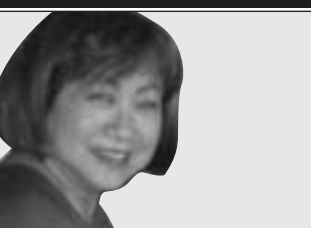


IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(Part 1 of 2)

I HAVE never been a boxing aficionado — till now. Watching Rocky Balboa get bloodied and beaten to a pulp, even if I knew that was pure Hollywood, has given me an aversion for any contact sport where someone is bound to get hurt. Who can forget Mike Tyson biting off Evander Holyfield's ear? Talk about appalling. Maybe it's a chick thing or an overly active empathetic hormone making me feel another person's pain on the gut level.

But I will push my queasy stomach aside for the moment because there is an angle to the man that needs to be said. *Time Magazine* ranked him the 22nd most influential person in the world for 2009. Time is right on the mark. For most of the 90 million Filipinos, of which several millions are spread far and wide in every corner of the world as immigrants or overseas foreign workers, there's a bit of Pacquiao's tenacity of spirit in every Filipino.

It's not just the usual rags to riches story of someone who rose from crushing poverty by sheer gumption, prize-fighting with his fists to put food on the

Pacquiao and the art of war

"The one who figures on victory at headquarters before even doing battle is the one who has the most strategic factors on his side."
— Sun Tzu, "The Art of War"

table at an early age, from the dusty streets of General Santos City, erstwhile known as Dadiangas by Sarangani Bay, to come to the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood half a world away, step in as replacement on two week's notice to vanquish a seasoned opponent and defeat bigger opponents convincingly since then to become one of the most amazing luminaries of the sport. He found a mentor who took him to his wings and nurtured a relationship that approaches that of a father to a son. Roach, the great boxing trainer of our time, who struggles with Parkinson's disease, is Pacquiao's Yoda. Roach has molded a willing, malleable and brilliant pupil transforming him from an aggressive but one-dimensional boxer into a complete fighter of the sport that is just beginning to recapture its former glory among a world audience, a sport that has sputtered a bit in the absence of a captivating persona people can admire.

Pacquiao's story is engaging and at 30 years old, he does inspire millions. Has there ever been anyone in history that can put a long, protracted war in Mindanao on hold and zap crime down to zilch nationwide for a few hours when he steps into the

ring to do battle? With his no-nonsense, precise, concise, 2-round total demolition of the British boxing champ, Ricky "The Hitman" Hatton, who was pole-axed with the vaunted left hook delivered with power, precision and speed that seemed to come from nowhere, some aficionados remain shell-shocked weeks after the event. Hatton still is. British fans still are. There's a newfound respect for the Pacman as Pound for Pound King. Recriminations and excuses are percolating to account for the devastating defeat in Hatton's camp. Cruel jokes about how Hatton should have gotten sponsors for the soles of his shoes for his 2 knockdowns and his embarrassing knockout and how he defended himself from punches with his face have surfaced on the internet.

Hatton shies away from the public these days admitting he has cried many times in the days since, admitting he never knew what hit him and may never get the courage to watch that footage ever. It guts his soul to be so unceremoniously done away with in such fashion, his tattered reputation needing redemption. Years from now, that particular segment of the "Battle between

East and West" will be replayed over and over again as part of boxing history on HBO and the disbelief will still linger. Blink and you'll miss it. I glimpsed Jack Nicholson rising in a flash from his seat in the third row with the audience in utter disbelief at the final blow of the second-round bout, his hand over his mouth in shock and awe. That is one show worth the thousands of dollars such ringside tickets command.

I could almost hear the collective screaming and groaning of 850,000 pay per view American buyers, over 16,000 live audience at the MGM Grand, thousands on short-circuit television, a million in England and several millions more in the Philippines and around the world, 168 nations in all. Two rounds! Stretch it to 2 more rounds and I'm getting my money's worth. But the truth is, it is brilliant and unforgettable. Roach did say fewer than 3 rounds but Pacquiao wisely and humbly said, only God knows.

Some boxing pundits the world over, on print and on the web, are quite ready to crown him as one of the great ones of boxing, putting him up there alongside the likes of the 1930's Henry Armstrong, who won on several weight divisions just like Pacquiao, or alongside Roberto Duran, Sugar Ray Leonard or even "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" Ali. Some pundits proven wrong are whispering in mild protest saying it's premature. **► PAGE B5**

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials — regardless of political affiliation — in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

Rep. Lyla Berg

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

SHE is a Jill of all trades. Fil-Am Lyla Berg is not only a Hawaii Representative but also carries the title doctor, radio host, state coordinator and Chief Executive Officer.

The 57-year-old is a member of the Democratic Party and represents the 18th Representative District in the Hawaii State House of Representatives of the Hawaii State Legislature.

Her district includes Hahaione, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Hawaii Loa Ridge, Aina Haina, Wailupe and Kahala on the island of Oahu.

Berg was elected to the Hawaii State of Representatives in 2004 and reelected in 2007.

She is the Assistant Majority Floor Leader.

Born in 1951, Berg was an overachiever from the start.

After graduating from Punahou School, Hawai'i, she attended Georgetown University where she double majored.

During her time at Georgetown, she attended the University of Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria.

After graduating with a Bachelor in Arts in German and English degree, she earned her Masters in Education at The American University in Washington D.C. and Masters of Education Degrees in Curriculum & Instruction and Educational Administration at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

In 1994, she then received her PH.D. in Education at The Union Institute, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Most recently in 2006, she graduated at John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Cambridge, MA.

A career educator with the



State of Hawai'i Department of Education she has served in a number of teaching capacities from classroom teacher, student activities coordinator, Vice Principal to Principal.

She also became an instructor to help other teachers in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa.

In 1990, she became a small business owner. She founded Lyla Berg & Associates, a business training organization aimed at consulting, training, and facilitation services on leadership development, effective communication skills, interpersonal relationships, and customer service.

She is also the founder of Kids Voting Hawaii and is the moderator for "211," a talk show sponsored by Aloha United Way, which airs weekly on a local Hawaii cable channel.

As a Hawaii State representative, she serves at the Vice-Chair of the Education Committee, a member in the House Policy Committee; Water, Land & Ocean Resources; Energy & Environmental Protection; Hawaiian Affairs; and Higher Education Committees.

Many supporters credit Berg for her commitment to support working people, the environment and issues and policies that affect women and families. ■



Bandila natin ay muling wawagayway sa HPMC

Halina at sumama sa PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2009

Photo by Ver Peltaranda



Sabado June 13, 2009 9:00 am

Napakaraming \$200.00 worth of grocery certificates na mapapanalunan!
10 certificates ang mapapanalo. You must have a raffle ticket to win. Raffle tickets will be distributed at 8:30 am before the Flag Raising ceremony.

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...may FREE TRIP to Manila pa para sa Seniors*
Seniors must register and get a Raffle Ticket at 8:30 am to qualify for the FREE TRIP to Manila.

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For more information, call or contact the following:
■ General Information... Errol Santos at 818.621.2912 or mpererol@yahoo.com
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MINDING YOUR FINANCES



ATTY. RAYMOND BULAON

"I CAN'T believe this is happening to me. Life's not fair. I haven't done anything bad. Why do I feel like I'm being punished for something I didn't do?" These are words I often hear from clients who come to me for bankruptcy advice.

Some people are quick to judge- until one day they find themselves in the same situation. Contrary to what others may think, most people who file for bankruptcy are honest, hard-working individuals who simply need to get a fresh financial start. Yes, they are your normal, everyday folks- just like you and me who have jobs and families. They may go to the same church that you go to. They could be your next-door neighbor or your co-worker. No one- absolutely no one- is ever exempt from the uncertainties that life brings us.

At one time or another in your life, you may face debt problems that you don't know what to do about. You may find yourself unemployed, sick, in the middle of a painful divorce or in a failed business venture. Recently, a couple came to me and told me how they invested their entire life savings of 20 years in a business that failed almost overnight. They never made a penny from day one. They poured their heart and soul into this business- only to watch it go up in smoke. Their world has fallen apart right in front of their very eyes.

We are living in tough economic times. How many people do you know at the moment that are living from hand to mouth, perhaps eking out a living by working 2 jobs with still "too much month at the end of the money?" My neighbor was recently laid off after working more than 12 years for his company who recently decided that they couldn't afford to keep him anymore. You may know several people right now who are going through foreclosure and for the first time in

their lives are facing the prospect of being homeless. It seems unthinkable, almost impossible for this to happen to you or someone close to you. Often, we can imagine these things happening to other people but we have never entertained the idea of them happening to us. Then one day, life throws us a curve ball.

The "fresh start" concept of bankruptcy is based on the idea of forgiveness. The honest debtor who lacks the resources to pay back creditors is given a chance to start a new life free from the burden of debts. What a concept! Do you realize where most people would be today had they not been given, at some point in life, a second chance that they so badly needed in order to start life over? I think our very own U. S. Congress realized this more than 100 years ago and thus enacted bankruptcy laws that will help debtors who are in genuine need of debt relief. These laws were passed to help, not hurt you.

So if you are currently going through debt problems and don't even feel like you deserve to be in this situation, there is no need to over-analyze everything and try to make sense out of what you are going through. The first step to financial recovery is a simple acknowledgement of where you are and taking responsibility for your problems- whether self-caused or not, it doesn't matter. Stop whining, stop complaining, and stop blaming yourself, the economy or others. Even if you haven't done anything wrong to deserve your current financial problems, remember that it can happen to the best of us and that includes you. But there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow because whatever you are going through will soon pass. The past doesn't have to be your future- unless you let it by dwelling on things that you cannot change. You can do better than that.

If you need to find out what your legal options are, we are here to help. Please call Toll-Free 1-866-477-7772 to schedule a free consultation. We have offices in Glendale, Cerritos and West Covina.

None of the information herein is intended to give legal advice for any specific situation. Atty. Ray Bulaon has successfully helped more than 4,000 clients get out of debt. To schedule a free attorney consultation, please call Ray Bulaon Law Offices at TOLL FREE 1-866-477-7772.