



FIGHTING FOR RECOGNITION. Boxers Ivan Calderon, of Puerto Rico, left, and Rodel Mayol, of the Philippines, pose during a news conference in New York, Wednesday, June 10. Calderon and Mayol will battle for Calderon's WBO light flyweight title at Madison Square Garden in New York on June 13. AP Photo by Seth Wenig

Pinoys in NY celebrate Philippine Independence Day

by JOSEPH L. PERALTA
AJPress

NEW YORK – Filipino culture was on full display along trendy Madison Avenue last June 7 as Filipino-Americans from New York and the tri-state area witnessed and participated in the festivities celebrating the 111th celebration of Philippine Independence organized by the Philippine Independence Day Council Inc. (PIDCI), in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate General in New York.

The day started early for high government and consular officials as a flag-raising ceremony took place at 8am in front of the Philippine Center Building along 5th Avenue.

Vice President Noli de Castro, former Senate President Manny Villar, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, Congresswoman Laarni Cayetano, Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations Hilario Davide, Consul General Cecille Rebono, members of the PIDCI, as well as World War II veterans from New York and New Jersey took part in the flag-raising, which was immediately followed by a mass at the center's Kalayaan Hall.

Around noon, the parade featuring contingents from different groups from the Tri-

state area and other parts of the United States started rolling along Madison Avenue, after a ceremonial ribbon-cutting. The parade started at 40th and Madison and finished at 26th and Madison. A VIP section was located at 28th and Madison where government officials and special guests were able to view the marchers and floats as they passed by.

There were about 100 contingents that participated in the parade representing religious, nonprofit, political, regional, school alumni, professional associations and companies doing business with the Fil-Am community, aside from a few marching bands. Cheers of "Mabuhay!" and "Happy Independence Day!" could be heard from parade watchers, some of whom waved

small Philippine flags. Most contingents were also greeted with warm applause from spectators.

Among the contingents who joined the parade included the NYPD Asian Jade Society, the Philippine Consulate General of New York, the Philippine Department of Tourism, Filipino Pastoral Ministry, various chapters of the Philippine Nurses Association, International Network of Filipinos Overseas, PWU Alumni Association of Tri-State Area, the Philippine New York Junior Chamber (Jaycees), Tanglaw Filipino Society of Suffolk County, Bayanihan Club Union New Jersey, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 1, Philippine Day Organizing Council (Passaic, NJ), Philippine

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Obama gives RP early...

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in the coming years to enhance further our mutually beneficial cooperation."

Copies of Obama's letter as well as US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney's cover letter were furnished to media by the Office of Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

His letter was apparently sent late last month as President Arroyo replied to thank him on May 29.

"Indeed our two countries share an indelible bond of friendship and cooperation that is based on history and our shared values of peace, freedom and democracy," the President said. (Philstar.com)

Mayol fight for championship

LOS ANGELES – Pinoy light flyweight boxer Rodel Mayol hopes that the third time is really the charm.

The 27-year-old from Cebu will attempt for the third time, to capture a championship when he faces off WBO Light Flyweight Champion Ivan Calderon. The two are set to meet in the undercard of the Miguel Cotto vs. Joshua Clottey welterweight match in Madison Square Garden in New York this Saturday.

Mayol lost his two previous championship matches, once to Japan-based Thai Eagle Kyowa in a 12-round unani-

mous decision in May 2006 for the WBC minimumweight title. Mayol also lost by TKO against Ulises Solis for the IBF light flyweight title in 2007.

"I would like to thank Top Rank for giving me the opportunity to fight at Madison Square Garden," said Mayol during a press conference in New York. "This is my 3rd time fighting for a title and I'm going to try my best to win this fight."

Mayol described Calderon as a "boring" fighter and on Saturday night, the Pinoy said that he's going to make sure

that "this fight will not be boring." (Joseph Pimentel, AJPress)

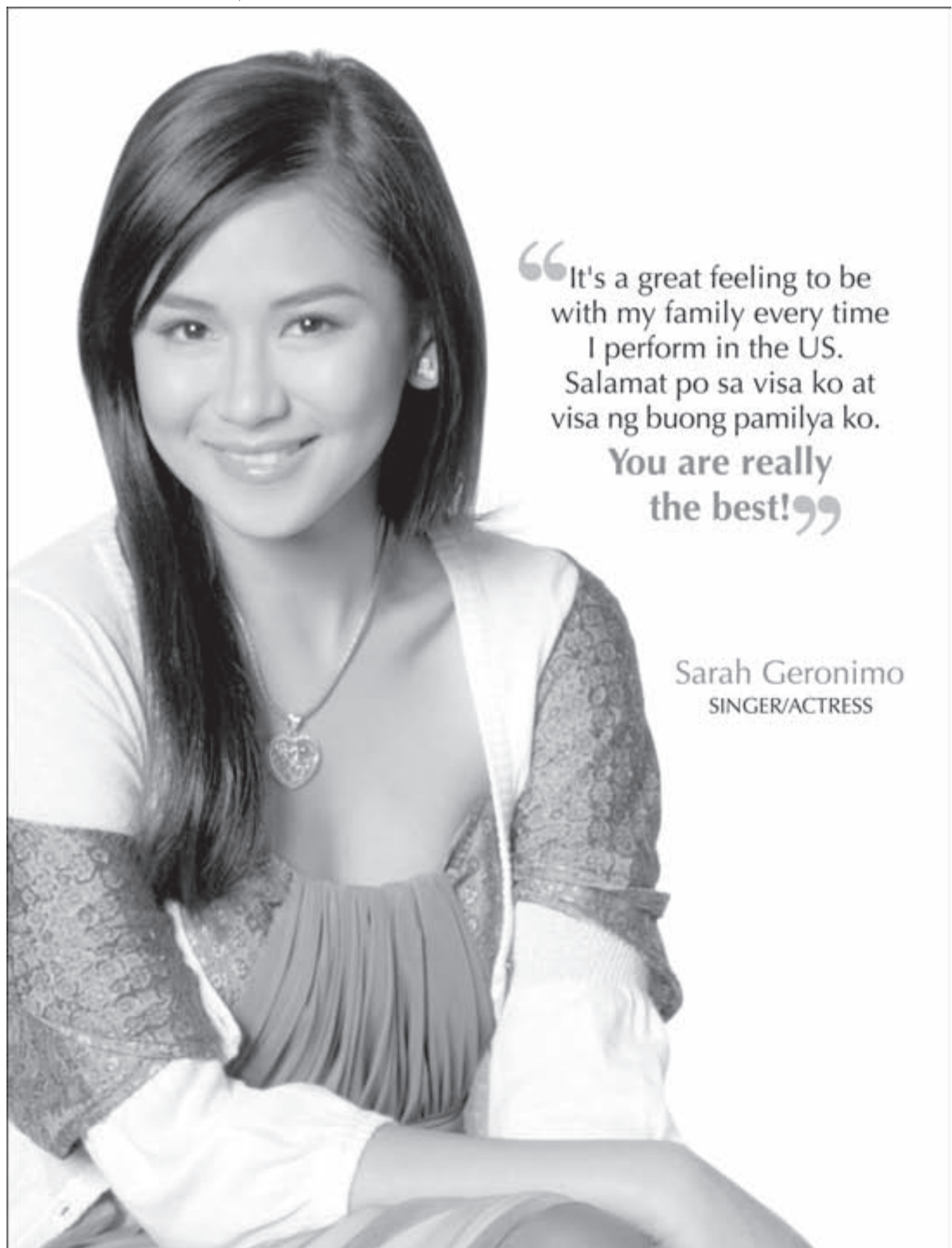
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Tuesday, June 16

Three informational presentations about the Annenberg School of Nursing program at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. followed by tours of skills lab, computer center and classroom. Refreshments will be served.

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