



Little Manila Confidential

JAN - FEBRUARY 2013

Health Benefits
of Being in Love

Safe Sex with
Friends with Benefits

Rica Peralejo
on Making
Relationships Stronger

KIM & XIAN

*Just Friends,
For Now*

CEO's Optimistic in PHL

MANILA, Philippines—The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange index charged out of the gates as soon as trading started on Jan. 2 and hit a new record high of 6,091.18 on Jan. 9.

Observers consider the record-breaking performance of the local bourse as an indication of unwavering confidence in the growth prospects of the Philippines in 2013.

Sanjiv Vohra, Citi Country Officer for the Philippines, cites many reasons to be optimistic about 2013.

“We see more pronounced growth

drivers in 2013 that will sustain the positive momentum of 2012. Fiscal spending remains a key driver, and the accelerated government spending along with stable domestic demand have led to upgrades in Gross Domestic Product forecasts,” Vohra says.

Vohra adds that the Philippine economy is at the cusp of investment-driven growth with the contribution of real investments now at 20 percent for the past few quarters.

“A better fiscal health is enabling the government to be more proactive in

stimulating the economy. Aside from the public-private partnership infrastructure agenda, government is embarking on a P325 billion multi-year flood works and drainage program, a spending larger than the P233 billion cost of the PPP projects. We believe this may lift the country’s investment/GDP ratio that will eventually accelerate economic growth,” he says.

“Over the next three years, the potential for per capita GDP to reach \$3,000 to \$5,000 will clearly depend on

OPTIMISM
continued on page 27

Crime Down but Aquino Worried

MANILA, Philippines - Even with the reported 10-percent decrease in crime volume for the entire country from 2011 to 2012, President Benigno Aquino III is worried.

He is anxious about the peace and order situation in this election year in the face of the recent surge in criminality following what he described as a string “of violence and recklessness when it comes to the use of firearms” since the New Year.

The President on Saturday reiterated a standing order he gave Interior Secretary

CRIME DOWN
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Caregiver Honored



Caregiver Lalaine de Vera (RIGHT) poses with her mother during the dedication ceremony at George Brown Waterfront campus.

Compensation for Marcos Victims

Congress Ratifies Measure

MANILA, Philippines - Almost four decades after he was arrested and tortured and his sister disappeared into a maze of Philippine police cells and military houses, playwright Bonifacio Ilagan is finally seeing his suffering officially recognized.

A writer for an underground communist newspaper, Ilagan and thousands like him were rounded up by security forces of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos after he placed the Philippines under martial law in 1972. Detentions, beatings, harassment and killings of the regime’s opponents continued until Marcos was toppled in the 1986 Edsa People Power Revolution.

Even though democracy was restored, it would take another 27 years for Congress to vote on a bill awarding compensation and recognition to martial law victims.

Last January 28, the House of Representatives and

the Senate ratified the bill after the bicameral committee earlier in the day signed the final version of the bill following some last-minute polishing.

President Aquino is expected to sign the bill into law shortly, possibly before the anniversary of the Edsa People Power Revolution that ousted Marcos.

“More than the monetary compensation, the bill represents the only formal, written document that martial law violated the human rights of Filipinos and that there were courageous people who fought the dictatorship,” said a statement from Selda, an organization of former political prisoners.

Ilagan’s story is more of a rule than exception among

COMPENSATION
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Ampee Panaligan's Debut



FIRST, The Alilio and Beloso family pose for a photo with Mercy Lagumbay. SECOND, Charlaine Ann Tenorio poses with cousins Aubrey and Maria Panaligan. THIRD, Britney Waito performs at the debut. FOURTH, Nadeene panaligan talks to her mom Genellie as her cousin Gabby Tenorio looks on. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

Filipino sa Canada

A Night To Rebuild Hope for Typhoon Pablo Victims Benefit Concert



TORONTO, Philippines - We've left the Philippines but our hearts are still with the Philippines. And that is evident whenever there is a calamity that strikes the country.

Typhoon Pablo was the latest natural calamity that struck the country and Filipinos in Toronto opened their hearts, their wallets and their time once more to show their compassion for victims back home.

Consul Belivar Bao from the Philippine Consulate and GK Executive Director Jose Luis Oquinena joined the fundraising.

As of to date, the 'Pablo' Death Toll and Damage: - over 1200 dead and 800 missing, and CDN \$873 Million damages to infrastructure, agriculture and private properties

There was an AV presentation, an update of on the ground relief efforts, snacks, and entertainment!

Max's Fried Chicken, Casa Manila, kanto by Tita Flips, Bayan Grocers donated food for the night. The following entertainers showed their generosity and support by performing for free: Michael Masangkay, Teresa Panaligan, Jake Franco, Scott Brown and Mark de Leon

Exciting prizes were given to the raffle and silent auction winners. All proceeds will go to Typhoon

'Pablo' victims at the One Canada Village Northern Mindanao.

Kim Jose and Cheryl Cantonjos were busy making sure the night went well.



Consul Belivar Bao and Action Honda's Rafael Nebres were two supporters of the fundraising.

TOP PHOTO: Entertainers and staff pose for a picture after the concert.

Celdran found guilty of 'offending religious feelings'

MANILA, Philippines -- Celebrity tour guide and artist Carlos Celdran was found guilty by the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court for "offending religious feelings" after pulling the "Damaso" stunt in Manila Cathedral on September 30, 2010.

In a decision penned by Pairing Judge Juan O. Bermejo Jr., the court said Celdran is guilty beyond reasonable doubt for violating Article 133 of the Revised Penal Code. The provision dictates the imposition of a penalty upon anyone "who, in a place devoted to religious worship or during the celebration of any religious ceremony shall perform acts notoriously offensive to the feelings of the faithful."

Bermejo ordered Celdran's imprisonment of two months and 21 days up to one year, one month and 11 days.

In 2010, Celdran used a placard with the word "Damaso" and held it up in the middle of the mass.



PNoy on Binay: We don't have issues

MANILA, Philippines - Despite the verbal tussle between the administration's political party with the United



Nationalist Alliance (UNA), President Benigno Aquino III said he doesn't have any "issues" with Vice President Jejomar Binay.

Aquino said that he and Binay do not even talk about the current political turmoil in Cebu. He said he also does not have complaints about Binay's work as a housing czar and a vocal representative for the overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

He clarified, however, there is nothing political in the suspension of Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia, who remains holed up in the Capitol until now.

Binay is one of the stalwarts of UNA, which earlier slammed the administration Liberal Party for political harassment. The administration slate is now known as "Team Pinoy."

FV Foods Christmas and Birthday Party



FIRST, A woman competes a the beer-drinking contest SECOND, Odette Escala and the Bathurst / Wilson branch staff performs their number THIRD, Philippene Chamber of Commerce's Oswald and Issa Tugadi with Joseph Alilio enjoy the party. FOURTH, The Dufferin branch staff pose with birthday bou and FV co-owner Mel Galeon and partner Flor Vendiola. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

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Cristine Reyes seeing Dennis and Derek

MANILA, Philippines - Recently single Cristine Reyes said she isn't surprised over reports linking her to former leading man Derek Ramsay and ex-boyfriend Dennis Trillo.



The Kapamilya actress admitted that she had been close friends with the now TV5 actor even

after filming their blockbuster film "No Other Woman" in 2011.

"Gumigimik talaga kami, pero hindi ko masasabing nagde-date kami," Cristine told ABS-CBN News in an interview.

She explained, "Ganoon naman talaga kami. Ever since naging close kami sa 'No Other Woman,' naging constant na rin [ang communication], tawag-tawag, hangout-hangout."

Cristine even cited instance of her going out with Derek with their respective partners, Rayver Cruz and Angelica Panganiban, before.

"Nakakatawa lang, kasi feeling ko lang nabibigyan nila ng kulay 'yung sa'min ni Derek, dahil nag-break na kami ni Rayver and siya kay Angelica," she said. Cristine and Rayver had already denied that Derek caused their breakup.

Since announcing her split with Rayver, Cristine was also rumored to be dating

anew Dennis. "Ever since naman nagko-communicate na kami eh. So hindi na bago na nag-uusap kami at nagkikita," she said of the Kapuso actor in a separate interview with InterAksyon.

Both 23, Cristine and Rayver earlier said that their decision to end their relationship was mutual and that their priority at present is their respective careers.

Barbie wants independence

But before you think Barbie is already planning to do something very drastic or something beyond her age, the young Kapuso star explains she simply wants to prepare herself in case her parents wouldn't be around to take care of her anymore.

"Gusto kong gawin lahat ng kaya ko para masanay na ako na pagdating ng tamang panahon, hindi para pag di na kaya nina Mama, di ako mabigla na ako na lang," Barbie said.

As examples of the preparations she's doing to be independent, Barbie said she's doing her make-up by herself. "Ako na gumigising sa sarili ko pag umaga, saka ako na naghahanda ng pagkain ko sa bahay," she adds—typical of a teenager yet admirable for someone of her stature.



Philippines is 'budget English teacher' of the world

MANILA, Philippines - The world's "budget English teacher."

This was how a recent BBC News report described the Philippines in highlighting the relatively cheap access to education in the country compared to other English-speaking nations.

The report noted the surge in the number of foreign students attracted by the country's competitive rates for English education, which cost only a fraction of the tuition in schools in the United States or Canada.

Aside from language students, the number of foreign graduate and postgraduate students in the country are reportedly on the rise, apparently recognizing that local universities are on par with global standards.

A major advantage for Filipinos is having a clear American accent, the report said, "partly because the Philippines was a US colony for five decades and partly because so many people here have spent time working in call centers that cater to a US market."

But studying in the Philippines presents some challenges to students, the report pointed out. "Living here means coping with the bureaucracy and corruption, and if you're in Manila, the heavy pollution," it said.

Moreover, foreigners may find it difficult to understand Taglish, a mix of Tagalog and English, which Filipinos use in informal communication.

"But for an increasing number of



people, these are small obstacles compared with the benefits of studying in the Philippines," the report added.

This is not the first time the country was recognized for its English proficiency.

On April, the Philippines topped 75 other countries in the Business English Index 2012 prepared by the GlobalEnglish Corp., a California-based company that aims to advance business English among global organizations.

The Philippines is joined in the top five by Norway (6.54), Estonia (6.45), Serbia (6.38) and Slovenia (6.19).

Noting that a country's business English capability was an indicator of its economic growth and business success, GlobalEnglish said that "it is not surprising that both the Philippines and Norway—the only two countries in the top five in both 2011 and 2012—are improving their economies, based on the latest GDP data from the World Bank."



Naku ha! by Jose Baking
LittleManilaConfidential.com

Free Trip for Beauty Pageant Winners -ONLY

Just remember that the free trip is for the winner only. If the winner is 18 years old or older, then, she can go alone if she is brave enough. But nowadays, most of the winners in pageants in the Filipino community in Toronto are underage. That means, the parents have to buy their own tickets to accompany them. This is just a reminder to pageant contestants and parents so nobody will be disappointed. Then, sometimes, if you ask for the free trip after 12 months of no trip being awarded yet, the organizer will tell you to call the sponsor travel agency yourself. Ano ba iyan? Nagtuturuan na.

2012 PCCF Miss Philippines-Canada winner Alev Usta will probably get her free trip this year. It was originally scheduled for January 2013, then Feb. Now it's July.



PAGING SENATOR ENVERGA - Nude Mail delivered in Halifax

Some Halifax residents are expressing shock over receiving an advertisement displaying full-frontal nudity in their mailbox. The ad wasn't in an envelope and it wasn't sealed. Now Canada Post admits it should never have been delivered. "I would think it should be sealed with a warning on it, if nothing else," says one area resident.



This is really shocking. What is more shocking to me is why this kind of mail is not delivered here in Toronto. I have been expecting this kind of mail in the mailbox since I arrived here in Canada and in my 26 years here in Canada, it has never happened to me. Now, a nude mail has happened in Halifax are shocked. Shocked!!! I am envious why I do not get that kind of mail. I will protest with Canada Post. I will write to my MP and my MPP. I will write to my our first

Filipino senator in Canada, senator Jun "Tobias" Enverga and demand why I do not receive that kind of mail and what he intends to do about it. Why residents of Halifax get this mail and not me is unacceptable.

Exclusive na, may Management Contract pa

How much do Philippine TV networks charge for managing the talents that are already under contract with their studio? I do not understand this. If the talent is already under contract to them, why have a management contract also? The contract states how much the talent is going to be paid already, so why have a management contract also on top of the exclusivity contract? Here in North America, the talent agencies are limited to charging 10% of the talent fee. And there is no studio system anymore. But in the Philippines, they do not specify how much is that. We do not even know if the talent even receives 90% of their fee. Kasi nga, may management contract pa. At hindi natin alam kung magkano ang management contract na iyon. Baka 10% or 5% lang ang natitira sa talent. Hindi kaya?

Wardrobe Malfunction

Janet Jackson had her wardrobe malfunction when her top snapped exposing her breasts. Now, Lady Gaga had her wardrobe malfunction and her butt got exposed. Only one part has not had a wardrobe malfunction. But, will it be a man or a woman?

Gawad Kalinga is registered as Canadian



Gawad Kalinga Canada Chairman Pidoy Pacis (MIDDLE) and wife Ting pose with newsman Warren D'Aoust.

Charity I just found out that Gawad Kalinga is registered as a Canadian Charitable organization under the rules of the Canadian Revenue Agency. I decided to check the other big organizations ng mga Pilipino and found out that none of them are registered. Huh! Here is the link - <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/lstngs/menu-eng.html> - if you want to check if the organization is registered as a charity here in Canada.

Baking

Submit ads & press releases by
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Faces from the Past

DO YOU REMEMBER THEM?

Pepe Pimentel

Pepe Pimentel, or "Tito Pepe," became famous as the host of the RPN 9 game show Family Kwarta o Kahon.

Former child star Chuckie Dreyfus, who guested several times in "Kwarta O Kahon," remembers Pimentel as a jolly person who takes his work seriously.

"He would make fun of himself by joking about his toupee," Chuckie adds.

Pimentel was also known for his "biyanan" or mother-in-law jokes. But all these are just for laughs. In truth, he'd often say, he and his mother-in-law are in good terms.

Neighbors remember Pimentel, a former barangay chairman, as very helpful and tidy.

Another neighbor adds that Pimentel thought nothing of giving even total strangers like him a lift in his van when the TV host-actor saw him walking on the street.

"He even used his own phone so we can contact that friend. And we were complete strangers to him," shares another neighbor.

Virgie Balatico, who used to coordinate talents for "Kwarta O Kahon" shares that Pepe never turned her down when she wanted to guest a singer or actor in his show.

"He was a nice man. So were his children," comments Virgie.

"Kwarta O Kahon," which aired from 1962 to 2000 was the inspiration behind the "Pera O Bayang" segment of Willie Revillame's "Wowowee."

Pimentel was also the first winner of the defunct talent show "Tawag ng Tanghalan."

The 83-year-old former host and actor died last January 24, 2013.



FOX Announces Filipino-American Idol

LOS ANGELES, California — FOX announced a new reality television singing competition aimed primarily at the increasing 'Fil-Am' demographic here in the US, entitled 'Filipino-American Idol'.

Filipino-American Idol will have four judges, namely Nicole Scherzinger, Bruno Mars, apl.de.ap and Vanessa Hudgens. They will be joined by comedian Rob Schneider as the show's host. Reports that singer Enrique Iglesias turning down the offer to be one of the judges are still to be



verified.

We're ecstatic to welcome Nicole, Vanessa, Allan, Bruno and Mr. Schneider to the Filipino-American Idol family," Cecile Goutaz, CEO of FremantleMedia said in a press release Sunday morning. "They are talented people who represents a different side of the music industry, who

has now crossed into mainstream culture with their unique artistry, style and flair. Rob on the other hand, could bring his distinct style of humor to the weekly show and might make getting eliminated a less painful experience for the contestants."

Simon Fooler, one of Idol's executive producers, explains the concept behind the show's creation.

"We witnessed how Filipinos were so passionate about these competitions, especially Jessica Sanchez's second place finish behind Philip Phillips last season," said Fooler. "We were bombarded with hate mails, complaints and was even threatened to be investigated by lawmakers from the Philippines."

"That is why we created Filipino-American Idol. It is for the Filipinos who can't seem to support their own Philippine, Pinoy Idol or other various talent competitions held in their country. We hope that this show would appease and satiate their hunger and penchant for recognition from contests of other countries even though they already have a lot of surplus of local talents."

Contestants with Filipino lineage will meet host Rob Schneider and the new judges' panel when auditions begin today in New York City. Other stops on the Idol audition tour include Chicago, Los Angeles, Charlotte, San Antonio, Baton Rouge and Oklahoma City.

Rumor has it that Donald Trump will follow in Filipino-American Idol's footsteps and is set to announce Miss Pinay-Universe, a beauty pageant composed of contestants with Filipino heritage/lineage all across the globe. This after the pageant received flak from Filipinos feeling that Janine Tugonon should have won.

Filipino-American Idol is produced by 19 Entertainment, a division of Core Media Group and FremantleMedia North America, Inc. The show premieres on FOX in March 2013.

LAUGH RESORT

A Wonderful Dream

1. Nagising Ako
 2. Pumasok ako sa iskwelahan
 3. Nakita ko siya
 4. Hinalikan ko siya
 5. Hinalikan niya rin ako
- Sa Totoo Lang ang pagkakasunod ay 2, 3, 4, 5, 1

Isang Tula

oh, ano tung nararamdaman ko, di ko alm kung saan tutungo..at nang ika'y makita, ako'y natuwa, agad akong nag hubad, at sayo'y pumatong ng dahan-dhan
lhat ng posisyon ay aking ginawa, ako'y lubhang pinawisan at nahirapan, at sa di katagalan ako'y nilabasan. ohh! ang sarap tlga pag-nakapatong sa iyo oh mahal kong...
INODORO

Kiss Daw

JUAN: Ate pahiram ng kaldero..
ALE: Sige lumapit ka dun sa anak ku at kunin mu.. (lumapit si juan..)
JUAN: Ne, pa kiss daw sabi ng mama mu..
NENE: (sumigaw) mama!! si juan oh!!
ALE: Ibigay mu na kasi, nagpaalam naman sakín Iyan..

Honey shot



The daughter of Resty and Luz del Rosario, Justine is a dancer with the Culture Philippines of Ontario. She is taking up Science and Business at the University of Waterloo. She also loves to travel. Her favourite place is Nice, France. One day, she would love to go to the Philippines. We wish her luck in her endeavours..

Justine del Rosario

Kris being paired with Daniel

MANILA - An irked Kris Aquino asked her friend Vice Ganda and Twitter followers to stop teasing her to Brapanese actor-model Daniel Matsunaga.

Her January 17 tweet, which she posted in response to a message about Daniel, read, "Because may 'malice' & hindi sya yung crush ko." She added, "Pwedeng makiusap, don't tease me to Daniel. Now u know y i'm annoyed!"

Kris further explained that letting the teasing go on will make others think she enjoys being linked to Daniel. Her son Bimby, however, remains cool about it.

In a separate interview at the "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" press conference, Kris shared, "Siyempre hindi niya (Bimby) sineryoso kasi feeling naman niya, never niyang nakita anywhere. So, feeling niya talaga, gawa-gawa lang iyon, which is true naman talaga. Sineseryoso lang naman niya kung sino talaga ang nakita niya."

Daniel, for his part, denied dating Kris, his co-star in the blockbuster movie "Sisterkas. She's so nice to me, sobrang mabait. Friendship (lang) talaga is what we have."

Kris also said fans of her former husband James Yap are sending her "hate tweets."

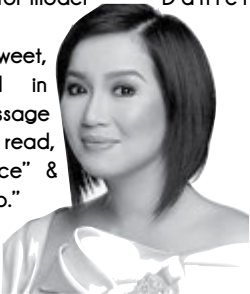
Accusations that she's a bad mother hurt Kris a lot.

"Honestly, review my account since I started July 2012. Accuse me of anything but when I read na walang kwenta akong nanay- my God war yan!"

She explained why she had to turn to Twitter to defend herself.

"Pumatol ako kasi TAMA NA. I don't talk about him, I had a presscon & was asked & I said no comment. Pero when they said i'm a walang kwentang ina na ignite yung galit ko. But I have my sons, my career & now my crush- so Care Bears!!! Lovelovelove."

She's grateful for her followers' words of encouragement.



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To All My Kababayans: Feel free to come and visit me, whether "bibili ka o hindi". It is always a pleasure to talk to a Kababayan. **MABUHAY!**
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Ampee Panaligan's Debut



FIRST, Ampee receives her treasure from Ed and Beth Tubale. SECOND, Ampee with Shirley Leblanc. THIRD, The cotillion girls pose for a picture. (PHOT BY NORLITO GUMAPAC) FOURTH, Evie and Cesar Poliarco read their greeting to Ampee. **See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com**

Philippines

Estrada-Lim Fight gets Legal

MANILA - Former President Joseph Estrada has accused Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim of being behind the disqualification case filed against him before the Commission on Elections (Comelec).



Estrada said he has no doubt that Lim is the mastermind of the questioning of his qualification to run for Manila mayor by Atty. Alicia Vidal since it supposedly violates the conditions of his pardon in October 2007.

“Of course. One of the lawyers is Justice Palattao. Everybody knows he’s the lawyer of Lim,” he said before the hearing of the case by the Comelec Second Division

Vidal, who once served as Lim’s lawyer, in a separate interview, denied Estrada’s claim.

“He has nothing to do with this. I am filing this as a registered voter of Manila,” she said.

Earlier this month, Vidal filed a disqualification case against Estrada citing the conditionality of the pardon granted to him by former president Gloria Arroyo as the main ground.

It can be recalled that Estrada’s age, the fact that he had been in custody for over six years, and his commitment not to seek public office were among the factors considered by Arroyo in issuing the pardon.

Lim and Estrada are set to face-off in the 2013 mayoral race in Manila.

Four out of Five Pinoys have no Home Internet

The Philippines may boast of being the social networking hub, but nearly four out of five Pinoy adults still have no Internet access at home, results of a new poll showed.

The report put the Philippines among the 100 countries where less than a majority of respondents answered yes when asked the question “Does your home have access to the Internet?” This, even as Gallup stressed that the results “reflect the percentage of adults who answered yes, rather than the percentage of households in a given country with Internet access.”

“Additionally, it is possible that adults have access to the Internet through other means, including schools and universities, public libraries, Internet cafes, and smartphones,” Gallup said.

However, the recent findings are consistent with a United Nations report in September, which claimed that 71 percent of Pinoys had no access to Internet through any means.

The same report meanwhile noted that such dismal figures for Internet access did not prevent Pinoys from using social networks, with 75 percent accessing such sites in 2011.



Overworked and Underpaid

Longer hours but among the world’s lowest wages.



This is the working condition of “kasambahays” in the Philippines, new United Nations labor data show.

A domestic worker in the Philippines works 52 hours a week in 2010, the 7th longest work hours among the 39 countries with available data in the International Labor Organization (ILO) report released Jan. 9.

This is also higher than the globally accepted statutory limits on working time of 40 and 48 hours a week, said the report dubbed “Domestic workers across the world.”

Pinoy kasambahays, however, get meager incomes with a national average equivalent to only 43.8 percent of the average incomes of the country’s total paid workers.

This makes the Philippines the 11th country with the widest wage gap for domestic workers out of 22 economies with available wage data in the ILO report.

But long working hours coupled with low wages is a condition not unique to the Philippines.

“Working hours of domestic workers around the world are among the longest and most unpredictable for all groups of workers,” the ILO said. Malaysia topped the list of countries with the longest working hours for domestic workers, at 65.9 hours a week as of 2008, with Thailand at (58.3 hours) and Indonesia (51.6 percent).

College graduate may not lead to Jobs

A college degree may not necessarily mean greater chances of landing a job, the chief state statistician said, noting that Pinoys with higher educational attainments tend to be “choosy” with work.

Nearly one of every five unemployed Pinoys is a college graduate, National Statistical Coordination Board Secretary-General Jose Ramon Albert.

Most unemployed college graduates are those with degrees in medical courses; trade, craft and industrial designs programs; as well as engineering and architectural courses.

On the other hand, the hardest job vacancies to fill include accountants and auditors, electronics and communications engineers, as well as systems analysts and designers, Albert said, citing data from January 2009 to June 2010.

These data, Albert said, are consistent with earlier observations that “unemployed college graduates have the tendency to be ‘choosy’ in seeking jobs.”



Angelica on breakup predictions in 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Actress Angelica Panganiban remains unfazed over predictions that she and her boyfriend, actor John Lloyd Cruz, will call it quits this year.



Panganiban said only she and Cruz would know until when they will last together.

Despite this, Panganiban said she respects the opinion of those who predicted a breakup.

“Siyempre iba naman ‘yung opinyon ng ibang tao. Iba rin ‘yung mayroon kami. Kami lang din naman ang makakapagsabi noon kung hanggang saan kami,” she said.

Panganiban and Cruz became a couple in July last year.

Angel Still Mum On ‘Darna,’ Wants To Rest From Movies

MANILA, Philippines - Angel Locsin neither confirms nor denies talks of her playing Darna anew on the planned ABS-CBN remake of the series based on the comics superheroine.



“May inaayos pero ako kasi ayaw ko muna magsalita,” the Kapamilya actress said.

Angel deems it right to keep her mouth shut with regards to upcoming projects. “Hindi ko pa alam kasi baka mapagalitan ako at kung ano’ng sabihin ko. Kasi ilang beses na rin naman kasi nag-present tapos hindi matutuloy so ayaw ko na pangunahan, so kung ano ‘yun, ‘yun na ‘yun,” she explained.

According to Angel, a break from doing movies will do her good because “baka wala ka nang mapakitang bago.”

Angeline Quinto on love

Although her acting and singing career remain Angeline Quinto’s top priority this year, she won’t mind having a love life if the right man comes along.

“Go na tayo, 2013 na. Basta makita ko lang na seryoso at mahal ang pamilya ko, iyon lang naman ang gusto kong makita sa isang lalaki eh,” Angeline said at the press conference of “Kahit Konting Pagtingin,” her new teleserye together with Sam Milby and Paulo Avelino.



Is she dating anyone?

“Wala po. Pero may mga nakakausap ako, may mga nagpaparamdam sa mga kaibigan ko dati,” she replied.

Angeline added that she doesn’t believe in predictions, including one that says she will have a boyfriend this year.

“Kung ano na lang siguro ang mangyari, iyon na lang siguro ang paniwalaan natin,” she explained.

Is it possible for her to develop feelings for Sam, her new love team in the ABS-CBN teleserye?

“Bakit naman hindi? Pero kung sakaling mangyari iyon, hindi ko naman pipigilan. Hindi ko rin ikakahiya,” Angeline revealed.

“Kahit Konting Pagtingin” is Angeline’s first teleserye and her first lead role on TV.

FV Foods *Christmas and Birthday Party*



FIRST, Games include Pinoy Henyo at the FV party. SECOND, FV St. Clair branch pose for a picture. THIRD, The ladies from Sariaya present their dance number. FOURTH, The Mississauga branch perform their entertainment number. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

Pinoy Abroad still Growing

Filipinos still seek greener pastures abroad

MANILA, Philippines - It may be more fun in the Philippines but recent data show that every four Filipinos in the labor force correspond to one Filipino who works or lives abroad.

A total of 10.46 million Pinoys are in 217 foreign countries and territories as of 2011, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas said in its latest "Stock Estimate of Filipinos Overseas."

This number is equivalent to 25.4 percent of the country's labor force which the Labor Department pegged at 41.94 million in October 2011.

It also represents a 10.7-percent increase in the number of Filipinos abroad, from 9.45 million in 2010.

Of the total Pinoys abroad, 4.86 million permanent migrants, 4.51 million temporary migrants and 1.07 million irregular migrants.

"Permanent migrants include immigrants, dual citizens or legal permanent residents abroad, whose stay do not depend on work contracts," the report



AFP News - This file photo shows a group of Filipino domestic workers collecting their luggage from a carousel at Manila airport, on August 15, 2006. The Philippines is to resume sending workers to Israel as the situation there returns to normal after last month's violence, the foreign department said

said. Temporary migrants, meanwhile, include those whos stay overseas are employment-related and who are expected to return to the Philippines after their contract.

Also under this category are students, trainees, entrepreneurs, businessmen and their accompanying dependents.

On the other hand, irregular migrants are those "not properly documented, without valid residence or work permits, or who are overstaying in a foreign country."

"Irregular migrants could be found mainly in the United States, Malaysia and Singapore," the report said.

The U.S. also remained the top destination for Pinoys, with 3.43 million migrants across all categories.

It was followed by Saudi Arabia (1.55 million), Canada (842,651), United Arab Emirates (679,819) and Malaysia (569,081).



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FV Foods *Christmas and Birthday Party*



FIRST, Owners Flor Vendiola and Mel Galeon read their thank you to everyone. SECOND, The Mississauga branch present their birthday gift to Mel Galeon. THIRD, Emcee Philip Beloso hands out a gift. FOURTH, Manager Grace Ocampo poses with daughter Mickey. FIFTH, Philp Beloso pose with Nene Panganiban. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

Philippines

Pacquiao doesn't need tune-up – Roach

MANILA, Philippines - With Juan Manuel Marquez reportedly deciding to defer his retirement, Manny Pacquiao is due to come out with a blueprint aimed at rebuilding his career as his handlers are finalizing the details of his comeback bout in the second week of April.

According to Esto, the daily Mexican sports paper, Marquez has reconsidered his decision to hang up his gloves after meeting with Fernando Beltran over the weekend, paving the way for his own tuneup fight the week after Pacquiao's.



The promoters of Pacquiao and Marquez want to spice things up as they are due to fight for a fifth time on Sept. 14 during the height of the celebration of the Mexican Independence.

Even though Marquez has only one win to show in four matches with Pacquiao, the 39-year-old counter-puncher has the upperhand right now owing to the strength of his sixth-round knockout of the Filipino icon.

Two names have cropped up as possible foes for Pacquiao and Marquez: Jessie Vargas of the US and Vyacheslav Senchenko of Ukraine.

Pacquiao adviser Mike Koncz said they're looking at three sites: Singapore, Macau or Dubai.

Koncz said he will hook up with Top Rank chief Bob Arum this weekend in New York to know what's down the road. But if trainer Freddie Roach is to be consulted, he'd rather see Pacquiao take a long rest instead of engaging in a tuneup fight and fight Marquez a fifth time in September.

"I don't really want the tuneup fight," Roach told boxingscene, echoing the same sentiment he expressed to a handful of Filipino scribes two days after Pacquiao's loss to Marquez last December.

"I would rather just go straight into the fifth fight. I don't think a guy of Pacquiao's level needs a tuneup fight."



Manila Bay Sunset view threatened, groups claim

MANILA, Philippines - A construction boom in Metro Manila is widely seen as a boon for the Philippine economy, but it may come at a price money can't measure, including the famed Manila Bay sunset.

Civil society and environment leaders recently slammed plans to reclaim bay areas along Roxas Boulevard, approved by the city council of Manila last year.

A signature campaign on Change.org has been launched by a group called "SOS Manila Bay Coalition", which is rallying opposition against the project.

The coalition is composed of several civil society and environment groups, including the Cultural Center of the Philippines and World Wildlife Fund Philippines.

Also leading the initiative are private sector stakeholders, among them Magsaysay Lines owner Doris Magsaysay Ho as well as online activist and popular tour guide Carlos Celdran.

The reclamation will be implemented through an April 2012 consortium agreement between the Manila City government and Manila Goldcoast Development Corp., the same group which eyed a Manila Bay development in 1992. It will involve about 288 hectares of land.

Aside from blocking the view of the sunset, the project will "worsen floods, extinguish the tourism area along Roxas Boulevard," and may also impact Intramuros as well as "20 vital anchorage berths for ships," the group added.

"We must act to protest this reclamation and prevent further destruction and loss of our heritage. We will stop them again," it added.

It will also "destroy all hopes of making Manila the center of culture, arts, recreation, and tourism," it added.

This, as it noted the importance of increasing stakeholders' awareness about how the area will affect the residential, business, tourism and cultural communities around the area.

Sheila and Alain Canizares' Anniversary



FIRST, Consul-General Junever Mahilum-West and husband pose with Senator Tobias Enverga and wife Rosemer. SECOND, Leslie Calma-Ruiz, Sheila Canizares, Senator Tobias Enverga and Alain Canizares pose at the party. THIRD, PCCF organization come out to celbrate with the Canizares. FOURTH, Arianna Pantaleon perfoms for Sheila and Alain. (PHOTOS BY EVIE POLIARCO). See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

CRIME DOWN
continued from page 1

Mar Roxas, Philippine National Police Director General Alan Purisima and other heads of law enforcement agencies to intensify efforts against lawless elements on the eve of a crucial midterm election which he has said would be a referendum on his leadership.

"While it is important for all to acknowledge that great strides have been made in suppressing criminality



in our country, I will also be the first to admit that much work remains to be done," Mr. Aquino said in a speech at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order (MRPO).

PEACE TALK Justice Secretary Leila de Lima is flanked by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, her some time critic, and Interior Secretary Mar Roxas during Saturday's 20th anniversary celebration of the anticrime watchdog founded by Teresita Ang-See, the Movement for the Restoration of Peace and Order.

He said he wanted the full force of government to go after so-called private armies, guns-for-hire groups, drug and gambling syndicates, and holders of loose firearms.

"For instance, despite the decrease in overall crime incidence [in the country], crime volume in Metro Manila has increased from 2011 to 2012. Likewise, recent events—instances of violence and recklessness when it comes to the use of firearms—push the government to work even harder when it comes to keeping our cities and barangays free from crime," Mr. Aquino said.

Since the start of 2013, law enforcers have had their hands full coping with the most deadly cases—from the 7-year-old girl in Caloocan City shot dead by celebratory gunfire during the New Year's Eve revelry to a drinks-and-drugs-fueled shooting rampage in Kawit, Cavite, which killed 8 people.

Before any of these incidents could be solved, yet another shootout among opposing groups of policemen and soldiers claimed the lives of 13 people, including a suspected operator of the illegal numbers game, "jueteng," in Atimonan, Quezon province.

Covenant vs criminality

Before the arrival of the President at

CRIME DOWN
continued on page 24

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HK Travel alert to PHL

Hong Kong reiterated its black outbound travel alert (OTA) over the Philippines, as it maintained its warning of possible terrorist attacks. In its OTA updated Jan. 24, the Hong Kong Security Bureau also cited the August 23, 2010 hostage-taking incident that killed eight Hong Kong tourists in Manila.

"Some overseas administrations had noted the risk on possible terrorist attacks, including places frequented by foreigners, such as large shopping malls and convention centers," it said.

It advised its residents to register their travel itineraries and contact details to receive updates on OTA and related information before departing Hong Kong. "Before departing Hong Kong, residents may register via ROTI their travel itineraries and contact details to receive updates on OTA and related information. The

Immigration Department may contact and assist the registrants in an emergency," it said.

OTA status

Only the Philippines and Syria fall under the black OTA, which advises residents to "avoid all travel."

Under the red OTA, which calls for adjustments of travel plans and avoiding of non-essential travel, are Egypt and Lebanon.

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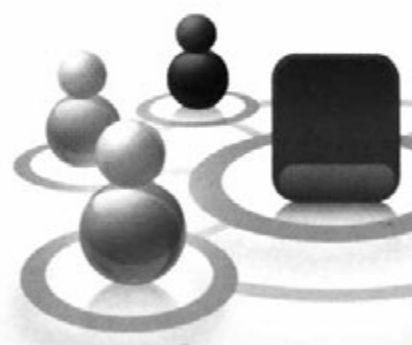
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Philippines

Phl may Export Rice

Good Weather is the Key



DAVOS—President Aquino sees the Philippines, which used to be the world’s biggest importer of rice, attaining full self-sufficiency and even turning into an exporter before the year is over.

That assumes that the country will enjoy good weather this year, Aquino said Thursday night in a private session tackling anti-corruption initiatives at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum here.

“From importing almost two and a half million metric tons of rice in 2010, now, if the weather permits, we are looking at full rice self-sufficiency—and even the possibility of exporting it—by the end of this year,” the President said.

The long-time quest for rice self-sufficiency was mentioned by the President in the context of reforms pursued by his administration in the operations of the National Food Authority, the government agency tasked to ensure rice self-sufficiency.

Aquino said his predecessor had allowed the NFA’s debt to balloon to \$4.4 billion from \$300 million over the course of the former president’s nine-year term, insisting on importing more rice than was needed to feed the people.

“So you had a staggering

amount of debt, and rice that no one would eat, rotting in warehouses that the government, of course, had to pay rent for. Any sane and reasonable person would not have done this, but it was done, and that was the reality we had to deal with. This insanity was justified by convincing our people that we were not capable of feeding ourselves through tilling our own land, hence the necessity of importing rice,” he said.

Since his administration assumed office, Aquino said more funds were plowed into irrigation, arterial roads, research into higher-yielding varieties and other technologies, making the goal of self-sufficiency viable.

In a research on the Philippine rice situation last year by Asian Development Bank consultants, it was noted that the Philippines continued to grapple with significant food insecurity. “Years of preoccupation with rice self-sufficiency and rice supply and price stabilization have not made a dent on the problem,” the research said.

Some of the food insecurity stemmed from rice supply issues and high domestic prices. Some of these might not be apparent in recent years but the research said current trade policies did not augur well for long-term supply and price stability.



Nine Die in Ambush

BACOLOD CITY—Gunmen hiding in a sugarcane field ambushed early January 27 a truckload of policemen and village guards, killing nine and wounding nine others in a hinterland village at La Castellana town, 28 kilometers south of here.

Officials said about 20 gunmen raked the victims’ truck with automatic fire in Barangay (village) Puso in the foothills of Mt. Kanlaon in Negros Occidental province, firing nearly 300 rounds of ammunition.

Killed were a policeman, three village peacekeepers, two village guards, two men and a woman who were heading home after attending a village dance when the gunmen struck at around 3:45 a.m. on a Sunday.

Two wounded policemen returned fire but were forced to retreat under overwhelming fire, police said.

Investigators said 20 people, including three policemen, village peacekeepers and guards, were heading home in a truck after securing a village dance festival when the gunmen opened fire on the vehicle’s front to stop it. Some of the victims may not have died outright but were finished off with shots to the head, as indicated by empty cases for .45 cal. bullets recovered from the scene of the attack.

Crime scene investigators recovered mostly empty cases for assault rifle ammunition.

Immigration Chief faces graft raps

The Ombudsman has charged Immigration Commissioner Ricardo David with graft for replacing the chief of the agency’s intelligence division despite orders from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Justice to reinstate the latter. The charge was based on a complaint filed by lawyer Faizal Hussin, who accused David of violating the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act by failing to reinstate him.

Hussin said David’s act was in stern defiance of the CSC and the justice department’s order.

“If David is allowed to defy orders of the Civil Service Commission and secretary of justice, his immediate superior, nothing will come out of the daang matuwid (straight path) of the President, and others will follow suit,” Hussin said.



FOI Bill Reaches the Floor

The freedom of information (FOI) bill finally reached the plenary, with public information panel chief Rep. Ben Evardone, its main sponsor on the floor, pitching for the measure’s approval.

“Open societies are not only more preferable than closed societies or societies living in an Orwellian nightmare. We can just imagine what the FOI would institutionalize. A thousand ideas will bloom. Superior, ennobling thoughts will guide the shaping of policy. Every citizen would be part of the policy-shaping mainstream. Our society will finally reap the awesome gains from an empowered citizenry,” Evardone said.

He said the freer flow of information would also help political debates to be more sophisticated and mature and raise the level of political leadership.

RICA PERALEJO

How to Make A Relationship Stronger

Rica Peralejo’s marriage to Joseph Bonifacio is one of local showbiz’s most enviable relationships. According to the erstwhile TV host



and actress, it has helped her marriage work so well.

“I learned that you cannot do marriage apart from God,” she said.

The former “Umagang Kay Ganda” host believes sharing a common ground with a partner isn’t enough to maintain a healthy relationship.

“Two human beings are too different. You may look the same on the outside or you have a lot of common interest but that’s not enough to keep it together. You need God talaga,” Rica explained.

She’s speaking based on experience; Rica has been married to Bonifacio since January 2010.

In earlier interviews, Rica said she has no regrets giving up her showbiz career for her husband. She wants to focus on being a supportive wife.

So, obviously, Rica believes marriage—or any kind of relationship—is hard work, one that requires as much dedication as a day job or a career.

“Probably a lot of people have said that marriage is not all romance but I don’t think it’s been said enough that marriage is hard work. So the way that you would do well or excellent or passionately for a job, dapat more pa when you’re working on your marriage kasi it takes two to tango.”

Rica added: “There are many things to learn about one another. If you’re both willing to work it out, it’s going to work.”

But that doesn’t mean she does nothing else with her time other than being a wife. Rica applies what she learned as a graduate of a Creative Writing degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in her work as travel columnist for a women’s lifestyle website.

She cites South America and Africa as among the places she’d want to visit.

The best travel destination for Rica? She doesn’t have any specific place in mind, although “spiritually, emotionally, even physically, mountains are the best for me,” she explained.

FV Foods Christmas and Birthday Party



FIRST, Owners Flor Vendiola and Mel Galeon present the best team work headed by Allan Ocampo. SECOND, The ladies from Sariaya led by Mel’s mom Violy pose for a photo after their dance. THIRD, The Bathurst Wilson branch staff pose for a photo. FOURTH, Mel and Flor present Employee of the year Jocelyn Lopez with a gift. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

Lalaine de Vera

A Caregiver gets a room at George Brown Waterfront Campus named after her, Thanks to Three Anonymous Donors



Three anonymous donors asked George Brown College to name a room after Lalaine de Vera (5TH FROM RIGHT), a 47-year-old caregiver. Lalaine de Vera poses with her whole family during the dedication ceremony at the Waterfront campus of George Brown College.

TORONTO, Canada -Nothing quite like this has happened in Toronto. Three donors turned the established rules of philanthropy on their head. They are using their naming rights to honour a migrant caregiver.

Late last year, the trio, whose members have requested anonymity, offered a generous gift to George Brown College on condition that a room in its new waterfront campus be named after Lalaine de Vera, a Philippine nanny and elder care worker.

The 47-year-old caregiver had never been recognized for anything. George Brown College had never heard of such an arrangement.

On Thursday, Jan. 17, a life-sized bed-sitting room designed to give student practitioners a realistic setting in which to learn, was officially named the Lalaine de Vera Room.

The star of the dedication ceremony was terrified. "I'm a nobody. I never thought anything like this would happen to me."

She is not a nobody, said the donor who hatched the plan. The idea occurred to him during the ribbon-cutting for George

Brown's state-of-the-art Health Sciences Centre last fall. His family's life had been touched by a selfless caregiver. Wouldn't it be great, he mused, to honour someone like her? From the college's point of view, it would provide a role model and affirm the career choice of students training to be personal support workers. From the city's perspective, it would be a vote of thanks to the nannies, elder-care aides and home-care workers who make life manageable.

He approached a couple of well-off friends. They liked the idea. They pooled their money to make it feasible.

Since then, it's been a matter of picking the room, pinning down details and trying to keep de Vera calm.

When she thinks about being in the spotlight, she panics. But when she tells her story and explains why she loves a job many consider undesirable, her fears vanish. "I'm proud to be a personal support worker. It's very rewarding. To see someone smile when you don't expect it — the feeling is incredible."

De Vera was 19 when she left the Philippines. She had no training as a nanny, but she was willing to work hard

and she'd seen generations of Filipinas go abroad to work for affluent families. Her first job was in Singapore where she worked seven days a week, around-the-clock for four-and-a-half years. "If they knocked on my door at 2 a.m., I got up and did what they wanted." Her monthly pay was \$400.

She'd never heard of Canada at the time. America was the destination of choice for Philippine nannies. But other nannies in Singapore started talking about working in Canada. One by one, they left. She longed to follow them but her employer, who had taken her passport, wouldn't let her go. De Vera asked, then begged, then prayed. Finally, she timidly approached the woman's husband. He signed her release papers.

"I was shocked when I came here," she recalled. "I didn't have to do the laundry by hand. They gave me two days off a week. They treated me like part of the family."

She has now lived in Canada for 24 years. She is fiercely loyal to her adopted country. She doesn't consider her job low-status. Despite earning two college degrees — microelectronics and sterile supply processing (preparing medical devices for surgery) — she intends to be a caregiver for the rest of her life.

"Working as a PSW is not easy. But it is joyful. It is self-rewarding. PSW for me is giving extra care, extra understanding and extra patience because I think that's all they want. To give them tender loving care because as their disease progress, you will become their sight, you will become their feelings, you will become their voice. You have to know them individually. Each of them has their character. Each has their like of food, their show, so you have to know each one. Most of all, you help them keep their dignity."

Closing her speech, she said "Good attitudes, Good deeds and good intentions are not overlooked. Somehow, someone, someday will voice out their appreciation. if not, somebody up there surely does."

Well said.



Sarah G hopes Maja will find true love

MANILA, Philippines -- Singer-actress Sarah Geronimo wished actress Maja Salvador, who is now being romantically linked to actor Gerald Anderson, happiness and true love.

"Si Maja naging malapit din po sa akin, basta I wish her true, true love. Totoong pagmamahal. Siyempre every girl deserves true love as in 'yung paninindigan talaga," Geronimo told reporters on Thursday during her contract signing with ABS-CBN.

Asked if her friendship with Salvador was affected now that her former suitor admitted that he plans to court Salvador, Geronimo said: "Ayaw ko na lang pong sagutin."

Geronimo noted that it's not easy to find a real friend.

Jennylyn mum on Ex

MANILA, Philippines - Actress Jennylyn Mercado remained silent on the relationship of her son Alex Jazz and his father, actor Patrick Garcia.

When further asked if Patrick still visits Alex Jazz and if there's a healthy father-son relationship between the two, Jennylyn added: "Okay na ang buhay ko. Walang problema. Hindi ko na kailangan problemahin pa."

Jennylyn said aside from her family, her showbiz career and happy relationship with television host Luis Manzano are her focus this year.

The actress said she is hoping for the best and for her romance with Luis to last.

Jennylyn is currently busy taping "Indio" and is a regular in "H.O.T TV" and Party Pilipinas. She's also working in a movie with Lovi Poe and Paulo Avelino entitled "The Bride and The Lover".



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FIRST, Alain and Sheila Canizares celebrates their 14th anniversary (PHOTO - EVIE POLIARCO). SECOND, Mel Galeon celebrates his brithday with partner Flor Vendiola. THIRD, Acuna Little Girl Debuts 18th Winter: Iris Elaine Maun Acuna,youngest daughter of Eleuterio “Terry” Gumban Acuna,Jr. and Imelda Maun of Toronto, celebrated her 18th birthday on January 5, 2013 . FOURTH, Ampee dances with her father Sherwin at her debut. BELOW, Angel Dawinan perfoms at Ampee’s debut. (PHOTO BY NOLI GUMAPAC)

Making Memories

These are the Moments that you will Remember

AMPEE’S DEBUT SPEECH
“It is such a blessing to have my birth date fall into a weekend and a non icy day. I am so happy that my family and close friends are able to attend and celebrate this once in a lifetime day with me. This really means so much to me. I can’t thank God enough for blessing me with such wonderful people in my life. I want to thank certain people that helped me put all of this together and make it happen more than what I wanted it to be.First of all I want to thank my parents who have been with me for the past 17 years of my life. I would like to give special thanks to many people which includes my mother, Genelie Panaligan for taking part most of the preparation of my debut; My sisters-- specifically Tess; the Martinez family (Ariel Martinez, Flor Casas Martinez) , Ms. Shirley LeBlanc and of course Tito Joey (@Robert Capa) for helping me

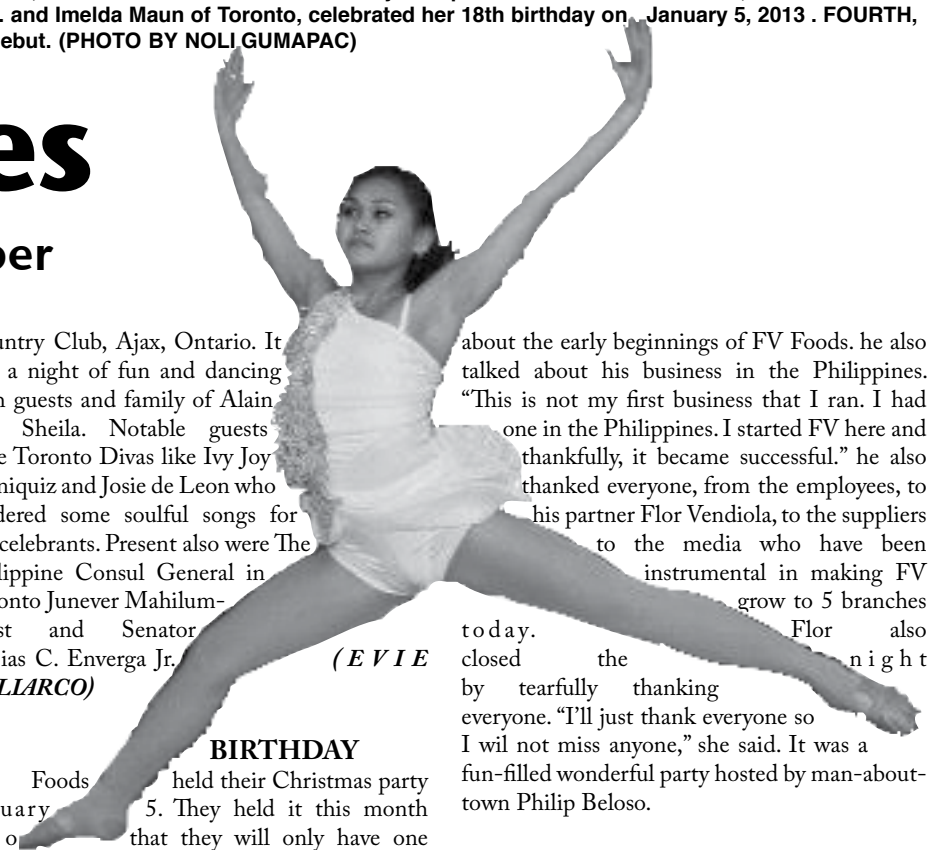
through this day. I can’t also leave behind my family that came all the way from Ohio, @ araconceptentertainment (Ara Zona),Ms. Sharon M Miso Mr. Furto, Mr. Philip Beloso, Tito Norlito Gumapacwww.4ensphotography.com for everything on this day! Thank you to all my 18 candles, 18 roses and my 18 treasures for taking part of this celebration and for always being there for me whenever. I won’t forget my cotillion group and my choreographer for giving their time and effort in every practices. Thanks to all my guests. I hope everybody is having a good night because I am sure enjoying it, every second of this moment is a keepsake. This is one of the events I could never forget. Thank you ALL for making this special for me :) “- Love, Ampee

ANNIVERSARY
An elegant celebration at Deer Creek Golf and

Country Club, Ajax, Ontario. It was a night of fun and dancing with guests and family of Alain and Sheila. Notable guests were Toronto Divas like Ivy Joy Maniquiz and Josie de Leon who rendered some soulful songs for the celebrants. Present also were The Philippine Consul General in Toronto Junever Mahilum-West and Senator Tobias C. Enverga Jr. (E V I E POLIARCO)

BIRTHDAY
Fv Foods held their Christmas party January 5. They held it this month so that they will only have one celebration combining company party and Mel Galeon’s birthday. Mel Galeon talked

about the early beginnings of FV Foods. he also talked about his business in the Philippines. “This is not my first business that I ran. I had one in the Philippines. I started FV here and thankfully, it became successful.” he also thanked everyone, from the employees, to his partner Flor Vendiola, to the suppliers to the media who have been instrumental in making FV grow to 5 branches today. Flor also closed the night by tearfully thanking everyone. “I’ll just thank everyone so I wil not miss anyone,” she said. It was a fun-filled wonderful party hosted by man-about-town Philip Beloso.



Jasmine Not Competing With Anne as Top Endorser



MANILA, Philippines - Jasmine Curtis acknowledges that her sister Anne Curtis is way ahead of her in terms of being a sought-after product endorser but the former has no plans of even trying to “catch up” or “race” against her as if they are not family.
“Hindi ko pa rin matatalo si Ate but I can

never take it personally because this is [just] work,” Jasmine said when launched recently as the newest endorser of Flawless.
The 18-year-old celebrity added that it’s inevitable for people to compare them as it happens even to people outside of show business so it’s “okay.”
Besides, Jasmine has her own priorities and that is finishing school; one that is as important as what her ate has achieved, if not more. The budding celebrity revealed that she is on wait list status in Ateneo and that she already has an offer for a course in Melbourne, Australia as an off-campus student at Deakin University.
Won’t it be hard to mix schooling and career? Not for Jasmine who claims that she loves studying and that she’s used to the pressure of juggling two or more priorities at the same time. It helps, she added, that her family is very supportive of all her endeavors.
She is not about to go the sexy route just to make a splash in show business---at least not soon. At 18 years old, Jasmine said that she’s not yet ready “emotionally and physically” to take the plunge.

“Maybe in the future,” quipped she, who is more intent in honing her acting skills since she knows that doing so will give her greater chance of enjoying longevity in the business.

Daiana Menezes Wants To Prove That Love And Career Don’t Clash

MANILA, Philippines— Daiana Menezes is engaged to Cagayan de Oro Rep. Jose Benjamin “Benjo” Benaldo but she isn’t about to slow down with her career as model, actress and endorser.
“Many people think that once you have a love life, once you get married, wala ka ng career. Hindi totoo yan. I think when you’re happier, the better you work,” she said when launched as endorser of Lady Grace, an intimate apparel and lingerie brand.
Despite being very busy (she is currently shooting “Sketch,” a film with Pinoy Hollywood director Ace Cruz, among other things), the Brazilian vixen said that the wedding preparations will begin middle of

the year when her father’s work schedule eases up.
“Iba kasi ang kultura namin, yung father ang gumagastos at nagaayos ng kasal ng babae,” she said to that effect. “But I’m really looking forward to it because getting married would mean I’d be staying more in the Philippines.”
Besides, Daiana is still hungry to level up her career in showbiz by growing as an artist. When asked if she regrets letting go of her stint on “Eat Bulaga” on which she enjoyed daily exposure, Daiana simply said:
“Fame doesn’t always mean happiness and success. I love them, they were a school for me and if not for them I won’t be here. But I want to improve in my craft and now I am able to do other things like acting, hosting, endorsement and movies.”



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Elena Gabilo, 77, a retired schoolteacher who owns the shop, says the system has worked well for residents of this coastal village as well as visitors.

It was on a cold morning in 1995 when then newly retired Gabilo observed fishermen boarding boats in a pier just a few meters from her house.

“[I realized] there was not a place for them to get drinking water, much less coffee, and my heart went out to them, especially the young children. In a corner, I put a thermos bottle and some coffee and sugar, for anyone to drink. I thought maybe they would leave me money, but in the afternoon when I returned there

was no money at all,” she recalls.

“I told myself that was okay because I at least helped out,” she adds.

She kept leaving the fishermen coffee and food for a month. One day she discovered a few coins tucked in a box, apparently payment for her service.

It encouraged Gabilo to add biscuits and candies at the counter, and even a kilo of rice near pots and a kettle so fishermen can cook this. She also left tins of sardines.

This time, her efforts were repaid with small bills. In 1998, a government radio station learned of Gabilo’s unique venture, and suggested that her shop be named The Honesty Store. The store has evolved into The Honesty Coffee Shop, which also displays souvenir items for tourists.

“I don’t know if the customers drop the right amount. I don’t want to know if some people are cheating. But as far as I know, 98 percent of the customers pay the right amount,” Gabilo says.

She says two of her regular customers tried a similar venture in Manila, but they failed.

Conspicuous enough for customers to see is a sign on a wall that says: “Get what you need. Please pay (for) whatever you get. If you have no change, knock at the door. If no one answers, sorry, so you give more than the price. May your tribe increase. Remember, Honesty is the best policy.”

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Photos by: Willy Santiago & Joe Sangco.

Ampee Panaligan's Debut



LEFT, Ampee Panaligan and her cotillion entourage pose at her debut. TOP, Angel Dawinan, Meleena Tenorio, Kristel Tenorio and Aubrey Gen Panaligan smiles for the camera. ABOVE, The younger ones have their moment too. PHOTOS BY NORLITO GUMAPAC of 4ensphotography.com • 416-388-2171 / 2070

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The Panaligan family pose for a picture at Ampee's debut. From left, Maria, Aubrey, Ampee, mom Gen, Nadeene and dad Sherwin pose by the cake for photographer Norlito Gumapac.

Help for Abused Immigrant Women still Available

DALY CITY, California - Help is still available for abused women immigrants, despite the failure of U.S. congress to reauthorize a piece of legislation that would provide relief for them.



For the first time in 18 years, the U.S. Congress did not renew the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), a law that provides funding to police and social service groups that helps victims of domestic abuse and rape.

“The fortunate thing is, even if Congress did not authorize the continuance of the Violence Against Women’s Act, aliens who are subjected to abuse by their spouses can still apply for themselves under the Immigration and Nationality Act,” said Filipino American lawyer Ted Laguatan.

Laguatan explained that VAWA is encoded in the Immigration and Nationality Act which is still effective.

Undocumented immigrants who can prove that they are abused by their U.S. citizen spouses can still get their immigrant visas through self-petition.

“Thousands, if not millions of individuals, are subjected to domestic abuse, so VAWA helps them in their plight in so many ways.”

Senate Democrats recently reintroduced a bipartisan bill on VAWA. The bill would not only reauthorize the law, but would add new protections for members of the LGBT community and Native American women.

Fil-Ams laud Obama’s 2nd Term

WASHINGTON, DC—Among the nearly one million people at President Barack H. Obama’s inauguration on January 21 were many Filipino Americans who came to see a historic event, the installation of America’s first African-American president for a second term.



They also saw the Democratic president, who won his reelection with a convincing majority, pledge to defend Americans’ social safety net and uphold civil rights in the next four years. Pundits described the president’s speech as an assertion of a bold liberal vision.

Obama exhorted Americans to help him preserve social security, Medicare and other social services against efforts diminish the role of government in guaranteeing the public’s wellbeing.

Fil-Am elected Hawaii senate President

HAWAII—Filipino-American Hawaii State Senator Donna Mercado Kim (D-Moanalua, Aiea, Kalihi Valley) has been selected as the new senate president of the Hawaii legislature. The state’s upper house reorganizes, after the death of long-time Filipino champion and US senator Daniel Inouye.



Kim, the former vice president of the senate, will presided during the 27th Hawaii State Legislature last January, replacing Senator Shan Tsutsui, who was sworn in as Lieutenant Governor.

Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie chose former lieutenant governor Brian Schatz as Inouye’s successor to the US Senate.

“We are solidified in dealing with the pressing issues facing our State. The Senate continues to be organized in a cooperative and focused manner. I’m humbled to receive the confidence and support of my colleagues,” said Senate President Kim, who was first elected to the senate in 2000.

Kim becomes the first Filipino-American to head Hawaii’s senate. Kim is one of three Filipino-Americans in the state senate. Others include Will Espero (19th District); and Donovan Dela Cruz (22nd District).

Broadway Fundraiser for Fil-Ams

MANILA, Philippines - Two Broadway actors of Filipino descent are staging a concert in New York in February to help raise funds for the Filipino-American community there.

“Les Misérables” alumni Adam Jacobs, who played the role of Marius on Broadway from 2006 to 2008, and Ali Ewoldt, who played the role of Cosette in the same production, will top-bill “A Heart Full of Love: A Concert” at The Town Hall on February 23.

Jacobs and Ewoldt will be singing an array of musical theater favorites including selections from “Les Misérables,” “West Side Story,” and “The Lion King.” They will also perform contemporary pop songs, kundiman (traditional Filipino love songs) and an exciting repertoire of new works by rising musical theater writers and composers. “But for our show at The Town Hall, not only will we have the chance to perform excerpts from ‘Les Misérables’ for the first time since our Broadway debuts; but we also will have the opportunity to do other popular tunes from shows we haven’t done yet,” he added.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the 3rd The Outstanding Filipino Americans in New York Awards (TOFA-NY), an annual award ceremony that recognizes exemplary Filipino-Americans in the New York Tri-State held in October; and to Mindoro Healthcare Consulting’s current research to find a cure for multiple sclerosis, an autoimmune disease that affects the brain and spinal cord.

Elton Lugay of TOFA-NY and Jona Jane Tajonera of Mindoro Healthcare Consulting, LLC are producing the concert, which was conceived by Victor Lirio (“Suites by Sondheim”). Tickets are at \$40 to \$100.

Sen. Enverga leads a simple life sans trappings of power

By Willie Jose*

TORONTO, Canada - Our recent visit to Senator Tobias “Jun” Enverga Jr was a simple courtesy call to the First Filipino-Canadian in the Senate and also our way of re-connecting with him—an old-time friend. And when my family and I were new here in Canada in the early 90s’, we had a chance to attend some get-together gatherings hosted by his family. His wife Rosemer is a close friend of my wife. When Rosemer’s Mom was still in the



Rosemer said, “ there was a time when Jun while aboard the plane’s economy class, the stewardess upon recognizing him to be a senator, decided to serve him some snacks (Only passengers on the first -class cabin are entitled to have snacks).

When I asked him why he had accepted Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s offer to appoint him as a senator despite the fact that he had

nursing home, my wife, Lilia was the nursing supervisor in that facility, so in short that’s the way we came to know the Envergas.

When I arrived in his home together with some friends, Sen. Enverga or Jun—we were more at ease calling him Jun, despite the protocol of formally addressing him Mr. Senator. By casually calling him Jun, we could feel more connected with him—and he wouldn’t mind that--so when he opened the door for us and we walked in, he greeted us “Tuloy Kayo”. He was dressed in a casual T-shirt and casual pants or should I say feel-at-home attire, so all these led to a laid-back environment in the Envergas’ home.

After the normal exchange of pleasantries, we shook hands and Jun immediately ushered us in to the dining table where some of his friends were already eating. “ Kumain muna Kayo”. While I was discreetly watching his movements,

and gestures, what struck me most, was his behavior--he’s remained simple and good-natured in his ways, a soft-spoken and self-effacing guy who has not been affected by the trappings of his high office; he’s still the same old friend who would do whatever he could to make his friends feel at home.

At one point, I asked him in what ways his lifestyle has been radically affected by being a senator, he said “ Well, it’s a seven-days- a -week work because, from weekdays, I have to focus on my work in the parliament and occasionally, I would spend the weekends attending to some functions, speaking at different community gatherings in Toronto and all over Canada.”

“ I have to go home weekly to see my family, so maybe in the near future, I may get an apartment in Ottawa, so I don’t have to go home regularly on weekends.” he said.

At present, Sen. Enverga said he’s staying in a hotel in Ottawa and he has to take with him a suitcase of clothes and other personal belongings in going there “but I have to take back home my soiled clothes for laundry.”

While we were in the dining table conversing, Jun’s daughter, Rocel, a special child, would from time to time lovingly embrace Jun and he in turn would hug and kiss her, prompting one of my friends to comment that “ she’s the one bringing the success and happiness to the Envergas”. The Envergas have two other grownup daughters.

A typical Filipino, Jun is prudent when it comes to spending the money allocated for his office, and if he could have his way, he would save some dollars officially allotted to cover his travel expenses by taking on the plane’s economy class; in fact, he’s entitled to have a first -class accommodation doing his duty visiting the various Filipino and other ethic communities throughout Canada. However,

been doing quite well in his job as an IT specialist at the Bank of Montreal and at the same being a trustee at the Toronto Catholic District School Board, his reply was “ This is an offer which is hard to refuse and I know this appointment will bring pride and honor to the Filipino community. It’y para sa atin lahat ng Filipino.”

“ Unlike back home, senators here in Canada don’t have pork barrel and all our expenses are well accounted for,” Enverga said. His salary? Well, Rosemer didn’t give us an exact figure regarding Enverga’s salary as a senator, except in saying that “ Jun was getting more before with his combined salaries as a trustee of the school board and an IT specialist at the Bank of Montreal”.

One of the topics that Sen. Enverga discussed with us was the need for our kababayans here in Canada to empower themselves, stressing

that with” our big number, in Toronto alone, we are almost 300,000, and another 200,000 throughout Canada, so we can easily produce three more members of the parliament (MPs)

who can help us in addressing the various problems and other concerns facing our communities”.

“ But we have to work together, sama – sama tayo at sa dami natin kaya natin ito”, he said.

“ As we assimilate in the mainstream, we should not forget our values and culture because this is one way we can prevent elder abuse, suicide and family break-ups ” Enverga said.

Since the Philippines in the main source of skilled workers coming here in Canada, Enverga advised our kababayans that they should be more assertive in their workplaces and not to be “mahi’yain” in order for them to move up in the managerial levels in their work.

After our dinner and animated conversation with Jun and Rosemer, we thanked both of them for their hospitality and as we were about to leave, they accompanied up to the doorway, telling us “maraming salamat at mag-ingat kayo.”

While going home that night, I was thinking that since Sen. Enverga will have the opportunity to serve the Senate until the age of 75, he has all the time in the world to be of service to the Filipino communities—much is expected of him but with his kindness and humility, we all know “ you will never fail us.”

***Willie Jose was a member of the first batch of journalism graduate from the Pamantasan ng Lunsod ng Maynila. He was section editor and senior reporter of the TIMES JOURNAL in the Philippines. (williejose1@gmail.com)**



Baptism of Fire greets new Ontario Premier-designate Kathleen Wynne

TORONTO, Canada - Premier-designate Kathleen Wynne is shrugging off new Progressive Conservative radio attack ads now hitting the airwaves.

“It’s the Conservatives’ choice if they want to run attack ads. I can’t control that,” Wynne said. “But what I can control is my response and my response is not going to be a response in kind,” she said.

“I am not going lash out and attack back because I don’t think that’s what people want to see.” The 30-second radio spots paint her as a big-spending Liberal “Ontarians can’t afford.” In a separate interview, Wynne told Matt Galloway that she “can’t take the bait.”

“I am not going to react negatively and get worked up about an ad. That’s a political calculations that the Conservative have made,” she said.

Wynne, who won the Ontario Liberal leadership on the third ballot of a Maple Leaf Gardens’ convention on Saturday, said she wants to meet with PC Leader Tim Hudak and NDP Leader Andrea Horwath to

get the minority legislature working again. “I am going to do my utmost to bring jobs to Ontario, I am going to do my utmost to have a respectful discussion with the education sector. I am going to do my utmost to reach out to people in rural Ontario and work with people in small towns and in agricultural communities,” she said.

“That’s the work that I have ahead of me.” On a personal note, Wynne told Bresnahan that the Ontario Provincial Police, which protects premiers round-the-clock with an entourage of elite security officers, have told her she can no longer get behind the wheels of her Subaru station wagon. “That is bizarre. I’ve been driving since I was 19 years old, so I don’t think I’ve fully integrated the changes in my life,” said the 59-year-old Don Valley West MPP.

It’s not yet clear when Wynne will be sworn in as premier and appoint her new cabinet. The married grandmother is the first woman premier in Ontario history and Canada’s first openly gay premier.

ABS reaps Gandingan Awards



ABS-CBN’s Rated K by Korina Sanchez was named Best Magazine Program.

MANILA, Philippines -- ABS-CBN took home several awards at the 2013 Gandingan Awards (7th UPLB Isko’t Iska’s Broadcast Choice Awards).

ABS-CBN programs and hosts, including those of its radio station DZMM and Studio 23, garnered numerous awards during the ceremonies held on January 26 at the D.L. Umali Auditorium at the University of the Philippines Los Banos.

The network was named the Best Development-Oriented Television Station, and was also given the Gandingan ng Pinilakang Tabing award.

ABS-CBN’s “Umagang Kay Ganda” and its hosts were named Best Morning Show and Best Morning Show Hosts.

“Rated K,” meanwhile, was named Best Magazine Program. Its host Korina Sanchez was also awarded Best Magazine

Program Host. Ted Failon of “Failon Ngayon” was honored as the Best Investigative Program Host, and Best AM Announcer.

Boy Abunda and his show “The Bottomline with Boy Abunda” were named Best Development-Oriented Talk Show Host and Talk Show.

“Matanglawin” was named Best Educational Program, and Kim “Kuya Kim” Atienza was honored the Gandingan ng Edukasyon and Gandingan ng Kalikasan.

Studio 23 also had its share of awards, with “Us Girls” and its hosts being named the Best Women-Oriented Program and given the Gandingan ng Kababaihan award, respectively.

DZMM was named Best AM Station, and its show Radyo Negosyo the Best AM Program. Host Carl Balita was honored with the Gandingan ng Kabuhayan.

ABS-CBN’s FM station Tambayan 101.9 also garnered awards. “Anong Meron?” was named Best FM Program, while DJ ChaCha was named Best Disc Jock.

The Gandingan Awards are given annually by the UP Community Broadcaster’s Society, a media-based socio-civic organization in UPLB. It is the first award-giving body in the field of broadcasting in the UP system, and challenges broadcast practitioners to enhance their programs to contribute to the country’s development.

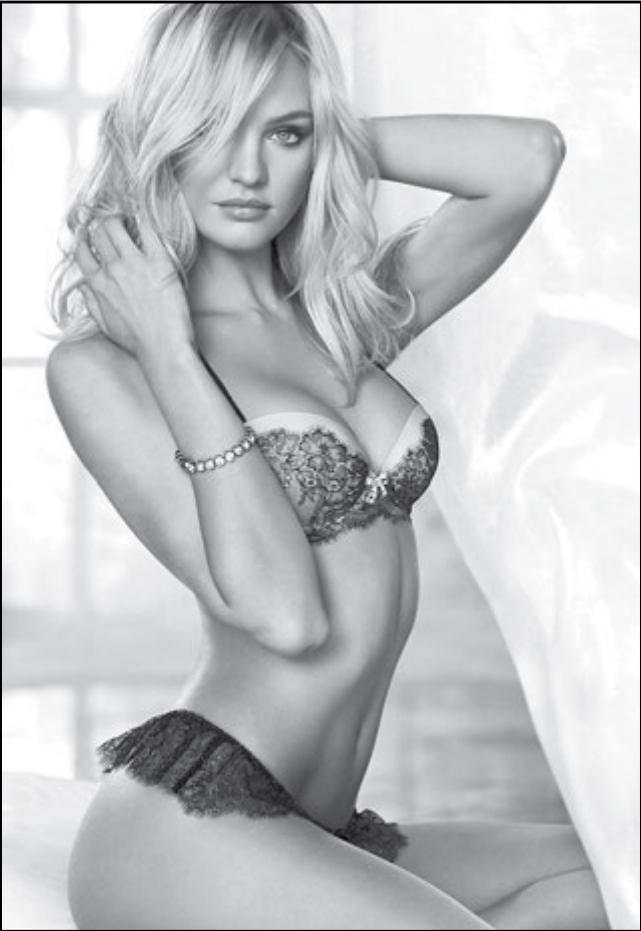


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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity News & Gossip

Saundance Festival Winner

Filipino movie 'Metro Manila' wins at Sundance



Filipino actors John Arcilla and Jake Macapagal in a scene from the movie "Metro Manila"

MANILA, Philippines – (UPDATED) A Filipino-British co-production took home the Audience Award for Best Film in the world cinema category at this year's Sundance Film Festival which has been dubbed the premier showcase for independent films.

"Metro Manila," which stars Filipino actors Jake Macapagal, John Arcilla and Althea Vega, had its world premiere at the Robert Redford-founded film fest.

The movie, which is credited to both the Philippines and the United Kingdom, was among the 12 films vying in the annual festival's World Cinema Dramatic Competition, which also included films from South Korea, Indonesia and Afghanistan. Shot in the Philippines, "Metro Manila" is directed by Sean Ellis, who also co-wrote the script with Frank E. Flowers.

According to the Sundance website, the movie is about Oscar and his family, who, searching for a better life, move from "the poverty-stricken rice fields to the big city of Manila, where they fall victim to various inhabitants whose manipulative ways are a daily part of city survival."

The movie also stars theater actors Miles Kanapi, Ana Abad Santos and JM Rodriguez, according to its entry on the movie website imdb.com.

Trade publication The Hollywood Reporter praised the film's actors, saying "much of the film's effectiveness is attributable to the lead actors' well-modulated performances."

"More of a slow-burner than an outright actioner, Metro Manila reveals how the pitfalls of surviving urban life can drive even a principled family to the ends of desperation. Although it doesn't have the action muscle of other recently distributed titles from the region, like Indonesia's The Raid or Thailand's Chocolate, internationally oriented fests will do well to consider programming the film, and it could also prosper in home entertainment formats," The Hollywood Reporter's Justin Lowe said in his review.

In his Facebook page, Arcilla posted photos of the cast, including Macapagal, Abad Santos and Rodriguez at the victory party.

"We won the audience award, for our film 'Metro Manila' in the Sundance world dramatic competition!" Arcilla wrote in his post. Arcilla also reported that the movie was nominated in seven categories and was "well-received."



KIM CHIU & MAJA SALVADOR

Revealing the Secrets to becoming Effective Actresses

Sa press conference kamakailan para sa Book 2 ng teleseryeng Ina Kapatid Anak, nabanggit ni Eddie Gutierrez na bilib siya sa mga batang co-stars niya dahil aniya, simula pa lang ng eksena ay umilyak na ang mga ito, na ibig sabihin ay mabilis silang maglabas ng emosyon. Kaya naman tinanong sa dalawang female lead stars na sina Kim Chiu at Maja Salvador kung saan sila humuhugot ng emosyon.

Unang sumagot si Maja na gumaganap bilang Margaux sa nasabing top-rating teleserye. "Sa akin po may mga eksena po kunwari ka-eksena ko 'yung daddy ko (portrayed by Ariel Rivera) humuhugot ako do'n. Siyempre, 'yung daddy ko wala na po, [so] dun humuhugot ako [ng emosyon]," pagbabahagi ng aktres. "Pero may mga eksena na nagpapatulong ako kay direk kasi siyempre may mga hindi naman po kaya ng experience [ko] ng mga ganung eksena, so pag ganun po minsan humuhugot [ako] sa totoong buhay. Minsan kailangan naka-pokus ka sa talaga sa kung ano man 'yung challenges na dumarating sa karakter do'n."

Ang sumunod namang sumagot ay si Kim na gumaganap sa role ni Celyn sa Ina Kapatid Anak. Ayon sa aktres, humuhugot daw siya ng emosyon mula sa personal na karanasan. "Kasi andami ko nang napagdaanan, andami ko nang nalampasan and dun ko na lang inilalabas sa acting ko. And siyempre minsan din sa character namin parang nadadala na rin kami sa kwento at mga linya na sobrang masakit sabihin," ani Kim.

Ibinibigay rin ni Kim ang credit sa kanilang mga writers na silang lumilikha ng magandang script.

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Dual Citizenship Oath-taking



Toronto's Philippine Consul General Juvener Mahilum West (extreme right) is shown in photo after administering the oath of several Filipino - Canadians headed by freelance photographer under Dual Citizenship law included in the newly acquired dual citizens is Antonio Ang, a Freelance Photographer Antonio Ang, a member of the Philippine Press Club Ontario (PPCO).. The documentaion and oath-taking preparation was assisted by Emma Manrique of the Passports Section. (Photo by Joe Damasco, St. Jamestown News Service) - Dindo Orbeso

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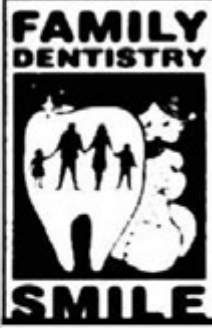
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Senate Approves Bill vs Drunk Driving



MANILA - The Senate approved on third and final reading a bill imposing penalties on drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

Senate Bill No. 3365 or the Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act of 2012 sponsored by Senator Gregorio Honasan prescribes a fee of P20,000 to P80,000 and three months imprisonment against drivers under the influence (DUI) of alcohol or drugs but have not caused any physical injury or homicide.

DUI resulting in physical injuries shall be fined from P100,000 to P200,000 and imprisonment ranging from three months to 12 years depending on the injury caused while DUI leading to homicide shall be fined from P300,000 to P500,000 or imprisonment ranging from 12 years to 20 years.

A mandatory alcohol and drug testing will be required for drivers involved in accidents, which resulted in injury or death.

“Under the measure, vehicular mishaps caused by drivers found to be driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall not be treated merely as reckless imprudence,” Honasan said.

A consequent confiscation or revocation of license will also be slapped against the driver.

Citing data from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Honasan said out of the 86,602 vehicular accidents recorded last year, 3% were drug or alcohol-related while 55% were reportedly due to driver's error.

“It is not clear how the figures have been arrived at but with the lack of equipment and proper training used to check drunk driving, it is not far-fetched to assume that the incidences generally attributed to driver's error may be traced to other factors like the use of drugs and alcohol which would increase the percentage of DUI,” Honasan said.

Why PH Went To UN Aquino: If We Don't Act Now On Scarborough Row, Will Reed Bank Or Recto Bank Follow?

DAVOS, Switzerland - If we don't act against China on Scarborough Shoal, what's next? Will it be Reed Bank or Recto Bank? President Benigno S. Aquino issued the poser as he justified the Philippine government's decision to bring China to a United Nations (UN) tribunal to contest its claim over the entire West Philippine Sea. He said the move was

not born out of whim. It was made after careful study and consultations with the country's top government leaders as well as two former Presidents.

President Aquino revealed that he consulted leaders of the two Houses of Congress as well as former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada on the issue and obtained a consensus to pursue the arbitration route.

Manila has referred Beijing to an arbitral tribunal under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), a 1982 treaty signed by both countries, seeking to declare Chinese claims in the area invalid. It also demands that China stop violating the country's territorial rights under the UNCLOS.

John Prats likes Isabel Oli

MANILA, Philippines - Actor John Prats revealed that he is attracted to GMA-7 actress Isabel Oli but clarified that they are not dating yet.

John said that his photos with Isabel that spread online was taken by some of their friends.

“Nakita naman ninyo yung mga pictures. May kumukuha, yung mga friends namin,” he said in a television interview.

John said he and Isabel go out with friends but never just the two of them. If given a chance, the former child star said he would want to get to know Isabel more.

“Whenever I'm with her, I'm such a fan. Fan ako ng ganda niya kaya sobra lang ako name-mesmerize. Si Isabel naman talaga yung babaeng nagagandahan ako. When it comes to attraction, attracted talaga ako sa kanya,” he said.

When asked what she likes most about Isabel, John said it's the company of the Kapuso actress. “Nage-enjoy ako sa company niya and wala akong masabi.”

John further clarified: “Hindi ako nanliligaw. I always hate that word kasi parang it's always best foot forward. Maganda siguro kasi nagsisimula kami sa pagkakaibigan. Kung anong mas hihigit pa doon, mas ikakatuwa ko pa yun,” he ended.

Isabel used to date Gabriel Valenciano, the ex-boyfriend of Rachele Anne Go, who was the former girlfriend of John.



Sam Pinto will shine in Indio

+ Robin Padilla has no Hocus Pokus + other stories



Rafael nebres of Action Honda donates to the Pablo typhoon victims at a fundraising as Gawad Kalinga Canada's Pidoy Pacis and GK Executive Director Jose Luis Oquinenena looks on.

Solenn Heusaff starts Right

Kapuso actress Solenn Heussaff is starting the year on the right foot. She stars in GMA-7's epic-serye "Indio" and Regal Films' sexy drama "Seduction."



"For my career, I just go with the flow. I don't decide and say, 'Oh my God, if I don't do this, what will happen?'," Solenn told Yahoo! Philippines OMG!

in an interview during her commercial shoot for Sun Cellular.

She doesn't consider entering showbiz a good choice.

"It's just a choice," Solenn said. However, she admits making good choices is part of her success.

Solenn starred in 2011's "Temptation Island" and "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." Year 2012 saw her in three comedy movies (the latest being "Sosy Problems"). She opens 2013 with the daring drama "Seduction" with Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati.

"I was a 'yes, yes' person before. Now, I

learned to take my guard up, I learned to say no. I've learned to take a step backwards and observe people," Solenn explained.

The actress said she aims for variety in her choices.

"I try to make the most variety as possible para I won't be labeled as a sexy actress or a comedy actress. I want to try different things and do my best in everything I try."

How does she make choices when it comes to her love life?

"I trust my instinct. When I'm with someone and I trust the person, there's no questioning," Solenn said.

Her relationship with Argentinian businessman Nico Bolzico is going strong, more than two years after they became a couple.

"Even when I'm at work and I don't see him for a few weeks... I'm not the jealous type. I'm just chill and laidback. And I don't involve him in showbiz," Solenn relates.

As for good choices she's made lately, Solenn cites her Sun Cellular endorsement and her movie "Seduction."

"I'm always very careful and I know what I'm doing."

Sam Pinto, happy sa Indio

Masaya ang Kapuso actress na si Sam Pinto dahil kabilang siya sa malaking proyekto ng GMA-7 ngayong taon, ang Indio, kung saan gaganap siya rito bilang diwata ng tubig.

"I play Lidagat. Isa siyang diwata ng tubig. So I control all forms of water from the rain, to the sea, to everything. Marami pang diwata so I'm one of them," pahayag nito.

Aniya, "Of course, it's an honor to be part of this very very big epic-fantaserye of GMA, sobrang laki niya grabe, sobrang dami rin at the same time we all learn how to speak in Tagalog, kasi ang lalim ng Tagalog dito."

Ang pagta-Tagalog daw ang isa sa malaking pagsubok para sa kanya dahil hindi naman niya ito madalas na ginagamit bilang lenggwahe.

Biro pa ng aktres, baka raw dahil sa Indio ay maging magaling na siya sa pagta-Tagalog.

Andi denies Iza's 'walk out'

Andi Eigenmann denied reports that Iza Calzado walked out of the "Kahit Puso'y Masugatan" set after they shot a fight scene where the former slapped the latter.

"I underestimated her (Andi's) powers," Iza joked at the press conference of the series where she and Andi answered questions from the press.

"I think, somehow, it was my fault because I didn't know, she didn't know that I was gonna slap her. Hindi sinabi sa akin ni direk Wenn (Deramas). Ate Iza didn't get mad. She (Iza) was really very professional about it," Andi said.

Her contrabida character Victoria is more aggressive than Iza's.

"Hindi ko po iniisip na masasapawan ko or mas mapapansin ako kumpara sa mga ka-eksena ko. Kung ano lang po ang hinihingi ng eksena, iyon lang po ang ginagawa ko," Andi said.

Seven months of working together has

made good friends out of Andi, Iza and the rests of the cast.

"Palagi akong tumatabi sa kanya (Iza). Kapag magkasama kami sa shooting, lagi lang kaming nagkikwentuhan," Andi relates.

She added, "Dito sa teleserye, sa production to the cast, parang family talaga. I can talk to them about different things. Kahit na hindi na kami magkakasama sa mga next teleserye, magiging kaibigan ko pa rin sila."

Dawn in talks to replace Maricel in series

Actress Dawn Zulueta confirmed that she is in talks to take over the role of Maricel Soriano in the upcoming drama series, "Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin."

Zulueta said the producers of the new ABS-CBN series had already sent her the storyline.

"At nagustuhan ko rin (ang story)," she said in an exclusive interview with "The Buzz" that aired on Sunday. "Right now ang nangyayari ay naguusap ang business manager ko na si Boy Abunda, at saka ang ABS-CBN at malalaman natin sa Lunes kung ano ang desisyon."

Reports on Soriano's alleged outburst on the set of the upcoming drama series circulated online. The 47-year-old actress allegedly lost her temper over co-star Gerald Anderson's numerous takes in filming a scene.

Soriano's management and that of ABS-CBN's -- which produces the TV series -- have since decided to exclude the Diamond Star from the cast.

Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent management arm, however, backed Anderson's "unassailable personal character and professional behavior," following the alleged incident.

Zulueta admitted to "The Buzz" that she is leaning towards accepting the project.

"It's a wonderful story and a wonderful cast. 'Yung likelihood na tatanggapin ko ito is pretty high but it's still pending nga sa mga usap-usapan nila, ni Boy Abunda at saka ng executives. Sa Lunes talaga pa namin 'yan ma-co-confirm," she said.



I-REMIT GOES TO ST. CATHERINE - Photo shows Belinda Lim - Herrera (1st from right), Canada's country head and managing director of I - REMIT has been inspecting its' different branches and agents in Canada like the JN Oriental Store at Lake Street, St. Catherine, Ontario, for which the money remittance company has been giving services for Social Security sytem, Pagibig, and Philhealth members in Canada. Others in photo include Gemma Fortaleza, Newshen Marilou Tiro, and I - Remit Agent Juliet Nierva. (St. Jamestown News Service, Manny Papa)

She got What?



Debutant Ampee Panaligan (RIGHT) opens her gifts as her sister Maria expresses 'envious disbelief' as their cousin Angel looks on. We're not going to tell anymore the numerous 'nice' gifts Ampee received.

Judy Ann covering up for husband Ryan?

MANILA, Philippines – Actress Judy Ann Santos refused to dignify rumors that she is covering up the alleged womanizing of her husband, host-actor Ryan Agoncillo. Santos didn't even feel the need to deny the persistent showbiz reports.

"I guess hindi mo maiaalis ang mga ganyang tsismis sa isang couple na masaya ang pagsasama. Pupukpukin at pupukpukin talaga kayo ng intriga hanggang masaya kayong dalawa," she said in an interview with "The Buzz" that aired on Sunday.

"Pag naghiwalay naman kayo, pipilitin naman kayong magkabalikan. Pag masaya naman kayo, pipilitin kayong paghiwalayin. Pero ako kung saan na lang sila masaya, kung naniniwala sila sa gusto nila paniwalaan, go. Hindi ako makikipag-debate sa kanila," she said.

BB says no problem with mom

MANILA, Philippines - Rustom Padilla, who now goes by the name BB Gandanghari, sees no obstacles with his relationship with his mother, Eva Cariño, amid an earlier decision to undergo a sex-change operation.

He said the issue remains a thorny topic only among his brothers, whom he claims to still have an "okay" relationship with.

"I'm fine with my mom. Okay kami ng mama ko, wala kami problema," he said.

Prodded further by friend and The Buzz's guest host Gretchen Barreto on the vocal objections of his brothers, he said: "Okay din naman e, pero hindi pa buo sa kanila si BB."

He said he would rather define their feelings as a yearning for the old Rustom, noting only: "Nami-miss lang siguro nila si Rustom."

Action star Robin Padilla was the first to disclose his feelings right after his older brother, whose sexual preference was prominently announced on live television, admitted to be undergoing psychological consultations in preparation for his plans to undergo a sex-change operation.

The younger Padilla even asked their mother to intervene and sway him into changing his mind.

"Siguro kapag dumating ang araw na sasabihin niyang 'Tol kailangan kita,' pupunta ako. Nandito ako 'tol. Kapatid mo ako. Pero para suportahan ko pa ang mga ganung desisyon, hindi pa ako handa. Siguro naman may karapatan din akong sabihing hindi pa ako handa sa mga ganung desisyon niya," the action star earlier said.

Even Rustom himself admitted he is still not yet fully decided on the matter. Early in the interview, a visibly thinner Rustom gamely allowed Barretto to hold his butt to show that "they're real."

Asked as to when the surgery would start, he only said: "I don't know. I'm still in the process of evaluating things... Wala pa ako doon."

He said he understands the changes would be painful physically. "Not only that, it's a major decision, a major change...You don't just do it [and then decide to go back]," he said.

Barretto further urged him to answer as to why Robin could not accept him as BB, Rustom said: "Sana si Robin na lang imbitahin mo, para matanong mo sya. I can't speak for him."

Barretto said, "E ang ganda-ganda mo naman," to which he only said, "Syempre."





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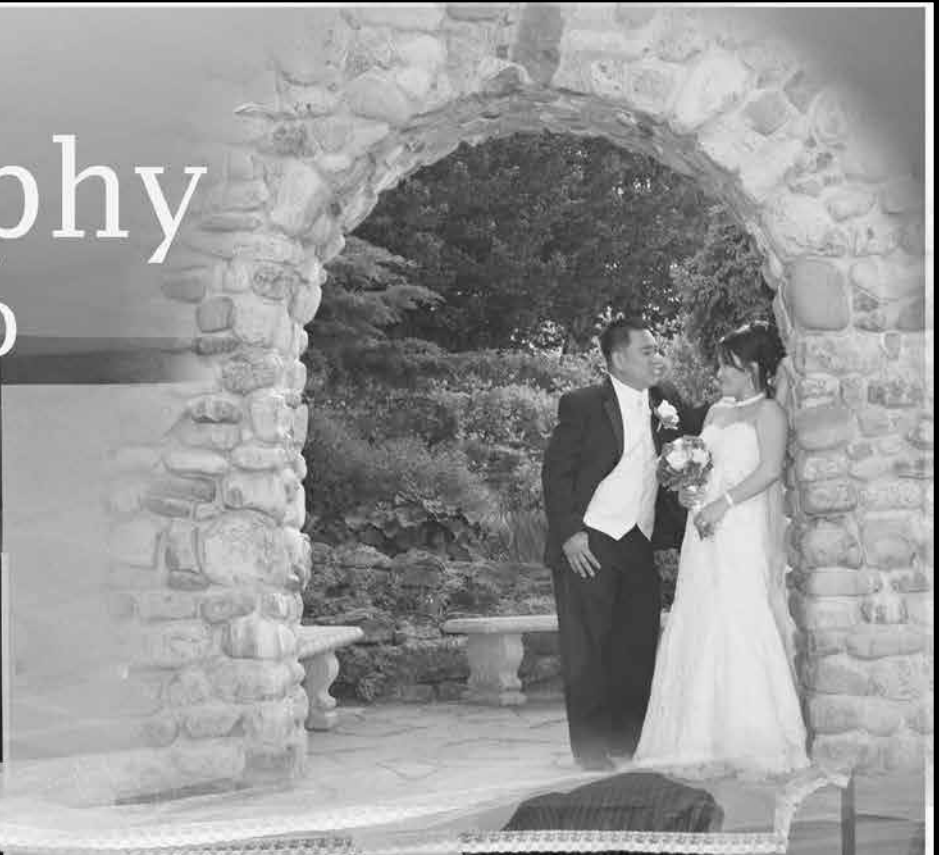


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Kim Chiu & Xian Lim

Whether Reel or Real, they Make a Lovely Pair

Contrary to speculations, actor Xian Lim insisted he and his “Ina, Kapatid, Anak” leading lady Kim Chiu are not yet a couple. Lim said that while people may say what they want, he and Chiu know the real status of their relationship.

MANILA, Philippines – “We are friends. Well whatever people speculate, whatever they say, it’s up to them. Basta kami we are doing our job, we are happy and we are just here just to make everyone proud,” he said.

Lim has been vocal about his interest in Chiu since they both starred in the ABS-CBN series “My Binondo Girl.”

Their team-up also gained a huge following and many of their fans want Lim and Chiu to be a couple in real life.

Asked how he feels about it, Lim said: “She said she is very dedicated to her work and I am very dedicated to my work so sigurado kami na kung papasok kami sa ganun, ayaw namin mahati ‘yung atensyon sa trabaho, unahin muna namin ‘yung trabaho.” While they are not able to go out on dates because of their busy schedule, Lim said it is already more than enough that he gets to spend time with Chiu during their taping days. “Alam mo wala kasing time eh with her schedule and my schedule. At sinasabi ko naman na halos everyday kami nagkikita sa taping, grabe ‘yung everyday na nagkikita na kami,” he said.

Lim maintained he and Chiu are just taking things slow. “Siguro alam mo for now hindi ko muna iniisip sa sobrang daming iisipin. And lagi naman kaming nagkikita. Nandiyan lang naman ‘yun at nandiyan lang naman ang friendship, all we have to do is just take our time,” he explained. “Sumasama siya sa amin ng mga kabarkada ko, since konti lang yung friends niya from showbiz,” sabi naman ni Kim.

“Yun nga, sabi niya, loner siya, isinasama namin siya. And masaya naman siyang kasama.

Pero ready na ba siya para muling magmahal?

“Puwede na, kasi two years na rin naman,” sagot ni Kim bilang pagtukoy sa breakup nila noon ni Gerald Anderson.

Si Xian na ba ang lalaking susunod niyang mamahalin?

“Konting effort pa!” natatawang sagot ni Kim

Ano ba yung mga bagay na pinapakilig siya ni Xian? “Siguro yung kapag nagbigay siya ng gift kahit wala namang okasyon. “Gaya nung binigyan niya ako ng bag na pink na Prada. Sabi ko, ‘Anong meron?’ ‘Wala lang!’

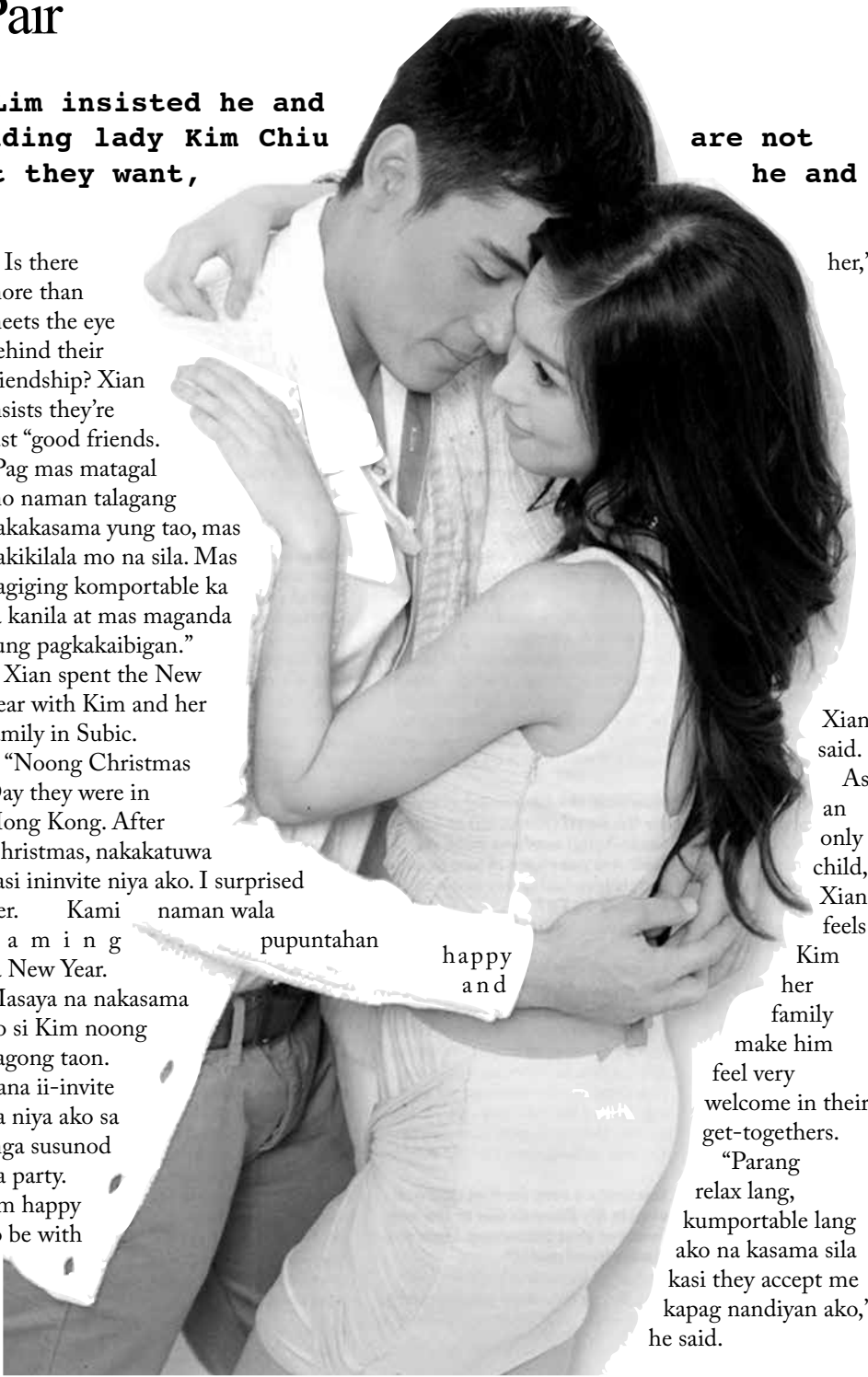
May mga nagsasabi at nag-iisip na talagang may relasyon na sina Kim at Xian. Hindi lang daw sila basta magkaibigan. Pero ayon kay Kim, “Oo nga, e, parang pinapangunahan kami ng ibang mga tao. “Pero, siyempre, wala na rin kaming magagawa kung yun ang gusto nilang isipin.” “Masaya naman kami kung ano kami. Xian Lim stands by special friend Kim Chiu, now that she is embroiled in a controversy over the rumored romance between Maja Salvador and Gerald Anderson. At the press conference of ABS-CBN’s teleserye “Ina, Kapatid, Anak,” (book two) Xian didn’t leave Kim’s side while the press interviewed her on the issue. “I’m always here, giving her an open ear and a lending hand. I will always be there for her,” Xian said.

Is there more than meets the eye behind their friendship? Xian insists they’re just “good friends. “Pag mas matagal mo naman talagang nakakasama yung tao, mas nakikilala mo na sila. Mas nagiging komportable ka sa kanila at mas maganda yung pagkakaibigan.”

Xian spent the New Year with Kim and her family in Subic.

“Noong Christmas Day they were in Hong Kong. After Christmas, nakakatuwa kasi ininvite niya ako. I surprised her. Kami naman wala k a m i n g pupuntahan sa New Year. Masaya na nakasama ko si Kim noong bagong taon. Sana ii-invite pa niya ako sa mga susunod na party. I’m happy to be with

her,” Xian said. As an only child, Xian feels Kim her family make him feel very welcome in their get-togethers. “Parang relax lang, kumportable lang ako na kasama sila kasi they accept me kapag nandiyan ako,” he said.



COMPENSATION continued from page 1

leftist activists of his generation.

“The torture started in the house. We were beaten up, punched and kicked,” he said, recalling a police raid on his residence in April 1974 and the beginning of his two-year detention ordeal.

He said he vomited blood after being kicked in the thighs. The soles of his foot had been burned by an iron, he added.

He said that interrogators wanted him to decode documents and identify people in pictures that were seized from suspected communists.

“Compared to others, mine was not the worst torture,” he said. “The others were electrocuted and injected with truth serum. ... But the threats continued.”

Ilagan’s sister, Rizalina, disappeared in 1976 along with nine other activists, many of them students involved in anti-Marcos publications, he said.

One of the women arrested by the same government unit that he suspected was involved in his sister’s abduction had escaped to recount her rape and torture. Ilagan said he has no doubt that his sister went through the same abuses.

His parents died still hoping his sister would turn up alive, but the family has found no closure, Ilagan said.

No convictions

Despite cases filed by former political prisoners, “there have been no convictions of perpetrators,” Marie Hilao-Enriquez, chairperson of Selda, said Monday.

“Governments after Marcos did not move or did not do anything to go after Marcos seriously, so we filed a case in Hawaii,” Enriquez said.

In 1992, the victims won a class action suit against the Marcos estate in Hawaii.

Under the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act of 2013, the 9,539 victims in the Hawaii class action suit against the Marcoses will be

awarded compensation using \$246 million, roughly P10 billion, that the government recovered from Marcos’ ill-gotten wealth deposited in Swiss bank accounts.

The bill states that these plaintiffs would be presumed victims of martial law abuses, which means they would no longer have to prove their claims for compensation.

Also to be conclusively recognized as Marcos victims are those in the list of the Bantayog ng mga Bayani foundation.

The amount each will receive will depend on the abuse suffered.

Never again

Loretta Rosales, chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, said her agency was looking at around 6,000 cases of abuses during the Marcos years. If there are two victims for each case, there could be 12,000 more claimants eligible for compensation, she said.

“Finally, over two decades after the fall of the dictatorship, we will have a law that puts the

responsibility of human rights abuses square on the shoulder of Marcos and provides justice for all those who suffered under his reign,” said Rep. Walden Bello, a member of a congressional committee that drafted and approved the bill.

“This bill should make us realize that never again should we allow (the atrocities) of the Marcos regime to happen in this country,” Sen. Francis Escudero said after the Senate ratified the 16-page bicameral report.

“After 25 years, I really hope that the Marcos compensation bill would be signed in time for the Edsa One celebration,” the senator said.

Escudero noted that many of the victims of martial rule were more interested in being recognized and listed in the Roll of Victims than in receiving reparation, citing Sen. Joker Arroyo.

There would be cases when the Human Rights Claim Board itself would recognize unilaterally a martial law victim and put his name in the roll even if he does not apply for recognition, he added

Ampee Panaligan’s Debut



FIRST, Perly and Joseph Alilio enjoy the night away. SECOND, Ampee and mom Genelie pose with Shirley Leblanc, Flor Martinez and Archie Dawinan. THIRD, Ampee pose with Cheryl Cantonjos. FOURTH, Cody Waito, Olivier Siou, Jezriel Martinez, Ampee and Justin Poliarco is caught in a candid moment. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

PCCT holds an Election

At the annual general meeting of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Toronto (PCCT) held on Saturday, January 19, the members elect the new officers and directors for 2013 - 2014. The officers elected were: Oswald Tugadi of PromoBee Enterprises (President), Ace Alvarez of Front Page Philippines (1st VP - Government Relations), Joseph Alilio of Forex Cargo (2nd VP - Membership), Moises Calo of Sun Life Financial (3rd VP - Public Relations), Steve Pagao of Door-to-Door Services (Treasurer), Nimfa Drilon of SM Development (Secretary), Albert Frias of Fate Financial (Auditor) and Flor Vendiola of FV Foods (Special Projects). The other elected directors are: Cherrie Liu of Rosar-Morrison Funeral, Ray Jao of Airport Kia, Albert Sun of APS Office Solution, Joseph Luat of SSI Ecoblue, Leo Torres of Kreative Treasures Catering, Joyce Ortiz of Handa Travel Group and Emilie Co Sy of ECCOS Services. The meeting was held at the Monte Carlo Inn in Markham.

Oswald Tugadi, re-elected as president, said that he intends to continue on with several of the highly successful projects completed by the past board, such as the



PCCT Officers and Election officials (Seated L - R) - Emilie Co Sy, Nimfa Drilon, Flor Vendiola, Oswald Tugadi (President), Joyce Ortiz, Fred Yuzon, Florendo Llameg. (Standing L-R): Ace Alvarez, Joseph Alilio, Cherrie Liu, Albert Sun, Leo Torres, Joseph Luat, Ray Jao, Albert Frias, Moises Calo, Rose Ami and Steve Pagao

Pinoy Fiesta & Tradeshow (Toronto), Philippine trade mission, golf tournament fundraiser, summer picnic and career seminars. He added that during this term new projects will be initiated such as monthly networking meetings.

“Our mission is to encourage and promote bilateral economic ties between Canada and the Philippines and bring

together people who share a strong common interest in building their business locally as well as internationally”Tugadi said.

For more information, contact: PCCT Media Relations - Moises Calo at 416 827 9355

From the Heart : A Studio Six Valentine Show



What a better way to celebrate Valentine’s Day with a concert re-uniting three of OPM’s Best (Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-Aawit) , Gerry Lara , Ronniel Mendoza and Josie de Leon!

Gerry Lara, started his musical career when he joined the Music Making Company in the early 90’s.He performed with the group in various hotels all over the Philippines. His first solo album was produced by Vehnee Saturno with its carrier single “ Basta’t Ikaw” under Ivory Records. He was nominated for Best New Male Recording Artist at the Awit Awards in 1995.

Ronniel Mendoza, was a mainstay of Sa Linggo n APO sila (with the APO Hiking Society) from 1990 until 1994. He released his first album with Dyna Records , and made hits with “ Kung Sakali Man” (a remake of Pabs Dadvivas ‘ original) and “ Kahit Hindi Mo Mahalin “ by Aaron Paul del Rosario.

Josie de Leon , is a familiar name to many in the Fil- Canadian community. She has been dubbed as Toronto’s Diva, always with her classy and flawless performances. She won the OPM Fe S. Panlilio Music Award in 1991, making her the youngest OPMer to win the competition .

Miss de Leon says about this upcoming show,“ I am so excited to share the stage again with two of my co – OPM performers who I looked up to and admired so much when I was young! “ she says jokingly . She says Gerry and Ronniel are not only performers she looks up to , but two really good friends.

Gerry on the other hand, says “ this show will bring a lot of happy memories for us specially having Ronniel Mendoza ,fly from Manila to do this !”

Gerry, Ronniel and Josie will make a musical journey on stage as the these three team up to give the audience a showcase of powerful music from the 70’s ,80’s and of course OPM favorites.

Special participation acts from fast rising young performers , Rita Tabago and Monarie Ocray are also something to look forward to .

It’s a perfect Valentine Dinner Show brought to you by Studio Six Productions.

“From the Heart “ at the KCCC Grand Hall 5225 Orbitor Drive Unit 3 in Mississauga , Saturday February 16th at 6pm.

Positioning PH as a romantic destination

Even a China newspaper names Philippines ‘most romantic destination’



NEW YORK—Thousands of travel enthusiasts descended to the Jacob Javits Convention Center over the weekend to participate in the annual New York Times Travel Show.

As the temperature in northeast USA dipped below freezing, many travelers are looking for affordable vacations somewhere in the tropics, if only to forget that the coldest winter in the past three years is upon us.

There was a steady stream of consumers who milled around the booth of the Philippines despite competition from bigger and noisier neighboring booths.

Among the major inquiries were from couples inquiring about possibly spending their honeymoon in the country.

“I realized how much more non-Filipinos want to go to the Philippines. Most are aware of the beauty of our beach destinations like Palawan and Boracay and would like to go as a

family and most for their honeymoon,” said Earl Francisco, manager of Mango Tours in Jersey City, Francisco and his team joined forces with the Department of Tourism in New York to participate in the annual gathering.

Francisco said he is not surprised that quite a number of couples inquired about honeymoon destinations in the Philippines, citing that both Palawan and Boracay are famous for this, but also newer destinations such as Bella Roca in Marinduque and Misibis Bay in Bicol are also gaining traction.

Earlier last January, the Philippines received the “Most Romantic Destination” award from the Shanghai Morning Post in China, based on a consumer survey.

The Philippines joined the other country-winners: Australia as “The Best Tour Destination for Discovery;” Switzerland as “The Best Shopping Paradise; Korea as “The Best

Skiing Destination;” and Germany as “The Best Destination for Art Appreciation.”

Also this month, the Philippines received one of the “Best Tourist Destination” awards given by the Oriental Morning Post during its annual World Travel – Special Trips Awards.

“More and more Chinese are traveling to the Philippines especially during this winter season in China and for the upcoming week-long Chinese New Year holiday in February,” a press release from the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

The Philippine government is confident that this year’s tourist arrivals will surpass the 4.27-million level recorded in 2012. “We expect more tourists to come in and they will be spending more here in the Philippines,” Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said in a press briefing last Jan. 24.

The Philippines had a total of 4,272,811 foreign visitors in 2012. This figure is 9.07 percent higher than the previous year but fell short of the government’s 4.6-million tourist arrival target.

The Department of Tourism said this shortfall is due to economic and political uncertainties in the country’s traditional markets such as the United States, Europe and China. But tourism officials remain confident that it is on track in achieving its goal of 10 million tourist arrivals by 2016.

According to a Philippine Star report, the Republic of Korea remains the biggest market for the Philippines. A total of 1 million Korean visitors came to the Philippines in 2012. The US ranked second with 625,626 visitors, followed by Japan with 412,474 visitors.

Rebuilding Hope for Typhoon Pablo Victims Benefit Concert

Jimmy Nagallo, Rafael Nebres of Action Honda, Francis Rementilla of BodyBliss and Gawad Kalinga Executive Director Jose Luis Oquinena join together to help typhoon victims in the Philippines.



Celebration with Bicol Canada



FIRST, Bicol Canada president Rafael Nebres poses with Consul-general Junever Mahilum-West. 2ND, Lawyer Alex Guarnes enjoys the night in beautiful company. 3RD, Zor and Alex Guerina (3rd and 4th FROM THE LEFT) pose with friends at the party. 4TH, Newsman Jojo Tadoran waits for guests with Bernie Sychangco. MORE PHOTOS ON FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

Entertainment

KRIS AQUINO

Kris sees 3 to 5 more ‘excellent’ years in showbiz



Actor Robin Padilla and Host-actress Kris Aquino

MANILA, Philippines – Host-actress Kris Aquino, fresh from the huge success of her movie “Sisterakas,” sees three to five more “excellent” years ahead for her in the entertainment industry.

In an interview, Aquino refused to discuss her plans once her contract with the Kapamilya network expires at the end of the year.

“Matagal pa ‘yon kasi October pa naman pinaguusapan ‘yon. It’s 90 days before expiration, doon niyo pinaguusapan kung saan papunta,” she said when asked if she will renew her contract with ABS-CBN.

She said it was her mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, who advised her to quit while she’s still ahead.

“Sana, God-willing, I have three to five more excellent years left,” she said.

Aquino explained that she is also working to ensure a secure future for her sons.

Anne Curtis says Sorry to Maja

Anne Curtis has apologized to Maja Salvador after she (Anne) coined the word ‘maja-rot’ and used it as part of a joke in the Jan. 23 episode of the variety show

“It’s Showtime”.

In the show’s “Sine Mo ‘To” segment, Anne jokingly asked co-host Vice Ganda, “Maja ka ba? Maja-rot ka kasi.” “Maja-rot” is a play on the Tagalog word maharot or flirty.

A remorseful Anne told “It’s Showtime” viewers the next day that she never intended to hurt anyone.

“Gusto ko muna mag-publicly apologize kung may na-offend ako kahapon sa joke ko. Hindi ko naman naging intensyon na directly mag-offend. It was really towards Vice, it was a joke. Siguro dapat mas naging sensitive ako kung may mga issues. Kaya I just want to say sorry Maja.”

It will be recalled that Maja was criticized, especially online for being romantically linked to Gerald Anderson, Kim Chiu’s former boyfriend.

Angeline, Sam And Paulo In ABS-CBN’s Newest ‘Kilig-Serye’

The Kapamilya Network’s romantic comedy series, “Kahit Konting Pagtingin,” which is set to premiere tonight, has Angeline Quinto, dubbed the “Queen of Teleserye Theme Songs,” torn between two dashing leading men, Sam Milby and Paulo Avelino. The three of them are working together for the first time.

Paulo, of course, is the “Breakthrough Actor of 2012” while Sam remains to be the “Romantic-Comedy Heartthrob.”

At the recent press conference for the “kilig-serye,” Angeline impressed us with her wit and humor in answering questions.

This is Angeline’s first-ever teleserye and she feels overjoyed and so blessed. “I am really happy because I didn’t expect that this will really happen,” the singer-actress said. “If before I was only part of teleseryes as the singer of the theme songs, now TV viewers can watch me everyday as an actress.”



CRIME DOWN continued from page 9

the MRPO event, Roxas, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, MRPO officials and two media practitioners signed a covenant on “government-citizenry commitment to combat criminality.”

Teresita Ang-See, the antikidnapping crusader, is the founding chair of MRPO, a civilian anticrime group composed mainly of Chinese-Filipino businessmen who have been battling kidnap-for-ransom groups for the past two decades now. The MRPO is chaired by architect Ka Kuen Chua.

Amid the public attention generated by the so-called “Atimonan 13” incident on Jan. 6, in which three policemen and three soldiers were killed in a shootout at a police-military checkpoint in Atimonan, the President sought to allay public fears over the proliferation of malefactors in the uniformed services.

“We in the national government are on your side. Today, as both government and the private sector reaffirm their pact to combat criminality, you can be assured that we will continue to engage the Filipino people in the search for true and carefully thought out solutions—that we share your commitment to foster greater peace and order in the Philippines and to achieve justice for all,” he said in his keynote speech.

“You trusted [the] government to do right by you, we in government pledge to be worthy of your trust,” Mr. Aquino said.

Declining numbers but ...

Mr. Aquino reported an overall decline in criminality but noted the increased incidence of illegal gun use with fatal consequences for the victims.

He explained, however, that the increase in crime volume reported for Metro Manila, or the National Capital Region, was the result of a new method to more precisely capture the crime incidents.

“So there’s a change in reportorial requirements that brought about the increase,” he said.

According to Mr. Aquino, kidnap-for-ransom cases have declined from 25 cases in 2011 to 11 cases in 2012.

“There has been an even greater decline over the years. In 2009, cases perpetrated by organized crime groups stood at 35. This has gone down to 21 in 2010, 11 in 2011 and, I am told, six cases last year.

“This same decline has been seen in kidnap-for-ransom cases perpetrated by terrorist groups, with only five recorded cases in 2012, down from 25 in 2009. Specifically, in Mindanao, kidnap-for-ransom cases have declined to only five incidents in 2012, compared to 10 incidents in 2011, due to proactive efforts to promote community awareness and cooperation,” said Mr. Aquino.

The President noted the “intensified” police presence across the country, whether in support of communities, tourism, or other interventions to fight and prevent crime.

According to Mr. Aquino, through the “Pulis Nyo Po sa Barangay” (Your Barangay Police) PNP program, 31,596 policemen have been deployed to supervise almost 40,000 barangays nationwide. Some 1,715 policemen are also manning tourism assistance centers and desks all over the country, he said.

Last January 27, nine people – policemen and rebels – were massacred by the communist rebels of the New People’s Army in Bacolod. But a survivor and others doubt that because the NPA usually spare civilians.

The case is under investigation.

Ampee Panaligan’s Debut



FIRST, Ariel and Flor Martinez present Ampee Panaligan with her treasure. SECOND, Ampee poses with her cousins and Elvie and Cesar Poliarco. See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com

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A place or face from the Past
Do you remember?

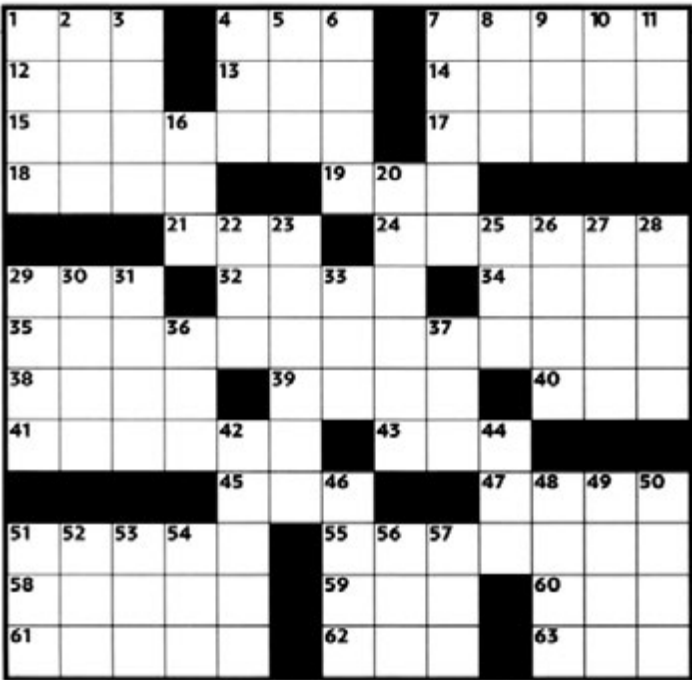
The Metropolitan Theater was built in 1924 and no expense was spared; it was a palace made out of marble, wood and stained glass. Italian and Filipino artists heavily decorated the theater with sculptures and reliefs. It was (and still is) an art deco masterpiece.



Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS	DOWN
1 U.S. crime-fighting agency (inits.)	1 "___ the Bottom of My Broken Heart" by 35 Across
4 Miles ___ gallon	2 Eric ___ of Munich
7 Actress Sarandon	3 How ___ Your Mother (2 wds.)
12 Lamb's father	4 Opposite of amateur
13 Cheerleader's word	5 Play by ___
14 "Hot ___" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	6 Actress Perlman
15 "... Baby ___ Time" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	7 The ___ Clause
17 "A Boy ___ Sue" by Johnny Cash	8 "Born in the ___" (inits.)
18 Running ___ (a joint-ticket partner)	9 ___ card (cellular chip)
19 Unit in a building (abbr.)	10 George Strait's "___ in the Hole"
21 Pot cover	11 Actor Beatty of Charlie Wilson's War
24 "Don't Let Me Be the ___ Know" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	16 Actor Gibson of Braveheart
29 Ready, ___, fire!	20 ___ TV
32 Actress Turturro	22 Actor McKellen of Lord of the Rings
34 ___ apparent (oldest child of the monarch)	23 Babylon A.D. star Vin ___
35 "Womanizer" singing star (2 wds.)	25 Murder, ___ Wrote
38 Christian ___ of The Dark Knight	26 "___ da Roof Off" by Busta Rhymes
39 ___-final (next-to-last match)	27 Spare ___
40 "Wheels are Turnin'" by ___ Speedwagon	28 Approximately (2 wds.)
41 "I'm ___ 4 U" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	29 "Dancing Queen" rockers
43 "___ Then We Kiss" by 35 Across	30 Author Levin and lyricist Gershwin
45 Bob Dylan's "___ Be Your Baby Tonight"	31 George Harrison's "Run of the ___"
47 Wise old birds	33 Hair-coloring mixture
51 "___ That I'm Used To" by Depeche Mode (2 wds.)	36 Actress Leoni
55 "Oops! ... I Did ___" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	37 ___ the Tail on the Donkey
58 "___ Wine" by Elkie Brooks	42 Actor Vaughn
59 "Soda ___" by 35 Across	44 ___ Day Afternoon
60 ___ lodge	46 "Our ___ are Sealed"
61 "___ Be" by 35 Across (2 wds.)	48 Comedy Car ___
62 If You ___ Him	49 "What It's ___ to Be Me" by 35 Across
63 ___ cat (cool guy)	50 Sound of scissors cutting
	51 "You Got It ___" by 35 Across
	52 "American ___"
	53 Elevation above sea level (abbr.)
	54 ___ Legend (2 wds.)
	56 Tic-tac- ___
	57 Tarzan, the ___ Man

Answers on
Page 26



Girls of Music & Law

RIGHT TOP, Jeanette Ricasio and Maria Panaligan pose after a gig at Bistro Manila. They are lead singers of Innovation Band.



RIGHT BELOW, FORUM AT MAGREGOR - MPP Joe Daniel for the Don Valley East Riding in Toronto, Ontario, is shown in photo together with Arlene Martirez, secretary of the Bicol Canada Community Association Inc. (BCCA) after a community forum at the MacGregor Community Centre at Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS), St. Jaamestown News Service, Manny Papa



Health Benefits of Being in Love

Love lowers risk of alcohol abuse

You may be footing a bigger weekly wine bill for all of those comfy nights in, but research has shown that you are less likely to abuse or depend upon alcohol if you are in a relationship. In the study, only four per cent of people who had been in a relationship for between two and four years misused alcohol; whilst only three per cent of those who had been in a relationship for more than five years reported abusing alcohol. However, 12 per cent of the participants who were not in a relationship in their thirties were described as misusing alcohol and 13.5 per cent of people who had not been in a relationship for more than two years treated alcohol in an unhealthy way.



Love: good for women, bad for men?



The English Longitudinal Study of Ageing found that women report a higher quality of life when they are in a relationship, but their husbands or partners report having a significantly lower quality of life. However, although it is possible that relationships fulfill the needs of women more than men, compared to single people, those in a relationship are still happier overall. In a separate study 40 per cent of married couples said they were happy, compared to only 25 per cent of single people.

Love keeps us young

We all know that being in love and making love are two very different scenarios and apparently so does Mother Nature. Being in love is often very trying and can age us; however, research suggests that making love keeps us young. A study conducted by researchers at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital in Scotland found that those women who have sex four or more times a week look 10 years younger than their actual age. Consultant neuropsychologist Dr David Weeks said that loving couples not only look after their bodies more, but that they also benefit from the physical and emotional effects of sex.



Love gives us more birthdays

Sadly, being in love does not mean you get to have more than one birthday a year. However, it does mean that you get to see more of them. The mortality rates for single males aged between 30 and 59 are two and half times higher than their non-single counterparts! Don't gloat too much though girls. Single women also face a 23 percent higher mortality rate than those who are married. Researchers suggest that this difference in longevity is due to the

fact that most single people have poorer health benefits, a lower income and are socially isolated. Being supported and connected to others is an essential part of keeping healthy.

Love improves mental health

Love has many physical benefits, but it would seem that men and women who are in a relationship get lots of mental health benefits too. In New Zealand a team at the University of Otago examined 1,000 people. They found that people who had been in a relationship for longer than five years were less likely to be depressed and attempt suicide.



Love heals the heart

A recent study by researchers at the University of Rochester in New York found that those in a happy relationship are three times more likely to survive heart surgery. They both found that being in love and expressing your emotions had a positive impact on cholesterol.

'Friends with benefits' may be more likely to have safer sex



Natalie Portman and Ashton Kutcher are friends with benefits in the movie "Friends with Benefits."

'Friends with benefits' may be more likely to have safer sex. Couples in no-strings-attached relationships may add one more benefit to the mix: they are more likely to use condoms. Couples in no-strings-attached relationships may add one more benefit to the mix: they are more likely to use condoms. Harvard University researchers selected from a sample of 376 people, mostly in their mid-20s, who were currently involved in either a traditional romantic relationship or a friends-with-benefits situation. All subjects responded to questions online about their relationships.

SEX CAN BE HEALTHY TIP

The sample size was predominantly female (74 percent), Caucasian (70 percent), and heterosexual (80 percent). Members of both groups reported that they had known their sexual partner for an average of about four years. Turns out that the friends-with-benefits group relied on condoms more than the traditional group -- but there is a caveat. According to LiveScience, the casual sex group was less likely to be monogamous (36 percent compared to 93 percent), were more likely to have multiple partners, and did not always use condoms. Also, they reported less sexual satisfaction than the traditional relationship group.

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



Baka mayroon ka pa diyan Rolly?

Rolly Mangante of the Philippine Consulate donates to the Pablo typhoon victims at a fundraising as Gawad Kalinga Canada's Pidoy Pacis and GK Executive Director Jose Luis Oquinena asks for more donations.

Crossword Answers

F	B	I	P	E	R	S	U	S	A	N
R	A	M	R	A	H	A	S	I	C	E
O	N	E	M	O	R	E	N	A	M	E
M	A	T	E		A	P	T			
			L	I	D		L	A	S	T
A	I	M		A	I	D		H	E	I
B	R	I	T	N	E	Y	S	P	E	A
B	A	L	E		S	E	M		R	E
A	S	L	A	V	E		A	N	D	
			I	L				O	W	L
A	P	A	I	N		I	T	A	G	A
L	I	L	A	C		P	O	P		S
L	E	T	M	E		S	E	E		H

OPTIMISM
continued from page 1

investment-driven growth. Key feature of investment driven growth will be stronger onshore job creation that has



been missing in past high growth episodes driven by consumption spending," Vohra (LEFT) says.

As to risks, he says that a strong peso has to be managed well as rapid peso appreciation can dilute purchasing power of the OFW remittances when converted to local currency.

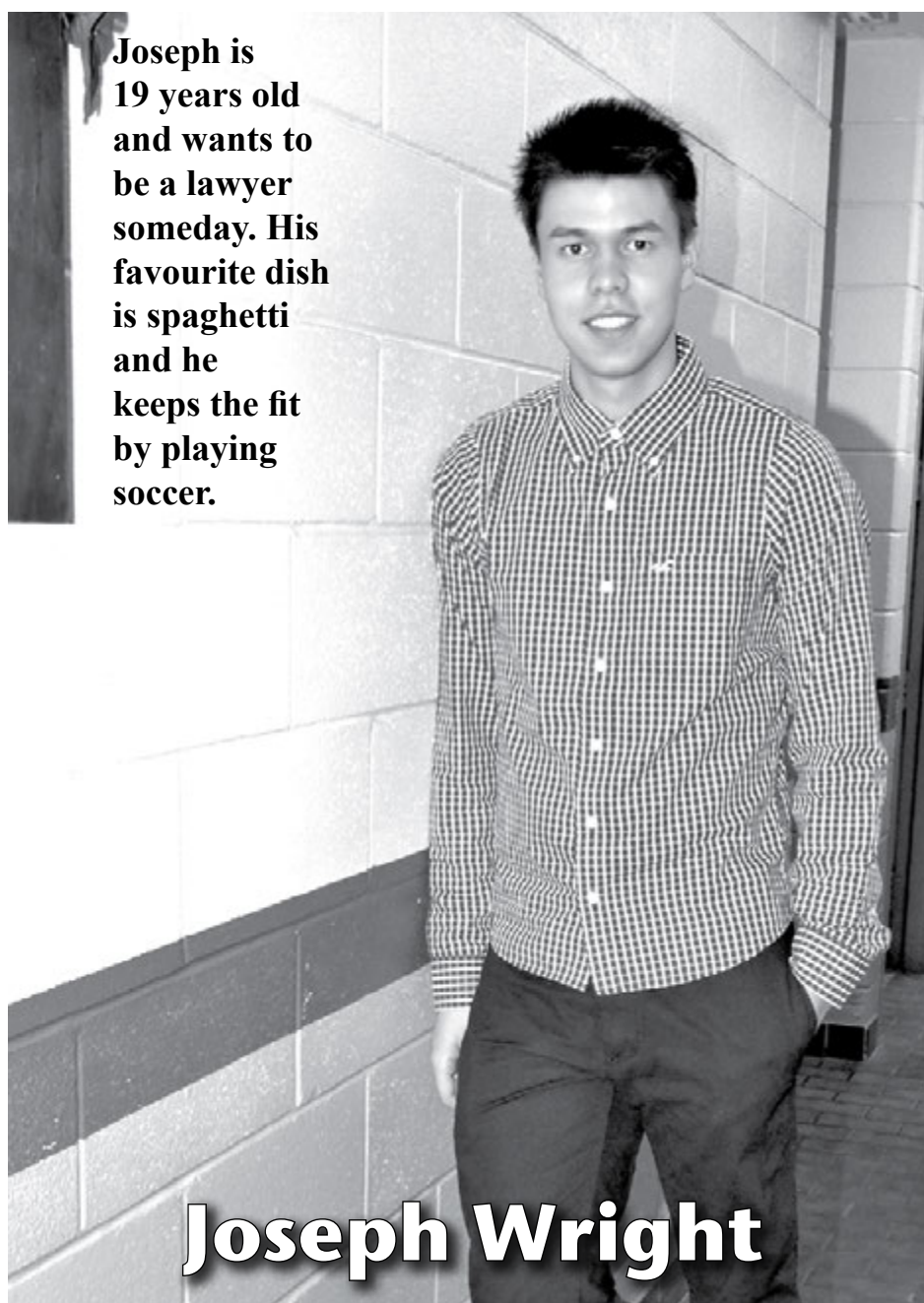
Mariels Almeda Winhoffer, president and Country General Manager of IBM Philippines, is also looking forward to a good year for the Philippines.

"Based on the country's GDP targets for 2013 and 2014, and barring any negative global influences, we expect the growth of the Philippine economy to remain strong in the next two years," says Winhoffer.

"From an IBM perspective, the company aims to sustain its significant growth in the Philippines, which is identified as part of IBM's 20 priority growth markets from across the world," she says, "Also, in line with the government's push to drive transformation toward a smarter Philippines, we will continue to align our initiatives to support the national economic growth agenda to capture and realize the tremendous potential of our country, especially in the higher

hunk shot

Joseph is 19 years old and wants to be a lawyer someday. His favourite dish is spaghetti and he keeps the fit by playing soccer.



Joseph Wright

value services space that will be driven and enabled through the promise of analytics."

Given these rosy projections, Winhoffer (RIGHT) says the challenge for IBM is to quickly scale up to seize the growth opportunities in the Philippines.

Philips Electronics & Lighting, Philippines is also gearing up for more business in 2013, according to Philips country manager Fabia Tetteroo-Bueno.

In lighting, for example, Bueno says that Philips sees growing demand for cost-efficient LED lighting solutions, due to the increasing cost of energy consumption, as well as the growing awareness on the environmental implications of using non-LED based products.

Philips also foresees an increase in demand for health and well-being solutions as society ages and Filipinos become more conscious about their health.

Healthcare is another growth sector for the multinational company.

"The Aquino government has expressed its commitment to provide Filipinos with access to quality healthcare. Because of this, there may be a move to expand and/or improve public and private hospitals and medical centers, in order to accommodate more patients, and offer more services. Philips intends to address this growth by providing healthcare facilities, as well as local government units, with high-quality diagnostic and imaging equipment," she says.



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