

## LWUA's Pichay to create water bank

PAGE A1 ◀

The former three-term congressman from Surigao del Sur also shared that he intends to make the country's water system the greenest water system in the world.

"Under PD 198, watershed areas should be entrusted to us for us to protect and reforest, and that's exactly what we intend to do. We will also be helping to save water districts from high interest rates when getting loans from various credit facilities," he added.

Aside from the establishment of Water Bank, Pichay also plans to reduce red tape at LWUA and discourage water rate increases in his five-year term as LWUA administrator.

"I expect to be able to serve round 30 to 40 million Filipinos when I complete my five year stint with the LWUA in 2013," Pichay shared.

Pichay also disclosed that the country needs an estimated P450 billion to fully develop its water

resources and supply systems to include provision for filtration and treatment. He said that the establishment of the bank would help augment the government's annual budgetary appropriations for water supply.

LWUA is currently serving 612 water districts in the country but still 755 municipalities have no water systems.

Pichay said the plan is to establish 50 additional water districts until 2010.

The LWUA is responsible for the government's potable water projects nationwide and extends credit and financial assistance for various projects in water districts, which include engineering studies and design improvement.

LWUA was previously under the Department of Public Works and Highways but President Gloria Arroyo transferred it to the Department of Health last August 2008. ■

## Pacquiao, Hatton shine on the red carpet

PAGE A1 ◀

"I'm glad to be here tonight," said Pacquiao. "It's my first time to be here on a red carpet. There are so many people here. I'm surprised. Maybe there are a lot of people who love boxing in this area."

If the Pacquiao vs. Hatton championship fight matches the excitement at the Roosevelt, fans should expect a good brutal fight.

During the press conference, Hatton and Pacquiao admitted to a pool of reporters that neither of them is going to back down once they step inside the ring.

"The style of both of us kind of looks similar," said Pacquiao. "There's going to be a lot of action in the ring. You never know who is going to win that night."

"Pacquiao is not going to back down," added Hatton. "I'm not going to back down."

Most boxing pundits and analysts are predicting a Pacquiao win. Many of the pundits, after watching Pacquiao's dismantling of Oscar De La Hoya with speed and relentlessness believe that Hatton's slow and power style lends itself for an easy Pacquiao victory. Even Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach is predicting a quick and easy 3rd round knockout.

"If he fights like he has in the past, bullying in, Manny is going to knock him out," said Roach.

However, Hatton and his trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr. said that Pacquiao is vulnerable to damaging attacks especially to the body.

Mayweather Sr., who was booed during the introduction by the primarily pro-Pacquiao crowd at the Roosevelt, said that he's convinced if Pacquiao comes charging in as he has in so many fights, Hatton will take him down.

"He's [Pacquiao] been shaken up before," said the loquacious Mayweather Sr. to the Asian Journal. "He's the only guy [who is] going to go backwards in this fight. You watch Pacquiao, and he makes a lot of mistakes defensively. I predict a body shot will get him."

Mayweather Sr., who once trained De La Hoya, still does not give credit to Pacquiao for beating his former protégé.

"I wasn't part of that fight," said Mayweather Sr., who declined to train De La Hoya for the Pacquiao fight because he focused training Hatton. "What Pacquiao did was beat a shell of De La Hoya."

Hatton said that Pacquiao need to be aware of his power and his newfound speed. At times, Hatton seemed frustrated and defensive by a number of reporters who question the Englishman's speed, or lack thereof inside the ring.

"They [the boxing pundits] said I wasn't going to out jab Paulie [Malignaggi]," said Hatton of his win against the New Yorker Malignaggi. "But I out speeded him and out jabbed him in the fight. Just look at the numbers."

Hatton added that training with Mayweather Sr. has helped him in the speed department.

"I invite all of you to watch me train," he said. "Just see how fast I am, how explosive I am and with better head movement now."

"Manny is quite easy to hit," Hatton continued. "He's been shaken up a few times in his last fights. I hope he's improved. I hope his body and chin [has improved] has because he's going to be fighting the biggest man he's ever fought before."

"It'll surprise you to see how fast I am," said Hatton.

Pacquiao gave a quick laugh when a reporter asked him about Hatton's speed.

"All I can say is that speed will be part of this fight," said Pacquiao. "What I know is that I'm faster than him but he believes he's faster than me so what can I do?"

With about five weeks remaining until the fight, Pacquiao and Hatton are preparing for what may be a historic match.

A win for Pacquiao would net him a fourth world title in a fourth different weight division. Hatton would finally be considered for the pound-4-pound champion title.

Neither man is going to back down. No matter what happens on May 2, boxing fans are only expecting one thing—a Hollywood ending. (Joseph Pimentel)

## Language discrimination bill approved by Senate Committee

PAGE A1 ◀

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved (3-2) legislation on Tuesday, March 31 authored by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo) to add the use of any language to the list of protections under the Unruh Civil Rights Act.

The issue stems from a proposed policy announced last summer by the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) to suspend players who do not speak English. The LPGA later rescinded the proposal after objections from Senator Yee and over 50 civil rights organizations.

"No one should be discriminated against simply for speaking their language," said Yee. "SB 242 will rightfully add language to the list of protected classes within California's civil rights act."

In September of 2008, Senator Yee led an effort to oppose a discriminatory policy by the LPGA which would have required players on Tour to be proficient in English starting this year. De-

spite there being no relevance to the sport, the LPGA claimed that it was important for players to be able to interact with American media and event sponsors. Ironically, many of the sponsors are international companies and a number of the tournaments are not held in the United States. No other professional sports league in the United States has such a mandate.

"It is quite disheartening that in the 21st century any organization would think such a policy is acceptable," said Yee. "With the passage of SB 242 such discriminatory mandates will not only be unfair, but illegal."

Under SB 242, it would be a violation of state law for an entity to adopt or enforce a policy that limits or prohibits the use of any language in a business establishment, unless the language restriction is justified by a business necessity and notification has been provided of the circumstances at the time when the language restriction is required and of the consequences.

A business necessity would be defined as "an overriding legitimate business purpose for which all of the following are true: the language restriction is necessary to the safe and efficient operation of the business; the language restriction effectively fulfills the business purpose it is supposed to serve; and an alternative practice to the language restriction that would accomplish the business purpose equally well with a lesser discriminatory impact does not exist."

SB 242 will now be considered by the entire Senate. ■

Door to Door Since 1994

# attila cargo

**CALL FOR SIZES**

Get a Complimentary "buddy box" (24x10x10) if you ship a regular balikbayan box!

FOR FREE PICK-UP, CALL TOLL FREE **1-877-428-8452**

\*FREE Replacement Box & FREE Strapping \*AIR/SEA Freight door-to-door delivery

## JUSTFARES TRAVEL

FOR EXCELLENT SERVICE... AND LOW FARES...

### MANILA SPECIAL ROUND TRIP



**SAN FRANCISCO - MANILA / CLARK**

# \$560.00

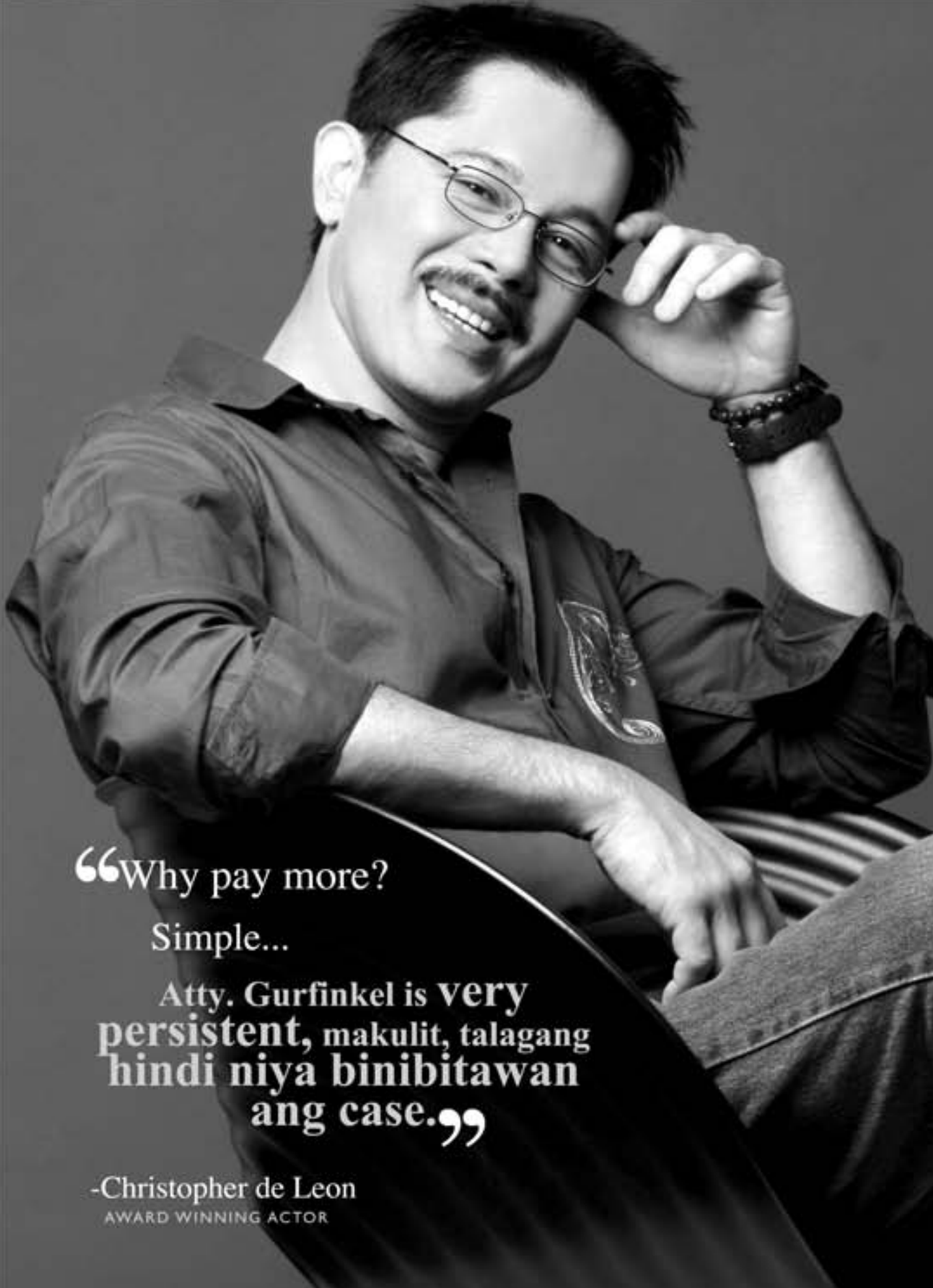
**SPECIAL RATES ON OTHER AIRLINES**

- \* Restrictions apply
- \* Fares subject to change w/o prior notice
- \* Other destinations also available
- \* Taxes and other Surcharges not Included

[www.justfares.com](http://www.justfares.com)

Published Rates Subject to Change

**CALL: 1-866-907-1756**



“Why pay more?  
Simple...  
Atty. Gurfinkel is **VERY** persistent, makulit, talagang hindi niya binibitawan ang case.”

-Christopher de Leon  
AWARD WINNING ACTOR

To schedule a phone or in-person consultation, call

Toll free **1 (866) 487-3465**

**1 (866) GURFINKEL**

MICHAEL  
**GURFINKEL**  
LAW OFFICES

*A Full Service Immigration Law Firm*

[www.gurfinkel.com](http://www.gurfinkel.com)

LOS ANGELES • SAN FRANCISCO • NEW YORK • PHILIPPINES

Michael J. Gurfinkel is licensed, and an active member of the State Bar of California and New York. All immigration services are provided by, or under the supervision of an active member of the State Bar of California. Each case is different. The information contained herein, including testimonials, "Success Stories" or endorsements are of general nature, and not intended to apply to any particular case, and do not constitute a prediction, warranty, guarantee or legal advice regarding the outcome of your legal matter. No attorney-client relationship is, or shall be, established hereby.