

## PAOLO JAVIER / from FYEO

Characters: NURY VITTACHI  
TONYBOY

Projections: "PINOY SIGNS"\*  
"FUNNY LOVE"\*\*

*\*Read out loud some signs for audience recognition, as these may remain unclear onscreen. Be sure to scroll/reveal both images, if more than one exists on the page.*

*\*\*Allow for images to linger as you skip/scroll between them.*

## Projection 1: "PINOY SIGNS"\*

NURY VITTACHI: This week, we shall take a "reading tour" of one of the most spirited communities in Asia. The Philippines is full of word play. The local accent among many Filipinos, in which English words with *F* are spelled and pronounced with the sound of *P* and *V* is pronounced as *B* (because the Philippine alphabet has no letters *F* or *V*), is often used very cleverly, such as the sign in a flower shop in Dilliman called *Petal Attraction*.

Much of the word play in the Philippines is deliberate with retailers and various businesses favoring a play on names of Western establishments and celebrities (Americans, in particular; movie stars and entertainment personalities, especially).

For example, there is a bread shop in Manila called *Anita Bakery*, a 24-hour restaurant called *Doris Day and Night*, a garment shop called *Elizabeth Tailoring*, and a barbershop called *Felix The Cut*.

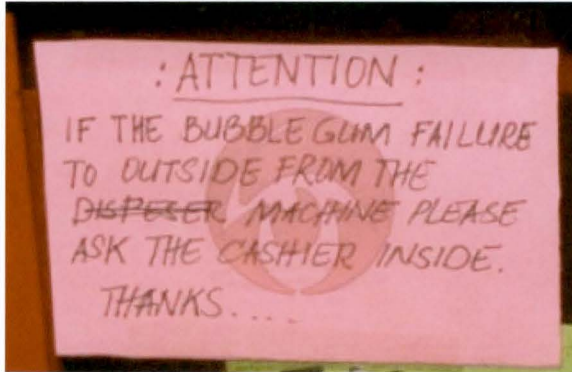


Reader Robert Harland also spotted a bakery named *Bread Pitt*, and a Makati fast-food place selling maruya (banana fritters) called *Maruya Carey*. Then, there is *Christopher Plumbing*; a boutique called *The Way We Wear*; a video rental shop called *Leon King Video Rental*; a restaurant in the Cainta district of Rizal called *Caintacky Fried Chicken*; a local burger restaurant called *Mang Donald's*; a doughnut shop called *MacDonuts*; a shop selling lumpia (egg roll) in Makati called *Wrap and Roll*; and two butcher shops called *Meating Place* and *Meatropolis*.



Smart travelers can decipher what may look like baffling signs to unaccustomed foreigners by simply sounding out the Taglish (the Philippine version of English words spelled and pronounced with a heavy Filipino accent), such as, at a restaurant menu in Cebu: “*We hab sopdrink in can an in batol*” [translation: We have soft drinks in can and in bottle]. Then, there is a sewing accessories shop called *Bids and Pises* [translation: Beads and pieces—or—Bits and Pieces].

There are also many signs with either badly chosen or misspelled words, but they are usually so entertaining that it would be a mistake to “correct” them. A reader named Antonio ‘Tonyboy’ Ramon T. Ongsiako (now there’s a truly Filipino name) contributed the following interesting Phillippine signs and advertisements: in a restaurant in Baguio

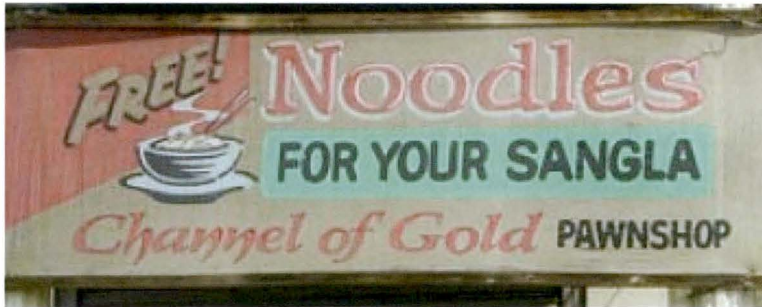


City (the “summer capital” of the Philippines), “Wanted: Boy Waitress”; on a highway in Pampanga, “We Make Modern Antique Furniture”; on the window of a photography show in Cabanatuan, “We Shoot While You Wait”; and on the glass front of a cafe on Panay Avenue in Manila, “Wanted: Waiter, Cashier, Washier.”



Some of the notices can even give a wrong impression, such as a shoe store in Pangasinan which has a sign saying: “We Sell Imported Robber Shoes” (these could be the sneakiest sneakers) and a rental property in Jaro, Iloilo reads: “House For Rent Fully Furnaced” (it must be really hot inside)!

Occasionally, one could come across signs that are truly unique, if not altogether odd. Reader Gunilla Edlund submitted a sign that she saw at the ticket booth in the ferry pier in Davao City in southern Philippines, which announced: “Adults: 1 peso; Child: 50 centavos; Cadavers: fare subject to negotiation.”



“SANGLA” means “GOLD.”

European tourists may also be intrigued to discover two competing shops selling hopia (a Chinese pastry) called *Holland Hopia* and *Poland Hopia*, which are owned and operated by two local Chinese entrepreneurs, Mr. Ho and Mr. Po, respectively.



“BAWAL UMIHI DITO PAG WALANG NAKATINGIN” means “IT IS FORBIDDEN TO PEE HERE WHILE NOONE’S LOOKING.”





According to Manila businessman Tonyboy Ongsiako there is so much wit in the Philippines because "...we are a country where a good sense of humor is needed to survive. We have a 24-hour comedy show here called the government, and a huge reserve of comedians made up mostly of politicians and retiring actors."



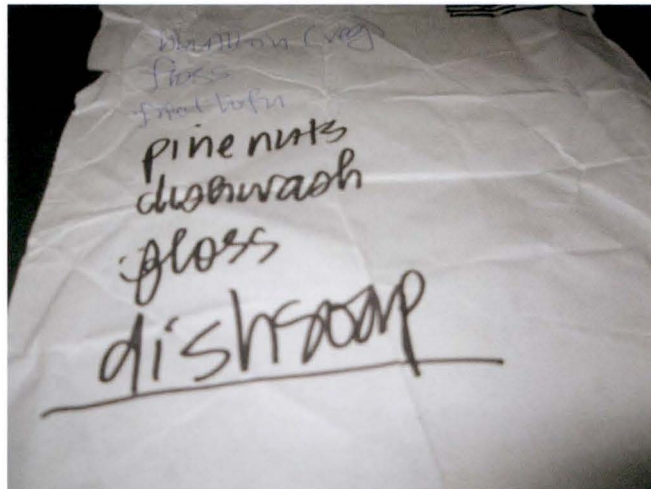
## Projection 2: "FUNNY LOVE".

TONYBOY: (*clears throat*) Your laugh is an infection

You are a blessing in the sky

You cut to the cheese

You bake your cake and lie in it  
in the wink of an eye



It was a no-win-win situation

It was as brand as new

It was clean as a daylight  
for me



"Hi, I'm Paolo," I said. "What's yours?"



I couldn't help myself to it  
you rip what you saw  
the sky's the langit, &  
I am only human nature