

Drive home a 2009 Mercedes-Benz C-Class!

House of Imports makes it simple & easy—even if you're credit-challenged

IT'S never been easier to drive home the Mercedes-Benz of your dreams than now!

As a special introductory offer for the All-New 2009 Mercedes-Benz C-Class, the Filipino Fleet Department of the House of Imports is offering a special financing to Filipino Americans—even to those with credit problems!

"Many people, including Filipinos, are so intimidated by the thought of buying a Mercedes-Benz, thinking that a Benz is only for the truly rich and famous, that it's way above their reach," said Arnold Alix of House of Imports. "Well, the good news is that our Filipino Fleet Department now has special financing for *Pinoys*—very simple and easy financing plans. We have helped so many of our *kababayans* drive home a Benz—with zero down payment. *Kahit yung mga* may bad credit or *na-bankrupt* (Even those who have bad credit or have declared bankruptcy)," he added.

The 2009 C-Class new models showcase aggressive styling, larger bodies with bigger engines and a greater emphasis on driving dynamics, comfort and safety. Coming in sport and luxury models, the next generation Benz offers the power and the presence you expect from a Mercedes-Benz.

An impressive list of standard equipment includes a power sunroof, power front seats with lumbar support, dual-zone automatic climate control, 17-inch wheels, a central controller, an LCD display screen and Bluetooth connectivity. This last feature allows you to make calls directly through the vehicle audio-entertainment system while keeping your Bluetooth mobile phone anywhere in the vehicle. Thus, you can make and receive calls with both hands on the wheels and both eyes on the road.

Dindy Roa, another sales specialist from the House of Imports, stated that the strength of their team (which includes Arnold Alix and Reggie Bunagan) is that they truly care for their Filipino customers. "Arnold and Reggie have been in the business for over 20 years. We are all here to help our *kababayans* get the most benefits and to make sure they are happy. We are honest and we do all we can to help them get the car of their dreams," Roa said.

Alix pointed to Roa to drive home a point. "Dindy here is only 21 years old and yet, she is driving a brand-new Mercedes-Benz. You see, owning a Benz is really simple and easy here at House of Imports," Alix proudly said.

Aside from brand new Mercedes-Benz cars, House of Imports also has over 200 pre-owned cars of various makes and models in stock.

To see how easy and simple it is to own—and drive home—your dream car, call Arnold, Dindy or Reggie of House of Imports toll free at 1-888-208-0447 or visit them any day at 6862 Auto Center Drive Buena Park CA.

(Advertising Supplement)



THE RELUCTANT IMMIGRANTS



MINOTTE RODRIGO CUENCA

WE came to visit the states a couple of times before we migrated. It's different to be in the States as tourists and to actually live here.

When we first migrated, we were welcomed by delightful San Francisco weather, vast groceries, and constant water pressure and supply. Coming from Manila, (in the 90's) known for 8-hour brownouts, and *tabo-tabo* system for bathing, it was a treat to have clean and paved roads, actual bicycle lanes, efficient public transport and concerned public libraries and health clinics.

But after talking to some Fil-Ams who have lived here for many years, here are some aspects of American culture that still amaze many of us:

Think Big—Coming from a culture of sachet and *tingi*—where

Culture-Shockers

you can get *pisong* (one peso) shampoo, cooking oil, sugar, and even pre-paid cellphone load in the smallest denominations—Costco and Sam's Club's quantities are enormous. Sometimes, big quantities work but sometimes, they are just plain intimidating. Like the 36-roll toilet paper supply bought 2 months ago is still in the running, even for a big family like ours. But we can buy only so much milk, as refrigerator storage is a problem for too many gallons.

Two-thirds of the American population are overweight (BMI more than 25), 31 percent are obese (BMI more than 30)—The USA has the highest percentage of obese people in the world, followed by Mexico, where 24.2 percent of their people are obese. Japanese and Koreans ranked the lowest in the obesity list. Only 3.2 percent of their population is obese.

On the other hand, child malnutrition rate in the Philippines has remained at the 30 per cent level for over a decade. According to UNICEF, the malnutrition situation in the last decade has not substantially improved. More

than 5.5 million under-five children die annually, that's one Filipino child every 6 seconds.

For the children who survive a diet of instant noodles, their growth and intelligence are stunted due a lack of vital nutrients.

Gigantic food servings in restaurants and supermarkets—I have never seen chicken as big in Manila. All produce and meat products here are big, bright, and fat-less. Also, when eating out, if the price of the entrée is more than \$6, you can be sure that the serving will be more than enough for two. The servings here are so huge, maybe that explains point Number 2.

A "throw-away" society—and I mean that in a consumeristic sense. Here, they throw away left-over food (good enough for the next day's meal), plastic food containers, used markers, books, and crayons. They leave their still-good furniture out on the curb (so who hasn't taken in a TV set or 2?) because hauling them away would be too expensive.

My nephew worked in a grocery-deli chain and lamented that they throw their still per-

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