yangot exclaimed, suggested that proper safety measures such as installation of center railings and interlink wires on both sides of the overpasses should be adopted in order to prevent the occurrence of untoward incidents.

There is a need to install these safety devices to ensure the safety and convenience of the public and to prevent the of accidents in the future./MGB



THE JUNCTION

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authored and co – authored by each respective member for the for the first 100 days in office.

There were 106 resolutions, 8 ordinance or a total of 114 local legislations were enacted after conducting 12 regular sessions, 3 special sessions, 3 caucuses, 2 public hearings and disposed of 5 barangay hearings while several ocular inspections were also initiated by the SP Standing Committee to discuss important issues affecting several sectors of society or the general populace all aimed at improving the quality of life of Baguio's constituency.

The significant

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Workers, Residents Petition Government Smooth Implementation Of Halsema Highway

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet: More than eight hundred community residents along the on-going rehabilitation of the Halsema highway including workers of the project filed a petition of assistance for its smooth continuation and implementation.

The manifesto signed by 872 individuals furnished Congressman Samuel Dangwa, government Borromeo Melchor, Buguais Mayor Nardo Cayad, Atok Mayor Concepcion Balao, DPWH regional director Mariano Alquiza and PNP regional director Rowland Albano.

The signatories expressed their dismay on the present court rifts between Daewoo, the implementer of the project and sub-lease

contractor F Gutierrez Construction Corporation alluding to the latter's alleged effort in taking possession of equipment.

"We the signatoriesaffixed our name and signature denouncing the presence, intervention and attempts of FGCC to repossess project equipment from Daewoo," as stated in the paper.

The petitioners said that without favorable actions from concerned government authorities they can already foresee, "uncertainty of the project implementation and completion maybe greatly affected."

The subject of conflict is along section 2 of the project specifically from Sayangan, Atok to Natubleng, Buguias.

Last week, Regional Trial Court Branch 63 presiding judge Benigno Galacgac ordered custody of some equipment and impounded them at the provincial engineering office.

These include two units of backhoe valued at P3 million each and one unit of compactor with an estimated cost of P500,000.00.

Counsel of the FGCC lawyer Renato Rondez hailed the court's decision saying among others that DAEWOO has resorted to forum shopping for filing writ of replevin and writ of injunction with Branch 10 and 63, respectively. He added that recovery of property is still

**HALSEMA...
p.7**

Weight Problem More Prevalent Among Cordi Women

BAGUIO CITY: Cordillera women should watch their weight.

While local males tend to remain slim as they grow older, the distaff side gain more at the middle after the start of their productive years.

National Nutrition Council Regional Coordinator Dr. Micaela Defiesta said that women tend to be more obese as compared to their male counterparts.

NNC records revealed that 37.1 percent of the region's female 20 years and older gain more inches in the middle as they age. This is close to the 39.5 percent the country

registered.

However, among males, the rate is only eight percent. This is inspite of the fact that the males drink alcoholic beverages.

CAR registered one of the lowest percentage among the 16 regions with Cagayan Valley as the lowest with only four percent, followed CARAGA with seven percent.

This shows that working parents have less time to prepare nutritious food, she added. During weekend, the children are brought to malls.

As a result the city was not able to get the 2003 Green Banner Award. This serves

then as a challenge for the local government to initiate a better nutrition program under the present administration.

In the region, four out of 100 children are overweight.

However, female Cagayenos are the thinnest with an incident rate of 19.7 percent, while CARAGA has a high of 43.7 percent. Zamboangeñas on the other hand are the most obese with a rate of 60 percent, almost 67 percent above the national standard. Meanwhile, Zamboangeños have a rate of 9.2 percent.

The highest obesity rate for males is in

EMB-CAR Issues NTP For Controlled Disposal Facility Of La Trinidad

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet: The Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR) granted a notice to proceed (NTP) to the proposed controlled disposal facility (CDF) of the local government unit here.

Issued August 23, 2004, this is in compliance with DENR Administrative Order No. 2001-34 and the requirement as prescribed in the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) Resolution No. 1 or permitting and licensing procedure for Solid Waste Management Projects.

DENR Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)-CAR Officer-in-Charge Chief Pollution Control Division Engr. Rolando Reyes explained the 29 conditions stated in the NTP during the public hearing on La Trinidad Solid Waste Management Facility held Wednesday.

Among the conditions is to comply with the development, operation and maintenance of a CDF and its related facilities; develop engineered design structures of the facility; adopt measures for the protection of ground and surface waters; fencing to confine the solid wastes, and prevent illegal dumping.

Almost half of the Metro Manila females (48.6 percent) tend to increase their waistline after reaching the age of majority./Tina Sales

legal entries and trespassing; final soil cover at closure and post-closure maintenance of cover, drainage and vegetation for a period of ten years from the time of closure; no open burning of solid wastes or other similar acts prohibited under the clean air Act;

The LGU should also follow a fill sequence plan to ensure the orderly placement of wastes; ensure only residual wastes to be dumped in the facility; installation of monitoring wells at appropriate locations as sampling stations; provision of all weather access road; prevention of unnecessary spillage of solid wastes; institute adequate measures/structures to mitigate siltation/mudflow.

In addition, the LGU should be sensitive to public requirements in aid of legislation; continuous information education campaigns and public hearings to address concerns of proponents relative to the project; strict implementation of the project's Environmental Management Plan (EMP); local residents where applicable should be given priority in tapping labor and award of "contract beats"; duly and properly compensate aggrieved parties for damage to life or property; secure pertinent permits/clearances; subject to on-the-spot monitoring by EMB/DENR-CAR and concerned agencies; and resolution of legal issues/concerns.

Mayor Nestor Fongwan in a separate interview said the establishment of a dis-

posal facility with proposed site at sitio Induyan in Alno is a segment of the UNDP program. UNDP provided P1 million for the feasibility study.

Other partner entities were the National Economic Development Authority and Philippine Council for Sustainable Development that provided the technical assistance.

Prior to a consultation held last year by the municipality, Fongwan claimed the barangay conducted preliminary dissemination activities.

Asked about the mayor's reaction relative to a group opposing the establishment of the facility due to some apprehensions admitted there will always be an opposition in any project.

Fongwan said the project would entail roughly about P150 million until the installation of the sanitary landfill. The facility would initially establish a controlled dump site until 2006. He further said, in the same year, the installation of sanitary landfill will also commence.

Fongwan said there were already commitments they have mustered such as the provincial government P5 million and the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc.

Last August, Fongwan forwarded the request for financial support directly to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in the amount of P30 million.

Among the issues raised by the residents during the public hear-

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PMA – Philippine Millionaire’s Academy?

Text jokes calling the Philippine Military Academy the Philippine Millionaire’s Academy and the best business school in Asia following Carlos Garcia’s humiliating biography, is probably the best joke for the year 2004.

Garcia is the nth PMA graduate found to have embezzled millions. In Garcia’s case, hundreds of millions. It is truly a shame

EDITORIAL

and an earsplitting slap in the face for the prestigious military academy.

Allegedly, Garcia and his family owns a total of P185,538,963.14 in peso and dollar deposits, excluding the value of their countless properties.

Wow!!! Just how in the world did Garcia acquire that kind of money with his years of service in the military?! The country is beating it hard to become the world’s most corrupt nation. And there’s no need to wait for a long time because we just might make it next year.

Corruption in the government is part of our national history. And the military is of course no exception. It could also be one of the major reasons why the young of our country would want to enter the military life. It is the best and easiest way to become rich and famous!

An officer and a gentleman and a millionaire at that.

Police officers on our streets are engaged in small – time corruption activities, and even sheer *barangay tanods* have their own *rakets!* What would you expect of an officer high up in the ranks?!

But isn’t Garcia’s a little too much? He must have made major deals to earn that much. We all just have to wait and see what those deals are when he makes his public confession and autobiography in the senate.

These PMA graduates under question makes us wonder if they teach business as their major subject in the school. Or probably accounting or entrepreneurship? They must have learned a lot there.

Whatever happened to the integrity, loyalty and courage that PMA is eminent for?

INTEGRITY – Well, they are honest in accepting their mistakes only WHEN they are caught.

LOYALTY – They are true loyalists to the Marcos Era. (helllooo, the Corruption Era!)

COURAGE – Do we have to explain this? Stealing takes a lot of courage, and obviously, they are overwhelming with it!!



DEPTHNEWS

Voices From Far Away
Places

BY JUAN L. MERCADO



Cyberspace results in jammed e-mail boxes of newspaper staffers. Reaction from all over pours in even before we’ve poured morning coffee..

They present a range of views. Some cheer for officials with backbones. Among younger writers, many seethe with fury against trapos. There is nostalgia, resigned disgust to humor.

Political pap dwindled the day after elections. Propaganda from communist fronts is rising. Some views deserve a wider audience. Here are some:

Neinita Reyes in France and Cartoonist Dani Aquila in the US e-mailed bouquets for Justices Ma. Alicia Martinez and Teresita Leonardo-de Castro. The two lady judges ruled decisively on the dragged-out coconut levy scandal.

“I was delighted to read...about the wonderful mesdames who did their jobs so well,” Reyes wrote. They’re in the mould of Justice Cecilia-Munoz Palma who bucked the dictatorship. “Bravooo to the super women!”

Dani Aguila, in Nashville, does cartoons for *Filipino-Asian Bulletin* and other US papers. “I’m doing a cartoon of the lady justices in a pose ala Three Monkeys. But instead of covered eyes, ears and mouth, their hands cover their ‘balls’. This is a good way to honor justices con cojones.”

But Tony Reyes, in Brea, California, broke out with “goose pimples”. He frets: “How easily Juan Ponce Enrile got away free, unscathed after what he did during martial law, Enrile’s real role must be made clear.”

Lamberto Valerio is an auditor in Los Angeles. : “Almost everyone here believes the General Garcia corruption case is just the iceberg’s tip. Remember those Sikorsky helicopter deals under martial law bouncer Johnny Ponce Enrile? How else did the late General Fabian Ver’s mistress amass that same kind of ill-gotten fortune? And who had a monopoly of supplying military uniforms because of Malacanang liasons? .

Juliana Rodriguez Roberts, in California, is torn between affection for the old sod and the new country she’s about to adopt. Her interview for US citizenship is set for November.

I didn’t dream of becoming an American, she writes. But “I decided to become one for my two daughters...It hurts, having been born and raised in the Philippines. Because of poverty I left my country and family....

“When I was in a Southern Leyte high school, I gave a speech: ‘I’m a young child of this land, this nation, this country that give me birth and (over) whose horizon I saw the first light of day’.”

“In my place in Bagong Silang, San Roque, Macrohon Southern Leyte,

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FAIR & SQUARE

Impressions (3)

BY JAMES S. VALEROS



From our daughter's place at Malvern, Scarborough, Niagara Falls is some 180 kms. to the Southwest mainly traversing Routes 401, 427 and the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Leaving Malvern at around 6:00 A.M. last October 11, a Thanksgiving Day in Canada, we, that is, my wife Glo and I, our daughter April and hubby Rolly, our grand guys, Aianna, Rafael, Angela and Rolando Jr, reached the old town of Niagara just before 8:00. Since it was still early to proceed to the Falls, we took time at one of the Tim Horton's at Downtown Niagara for a lean breakfast of doughnuts and coffee.

The outbound trip was a leisurely drive of 90 k.p.h. which brought us west through the industrial areas of Scarborough and Mississauga, then south through the big city of Hamilton and the grape plantations and wineries of St. Catharines. The sceneries we viewed along the way were more than enough to set the joyful pitch of our trip to Niagara Falls.

- 0 -

The old town of Niagara with its village-like houses built along narrow streets laid out in sensible grid pattern was rather cute and dainty to look at especially in their wooden white fences bordering the front yard gardens. You can feel its traditional air still much hovering around lending authenticity to its old conservative existence.

What unusually took me by surprise was its cemetery situated at the very center of the town with its well maintained tombstones and grassy grounds covered by fallen leaves from its tall grown trees. My surprise was complete when after passing it, it never gave me even a bit of eeriness as cemetery usually does in me. I must have thought that this burial ground for the departed had always been treated by the living as part of the neighborhood where those long gone were not thus missed by their love ones.

- 0 -

As an outgrowth of Niagara Falls becoming more of a tourist attraction rather than just a source and provider of electricity and power, Downtown Niagara has expanded through the years with the establishment of modern urban amenities such as hotels, restaurants, shopping mall and casino, among others.

Hence, it is recommended that before or after viewing or experiencing any of the activities the Falls offer which may include the jet boat tour to the Whirlpool up along Niagara River, you should not also miss seeing or visiting: the Marineland at Portage Road which is open from mid May until the thanksgiving Day in October and where rare dolphins, sea lions, walrus and killer whales will delightfully entertain you; the Minolta Towers or the Skylon Towers where you can get a glimpse of the Falls and all of Niagara from high in the sky and at the same time dine atop; the Factory Outlet at Lundy's Lane where brand-name bargains are available for the mall shoppers; the variety of diners and restaurants scattered all over Niagara offering sumptuous international cuisines; and for the avid golfers, the fine and manicured Whirlpool Golf Course. And, if extra cash is yet available and you're itching to get back what you have spent in the trip, you can try your luck at the slot machines and table games of Casino Niagara.

- 0 -

We were at the Canadian side view deck of Niagara Falls at exactly 9:00 A.M. And wow, what had we! Before our very own eyes were the awe inspiring Canadian Horseshoe Falls right in front of us and the American Fall at the far left we have both long dreamt to see, dropping off incalculable volume after volume of clear water down Niagara River and harnessing enormous power to two giant power plants. The falls are simply stunningly beautiful! Nothing can compare with the great sound the falls make in sensurround fashion and the fog-like mist produced by the great water falling and rising toward us at the deck. The wind blowing the cool mist dropping the temperature to negative degree Celsius gave us the advance taste of winter still to come. Just the same though, we took pictures of ourselves chilling to the bone despite the thick wraparounds that we wore. The extreme cold notwithstanding, the experience was nevertheless exalt-

MOSH PIT

Depression and The Cure

BY GRACE BANDOY



I have been into some fits of depression lately, which is common for us humans. There are a lot of factors that have brought me to sing "what I've got they use to call the blues, nothing is really wrong, feeling like I don't belong, hangin' around, some kind of lonely clown..."

I think Karen Carpenter has the most beautiful voice ever. Too bad she died earlier than she's suppose to.

Well anyway, going back to the depression thing, I have really been feeling a little down lately. Because my dad's first death anniversary is nearing and I just totally miss him, but the worse is, my plans for the observance of his death anniversary aren't going very well.

I had all these stuff I wanted to do for my dad but well, for some reason, it won't probably happen.

There are also problems in my love life (hehehe), my social life, financial life, psychological and spiritual life. So as you can see, *maraming gumugulo sa isip ko ngayon!*

But aside from cry and sulk in my room, I have decided to make myself better by blasting on my CD player the MTV Icon and one of my favorite bands - THE CURE!

The band who made a big difference in my life! They have helped me become a sucker for self-expression and a loyal fan of freedom.

They invented the word goth rock but are more famous as a punk band.

And they are totally responsible for my secret desire of becoming a rock star! No secret anymore huh?! Now, the world knows that my ultimate ambition is to become a Rockstar, no big deal. Ever wondered why this column is entitled Mosh Pit? Well, there goes your answer.

All of you guys should watch this crazy movie School of Rock to know what I mean.

Going back to the CURE, Robert Smith's (vocals) all-time punk hair has been the epitome of what self-expression really is. They are gods, well at least for me.

As I was bathing in solitude and self-pity in my room one afternoon, I decided to find myself a CURE. And so there I went, found my CURE CD and in a matter of three minutes my mini-depression went away never to return again!

I was elated singing and screaming my guts out to the song Boys Don't Cry and dancing the night away to Love Song and Friday I'm In Love.

It was great! THE CURE made me a new person from what I was just days ago.

I have always been empowered by music. It has always been my sanctuary whether I was feeling happy or sad or angry.

So for all of you who are feeling down and forlorn, just try to listen to music! Who cares if you're into spaghetti and the Viva Hot Men and into good ole' country music or into Marilyn Manson or acoustic stuff, just listen and enjoy and sing and dance if you want to!

You won't even notice it, but you're not feeling bad anymore! So go

ing and the most exciting moments so far in our Canadian sojourn.

- 0 -

Leaving Niagara at about 4:00 p.m. after a brief shopping at the Factory Outlet, we thought the thrill of the trip was over. To our surprise, the inbound trip home along Niagara-At-The-Lake was equally exhilarating. The town populated mostly by retired and retiring Canadians was a beautifully developed community where orchard farming and wine making seemed to be a favorite pastime and hobby. And what with the gently curved roads lined up with trees in flaming yellow, orange, red and purple covers, being autumn that is, and the scenic Niagara River and Lake Ontario down below which could be enjoyed from the view decks built for the purpose along the way.

Otherwise put, since the beauty of the experience can't be described

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BAGUIO, A CITY OF SIN?*...from p. 1*

Lauver also mentioned that Baguio is making the Philippines a shame and disgrace to the entire world and a complete mockery of what's meant to be a Christian nation.

The American confessed in his letter that he came to the Philippines because he loves the Filipino people and he hoped to marry a simple loving wife but was discouraged with what he saw in Baguio.

His letter went on to read, "...any government employee that doesn't well prove by their actions that they've repented of their apathetic and complacent attitude should be immediately terminated by whatever means needed and replaced by those that are true to the Filipino heritage of honest, decent, God-loving and fearing citizens desiring to again make Baguio a place where we can all be proud to live, work and raise our children; a City that again sets the standard of what's right for all to look up to!"

The mayor referred the said letter to Councilor Galo Weygan who is now head of the Character City Committee of Baguio.

In a phone interview with the councilor, he said that there is a need to look into the matter deeply. Weygan is set to schedule a meeting with concerned sectors and offices to discuss the allegations of Lauver and the councilor is set to schedule an ocular inspection into the issues Lauver mentioned in his letter.

Councilor Elmer Datuin, former chair of the Character City Committee, also issued a proposed ordinance banning the sale and distribution and manufacture of "Barrel Man" and the Penis wood carvings and the like at all city public market. /MGB

FIRST 100 DAYS*...from p. 2*

ordinances enacted by the city council included those on social services, public works, sports facilities and peace and order.

The significant resolutions included those on people empowerment, barangay governance, the promotion of good governance, sports and youth development, market, trade and commerce, urban planning, lands and housing, environmental issues, traffic legislation, education, economic and social services and tourism and special events.

In a joint effort between the city council and the Executive Department, the delivery of basic services provided for by the city government to the barangay level, for the first 100 days totals to 54 supplemental budgets.

The SP will also come out with their 2004-2007 Legislative agenda to coincide with the Executives Department Thrusts for 2004-2007 as to its major strategies, specific strategies, programs and services especially on good governance, stirring of economic growth, enhancement and sustaining the tourism industry and the protection and conservation of the environment.

Bautista authored the said report of the city council, he concluded by saying, "To set the record straight, the approval of resolutions and

Jadewell to Mayor: Here you go again!!

BAGUIO CITY – Just days after mayor Braulio Yaranon issued Executive Order Number 005 – 2004 ordering Jadewell to cease and desist from their current operation, the Jadewell Parking Systems Corporation represented by Mrs. Norma Tan, issued a brawny response denouncing the mayor's actions.

Here you go again! was the opening line of the Jadewell's letter to the mayor.

Jadewell said they have never done any wrongdoing nor have they been charged in court and convicted of any offense or violation of the terms of their contract with the city that will merit the cease and desist order.

"Perhaps with your obviously daring and reckless audacity

to wantonly defy and violate every applicable laws in our case, you and your newly installed sycophants want to show the people of Baguio that all of you belong to a special breed of people who are untouchables and above and beyond the reach of the law. This we have to see," the letter said.

Jadewell was recently ordered by the mayor to stop charging and collecting parking fees, fines, penalties and other charges from motorists and parking on public streets of the city without their consent.

Jadewell must also desist from seizing and detaining vehicles whose owners refuse to submit to the enforcement of the ordinance.

"You have wasted

all your three terms as a councilor on us, do not waste all your three years term as the mayor still on us. Too much of anything is bad," Jadewell adds.

Jadewell claims that they have substantially contributed to the social and economic development of Baguio by generating employment to an aggregate total of 236 persons and that in their 46 months of operation, December 2000 to September 2004, they have allegedly contributed a total of 26,492,424.17 pesos to the social and economic development of the city.

"You were elected as mayor of Baguio and not as exterminator of Jadewell. It will be unkind of you if just because of purely personal hatred against

us, you will run us out of business....

"Mr. Mayor we have previously warned you that your persistent provocations may result in the disturbance of peace and order in Baguio. Your storm – troopers led by your favorite secretary Quilala backed up by Benedicto Balajadia and Jeffrey Perez and company have repeatedly provoked our men by their unlawful interference in our lawful implementation of our mandate. This is on record," they also argue.

Finally, Jadewell threatened to hold the mayor personally responsible for whatever untoward incidents that will occur due to the mayor's persistent provocations to the said corporation and their personnel. /MGB

Dad pushes for PUV operators strict compliance to drivers' ID requirement

BAGUIO CITY – Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. recently authored a proposed ordinance entitled "An ordinance requiring all operators of taxi cabs, public utility jeepneys, public utility buses, garage vans and the like operating within the city of Baguio to submit a list of their employees as well as their latest passport size picture to the Baguio City Police Office and providing penalties for violations thereof" following the arrest of a Taxi Driver who was allegedly involved in a series of hold up incidents in the city for the past two

months.

The maintenance of the peace and order in the city of Baguio is one of the top priorities of the present administration, he says.

This case of robbery, he reiterates, perpetrated by public utility servicemen will terribly affect the business prospects of the transport industry, needless to mention the fear it will create on the riding public and the public at large.

There is a need for the city government to formulate policies that shall insure the protection and welfare of the general public as well as provide a way of

immediately identifying possible robbery suspects, he adds.

In his proposal, it shall be ordained that any individual, natural or juridical person found violating the provisions of the ordinance shall be penalized a standard fine of P5,000.00 and cancellation or non-renewal of business permits. /MGB

DEPTHNEWS*...from p. 4*

people die of hepatitis and (other ailments) without doctors or medicine," she said. The President should act because the whole nation is affected." ..

Like most Filipinos abroad, she sends money home, so relatives can study. "As an American, my heart will always belong to the Philippines"

In Houston, Texas, Celia Vasquez fumes. Corruption here negates the remittances that overseas workers, like her, send home at much sacrifice. She reacted to a column on fake Marcos

DEPTHNEWS... p. 7**FAIR AND SQUARE***...from p. 5*

in words fully, much more by me, making a trip to Niagara Falls during the fall or autumn, also called the Indian Summer, is probably the best thing that can ever happen to you in your travel to Canada or even the USA. It should always be made part of your itinerary!

Coop Hospital In The Region Soon To Rise

BAGUIOCITY— A group of 15 individuals in various fields of professions is set to put up the Baguio City Cooperative Hospital (BCCH), the first ever primary service cooperative in the region.

With principal office along Kennon Road, and covering the whole of the Cor-

dilleras as area of operation, the coop hospital aims to provide medical and dental care and hospitalization services at a reasonable cost, encourage thrift and savings mobilization, and maximize the utilization of resources of members to increase their eco-

nomie standing.

Dr. Richard Arceo, chairperson of the interim board of directors said finalization of documents needed for registration, as well as polishing of policies with regard to membership, internal control,

accounting, structure and operations, are in the works. He added that they target the coop hospital to be put up in 2 years time.

As stated in its by-laws and articles of incorporation, the BCCH shall exist for 50

HALSEMA...

...from p. 3

pending in Branch 10

To the workers and residents from the project area took the legal cases differently, claiming among others that, "FGCC is now undertaking to imperil the execution of the project and not already thinking the clamor and faith of the Cordillerans hope to see the completion of the project."

The petitioners further alluded that the present scenario causes peace and order problem for remaining equipment, thus, are requesting for PNP personnel deployment in critical areas of the project.

They expressed support to their main contractor. Earlier project manager In Kyu Kang said "all we wanted is to finish the project and leave," even if the WB is three-months late in its payment while the national government has been late for five months.

As of September 8, the total unpaid balance by the World Bank reached \$649,692.78 while the Philippine government is P63.486 million. Finally, the petitioners said that they are seeking any valuable intervention of concerned authorities and other government agencies to resolve the issue once and for all and for adding "to eliminate FGCC's obstruction activities within the project sites./Tina Sales/PIA

EMB-CAR

...from p. 3

ing were the apprehension on the eventual occurrence of foul smell of garbage after several months of dumping, narrow road to the dumpsite, dissemination of soil sampling, apprehension of Tublay residents of water contamination, sustenance of the project as the mayor's term will end 2006; share in the proceeds in the composting facility, and assurance that the garbage transported by trucks are covered.

Fongwan said the project will have its own defects and would be imminent upon implementation but plans are however doable. He said the LGU welcomes critiques and assured that this will be addressed as long as this would be brought out to the attention of concerned offices./Susan C. Aro/PIA-Benguet

years. Its common bond of membership shall be residential and open to all interested Filipino citizens of legal age. Its authorized share capital is P1,200,00.00, 25% (P300,000) of which has been subscribed. Further, 25% of the total subscription, amounting to P75,000, has been paid by the 15 cooperators.

In the meantime, Dr. Arceo said interested persons may already get in touch with any of the 15 cooperators for other details. Initially, he said individuals who wish to join the coop must first attend a pre-membership seminar, and be able to pay the membership fee of P300.00 and 10% of the P5,000 capital share. He added that the remain-

ing P4,500 may be paid on staggered basis within 18 months.

He said this will solve part of the financial shortages experienced by individuals who cannot afford costly medical services, at the same time earn by way of dividends and patronage fees.

The 15 cooperators include Dr Arceo, Dr. Ponciano Aberin (VP, interim BOD), Dr. Danilo Philip Torres, Amado Jess Cendana and Ericson Yang-ed (Directors, interim BOD), Ruel Custodio, Luis Loy Jr., Eric Calixto, Noli Vizcocho, Noel Nicanor Sison, Elena Nicanor Tampican, Virgilio Cruz, Engr. Ernesto Kumalao, Dr. Ruth Masilungan, and Engr. Isaias Lachica.

DEPTHNEWS

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foundations.

"U.S. Filipinos and other volunteers give contributions, for housing, schooling medical missions, etc, writes Ms Vasquez who holds a master's degree in public health "It's frustrating to hear the news..."

"The likes of 'berting kirat' deprive people, especially poor children, of health care, nutrition, shelter, and education. Why? Because there's no such word as heroes in the dictionary of our officials. Will Pope's John Paul's words - "life's wounded"— apply to our country?:"

"With our economic morass, why are we still training so many physicians when many won't practice there?, writes Dr Remy, now retired in Daytona Beach, Florida. "When I came in 1964, opportunities to train in America were aplenty.

"But these are rapidly disappearing. Americans who are not accepted in medical schools locally can go abroad (usually Mexico and the Caribbean) for their medical education."

"If I were a doctor in the Philippines today, I'd be torn about training to be a nurse. I've met some physicians who work as nurses here, even if they had successful medical practices at home. They saw a dead-end in their careers...So, I admire those who, like Dr Helen Santiago-Seguis work at home because they see medicine as a vocation for service." ..

"Tyranny of the urgent" should be changed, in the Philippines, to "constant tyranny", Graham Reinders of Vancouver wrote. "The reality of the citizen is not a factor here. Only when gain for politicians coincides with theirs do citizens find a few crumbs on their plate.

Like Vancouver's salmon fishers, nobody here is willing to sacrifice.. Endless meetings were held to avoid cutting salmon quotas. To this day, the fish haven't returned. "The entire West Coast fishing fleet...are tied-up and abandoned, all the way down to California.

"Can the Philippines stand reform? Bad management is always endemic, Let the meetings begin, But pack your parachute and enjoy the jump."(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

FROM OUR READERS...

...from p. 11

countries and which violate international standards.

"We oppose the present processes of trade liberalization, deregulation and the privatization of our natural and mineral resources pushed by institutions such as the World Bank, International monetary Fund and regional development banks. We challenge the myth of sustainable mining and corporate responsibility being promoted by trans-national corporations and national governments", the delegates declared.

Both suffer from the destruction and exploitation caused by the mining industry, hence its important that both groups of women work closely to support each others cause. Building a strong solidarity of women mine workers and women from mine-affected communities will eventually push

mining companies away from the peoples' mineral resources and from profiting from the workers' hard labor. /Vernie Yocogan-Diano, Secretary General, Innabuyog Gabriela

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We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals - not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Film Festival Kicks-Off In Baguio City

December is another busy month for Baguio City where and when the kick-off activity for the Metro Manila Film Festival is expected to take place.

It is also a period when Baguio City's student populations enrolled in Mass Communication course including individuals with film making fascination will be given opportunity to learn more about the craft.

Aside from Baguio City, other major cities in the country, Cebu City and Davao City have also been chosen as venues for the first time to the yearly holding of film festival where eight Filipino movies for two weeks will be shown.

During the regular Kapihan sa Baguio forum, Baguio Metro Manila Film Festival Foundation Chairman Chingoy Alonzo announced that movie actors in the eight films will join the float parade of stars on December 15. Screening will

commence on December 25 until January 8, 2005.

Alonzo, veteran actor who spent his hay days in Baguio City as a student, said that during the film showing, aside from cinema hopping by the movie stars, film goers will given the chance to directly meet and chat with them including photo opportunity, "we are going to designate "star corner."

But even before the kick-off activity on December 15, Alonzo said, the foundation has laid down other undertakings focused on the educational blitz among students and individuals engaged, involved or have interest in film making.

Alonzo, also as Manila Film Festival Foundation Philippines liaison officer announced that there will be a torch parade on December 1 following the theme "Ilaw ng Sining."

The former veteran said during the

month, there will be series of symposium and work shop where top movie directors and cinematographers will be invited to share their expertise, "This is a good opportunity to enhance their knowledge, skill and talents, and expose them on the theatrical side of learning."

Workshop activities include scriptwriting, directorial and documentation among others.

Among the caliber directors who are expected to come up to Baguio City include Max Alejandre and Gilbert Perez. Local film makers and professionals will also be tapped as resource speakers.

"Inviting movie artists and festival officials to join and participate in this special event is the beneficial side we can offer for Baguio City being the university belt of the North," Alonzo said.

Classical Filipino movies will also be shown during the pe-

riod starting on December 5 to 22. Baguio Convention Center will serve as the venue.

While rules, regulations and criteria have being formulated, a 10-15 minute short film / documentary competition will also be held. Resident film makers in the likes of Eric De Guia known as "Kidlat" to many Baguio residents will be invited to set the guidelines for the contest.

Alonzo urged all movie followers and film making enthusiasts to support this event.

He said with television as the major preference among big stars in the industry, support for the film festival would give a big boost to Filipino talented people, "while we expose the masses to quality films we don't want to see the making for the death of the movie industry."

The works of three caliber directors are included among the eight movies to be shown in December. These include Joel Lamangan with three directorial entries, Chito Roño and Mario Delos Reyes./ Tina Sales

COURT OF APPEALS...

...from p. 9

claimants to file a petition asking the NCIP to issue a retraining order to stop the project. The petition was signed by Alexander Ampaguey, Lucia Ampaguey, Elizabeth Mat-an, Hele Lubos, Carmen Panayo, Melanio Panayo, Judith Marane and Magdalena Gumangan Que.

Named respondents were the DPWH city engineering district represented by Engr. Nestor Nicolar, the project contractor rep-

Yangot awarded Exceptional Leadership for first 100 days in official function

BAGUIO CITY – The prominent writers' group, Global Development of Filipino Writers, recently awarded Baguio City Councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. an Exceptional Leadership and Distinguished Service Award for the year 2004.

Yangot is one of the recipients to the said award. Those who have shown and contributed to the upliftment and development and exemplary services to the people for the First 100 days in official function are the awardees.

In a letter addressed to the councilor, Victoria Lapasaran, Honorary Chairperson of the said group, says, "You have been unanimously chosen as one of the awardees of outstanding achievers of our country, thus contributing much to the nations' economic progress and enriching the Filipino people in elevating their social standard of living and by giving inspiration to our youth and soon to be our effective leaders too."

The said awarding ceremonies held at the Grand Boulevard Hotel in Manila last October 23, is the organizations' launching of its Special Annual Project on the aspect of Grand Award Presentation to honor recipients.

"We are humbly bestowing on you this rare prestigious award of distinction as a gratitude for your unselfish, honest and sincere dedication in serving our country with your respective endeavor," Lapasaran adds in her letter.

The city's current officials recently had their 100th day in office after they took office on July 1, 2004, where Councilor Elmer Datuin lashed at the administration of Mayor Braulio Yaranon for being inutile and not doing anything to address the city's current floods of dilemmas.

The mayor however retaliated by saying that they have achieved a lot and that they should not be judged prematurely for they have only performed for a mere three months in office./ MGB

resented by Alfonso Pel-ey, the Baguio Regreening Movement represented by Balajadia, and the city architect's office represented by Estipona.

On Oct. 21, 2002, NCIP regional hearing officer Brain Masweng issued a 20-day retraining order on the fencing project around and between the areas and premises of the petitioner' ancestral land claims.

On Nov. 6 of the

same year, the hearing office denied a motion to dissolve the temporary restraining order. Six days later, Masweng ordered the respondents to "cease and desist from implanting the fencing project during the pendency" of the case.

The city, through the city legal office, eventually filed its own petition for injunction and restraining order with the Court of Appeals.

Revival of Benguet Tourism Council sought

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET – The province of Benguet is slowly making itself one of Northern Luzon's major tourist destinations. Mount Pulag in Benguet, glorious and also the county's Second Highest Mountain has become probably the most climbed mountain in the Philippines.

Likewise, the mummies of Kabayan, Benguet, have not only captured the interest and attention of the national community but the world as well. It has repeatedly been featured in the famed Discovery Channel watched by millions of

viewers worldwide.

The Municipality of La Trinidad on the other hand is known as the Salad Bowl of the Philippines and is also busy promoting the said municipality as a Strawberry Country with the Strawberry Festival going strong into its Third Year.

Benguet Province is slowly climbing the spot for a stint in the country's tourism industry.

The Municipal Mayor of Mankayan, Benguet, Manalo Galuten, recently asked Provincial Governor, Borromeo Melchor, to revive the Municipal Tourism Council

(MTC) of Benguet.

The composition of the MTC is a mere reorganization of the MTC organized by the previous administration pursuant to a Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Circular numbered 95162 encouraging Chief Executives to organize a said MTC within their jurisdictions.

The said proposal by Galuten was favorably endorsed by the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* of Benguet and forwarded to the Governor for his immediate action and consideration./MGB

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
First Judicial Region
Branch 59
Baguio City
(ADDITIONAL FAMILY COURT OF BAGUIO)

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADOPTION WITH PRAYER FOR THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF MINOR NIGHTENGALE HOPE A. MORARENG

SPOUSES WILLIAM AND ELIZABETH ACHED,

Petitioners,
-versus

LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET,

Respondent.

Sp. Pro. Case No. 199-A

X-----X

ORDER

A verified petition filed by the petitioners through counsel alleged among others:

1. That they are legal age, married to each other, Filipino Citizens and residents of No. 96 Holy Ghost Extension Baguio City, where they can be served with summons and other court processes;

2. That the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet is being impleaded in her official capacity and can be served with summons and other court process at the Municipal Hall of La Trinidad, Benguet;

3. That NIGHTENGALE HOPE A. MORARENG [minor, for brevity], the minor subject of this petition for adoption was born out of wedlock on July 15, 2000 by her natural mother, HELEN A MORARENG, a copy of his (sic) certificate of live birth is attached hereto as ANNEX "A" and made an integral part of this petition;

4. That the joint

petitioners were legally married on September 29, 2001 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral, Cathedral Loop, Baguio City, a copy of their certificate of marriage is attached hereto as ANNEX "B" and made part of this petition;

5. That from the time MINOR NIGHTENGALE HOPE A. MORARENG was born, she was taken cared of and lived with the petitioners as the natural mother was jobless and has no other source of income and that it was the petitioners who have been providing all her needs up to this time that she is now enrolled in a premier pre-school;

6. That HELENA. MORARENG, the natural mother of the minor subject of this petition has no objection to her daughter being adopted by the petitioners;

7. That the petitioners had the minor baptized according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church on September 29, 2001 and had given her the name: ERICA, a copy of the minor's Certificate of Baptism is attached hereto as ANNEX "C" and made part of this petition. That for sentimental reasons and to reflect the petitioner's choice as to the name of the minor, it is respectfully prayed that the minor's registered name which is NIGHTENGALE HOPE BE changed to ERICA;

8. That the petitioners are legally qualified to adopt and that they are able to financially, morally and emotionally bring up the child and to educate he properly and adequately;

9. That the grant of this petition will legitimize the parent and child relationship which have grown between the petitioners and minor.

On the basis of the foregoing, the petitioners pray that after due notice, publication and hearing, the Court

Swimming lessons encouraged in all schools to utilize city – owned pool

BAGUIO CITY – "There is a need to maximize the use of the Olympic – sized swimming pool by enhancing the development of the swimming skills and talents of students form elementary, secondary, and tertiary institutions including the Out of School Youth in the City of Baguio thereby providing a potential pool of swimming talents," councilor Leandro Yangot Jr. stated in his proposed resolution to the city council.

The Olympic – sized swimming pool owned by the city government is now in full operation and swimmers

will give due course to this petition and render judgment freeing minor NIGHTENGALE HOPE A. MORARENG [ERICA] from all legal obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her natural mother and that she be declared for all legal intents and purposes, the child of the petitioners.

The petitioners further pray that the Local Civil Registrar of La Trinidad, Benguet be ordered to change the first name of the subject minor from NIGHTENGALE HOPE to ERICA.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional Trial Court, Branch 59, Baguio City on December 14, 2004 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning at which place, date and time, the petitioners shall prove their case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the pe-

ting is an event in regional, national and international sports competitions where our local athletes have not excelled well, he pronounced.

Training our youngsters in this sport, Yangot stressed, will save them from the possibility of drowning – a mishap which has claimed the lives of many of our adventurist youngsters who frequent the beaches and rivers of the lowlands.

The swimming pool at the Baguio Athletic Bowl has been

operational some months ago. A fee of P50.00 is required to be paid at the City Treasurer's Office where a receipt is issued.

The receipt serves as an entrance pass for the utilization of the swimming pool. Several public and elementary students have already started swimming lessons at the said pool.

Yangot is thus urging all elementary, secondary and tertiary schools, whether public or private in the City of Baguio to include in their Physical Educa-

tion Curriculum.

Copies of the said resolution, if approved, will be furnished to the Department of Education – Cordillera Administrative Region and the Division of City Schools, the Commission on Higher Education in the region, and all private and public elementary, Secondary and tertiary schools including the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) of the City of Baguio.

Baguio SK President, Leonardo Bayan Jr. likewise authored a similar proposal. **MGB**

Appeals Court Stops NCIP Hearing Busol Fencing Case

The Court of Appeals has restrained the regional hearing officer of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples from hearing a petition filed by occupants and claimants of potions of

petitioners in The Junction, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and in Benguet Province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

The petitioners are directed to make an appointment with the Court Social Worker for the purpose of conducting the required case study on the minor NIGHTENGALE HOPE A. MORARENG. The Court Social Worker is required to submit to the Court the case study not later than December 9, 2004.

SO ORDERED.
DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 8th day of October, 2004.

ILUMINADA CABATO
- CORTES
Judge

Oct. 16, 23, & 30, 2004

the Busol Watershed who sought a stop to the fencing of the major water source by government agencies.

In its resolution dated last Oct. 14, the third division of the appellate court composed of Associate Justices Edgardo Cruz, Godardo Jacinto and Jose Mendoza, also ordered the claimants to desist from "intruding into and introducing constructions at the Busol Watershed".

The court acted on a motion for injunction filed in December last year by acting city legal officer Melchor Ravanes and his assistant Jovelyn Grace Advinnula for and in behalf of the city architect's office then headed by Architect Ignacio Estipona, the Busol Task Force represented by Moises Anipew and the Baguio Regreening Movement headed by city councilor Erdolfo

Balajadia. Rabanes's office posted last Wednesday a P50,000 bond as directed by the court "to answer for any damage which respondents may suffer by reason of this temporary restraining order, otherwise the same shall automatically become ineffective".

The court set the effectivity of the restraining order for 60 days, "so as not to render the petition moot and academic, and to avoid great irreparable injury to petitioners..."

The case arose after the Baguio district office of the Department of Public Works and Highways and the city started the fencing project to project the Busol water source from further intrusion.

The project prompted occupants

**COURT OF APPEALS...
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Panagbenga 05: Greater Community Involvement, Less Commercialization

Preparation for the next Baguio Flower Festival will push for greater community involvement and rein in commercialization of the city's biggest annual special event that draws thousands of visitors in February.

The festival executive committee led by Mayor Braulio

Yaranon adopted the twin guideposts last Wednesday in response to suggestions for wider sector participation and restriction of advertisements that lined city streets and dotted parks in previous editions.

Taking cue from the mayor, the committee agree to have the

local government and the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation (BFF) jointly take the lead in planning out and staging the features of the event celebrating Baguio's status as a flower garden city.

Yaranon earlier set this tone by naming BFF Chair Damaso Bangoet Jr. as his co-

chair and designating representatives from the government, private sector, media, academe, business, senior citizens and non-government organizations to the executive and working committees.

Bangoet, then a top executive of the former John Hay-Poro Point Development

Corp., conceived the festival as a tourism come-on and steered the preparations since 1995 before turning its management to the city in 2003.

Other city officials during the meeting were Vice-Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. and councilors Edilberto Tenefrancia, Galo Weygan and Perlita Chan-Rondez. Tenefrancia and Weygan are with the executive committee while Rondez chairs the marketing promotions working committee.

Dubbed "Panagbenga", a native term meaning a "season of blooming", the festival grew to become Baguio's crowd-drawing festivity, attracting not only visitors but also advertising and commercial firms coming in as sponsors to promote their products and services.

The tapping of an advertising firm for promotion and marketing in the last two editions became controversial, with some residents complaining that the proliferation of advertising signs overshadowed the promotion of a city of flow-

ers. This time, marketing and promotions will directly be handled by a committee headed by councilor Rondez, with councilors Jose Molintas and Leonardo Bayan Jr., together with media practitioners, hoteliers, media practitioners and other sector representatives as members.

The committee will recommend and implement upon approval guidelines and policies for marketing and promotions, aside from screening prospective organizers and sponsors.

The events and programs committee led by renowned filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik will recommend the features of the festival, what previous events to scrap or retain, and study a proposal to whittle down the whole calendar into two weeks instead of the regular month-long spread.

City tourism officer and OIC city administrator Benedicto Alhambra, as festival director has tentatively set the launching of "Panagbenga 2005" Nov. 15, after the various sub-committees have firmed up their respective plans.

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Citizens urged to consume Fortified Foods

BAGUIO CITY – Councilor Elmer Datuin issued a proposed ordinance requiring mandatory food fortification on rice, wheat flour, refined sugar and cooking oil as provided in the Philippine Food Fortification Program per Republic Act (R.A.) 8976 in the City of Baguio.

R.A. 8976 also known as an act establishing the Philippine Food Fortification program was approved on November 7, 2000 with the main goal of increasing the dietary intake of Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine.

According to Datuin, unchecked deficiency of Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine will produce sickly, weak, handicapped, unproductive and a sluggish new generation of Filipinos that will not be able to withstand the pressures of global competition.

Two Cordillera Martial Artists Top World Competition

Two Cordillera martial artists underscored anew the highland region's international competitiveness in combat events as they handily topped their respective divisions in the First World Peace King Cup Open Tournament played last Oct. 9-10 in the United States.

Eighteen-year old Robert Lee Bumina-ang finished off Germany's Vol Gemir with a choke hold in the second round of the final bout to rule the middleweight class of the tournament that drew competitors from 10 countries and continents.

His teammate, 24-year old Jerson Tesoro, upstaged U.S. taekwondo national champion Luis Curreno, 6-4, to bag the lightweight (62-65.9 kgs.) title of the meet that allowed fighters to combine karate, taekwondo, judo, aikido, muaythai, wushu and boxing to chalk up points.

Their sensational

victories made up for the quarter-final loss of the third Philippine player, heavyweight Nicholas Bassig in the tournament organized by the World Tong-il Moo-Doo Federation at the Bridgeport University in Connecticut.

The three martial artist under coach Brico Santig were selected to represent the country based on their performances in the national eliminations last Aug. 13. With them in the RP delegation were team manager Venus Agustin, national representative Edilberto Dames and Santig.

Bumina-ang, a muaythai blackbelt and a junior at the Magsaysay Annex of the Pines City National High School, breezed through the elimination by outclassing taekwondo player Yushi Sato of North America, 4-1, in his two-round opening match.

The Ifugao native went on the eliminate

Russian Dimitre Nathasia Utano, 6-2, to forge the title showdown with Gemir who, unable to extricate himself form a lock, surrendered mid-way in the second round.

Bumina-ang who stated his career as an amateur boxer, eventually shifted to muaythai under the tutelage of Santig, a three-time national champion and silver medalist in the 199 World Kickboxing Tournament in Korea.

Tesoro, also a muaythai blackbelt and student at the Cordillera Career Development College, made a rousing start by stopping judo and karate practitioner Emmanuel Dell of Argentina with a straight to the chin in the eliminations.

He advanced to the final with a clear 6-2 points decision over Sang Woo of Korea. The tournament drew other martial artists from Japan, South America, Africa, North-east Continent and China./Ramon Dacawi

also signed.

There is now a need to increase awareness and improve understanding of the extent and importance of the micronutrient deficiency problem, there is also a need to create a sense of urgency for action and involvement by influencing consumers to start patronizing only fortified products, Datuin stressed.

The proposal if approved in the city council, shall apply to all food service establishments, government and private hospitals, traders and dealers of rice, wheat flour, sugar and cooking oil./MGB

From our Readers: Defending our Lives, Demanding Our Rights

The 3rd International Conference on Women and Mining that was held from 1-9 October 2004 successfully concluded on 10 October in Visakhapatnam, India with participants hailing from 21 countries of Africa, North and South America, Europe, the Pacific and Asia including women from all regions of India. The conference presentations ranged from issues of displacement of tribal communities in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, India and Australia; the health impacts of mining due to the cyanide spill in the gold mines of Kyrgyzstan; the problems of radiation from the uranium mines; stories of conflict arising from the diamond mines in Sierra Leone, the struggles of mining trade unions of South Africa, Canada and Zimbabwe, the child and women labourers involved in gold-panning and artisanal mining in Nicaragua and Peru, the pollution of rivers in Ghana, just to mention a few. The delegates arrived at rich global perspectives on the political economy of development and displacement, strategies of the mining industry such as corporate responsibility and international processes relevant to mining policy.

The conference confirmed the serious negative impacts of mining to women's lives, livelihoods, social and cultural status, physical and sexual rights, ecological spaces, access to and control over natural resources, legal and customary rights, traditional knowledge systems, whether they are mine workers or living in affected communities.

The delegates regarded mining as insensitive to women, unjust, and does not provide a level playing field between women and communities or women workers with the mining industry and the state or governments.

Bhanumathi Kalluri, of the national secretariat of mines, Minerals and People (mmp) and convener of the 3rd International Women and Mining Conference states, "We want to collectively challenge the exploitative global economics and to define our own perspective of sustainable development and utilization of the world's resources, and to rebuild our lives and identities which are being destroyed by the mining industry".

Included in the 9-day conference is a three-day visit to two mine sites in India. One of the mine site visited is the National Aluminum Company (NALCO), a state-run mining company and touted as the biggest mines in Asia. NALCO uses open-pit mining, employs only 450 workers and displayed some 15 tribal communities when it started its operation in 1983.

The conference delegates raised several demands to the mining industry and to governments. The demands included admission of governments and the mining industry of the economic, ecological, social and cultural abuses they have caused women and children and just compensation for the losses and violations they have caused, the respect of indigenous peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent to the utilization of their lands and resources and that governments and the mining industry should respect communities' decision to reject mining, the rehabilitation of abandoned mines and affected workers and communities, for governments and the mining industry to stop the dumping of mine tailings in rivers and oceans, and mining transnational corporations must not be allowed to use mining practices prohibited in their home

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FORTIFIED FOODS...

...from p. 10

Allegedly, one remedy to address micro nutrient deficiency is through food fortification by the addition of a micronutrient or micronutrients to food items which are widely consumed by specific - at - risk groups.

Fortification, Datuin says, is cost effective and sustainable.

The Philippine Food Fortification strategic plan for 2000-2004 is to increase dietary intake of Vitamin A, Iron and Iodine equivalent to 50% of RDA contributed by Forti-

fied Foods and that by November 2004, fortification of flour with Vitamin A and Iron, Edible Oil with Vitamin A, Sugar with Vitamin A and Rice with Iron is mandated by R.A. 8976.

In December 1998, RA 8172 also known as an act promoting Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN) was signed into law and likewise, Ordinance Number 077 Series of 2002 of the City of Baguio known as requiring the use of Iodized Salt in the city by localizing the provisions of RA 8172 was

BSYDC Kicks-Off Project Miss / Mr. Kalikasan And Pilipinas Contests

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet: Fourteen pairs will vie for popularity, and pageant titles in the upcoming Benguet Foundation Day Celebration.

The newly organized Benguet Sports Youth Development Council (BSYDC) will spearhead the search for Ginoo and Binibini Kalikasan which is a popularity contest for Ginoo and Binibini Filipinas. The winning lady contestant will

represent the province in the country's beauty pageant Binibining Pilipinas 2005.

Pageant Chair BSYDC Provincial Coordinator Michael Belgica said that following the criteria set by the national organization, the council has been very strict in screening the candidates especially on height requirement which is 5'4" for female and 5" 6" for male contestants.

Belgica explained that holding of popularity contest is aimed at generating funds that would be used to finance equipment needs of the various sports organization in the 13 towns of Benguet.

In between the duration of the event, candidates will be exposed to various social and community activities.

**BSYDC
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Cabinet Hill Residents Protest Sudden Inclusion Of Unknown Allocateses In Proclamation 8963

BAGUIO CITY – Actual residents of Cabinet hill who are members of the Neighborhood Association and actual occupants have submitted a petition-protest to Hon. Michael Defensor, Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Hon. Ricardo Saludo, OIC-Presidential Management Staff (PMS), Hon. Isaias Barongan, Regional Executive Director, DENR-CAR, Hon. Braulio Yaranon, City Mayor, Hon. Reinaldo Bautista Jr., City Vice Mayor and the Honorable members of the City Council to investigate the sudden inclu-

sion of unknown allocateses in Proclamation 8963.

The petition-protest stated that actual residents of Cabinet hill who are members of the Neighborhood Association and actual occupants have been complaining of the sudden appearance of names of allocates who have never actually occupied lots but who are now land allocates in the land covered by Proclamation 8963.

The petition also stated that even the barangay officials have noticed that certain persons who are not bonafide residents of the barangay have been allocated lots in

said land covered by the proclamation without undergoing the necessary screening barangay certification procedure.

“Despite the repeated promises by the Neighborhood Association Officers the following documents

have not been published in conspicuous places and notices as agree upon during the last meeting on June 24, 2004: 1) the survey plan showing allocates of Proclamation 8963 attested by the surveyor and neighborhood officers; 2) Financial paid.” The petition-protest demanded.

The Cabinet Hill residents are seeking for an actual investigation necessary to determine once and for all

who were given application forms submitted to the DENR and the names of allocates actual occupants as applicants in order that the necessary screening procedure is followed and prevent unscrupulous persons from putting into naught President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s desire to distribute alienable lands to the landless and poor.

Actual occupants

are asking proper government entities to immediately restrain the DENR-CAR to process applications of lots particularly of those who are not actual occupant; to investigate the allocation of said lots based on records of the DENR and the association and to institute the necessary measures to prevent allocation of said lots to persons not qualified under the law.

BSDYC...

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SK Federation President Christine Grace Yubos said that on November 15, dubbed as “Charity Day, A Day With The Homeless” the contestants will visit Lingap Center at Wangal.

The candidates will distribute food, medical supplies and clothing. They will be tasked to provide assistance in the conduct of medical mission for the children of the institution.

The candidates will visit various institutions both government and non-government such as the Benguet State University, the Cordillera College, Benguet General Hospital and other national government entities for familiarization tour.

The pre-pageant portion of the contest will be held on November 18 at River View, Asin, Tuba where members of the media will select the “Darling of the Press.”

As an added but rare feature of this occasion, candidates be afforded with half-day close encounter with their respective families, the day and time is still be determined as of press time.

Canvassing for the popularity contest will be held on October 29 and November 5, respectively.

Coronation ceremony of the Ginoo and Bininibi Kalikasan winners will be held ahead of the time with the pageant proper on the same day of November 20 at the Benguet State University Closed Gym.

The former activity is set at 3:00 in the afternoon while the pageant night will be at 6:00 in the evening./Tina Sales/PIA

LOOKING FOR A REWARDING CAREER? BE A CALL CENTER AGENT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES NOW!

What is a Call/Contact Center?

A Call/Contact Center is a physical location where calls are placed or received in high volume for the purposes of sales, customer service, technical support and others. A Call Center is currently one of the highest paying industries in the country. In fact, Call Centers are dubbed as the country’s sunshine industry today.

What does a Call Center Agent do?

A Call Center Agent is the person who attends to the needs of the customers over a phone (inbound and outbound) for both local and international companies.

How much does a Call Center Agent earn?

A Call Center Agent receives on an average a start-up monthly income of **P13,000 to P15,000** which is dependent on the company.

Who can become a Call Center Agent?

Call Center companies generally are a non-discriminating organization. This means that anybody who is proficient with the needed skills can become a Call Center Agent.

What does TRANSCRIPRO have to offer?

Transcripro understands that the Filipino currently lacks in the proficiency of the needed skills to become a Call Center Agent. As a fact, **only two percent (2%) of the total applicants get employed.** Training is as well inaccessible or unaffordable.

Transcripro has then decided to provide seminar-training for interested candidates. **Our training is the most comprehensive, the most affordable and readily available program.** We are proud to say that we provide the best training for the Filipinos.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES:

The curriculum aims to introduce the very nature of a contact center business and its attributes. It aims to train and develop the individual to acquire the basic skill sets and the attitude needed to become a contact center agent. It also includes the development of proactive selling skills, call handling and call control skills, customer care values as well as strengthening of I.T. knowledge and applications. The program aims to create a positive attitude on the individual and promote strong grounds for team building and leadership.

MODE OF TEACHING AND EVALUATION:

The curriculum would be presented in an interactive teaching environment in which participation is of high value. There would be occasional icebreakers to lift up the class spirit at all times. Specially designed activities will be given in every module to act as pre and post evaluation on the learning pace of the students. Evaluative exams will be given in every module to gauge the depth of understanding of the students on all topics being presented and a final written examination will be conducted to determine if the individual is fit to be a contact center agent. The course is estimated to last around 100 hours, 4 hours a day, 5 days a week, for four weeks.

For questions, inquiries and registration:

Visit **TRANSCRIPRO PHILIPPINES, INC.** at the Ground Floor of Lyman Ogilby Centrum, Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City; Call us at (074) 6190080 or 3004951; Call/text at 09175069123; Business Hours are from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Mon.-Sat. (no lunch break)

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