

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Pinoy tries out for NBA D League

PAGE A1 ◀

Operations and player personnel for the NBA Development League.

The NBA D-League has produced a number of players to the NBA. Most notably, Shannon Brown of the World Champion Los Angeles Lakers was a member of three D-League teams before being called up. Former LA Clippers Bobby Simmons went from D-League player to winning the NBA's Most Improved Player award in 2005.

Aguilar said that going through the D-League is a great way to get into the NBA.

"This experience is really good," added Aguilar to the *Asian Journal*. "You get a chance to compete with other people trying to make it to the next level too. You know they are going to give it their best. You can see how you compare yourself with them."

At 6'10", Aguilar has a big chance on making it to the NBA. The former Ateneo basketball star became the first Philippine born player to sign a Division I scholarship when he accepted a basketball scholarship to Western Kentucky University (WKU) two years ago.

Now, he's hoping to be the first Philippine born player to make in the league.

Coming out of the Philippines, a lot of hype followed him to the US. However, nagging injuries while at WKU prevented him from fulfilling his potential.

Despite the lack of production in college, NBA scouts in attendance at the pre-draft camp noticed the lanky Filipinos game.

"He's got a lot of potential," said Hernando Planells, Scout for the Director of Scouting Services for the NBA Marty Blake. "Athletically, he can run with the best big mans out there. He's long, athletic. He's great."

Planells added, "Athleticism is the key to the game. Whether it's international or the NBA so I think he has the potential to do some damage."

Aguilar's coach during the two-day tryout was also impressed with the Filipino. However, he referred Aguilar as a bit of a 'tweener,' a player who is able to play two positions, but is not ideally suited to play either.

"I liked that he's long," said Ben MacDonald, Assistant Coach for the Erie Bayhawks of the NBA D-League. "He can run



AJPress photo by Joseph Pimentel

the court well for a guy his size. He has good hands. He finishes around the basket pretty well. He just needs to find his game."

MacDonald explained that although Aguilar has the height of a big power forward or small center, that he's better suited as a small forward.

"He needs to find what kind of post moves he's able to make. He needs to make that outside 15 to 18 foot shot on a more consistent basis," MacDonald said. "I think what happened to him is that because he's so tall other coaches have made him into a center. I think he's better suited as a small forward especially in the NBA. And if he does play small forward, he needs better defensive skills because he'll be guarding guys like Kobe Bryant."

MacDonald added that Aguilar should pattern his game after current Detroit Piston player Rasheed Wallace. MacDonald said that Wallace has great post moves and can make outside jump shots.

Aguilar said that his experience during the pre-draft camp was great. He also said that it's going to be tough.

"It's going to be hard but it's not impossible," said Aguilar. "This is just a stepping-stone. I've already spoken to a lot of teams. Hopefully, I can do well."

Aguilar knows that he has a whole nation rooting for him. He said that he's thankful for being able to be in this position.

"Thank you to all the supporters out there," he said. "Hopefully, I can achieve my goals and people will recognize the Philippines."

Aguilar will fly home to the Philippines this week. He'll join the Philippine National team that will compete in the Jones Cup and the FIBA Asia Men's basketball championships in China.

Japeth Aguilar, is the son of former PBA star Peter Aguilar. (Joseph Pimentel)

Asians reject gov's plan to slash CA's critical services

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
AJPress

MEMBERS of Asian and Pacific Islander communities gathered a few days ago for a press conference at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center in Los Angeles to express their strong opposition to Governor Schwarzenegger's plans to eliminate or drastically reduce many health and human services to help solve the state's \$24.3 billion deficit.

In his recent recommendations to close California's budget deficit, the Governor proposed to eliminate or drastically reduce basic assistance to immigrant seniors, health services for children, living

and food assistance to millions of Californians, as well as the reduction of counseling, monitoring and drug assistance to the HIV/AIDS community. "Without these services, Asians and Pacific Islanders face costly visits to the emergency room, the possibility of going hungry, and the threat of homelessness," explained Farhana Shahid, Lead Community Advocate for CHAI with the South Asian Network.

"The Governor's suggested cuts would dismantle the state's safety net services,"

said Stella Kim, Health Project Coordinator with the Korean Resource Center. "California cannot afford to abandon its residents at a time when families are struggling simply to make ends meet."

"By slashing critical services, California would lose billions of dollars in federal funding," explains Hala Masri, State Policy Advocate with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "Lawmakers must fully utilize federal dollars and raise revenues to resolve our budget crisis, care for our children and seniors, and preserve our values as a state." ■

Pres. Arroyo lauds overseas Pinoy...

PAGE A1 ◀

Gentleman Miguel Arroyo, some members of Congress, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, and Internal Affairs adviser and FIL-USA founder Edgardo Pamintuan.

Ambassador Willy Gaa and Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon, and Philippine Tourism Director Annie Cuevas, and Deputy Director Manny Ilagan were also in attendance at the reception.

Arroyo said that the Philippines, like China and Vietnam had done well, despite the recession because it had taken steps to safeguard its long-term priorities. "We took the necessary steps in the past," Arroyo said. "We are also working toward a balanced budget, and we believe that our government should live within its means." Arroyo said that her government could have balanced the budget last year, "but the recession in America—where you live—the biggest market in the world, had impacted our budget," she said.

"The government must live within its means, as the normal Filipino does," Arroyo stressed. "Now more than ever, you and the overseas Filipino workers are keeping our country resilient. Through your unswerving dedication and your care, you are our far-flung heroes and the greatest contributors towards our nation's resiliency."

"From Asia to North America to Europe, you are great patriots and great family men and women, and we envy all of you," Arroyo added.

The President said that everyone has a part to play to see the country through these difficult economic times. "It is important that the next generation will have all the opportunities. "Let us all remain hopeful and optimistic that the global economy will recover."

She said that her government would remain vigilant in keeping re-

cession away from its shores. "What I would like to ask FIL-USA and the all the Filipinos here is to continue to be patriots so that we—I and the members of Congress who are here today—can keep working to keep the economy steady." Arroyo said.

She said that this optimism about the future is indicated in surveys after surveys. "So I will ask FIL-USA to empower the Filipinos here to keep the fire of optimism of our people. The Philippines has the biggest numbers of overseas workers in the world. Let us not forget that there are 8 million Filipinos living abroad, but you send two-thirds of our revenues, and that 5 million of you are in the United States. *Tuloy pa rin ang tulong ninyo sa Pilipinas* (You continue to help the Philippines). So with Filipinos in the United States, especially here in the Los Angeles; with your continuing support us, we can say that our country is in good hands."

FIL-USA was organized in about a month, according to Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan. It has chapters in San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Houston, Chicago, New York, and Washington DC "We established this organization to show to the Filipino people—that aside from the negative views that we are getting—we made our own presentations of the infrastructure projects and the social services that the President's administration provided for the first time in 30 years," Secretary Pamintuan told *Asian Journal*.

"The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other financial institutions attested that the Philippines generated a positive GDP during the last 30 years for the first time," Pamintuan said. "We had economic growth. It is not negative, unlike other countries. All the (other Asian countries) had negative growth, except China and Vietnam (and the Philippines)."

Pamintuan is in charge of the office of the adviser on internal affairs. He championed the Luzon urban beltway, and maintains all infrastructure projects that link major roads from the Calabarzon region to Metro Manila. (Rene Villaroman)

Manila airport remains on alert for H1N1

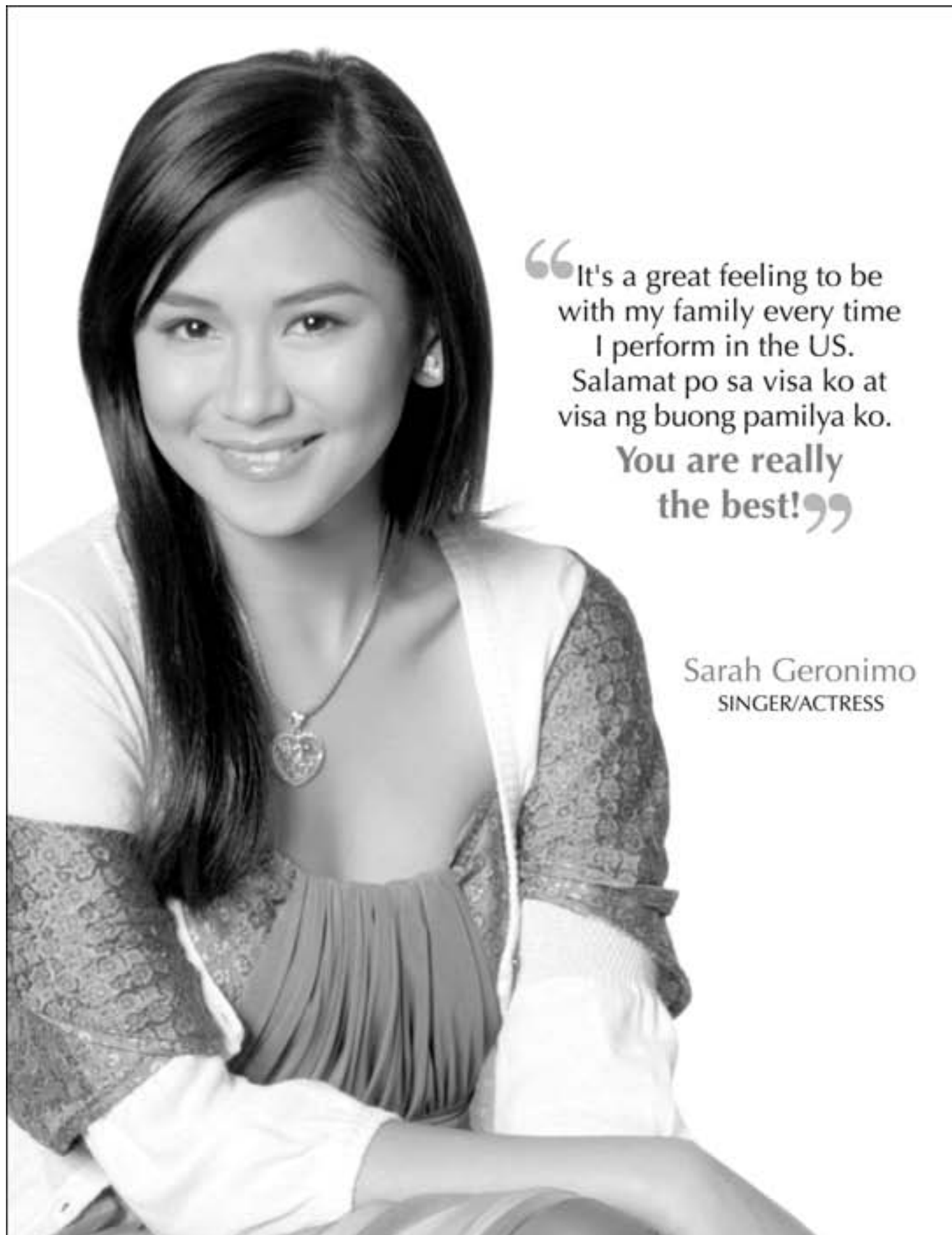
PAGE A1 ◀

of non-airport personnel at the NAIA except in "extremely necessary" circumstances.

The issuance of visitor passes to send off or meet passengers has been temporarily suspended. Filming activities within the complex have also been put off indefinitely.

Even requests for media coverage at the NAIA complex, especially within the terminal premises, are now being discouraged.

"We hope people will understand and see the wisdom in what we are doing. Airports are transit points for people coming from different parts of the world. The risk is high in this place," Cusi said. ■



“It's a great feeling to be with my family every time I perform in the US. Salamat po sa visa ko at visa ng buong pamilya ko. You are really the best!”

Sarah Geronimo
SINGER/ACTRESS

TLS EDUCATION CENTER
550 Lakeside Drive, Suite 2 Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Providing Quality Education for Quality Healthcare!

WE OFFER CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS, SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS FOR TODAY'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

- Nurse Assistant Training Program
- Basic Life Support (CPR & First Aid)
- Restorative Nurse Assistant (RNA) Program
- Medication Management Tech Program
- Acute Care Nurse Attendant Program
- Home Health Aide Training Program
- I.V. Therapy & Blood Withdrawal Program
- Career Dev't Workshop

Continuing Education Unit on Topics such as Diabetes & Obesity, Heart Disease, Stroke, Culture Change, Managing Stress, and Managing Conflict with Co-Workers.

FOR CLASS SCHEDULES & OTHER INFO. CALL (408) 747-0194

Visit us at www.TrainingForLifeSaving.com

Door to Door Since 1994

attila cargo

CALL FOR SIZES

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

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

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

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.