

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

## Filipinos urged to participate in 2010 census

PAGE 1 ◀

The United States Constitution requires the federal government to count the nation's population every ten years. The information gathered determines how many representatives will speak for a County or City in Washington, DC and state, as well as the City's share of most federal and state funding programs. Programs and facilities affected by the census count include funding for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior centers, among many other projects.

"We don't know where we're going if we don't know who we are," said Council President Garcetti during a press conference in Los Angeles City Hall. "And the Census is not only mandated every ten years, it has been a tradition in this country since 1790, something that we do to ensure we know who America is."

With the 2010 census only a year away, Census officials are getting a jump on the matter to ensure an accurate and complete count of the number of people residing in the US.

During the past week, politicians have been addressing their residents to take part of the Census, and Census Bureau officials were on the ground floor canvassing neighborhoods to verify addresses.

The Address Canvassing project is trying to verify more 145 million addresses nationwide.

"We put to work approximately 140,000 people to canvass all known streets and roads throughout the country," said Lynne Choy, media specialist of the 2010

Census Los Angeles Regional Census Center. "The canvassers will identify every living quarter where people live or could potentially live, and verify more than 145 million addresses."

Census officials are making sure that all residents will take part in the 2010 census.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has teamed up with community groups, faith-based organizations, labor unions, and business to ensure that every resident is counted.

"The Census is too important to leave anything to chance," Mayor Villaraigosa said.

However, many people in the community, especially in the Filipino community, have a misperception about giving their information to the Census Bureau, said Plata.

Plata said that Filipinos (especially Filipinos living illegally in the US) believe that any information they give the census bureau will be used against them or the information will be given to other government agencies like the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"But that's not true," said Plata. "The census is completely safe and confidential. We do not divulge any information out there to anybody and we don't share our information to any federal government agencies."

According to the 2000 census, there were only 2.3 million Filipinos living in the US. Almost half (1.3 million) lived in California and about 300,00 lived within the Greater Los Angeles County.

Plata said that there should have been more Filipinos counted in the last Census.

Plata said that it is important to have an accurate count of Filipinos.

"For example, suppose a disaster comes along (affecting Filipinos) and only 58 percent of Filipinos turned in their census information," questioned Plata. "What's going to happen to the other 42 percent? The government only gives money to what it sees on the census."

Plata added that filling out the census information is easy.

The census form asks 10 questions and takes 10 minutes to finish. ■

## Filipina migrant among dead in NY massacre

PAGE 1 ◀

The center is a stepping stone for recent arrivals, many of them with poor or nonexistent English-speaking skills.

Yigal was learning English there as she dreamed of getting a job working with children, her American husband Omri Yigal said.

"She wanted to learn English so she could find work," he said.

Police arrived at the Yigals' house on Saturday night to tell him his wife was among the dead.

"They said she probably went quickly so she didn't suffer, I pray," Omri said in a shaky voice.

### DFA condolences

Ed Malaya, spokesperson of the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs, said the Philippine Consulate General had sent an official to Binghamton to provide assistance to the Yigal family.

Binghamton has always been a lure for immigrants. More than 7,100 immigrants, most of them Asians, have settled in Binghamton since 2005, according to city statistics. They are a cosmopolitan mix of Kurds, Chinese, Filipinos, Africans, Iraqis—but only a fraction of the city's predominantly white population of 43,000.

Police Chief Joseph Zikuski said most of the dead had multiple bullet wounds.

It was the nation's worst mass shooting since the April 16, 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, considered the bloodiest killing spree in modern US history. On that day, a South Korean student majoring in English shot dead 32 people before aiming the gun at himself.

The bespectacled Wong, who had taken classes at the center to

improve the broken English that had left him feeling isolated, had burst in wearing body armor and shooting two handguns—a 9 mm and a .45 caliber.

The dead included four Chinese nationals, Beijing state media said.

### Receptionist was a hero

Receptionist Shirley DeLucia, 61, played dead, then called police despite her injuries and stayed on the line while the gunman remained in the building.

"She's a hero in her own right," Zikuski said.

DeLucia remained in critical condition. Police said she and three other hospitalized victims were all expected to survive.

Con Thi Thach, 53, an immigrant from Vietnam, had scuttled in late for her 10 a.m. English class, where other immigrants were taking turns trying to discern the meaning of the phrase "in the black." Some thought it might relate to the black market, others were puzzled at why a color would have any other meaning.

It remains unclear why Wong strapped on a bulletproof vest, barged in on the class and opened fire.

Perhaps most implausible of all is that the killer was one of their own—as well as a son of one of their own.

The gunman's father was well known in the area through his work years ago at the now-defunct World Relief Organization, helping new arrivals. He would hook people up with a doctor, help them get on food stamps. (*Inquirer.net*)

## Martin will sing RP anthem in Pacquiao-Hatton

PAGE 1 ◀

The unbeaten American (24-0 with 11 knockouts) bucked two knockdowns to beat Kendall Holt by unanimous decision in Montreal, Canada.

"I want the big dogs," Bradley told EastSideBoxing after the post-fight conference. "I want the winner of Hatton-Pacquiao, definitely. If I can't get them, I want [Juan Manuel] Marquez. I want to be the star of the light-

welterweight] division."

Though not a big puncher, the 25-year-old Bradley is sneaky and crafty. He also showed remarkable recuperative powers against Holt, who decked him with a powerful left hook in the first round and again in the 12th round.

In-between, however, Bradley was dominant to earn the judges' nod. ■

## US Bank to look into investing in the Fil-Am community

PAGE 1 ◀

and spent a few hours at SIPA headquarters on Thursday, April 2, to see "up close the great things that are happening here in Historic Filipinotown."

Davis was in Los Angeles to speak at Greenlining's 16th Annual Economic Summit at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels.

The *Asian Journal* caught up with Davis at SIPA and discussed the importance of the banking industry to reach out to ethnic communities.

*AJ: Good afternoon Mr. Davis. Tell us what brings you out here today?*

RD: I wanted to see some of the community activities that are supporting this great [Filipino] market. Historic Filipinotown is something that I have heard a lot about. [SIPA Executive Director] Joel [Jacinto] has spoken a great deal about it. Bob of Greenlining is also very supportive of this and he wanted us to see up close the great things that are happening here."

*AJ: When I was listening in to the presentation a moment ago, you had mentioned how completely unaware you were of the potential of the Filipino community. Please elaborate on that.*

RD: Well, it's a joint responsibility. You

guys [Filipinos] need to tell your story better and we need to listen better. Days like today really move those things together. We had a chance to come out and see it first hand, we had a chance to have our attention completely focus on what your mission is, and now, we'll be much more focused on helping in the future."

*AJ: How important is that to collaborate with ethnic communities like you had mentioned during the presentation the Hispanic, and now possibly the Asian market?*

RD: It's very important but it's not just ethnic. Banks are supposed to be in the community. In the original days, 150 years ago, when banking started it was all about helping the community. Banks basically took money from customers that needed to be safely kept and would turn around and lend it to people who have a dream. And a 150 years later, here we are in different communities. What's so neat about this and Historic Filipinotown and everything that you guys have all done is it gives us another place to find that core or that nerve center so we look forward to opportunities like this to get closer to communities and [the Filipino community] has done a great job creating a place to gather.

*AJ: You just toured Historic Filipinotown, what's your reaction? What do you think of this place?*

RD: We did [tour Historic Filipinotown]. It's great. It seems to me you [Filipinos here] have a great opportunity to tell your story outside of Filipinotown... From what I understand this is the gateway for people as they immigrate into the states, they often come here to this community and what I would say to you is when they move out to the Greater Los Angeles County and Orange County and other places to keep coming back here [to Historic Filipinotown] as their place to keep connected.

*AJ: Last question, where do you go from here now that you know about the Filipino community and have attained all this knowledge about us?*

RD: Well, I came here with the head of our business in California. We have a number of [Filipino] employees. So we are going to go back and learn more about our own involvement with the Filipino community, Filipinotown, and our own employees who are Filipino. We'll take this as a learning step to see what we can do more for us, for you [the Filipino community] and together we'll be better. (*Joseph Pimentel*)

## 'Greediest' list includes Imelda Marcos

PAGE 1 ◀

Marcos, 79, was also known for hosting lavish parties to entertain foreign guests during the reign of her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The term "Imeldific" was in-

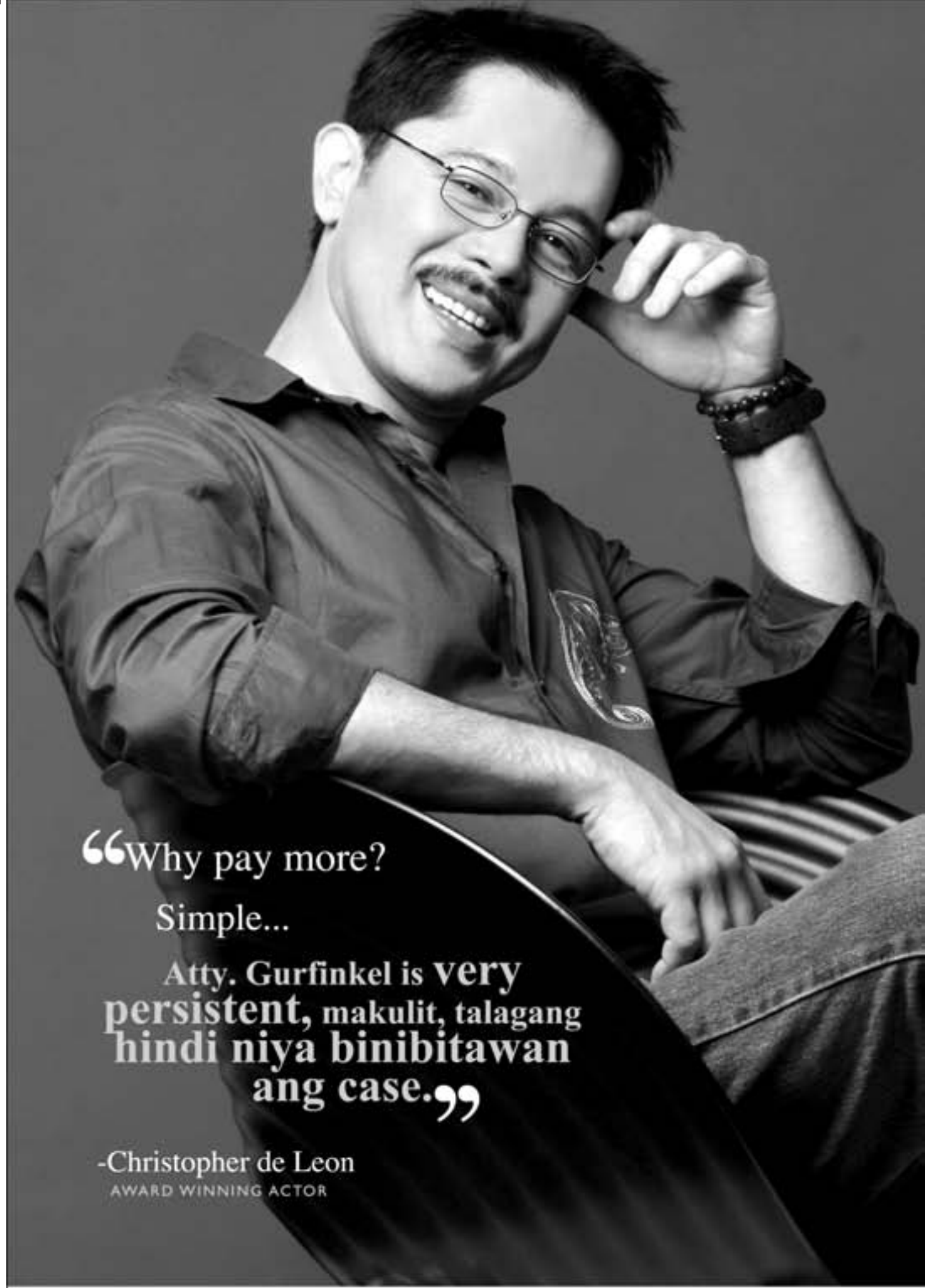
troduced to connote excess and extravagance.

"From Bernard Madoff to AIG's bonus-earning execs, Wall Street has redefined economic excess. But the Masters of the

Universe didn't invent greed," said *Newsweek*.

Also on the list were Roman general Marcus Licinius Crassus, industrialist William H. Vanderbilt, American politician

William M. "Boss" Tweed, Empress Dowager Cixi of China, swindler Charles Ponzi, Wall Street arbitrageur Ivan Boesky and former Tyco International CEO Dennis Kozlowski. ■



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