

balita



No. 3597, April 23, 2015

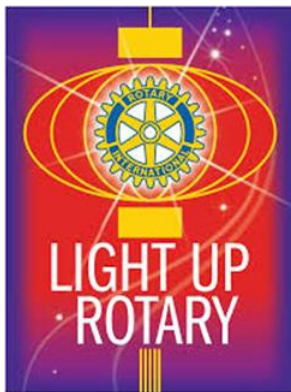
GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER



Hon. Loren B. Legarda
Senator, Republic of the Philippines

KABALITA

With her wits and beauty as well as her broadcasting charm, no doubt this *Iskolar ng Bayan* legislator can really make the climate change. Let us all welcome the nation's Climate Manager as she shows Rotarians the way to weather the challenges of a changing Earth.



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PROGRAM

RCM's 35th for RY 2014-15

April 23, 2015, Thursday, 12N,
Manila Polo Club McKinley Room

OIC/Moderator : PVP Fausto Preysler

**“A Joint Meeting Between Rotary Club of Manila (RCM)
and Rotary Club of Forbes Park (RCFP)”**

P R O G R A M T I M E T A B L E

11:30 PM	Registration & Cocktails	
12:25 PM	Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated	PVP Fausto Preysler OIC/Moderator
12:30 PM	Call to Order	RCM Pres. Frank Evaristo; RCFP Pres. John Tiong
	Singing of Republic of the Philippines National Anthem Invocation A moment of silent prayer for the speedy recovery of Spouse Monette Guevara who is currently indisposed RCM Hymn RCFP Hymn The 4-Way Test Credo	RCM WF Music Chorale RCFP PN Lito Bunag
12:40 PM	Introduction of - -Guests and Visiting Rotarians -Personalities seated at the Head Table Welcome Song	RCM WF Music Chorale RCFP Music Committee RCFP PP Frankie Adriano RCM Rtn. Art Lopez
12:45 PM	Maligayang Bati - RCM Birthday Celebrants: April 23...PD Jun Hallare, Rtn. Pabling Carpo; April 24...Rtn. Warren So; April 25...Rtn. Ani Desierto; April 28...Rtn. Celso Abastillas; RCFP Birthday Celebrants: Apr 4..PN Lito Buñag; Apr 24..PP Leo Garcia Happy Birthday Song	RCM WF Music Chorale
12:50 PM	President's Time	RCM WF Music Chorale RCM Pres. Frank Evaristo; RCFP Pres. John Tiong
12:55 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker	RCM Rtn. Babe Romualdez
1:00 PM	Address: Honorable Loren B. Legarda Senator, Republic of the Philippines Public Forum Response and presentation of token of appreciation to Sen. Loren B. Legarda	RCM Pres. Frank Evaristo; RCFP Pres. John Tiong
2:00 PM	Adjournment	

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



The Rotary Year 2014-2015 is nearing the homestretch and as the saying goes, the best is always reserved for last. On news within our club and elsewhere in the district, it was still, definitely, a busy but fun-filled week. Last April 22, 2015, I attended the 40th Charter Anniversary of our daughter club, the Rotary Club of Raha Sulayman led by Best Class President Dong Concepcion, of which I was once its President during the Rotary year 1998-1999, at the Gloria Maris Seafood Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan City. It was, indeed, an honor to be invited to the club which launched my Rotary career, a club which has reached a four (4) decade milestone, having been chartered in 1975, where I had an opportunity to reminisce the good old days with my former fellow Rotarians, as I took part now as an Incoming Assistant Governor who will serve during the term of our very own DGE/PP Obet Pagdanganan. Tonight, I will attend the opening day block screening of the movie, "Avengers", presented by the Rotary Club of Chinatown Manila led by Best Class President Andrew Co at the Promenade Annex G in Greenhills, San Juan City. Last April 18, 2015, our very own International Relations Co-Chairman PD Ed Lee represented our club at the 75th Inaugural and Induction Ceremonies of the Board of Directors and Officers of our daughter club, the Rotary Club of Guam where he presented our club's cash gift of US\$ 1,000.00 which their club will use for their civic projects and on this note, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to PD Ed Lee for representing our club during this momentous event in the history of the Rotary Club of Guam. On that same date here in our country, PVP Lance Masters graduated from the Rotary Leadership Institute at the Aloha Hotel in Malate, Manila where he added another feather to the cap of Asia's First Rotary Club by being adjudged the Valedictorian of his batch. On this note, our club is truly proud of his achievements as his involvement in Rotary activities not only in our club but in the district and in the international stage as well has made him a role model for Rotarians to emulate. Meanwhile, I have appointed VPE/VP Teddy Ocampo to chair the 96th Charter Anniversary Committee and which he has graciously accepted, including, the responsibilities of steering the club on the various activities related to the anniversary which will culminate with a luncheon meeting program on June 4, 2015, 12:00 pm at the New World Hotel in Makati City. On this note, the club will keep you posted on developments regarding this matter.

Since it is almost two months before the curtain call for Rotary Year 2014-2015, I wish to emphasize and remind our members on the forthcoming important club activities to mark on your respective calendars:

First – District 3810 will hold The Rotary District Awards Night on May 23, 2015 at the historic Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion Ballroom at 5:00 pm. This is the penultimate event of the district which promises to be a well-attended spectacle as awards will be given out to deserving Rotarians and clubs in the district. This event is chaired by Lucy Medina and will be hosted by the Rotary Club of Paco Manila led by Best Class President Gilbert Yupangco. To add grandiosity to the evening, the event will be a Gatsby inspired costume event where ladies are expected to be in evening gowns while the gentlemen are expected to don their tuxedos. To add spice to the grand spectacle, there will be awards for the Best Gatsby Costume among the ladies and gentlemen where a Manila-Hong Kong-Manila roundtrip ticket awaits the Rotarian of the Night. Tickets are at Php 1,800.00 per person.

Second – The RCM Tourism Awards will be on May 14, 2015 during our luncheon meeting to be held at the New World Hotel in Makati City. This awards-giving body of our club is chaired by no less than Dir. Bobby Joseph.

Third – Our club will celebrate its 96th Charter Anniversary on June 4, 2015 during our luncheon meeting to be held at the New World Hotel in Makati City. This event is chaired by VPE/VP Teddy Ocampo.

Fourth – The RCM Journalism Awards will be on June 11, 2015 during our luncheon meeting to be held at the New World Hotel in Makati City. This awards-giving body of our club is chaired by Rtn. Babe Romualdez and co-chaired by PVP Fausto Preysler.

Fifth – The RCM Valedictory Luncheon and Year-End Awards Presentation will be on June 25, 2015 during our luncheon meeting at the McKinley Room of the Manila Polo Club.

On a brighter note, I wish to convey my sincerest thanks and profound gratitude to fellow Rotarians and friends who offered prayers for the safe and speedy recovery of my Ann, Vicky Montilla, who underwent an operation for a fractured right arm last April 18, 2015 at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. She is presently recuperating from the successful surgery done on her. Again, many thanks for your prayers, concern and support as she is now on her way to full recovery.

Today, we shall have the Honorable Loren B. Legarda, Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, as Guest of Honor and Speaker. Let us all give her a warm welcome as she shares her insights on climate change, air pollution and other environmental issues of the day. Also, in today's program, our Journalism Awards Committee Chairman Rtn. Babe Romualdez and Co-Chairman Fausto Preysler will present the committee's nominees for the most outstanding journalists in the print, television and radio categories to the general membership for them to rank in ascending order, the nominees, by filling up the ranking sheets to be distributed during the meeting. Hence, let us give the winding up stages of our Rotary Year 2014-2015 one final kick as we participate in all the activities of Rotary.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER'S PROFILE



SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

For the past three decades, Senator Loren Legarda has dedicated her life and work to serving the Filipino people as a lawmaker and as a passionate advocate of green growth and sustainable development. She has authored and sponsored landmark laws on environmental protection, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, namely, the Clean Air Act (RA 8749), the Solid Waste Management Act (Ra 9003), the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (RA 10121), the Climate Change Act and the People's Survival Fund Law (RA 10174).

Senator Legarda has produced films that seek to explain the science of climate change, its impact on our everyday lives and how Filipinos can avert and adapt to the changing climate. These are "Ulan sa Tag-Araw: Isang Dokyu-drama Ukol sa Pagbabago ng Klima" (Rains in the Summer: A Documentary Drama on Climate Change), children's animation movie "Ligtas Likas", "Buhos" (Downpour), and most recently, "Ligtas". The Senator also collaborated with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) in the documentary "Now is the Time", which calls on leaders and decision-makers to strive for disaster-resilient development.

In 2000, the World Economic Forum named Senator Legarda as among the Global Leaders for Tomorrow. The year after, the United Nations Environment Programme named her its Laureate and included her in the Global 500 Roll of Honor. In 2008, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction appointed Legarda as its champion in the Asia and the Pacific region with a high-level mission to enthuse world leaders and lawmakers to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into development. In 2012, the United Nations recognized Senator Legarda as a Hero of Resilience in line with the celebration of the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Senator Legarda is also the only female to top the Philippine Senatorial election twice, and the only woman to serve as majority floor leader. Now on her third term, she chairs the Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources, Climate Change, and Cultural Communities.

PREVIEW OF NEXT WEEK GUEST SPEAKERS



April 30, Thursday – Manila Polo Club



Mr. Jaime Bautista

President, Philippine Airlines

A joint meeting of RCM with RC Makati West

THE WEEK THAT WAS...



Rtn. Tong Payumo as OIC-Moderator directs the program of activities.



PDSAA Ike Stranathan delivers an ecumenical prayer.



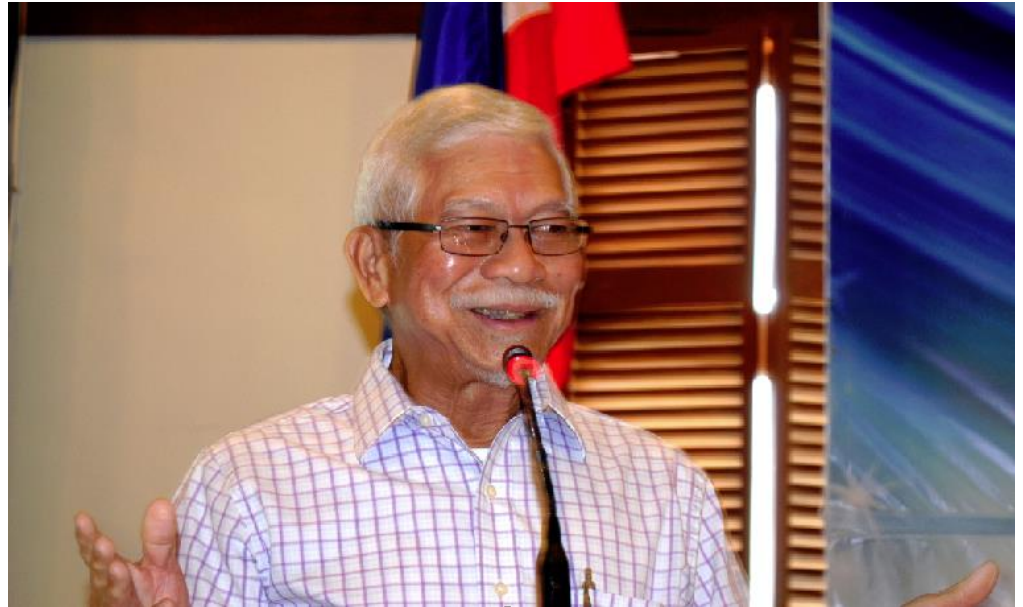
Rtn. Steve DeKrey leads in the recitation of the Four (4) Way Test.



STAR Rtn. Aris Tan introduces the guests, visiting Rotarians and personalities seated at the presidential table.



PD Jun Hallare does the pleasure of introducing **Mr. Augusto C. Lagman**, President, Logic Management, Inc.; Former Commissioner, Commission on Elections, as guest of honor & speaker.



Engr. Augusto "Gus" C. Lagman, Former Commissioner of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), spoke before Manila Rotarians, Visiting Rotarians and guests on the advantages of using the Transparent and Credible Election System (TCrES) in the conduct of the 2016 Presidential and National Elections.



An interactive public forum followed suit post the speech of **Mr. Augusto C. Lagman**.



Pres. Frank Evaristo presents to **Mr. Augusto C. Lagman**, an almanac book courtesy of Treas. Chito Tagaysay, and a religious icon, as the club's token of appreciation for being the guest of honor and speaker.



Pres. Frank Evaristo presents to **Rotarian Steve DeKrey** as the lone birthday celebrant, the birthday cake for the traditional blowing of candle amidst the singing by the **RCM World-Famous Chorale** of the happy birthday song.



The RCM 10th Monthly Board of Directors/Officers meeting held last Thursday at the Manila Polo Club. Present during the meeting were: Pres. Frank Evaristo, Treas. Chito Tagaysay, Sec. Albert Alday, Dir. Ning Lopez, Dir. Oscar del Rosario, DSAA Jimmy Cabase, Dir. Amading Valdez, IPP Rudy Bediones, PD Rob Sears, PP Boy Ampil, PVP Lance Masters, Dir. Bobby Joseph, PDG Alex Cureg and ES Anna Kun Toledo.

MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING



The RCM World Famous Chorale during a planning and coordination meeting preparatory to its forthcoming activities, held last Thursday, at Manila Polo Club. Present during the meeting were: Chair. Babes Reyes, Co-Chair. Gus Fajardo, PP Boy Ampil, Rtn. Nilo Aventura, PT Jim Chua, PVP Lance Masters, Dir. Oscar del Rosario, DGE Obet Pagdanganan, PD Armie Aquino, Rtn. Tong Payumo, PD Beda Fajardo, Rtn. George Salazar, Rtn. Bren Egan, Rtn. Jun Capistrano and IPP Rudy Bediones.

TRF GRANT MANAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP SEMINAR



By PVP Lance Masters

Last October, I wrote an article for our Balita in which I discussed the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), the collaborative initiative recommended for both new members and strongly encouraged for all persons who seek or hold office in Rotary Clubs around the world. It's a cooperative program and standard curriculum shared throughout 85% of Rotary's districts worldwide. Our Regional Chair for South East Asia is no less than RIPR Hoe-Beng Fong from Singapore, while PDG Ed Tumangan leads the program in the Philippines. As you may recall, the program is divided into three modules of six sessions each.

Accordingly, individuals need to attend three times to complete the certification. Last Saturday, April 18th, yours truly "graduated," completing the third module.

Like several recent RLI seminars, attendees and facilitators gathered at the Aloha Hotel in Malate for the seminar, hosted once again by RC Ermita. Following the standard meeting opening protocols (call to order, invocation, national anthem, introductions, welcome, and overview), we transited to breakout rooms for each of the three sections. Each facilitator normally leads two sessions. Course 1 has Insights into Leadership (facilitator PP Nito Siasat, RCM Sta. Ana), MyRotary (PP Arlene Velez, RCM Midtown), Engaging Members (PP Dolly Uanang, RC Pasay Centro), Rotary Foundation (PDG Karen Tamayo, RC Hiyas ng Maynila), Ethics & Vocational Service (PP Mon Banta, RC Ermita), and Service Projects (PP Cris Querubin, RCM 101). Course 2 has Strategic Planning & Analysis 1 & 2 (Genevieve Gandia, RC Manila Bay), Team Building (PP Arlene Velez), Attracting Members (PP Dolly Uanang), Club Communications (PP Elma Lagamson, RC Pasay Maharlika), and Targeted Service (PDG Karen Tamayo).

The third course has International Service (PP Elma Lagamson), Vocational Service and Expectations (PP Leah Banta, RC Ermita), Effective Leadership Strategies (PP Genevieve Gandia), Rotary Opportunities (PP Nito Siasat), Public Image and PR (PP Relly Fajardo, RC Chinatown Circle), and Making a Difference (RLI Chair and PDG Ed Tumangan).

Gov. Mond Aguilar would normally provide a concluding message, but he was out of town on Rotary business, so SDG Edwin Chua performed the honors.

PDG's Ed and Karen presided over the closing ceremonies, including traditional certificates for all, and special lapel pins for graduates, accompanied by a toast offered by PP Mon (yes, I had them substitute green tea for me instead of the wine). I was surprised to be awarded "Valedictorian" of my class, and accepted the challenge presented to all of the completers to undertake the additional training to become a member of the RLI faculty for future seminars.



By resolution of RCM's Board, ALL NEW MEMBERS OF RCM MUST ATTEND RLI WITHIN THEIR FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP (Resolution 13, dated 9/19/2013). Furthermore, MEMBERS OF OUR BOARD WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED RLI ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AND COMPLETE the three modules. This coming Rotary year, our own PP and DGE Obet has declared that part of the governor's "Presidential Awards Challenge" is to assure that every club has continuous enrollment and successful completers. We really need to support PE Ebot and DGE Obet, and we actually must follow the board resolution. So, if you're a new member or a board member, or seek to become a board member, it is in fact mandatory for you to enroll. Per RCM Board advisory, we have asked the Secretariat to publicize all future trainings in the Balita so that all may be aware of the

opportunities. Please advise them of your intention to participate. If you wish to research Rotary Leadership Institute for more information online, a good starting place is: <http://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org/> .



DISTRICT AWARDS NIGHT



DG MEMO No. 39

TO : All Best Class Presidents and
Best Class District Officers

FROM : DG Edmond T. Aguilar

RE : DISTRICT AWARDS NIGHT

2015

DATE : April 6, 2015

Greetings in the name of Rotary !

Our District Awards Night, the penultimate event of our year of leadership, has been slated for May 23, 2015 Saturday 5:00PM onwards and will be held at Manila Hotel, Fiesta Pavillon, Manila, With all the preparations that are being done, the event promises to be well-attended and spectacular. A good number of awards, perhaps the biggest number in recent RID-3810 history, is planned to be given to honor and recognize deserving Rotarians and clubs.

It is therefore with great anticipation that I urge you and your members to take the lead in inviting everyone to attend and participate in this auspicious event; better still, to register early.

This will be a big night that will bring to the limelight the tremendous success of our clubs in the contribution to Rotary Foundation, the membership retentions and extensions, Five Avenues of Service and the Six Areas of Focus. And in Lighting Up Rotary, It will be more meaningful and beautiful with your inspiring presence.

Our host club is Rotary Club of Paco, Manila, led by its Vice-President PP Gilbert Yupangco and District Chairperson PP Lucy Medina, other details of the event will be announced by the Host club during our Area meeting on April 6, 2015.

Please be guided accordingly.

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG EDMOND "MOND" T. AGUILAR
District Governor,
RY 2014-15

Manila Rotary Club will be represented by the following members, who are attending the District Awards on SATURDAY MAY 23, 2015 5PM at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel:

- 1- Pres. Frank Evaristo
- 2- IPP/ Asst. Gov. Rudy Bediones
- 3- Dir. Susing Pineda
4. Dir. Bobby Joseph
5. Dir. Oscar del Rosario, Sr.
6. Sec. Albert Alday
7. Treas. Chito Tagaysay
8. DSAA Jimmy Cabase
- 9 PP Banit Caasi
10. PVP Lance Masters

We encourage RCM members to attend this penultimate event of our district. To reserve a seat. please call our Secretariat at 5271886 / 5271887. Dinner cost for the event is Php 1,800.00.

Pres. Frank Evaristo

RC GUAM 75TH ANNIVERSARY



Rotary Club of Guam, (The only overseas daughter club of Manila Rotary Club) celebrated its 75th Charter Anniversary last April 18, 2015. **PD Ed Lee** represented Pres. Frank Evaristo & presented the club's donation of US\$1,000 and a token gift.

SPECIAL CHILDREN COMMITTEE



To: All RCM members

From: Special Children Committee

The Committee on Special Children (Ray Davis, Pete Gonzales and Phillip Ong) would like to invite those interested to join the Hospicio

Annual Swimming Activity Therapy Outing for the children on April 28, 2015 at Cuyab Hot Spring Resort, Bucal, Calamba, Laguna.

We will be meeting at Petron Station, SLEX at 8:00AM.

Please wear comfortable clothes as it will be hot.

See you there!

Thank you,

Chairman Phillip Ong

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



PDG VINCE CARLOS

50 Shades of Golf

Four guys have been going on the same golfing trip to St Andrews for many years..

Two days before the group is to leave, Jack's wife puts her foot down and tells him he isn't going. Jack's mates are very upset that he can't go, but what can they do.

Two days later, the three get to St Andrews only to find Jack sitting at the bar with four drinks set up!

"Wow, Jack, how long you been here, and how did you talk your misses into letting you go?"

"Well, I've been here since last night..

Yesterday evening, I was sitting in my living room chair and my wife came up behind me and put her hands over my eyes and asked, 'Guess who?' I pulled her hands off, and there she was, wearing a nightie.

She took my hand and pulled me into our bedroom. The room had candles and rose petals all over. Well she's been reading '50 Shades of Grey'.....

On the bed she had handcuffs, and ropes! She told me to tie her up and cuff her to the bed, so I did.

And then she said, "Do whatever you want."

So— Here I am!

* * * * *

How Do You Know if She is Cheating?

Three men sat around a table in a bar and talked about their wives.

The first man says, "I think my wife is having an affair with an electrician. When I got home last night I found a pair of pliers and some insulating tape behind the radiator in the bedroom - we've not had any work done on the house, and I can't think of any other way they could have got there".

The second man says, "I think my wife is having an affair with a carpenter. Last night I found a toolbelt in the laundry basket, and we've not had any renovations to the house for years..."

The third man says, "I'm in the same boat, but I don't think you two have it as bad. My wife is having an affair with a horse!" The two other man both look at him with confused look and demand an explanation.

"When I got home last night I found a jockey hidden in the wardrobe."

* * * * *

An Old Blind Cowboy Walks Into A Bar

An old, blind cowboy wanders into an all-girl bike bar by mistake...

He finds his way to a bar stool and orders himself a shot of Jack Daniels. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the bartender, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?"

The bar immediately falls absolutely silent. In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, Cowboy, I think it is only fair, given you are blind, that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl with a "Billy-Club."
3. I'm a 6-foot tall, 175-pound blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and professional weight lifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

"Now, think about it seriously, Cowboy...Do you still wanna tell that blonde joke?"

The blind cowboy thinks for a second, shakes his head, and mutters, "Well hell no...not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times..."

* * * * *

Wine Tester

A guy goes into a bar in Louisiana where there's a robot bartender!

The robot says, "What will you have?"

The guy says, "Whiskey."

The robot brings back his drink and says to the man, "What's your IQ?"

The guy says, "168."

The robot then proceeds to talk about physics, space exploration and medical technology.

The guy leaves, . . . but he is curious. . . So he goes back into the bar.

The robot bartender says, "What will you have?"

The guy says, "Whiskey." Again, the robot brings the man his drink and says, "What's your IQ?" The guy says, "100."

The robot then starts to talk about NASCAR, Budweiser, the Saints and LSU Tigers. The guy leaves, but finds it very interesting, so he thinks he will try it one more time. He goes back to the bar. The robot says, "What will you have?"

The guy says, "Whiskey," and the robot brings him his whiskey. The robot then says, "What's your IQ?"

The guy says, "Uh, about 50."

The robot leans in real close and says, "SO, . . . you people. . . still happy with Obama?"

* * * * *

Costco Doctor

One day, in line at the company cafeteria, Joe says to Mike behind him, "My elbow hurts like hell. I guess I'd better see a doctor."

"Listen, you don't have to spend that kind of money," Mike replies "There's a diagnostic computer down at Costco. Just give it a urine sample and the computer will tell you what's wrong and what to do about it. A lot cheaper than a doctor, and it only takes 10 seconds and costs \$10.00.

So, Joe deposits a urine sample in a small jar and takes it to Costco. He deposits ten dollars and the computer lights up and asks for the urine sample... He pours the sample into the slot and waits. Ten seconds later, the computer ejects a printout:

"You have tennis elbow. Soak your arm in warm water and avoid heavy activity.. It will improve in two weeks. Thank you for shopping at Costco.."

That evening, while thinking how amazing this new technology was, Joe began wondering if the computer could be fooled. He mixed some tap water, a stool sample from his dog, urine samples from his wife and daughter, and a sperm sample from himself for good measure.

Joe hurries back to Costco, eager to check the results. He deposits \$10.00, pours in his concoction, and awaits the results.

The computer prints the following:

1. Your tap water is too hard. Get a water softener. (Aisle 9)
2. Your dog has ringworm. Bathe him with anti-fungal shampoo. (Aisle 7)
3. Your daughter has a cocaine habit. Get her into rehab.
4. Your wife is pregnant. Twins. They aren't yours. Get a lawyer.
5. If you don't stop playing with yourself, your elbow will never get better!

Thank you for shopping @ Costco!

* * * * *

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION AND CHILD CARE



WARNING AGAINST PLASTIC SWIMMING TOYS

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.

Manila is sizzling. Many Filipinos are heading to the beach or the pool. Many of us, and most especially children, take plastic swimming toys to add more fun during water dips and swims. Unknown to many, swimming toys may contain toxic chemicals, called *phthalates*. These chemicals were found and have been proven to be hazardous and damaging to health. Thus, if parents are not educated and informed about these dangerous chemicals in swimming toys, their children might be exposed to harmful substances that may have long-term effects on the health and wellbeing.

What are phthalates?

Phthalates are chemicals that are loaded and used in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic products to make them more flexible. Plastic toys in the market that were identified to contain the toxic and health-damaging chemicals include inflatable swimming floats, swim rings, and related swimming toys.

Many European countries have cited withdrawals of identified dangerous swimming toys that are laced with phthalates. The governments of France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Latvia, and Slovakia have notified the European Union's Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Dangerous Products against the presence of the toxic chemicals in plastic toys.

Our Department of Health issued Administrative Order 2009-0005A, as amended in 2011, prohibiting the sale of children's toys containing over 1% of *phthalates* DEHP (*Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate*), DBP (*Dibutyl phthalate*), and BBP (*Butylbenzyl phthalate*). In addition, toys that children may put in their mouth that contain more than 1% of DINP (*Disononyl phthalate*), DIDP (*Disodecyl phthalate*) and DNOP (*di-n-octyl phthalate*) are similarly toxic to the body.

Harmful effects of phthalate

Phthalates are linked to the development of asthma, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, obesity, and cancer. It is an endocrine-disrupting chemical known to produce birth defects, such as cleft lip and cleft palate, undescended testicles, deformed penis, premature puberty, and premature delivery in pregnant women.

Avoidance

Always read product labels. Avoid products with the plastic label "3" and those with PVC or vinyl in the product markings. Always look for 'license-to-operate' number on the label. This indicates the producer company's compliance with the DOH requirements. Avoid plastic products with strong plastic smell. If you have unintentionally and mistakenly bought a plastic toy and you are unsure whether it is phthalate-free or not, unpack and leave the product outdoors to allow some airing to let some of the hazardous substances disappear in the air.

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