

OPINION & FEATURES

Another great fight for Manny Pacquiao

TAKING New York by storm, face head-on on December 6 in Las Vegas, pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao will be having selling out tickets in a matter of hours. The fight is touted as the grandest finale in this year's boxing calendar, "Pacman" Pacquiao and Olympic medalist Oscar de la Hoya will be the main attraction of the year as they hours.

Again, Pacquiao is bound to bring honor and glory to the Filipino fans as his inspiration to give every inch of his Pacquiao's match with de la Hoya almost did not push their breath in anticipation. Who will emerge victorious—

Of course, Filipinos all over the world stand by the Pam- of a man who rose from the ranks using hard work and skills. He is an inspiration to many of his countrymen as he has shown how to stand proud as a Filipino, and yet remain humble in spite of drowning in success.

It is not Pacquiao's first match—as he has been in the ring a dozen times, fought with tough opponents. It is no doubt that this is another great fight for Pacquiao. But we do not have to wait for December to know who will win—as for us, Pacquiao will always emerge as the true champion in the hearts of Filipinos. (AJ)

EDITORIAL

Philippines, and has taken the adulation of his strength to take home the crown.

through. And now that it did, many are holding Pacquiao or de la Hoya?

bansang Kamao 100 percent. He is the epitome

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Following Senator Clinton's lead

AS Filipinos, we are an incredibly loyal people, but even our most well-regarded and virtuous traits can get the best of us. We fight with intensity for the rights and recognition we have earned as brave veterans and as hardworking families who have contributed and sacrificed a great deal to the culture and economy of the country we now call home. But our loyalty and pride do not serve us if we hold on to it at the expense of improving the livelihood of our brothers and sisters.

Hillary supporter

I am one of the loyal 18 million voters who fervently fought for Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential nomination. As the head of a multinational corporation, former chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, and the mother of two children now grown, I've always been a strong advocate of Senator Clinton's platform and I continue to support her in many ways.

Senator Clinton's campaign stood for hardworking families, affordable healthcare for children, and she has been a firm advocate for women's rights and equality. I was totally for Senator Clinton when she was running for president, which is why when she lost, I was more than disappointed—I was heart broken. We worked so hard; it was a very upsetting defeat. Senator Clinton would have made an outstanding president and I still think she would have been the better contender.

Are we in this for Hillary?

But I had to look beyond my disappointment and ask myself what would be for the good of my county? Senator Clinton could not have said it better that evening in Denver at the Democratic National Convention, "Were you in this campaign just for me, or were you in it for that young Marine and others like him? Were you in it for that mom struggling with cancer while raising her kids? Were you in it for that young boy and his mom surviving on the minimum wage? Were you in it for all the people in this country who feel invisible?"

I now support Senator Obama

If we are true Hillary supporters, we need to fight for what her campaign stood for, and what she continues to stand for. To abandon all the hard work and support we've built at the risk of handing over the presidency to four more years of a flailing economy, rising federal debt, skyrocketing healthcare costs—of failed Bush policies—does not serve our community and certainly will not appease our disappointment. As a supporter of Senator Clinton, I now support Senator Obama. Senator Clinton went above her own hurt and disappointment and recognized what needs to be done for the

good of the nation. If she can go above her ego, so can we.

Why Senator Obama?

Voting for Senator McCain and Governor Palin would mean voting against nearly everything that Senator Clinton's campaign stood for and against improving the issues that concern women and families. In a recent article on ABS-CBN News, an interviewee proclaimed that Governor Palin's values are similar to Pinoys, but the facts about Obama and Biden regarding women and families couldn't prove that assertion more wrong.

Obama and Biden support a woman's right to choose; McCain and Palin oppose that right, even in the instance of rape, incest, or the health or life of the woman. Obama co-sponsored legislation to overturn a Supreme Court decision making it harder for women to challenge pay discrimination, McCain opposed such legislation.

Obama voted for increased funding for the Office of Violence Against Women and Biden authored and passed legislation that criminalizes domestic violence and holds batterers accountable. McCain voted against funding to fight and prevent domestic violence.

Obama is committed to expanding the Child and Dependent Care tax credit to millions of more working women and double funding for afterschool programs to serve more children, while McCain has repeatedly voted against providing billions in additional funding for child care services. Senator Obama's record shows he values community and is a family man; two things Filipinos value the most.

With only weeks left before Election Day, the imperative to unite as a party and follow Senator Clinton's lead in supporting the Democratic ticket has never been more urgent. Consider the alternative. McCain has voted with the Bush administration 90 percent of the time. Bush and Cheney have years of executive experience, but what they brought the American people has made it more difficult for families to make ends meet, has put the economy at great risk, and has fostered international distrust for our country. Do we want to continue in this direction?

Confronting racial prejudice

Senator Barack Obama has proven he possesses the vision and sound judgment to unite, to inspire, and to lead our nation to a safer, more secure future for the American people. This isn't about loyalty for one candidate or another; this is about rising above the confines

of our own ego, rising above the prejudices we may possess, and choosing for the greater good of the community. According to a new AP-Yahoo News Poll, four out of every ten white Americans hold at least a partly negative view toward blacks. This election is forcing many Filipinos to confront their racial prejudices as well.

Change we can believe in for all

As explained in a recent article in the Inquirer, "suspicions and mistrust of the African American community run deep, and the Filipino community is not immune to false impressions...As Filipinos migrate here, many bring with them some deep-seated prejudice against people of darker color, in itself a product of colonial mentality that dictates that everything white is superior."

I have witnessed this prejudice against other people of color in my community and we cannot deny that this elephant in the room—judging one by the color of their skin—unfortunately still exists and still serves as a determining factor for some Filipinos in their decision for whom to vote. We must rise above this bigoted perception. Whether we are Asian, Black, or Latino, we are ALL people of color and we are all fighting for change. This isn't about unfounded ideology or lofty rhetoric; this hopefulness is about real change—change we can believe in for us, for our children, and for ALL communities.

Loida Nicolas Lewis
Chairwoman and CEO of TLC Beatrice LLC



Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton

AP Photo by Richard Drew

The International Day of Non-Violence

“I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent.”— Mahatma Gandhi

Led by the United Nations, the observance of the International Day of Non-Violence comes a day after our entire nation joined our Muslim brothers in commemorating Eid'l Fitr, or the end of Ramadan fasting. It is ironic that the celebration of such a sacred tradition was held while war rages among government forces and MILF terrorists in Mindanao. The terrorists continue to retaliate against the government's failure to sign an agreement with them. The problem is made worse by the growing number of innocent civilians caught in the crossfire. The MILF points to breakaway rebel groups who have marauded and burned Mindanao villages, displacing residents, killing and torturing, inflicting sorrow and terror. But why do things have to turn out this way when differences can always be settled amicably?

Violence cannot solve anything. It just shows that someone inflicts physical harm to get his way or prove a point.

Our country once made the whole world notice that peace and freedom can be achieved through non-violent means when we ousted a dictatorship without a single loss of life. However, this was only made possible because the entire nation was moved by a common persuasion and came together behind one shared purpose. In short, everyone from the opposing sides thought of the common good.

The twentieth century's greatest advocate and strongest symbol of non-violence was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was a major political and spiritual leader of India and the Indian independence movement; and was regarded as the pioneer of Satyagraha—a philosophy and practice of nonviolent resistance. He would express his disagreement with the world. As Time Magazine recounts, by wearing the loincloth instead of a business suit, preferring to write his thoughts in pencil rather than the typewriter, and showed the importance of the plowed field rather than the belching factory. He forsook his Westernized character as a young law-

yer because he wanted to think differently and change the world peacefully. His beliefs sparked movements for civil rights and freedom across the world and led to India's independence. Indians came to call him "Mahatma," meaning "The Great Soul."

Gandhi's philosophy inspired the United Nations General Assembly to establish October 2, his birth anniversary, as the International Day of Non-Violence. The UN decided to commemorate the event yearly in honor of his contributions to the promulgation of peace worldwide, at the same time, bringing the importance of disseminating the message that non-violence secures a culture of peace and understanding in the global village.

Everyday, we are faced with different types of violence, whether it's at home, on the streets, and even at the workplace. But we have to realize that we only live in one world and whatever action we take, whether it's good or bad, will surely affect the people around us. Peace can only be achieved if we set aside selfish intentions. As Mahatma Gandhi himself said: "Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well." (Philstar.com)



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