

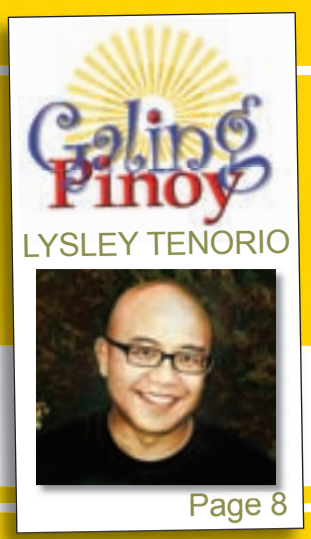
VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION

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

Verified Audit Circulation Annual Audit Report 2007-08

ASIAN

Lysley Tenorio:
Fil-Am fiction writer
wins Whiting
Writers Awards



www.asian JOURNAL.com

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Volume 19 - No. 87 • 5 Sections - 66 Pages WEEKEND EDITION NOVEMBER 15-18, 2008

THE PINOY AS CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

They say that you can find a Filipino in almost every part of the globe today. With over 11 million Filipino families overseas, it is not surprising to see them as citizens of the world. This diaspora has created opportunities for our kababayans to pursue their dreams. With their sacrifices came economic benefits for the country and their loved ones. It is with pride that we stand beside them, and be called a Pinoy.

Softly as I leave you

by RAYMUND RAPOSA
Inquirer.net

I planned to leave while the children were sleeping. But as I made a final check on my things, my two-year-old son Gabby came tottering in, waving his toy wand. He eyed my bag, tossed his blinking toy into it, and then ran to his mother. I did not have the heart to take it out of my bag.

I was joining the eight million workers in the Filipino diaspora, and I was resolved to hold back tears because in all my 23 years, I have never seen my own father cry. Maybe fathers don't cry because they can't risk breaking to their loved ones the fear and panic that the awesome responsibility of providing for the family brings.

I tousled Gabby's hair and told him that being a big boy he would have to take care of his mother and sister. He was wide-eyed and soberly nodding at my every word, and then he said "Ok, chocolatey buddy."

I had to laugh. It was our code word to bring home his favorite chocolate drink. He must have thought I would be returning in a week's time instead of next year.

I kissed my little daughter and wryly looked at my wife, but there were no more words exchanged between us. I kissed her but could not even manage one fierce hug. My heart felt as if it had turned into slivers of ice and one single show of emotion might shatter it.

I am lucky to have a shot at fulfilling the Filipino dream. It's a bit like the American dream, just a bit more ambitious. It involves helping not only the family, but the countless siblings, cousins, etc. It is mission fit for a messiah and many have failed to accomplish it, but still Filipinos try.

I descended the stairs and glanced back to sear into my memory every tiny line on their faces: Gabby gaily waving goodbye, Kim gurgling contentedly, Gie watching me with an inscrutable expression. I shifted my backpack and gave them my brightest boyish smile. Then I turned away before they could see the look of pure terror leap into my eyes. Fathers are not used to feeling so helpless.

The landmarks of my life are being swept away, but one thing keeps me fighting and breathing. It is still here in my bag, merrily blinking away.

Raymund Raposa, 24, works as a quality control technician in a Singapore based engineering firm.



I was leaving my family in our little hut smack in the middle of the Bicol rice fields, at the start of the infamous monsoon season. It broke my heart. I closed my eyes and offered a prayer. God knows I'll never forgive myself if something should happen to them.

For how long will I be gone? One year? Two years? Their entire childhood? Who will teach Gab to fly newspaper kites or bluff through evil Math fractions? Who will teach Kim her bedtime prayers or secret spaghetti recipes?

What am I getting at the sacrifice of being a father. It's the best job I ever had. It is something I'm actually good at, something I'm actually proud

of. Is it worth it? I was fully aware that working abroad can become a vicious cycle. The pay gets better until nothing comes close, at least not in a country with 88 million people and counting. I was worried that when I returned, I would be a stranger to them.

I was already inside a bus racing to Manila when the racking sobs came. In the privacy of the darkened bus, they could not be quelled.

I've always promised to love and to protect them. Now is the time to prove it. There is no fear right now—just vague apprehension.

The price of the American Dream

US study says college-educated Pinoy work in lower-level jobs

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
AJPress



BERNIE A. was an obstetrician/gynecologist in the Philippines with a successful practice in several hospitals in Manila. Since she and her family immigrated to California a couple of years ago, she has been working as a caregiver in Orange County.

Johnny C. was a licensed veterinarian in Quezon City until he moved to New York in 2006. Since then, he has earned a living by dog-walking and occasional cat-sitting.

These two Pinoy are among more than a million college-educated immigrant professionals who are working in lower-level jobs because their credentials aren't

► PAGE A4

Man Asian Literary Prize
PINOY EXPAT WINS ASIA'S TOP LITERARY PRIZE

Miguel Syjuco also bagged the grand prize in this year's Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature

STORY ON PAGE A2



Attention Goldilocks VIP Rewards members:
Nov. 1 is the start of the VIP Raffle Draw.

1st 2 Winners
Round Trip Ticket to the Philippines & Kulnarya Tour

2nd 2 Winners
3-Days/2 Nights in Las Vegas & 2 Concert Tickets

3rd 1 Winner
32" HDTV

4th 1 Winner
BlackBerry Cell Phone

Goldilocks
See Ad Inside For Details & Other Prizes

GENERAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY
for Adults and Kids

Veneers, Crowns and Bridges
White Fillings
Root Canal
Braces/Invisalign®
Non-surgical Gum Treatment
Teeth Whitening and More.

We work with most Dental PPO insurance.

TAWAG NA!
Dr. Cory Rabonza
818-788-3168

Healthy Smiles Dental Office
14622 Ventura Blvd. Suite 202
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

LEARN
MEDICAL CODING
AT
GLENDALE
HOPE OF ST. JAMES
LEARNING CENTER
Tel. (626) 339-8853 / (626) 506 5300