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HEADS UP
By Joel P. Palacios
Perfect alibi

Are you in a situation in which you need to escape? If you are unable to get free because of various reasons, it's time to cry out for help. Saklolo! Mga kapitbahay tulungan niyo ako! Also, start to pray.

Were you climbing your pretty neighbor's fence, and you accidentally kicked the ladder away, leaving yourself hanging precariously? Shout, help! You get into the elevator on your way to the 12th floor and suddenly there is a power outage and you're trapped with others in between floors? Help! Your creditors are banging on your door and there's no escape? Keep your mouth shut but pray for help!

Hopefully you don't get into the following situation: The wife finds you and your lover in bed at home. Hold it. Before you shout for help somebody should give you a big whack on the head.

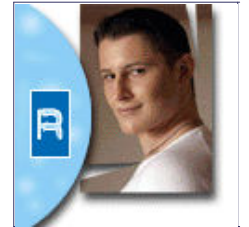
If you're the type who finds it demeaning to cry for help maybe what you need is a good alibi. It works and it can help you skirt around a spouse or a lover.

There are certain dates in the calendar, for example, which require that you should be with your spouse (you want to be with your lover), or with your family (you want to go out with friends), or you need to be at the office (you want to stay home). Can you cry for help?

Of course not. What you need is a good alibi.

In the United States, a company named Alibi Network is doing brisk business helping people get out of tight situations and covering tracks of wayward customers. It's not here yet, but it won't be long in coming. The demand for alibis in the Philippines is growing.

The Illinois-based company compares itself to a motor club where you have to pay membership dues. "You don't know if you're going to have a flat tire, if your transmission is going to fall out, and God forbid your fuel pump goes out. Alibi Network is the same—as things come up, you call us," says Mike de Marco,



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