



# Hosp'l denies holding back Hunt certificate

## Narcs arrest American with shabu in Cugman

By AMOR BARLISAN  
Correspondent

FOLLOWING a surveillance conducted by the police, an American was arrested on Wednesday at a gasoline station in Cugman for allegedly engaging in an illegal drug transaction.

Kim Simpson Tutt, 55, of Ohio was allegedly found by agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) with a "heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet containing white crystalline substance believed to be shabu."

Shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) is considered here as the poor man's cocaine.

PDEA regional director Supt. Oliver Enmodias said narcs also seized from Tutt a strip of "aluminum foil with suspected shabu residue."

Enmodias said samples of the substance have been sent to the National Police's Crime Laboratory in Region 10 for examination.

Tutt, said to be residing at Macasandig but who was billeted at a resort in Gusa, is being held at the PDEA-10 office here.

PDEA was to press charges against him for al-

See ARREST/p.7

By JIGGER JERUSALEM  
Correspondent

**A**N executive of the Polymedic General Hospital on Wednesday said the medical institution could have released right away the death certificate needed for American Thomas J. Hunt's burial if only his adopted family made arrangements with the hospital earlier.

"It's not true," said the executive of insinuations that the hospital refused to release the document because the Songcuya family had no money to pay for Mr. Hunt's medical bills that ballooned to over half a million pesos.

Mr. Hunt, who was confined at Polymedic last Jan. 29, died on his hospital bed April 26. Due to financial difficulties, the wake at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes reached over two weeks.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the executive said the only reason Hunt's death certificate was not processed and released right away was because no member of the American's adopted family talked to the people running the hospital.

The executive said no one from the family bothered to go to the hospital after Hunt's death on April 26.

She said the Songcuyas only came back to the hospital and talked to them late last week. It was only then that an agreement was made in regard to the unpaid hospital bills.

The executive declined to say what the agreement was but Grace Songcuya, an aunt of Hunt's widow Janelaze, earlier said the family had to pawn pieces of jewelry, and use a land title as a guarantee. Ms. Songcuya, who also serves as spokesperson of the family, said the hospital bills amounted to P570 thousand.

The hospital executive  
See HOLDING/p.7



The remains of American Thomas J. Hunt are buried here, at the Cagayan de Oro Gardens in Lumbia.

PHOTO BY AMOR BARLISAN

## Hunt widow breaks silence, maintains her innocence

By MARK FRANCISCO  
Correspondent

**THE** widow of Thomas J. Hunt, the American whose death sparked a controversy because of allegations that he was betrayed and virtually deserted here, broke her silence this week.

In an e-mail sent to this paper, Janelaze Hunt nee Songcuya denied that her husband was abandoned in Cagayan de Oro.

"Tom did not die alone," she said. "My family was

there with him when he died."

The widow also denied that she stole from Hunt.

She took a job at American Elmer Zink, one of the most vocal members of a group of expats concerned about the Hunt case.

"Elmer... states that I was stealing from Tom and that he has never seen the bank statements. Let me ask you this: Would you give your sensitive and private information to a stranger?"

Mrs. Hunt said Zink had never "spoken with or met Tom in his life."

She denied that she was the reason why Hunt lost his house in Yuma, Arizona, adding that "the house was in foreclosure when I got to the United States."

The *Gold Star Daily* also sent Mrs. Hunt an e-mail to ask her to comment on allegations she cheated on Mr. Hunt and that she had flown to Virginia to be

See BREAKS/p.7

## It's Misor board's call, says Oca of search for Acain replacement

GOV. Oscar Moreno yesterday clarified that the provincial board would need to make an endorsement first before anyone could replace the late provincial

board member Enerito Acain Jr. in the province's legislature.

Moreno called up this paper to deny a report that he announced that it was

already decided that the late politician's daughter, Mercy Grace, would be the newest member of the provincial board.

See CALL/p.5

## Judge orders cops in Martinez case arrested

By JIGGER JERUSALEM  
Correspondent

A REGIONAL court yesterday ordered the arrest of two officers who were linked to the December 2008 murder of a faith healer here.

Judge Gil Bollozos issued the arrest warrant against PO2 Rommel Pontillas and PO3 Bangcola Manangcawal and several John Does.

But before Bollozos could sign the arrest order yesterday afternoon, PO3 Manangcawal already surrendered to the judge.

Pontillas whereabouts is unknown at presstime but there are reports he was contemplating on surrendering.

Bollozos also signed a commitment order, placing Manangcawal under the custody of the Maharlika jail under SPO3 Diulito Cornelillo.

No bailbond was recom-

mended.

Pontillas and Manangcawal were accused of being with the group of officers who chased, shot and took turns in shooting and beating up faith healer Robert Martinez on Capistrano Street.

The armed men allegedly chased Martinez after the victim threw a stone and hurt one of the officers outside a bar. Witnesses said Martinez was cornered at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes where officers allegedly ganged up on the victim. They said the armed men then dragged Martinez into a vehicle and fled. That was the last time Martinez was seen in public alive.

Chief Supt. Danilo Empedrad, police director for Region 10, said the local police would cooperate and "will not be a hindrance to the proceedings."

WITH MARK FRANCISCO

## Holding

From page 1

said it was her understanding that the Songcuyas did not go to the hospital after April 26 because they were looking for money.

She also said it was unlikely that Mr. Hunt was abandoned by the Songcuyas during his confinement at Polymedic.

The executive said someone always answered intercom calls by hospital staff members to Hunt's room. She said it was a standard procedure at Polymedic to update patients or their caretakers of their hospital expenses every afternoon.

But the executive said it was possible that there

were times when Hunt's caretakers had to go out to look for money.

"That happened to me too when my mother got sick. I and my family had to go out every day to look for money to buy the needed medicines," the hospital executive said.

## Breaks

From page 1

with her lover as soon as her husband left for Cagayan de Oro.

She was also asked about a message she posted on a Yahoo Answers page which showed her admitting that she denied her own child, lied to Mr. Hunt about it and deceived US immigration authorities. She has yet to reply.