

JULY-AUGUST 2013

Pork Barrel Scam Exposed

Bill to Abolish Pork Barrel filed

MANILA, Philippines - The five senators implicated in an alleged billion-peso pork barrel scam should go on leave pending the results of a probe, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said.

This, as she urged President Benigno Aquino III to form an independent panel to look into a P10-billion expose involving the use of Priority Development Assistance Funds.

"Out of delicadeza, the five senators should go on leave, to erase any doubt that they might use their power or their money to pressure the investigators," Santiago said.

She was referring to Senators Bong Revilla, Jr., Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, Bongbong Marcos and Gregorio Honasan who have been linked to ghost projects.

At the same time, solons whose names have been dragged into the controversy have meanwhile vowed to subject themselves to investigations, even as they denied the allegations.

"I submit myself to a full investigation of all my PDAF allocations," Enrile said, noting however that he has no ties with whistleblower Janet Lim Napoles.

"This issue should really be investigated,"

PORK-BARREL continued on page 11

Golden Girl







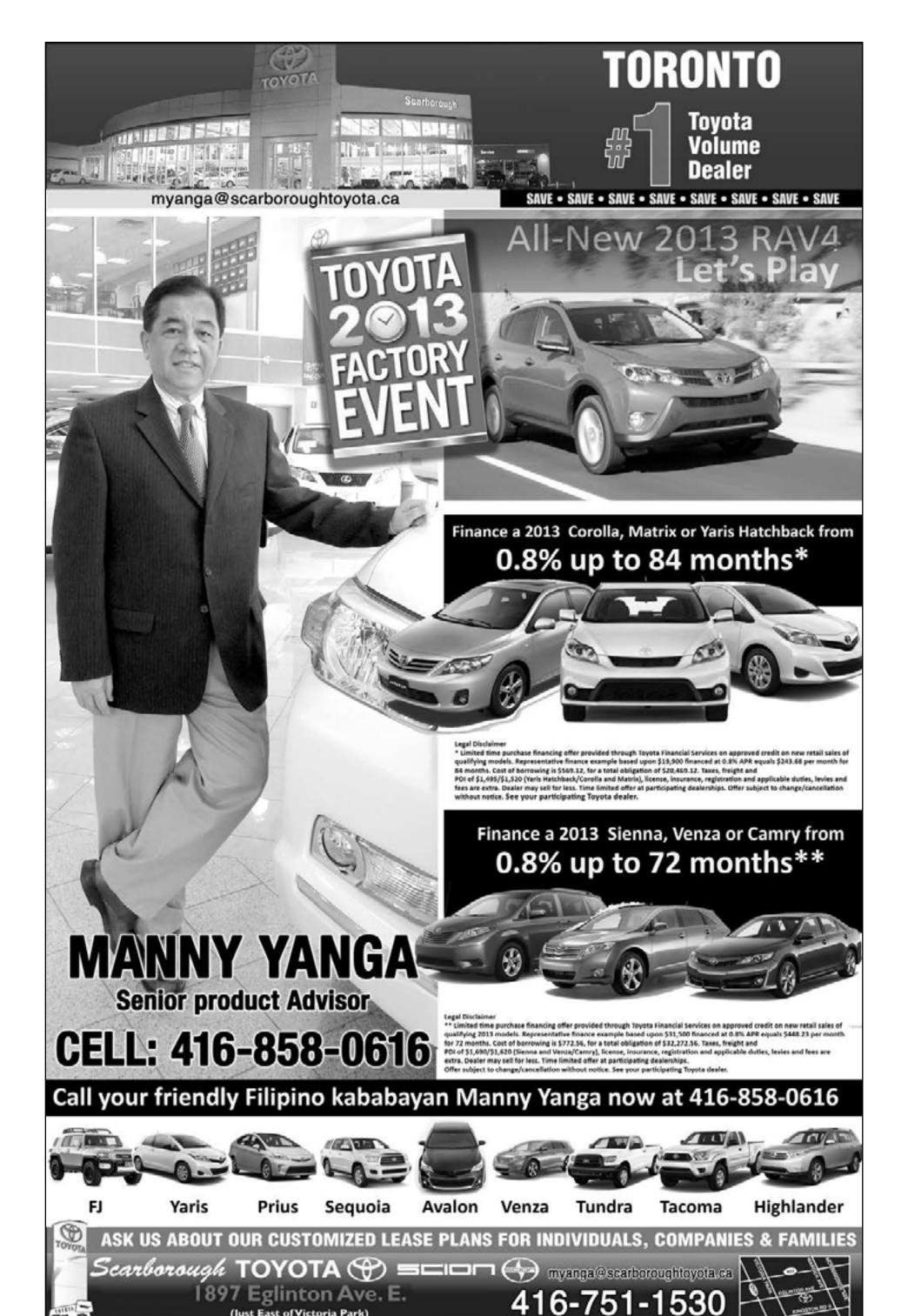






MAIN PHOTO, The winners of the Miss Philippines Canada 2013, Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2013, Little Miss Philippines Canada 2013 and Mrs. Philippines Canada 2013 of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.

ABOVE FROM LEFT, Nora Samson finally met in person her Teleserye idol, Dennis Trillo. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS; Rafael Rosell with his die-hard fan Myrna, who waited in a very long line up for signing just to be with her idol. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS; Kapuso star Glaiza de Castro entertains the crowd at at Metro Toronto Convention Centre; Kapuso stars Rafael Rosell and Glaiza de Castro join Rosemer Enverga at dinner.



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Pinoys prefer Grocery to Sari-sari

Groceries get closer to homes competing with sari-sari stores

MANILA - Pinoys no longer heavily depend on the neighborhood "sari-sari store" for items they need at home.

Well, why would they if supermarkets which usually offer more product choices are now just around the corner too?

As supermarkets get closer to homes, Pinoys now visit the grocery more frequently, global market research firm Nielsen said.

But Nielsen's "Shopper Trends Report" found that in true Pinoy "tingi" fashion, they still prefer shopping with small baskets over buying in bulk.

Filipinos replenished their pantries nearly thrice a month last year, said the report based on a survey of more than 1,900 adults in the last quarter of 2012.

Aside from those heavy-buying grocery visits, however, they also made small frequent trips as often as seven times a month, up from only three a year ago.

"The preference for these smaller

but frequent shopping trips is brought about by the close proximity of the supermarkets to the homes," Nielsen Philippines managing director Stuart Jamieson said.

"We are seeing a move from buying additional essential items from the neighborhood sari-sari store to shopping in the supermarket, which is now also in

PINOYS PREFER GROCERY continued on page 27

Lift Millions out of Poverty

Economic Boom Must Reach the Poor

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines said it was aiming to lift more than 10 million people out of poverty in less than two years, and make an enduring impact on lessening one of Asia's worst rich-poor divides.

The government has set a target of cutting the number of people living in poverty to 16.6 percent by the end of 2015, down from 27.9 percent last year, Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

"It's a big challenge. We just don't have the luxury of time and the luxury of resources to waste," Balisacan told reporters.

The ambitious goal is set ahead of when Aquino is required to stand down in in mid-2016 after a six-year term.

It comes after stunning economic growth, credit rating upgrades and record stock market highs in the first half of Aquino's term failed to make a dent on crushing poverty.

Even though the Philippines had the fastest growth rate in Asia of 7.8 percent in the first quarter of this year, the unemployment rate rose to a three-year-high of 7.5 percent in April.

The number of people living in poverty -- defined as living on 62 US cents a day or less -- had also largely remained the same.

More than 25 million currently live in poverty.

OUT OF POVERTY continued on page 26



LEFT, East York Dance Group members (back row L-R): Precy Kojo, Mila Aldanese & Suzy Llanera and (front) Christina Luta & Magda Mangila, entertained guests with their "Zumba" dance moves during a multi-cultural event "New Horizons for Seniors Program" launch on June 25th in Toronto.

Sarah G wants a Lovelife



SARAH Geronimo is turning 25 on Thursday, July 25. She doesn't plan to have a big party. "I'll just take the day off and celebrate quietly with my family," she says.

Everyone's birthday wish for her is to have a love life soon. As if her life would not be complete without a boyfriend. And what's her birthday wish for herself? "I just want to grow some more. Hindi yung height ko, huh, but my totality as a person. I want my relationships to grow, with the Lord and with my family and the people I work with. At sana, maggrow pa rin yung career ko."

What about her love life? "Well, sana, the next time I fall in love, maging totoo na talaga. Pero hindi ko naman hinahanap. Depende kay Lord 'yan, kung kailan darating huwag nating pilitin."

As of now, she's busy being one of the judges/coaches in "The Voice of the Philippines." Soon, she will also launch a new album under Viva Records, "Expressions."



Naku ha! by Jose Baking LittleManilaConfidential.com

If you can make it there, you'll make it anywhere

Once upon a time, there was a "reporter" who made it big south of the border, in a place called San Diego, California. For some reason, he decided to come north of the border to show the mediamen here in Toronto how reporting is done. The rest is his story of how we do not write about the wrongdoings (his words) that our "so-called community leaders" are committing against fellow kababayans. Well, unless these so-called community leaders manage to increase our taxes, I really do not know what wrongdoing they are doing and to whom are they doing it. Usually, it's Filipinos who are involved in the community doing it with each other. And I do not mean doing whoopee. Nudge nudge, wink, wink

Overqualified

Recently, I found out that this reporter is a member of "Reporters Without Borders," an organization based in France. Apparently, his publisher here in the GTA has been trying to gain his membership in Philippine Press Club of Ontario PPCO, against his wishes, according to him. I know how it feels when friends try to do something for you against your wishes. Some of my friends have been trying to get me a media pass to attend some upcoming Nymphomaniac Swimsuit Illustrated and Victoria's Secret Models Convention against my wishes too. Anyway, the PPCO does not want him in anyway for one simple reason - he is overqualified because he is a member of Reporters Without Borders. The PPCO is just for Ontario. It is really a conundrum. The missions of RWB are; To continuously monitor attacks on freedom of information worldwide; To denounce any such attacks in the media: To act in cooperation with governments to fight censorship and laws aimed at restricting freedom of information; To morally and financially assist persecuted journalists, as well as their families; To offer material assistance to war correspondents in order to enhance their safety. The mission of the PPCO is just to keep him out, lest he contaminate the minds of the members into doing something noble and dangerous like, reporting news from London England. Specially nowadays, London is a dangerous place for journalists, what with every man and woman with a camera is obsessed with the royal

The so-called reporter from California likewise has been to the most dangerous places in the world like Japan, Germany, Great Britain, and now Canada. According to him, his life is in danger in Toronto because of the exposes' he has been doing in Toronto. Well, he better stop exposing himself then. Ehe, mali pala. Anyway, I know what he means. Toronto is really a very dangerous place. Even covering Filipino dinner parties is nerve-wracking. I have yet to attend a dinner party where nothing breaks out. You are sitting there, quietly eating dinner, when, all of a sudden, mobs of people descend on the dance floor, and like a flashmob, line dancing starts to the tune of achy-breaky heart by Billy Ray Cyrus. If ever there was a man whose life is in danger, it is Billy Ray Cyrus, for single-handedly creating two of the greatest threats to having a good time - line dancing and Miley Cyrus and earned the ire of not a few people. His achy-breaky heart beget line dancing that nobody can dance anymore in peace with just one person. Imagine dancing cheek to cheek with your partner when all of a sudden, the dj changes the song to achy-breaky heart

and you find yourself in the middle of a line-flashdance. First, it was just achy-breaky heart that guests line-dance to. Pretty soon, every song is being line-danced already. How long before they start line-dancing the Vienna Waltz?

Nowadays, it has become a must for every Filipino who attends parties to know line-dancing. Before, you had to know cha-cha, boogie or salsa.

PORN

I happen to be a member of a newly-formed organization called Pilipino Organization of Reporters Network, or PORN. It is like Reporters Without Borders, which I claim I am a member too, but they do not know it yet. Being a PORN and RWB member, I have also reported from the most dangerous places around the world. New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington and my home base Toronto. In New York city, I went to their dangerous place called Fifth Avenue. In LA, I went to Rodeo Drive and Disneyland. If you are not careful, you can get mugged in those places by high-end retailers and you'll end up leaving those places penniless. But do not worry, they issue receipts anyway.

I have newfound respect for PPCO

PPCO, or Philippine Press Club of Ontario is now a respectable organization. While other organizations will just let anyone become a member who is willing to pay or donate - like Reporters without Borders - they have turned away this very successful and brave reporter who is a member of Reporters Without Borders. As for why I am not a member of PPCO, I am like Groucho Marx, I will not belong to a club who will have me as member.

Women Happier After Divorce

According to a survey of women who were granted alimony, they are happier after divorce. I wonder why. The survey was done exclusively to a select few like Ivana Trump and Wendi Deng Murdoch.

Lawyer leaves Ferrari in Flood to Reach Hearing

This is a \$200,000 advertising that he will never even if he bought a one-page ad in the Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, National Post and Toronto Sun at the same time. By the way, he won his case. The news went viral. That is more than the price of his Ferrari. Imagine the number of clients he is going to get as a result of this news that went worldwide.

Marian Rivera wants to get Pregnant

If this is true, I may be the reason. Last year, we met at the Pinoy Fiesta meet and greet. This always happens when beautiful women meet me. They want to have a baby. I'm just not sure if they want to have MY baby though. I still have to clear that issue with them. Ehe, ano ba ito? Susmaryosep.

Toronto Summer Festivals suffer from Too Many People

This is the kind of problem Filipino festivals would like to have. Apparently, some attendees are complaining that they cannot enjoy the festivals like Taste of St. Clair and Taste of the Danforth because of too many people. If there were no people, would these complainers attend the festival then? It is this reason why you came in the first place. This is the kind of problem that our Filipino festivals would like to have.

The Durable Loveteam



Tessie Quintana and Armando Goyena, one of the 50s popular and durable love teams of Philippine Cinema, star in the in the movie Tia Loleng. PHOTO COURTESY OF VIDEO 48

Did you know that movie actor Armando Goyena, a popular matinee idol during his time, a society boy and a dashing hero of countless romance and adventure films, had to play a woman in the '50s before he could become a star? The part was the title role in the 1952 comedy "Tia Loleng," where he was made to dress up as a lady so he could be close to the woman he loved and adored. The woman was played by his perennial screen partner, Tessie Quintana (they made 15 movies together). The movie was filmed at least three decades before Dustin Hoffman made "Tootsie" and Robin Williams played "Mrs. Doubtfire." "They imitated us," Goyena chuckles in one of his interview. "The movie became a big hit, and that's how I made some money to marry." Goyena, now in his 80s, was married to the late Francisca Roses, also called Paguita, the first Camay soap model, with whom he had seven daughters and a son. Two of these daughters first became movie stars themselves-Maritess Revilla, who was also a soap model, and Tina Revilla, who later became a television host.

Submit ads & press releases by Aug 15 for the August-September 2013 issue.

L. M. Confidential

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Eks Lucrida celebrated his 50th Birthday on his cottage by the shore of Lake Scugog. Behind a very successful businessman, is his loving wife Lyn, and their children Kyle, and Zieline; and his loyal friends from Mount Zion Church.

Ram and Antonina Boodram celebrated their wedding at Saint Lawrence the Martyr on June 29, 2013. Guest from different parts of the world came to Canada; the largest groups are from the Philippines, USA, and Trinidad and Tabago. Coworkers from Saint Michael Hospital, CAMH, and Eastern Hospital, etc. took a dayoff just to attend the celebration.



LAUGH RESORT



Isang araw isang americano at pilipino ay nag banggaan. Amaricano: MOTHERFACKA! Pilipino: MA DAPA KA RIN!

BF: Hon,, pagbusina ko sa labas buksan

GF: OK Hon! Ano ba dala mo?? van?

BF: Hinde!

BF: Hinde! GF: O baka naman motor??

BF: At mas lalong hnde!! GF: Eh ano ba ang dala mo?

BF: Busina!!

GF: Kotse?

GF: I'm warning you! darating na si daddy within 1 hour!

BF: Eh ano ngayon? eh wala naman tayong ginagawang masama ah! GF: Kaya nga! kung may plano ka,

Umuwi si mister nang 4:00 am at nakita niya ang kanyang misis na may katalik na lalaki sa kama...

MISIS: (Sumigaw) San ka galing?!! MISTER: Sino yang katabi mo? MISIS: Grabe ka! Huwag mong ibahin ang usapan

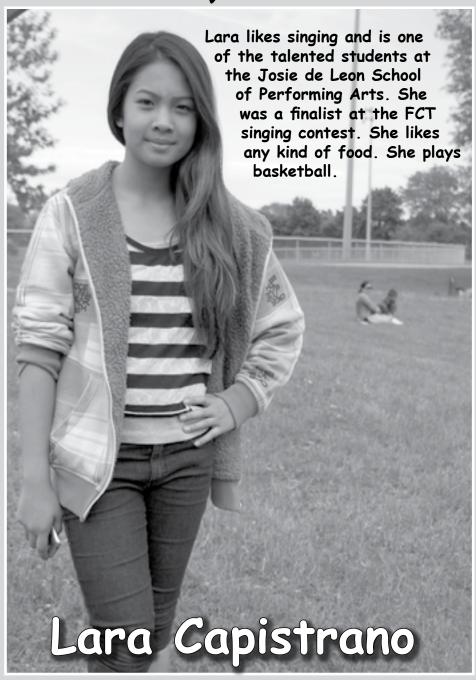
- 1. Nagising ako.
- 2. Pumasok ako sa iskwelahan.
- 3. Nakita ko siva.

DALIAN MO NA!!

- 4. Hinalikan ko siva.
- 5. Hinalikan niya rin ako.
- Sa totoo lang, ang pagkakasunod ay 2,

3, 4, 5, 1.

Honey Shot



PH isn't foreign investors' top pick in Southeast Asia

MANILA - The Philippines' economy may have grown faster than its neighbors recently, but it still is behind many Southeast Asian countries in terms of attracting foreign investments.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the Philippines only reached \$2.8 billion in 2012, the United Nations said in its World Investment Report.

Although a 54-percent increase from \$1.82 billion in the previous year, these figures put the country behind five other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

President Benigno "Novnoy" Aquino III has long been urging foreign investors to try Philippines through state visits, public-private partnerships and offering easier business transactions.

Singapore led the list with \$56.7 billion in inflows in 2012, followed by Indonesia (\$19.9 billion), Malaysia (\$10.1 billion), Thailand (\$8.6 billion) and Vietnam (\$8.4 billion).

Investment inflows to the Philippines were meanwhile higher than Myanmar (\$2.2 billion), Cambodia (\$1.6 billion), Brunei (\$850 million), Laos (\$294 million) and Timor Leste (\$42 million).

Despite its weak performance compared to neighbors, the Philippines has been named in the report as one of the "attractive FDI locations for laborintensive manufacturing."

The country, along with other lowerincome countries Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam are the "emerging bright spots of the subregion," the report said.

"These low-income countries also experienced a rise in investments in the extractive sector and infrastructure, including those under contractual arrangements," it added.

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Filipino World

The Undocumented Life

Undocumented tells of Hard Life in the US



WASHINGTON, DC—Two years ago this weekend, Philippine-born journalist Jose Antonio Vargas came out publicly in The New York Times as an undocumented American, a term he prefers to the loaded phrase "illegal immigrant."

What happened since that Times essay is the subject of "Documented," written, produced and directed by Vargas, 32, which got its world premiere at the American Film Institute's AFI Docs festival.

"I'm still undocumented," said Vargas, who shared a Pulitzer prize for breaking news when he was a reporter at Washington Post, where only one trusted editor knew of his 24/7 dread of getting caught and deported.

"I'm a reporter at heart. I go by facts. But at the same time, I also live this," he said.

"It's been very interesting going around the country, talking to people who think they know what this [debate] is about but really don't. Our lives are up against tremendous amounts of misinformation and a lot of ignorance," Vargas said. Congress is grappling with root-and-branch legislation that would beef up security along the vast US-Mexican border in return for the regularization of the status of what American bureaucrats often call "illegal aliens."

Deportations

At the same time, United States President Barack Obama's administration has been deporting illegal immigrants at a furious pace: nearly 1.59 million during his first four years in office alone, according to the US Department of Homeland Security.

Many of the 11 million undocumented people in the US have fingers crossed for the best-case outcome: full US citizenship.

More than two years in the making, "Documented" was originally supposed to focus on the youthful citizenship activists known as DREAMers, but it grew to cover Vargas' own adventures, taking his story to ordinary Americans.

In a Michael Moore moment at a Mitt Romney presidential campaign event in Iowa, Vargas turns up with a sign declaring his undocumented status to the Republican hopeful's hard-core conservative fans.

One white middle-aged couple boasts how their daughter-in-law had legally immigrated from Britain—adding, with no sign of irony, how a helpful US senator greased the notoriously long and complicated process.

Vargas' plight

But the emotional highlight comes when Vargas goes on Skype to reconnect with his mother, Emelie Salinas, who lives outside Manila. Together, over a dodgy Internet connection, they discuss his plight and how it came to be.

For now, Vargas cannot go to the Philippines and she, in turn, cannot travel to the United States to see him because getting a tourist visa is next to impossible for Filipinos and others from developing countries. She has already tried and been denied.

"Can you imagine?" Vargas told AFP. "I have seen more of my mother in three months editing this film than I have in 20 years."

Complex issue

In the long run, Vargas hopes "Documented" can help reshape a debate that dwells obsessively on border security.

"The question I [often] get asked is, 'Why don't you just make yourself legal?'There isn't a process for somebody like me to get legal. People don't understand the process and the issue is so complex," he said.



PIDC Gala 2013

Martin Fries of Pinoy Radio, Sylvia and Rafael Nebres of Action Honda enjoy the evening as PIDC Little Miss Philippines 2013 performs a song for the welldressed crowd.





Nikki Valdez admits 3rd party caused failed marriage

MANILA, Philippines - For the first time, actress Nikki Valdez admitted that a third party was the real reason behind her separation from Filipino-Canadian husband Christopher Lina.

In an interview on KrisTV aired on Thursday, Valdez said she had chosen not to talk about it for a long time for the sake of her daughter Olive Isabel.

"Dito ko lang sasabihin ito, dito ko lang aaminin ang lahat because I want to be careful dahil bata pa ang anak ko, but yes, there was a third party in the relationship," Valdez said.

"lba pala talaga yung sinasabi nila kapag may kutob ka. Noong una, hindi ako nakikinig sa ganoon pero when l experienced it, sabi ko may nangyayari pero hindi ko ma-prove sa sarili ko, wala akong mapakitang ebidensiya," she said.

Valdez said can deal with all kinds of issues in a relationship, but not infidelity.

"I told myself I could take everything, pero hindi ko matanggap ang infidelity.," Valdez said.

The actress said doing the movie "In My Life" in New York paved the way for her to finally come home.

"Sabi ko nga, tawagin na akong selfish pero paano ako magiging buo para sa anak ko kung ako mismo sa loob (hindi buo)...lt was part of the film's contract na l'm gonna do scenes here, and just all of a sudden, sabi ko hindi na talaga. Sinubukan din namin.

Valdez believes that until now, the third party is still in a relationship with her husband.

Valdez married Lina at St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City on July 7, 2007. After their wedding, they settled in Toronto, Canada.

Speculations about their separation swirled after the actress returned to show business in 2009.

Marketing at the Pinoy Fiesta Festival





LEFT, UMAC Cargo, the ever-reliable door to door balikbayan box delivery company makes theri presence felt at the Pinoy Fiesta. RIGHT, Volunteers help out at the GMA-7 kapuso booth.

Filipino sa Canada

Internationally-Trained Educators Hold Hiring Consultation Session with Toronto Catholic District School Board By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT



Photo Caption: L-R--- TCDSB Trustee Garry Tanuan, HR Superintendent Gary Poole, HR Senior Manager Bessie Gruppuso and PTAC President Tony A. San Juan, posed after the TCDSB Hiring Consultation Forum at the Catholic Education Centre, North York on June 25, 2013.

In purposeful pursuit of placement and assignment as a Catholic teacher within a school board, 45 internationally-trained teachers have had a productive consultation meeting with senior officers of the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) on June 25, 2013. The 2 and 1/2 hour event, conducted at the Board's Catholic Education Centre on Sheppard Avenue, North York, was conveniently arranged by Mr.Garry Tanuan, TCDSB Trustee, Ward 8 of Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario as part of his proactive community outreach initiative.

The meaningful presentation was presided over by Mr. Gary Poole, OCT, Superintendent of Human Resources and Miss Bessie Gruppuso, Senior Manager of Human Resources. The

2 senior officers, through a question-and- answer approach, explained and clarified the Board's hiring practices and placement procedures, the current teacher hiring situation as well as the "processes and policies relating to employment" in accordance to the changes of "OECTA memorandum of understanding, Bill 115("Putting Students First Act") and Regulation 274/12" of the Ontario Ministry of Education. As well, the present teacher supply-and-demand market impacting hiring challenges and post- teacher education was covered during the exchange.

The successful town- hall - type meeting , for the first time in history, was proposed and organized by the Philippine Teachers Association of Canada (PTAC), spearheaded by its president, Tony A. San Juan, OCT, in effective consultation and coordination with TCDSB Trustee G. Tanuan and Human Resources Superintendent G. Poole.

A total of 45 participants joined the consultation- orientation session, comprised of 32 Ontario Certified Teachers(OCTs) of which twenty-six are members of PTAC while 7 are non-PTAC members(other nationalities). The remaining 12 attendees are on "in -progress OCT certification" process.

In acknowledgement, Rohian Furtado, a teacher-applicant expressed the group's appreciation describing the event: "Awesome! Hats off! The information threw light on many things and gave an insight into the realities." Further, she hoped that "we will be at least one step closer to an interview after this session. We are in the focus now. I believe that God has His ways of helping His people who put their trust in Him. You have been the instruments that God is using for His plans." San Juan in his closing remarks thanked also the TCDSB officers and the school trustee and expressed the hope that "this kind of dialogue and forum between the Board and teacher-applicants be continued" as necessary as possible. Amen. (TSJ)

Tony A.San Juan, OCT tnysanjuan@yahoo.ca

A Star Is Born - The 2013 Asian Canadian Talent Search Results

Toronto, ON (Sunday, June 23, 2013) – The Asian Canadian Talent Search Top 14 Finalists rocked the stage and competed for a chance to win a \$2,000 cash prize and an opportunity to produce a song.

After months of auditions and eliminations, and hours of preparation, the Asian Canadian Talent Search concluded in a dramatic style Sunday night. Sixteen-year-old Grand Champion Camille Mendoza (Filipino-Canadian) takes home first place, Nicole Datol (Filipino-Canadian) takes second place, and Jasmine Ragual (Filipino-Canadian) takes third place.

"Asian Canadian Talent Search - Sing For Your Heart is the most intense competition I've ever competed in. It pushed me to my limits to give my very best; all-in-all, helping me in every possible aspect to improve as a singer and performer. Mostly, I'm just thankful for the experience and for meeting wonderful people." - Camille Mendoza, 2013 ACTS Grand

"It is certainly our hope that this singing competition will bring out the best of our Asian-Canadian youth and help to promote greater community spirit and involvement. I love working with young people that are aspiring

artists," says Joe Chen, President of the Canadian Multicultural Council. The Asian Canadian Talent Search (ACTS) is an annual singing competition organized by the Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Ontario that provides an opportunity for young Asian Canadians to have their voice heard above thousands. The ACTS was created to promote and

celebrate multiculturalism in Asian Canadian youth and to nurture young vocal performers in their early stages. They are given the chance to represent their community and place a spotlight on the talent that exists in the heart of the Greater Toronto Area, a city that bursts with undiscovered talent

About The Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Ontario (CMC)

The Canadian Multicultural Council – Asians in Ontario (CMC) is a Toronto based, not-for-profit, non-political umbrella organization that is comprised of more than twenty Asian Canadian associations representing various Asian countries and cultures. It was established in 1998 to promote inter-cultural cooperation among its members and racial harmony through the understanding of cultures and heritages. Since its inception, CMC's objective is to be a leader in promoting Asian heritage and culture within the mosaic of Canadian multicultural society.

As though talking to a friend, the teen actor described his relationship with Joyce Ching as "Masaya, kasi ang tingin ko sa kanya parang best friend. Hindi

Ching

ako natatakot mag-share. Siguro lahat ng

sikreto ko sa buhay alam na niya. 'Pag sobrang down ako, sa kanya ako kumakapit. Hindi lang girlfriend ang tingin ko sa kanya. All in all, parang siya na."

Kristoffer Martin

opens up about his

love story with Joyce

Kapuso actor Kristoffer Martin has a lot to be thankful for. He is one of the leads in top-rating GMA Afternoon Prime series, Kakambal ni Eliana. The promising star has

also been recognized for his multi award-

winning performance in the film, Oros. His

secret weapon comes in the form of girlfriend

Joyce Ching, who inspires him to achieve his

Just how did the two teen stars' romance blossom? Kristoffer looked back at their first meeting in the set of Endless Love. Ironically, it was not love at first sight for the cute couple. "Unang kita ko sa kanya, sobrang maldita 'yung first impression ko sa kanya. Tapos sabi niya, suplado daw ako, 'di daw ako namamansin," recalled Kristoffer.

It all started with a random act of kindness. Kristoffer shared, "Na-build 'yung feelings ko sa kanya nung binasahan niya ako ng verse ng Bible. 'Yun, 'dun ako tinamaan. Parang naisip ko, pinadala ka ba ng Diyos sa akin? Anghel ka ba?

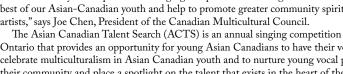
Though both of them were only in high school then, Kristoffer knew that his feelings for Joyce are much too strong to ignore. What happened when Kristoffer asked Joyce if he could court her? "Hala, sabi niya hindi puwede! Pero hindi kasi ako madaling mag give up. So go lang ng go, tapos nung January 24, siguro 4-5 months din akong nanligaw, 'yun na, sumagot na."

It seems that even the fans fell in love with their story. According to Kristoffer, "Hanggang ngayon, kahit pinaghiwalay na kami sa projects, yung KrisJoy fans, nandiyan pa rin. Hindi sila lumiliit, hindi sila nawawala, lumalaki sila. Every 24th [of the month], lagi kami nagtretrend eh. Nagpapasalamat kami dahil ang tiyaga tiyaga

Speaking of projects together with Joyce, Kristoffer expressed his outmost desire in working on a romantic comedy with his girlfriend. He explained, "Kasi ang tagal na naming hindi nagsama, at kami ni Joyce, parang masyado nang nabababad sa drama. So okay 'yun para mabigyan namin ng bagong atake, siguro mabibigyan namin ng justice

The KrisJoy relationship appears perfect and ideal, but like any other couple, they have had their share of arguments and misunderstandings. When this happens, how do they cope? "Mature kasi kami mag-isip parehas, eh. Space lang, tapos pag malamig, dun na kami babalik sa isa't isa. 'Yun 'yung maganda sa amin. Iniisip ko kung anong mas makakabuti sa kanya, at siya din ganoon sa akin, so balanced kami, give-and-take," stated Kristoffer.

Know more about the KrisJoy love story. Log on to manetwork.com for exclusive videos of Kristoffer's interview soon!



Our Lady of Piat Celebration











FROM LEFT, A short procession is held at Christ the King Church after mass;

Pinoy Fiesta an Enormous Success, Once Again!



TORONTO - Dennis Trillo, Glaiza de Castro and Rafael Rosell were a colossal hit at the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto. Festive pandemonium erupted when the GMA Pinoy TV artists went on stage and performed their best to the thousands upon thousands of fans and well wishers. "Wow, what a great night for the whole community and a wonderful news for charity!" as Susan de Veyra from Montreal exclaimed to her family and friends, she continued, "We have attended the last two Pinoy Fiesta and every year is getting more exciting.... see you all again in Toronto 2014!"

The whole day at the 100,000 sq ft of space at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre Hall, decked with colourful banderitas, was filled with entertainment and galore of exciting surprises. Romy Rafael, president of PCCF and Oswald Tugadi president of PCCT were both jubilant at the continued success of their partnership. The presidential duo thanked all the supporters of the annual celebration. PCCF promised to ship 7 Kidney Dialysis Machines to the Philippines, with the success of the event , the organization will surely be able to ship them to hospitals in the Philippines to serve the poor.

The day started with a liturgical service by Fr. Romy Tolentino to bless the celebration, followed immediately with performances by various community groups. The United Aklanon Group's Ati Atihan provided the audience participation 'A la Bira' with their colourful costumes and their rhythmic drum beats put all the audience on their feet, dancing and chanting Hala Bira! and Viva Santo Nino!

What is a Fiesta without the Santa Cruzan or a full regalia Band? The Fiesta of all Fiestas has the much acclaimed, Philippine Heritage Band, to start the parade of Beauties and Angels, Santa Cruzan. For every Fiesta in the Philippines, there are pageantry and Pinoy Fiesta is no exception, the winners of one of the most exciting and prestigious pageants were announced. Crowned at the Pinoy

> **PROUD TO BE PINOY** continued on page 10



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP - Rosemer Enverga assists Dennis Trillo, Glaiza de Castro and Rafael Rosell at the autograph signing; Mel and Flor of FV Foods feed the crowd at their food stall; Salon Entrepreneur Eva Agpaoa poses with PC Senator Tobias Enverga; PCCF and PCCT officers pose with the stars of GMA7; Philippine Chamber of Commerce help out at the festival.

MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGGODLIFE.COM











Julia Montes rides LRT

Actress Julia Montes did the unthinkable for a celebrity like her. On Monday, July 15, she took the LRT, jeepney, and rode a trolley to avoid traffic and get to a showbiz event on

Julia shared her commuting experience to followers in social networking sites.

"Dahil traffic, nasa ilallim kami ng Irt naghihintay ng pwedeng sakyan. Sobrang traffic kaya nag-LRT na lang kami," she said.

The "Muling Buksan ang Puso" actress even shared short videos of herself and her companions riding the

Some of Julia's followers commented that riding a trolley looked dangerous because of the approaching train they saw on the video.

As if the LRT and trolley are not enough, Julia, her grandmother and another companion, rode a jeepney because they had a hard time hailing

"Nakakainis ung mga ndi marunong mag respeto sa matanda at nauna sa pagpara ng taxi Tsk!!! Bad! Dahil dyan nagjeep na kame ."

Despite the hassles she experienced on the road, Julia is happy she made it to the event on time.

It will be recalled that Julia's fellow Kapamilya star Anne Curtis, rode the MRT before to avoid heavy traffic to get to her destination on time.

Camarines Norte High School-Philippines Alumni to Hold First Global Grand Reunion in Las Vegas, USA

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

Determined alumni of Camarines Norte High School in Daet, Camarines Norte, Bicol Region will converge and meet in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA during its First CNHS Alumni Global Grand Reunion on September 16-18, 2013. The event is scheduled to happen at The Orleans Hotel & Casino, 4500 West Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas, with over 250 graduates and guests expected to join and attend the first ever-assembled international gathering. Anchored by dedicated alumni batches of circa 1950s, the Reunion is expected to be participated in by many enthusiastic alumnus and alumna coming from the Philippines, USA, Canada and other parts of the world.

With its theme: "Revisiting Nostalgia: A Time for Re-Connection and Renewal", the alumni expect to re-engage, remember and reminisce together at the reunion venue, The Orleans-Las Vegas is located near the famous "glittering gaming Vegas Strip and faces as well the "sweeping mountain panoramas of the Las Vegas

For particulars, interested alumni are requested to immediately contact : Romy Octa (ropatocta@yahoo.com), Doris Palado-Pedraza(dorisped@ comcast.net), Hermie Rubio-Northrup (hermienorthrup@cox.net).TSJ. Happy Father's Day! Tony A.San Juan, OCT tnysanjuan@yahoo.ca

Judges and Beauties



Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota (LEFT) was one of the distinguised judges of the Mrs. Philippines Canada at the Pinoy Fiesta of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.



Beauties Meghan Lyz Garvida, Mary Quilao, Chantal Bautista and Alev Usta add glamour to the Pinoy Fiesta festival.

European tourists expected to pour in

More European tourists are expected to visit the country after the European Union (EU) lifted a three-year ban on local airlines, top officials said.

Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez said he expects a "significant increase" in tourist

arrivals from Europe, where flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) may again fly.

European tourists, sans PAL flights to Europe, have already spiked by 8.5 percent to 213, 598 arrivals from January to March 2013 from 196,754 visitors a year ago.

"The United Kingdom, Germany and France are among



the key European markets with stable influx to the country," Jimenez's statement read. Once PAL flights to and from Europe are made available later this year, tourist influx will likely "include those from adjacent countries," Jimenez said.

"PAL will be able to effectively augment the existing services by foreign carriers that cater to tourists in the region," he added, noting this will contribute to the goal of 10 million tourists by 2016.

The European Union dropped PAL from its so-called air safety list, which tags airlines banned from making flights to the bloc's 23 member states.

All Philippine carriers have been included in the list in 2010, after the International Civil Aviation Authority highlighted problems in complying with safety policies.

Welcoming the development, Palace spokesperson Edwin Lacierda lauded the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), which EU cited for competence.

Aside from boosting tourism, direct flights to Europe will also "enhance competitiveness and facilitate the entry of investments from the Eurozone," Lacierda said.

Transportation Secretary Emilio Abaya, for his part, called the easing "an assurance to the public of the country's compliance with international aviation safety standards." While all other airlines in the Philippines however remain banned in EU member

The Gokongwei-led airline this year figured in at least two airport mishaps: one of its planes overshot the Davao airport runway in June while another skidded at the NAIA runway.

states, Abaya said budget carrier Cebu Pacific may be reevaluated within six months.



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Supreme Court invalidates Caparas et al National Artist honors

MANILA, Philippines - Film director Carlos J. Caparas and three others have been stripped of their title as national artists in the Philippines, the Supreme Court (SC) announced on Tuesday. SC Public Information Office head Theodore Te confirmed that the decision to invalidate former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's orders was handed down.

In 2009, Malacanang made Caparas as a national artist for Film, Cecilia Guidote-Alvarez for Theater, Francisco Manosa for Architecture, and Jose "Pitoy" Moreno for Fashion Design.

But Benedicto Cabrera, Philippine National Artist for Visual Arts and Painting, described Arroyo's list as a mockery for including her vocal supporters like Caparas.

Cabrera and other national artists argued the 2009 recipients of Arroyo's National Artist Award were not even among the nominees shortlisted by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) almost four years ago.

They said the NCCA CCP nominated Lazaro Francisco (posthumous for Literature), Dr. Ramon Santos (for Music), Manuel Conde (posthumous for Film and Broadcast), and Federico Aguilar Alcuaz (for Visual Arts, Painting, Sculpture, and Mixed Media).

Citing SC decision, Te explained the former president, who has been re-elected as representative of Pampanga's second district, was found to have gravely abused her discretion in naming the National Artists.



Toronto - The San Juan Sisters, Senen San Juan, Andrea San Juan, Angelica Tait, Sonia S.J. de la Cruz, Marie San Juan, Naning Tait (niece), Beth S.J. Cruz, Eves S.J. San Andres (celebrant), Susan S.J. Llanera, Grace S.J. Juschitz, and Angie San Juan, posed in front of Lula Lounge on July 7th, in celebration of Eves retirement party after 20 1/2 years of service with The Dominion General Insurance Company. (Background: Lito Cruz & Alex Juschitz; Not in picture are Shirley S.J. Rosales & Sylvia S.J. Leaver)

Philippines

PH aim 66M Tourists by 2016

Plan to achieve 10M Foreign tourists and 56M locals by 2016



MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Tourism (DOT), in partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) – Dr. Andrew L. Tan Center for Tourism, recently unveiled the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP), which has set a target of 10 million international visitors and 56 million domestic travelers by 2016.

The DOT further revealed that the 2013 international visitor target was 5.5 million, a considerable increase from the 4.3 million international tourist arrivals recorded in 2012. Meanwhile, the volume of domestic travelers in 2012 was 40.7 million, and this is expected to increase to 44.1 million in 2013.

The top sources of international travelers to the Philippines were Korea, USA, Japan, and China. Strategic markets include Taiwan, Australia, Singapore, and Canada, while opportunity markets include Hong Kong, United Kingdom, Malaysia, and Germany.

Tourism Undersecretary for Tourism Development Daniel G. Corpuz outlined three key strategies in moving forward to attain the goal of increased volume in tourists, including: developing and marketing competitive tourist products and destinations; improving market access, connectivity, and destination infrastructure; and improving institutional governance and human resources.

"Tourism is a major instrument to contribute to national development, and the National Tourism Development Plan must be synchronized with the Philippine Development Plan," explained Undersecretary Corpuz. "Government agencies are required to submit a portion of their budgets that will have an impact on tourism development."

Tourism Assistant Secretary Roland Cañizal further expounded on greater integration of government agencies to allocate adequate resources that would boost tourism development in the Philippines, citing several Convergence Programs that the DOT has with other departments, especially the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the provision of access roads to tourist destinations and the Department of Communications (DOTC) in upgrading key airports throughout the Philippines. He further emphasized the role of local government units in boosting tourism destinations in their respective jurisdictions.

"This is the kind of thinking that we want to cascade to all the local government units—that if they are serious about being a part of the National Tourism Development Plan, their seriousness is translated in terms of their commitment to develop their areas and to put the necessary resources to make sure that the plan is being implemented," Cañizal said

In terms of developing and marketing a diverse range of tourism products and services, Undersecretary Corpuz emphasized that the Philippines must think "beyond beach vacations". Among the products identified by the DOT are: nature tourism; cultural tourism; sun and beach tourism; leisure and entertainment tourism; MICE and events tourism; health, wellness, and retirement tourism; cruise and nautical tourism; diving and marine sports tourism; and education tourism

In a videotaped message, Tourism Secretary Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. stated that the tourism industry is all about changing mindsets in the Philippines, especially since it did not rank high in terms of priorities for the longest time.

"The National Tourism Development Plan provides a framework for an honest and professional tourism sector as an engine for sustainable growth," he emphasized.

Meanwhile, AIM President Dr. Steven J. DeKrey expressed the institution's support of the Philippines' tourism industry.

"We need to buttress a closer and stronger cooperation among tourism players in this flattering period of the Philippines' growth," Dr. DeKrey stated. "There is no room for complacency, and we already have what it takes to make it happen—skills, talent, enterprise, and government support. The AIM Center for Tourism aims to create greater opportunities for the Philippines through tourism, education, and economic development. We hope to support the tourism industry as it works toward generating sustainable development."

PROUD TO BE PINOY continued from page 8

Fiesta were Miss Philippines Canada 2013 Caitlin Pantaleon, Miss Teen Philippines Canada Alana Saguici, Mrs. Philippines Canada Chona Stinson and Little Miss Philippines Canada Anjalie Pathnamathan. Congratulations to the new queens, princesses and to all the candidates, they are all winners indeed! Little Mr. Philippines Canada aka 'Pinoy Bulilit' were introduced as well!

The pride of Pinoys in Canada, entertainers Mikey Bustos and Martha Joy, showed everyone why they are our Canadian Idols. The world renowned, Culture Philippines of Ontario, performance was a cultural celebration on its own. Among the special guests were Ambassador Leslie & Debbie Gatan, Consul General Juniver & John Mahilum-West, Minister of Sports Bal Gosal, Minister of Natural Resources Joe Oliver, Senator Victor & Rosa Oh, Councillor Cho and our very own senator Tobias "Jun" Enverga.

The over-all chair of marketing for the Fiesta and Pageants, Rosemer Enverga, indicated that the event exceeded all expectations, she wishes to thank all the organizations and individuals who continue to support Pinoy Fiesta. Kudos to all of them! Kudos to all of us for having great fun and helping at the same time! For more details visit, www. philippinecanadianfoundation.com or email pinoyfiestatoronto@gmail.com or pageantsphilippines@gmail.com.

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Davao named first smokefree metropolitan city in Southeast Asia

DAVAO - If you're a smoker, you might as well drop the habit when in Davao.

This, as Davao City has been named the first 100-percent smoke-free metropolitan in Southeast Asia, more than a decade after its implementation of a city-wide smoking ban

The Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (Seatca) July 7 recognized Davao



City for successfully implementing its Comprehensive Anti-Smoking Ordinance passed in 2002.

Davao City should serve as a "model

city in implementing law against smoking," local media quoted Seatca director Bungon Ritthiphakdee as saying.

Seatca is a multi-sectoral alliance supporting ASEAN countries in developing tobacco control policies. It works closely with the ASEAN governments and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Violators will now be given citation tickets under the updated policy, which now covers all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and shishas. The new ordinance also broadens the coverage of the smoking ban, to include all public places, buildings and outdoor spaces, and public and government-owned vehicles.

Several local governments have put in place policies similar to Davao's anti-smoking ban, in support of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003.

Albay, for instance, has rolled out a provincial policy, even as five of its towns have local smoking bans. The province also recently made the biggest human no-smoking sign.

WHO earlier this year recognized President Benigno Aquino III and other ranking government officials for their efforts at curbing tobacco consumption among Pinoys.

The Philippines early this year rolled out higher taxes for tobacco and alcohol products through a controversial Aquino-backed revamp of the so-called "sin tax" law.

FV Foods Making *Waves*

Mel Galeon and Flor Vendiola of FV Foods pose with Liberal party of Canada leader Justine Trudeau at the Filipinos Making Waves festival at Yonge-Dundas Square.



Alliance files Bill to Abolish Pork Barrel

PORK-BARREL continued from page 1

Revilla meanwhile said, while saying that his PDAF is allocated according to government rules and regulations.

He however called the controversy a "demolition job" aimed at pulling down the opposition "especially those who enjoy the popular support of our people."

While also opening himself to a probe, Marcos said: "I am also exploring the possibility that there may be a political angle to all this in light of the upcoming Presidential elections in 2016."

Investigative reports recently published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer said the senators allocated funds to dummy nongovernment organizations.

Miriam said a prosecution panel "composed of three people who are beyond the reach of politicians" should handle the case to ensure independence.

Attempts to bring the issue to any other venue would be futile, she said, noting that senators are beyond the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, and may influence the Justice Secretary.

Taking the matter before the Senate ethics committee may also be in vain, Santiago said, noting that "senators are loath to investigate their fellow senators."

Santiago's colleagues aren't shrugging their shoulders either, but were split as to

whether or not they should conduct their own probe into an alleged pork barrel scam.

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero pushed the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee to launch a full-blown investigation on the controversy attributed to a Senate "old boys club"

"Accountability and transparency in government dictates that this report must be quizzically looked into," said Escudero said.

For his part, Senator Franklin Drilon, who is poised for the Senate Presidency, said an investigation is better left at the hands of the Justice department.

"Hindi po natin pwedeng imbestigahan ang ating mga sarili (We cannot investigate ourselves)," Drilon said, noting that results of an internal probe will surely be questioned by the public.

Drilon said he is confident Justice chief Leila De Lima, who has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments composed partly of senators, will remain independent.

"I have confidence to Sec. De Lima. Even if she is not confirmed, she continues to hold office and what is more critical to me is the confidence of the President," Drilon said.

Abolish Pork Barrel Bill filed

MANILA - The militant bloc of the House of Representatives vowed to file a bill that would abolish priority development assistance fund (PDAF) or pork barrel given to congressmen and senators.

The alliance composed of Bayan Muna, Gabriela Women's Party, Kabataan, and Anakpawis party-list groups made the move after several politicians have been tagged in a P10-billion pork barrel funds. "We are, therefore, filing a bill for the abolition of the pork barrel system," Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Neri Colmenares said in a press conference.

Colmenares explained the bill shall prohibit the president from providing a budgetary item for

Colmenares explained the bill shall prohibit the president from providing a budgetary item for lump sum discretionary amounts. He claimed the proposed budget in discretionary lump sum amounts coming from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is primary source of kickbacks and corruption in the legislature.

"Aside from the legislators' pork barrel, the bill shall also abolish the Presidential pork barrel funds, such as the President's Social Fund sourced from revenue-generating agencies like PAGCOR (Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation), PCSO (Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office), and the Malampaya Fund," he added.

But the House leadership expressed fear that such a move would paralyze the delivery of basic services, including hospitalization for the indigent patients in the districts.

In a separate press conference, Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. categorically thumbed moves to scrap the pork barrel, which has been providing funds for district congressmen and senator's programs.

"I am against the abolition of PDAF. We have our own constituents unlike senators whose constituent is the whole nation," Belmonte told reporters.

Every year, party-list and district congressmen receive P70 million each while senators get P200 million to fund their legislative projects.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., former chairman of House Committee on Appropriations, also expressed opposition to Makabayan bloc's proposal.

Andaya Jr., who became the secretary of the DBM, explained the pork barrel serves as equalizer "since not all districts are allotted the same budget, across the board.

"If you are short on funding for scholarship, then you can use your PDAF," Andaya said in a separate interview.

But he admitted that pork barrel funds are becoming sources of evil once they are spent on other things, which not intended to the projects.

The NBI is investigating a P10-billion pork barrel scam of entrepreneur Lim Napoles, whose JLN Group of Companies was reportedly tapped for questinable government-funded projects.

Tom Rodriguez, ayaw maging kampante sa sarili

Malayo na ang narating ni Tom Rodriguez sa patuloy na pamamayagpag ng My Husband's Lover. Naging laman siya ng social media sites at naging controversial sa bawat episode ng mapangahas na GMA primetime series.

Inusisa ng GMANetwork.com kung ano'ng eksena ang naging paborito ni Tom at nagkaroon ng malaking impact sa kanya. "Lahat naman siguro. Hindi naman ako nagiging biased sa mga eksenang ginagawa namin kasi napakaganda ng kuwento. Kaya



bawat eksena, may sense. Alam mo na parang hindi siya patapon na eksena. So lahat, na-eenjoy ko."

Ramdam na ramdam ang bawat emosyon na nakikita kay Tom on-screen. Inamin nyang nakatulong ang pagiging close niya sa kanyang co-stars. "Sobrang gaan, kasi lahat sila sobrang mababait at maalaga. At saka, alam mo iyong ang dali nilang pakisamahan kaya sobrang suwerte ko," dagdag pa niya.

Usap-usapan na ang mga susunod na mangyayari sa My Husband's Lover. Sa sobrang avid viewers ng iba, mismong sila na ang gumawa ng sarili nilang version sa mga susunod na mangyayari.

Nang tanungin namin si Tom kung ano ang dapat aabangan sa My Husband's Lover. "Marami, maraming aabangan. Kasi kung nanunuod kayo, pa-intense nang pa-intense iyong mga eksena. Maraming kailangan at dapat abangan."

Matindi din ang pressure sa cast ng My Husband's Lover para maging kapanapanabik ang bawat eksena. Nakakaramdam din ba siya ng pressure? "Sa totoo lang lagi. It's constant. Thankful naman ako duon sa pressure na iyon. Kasi ibig sabihin, it keeps you honest and grounded."

"At the same time, hindi complacent. Ayoko maging kampante sa sarili ko. Iyong pressure na iyon, nagreremind lang siya na kailangan pag-igihan ko iyong trabaho ko," ang paliwanag ng aktor.

Sa pagtatapos ng interview, nagiwan siya ng pangako sa lahat ng supporters ng My Husband's Lover,

"Gagawin ko lagi iyong best ko para sa mga manunuod."

Huwag palampasin ang lalo pang umiinit na mga eksena ng My Husband's Lover gabi-gabi pagkatapos ng Mundo Mo'y Akin.



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Life is too short not to spend with other people - DR. SOLON GUZMAN

In one week, I knew of three people who died. Inah Canlapan's grandfather, Balita publisher Ruben Cusipag and Likha publisher Joy Muere's father Ernesto Peralta all passed away. Coincidentally, Cusipag and Peralta's graves were just a stone's throw away from each other and were just two among the 13 to be buried on July 13 at the Highland Memory Gardens that day.



Dr. Solon Guzman (FAR LEFT) enjoys the birthday party for his wife Dr. Jo. (CENTER IN DARK JEAN JACKET)

They never expected daddy Ernie Peralta to die. It was just a couple of days ago that he was playing tennis with not a health care in the world. As they say, he was fit as a fiddle. Then, he got pneumonia. The doctor gave him the strongest antibiotics they can prescribe and they said it should work within 48 hours. A day after, he was just coughing like a any of us would. Like it was just your throat was itchy and then it was gone. It was not something to get worried about.

However, they decided to still bring him to the hospital.

Then, I got the text message. Daddy is gone.

Then, I remembered Dr. Josephine Adorna Guzman's birthday.

You're probably wondering, why I

would remember a birthday a few weeks ago in the death of somebody.

Dr. Jo's birthday celebration was the idea of her husband Dr. Solon Guzman, the community leader based in Mississauga but is known all over the GTA.

He celebrates his two daughter's birthdays, his own, his mom and invites as many people as possible.

In her thank you speech, she said it was not her idea to hold a party.

When Dr. Solon spoke, I was really not listening. I am not into speeches in this kind of parties. I take photos and pray that I remember their names when it comes to putting the caption. It's almost like listening to homilies when I am at mass. But for some reason, certain lines of homilies and speeches get into your head even if you are not listening and you remember them.

"Life is too short not to spend with family and friends."

This is the line that Dr. Solon Guzman said while making that speech after his wife spoke. Don't ask me about the rest of his speech.

That is why I remember it during the death of Joy's father. One second somebody is healthy, then you turn around and they are gone and you cannot believe it.

We question why, or how but we never get the answers. Or maybe we know the answer but those are not the answers we want. We want answers that will take away the pain even though we know none would.

That is why Dr. Solon's reason for celebrating his family's special moments with as many people - family and

friends - is worth remembering. Life is too short.

Luckily for Dr. Solon, he is an extrovert. I learned in high school that extroverts are people who get their energy from being with other people.

Well, I am what is called an INTJ person according to a personality profile test I took one time.

Being introverted is my main personality but still extroverted a bit.

In that case, if we were actors, me and Dr. Solon would probably be cast in a remake movie of The Odd Couple.

Anyway, people can die young or they can die old.

But the point is that every moment must be spent with people, not things, toys that nobody will mourn if they break. They may break your wallet but it will never break anyone's heart when you tell them, "my car died."

They'll sympathize for a minute but they will not feel the loss. But when a person dies, people will feel the pain.

So, let us try to cherish the time we spend with people, whether they are family or friends or just acquaintance.



Thankful UN vows 'more robust' PH peacekeepers

Manila, Philippines -- The United Nations has praised the Philippines for supporting its peacekeeping operations and agreed to enhance the self-defense capabilities of the troops to ensure their safety in conflict-torn places.

UN peacekeeping operations chief Hervé Ladsous assured that they will work with stakeholders "to provide what is needed" after recognizing the concerns raised by the Philippine government about the safety and security of its peacekeeping contingent in the Golan Heights, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario met Ladsous and other key UN officials to lay down three "conditionalities" by the Philippines on the continued engagement of its peacekeeping forces. The meeting was held at the UN Headquarters in New York City

The conditions included the procurement of defense weapons for peacekeepers by October as well as the use of six-month rotation in the deployment of Filipino peacekeepers.

"Under-Secretary General Ladsous, for his part, commended the Philippines' contribution to UN peacekeeping operations and particularly its engagement with UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) in the Golan Heights, saying that UNDOF contributes to security and stability in the Middle East region," the DFA said in a statement.

In the meeting with Ladsous, Del Rosario identified the following conditionalities to keep the Filipino peacekeepers in the Golan

- The UN is able to deploy UNDOF's mandated full troop strength of 1,250 by October 2013;
- The necessary equipment for the protection and defense of Filipino troops and other UNDOF are procured by October 2013;
- The Philippines be allowed to deploy troops using a six-month

Del Rosario also informed the UN about President Aquino's decision to keep the Filipino peacekeepers in UNDOF until August 11 amid security concerns in the Golan Heights.

China executes Filipina drug trafficker: Philippines

China put to death a Filipina drug trafficke, the Philippine foreign department said, after Beijing ignored Manila's request to spare her life.

"It is with profound sadness that we confirm that our Filipina (compatriot) was executed in China this morning," a sombre foreign department spokesman Raul Hernandez told a news conference.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs would like to express its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of the Filipina as they mourn the loss of their loved one," he added.

"The life of every Filipino is valuable and we pray that this is the last time that a tragedy like this befalls any of our countrymen."

Hernandez declined to name the woman, saying the government was honouring a request by her family.

She was arrested along with her male cousin for heroin-smuggling in 2011 and both were later sentenced to death. But the cousin won a two-year reprieve, according to the Philippine government.

The woman was the fifth convicted drugs smuggler from the Philippines to be executed by China since March 2011, when two women and a man were put to death for the crime.

A second Filipino man was executed in December 2011. All five executions were carried out despite intense lobbying by Philippine President Benigno Aquino to have the sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

Joe Oliver Canada Day Event



Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. (3rd from left) joins the Canada Day Celebration of the Eglinton - Lawrence area community of Toronto, hosted by Member of Parliament Joe Oliver (4th from left). This was only one of the several Canada Day celebratory long-weekend events that the Conservative Senator for Ontario joined in. Others were the "Taste of Asia" -- a three-day festival of Asian food, culture and heritage in Markham, Ontario and the Scotiabank CHIN Picnic where he briefly spoke before the audience at the Filipino stage upon the invitation of Lenny and Theresa Lombardi, President and Vice President/General Manager, respectively of CHIN Radio/TV International organizers of the annual event. Also in photo is Rosemer Enverga (2nd from left).

Liking Isn't Helping

"Liking isn't helping" is the headline of a heart-wrenching ad campaign by Publicis Singapore created for Crisis Relief Singapore, a Christian disaster relief organization run by volunteers. Shocking real press images representing three catastrophes: flood, war and earthquake are composed together with thumbs-ups mimicking the Facebook "Like" button.

The idea is simple but daring - virtual things don't count in real life and even a billion "Likes" on Facebook won't help those facing crisis in their everyday lives. It might win you an iPod if you're lucky but it won't stop poverty, homelessness, economical and cultural collapse that are caused by wars and natural disasters. Therefore, the campaign calls for action with its tagline "Be a volunteer. Change a

Proclaimed as one of the most powerful and moving campaigns of the year, "Liking



isn't helping" has won a Gold Lion in Press category at Cannes Festival.

Philippine gov't to tighten rules on stem cell therapy

MANILA - Hospitals offering stem cell therapy have until Aug. 31 to seek or renew their accreditation from the Department of Health (DOH), a Philippine official said.

"For the information of the public, the DOH is accrediting hospitals for this kind of treatment, and come Aug. 31, these hospitals should file their accreditation

requirements (with DOH) for them to continue to offer this treatment," said deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte.

The government is eyeing stricter regulation of hospitals offering stem cell therapy amid speculations that the recent deaths of three politicians were due to the xenogenic (animal-based stem cell) treatment they had received in Germany

Dr. Leo Olarte, president of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and spokesperson of the Philippine Society for Stem Cell Medicine, said the groups were still trying to determine whether the politicians had died due to their illness or due to hypersensitivity reaction from the

xenogenic stem cells.

The PMA also warned of a possible scam involving German doctors coming over to perform stem cell therapy on patients in five-star hotels at around 1 million pesos (US\$23,000) per shot.

Valte echoed a similar warning from the DOH against doctors offering the procedure in their clinics, saying that "hospitals, not (individual) doctors, nor stand-alone clinics, are the ones being accredited."

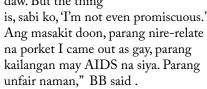
Health Secretary Enrique Ona said the rules restricted the use of genetically altered stem cells and tissues of human adults, those from the umbilical cord, fatderived human stem cells and live animal stem cells.

BB hurt over AIDS rumors

BB Gandanghari, who was recently released from the hospital, clarified that he had a "serious case" of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) caused by dehydration, not

HIV or AIDS.

"Hindi kasi ako nagbabasa. Nakakarating na lang sa akin. Sabi nga may AIDS daw. But the thing



"Hindi ho sakit ng gays or transsexuals or transgender ang AIDS. Sakit iyan ng promiscuous na tao, whether gay or straight," BB explained.

He admitted that he has been working out too much and drinking less water. Poor eating habits worsened the problem.

"I was really working out too much kasi I would do zumba, yoga, running in the afternoon. Because I want to maintain (my weight) and then hindi ako umiinom ng tubig. But I would drink tea in replacement of the water. Sabi ng doctor, it's really the best to drink yung regular water. Before, I would also just eat once a day, parang one whole meal sa gabi."

It will be recalled that BB and Robin have reconciled after years of not talking to each other when the latter visited the former in the hospital.





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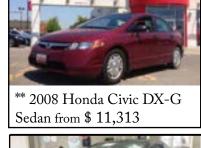


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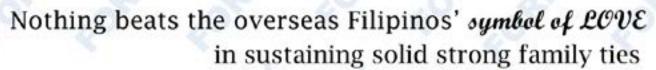
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filipino World



Filipino restaurant gets New Yorkers to eat 'kamayan'- style

NEW YORK - A restaurant in Manhattan is a living showcase of one of the ties that bind the Philippines and America: food. Thursday night is "kamayan night" at Jeepney, a Filipino gastropub brought by the creators of the hit Filipino restaurant 'Maharlika.'

The Filipino owners behind these successful Pinoy eats are making Filipino food in New York as ubiquitous as the jeepneys of Manila.

"As a Filipino American I grew up having my American friends over at my house and when I was 5, I would beg my dad not to eat with his hands when they're there," recalled Jeepney owner Nicole Ponseca, "now I'm so thankful that my dad made me remember that I'm Filipino."

With a minimum party of four, foodies experience the real deal in dining Filipino style without plates nor silverware. Guests eat with their bare hands and before they're seated, a maharlikan crew meticulously builds a foodscape of one's favorite "ulam" on top of a mountain of rice served on banana leaves.

The food extravaganza comes with lumpiang shanghai as appetizers, huge portions of longganisa, tocino, bicol express, chicharon bulaklak, and dampa fry on white rice.

"It's really good, I'm really enjoying it," diner Arnev Mukherjee said.

"I love it, the food is really delicious, this vinegar stuff is really great, I'm eating with my hands, it's awesome," another diner, Anthony Germinario Teaneck said.

Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop said he's not Filipino but he considers Filipino food as comfort food.

"We have a terrific Filipino community in Jersey City. I've had a tremendous amount of Filipino food in my life though I've never had this sort of kamayan," he said, "it's a new experience, the food was delicious, it's a little bit more messy than I'm used to."

"It felt very natural, it's like being home," Jersey City council president Rolando Lavarro said.

A Zagat restaurant reviewer said it's the best thing they ate that night. New York Times said, dinner at Jeepney felt more like parachuting into

"It's something to be proud of that you're a Filipino, na the mainstream is already accepting who we are, what we are and what we eat," Jersey City resident Helen Castillo said.

Time Out New York wrote that for all their work spreading the word bout the country's food culture, the Philippine government ought to these restaurant owners a stipend.

Marian Rivera dreams of getting pregnant but not anytime soon

Muling idiniin ni Marian Rivera na hindi totoo ang mga lumalabas na haka-hakang buntis siya ngayon.

Kung totoo man daw ito ay ipagmamalaki niya ito.



"Kapag buntis ako sasabihin ko, tapos ipu-post ko sa Instagram ko.

"Hindi ko itatago iyan. Kasi kung buntis man ang isang tao, wala dapat itago doon, e. Dapat maging proud ka pa sakali, pero ang problema hindi totoo," lahad niya.

Dagdag pa ni Marian, "Aaminin kong pinapangarap ko iyan sa buhay ko, pero hindi muna ngayon.

"Hindi lang buong-buong [tatanggapin kung buntis]. Kung meron pang salitang higit diyan, iyon ang gagawin namin."

LOVES HER HOME NETWORK. Pinuri

rin ni Marian ang Kapamilya star niyang si Bea Alonzo sa pagiging mabait nito.

Nagkita raw silang dalawa kamakailan at si Bea pa umano ang nagsabi kay Marian na magkakatambal sila ni Dingdong Dantes sa isang pelikula.

"Nagkita kami ni Bea once, siya mismo ang nagsabi sa akin na makakatrabaho niya si Dingdong.

"Napakabait ni Bea sa akin," saad ng GMA-7 Primetime Queen.

Kahit na identified bilang Kapuso star si Dingdong, nakakailang pelikula na rin siya sa film production outfit ng ABS-CBN—ang Star Cinema.

Bukas din ba sa posibilidad na gumawa ng pelikula si Marian sa ibang film

"Why not? Kung may offer, bakit hindi?" mabilis na sagot ng aktres.

Gayunpaman, sa ngayon ay hindi ito magiging madali dahil may existing contract pa si Marian with Regal Films.

"May kontrata pa ako kay Mother Lily na dapat tapusin sa kanya, pero hindi naman mahirap pakiusapan si Mother, just in case may magandang offer sa akin," paliwanag ni Marian.

Samantala, mag-e-expire naman ang kontrata ni Marian with GMA-7 this

Inusisa ng PEP sa kanya kung totoo ang mga balitang posibleng lumipat siya ng ibang TV network.

Umiwas namang mag-detalye si Marian nang sinabi niyang, "Bilang respeto sa GMA, hanggang August pa ako sa GMA at mahal ko ang GMA."

US, allies may use military bases

The Philippines plans to give the United States and other allies access to its military bases under an arrangement that US forces could use to counter China's creeping presence in the disputed West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

But Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said the Philippines would not build new air and naval bases. China had already heard the news and warned that countries with territorial claims in the West Philippine Sea which look for help from third parties will find their efforts "futile." Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the strategy was a "path of confrontation" and it would be "doomed."

The Philippines and the United States on Thursday began five days of joint naval exercises off Panatag Shoal (Scarborough Shoal), a rich fishing ground within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone that China occupied after a maritime standoff that lasted more than two months last year.

Clarifying the report by the news service Reuters, Gazmin said the Philippines would allow the United States, Japan and other allies access to its existing military bases under an agreement that would be in accordance with the Constitution and the Visiting Forces Agreement. The 1987 Constitution prohibits foreign military bases in the country. "Let me clarify issues. No, we are not going to construct bases. We will be accepting access," Gazmin told reporters. The government is still preparing the access agreement, Gazmin said. "After that (the agreement) is done, then we will be allowing it, if and when there is an agreement, access," Gazmin said.

"Then there will be equipment coming in from the United States. Now as far as Japan is concerned, we do welcome other countries, particularly Japan since Japan is a strategic partner, in accordance with our existing protocols," he said.

Gazmin spoke at a news conference with Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori

Philippine Independence Celebrations



LEFT PHOTO AT THE CHIN Picnic : Lenny Lombardi, President of CHIN Radio/TV International, takes Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. around the CNE grounds during the Scotiabank CHIN Picnic, where the Conservative Senator for Ontario was invited to the annual event by Lenny and Theresa Lombardi, Vice President and General Manager of the multicultural/multilingual radio and television station and speak briefly before the audience at the Filipino stage within the grounds. The Scotiabank CHIN Picnic was only one of the several Canada Day celebratory long-weekend events that Sen. Enverga, Jr. joined in, Others included the "Taste of Asia" – a three-day multicultural festival of Asian food, music and culture on Kennedy and Steeles Ave. E and the Eglinton - Lawrence Canada Day :Picnic, hosted by Joe Oliver, MP (C, Eglinton -Lawrence).

RIGHT PHOTO AT THE Taste of Asia:

Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. (7th from left) joins other officials from the three levels of government -- federal, Ontario provincial and the City of Markham, Ontario, as they prepare to cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the formal opening of the annual "Taste of Asia". Now on its 11th year, the "Taste of Asia" is a three-day festival of Asian food, culture and heritage hosted by the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham, the Association of Progressive Muslims of Ontario and the City of Markham. The "Taste of Asia" was only one of the several Canada Day celebratory long-weekend events that the Conservative Senator for Ontario joined in. Others included the Eglinton Lawrence Canada Day :Picnic and the Scotiabank CHIN Picnic where he briefly spoke before the audience at the Filipino stage upon the invitation of Lenny and Theresa Lombardi, President and Vice President/General Manager, respectively, of CHIN Radio/TV International - organizers of the annual event



Sen. Pia Cayetano Wants to Eliminate Age discrimination

MANILA - Age discrimination for job seekers are common practice in different companies in the Philippines so Senator Pia Cayetano wanted to end the job age discrimination. If the bill will be successful companies would no longer be able to impose age requirements on applicants.

Although the Philippines unemployment rate is currently soaring, the Senate

Bill 29 seeks to end what Senator Cayetano calls "age discrimination" by penalizing employers, labor contractors, and other organizations that will discriminate against an individual on the basis of his or her age.

According to the daughter of former prominent Senator Rene Cayetano, Pia, her bill or the proposed Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 2013 adheres to the constitutional mandate of equal employment opportunities for all.



During a press briefing on Tuesday, Senator Cayetano showed a newspaper with a job advertisement that specifies qualified applicants as only those aged between 20 and 29 years old. The Senator stressed that the age should not be a factor in assessing one's qualification for a job.

The measures prohibits employers from publishing ads suggesting age preferences, requiring applicants to declare their age, declining application based on age, and laying off old employees. If the Senate Bill will passed as a law, violators will face a fine of between P50,000 and P500,000 or imprisonment for 3 months to 2 years.

KC Nanola's Birthday



KC Nanola (CENTER) celebrates her 18th birthday with a dinner with friends and family. Above, she poses with dad Romy and Cris SP Nanola. Below are just a few more photos of that joyous dinner at Maki Sushi. MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

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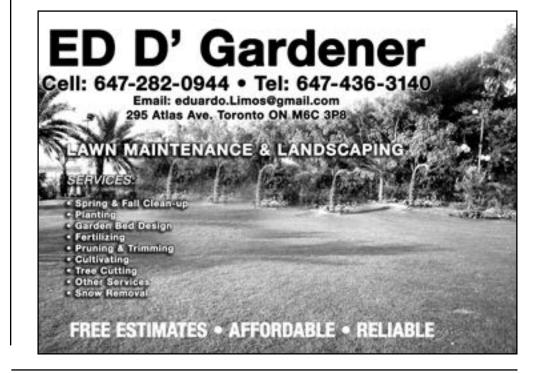
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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity News & Gossip

Jolina Magdangal & Rica Peralejo are Pregnant



Mark Escueta and Jolina Magdangal

Jolina Magdangal is six to seven weeks pregnant with her first baby with husband Mark Escueta. The singer-actress' father, Jun Magdangal himself confirmed this to Yahoo! Philippines OMG!.

Daddy Jun shared that the 34-year-old's doctor advised her to go on bed rest due to spotting (bleeding), probably because of her three active TV

after she was launched as one of the team leads in the new weekly variety show. She also co-hosts GMA News TV program "Personalan" where two warring

Jolina's father also related that Jolina has already missed some of the tapings for the primetime series "Mundo Mo'y Akin." The upcoming baby is Daddy Jun's third grandchild.

It will be recalled that the Kapuso star married the Rivermaya drummer twice in November 2011—first in a private affair in Tagaytay, and then at Splendido Taal Golf and Country Club three days later.

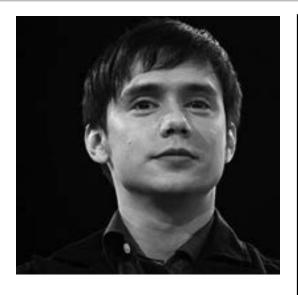
Just recently, Jolina's showbiz contemporary Rica Peralejo also confirmed that she's expected to give birth January next year, right in time for the anniversary of her wedding to Joe Bonifacio.

Also, Actress Rica Peralejo is an excited mommy-to-be.
Rica, who is married to Joe Bonifacio, bares she's expected to give birth between January 26 to 31, 2014, right in time for their January 29 wedding

anniversary.

The celebrity revealed her pregnancy in her blog entries. In her June 5 blog post titled "6 Weeks and 3 Days Old," Rica related how she found out that she was finally pregnant, after being married for three years.

"A day before going to the doctor to check if I really was pregnant, I already did the home pregnancy test twice. Both times came out positive. I couldn't believe it. I mean isn't it is always a wonder, a puzzle, a mystery, how we can carry miracles inside of our bodies!?!?! What a privilege!" she wrote.



Patrick enjoys being a hands-on dad

Patrick Garcia enjoys being a new father to fourmonth-old Chelsea, his daughter with non-showbiz airlfriend lessica Martinez.

"Masaya. Hands-on kami, wala kaming yaya. Iyon ang bonding namin," Patrick said in an interview on the set of "Annaliza" at San Jose, Bulacan on Wednesday, July 10.

Patrick admits he savors the joys of fatherhood.

"Putting her to sleep, changing her diaper, feeding her" are just some of the things Patrick does as a dad who describes himself as loving and caring.

"Mas nai-enjoy ko siyempre. Kasi yung responsibilities mo, mas nagagawa mo. Mas nagiging responsible ka rin.

Patrick has not seen Alex Jazz, his son with Jennylyn Mercado, lately. And he doesn't want to comment on the situation.

Patrick and Jennylyn reportedly have a misunderstanding over the issue of parental support.

Patrick tells Jessica not to let intrigues affect her.

"First hand, alam naman niya ang totoo. I just explain to her na it's part of the business sometimes. Ang importante lang is not to be affected and huwag magalit, kasi kung sino ang magalit, iyon ang talo."

In a previous interview, Patrick said that marriage isn't his immediate concern because he wants to take it "one step at a time."

'Someday I'll settle down and get married. Kung ano man yung journey ko sa buhay, tatanggapin ko yun ng buong buo. If may mali man, I try to correct it and I try to make my life better. I don't know how soon or how late, one step at a time."

He added that he can relate to Lazaro, his character in "Annaliza," since he's also a dad.

"In a way, nakaka-relate ako kasi I'm a father as well. I'm enjoying it a lot. Binigyan ako ulit ng ABS-CBN ng opportunity para gaiwn ang isang bagay na mahal kong gawin. I embrace that responsibility. I think I'm doing well naman."

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Senator Enverga with FAMAS in Montreal

Enverga, Jr. (4th from left) is among those who graced the 50th anniversary celebration of the "Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs" and the conclusion of all festivities on the 115th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine independence. held at the McKenzie King Park in Montreal, Sunday, July 14, 2013.



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Is four-day work schedule the solution to Manila traffic?

MANILA - To ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila, a veteran lawmaker has filed a bill proposing its residents to come to work for 10 hours each day in four days every week.

Quezon City Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo explained his legislation would also help employees working in Metro Manila to cope with the rising cost of living in the region.

"The proposed 10/4 work week, which did not prosper in the 15th Congress, has to be revived as an alternative to the planned two-day road ban for motor vehicles in Metro Manila," Castelo explained.

"(The road ban) would only paralyze productivity because of the lack of viable public transport system for additional commuters," he added.

He stressed that a 10/4 work schedule would lessen the days employees have to commute, a move that will ease the plight of the white and blue-collar workers as well as the middle class.

In his House Bill No. 1278, Castelo wants both public and private sectors to add additional two hours of work daily to complete to 40 hours of work weekly in only four days.

"The 10/4 work week could mean weekly savings of at least 20 percent in work expenses. It can serve as a poverty alleviation program by itself for cash-strapped workers," he added.

He estimated that a 10/4 work week



could generate P20 billion weekly savings for the over 20 million private sector workers and 1.5 million government employees.

Citing studies, Castelo said his proposal could also increase productivity, claiming the schedule makes workers more focused in their work.

Should the legislation be enacted, the proposal will make Fridays the start of the weekend that would give Metro Manila residents an extra day for recreation and other activities.

"A three-day extended weekend can make employees more revitalized and motivated, as they have more time to spend with their families and pursue other activity, including hobby and leisure," he claimed.

"Also, the additional day-off can push workers to pursue other productive activity, including learning new skills to retool himself and hone his competitiveness in the labor market," he added.

He also cited the House of Representatives, where government employees start to work at 8 am until 7 pm, as a concrete example.

"Yet service and productivity is never compromised by the shorter work week and longer weekend," Castelo pointed out.



Should the gov't move the Philippine capital?

MANILA - After suggestions to make the country's name "Filipinas", another branch of government seeks to make another change: replace the city of Manila as the seat of capital in the country.

In filing Senate Bill No. 655, Senator Antonio "Sonny" Trillanes IV proposes to create a commission that will determine if there is a need to retain Manila as Philippine capital.

"Metro Manila is a capital which could hardly stand proud in the ranks of national capitals throughout the world," Trillanes lamented.

Manila is the second largest city in the Philippines and is one the sixteen cities that make up the NCR or

more popularly referred to as Metro Manila.

Don't give up on Metro Manila.

This is what members of the House of Representatives think about a Senate bill looking into the moving the capital away from the city of Manila and the National Capital Region (NCR).

Ifugao Rep. Teddy Baguilat said despite heavy traffic and flooding in Manila, the centuries-old city is irreplaceable to stand as the country's capital.

"I think it is a ridiculous idea to transfer the capital from centuries-old Manila to somewhere else. A capital is the city that stands as a country's bastion of political power, culture, and history to the world," Baguilat said

"It usually is the oldest seat of government of a country where the president stays. It also usually is the

most popular globally. And that is Manila," he noted. Instead, Baguilat suggested to declare Quezon City as the government center.

But Speaker Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr. thinks it's going to be very difficult for the government to establish a new capital city to represent the country aside from Manila.

"Abroad, the word Manila is thought to apply to Metro Manila rather than Manila itself. The city of Manila, I think, is the capital officially but the popular notion Metro Manila is the capital," he said.

"When you put up a new government center, you expect state employees to be there and when they are there, it becomes metropolis. And that is a super long process," Belmonte argued.

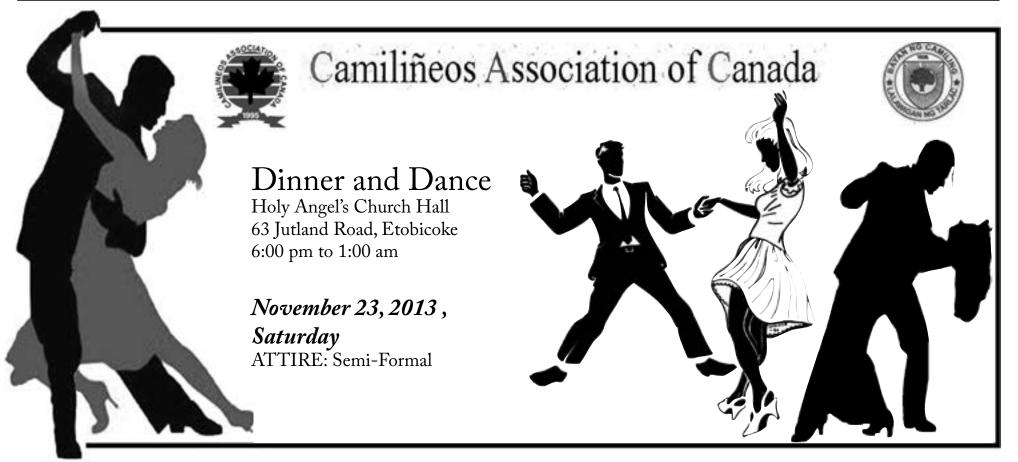
"I think it's possible to happen but personally, I won't give up Metro Manila. I think we should put more money into fixing it up and add more infrastructures," he insisted.

Belmonte, who served as mayor of Quezon City, expressed hope the government will be able to fix Metro Manila by enforcing better and closer coordination among its cities.

Citing his experience as a local chief executive, Belmonte emphasized it took a great deal of coordination among seven municipalities before making Quezon City what it is today.

But Marikina City Rep. Miro Quimbo thinks the country needs a separate commission to decide whether Manila is still fit to serve as the Philippine capital.

"That is the correct method on determining possible changes. Historical, economic, and political considerations must be looked into in the process," he said.



No Gay Roles for Mark Bautista

+ Sarah Lahbati fight back + other stories



Mark Bautista would like to play the roles Dennis Trillo and Tom Rodriguez are portraying in the controversial GMA teleserye "My Husband's Lover" since he believes in the project.

Problem is, people might draw the wrong conclusions.

By now, Mark has gotten so used to being asked about Piolo Pascual, he just shrugs off the questions asked of him.

"Ang pangit ng issue na 'yon. Magkaibigan kami ni Piolo," he said in a huddle with the press for his new album "The Sound of Love," and his concert at the Music Museum on Friday, Aug. 9.8 pm.

Mark insists he and Piolo haven't seen each other for a long time and thinks the latter is deliberately staying away to let the issue die a natural death

Mark is beyond these issues. But he hasn't gotten tired of sticking his neck out for roles he believes in. He bared his body in "The Full Monty" and played a gay father in a touching episode of "Maaalala Mo Kaya."

"Sobrang dininig ni Lord ang prayers ko," he gushes.

Because he left his comfort zone, Mark has survived 10 years in showbiz at a time when upstarts are a dime and dozen and stars come and go.

"Kailangan mong maging patient and confident sa ginagawa mo. Pakikisama, importante din."

He ticks off some of the lessons his decadelong stay in the biz has taught him.

Mark himself is surprised at his staying power. "Sobrang bonus na ang 10 years ko. Kahit papano, nakakapag-show pa rin ako. So timing na timing ang concert ko. Thanksgiving na rin ito."

Sarah Lahbati fight back

Controversial actress Sarah Lahbati returned

to the country on Thursday, July 11, with boyfriend Richard Gutierrez to face the libel charges GMA 7 Films president Annette Gozon-Aborgar filed against her.

"That's why I'm here," she told GMA 7 reporter Nelson Canlas at the

airport.

A few days after her return from a self-exile in Switzerland, embattled TV star Sarah Lahbati counter-sued Abrogar and four others with grave coercion before Quezon City

Regional Trial Court, early Monday morning (July 15).

Sarah's latest legal action was in response to the libel case the GMA exec filed after the actress alleged that Abrogar asked her to enter questionable talent management deals last January.

The 19-year-old has posted bail for the libel case hours after she arrived last Friday (July 12).

"I'm back just to fix things. Bumalik ako para ayusin ang mga dapat ayusin at katulad nga po ng sabi ni attorney (her legal counsel Atty. Maggie Abraham), eh maayos na, wala nang libel case. Sana matapos na to nang maayos, and I'm happy na the first step is done," Lahbati told ABS-CBN News

While she has been busy cleaning up her legal mess, Sarah has yet to answer another issue she and boyfriend Richard Gutierrez have been facing.

Undying rumors link Sarah's six-month stay in Geneva as her way of hiding her pregnancy.

Luigi Muhlach would rather leave dad Aga in peace

When crisis strikes, sometimes the best thing to do is keep quiet and go with the flow. This is what Luigi Muhlach is doing, now that his dad, Aga Muhlach is still feeling the impact of

his failed bid for a congressional seat in the fourth district of

Camarines Sur.

Asked what dish he would prepare for his dad, Luigi replied, "Wala siguro siya masyadong appetite these days. I'd rather not

prepare."
Yahoo! Philippines OMG! caught up with the celebrity chef in a recent cook-out weekend organized by Bellevue Hotels and Resorts.

Luigi displayed his expertise in fusion cooking through a carefully-prepared lunch and dinner buffet for privileged guests.

Celebrities flocked to the Tower Poolside of Bellevue Manila for the sumptuous dinner Luigi readied. Yahoo! Philippines OMG! spotted Arlene Muhlach and Liezl Martinez, PBA players Alex Crisano and Japeth Aguilar, and Luigi's mom, Janice De Belen and her other children Moira, Kaila, Inah and Yuan.

"Ako talaga I want to do something for myself," Luigi said.

His goal is to popularize the cookout concept of family bonding routinely done in the US. And this is just as well. Since Luigi brought along his family -- wife Patricia and kids Alejandro and Adriana to the event.

"Hindi ako natatakot mag-fail. It's how you improve that matters," he explains.

Luigi added that he plans to start a catering business with Janice soon.

Jessy Mendiola on working again with Matteo Guidicelli: 'Maliit lang ang mundo'

Jessy Mendiola was honest enough to say that she felt awkward when she first learned that she would be working again with Matteo Guidicelli for their endorsement for the Line phone application soon after they decided to cut off their

supposedly growing romance. The pretty actress had opened up about it when she had a press con for her next teleserye, Maria Mercedes. A few weeks after her revelation, she was offered to do an ad campaign with her former Paraiso leading man. "Nagulat

ako, hindi natin ine-expect. Siyempre merong [awkwardness]," said Jessy who reportedly deleted all her photos with Matteo as soon as they decided that they were better off as friends.

But Jessy obviously set aside whatever misgivings she had about it for the sake of work. "We're coworkers so hindi naman talaga maiiwasan na magkasalubong. Maliit lang ang mundo... Nagulat din ako na makakatrabaho ko siya. [Pero] yun nga, sabi niya we're very used to each other."

As previously reported on Push.com.ph, Jessy admitted that the reason they decided not to pursue a romantic relationship was because they wanted to prioritize their respective careers. "Napagdesisyonan na naming dalawa na mutual na trabaho na lang muna. Pero I'm not closing any doors kasi we are friends naman ni Matteo. Happy din ako para sa kanya kasi ang dami niyang trabaho ngayon. Kung pagsasabayin pa namin lahat baka mabaliw pa siya at mag-run, swim at bike na siya away from me."

During the press con of their endorsement, Jessy chose not to further talk about the issue with Matteo standing beside her. "How awkward! Mamaya tayo mag-usap," s he jokingly told Matteo before finally cutting off the interview with the entertainment media.

Denise Laurel reveals why she keeps mum about the identity of her son's father

When asked by the press on why she remains tight-lipped about the identity of her son's father, Denise Laurel remarked, "He's not artista. I want

to honor naman his family and his parents."



The actress stressed that she has already moved on and both of them are on good terms. "For me there's no reason to hold on to negativity, I have everything

that I need, I have everything that I want," she

"I'm very honest and one thing is I will never lie, you know, I always tell the truth. But not necessarily na sa oras na gusto ng mga tao. But you know what, at least ni-respect ng mga tao ang timing ko," she further commented.

Denise is already happy at this point in her life, stating that she she's solely focused on securing her child's future. "[Wini-wish ko na] sana finally makabili na ako ng bahay sa anak ko, na pwedeng hindi pa ako doon, sa parents muna ako para then I have people around my son. Pero maka-ipon man lang for lupa and bahay, tapos when he's older na we can go there or tatapusin ko 'yung para sa college fund niya."

Now that she's a mother herself, does she want to pursue mother roles in the future just like in Annaliza? "You know what, I know they will come, but after this I want to do something more my age, I want to do something like a 25-year old will do. So sana the next time, something na different rin."

The actress aspires to portray unique and bolder roles in the future. "I'm dying to do something bold and something shocking, hindi naman shocking na nakakaloka, pero shocking na something of a role," she said. "Dream ko to do MMK (Malaala Mo Kaya) and portray someone iconic pero gusto kong pag-aralan 'yung character na ito na kahit tiningnan mo ako sa mata, alam mo na," she added.

Is doing an indie movie also an option for her? "I've been waiting for the right script. I've been waiting since Sid Lucero started kasi friends kami so to be part of these indie movies, I always wanted to be. Pero dito at least nababawi ko 'yung hunger ko for bolder roles sa Annaliza," she stated.

No sexy image for Lovi

Paste of Asia 2013









FIRST, Philip Beloso of TFC sold one subscription before lunch. SECOND, Maria Panaligan waits for her turn to sing. THIRD AND FOURTH, Siony's dancers entertain the crowd.

People will see a different Lovi Poe as the Kapuso actress wants to veer away from her sexy image for now.

"Siguro I've done so much of that,



nakakapagod rin," she said in a pocket interview for her upcoming teleserye at the GMA 7 compound.

Lovi adds that she will leave the "sexy showdown" to co-stars Solenn Heusaff and Charee Pineda.

Part of this reinvention is her "different" role in the upcoming teleserye "Akin Pa Rin ang Bukas," which also topbills Helen Gamboa and Cesar Montano.

"Yung sa akin, iba na yung role ko dito. A very different Lovi. Excited ako dito. Sana bagay," she said.

Does GMA's decision to call Lovi "Primera Aktresa" have anything to do with her decision to focus on becoming a dramatic actress instead?

"It's not necessarily because of that. For a change naman. People are so used to seeing me wearing this outfit, production numbers and sexy shoots. Para maiba naman. Kumbaga back to basics," Lovi replied.

However, Lovi said she is still willing to do sexy shoots for her Bench Body endorsement.

Instead of paying attention to critics who are questioning why she is being called "Primera Aktresa," Lovi would rather count her blessings.

"Ako I'm just thankful. Noong nagmeeting kami about it. Nagulat talaga ako. I felt so happy and surprised. I can't believe na nangyayari sa akin ito ngayon. Mas lalo akong na-inspire after that at ginanahan magtrabaho."

"Masayang-masaya ako, at the same time pressured rin kasi we have to give our best. I'll also be working with Ms. Helen Gamboa. It's an honor and hopefully, mameet ko lahat ng expectations. Si Cesar Montano, dati napapanuod ko lang siya, ngayon makakatrabaho ko na."

The teleserye also allows Lovi to work once more with Rocco Nacino, who was once romantically linked to her.

"Trabaho lang siguro muna kami ni Rocco. Yung friendship naming, lagi naming andoon, it's healthier that way lalo na kapag magkatrabaho kami."

Charee Pineda Transferred to GMA to Star in "Akin Pa Rin Ang Bukas"

The former star of the Kapamilya Channel's Angelito: Ang Batang Ama, lead actress Charee Pineda transferred to rival network, GMA-7 for the upcoming drama, "Akin Pa Rin Ang Bukas."

The 22-year-old Charee Pineda will be appearing as one of the love interest of Rocco Nacino and will be playing alongside award-winning young actress Lovi Poe. Charee have already appeared in numerous TV



series in the Kapamilya network such as Mula Sa Puso and Angelito 1 and 2.

Charee Pineda was last seen as a Kapamilya actress in the afternoon drama series, My Little Juan as Esther Sandoval. The newly-transferred Kapuso actress Charee will try to bring her popularity to the rival network of Kapamilya Channel.

The new Kapuso TV series, "Akin Pa Rin Ang Bukas," will also feature action star Cesar Montano, Alessandra de Rossi, Solenn Heussaff and veteran actress Helen Gamboa.

Coco Martin denies rumors that he's 'married'

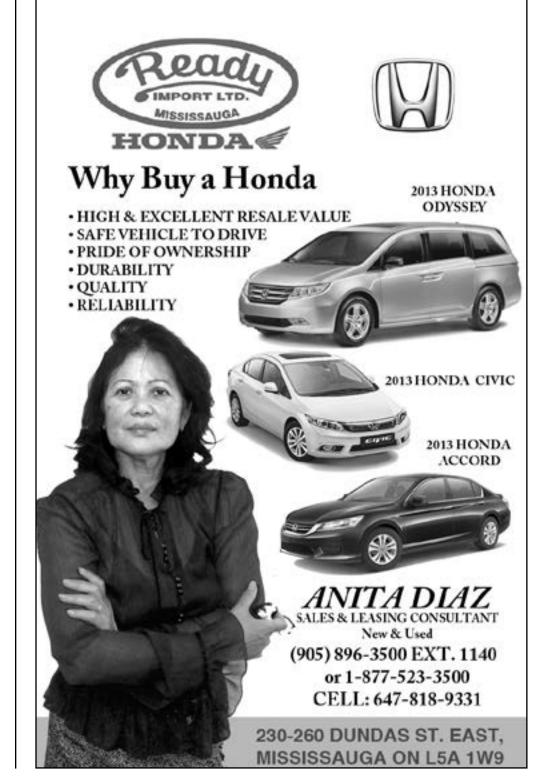
Kapamilya actor Coco Martin dismissed rumors circulating that he's already married to a non-showbiz girl.

Coco reiterated he's not married.

"Wala (pa akong asawa). Pag dumating yung time na napag-isip isip ko na at may panahon na ako sa sarili ko, kung meron man akong taong iibigin or gusto ko ng magkapamilya, sabi ko nga lahat naman ibinigay ko na, lahat naman ipinakita ko na, gusto ko lang na arborin ko na yun (privacy),"

"Gusto ko ng simple at tahimik na buhay in the future. Ngayon ibibigay ko muna yung best kong lahat para sa trabaho ko."

After he has been linked to numerous issues, Coco said he's used to it already and has accepted the fact that it's all part of his job.





Like Mother, Like Daughter
Beautiful Miss Philippines PIDC 2013 Lauren
Fernandez poses with her mom Arlene.

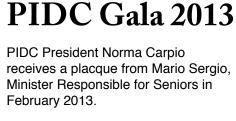
















Dr. Jo poses with the cake her husband made.

Dr Josephine Adorna Guzman's Birthday







Maja Salvador

+ Melai Cantiveros is Happy + other news

Maja Salvador says she makes time for Gerald Anderson despite her busy schedule

Maja Salvador has the reputation of being very professional, never letting getting personal issues get in the way of work (as in the case of her breakup with Matteo Guidicelli and her tiff with erstwhile best friend Kim Chiu). As she previously mentioned in an interview, "Kailangan mong magmove on, life goes on." Same goes now that she's in love

with current beau Gerald Anderson. She said that she feels inspired to work whether she's in a relationship or not. "Parehas naman yun eh. Depende kung paano mo siya i-handle."

Asked how she handles a relationship,

Maja shared that she makes sure that she has time not only for her boyfriend, but also for her family and other friends. "Dapat alam mo mag-balance mismo, alam mo balansehin yung trabaho mo, family mo, love life. Ikaw lahat yun eh. Kung hahayaan mong maapektuhan, dapat ang love life o kung ano man 'yan, wala dapat makakaapekto sa trabaho mo kasi wala silang kinalaman sa trabaho mo. So, lahat yun naka-separate." After confirming that they're officially together, Maja said that she doesn't see the need to further discuss the details of her romance with Gerald.

surrounding them, she said she prefers to keep things as private as much as possible. "Hindi naman sa... tahimik lang kasi ako eh. Mas gusto ko ng tahimik kasi hindi

What with the

controversies

naman siya part ng trabaho ko. Oo, very private ako pagdating sa love life. Yun na lang sa akin. Lahat pwede ko naman i-share. Kayo naman meron kayong alam, pero siyempre huwag na tayo magdetalye pa."

As it is, she still has lots of goals for her career in the next few months. Aside from doing a new teleserye, she has been busy with concert tours as part of her tenth year anniversary in the biz. This time, she gets to showcase her talent in dancing and singing. Apparently, she dreams of conquering Araneta Coliseum one day. "Para may bago naman maipakita sa supporters, makita nila kahit papaano marunong ako kumanta ng kaunti. Alam nila Mr. M (Johnny Manahan of Star Magic), very supportive naman sila. Dream ko lang yun. Hindi ko pa plano this 2013. Pero malay mo kapag may producer na biglang magkagusto ng show," she beamed.

Melai Cantiveros: 'My heart is so very happy'

Melai Cantiveros said she is happily content right now, stating that her showbiz journey has been very blessed. "Sobrang happy ako sa journey ko kasi hanggang ngayon nandito pa rin ako sa showbiz, di pa rin ako nai-evict. At kung ano man ang mangyari sa future ay contented pa rin ako kasi I'm very blessed sa mga nangyari sa buhay ko," she said.

"I feel very happy. Siyempre na-belong



ako sa Banana Split and three years ko na yata ngayon. It's getting stronger pa rin and nag i-enjoy kami sa show namin," she said.

Melai shared she is closest to Angelica Panganiban among the cast. "We're very closed friends, pero ngayon hindi na kami masyado nagkikita kasi di na ako nag-Apoy sa Dagat ngayon tapos hindi na rin siya nag Banana Split kasi nag concentrate siya sa Apoy, pero nagte-text pa rin kami na 'Miss you Twinny'," she relayed. Apoy Sa Dagat recently ended last July 5.

On the matters of the heart, Melai remarked that she's in pure joy at the moment. "My heart is so very happy too," she said. She added that she couldn't ask for more at this point. "Sobrang contented

Pinoy Fiesta Festival 2013







LEFT, Glaiza de Castro entertains the crowd at the Pinoy Fiesta. MIDDLE, PNB Global Remit and staff assist some customers at their booth. RIGHT, Rafael Rosell delights the msotly-women crowd at Pinoy Fiesta. OTHER PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

Beauties at

Pinon Fiesta

Miss Philippines Canada 2013, from left to right are Kimberly Dulay (second runner up), Jurice Encarnacion (first runner up), Caitlin Pantaleon (Miss Philippines Canada 2013), Alannah Sagici (Miss Teen Philippines Canada), Meryl Villacastin (3rd runer up), and Michelle Veloso (4th runner up).PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



na ako sa buhay ko ngayon, with my family, with my loved ones, lahat lahat, with my career kaya sobra akong thankful kay papa God."

Until now, Melai couldn't believe how her life turned out to be so successful because of showbiz. "Hindi ko talaga na-imagine. Hanggang ngayon, pag pag-iniisip, pag-umuwi ako ng Gensan, parang normal lang ako, pero bakit nila ako tinitingan ngayon?" If there's one thing she would like to wish for, what would it be? "Ang wish ko na lang is good health sa family ko, sa loved ones ko at pati na rin sa sarili ko. Wala na talaga akong ibang mahihiling, I'm so contented na talaga."

Jake Vargas at 21

The name "Jake Vargas" never fails to ring a bell. The well-loved actor just turned 21 last July 9, and is ready to face adulthood with a smile on his face. Before his live chat with Bea Binene last July 17, Jake shared his thoughts on cooking, relaxation and giving back.

The baby-faced actor delights in sharing his blessings and getting to know those who look up to him. As a matter of fact, his



own birthday celebration was very simple, yet touching. He shared, "Nag-celebrate lang ako sa bahay at saka sa foundation kasama ang mga

batang may kapansanan. Successful naman, naging masaya naman 'yung mga bata at saka kinantahan nila akong lahat. Sobrang nakakatouch 'yung mga ginawa nila sa akin."

He also mentioned that getting to act and sing in front of the camera makes him

happy, because he knows that even in this small way, he can brighten his fans' day. That is why his birthday wish is "...sana magtuloy-tuloy pa 'yung career ko, more blessings and more projects."

One of his projects, Home Sweet Home will be ending this July 19. What has he learned from his experiences in the series? "Yung mga kasama ko doon katulad nina Tita Celia Rodriguez, Raymart Santiago at Roxanne Guinoo, marami akong natutunan sa kanila pagdating sa acting. Masaya sa set, para talaga kaming family," he explained.

If given the chance to go to a different world or dimension just like his character, Benjie in Home Sweet Home, where would Jake go? "Siguro, 'yung marerelax ka. 'Yung pagpasok mo pa lang, makikita mo na 'yung rainbow, maraming puno, malamig, may hangin, tapos makikita mo 'yung dagat. Parang ganoon, kasi pag nandoon ka, parang matatanggal ang mga problema mo."

He also added that it would be fun to

bring loveteam Bea Binene along in that different dimension. Jake mentioned that he always hangs out with Bea. He said, "Okay kami ni Bea. Masaya kami ni Bea kasi lagi ko siyang kasama sa trabaho, or kahit walang taping. Gumagala kami, nanonood kami ng sine at kumakain kami sa labas."

When he is not hanging out with Bea, Jake spends the rest of his time at home playing computer games. He also plays the guitar when he's in the mood. Not many people know that Jake wants to practice his cooking skills. He stated, "Balak ko kunin 'yung Culinary Arts. Hindi pa ako gaanong nagluluto pero marunong ako. Balak ko pag-aralan [lutuin] 'yung iba't ibang Filipino food."

Whether he's on-cam or off-screen, Jake remains adorable because of his positive outlook. Catch more of him in Home Sweet Home, Pepito Manaloto and Sunday All Stars on GMA.



Entertainment



Christian Bautista on having simultaneous projects

"Kayang kaya naman!"

Katatapos lamang mag-shoot ng isang heavy drama scene ng Kapuso actor na si Christian Bautista nang makapanayam siya ng GMANetwork.com sa set ng kanyang TV series na With A Smile last July 9. Four sequences lang ang kinunan sa kanya noong gabing 'yun pero kitang kita ang kanyang dedication sa kanyang trabaho, lalo na ngayon that he also has Sunday All Stars every Sunday and an upcoming musical, Cinderella, na magsisimula na sa October.

"It's drama ng kaunti, may galit ng kaunti. It's going to lead to a big revelation of Aston's past," shares the singer-actor about his scene kung saan umiiyak siya habang pinaharurot ang kanyang sasakyan palabas ng car wash.

It was also easy for him to prepare for the said scene. "There are many ways: remember a past, remember a sad story, you get into character. Whatever works at that moment."

Kinamusta din namin ang iba pa niyang projects, ang Sunday All Stars kung saan dati siyang team leader, at ang Cinderella, his latest musical where he will play the role of Prince Charming.

"Hindi kami nanalo under my leadership, I guess ganun talaga. Maybe a better leader will come out, pero there's less pressure for me right now. It's better for me also kasi I can focus on all the things that I am doing," kuwento niya tungkol sa pagkatalo ng Team InstaGang.

What does he think of InstaGang's new leader Glaiza de Castro?

"The moment she became leader, gumawa siya ng group chat sa Viber. We're all talking, so I think it's a great idea. Up to now, alam ko, inaayos pa rin 'yung number. Ang kalaban ngayon is schedule of rehearsals."

Sa gitna ng kanyang patong-patong na trabaho at very hectic schedule, Christian remains positive. "Actually namomroblema ako sa rehearsal ng SAS [Sunday All Stars] ngayon, kasi Cinderella rehearsals are coming in. I actually missed

Cinderella rehearsals because of my taping now, mayroon kanina. That's going to be a challenge for me, how to mix all that. I believe kayang kaya naman. It just has to take the right focus."

As for his With A Smile co-stars, Asia's Romantic Balladeer admits that he is much closer to them now. "The more na nagbo-bond kami, the more na nakikilala namin ang isa't isa, mas nagopen up. I'm still the most secretive of them all. Pero unti-unti we're getting to know each other really well."

Catch Christian Bautista as Aston in With A Smile, weekday mornings before Unexpected You, and in Sunday All Stars at 12:00 p.m. on Sundays. Also watch out for him as Prince Charming in the stage musical Cinderella, which will start running this October.

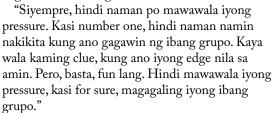
Bea Binene, mas naging close sa Team InstaGang

Naabutan namin si Bea Binene na nagrerehearse para sa Sunday All Stars. Hindi siya nagdalawang isip sagutin ang mga tanong tungkol sa kanyang team, ang InstaGang.

"Iyong bonding namin masaya, kasi nasa isang dressing room lang kami.

Ngayon, mas talagang naging close kami," ang panimula ng Tween star.

Ipinagtapat sa amin ni Bea na may pressure siyang nararamdaman para manalo ang team InstaGang.



Ipinagmalaki naman ni Bea ang kanilang team leader na si Christian Bautista. "Magaan siyang katrabaho. Kahit hindi kayo magkakasama, kahit hindi kayo madalas nagmi-meeting, in touch ka pa rin sa kanya. Kasi lagi siya nagtitext about the group. Ayun, masaya, sobrang gaan kasama. Disiplinado at professional na leader."

Binida din sa amin ni Bea ang atake nila sa pagpe-perform. "Hindi namin dinadaan sa props. Hindi namin dinadaan sa guests. Dinadaan namin siya talaga, sa performance namin. We make sure that every Sunday, meron kaming BOOM! Meron kaming pasabog sa prod namin."

Abangan si Bea Binene at ang Team InstaGang this Sunday sa nag-iisang celebrity showdown sa telebisyon, ang Sunday All Stars.

UMAC at Pidc Gala 2013

From left, Albert Sun, Doris and Ted Dayno, Perly Baguisa Alilio and Joseph Alilio, Teo Paculanan and Anna Eusebio. attend the PIDC Gala at Doubletree.



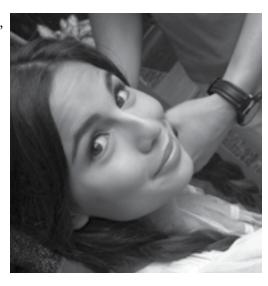
Jasmine Curtis excited with Indie Scene

Isa si Jasmine Curtis Smith sa mga pumila at nag-audition noong magkaroon ng Cinemalaya Open Audition.

At nagbunga naman ang pagpila at pag-o-audition niya dahil siya ang napiling maging lead star bilang isang half-Filipino/

half-Israeli sa pelikulang Transit, isa sa official finalists para sa 9th Cinemalaya Film Festival.

HURDLING THE AUDITION. Sinabi niyang hindi raw siya umasang mapipili nga siya dahil mga batikang artista na rin sa Cinemalaya ang nakasabay niyang nag-audition.



"We had people there who are senior na, more experienced, of course, there are people who are regular na in the industry and I guess, more prioritized because of their past.

"People know how great they are with their acting, with how they perform in indie films, so, sabi ko, baka naman maisip nila na, 'ay, ano lang 'yan, baka gusto lang niyang magka-project.'

"I was so scared na baka ganoon ang perception. But at the same time, it was all a matter of putting my faith in God na, if it's meant to be, it would happen. It would work. Thanks be to God, di ba?" nakanagiti niyang sabi.

Hindi raw sigurado ni Jasmine kung ilan silang lahat na nagaudition, pero, nasa 100 na raw ang number niya. Pero, may ilang nagsabing nasa 400 raw ang nag-audition.

EXCITED WITH INDIE SCENE. Sa isang banda, unang pelikula na ginawa ni Jasmine ang Transit, hindi lamang unang indie film niya. Sa halip na Filipino o English, Hebrew ang ilang salitang ginamit ni Jasmine na dialogue sa pelikula.

Sabi nga niya, "There's this level of satisfaction but it made me want more. More experiences pa talaga in this indie industry.

"Nag-enjoy ako in this film, what more doing several, doing mainstream. It gave me more excitement.

"Being gone for so long from the media and entertainment because I was studying, parang sabi ko, 'oh my gosh, paano kung pag-uwi ko ro'n, wala akong magawa?'

"I have so many things in my management, but it's still up to the viewers.

Ang management company ni Jasmine ay ang Vidanes Marketing Management of Betchay Vidanes.

"Kaya noong meron na, 'yehey, meron na!' People are getting so interested and it's going somewhere. I got more motivated and inspired to work more and get more projects."

OUT OF POVERTY continued from page 3

The Philippines has long had one of the biggest richpoor divides in Asia, with a remarkably small number of families dominating politics and business.

While the Aquino administration has always aimed to create more inclusive growth, Balisacan said the government was "recalibrating" after the recent economic performance failed to make a big impact on poverty.

"We are learning the lesson of the last three years," he said.

The economy remains largely reliant on services and consumption, fuelled by the huge remittances of almost 10 million Filipinos working overseas.

Balisacan said that, as part of the remodelling efforts, the government would sharply increase spending on infrastructure to create immediate jobs and make areas more attractive for investment.

The government is specifically targeting ports, airports and roads.

Overall spending on infrastructure will rise from the equivalent of 2.5 percent of the Philippines' economy in 2012 to five percent by 2016, according to Balisacan.

He said the government would also continue to ramp up spending on social services.

One key focus is a "conditional cash-transfer" scheme where the country's poorest families are given money if various health and education requirements are met, such as keeping children in school. He said the government was maintaining its forecast of 6.0-7.0 percent economic growth this year, rising to 7.0-8.0 percent in 2015.

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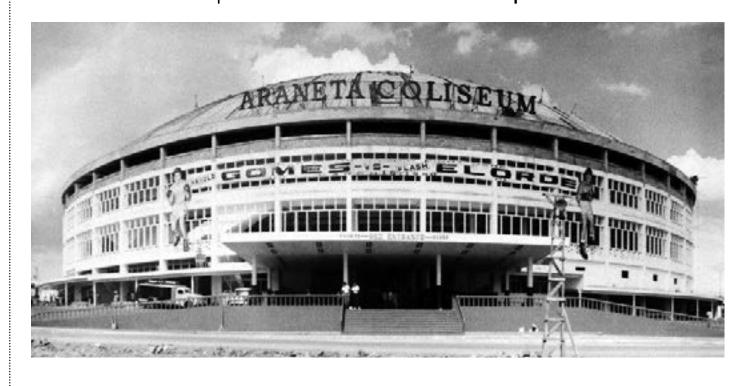
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Spotlight



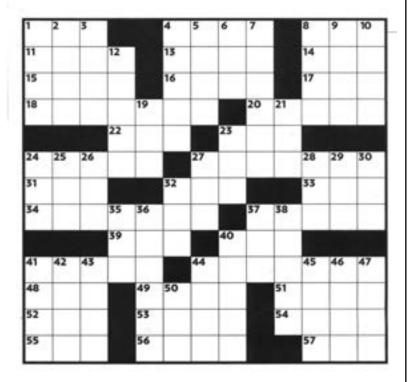
The coliseum opened on March 16, 1960, with Gabriel "Flash" Elorde boxing for the World Junior Lightweight crown from American Harold Gomes. General admission then was 80 centavos and the reserve section was five pesos. Among the notable events to take place at the arena were the 11th and 34th FAMAS Awards, the 1975 "Thrilla in Manila" boxing match between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, and the annual Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant. The Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) has played about a thousand games at the Araneta Coliseum as of 2008. Other basketball events hosted by the arena were the 1978 FIBA World Championship, a game between the 1978 NBA champions Washington Bullets and a PBA selection in 1979, and the 1982 Asian Youth Basketball Championship where the Philippines defeated China in the final.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Singer Garfunkel in Show
- (Christopher Guest
- _ It Forward 11 Jurassic ... (movie featuring
- 18 Across) 13 Old-time actor
- Novello 14 Thurman who costamed with
- 18 Across in 8 Down _ and the Detectives
- (Disney movie) 16 Late-night host Jay
- ____ a Dog
- 18 First name and middle initial of the star of Coach Carter
- 20 Where's ___?
- 22 Pixar's ____ Story
- 23 Actress Farrow 24 Changing ____ (movie starring
- 18 Across) 27 Last name of the star of Coach Carter
- \$1 TV Tarzan Ron
- 32 Doris of Pillow Talk 33 Jamie Foxx biopic
- 54 Actor Cage
- 37 Julianne who costarred with 18
- 39 "Girls Just Want to Have_
- 40 Kirstie Alley series _Actress 41 Action remake
- starring 18 Across 44 ____ with a Vengeance (movie starring 18 Across: 2 wds.)
- 48 Solo of Star Wars
- 49 Shear Genius subject
- 51 The Sopranos actress Falco
- 52 A League of Their_
- 55 ___ Bayou (movie starring 18 Across) 54 Grade, as a movie
- 55 Snakes ___ Plane (movie starring 18 Across; 2 wds.) 56 Rave's partner
- 57 Iron ___ (movie featuring 18 Across)

- 1 Planet of the
- ___ Lama Ding Dong" (doo-wop song) Svelte
- 4 Crystal or Cruduo 5. Daredevil Knievel
- ___ of Flubber . Thunder starring
- Ben Stiller ____ Fiction (movie starring 18 Across)
- 9 "Do I have to draw you__? (2 wds.) 10 Said three times, a
- Seinfeld catchphrase 12 Jane Fonda's Oscarwinning movie
- 19 Goddess of the dawn 21 Arnold Schwarzenegger, a.k.a. the Austrian __
- 23 Actress Elaine 24 Dancing with the Stars judge Goodman
- 25 Will Smith biopic 26 Sex and the City city
- (abbr.) 27 James, for short 28 Full house abbr.
- 29 Paddle 30 "Steverino" pal Louis
- 32 Actor Aykroyd 35 Ferris Bueller's Day 36 Martin ___ King Jr.
- 37 Li'l Abner's girlfriend Daisy_
- 38 The ___ Boleyn Girl 40 50 ___ Dates
- 41 "Go away! 42 Kate Hudson's mom. Goldie
- 45 Actress Paguin 44 Starship Troopers actor Casper Van
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Seantor Enverga in Montreal



Senator Tobias. Jr. and Mrs Rosemer Enverga, with Lionel Perez, Mayor of Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (NDG), Montreal.

Confidentials

FEATURETTES PEOPLE + PARTIES LIFE HEALTH ARTS

Kim Chiu on what's special with Xian Lim: 'Funny siya'

Sa paglapit ng pagpapalabas ng pelikulang Bakit Di Ka Crush ng Crush Mo from Star Cinema na pagbibidahan ni Kim Chiu, itinanong ni Boy Abunda sa special interview ni Kim sa The Buzz inamin niya na iba para sa kanya ang pag-gawa ng isang romantic-comedy film. "Sa napapanood naman po nila I'm more into dramas sa teleserye. Sa past movies ko it's about love story. Eto it's different kasi



after Ina Kapatid Anak, na sobrang heavy drama, yung iyak ka ng iyak, ito naman tawa ka naman ng tawa. So parang bago siya sa akin. Sabi ko dip ala ganun kadali magpatawa. Kasi taga-tawa lang ako Tito Boy. As in kahit anong joke benta sa akin."

Madali naman daw naka-adjust si Kim sa set ng pelikula dahil sa kanilang director na si Joyce Bernal. "Unang factor yung director namin. Si Direk Joyce. Sobra siyang nakakatawa. So parang tawa lang kami ng tawa sa set so pati ikaw habang dinideliver mo yung lines mo lumalabas na din siyang funny."

Kakaibang Kim Chiu din daw ang mapapanood dito sa pelikula nila na adaptation ng nobela ni Ramon Bautista. "Hindi ko po ineexpect na kaya kong humiga sa tabi ng inodoro. At magpakahiga. At yung eye liner imbes na ilagay sa may eye lashes, nilagay sa eye bags. Yung lipstick kinapalan, ginanyan. Yung buhok ko sobrang kinky. So iba talaga. Sobrang nakakapanibago sa kin. And nagpapasalamat ako kasi yun nga nagawa ko siya, natapos namin siya. Sana suportahan siya ng mga tao."

Pagdating naman sa kanyang leading man, mas naging close daw ang naging samahan nila ni Xian.

"Mas naging close kami sa isa't isa. Naging bonded kami kasama sina direk. Kasi si Direk pag break, kumakain kami ng sabay, nagkwekwentuhan kami. So, yun maraming bonding moments."

Binigyan din ni Kim ng espesyal na birthday celebration si Xian kamakailan lang at paraan na daw ito ng aktres bilang pasasalamat sa kanyang ka-love team. "Siguro it's my way of saying thank you sa lahat ng efforts niya, sa lahat ng binigay niyang gifts, efforts, time, wala akong binabalik sa kanya. Nakakahiya, kapal ng fez ko. (laughs)."

Hindi daw alam ng marami na nakakatawa si Xian in real-life. "Masaya ako pag andiyan si Xian and he makes me feel good, pinapatawa ka niya. Pagkasama mo siya, tatawa ka lang ng tatawa."

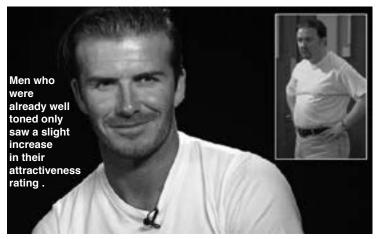
Sa pagpanaw naman ng kanyang ina, marami daw natutunan si Kim, kabilang na ang pagpapatatag sa kanyang paniniwalang everything happens for a reason. "Everything happens for a reason. 'Di ba sinabi ko na po sa inyo ito dati? Tapos dun lang ako kumakapit. Na parang, oo nangyari yan, may dahilan kung bakit. Parang ganun. And masaya ako kasi yung isang chapter ng buhay ko sarado na. Alam ko na...masaya ako sa family ko, sa kung ano mang nangyari sa kin, I'm happy, thankful and blessed."

Sa mga kritiko naman niya, wala daw dapat ipaliwanag si Kim at sapat na daw ang mga impormasyon na naipakita niya sa publiko tungkol sa kanyang private life. "I don't owe them any explanation Tito Boy. Ok lang naman sa akin, oo I'm a public figure and I came from a reality TV show, they know where I came from. And siguro yung footage na shinare ko that's enough for them to know. May iba na dapat i-share, may iba na para lang sa kin... Everyone has their own opinion. You can say what you want to say. Ako to eh. I don't care what their opinion is. As long as I'm happy, I'm blessed, I'm thankful and contented."

Candid SPOOF (Pop-ups are not supposed to be taken seriously - EDITOR)



MPP Mario Sergio, Minister Responsible for Seniors makes a speech at the PIDC Gala at the Doubletree hotel.



Plain white T-shirt makes men more attractive

Men wearing a simple T-shirt look more attractive to women, according to new research.

Women find a man in a plain white T-shirt up to 12 per cent more attractive, scientists claim.

A plain white T-shirt can create an illusion that broadens the shoulders and slims the waist, producing a more V-shaped body, which is a top sign of masculinity.

The highest increase in good looks were for men who were the most out of the shape, according to researchers at Nottingham Trent University.

Men who were already well toned only saw a slight increase in their attractiveness rating when they wore the white short-sleeved top with a large black letter T printed on the front.

In contrast, those wearing a top with an upside-down T, with the bar across their middle, were up to 12 per cent less attractive to women aged 18 to 25. The results suggest shifting the focus to a man's stomach reduces his desirability.

Nottingham Trent University psychologist Dr Andrew Dunn told the Daily Mail: "The effect was most notable for normal men with a waist as wide as their shoulders. "Whereas with those who are already in good shape, the T was simply amplifying the body shape they already had, so the benefit was less marked." The team said a waist-to-chest ratio (WCR) of between 0.7 and 0.8 - where the shoulders are around 20 per cent broader than the hips - was seen as the ideal. Dr Dunn said: "The wider barred 'T' seems to emphasise the upper chest when upright, which accentuates men's 'optimum' shape. The opposite happens when inverted.

"WCR is one of just a number of body measures that humans use to judge attractiveness and health. Our ability to detect, process and use this information appears to be implicit.

"The brain and sensory mechanism underpinning this are probably evolved and are almost certainly managing what we look for and how we respond."

He said that horizontal bar on the T-shirt had to be the same length or longer than the vertical bar for the most effect.

The study involved showing 30 female undergraduates, aged 18 to 25, images of five different male body shapes and asked them to mark their perceived attractiveness and health.

He added: "Clearly there are individual tastes and preferences, but we can see here how fashion could have an implicit positive or negative effect on perceived attractiveness and health.

"It suggests that you can use this kind of optical illusion that artists and fashion designers use all the time to tap into our basic sensory psychology."

Crossword Answers



PINOYS PREFER GROCERY continued from page 3

the neighborhood," he added.

Filipino consumers also admitted that while grocery shopping is still a planned activity complete with a shopping list, they end up buying more



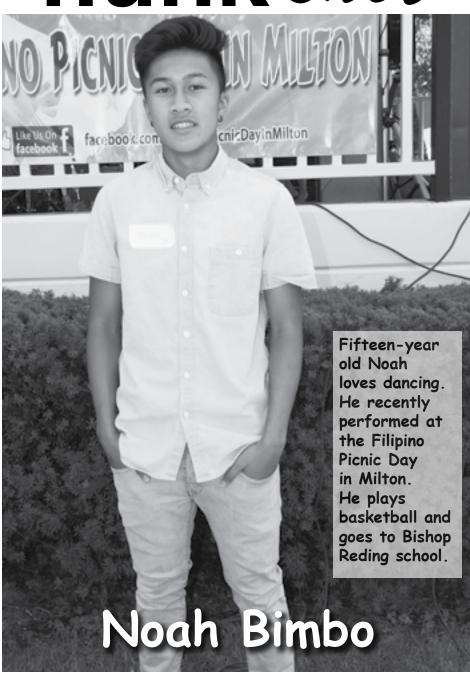
than they ought to.

Jamieson attributed this to the perception that "prices have stabilized" as well as the introduction of new products or brands and promotions.

The Nielsen report also showed that consumers have increased their monthly spending on food, grocery and personal care by 8 percent last year.

"The dramatic increase in the frequency of grocery shopping in supermarkets presents more opportunities for manufacturers and retailers to interact with shoppers," Jamieson said.

hunkshot



Travel Warning to Southern Ph1

The United States has warned Americans against travel to the southern Philippines just days after Australia and Canada issued similar advice. A "security message" from the US embassy in Manila earlier this week said diplomatic staff had been restricted from travelling to three cities on the southern island of Mindanao.

It was followed by a US State Department travel warning dated July 5 advising Americans to exercise extreme caution when travelling to Mindanao, citing "criminal gangs... (and) terrorist groups" in the area.

It also called on Americans to defer non-essential travel to the Sulu archipelago, a chain of islands off Mindanao where Al-Qaeda-linked militants are active. "It (the travel warning) reflects continuing threats in the Sulu archipelago and the island of Mindanao due to terrorist and insurgent activities," the US embassy said in a statement. Australia and Canada issued warnings on about fresh threats of terrorism and kidnapping in the southern Philippines.

Canberra has barred its diplomats from travelling to Davao, Cotabato and Zamboanga -- the same three Mindanao cities that US embassy staff are not allowed to travel to.

An embassy spokeswoman declined to comment on the nature of the threat against Americans.

The Philippine national police also did not know of any specific threat against Americans in Mindanao, said spokesman Senior Superintendent Reuben Sindac.

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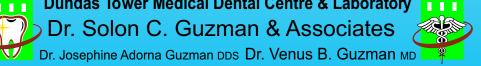
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