



PASUGUAN NG PILIPINAS

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

03 October 2007

**Ms. ANNE SWEENEY**

C-Chair, Disney Media Networks  
President, Disney-ABC Television Group  
The Walt Disney Company, Corporate  
500 S Buena Vista St.,  
Burbank, CA 91521-6369 (Fax: 816-560-1000)

Dear Madame:

I wish to express our grave disappointment and displeasure over a scene in the episode of the ABC television series "Desperate Housewives" which aired last Sunday, 30 September 2007. In that scene, the character named Susan (played By Teri Hatcher) told her gynecologist, *"Before we go any further, can I check those diplomas because I would just like to make sure that they're not from some med school in the Philippines."*

It is a surprise that such an unfounded and disrespectful remark would even be allowed to be aired on U.S. television. Such insensitivity betrays a complete ignorance of the fact that through the years, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have made quite a mark in the medical field across the entire United States.

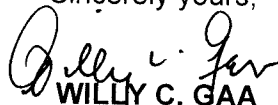
In fact, many U.S. hospitals employ a large number of Philippine-trained doctors, nurses, and medical technologists, and some hospitals in major cities would in fact not be able to operate to full efficiency without the considerable presence of their Filipino and Filipino-American medical staff.

This kind of message, coming from such a popular TV show, would tend to damage the credibility and hard-earned reputation of these medical professionals, all of whom passed stringent U.S. requirements to be allowed to practice their profession in this country. It could also damage the credibility of all other professionals of Filipino descent, which is most distressing given the fact that Filipinos now constitute the second largest group of legal migrants to the United States.

It would therefore be most appreciated if your company could issue a public apology to those Filipino-American groups who are even now raising their voices in protest over this development, with the affirmation that no harm was intended and that your distinguished network would henceforth refrain from featuring such unfounded statements in your regular programming.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely yours,

  
WILLY C. GAA  
Ambassador