



GEORGINA Wilson
Heating up the Calendar Wars

Fairy Tale Economy
More Investors are Needed

MANILA, Philippines --- The gathering had the air of a post-mortem. About 100 executives and government officials listened quietly as Guillermo Luz explained why the Philippines’ economic revival is a fairytale.

Luz, head of the Philippines’ National Competitiveness Council, showed a presentation that sees the fast-growing Philippine economy slipping in the World’s Bank’s “Ease of Doing Business” index to 138 out of 185 countries, near Tajikistan and Sudan.

As the Philippines gallops ahead with the strongest economic growth in Southeast Asia and one of the world’s best-performing stock markets,

its shortcomings are being laid bare, including stubborn problems that have already started to undermine its economic renaissance.

While foreign funds have poured into Philippine assets this year, driving the main stock index PSI up around 30 percent to a succession of record highs and lifting the peso currency about 7 percent, foreign direct investment (FDI) remains embarrassingly low.

Total FDI is on course to hit around \$1.5 billion this year – about half its

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY
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STORIES INSIDE

Tagalog goes Global
Filipino Rescuer Honored after 5 years

PAL Launch TO-Manila Flight



Philippine Stewardesses Kimberly Jamerlan and Kate Williams grace Paskuhan festival to mark the start of the direct Toronto to Manila flights.

Buzz on the Net
(ANNE CURTIS’ GOWN STORY INSIDE)



INSIDE

MODERATE DRINKING
Good for Women

Eat 3 Meals
to Lose Weight

Commonsense
Guide to
Travel

Nude-less Pirelli
Calendars ?

Marquez ends Pacquiao’s Boxing Dominance
Should Pacquiao Retire?

Manny Pacquiao’s run as the best pound-for-pound boxer in the world ended on a Saturday night December 8 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. It ended not with a whimper, but a bang – the explosive impact of a perfectly thrown counter right hand from his arch-rival, Juan Manuel Marquez.

That bomb separated Pacquiao from his senses in the final seconds of the sixth round of the fourth meeting between the two future Hall of Fame inductees. This one was turning out to be the most crowd-pleasing of all their encounters, with Marquez flooring Pacquiao in the third stanza and Manny returning the favor in the fifth. Pacquiao was looking to end matters in the sixth when Marquez caught him with a single, concussive shot that Pacquiao never saw coming.

It was the “Punch of the Year,” and it earned Marquez the victory that had eluded him in his previous three meetings with Pacquiao. Mexican idol Marquez survived three first-round trips to the deck to salvage a draw in their first encounter, came off the floor in a split-decision defeat in the second, and came up short in a majority-decision loss that many observers believe should have gone the other way. This time, Marquez won in the most emphatic way possible.

So now, Juan Manuel is basking in glory. But what does this shocking defeat say about the “Pac-Man?” Is he washed up? Did he grow old overnight, even though he is only days away from his 34th birthday? Did he go to the well one time too often, like so many other fighters before him?

PACQUIAO
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Filipino sa Canada

PASKUHAN SA TORONTO

A Festival is Born



Kapamilya's stars Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga and Gerald Anderson brought cheers and happiness to thousands of fans at the Paskuhan sa Toronto festival at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. BELOW RIGHT, CTV's Kris Reyes emcees the parol contest.

A Festival is Born. While there are as many booths as the summer festivals that went this year, the atmosphere and the vibe at this Paskuhan sa Toronto, a festival bringing the festive mood of Philippine Christmas to Toronto, is lively, happy and joyous. There is something in the air the moment you enter the Hall. I arrived just in time for the lighting of the Christmas tree and the parol-making contest being hosted by Kris Reyes of CTV.

From what I heard, people started coming in droves from the early morning. The mass was packed at 11AM and staked out their seats. The organizers were worried that they were going to be overbooked.

The food stalls did a booming business. I asked Flor Vendiola of FV Foods how was business in this festival. "This is different. The place was packed since morning." Genelie Panaligan, mother of TFCKat winner Maria Panaligan said she went in line three times at Max's Fried Chicken and three times they ran out when she reached the front. All the food stalls had long line-ups. Considering that the Kapamilya stars are not going on stage until 7pm, it was amazing how or even why people came in early in the morning just to sit. There must be some aphrodisiac in the air.

This festival, presented by Tahanan magazine and TFC kapamilya with presenting sponsor Philippine Air Lines has all the makings of being added as the festival to go to during Christmas. It



Pinoy news' Joy Sarmiento, Senator Jun Enverga, Atin ito's Eddie Lee, Ambassador Leslie Gatan and Tahanan's Ronnie dela Gana pose for a picture. BELOW, The winning parol on display.



is also to announce the start of direct Toronto to Manila flights of Philippine Air Lines. But what made festival this click? Maybe, the lack of other Filipino events helped. The entrance price of \$10.00 was also enticing for a lot of people. I also



heard, that they had to start printing more tickets in the afternoon. The organizers only printed 6000. I was seated at the VIP, courtesy of Cheryl Crisostomo Cantonjos when I saw Ronnie dela Gana, arrive with his baby. "You don't have a seat anymore," I told him. "OK lang, basta masaya lahat," he said. And indeed everyone was. The only glitch was a technical problem involving sound which is not under the control of the organizers anyway. It was heartbreaking that all the time spent by the performers rehearsing singing and dancing only to be marred by sound problems.

Then, the moment everyone has been waiting for. A 5-minute countdown on the screen appeared to be followed by a video of John Lloyd Cruz with no sound. He was probably saying an apology for not being able to make it. He and Bea Alonzo were the original stars supposed to appear here. But he got sick. I think the trio of Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga and Gerald Anderson was a better and definitely livelier choice.

First to come out was Gerald Anderson, followed by Sam Milby and then Toni Gonzaga. I think Toni should have come out first, followed by Gerald Anderson and then Sam Milby. The excitement went down on Toni's portion. Sam Milby should have come out last. He's comfortable going down on the floor to mingle with people, he exudes warmth and it shows that he really enjoys being out there. It is a blessing JLC got sick. This trio presented the fans with a show worth the price of admission.

All in all, it was a great festival. Congratulations to everyone involved in this festival. You did a great job. I look forward to next year's festival.



Bruno Mars fantasizes about Halle Berry

Bruno Mars penned his song Locked Out of Heaven about Halle Berry. The 27-year-old Grammy-winner made fans swoon when he catapulted to fame with his 2010 debut solo album Doo-Wops & Hooligans. He's hoping for similar success with his upcoming sophomore release, Unorthodox Jukebox. Locked Out of Heaven was released as the album's lead single in October. And fans have been wondering since who his raunchy lyrics are about. "Your sex takes me to paradise," Bruno croons. Quizzed by UK music station Capital FM about his mystery muse, Bruno finally relented. "I might as well just say it – Halle Berry," he told the outlet. Halle is engaged to French actor Olivier Martinez.

Kristine Open To Work With Jericho Again

Kristine Hermosa is open to reunite with her ex-boyfriend Jericho Rosales onscreen, but only if the project has a good story. In an interview with Kristine, the actress affirmed that there is indeed an offer for her and former boyfriend to do an international project but the actress said she has yet to know the details. Kristine's husband Oyo Boy Sotto, for his part, said he does not want his wife to portray the same roles which she already did before. "Sinasabi ko kay Tin, kapag bumalik siya, gusto ko iba naman. Ayaw ko na nung parang dati niyang ginagawa kasi marami pa siyang kayang gawin eh," he said. Asked if he is open to the idea that his wife will be paired with Jericho again, he said: "As long as maganda ang storya. Tignan natin kung okay ang storya nila." Just like his wife, Oyo said he is looking forward to seeing his wife acting on television again. "Oo naman [hindi ko siya pipigilan]. Kung God's will naman, bakit naman hindi? Alam ko rin naman na excited na si Tin magtrabaho," he said.



Angel Locsin Prepared Last Will

Kapamilya actress Angel Locsin, 27 proclaimed that she has already prepared her last will and testament to ensure that her family will have everything they need in case she dies. "I prepared everything para settled lahat, parang ganoon. Hindi niyo ba ginagawa 'yon?" Locsin asked "KrisTV" host Kris Aquino. Angel admitted that she's the breadwinner of her family, which is why she doesn't see herself marrying boyfriend, Philippine Azkals member Phil Younghusband, just yet even if she is already emotionally ready for marriage. "Gusto ko kasi lahat para sa kanila (family).," she said. Angel said it was her decision to draft her last will and testament.



Happy New Year

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Pacquiao displays Grace & Class in defeat



MANILA, Philippines - Displaying grace and class, Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao readily accepted his stunning knockout defeat at the hands of his greatest rival, Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico.

Pacquiao said his loss was just part of the nature of sports.

"Ganoon talaga 'yan," he said. "Pwede ka bang pumunta sa isang larangan ng paligsahan na walang natatalo? Dumadating ang panahon na natatalo ka. Pag dumating ang panahon na natalo ka, buong puso mong tanggapin dahil pinasok mo ang trabaho na iyan. Nakita naman nila ang performance ko, aggressive. Maganda ang performance ko. Lucky punch talaga."

But some analysts dispute the lucky punch.

Marquez had trained longer: Four months as against Pacquiao's eight weeks at the most. That facet became a major factor

because in every fight, the more superbly conditioned boxer has more endurance and is usually more resistant to huge blows.

Marquez knocked down Pacquiao for the first time ever in the third round, although Pacquiao cancelled it out with a knockdown of his own in the fifth round.

But late in the sixth round, Pacquiao walked right into a short right hand by Marquez, and the "Pacman" dropped face first to the canvas and was motionless for several moments.

His wife, Jinkee, was hysterical after watching the boxer get knocked out.

"Nagulat ako at natakot. First time kong nakita si Manny na na-knock out talaga. Matagal siya bago makabangon," Jinkee said.

The knockout notwithstanding, Pacquiao seemed satisfied with his performance as he showed better movement and aggressiveness that he lacked in his previous fights. "Maganda 'yung laban namin. Balik na 'yung aggressiveness ko. Talagang natiyempuhan lang tayo," Pacquiao said, adding that he was leading on the scorecards at the time of the stoppage.

But he said that he has accepted his defeat.

Despite the devastating loss, Pacquiao has no plans to hang up his gloves.

"Laban pa ulit," he said.

He does not know yet who his next opponent will be or when he will fight next.

"Pahinga muna siguro," Pacquiao said. "Saka na namin pag-usapan kung ano ang next fight."

Economic Revival Fairy Tale

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY continued on page 3

level in 2007 and less than the average \$1.7 billion received every month in remittances from Filipinos overseas.

Luz highlighted the Philippines' lowly ranking in a range of categories, from "paying taxes" (143rd), to "starting a business" (161st) and "resolving insolvency" (165th).

Since coming to power in 2010, President Benigno S. Aquino III has made headway against long-standing problems of corruption, but he has yet to show his government can translate the torrent of hot money and improved market confidence that is also fuelling a property boom into real gains such as an expansion of higher-paying jobs and better transport links.

Calls by congressional leaders to loosen constitutional restrictions on foreign ownership have met with a lukewarm response from Aquino.

"I do not believe that foreigners would be that foolish to come here and put their money in business," Juan Ponce Enrile, the Senate president who is calling for the Constitution to be revised, told Reuters. "They are at the mercy of local people who are not quite familiar to them. That is to me the reason why we lag in investment attractiveness in Asia."

'Salesman In Chief'

The Constitution and current rules allow foreign investors to own no more than 40 percent in most industries and

bars foreigners entirely in areas such as media and the practice of licensed professions such as engineering, law and medicine.

Strong foreign investment has been a vital ingredient in the rise of better-off Asian neighbors like Malaysia and Thailand, boosting job creation and deepening technological capabilities.

Foreign executives here are quick to complain there has been little concrete improvement on the ground, despite a surge of money into financial markets and credit rating upgrades on the back of improving fiscal health and lower borrowing costs.

"For me it's extremely frustrating," said Hubert D'Aboville, former head of the European Chamber of Commerce.

"We should welcome foreign investment, giving them the majority of 51 percent or 100 percent. What is important is to create jobs. We are not creating jobs."

Exodus Of Workers

The Philippines has among the highest jobless rates in Southeast Asia at around 7 percent, helping to fuel an exodus of about 10 million Filipino workers in total that has yet to reverse course or even slow significantly.

Officials close to Aquino say he recognizes the need to attract more foreign investment, but is wary of broaching a reform of the constitution

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY
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Naku ha! by Jose Baking
LittleManilaConfidential.com

APPOINTED VS ELECTED



Why are there a few armchair critics of political appointees? I am sure they are referring to the appointment of senator Jun Enverga to the Canadian senate even if they do not say so? Why are they getting “apoplectic” just because a Filipino got appointed, and not elected? Is an appointee less qualified than an elected one? They say that in an election, if the candidate you voted for got elected, you are happy because he or she was your choice. I beg to disagree, in an election, you vote to whoever are the candidates whether you like any of them or not. That is not much different from an appointee. They say that an elected person deserved the position because it was the choice of the people. Kalokohan. The person elected might not even make a good official. In an election, your choices for office are the persons who have the money and time to spend campaigning. The campaign period is probably mga two months lang. After that, the losers are never heard of again. Kahit iyong nanalo, hindi mo na maririnig o makikita uli kundi next election na. Sa appointee, a person must be active in the community week after week, year after year. Iyong appointed, they worked hard for years. For example, Senator Jun Enverga was already active in the community since I started my newspaper in 1999. Hindi naman siya naging active nang biglang nanalo ang mga Conservatives. So, I do not see what is the big deal.

And as I have said before, PM Harper appointed 5 senators to pass the bill making the senate and elected body. These so-called armchair critics do not want to check the facts from other sources. The sitting senators do not want to pass the bill making the senate an elected body. And thses includes fellow conservatives in the senate. So, for him to pass the bill, he appointed 5 who will pass the bill. So, when the senate becomes an elected body, those who become excited that they can elect everyone can get super excited na. I have no idea why they said they will get excited just becasue they get to vote. Me? I’ll get excited when I win the lottery.

JUBILEE MEDAL

It seems that every Minda, Ace and Rosemer is getting a Queen Elizabeth expecting a letter to arrive announcing that I am one of the recipients of this medal. Baka sakaling magkamali iyong gumagawa ng listahan, masali ang



II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Any day now, I am medal. There are 60,000 Canadian recipients of this pangalan ko, magiging recipient ako.

NO SALE IN JANUARY 2013

This is the month when the price of a particular service goes up - gym membership. I have a feeling you will not get a Livingsocial or Groupon deal for gym or health clubs for the month of January. This is the time when they will take advantage of your over-indulgence from the Christmas season when food was all over the place and parties were happening all the time and you did not refuse either one. Gyms and health clubs will make you sign for a 12-month contract knowing you will only last for 12 days anyway. Don’t sign up. After the holidays, you will eat less starting this month anyway and your weight will go back down.



A CLASSY FILIPINO

Boxer and Congressman Manny Pacquiao showed class and grace by accepting his defeat against his Mexican opponent Juan Manuel Marquez. He did not give any excuses but rather accepted his fate. he said that in the world of boxing, there is a tiome for winning and a time of losing. “Hindi lahat ng panahon, panalo ka.” Now, if only some Filipino politicians can act with such grace, class and dignity in whether in defeat or victory, we wouldn’t have so much violence in the country. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for 2 members of his entourage who attacked a photographer just for doing his job.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

Justin Bieber made fun of Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao that earned the ire of a lot of Filipino netizens. Let’s not make a big deal. We cannot expect the world to be all fans of Pacquiao. I am sure there are some Filipinos who are not fans of Pacquiao also. Our lives does not revolve around people like Justin Bieber and Manny Pacquiao or who their fans are. It’s good entertainment but let’s not get carried away.



DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD HAIRCUT AND A BAD HAIRCUT



My vacation last December started on the 14th. I decided to do a haircut myself so that it has time to recover kung pumalpak man. I bought a clipper with those attachments. Pumalpak na nga. I cut one side too short. So, I had to cut the other side short too. I ended up with a bad haircut. Apparently, some say the difference between a bad haircut and a good one is two weeks. One said 3 days. My friend said one week. It also depends on who sees it. Those who do not know you will not pay attention and will probably think it’s one of those weid haircuts. Those who see you often will say it’s bad. So, in short, it depends on the number of days, or the people who see it.

KUNG ANO PA ANG MAHAL NA DELIVERY...

Sus ginoo. May dalawa akong item na binili ko sa ebay sa US from two different sellers. Nagbayad ako ng mahal sa Fedex delivery para dumating sa December 27 by 10AM sa isa. Iyong isa regular lang to arrive ng December 27 din. Iyong regular pa ang dumating ng 8:47 AM ng umaga. Iyong mahal na service, na misdirect na, delayed pa ng isang araw. Magre-receive kasi isang relative ng kaibigan ko doon na pupunta dito para sa debut. Hay buhay, parang life.

GANGNAM IS ON IT’S WAY DOWN

Sa Pilipinas, na-postpone daw ang concert ni Psy of Gangnam fame. The new date will be this Febnruary 2013. Besides, they were promoting a fad that is on it’s way down. I think the novelty has worn off. But I am sure we be seeing this dance number as a regular in all Filipino events now, like “achy-breaky heart.” But to pay to watch it as a concert, I don’t think so. Of course, if we have Philippine artists who will come to Toronto and dance it, the audience will still shriek to their heart’s delight. Psy admitted it himself that he has to write a new single.

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Faces from the Past

DO YOU REMEMBER THEM?

Carmen Ronda

This sexy siren with stunning Caucasian features bannered film after film from 1975 to 1976. Launched in Chito Tapawan’s “Ang Kailangan Ngayon ng Daigdig ay Pag-Ibig?” that became a box-office hit, Ronda followed this up with a string of sexy movies that included Danny Zialcita’s “Kapag Tumabang ang Asin,” Santi Verches’s “Bata Pa Si Sabel,” and Luciano B. Carlos’s “Bago Kayo, Ako Muna ang Mag-aasawa.” She also starred in the horror movie “Daigdig ng Lagim” where she shared lead credits with the likes of Jay Ilagan, Gloria Romero, Boots Anson-Roa and Edgar Mortiz.

Ronda became a household word in the wet-look era in Joey Goslengtao’s Pitnik.

After that brief foray, Ronda settled down and married action star Rhene Imperial. The union was short-lived, however, with the bold star losing custody of their children. With no regular income, she lived a difficult life. Relief came when GMA-7 featured her in ‘Wish Ko Lang’ and ‘Mel and Joey,’ after which she was given a softdrink distribution business and other perks.

She passed away last November 2010.



Bieber Says Sorry After Being Declared Persona Non Grata. Wants to Come to the Philippines ‘Oh So Badly’.

LOS ANGELES, California — After hearing the news that the Philippine’s House of Representatives has declared him ‘persona non grata’ for mocking People’s Champ Manny Pacquiao on his Instagram account, the Canadian pop sensation has issued an public apology via an impromptu press conference here in his Hollywood condominium.

House Resolution No. 2962 was filed in the Congress to declare Canadian singer Justin Bieber “persona non grata” in the Philippines for allegedly mocking People’s Champ Manny Pacquiao in his Instagram account. Bieber will be declared “persona non grata” if he won’t issue a public apology. (from Umagang Kay Ganda, 12-18-12)



.Justin Bieber trying to hide his tears during the press conference

“To all the Filipino people around the world who were insulted or offended by the photos I uploaded on my Instagram account a few weeks ago, I am sorry,” said the teary eyed Bieber. “It was not my intention to insult Mr. Pacquiao, let alone a country full of obsessed, narrow minded boxing fanatics.”

He went on to say, “I thought it was ok to upload such pics, known as meme,

because of the freedom of expression that we are exercising in this country.” Bieber said that upon hearing the news of being declared ‘persona non grata’, he decided to issue a public apology right away, because he wanted to come to the Philippines “oh so badly”.

“Philippines is on the top of my list of countries I would love to visit,” he said. “It is on the top spot, number 1 actually. Even surpassing Hawaii, Costa Rica, Bahamas and even Antartica.”

When asked what it is that attracted him the most to the Philippines, the Canadian superstar described the country as being hospitable. “During my concert there last May of 2011, my managers told me that the Philippines is known for their hospitality, and taught me how to say ‘I love you’ in their native tongue and to answer ‘adobo’ when asked what my favorite Filipino cuisine is.”

“What I didn’t know was that this hospitality they have shown was conditional, and subject to revocation. So again, I am sorry.”

Bieber ended the press conference saying, “To the Philippines, please allow me to come back because a singer as popular as me, has so much to lose by not being able to visit your country. Please?”

In other news, Mexico’s Chamber of Deputies has also issued a similar resolution, declaring all Filipinos ‘persona non grata’ for mocking Mexican boxers who were defeated by Manny Pacquiao in the past.



LAUGH RESORT

Lovelines through the years

1950s -- Iniirrog kita.
1960s -- Iniibig kita.
1970s -- Minamahal kita.
1980s -- I love you.
1990s -- Tara sa kwarto.
2000s -- Pwede na rito.

Dr. Lola, kailan ho kau huling nakipagtalik?

Lola: Mga 1955

Dr.: Matagal na ho pala noh?

Lola: D naman! (sabay tingin sa relo) 20:55 pa lang naman ah!

If only ADAM & EVE were Asians, they would not have committed the original sin. Kakanin nila ang ahas at ibebenta na lang ang mansanas.

Ayoko nang magpakasal sa iyo, Dahil pag kasal na tayo, dapat kong gamitin ang sa iyo. Hindi ko kaya, masyadong mahaba, mahihirapan ako. Ngawit at ngalay na ang kamay ko, hindi pa tapos ang ipagagawa mo. Mantakin mo... Garchitorina de Misericordia y Aguardecimiento, sobrang haba ng apelyido mo

Honey shot



Michelle Ocsabe

Michelle has been a caregiver for three years. A try Filipino, her favourite food is adobo. her favourite sports is volleyball. She likes attending Filipino events like Miss PIDC pageants and the Mabuhay festival.



Dingdong on home network: No Bad Blood

MANILA, Philippines -- Despite starring in major ABS-CBN films two years in a row, Dingdong Dantes said his relationship with his home network remains "very positive."

"I think I have always established a good relationship with them... Walang mabigat na dugo, walang anything, everything was done in a very smooth-sailing way," Dantes said.

Dantes, 32, is a contract artist of rival network GMA-7.

He stars alongside Kapamilya talents Angelica Panganiban, Angel Locsin and Zanjoe Marudo in the 38th Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry "One More Try," which is released and produced by ABS-CBN's film production outfit Star Cinema.

Last year, Dantes earned his first Best Actor trophy for his role in the horror flick "Segunda Mano," which was also a Kapamilya project.

According to Dantes, "One More Try" was not originally intended to be a film fest entry, "[pero] syempre maraming nagbago, but on top of everything, I am just grateful that I was given another opportunity to do this with Star Cinema."

Referring to GMA Films' entry to the MMFF, "Sosy Problems," Dantes shrugged off the "competition" as being favorable to Filipino moviegoers.

Asked if there are plans for him to star in another ABS-CBN film, Dantes said he only hopes the same "impossible" opportunity would open up for other talents as well.

"In an ideal world, maganda sanang ganoon, na mabigyan lahat ng pantay na opportunity para mapalawak ang kanilang gawin, para mas wide ang range ng kanilang audience," Dantes added.

Kris satisfied with acting in 'Sisterakas'

MANILA, Philippines -- Host-actress Kris Aquino, who is more known for her performances in horror and drama movies, believes she did well in "Sisterakas" alongside established comedians Ai Ai delas Alas and Vice Ganda.

"Parang I was good. Feeling ko lang. 'Yun ang sabi nila sa akin, hindi ko lang daw na realize," Aquino said.

While Aquino started her career doing comedy roles in movies such as "Pido Dida," she eventually graduated to meatier roles under the country's top directors including the late Mario O'Hara in "The Fatima Buen Story," which earned her a nomination from the Gawad Urian.

Aquino won several acting awards for her acclaimed performances in the drama "Mano Po" in 2003.



FV FOODS FOR 2013

Happy New Year

In an industry that feeds on fads as much as it does on the name of establishment, FV Foods is over twelve years and still improving and growing. Understanding and knowing that the market in a fast pacing world is prone to product fatigue, we have to conceptualize and use our creative minds to innovate and bring product development. Answering the demand of the environment, we are open for changes, for improvement and for betterment.

FV Foods rolls out a new product every year, from our freshly baked cakes and pastries, the product line has grown with the market's tastes and now offers some Filipino and Asian fusion varieties of cuisines. Our products were unique and had characteristics that gave an advantage among others. Our recipe is a complete mystery.

From our humble beginning, we are still on our way of reaching our dreams. We never stop in daring and maximizing our capacities in bringing our products at its best. We are fired with our lofty drives and ambitions. We study everything about the business and weigh all the pros and cons because we want a business that has staying power. My research and product development team is doing their best in delivering our products that will satisfy our valued customers. We empower our employees for the standard



of global excellence.

And for 2013, FV Foods will go beyond by introducing our new line of products, new branches all over Canada and new restaurant for all the people who wants to taste Asian cuisines. Expanding our business is not easy, but with the help of our loyal customers we are determined that our business will be on the higher ground.

Truly the moment you step into FV Foods, you know it's time for you to cancel your next appointment. The light and nice interior is cue that you're in one good dining session. The second thing is the tempting showcase of the day's fresh-baked breads, handmade spreads,

jams and dips and delicious desserts. The third thing would be the delightful menu selections and good-to-share courses. Come on, visit FV Foods with their different branches. Experience and taste their uniquely Filipino cuisines that will satisfy you as a food lover. After all, your heart will always be at FV Foods.

Lastly, it's amazing how the beginning of a new year can bring such a renewed hope in lost undertakings, promises to change the way we feel, act and think and a brand new sense of responsibility. So hopefully this year will bring better things for everyone.

Happy New Year!

Caregivers Red Carpet Fashion Show



Pia Domingo produced the first Caregivers Red Carpet fashion show with the theme of Hollywood glamour. Toronto Filipino community’s Diva Jenifer Camacho emceed the whole affair with co-host TG Smiley. it was a fabulous affair and enjoyed by everyone.

LEFT, A caregiver / model walks the red carpet during the fashion show.

RIGHT, Producer Pia Domingo, with hosts TG Smiley and Toronto Diva Jenifer Camacho read the program for the show.

See more at www.filipinogoodlife.com



Philippines

Airlines fight for space in NAIA



Infrastructure bottlenecks continue to choke the aviation sector as more foreign carriers, unable to find slots in most major airports in the Philippines, are deterred from mounting flights to the country.

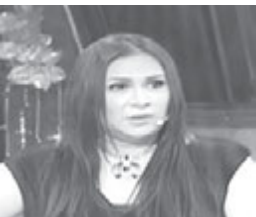
MANILA, Philippines - Infrastructure bottlenecks continue to choke the aviation sector as more foreign carriers, unable to find slots in most major airports in the Philippines, are deterred from mounting flights to the country.

The Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said several major foreign airlines have decided not to start or expand operations in the Philippines due to the scarcity of space, particularly at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) in Metro Manila. The International Air Transport Association (Iata) earlier denied claims that it would back plans to develop Clark as a replacement for Naia. Iata, which represents over 90 percent of the world’s airlines, said that Clark is too far from Manila and cannot serve as a viable replacement for Naia because most travelers from Metro Manila are not willing to go the distance.

ENTERTAINMENT

Janice de Belen wins 1-M

Veteran actress Janice De Belen capped off the year 2012 on a high note when she won the P1 million jackpot in the hit ABS-CBN game show “Kapamilya Deal or No Deal.”



The game didn’t start out well for her as she kept on opening big amounts. Despite the losing streak, Janice continued the game until the end following her mother’s advice to finish what she started. It all paid off as her chosen briefcase contained the P1 million cash prize which she intends to use and donate to Gawad Kalinga. Keep watching “Kapamilya Deal or No Deal,” hosted by Luis Manzano, every Saturday, after “TV Patrol Weekend” on ABS-CBN.

Jake is intimidated by Eugene Domingo

Best known for his serious roles on screen, actor Jake Cuenca said that doing the comedy movie Tuhog opposite Eugene Domingo is definitely a challenge for him. Apparently, he’s a bit intimidated by the veteran actress’s accomplishments both in the international and local scenes. “Marami na akong kwentong nagawa in the past pero never akong na-intimidate. Pero ganon kagaling si Ms. Eugene Domingo. Nakita ko pa lang presence niya, ang galing niyang umarte. Sobrang naglu-look forward ako kasi madami akong matutunan sa kanya. And to be her leading man is truly an honor for me kasi isa siya sa mga pinakahinahanggaan kong babae sa industriya.”



Daniel Padilla deny being Lady Kathryn In HK for Christmas

Daniel Padilla denied rumors that he spent Christmas with his leading lady, Kathryn Bernardo, in Hong Kong. He was at home with his own family on Christmas Day. This was also echoed by Kathryn. “Sa bahay lang kami ng family ko,” she said. The loveteams are still grateful that many people continue to support their team-up. Young actress, for her part, said she will not be where she is now if not for her team-up with Daniel. And to give an early New Year’s treat to their fans, both announced that they will be doing another movie together, which is slated to come out this year.



Filipino World

Play focuses on Filipina Trafficking in NY

NEW YORK, New York - A reading of a new stage play about the real life stories and the struggles of the Filipino migrant worker was held in Manhattan, New York.

Jennine Ventura, Chair of Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment said, “Seventy percent of overseas Filipino workers are women. They take these 3-D jobs — they’re Difficult, they’re Dirty, they’re Dangerous.”The performance will include educational discussions and a reflection on the current state of migration and labor trafficking from the Philippines to the US. Diwang Pinay 2013 is based on the stories of trafficked Filipino women who left their families in the Philippines to seek a better life in the U.S. only to become victims of labor trafficking. Diwang Pinay opens in the spring of 2013.

Filipino Honored after 5 years

WRIGHTWOOD, California - Residents of the small scenic ski resort town of Wrightwood were in tears during Christmas weekend, as they honored a Filipino for his heroic act which happened five years ago.



The Claridad family was celebrating Christmas day at Jackson Lake in 2007, when two children, whom the Claridads did not know, fell into the frozen lake. Forty-one-year old U.S. Army veteran and father of four, Claro Claridad successfully pulled the two children to safety. His heroic act also led to his drowning death. “I was very honored and happy, it’s amazing that after 5 years, people still remember his story,” said wife Judith. The four daughters, all girl scouts, have since written a book about their father; “Meet Our Daddy Our Hero”. Until now, the two strangers that Claro saved have never been identified.

Filipinos in Saudi remember Rizal’s martyrdom

AL-KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia – The Order of the Knights of Rizal (OKOR) Eastern Province Community Chapter, Saudi Arabia led the celebrations in commemorating the 116th anniversary of the death of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. The celebrations commenced with a flower offering at the International Philippine School in Al-Khobar (IPSA) Multi-purpose Hall on Dec. 30, 2012. The event was further boosted by the presence of Sir Zane Thirlwall, OKOR Regional Commander, Middle East and Africa Region. Thirlwall, a British national married to a Filipina, believes that there would be unity among Filipinos which will result to a progressive think Rizal and act like Rizal. Leave behind the personal interest and work for the betterment of everybody.



LEFT, Forex staff, family and friends pose for their annual Christmas photo. RIGHT, Perly and Joseph Alilio greet the staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

MORE PHOTOS AT
FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM



+ Nothing Wrong with Political Dynasty - BINAY

As on-duty hospital personnel take

the spotlight after flashing his message written on a white sheet of paper, bearing the message, “Happy New Year!!! Will you marry me?”

Prodded to get his girlfriends' answer over the phone, he calls up Lacar, telling

“She said ‘Yes!’” the doctor confirms with a big smile on his face. He says he planned

MARRY ME
continued on page 8

A black and white portrait of Dr. R. S. Kulkarni, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a suit and tie.

Tony Paragas
Used Car
Manager

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rafael@myactionhonda.com

Paskuhan Dinner

Paskuhan Village producers, production staff and performers pose for a Christmas photo at their get-together last December after the festival.



Philippines

FATHER JAMES REUTER

Remembering the Great Communicator of the Gospel to the Filipino People



They loved Father James Reuter for his dedication as a great communicator of the Gospel, his beautiful musical plays and inspiring stage dramas, and mostly for genuinely loving the Philippines and serving its people. Catholic Church members, especially those who had the opportunity to work with the beloved American Jesuit in his 46 years of service with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), had good memories of him as they mourned his passing on December 31, 2012.

MANILA, Philippines — “An American by birth, a Filipino by heart, he was a communicator par excellence,” said Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP media director. “Aside from pioneering his own brand of stage drama and literature, he will be remembered for initiating the rural mimeo press during martial law and for facilitating the establishment of radio stations in many dioceses throughout the country,” added Quitorio. Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes described him as a “very pious and exemplary” Jesuit priest whom he always saw wearing his Jesuit habit. As a young seminarian, Bastes was one of the many who admired Reuter’s work, always taking the time to watch the college musicals that he directed, including “The Sound of Music,” “Show Boat” and “South Pacific,” among others. Bastes also remembered watching, as a high school freshman in the seminary, “The Mikado,” the first production of the Ateneo Glee Club, which Reuter also founded. “We Filipinos will surely miss Father Reuter [but] he will continue to direct plays and musicals in heaven,” said the bishop.



The building on the right along Hidalgo Avenue in Quiapo is where counterfeit DVD’s can be bought.

US drops Quiapo from ‘notorious markets’ list

MANILA, Philippines – Quiapo has been taken out of the list of “notorious markets” in the world selling pirated CDs and DVDs, according to Washington-based Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR). Earlier, the USTR dropped from its list five other shopping areas in the Philippines: Greenhills, Divisoria, Makati Cinema Square, Binondo and Baclaran. As a result, the Philippines has also been stricken off the USTR’s 2012 Special 301 Out-of-Cycle Review of Notorious Markets, which identifies “more than 30 Internet and physical markets that exemplify marketplaces that deal in infringing goods and services, facilitating and sustaining global piracy and counterfeiting.” The country had been in the list for the past six years. Optical Media Board (OMB) Chairman Ronnie Ricketts said a lot of the credit goes to their agency’s collaboration with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHIL), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), local government units, police and even those who sell the pirated CDs and DVDs themselves. Ricketts said instead of the usual raid which involves guns and goons, he changed the style by actually talking to the vendors and explaining to them the consequences of their actions. “Paggapaliwanag ang word diyan. ‘Di na marahas, ‘di na kailangan maglabas ng baril. Nagtaka sila walang baril. Pwede naman eh,” he said. Ricketts also explained that some of the vendors have changed their products from selling DVDs and CDs to cosmetics, slippers and cellphones. ABS-CBN News visited Quiapo Tuesday morning and noticed that the vendors are no longer on the streets. But it doesn’t mean they’re wiped out. While other Quiapo vendors admitted that there’s a noticeable decline in pirated CDs and DVDs for sale, it’s still there. “Nandiyan po sila ‘pag gabi na, minsan pasulpot-sulpot sila,” said one vendor.

MARRY ME continued on page 8

for the proposal, knowing that reporters would be coming to JRMMC to cover New Year revelry emergencies. Dela Cruz says he wants a church wedding, probably this year. He describes Lacar as “very sweet and very intelligent.” Dela Cruz says he will give the engagement ring to Lacar in a meeting

with their parents where he will formally ask her hand in marriage.

There’s Nothing Wrong With Political Dynasty- Binay

Vice President Jejomar said, even members of political clans can serve the public as long as they have the capability to do so. Binay’s daughter Nancy is a last-minute addition to the senatorial line-up of the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) while his son Junjun is seeking a second term as mayor of Makati City, the country’s financial center and Abigail, is an incumbent

congresswoman. Binay said, “In America, you have the Kennedys. Did you ever hear them being accused of a dynasty? It’s only here that the issue of a political dynasty is given much weight.” The late President John F. Kennedy, one of the United States’ most popular leaders, was known to have relatives in politics such as brother Robert Kennedy, a former senator. Nonetheless, it is up to the public whether they will give political families a chance to serve again. “Borrowing from the legal maxim salus populi et



suprema lex, the will of the people shall prevail,” the Vice President said. Besides Binay, some candidates for senator are relatives of the incumbent legislators. They are Aurora Representative Juan Edgardo Angara (son of Senator Edgardo Angara), Cagayan Representative Jack Enrile (son of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile) and San Juan City Representative JV Ejercito (brother of Senate President Pro-Tempore Jinggoy Estrada). President Benigno Aquino III, meanwhile, fielded his cousin Bam Aquino. Article II Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution bars the establishment of political dynasties but there remains no law providing guidelines as to how the provision will be implemented

Should Manny Pacquiao Retire?

PACQUIAO
continued from page 1

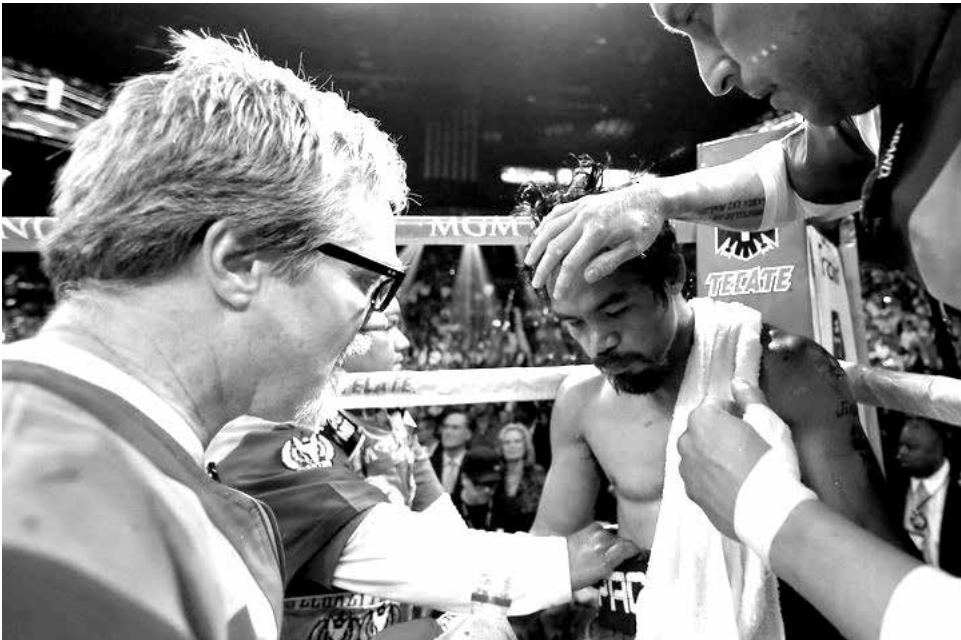
The answers are: no, no, and no. Even though he was kayoed on Saturday, outpointed by Timothy Bradley, and suffered a moral defeat even though he got the judges' decision in his previous bout with Marquez, Pacquiao is not washed up. Despite having been decked in the third round on Saturday, he had regained the momentum and looked to be on his way to busting up Marquez's face to the point where a stoppage was possible in the next few rounds.

The typhoon-like aggression that makes Pacquiao the fighter he is was in full force. But this time, for a split-second, that aggression proved to be his undoing as Marquez saw an opening and went for it.

Pacquiao was not humiliated, and he was not exposed. He just got nailed with a blow that would have knocked out any other welterweight it landed on, including Floyd Mayweather Jr. Of course, Mayweather was not hit by such a punch during his easy points win over Marquez a couple of years ago. With his defensive style and size advantage, Mayweather would never find himself in a position to enable Marquez' lightning to strike. Pacquiao was in that position once over the 42 rounds he and Marquez boxed. But once was enough.

If Pacquiao decides to retire in the aftermath of such an unexpected setback, more power to him. If he chooses to take on Marquez for a fifth time, more power to him. If he opts for another go at Bradley, or a comeback fight against an up-and-comer like Robert Guerrero, more power to him.

Let's be very clear here: Manny Pacquiao is still a top fighter. It's still incredibly easy to argue he's still top five, pound-for-pound, behind -- in my estimation -- Mayweather, Andre Ward, Marquez, and Sergio Martinez, with Nonito Donaire nipping at that group's heels.



If we were to say the top five is that group, then look at the ages: Mayweather turns 36 and Martinez 37 in February, while Pacquiao is about to turn 34 on December 17. Marquez is 39. The times they are a-changin' and all that. Ward, 29 in February, isn't a superstar, and may not have the sort of personality to become one, though he has the skills to deserve the recognition. Donaire does, too, but he's at 122 pounds, and it's exceedingly difficult to become a major star below 147 (though hopefully, we will see that change).

Pacquiao can still fight. So can Cotto, particularly if it's possible for him to still comfortably make 147 pounds, which it may not be.

But Pacquiao is a unique case. Like De La Hoya, but to a less obvious extent, Pacquiao has become a part-time fighter. Sure, he still fights twice a year, but it's no secret that his full attention has not been on boxing for a good while now. With a political career in the Philippines and a legitimate desire to make a difference there, Pacquiao isn't the same guy about whom

Jim Lampley remarked in 2004, during the first Marquez fight, "Out of the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood come stories of sparring partners with broken ribs, sparring partners who went home after one day, knockouts day after day in sparring."

That's not who Manny Pacquiao is in 2012. He's a boxer, and a hell of a good one at that, but he's also a Congressman, devoted to his wife and children and Bible studies. Striving to make a great difference in this world.

And as admirable as that mission is for any man, it's a little tough to remain an elite professional boxer while spreading yourself thin like too little butter on too much bread.

Trainer Freddie Roach said that the end may be near:

"Possible retirement, possible rematch; I'm not sure which way we're going to go right now. It

PACQUIAO
continued on page 19

Marquez might retire

MANILA, Philippines - Marquez, in fact, isn't jumping with joy after Top Rank chief Bob Arum said the other day that a fifth fight will take place in 2013. The 39-year-old Mexican said he's not even sure yet if he'd ever fight again.

"I told my wife (Erika) that regardless of the result against Pacquiao - it would be the last fight for me," said Marquez.

"And when I got back to Mexico I mentioned to her that I wanted one more fight and she said no. But I'm still asking her to give me permission."

Marquez traded knockdowns with Pacquiao in the third and fifth rounds then caught his fiercest rival with the perfect punch as the sixth round came to a close.

Marquez, according to Arum, was guaranteed \$6 million for the fourth fight, and could earn a couple more once all other revenues come in.

Now he knows he can ask for more.

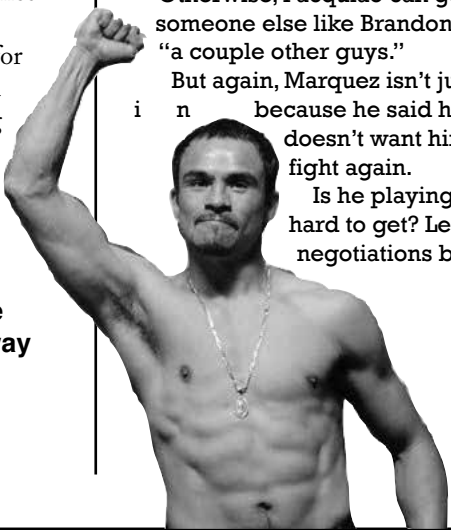
However, Pacquiao's adviser, Mike Koncz, said the stunning knockout does not give Marquez the right to ask for the moon.

"If they come to us with a reasonable offer we can always entertain Marquez as long as his team doesn't get a swollen head just because he knocked us out.

Otherwise, Pacquiao can go for someone else like Brandon Rios or "a couple other guys."

But again, Marquez isn't jumping in because he said his wife doesn't want him to fight again.

Is he playing hard to get? Let the negotiations begin.



ABS-CBN Wins 4 Recognitions

ABS-CBN bagged four awards in the 2012 Migration Advocacy and Media Awards for its programs and movie that promoted and championed the welfare of overseas Filipino workers.

The "Lipad ng Pangarap" episode of "Krusada," anchored by Henry Omega-Diaz, won as the Best TV Show (Episodic) that featured various stories of success as as various plights of Filipinos abroad.

"TNT," on the other hand, was named Best Documentary as it tackled the issue on human trafficking. It was produced by ABS-CBN North America Bureau Chief

Nadia Trinidad. "A Mother's Story" starring comedienne Pokwang and directed by John-D Lazatin, won as Best Film while "Bida ang Pasko: On Duty" created by ABS-CBN Global emerged as Best Advertisement.

The Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO) launched the MAM Awards in 2011 in celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipino and International Migrants Day in the country.

Depression hits Baron Geisler

Depression due to a break-up from his girlfriend, coupled with his bipolar condition led to the disorder which Baron Geisler created at the MVP Ball at the Meralco Compound in Pasig City.

This is how the actor's manager, Arnold Vegafria explained the incident that made Baron hit the headlines again. "Mas sensitive ang mga bipolar every Christmas," Arnold added.

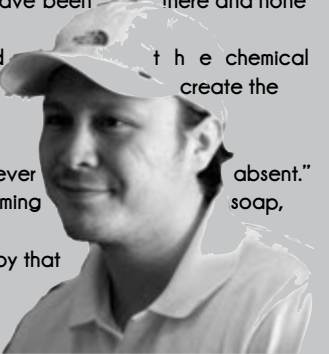
He revealed that Baron's presence in the party was unexpected. That's why the actor came unaccompanied to the event. "Had I known about it, I would have been there and none of the problems would have dropped up," Vegafria noted.

He conceded that Baron might have "drank a little". This, and the chemical imbalance in his body, states Arnold may have combined to create the negative effect on the actor.

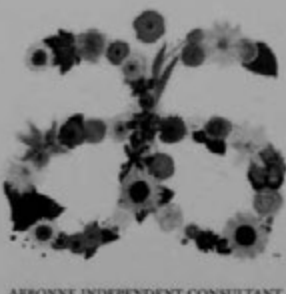
Still, his manager is not giving up on Baron.

"As an actor, he delivers. He's always on time and is never absent." Arnold reports that Baron has a meaty role in TV5's upcoming soap, "Kidlat," which topbills Derek Ramsay.

"I have a meeting with TV5 in January," Arnold relates. And by that time, he hopes Baron would be in better shape to tackle all the assignments that would come his way.



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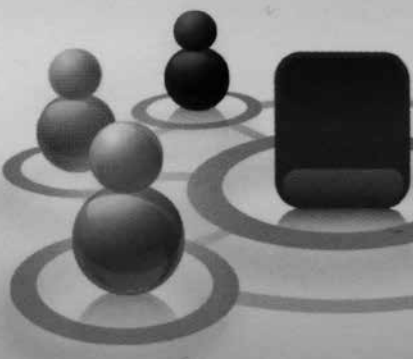
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LEFT, Liberal MPP Marc Garneau addresses the audience. MIDDLE, Evelyn Poliarco and Nicole Ruebenfeldt poses with MPP Marc Hoskins. RIGHT, Mila Garcia, NDP MP Rathika Sitsabaiesan (SECOND FROM LEFT), unidentified person, Evelyn Poliarco and Hermie Garcia pose for a picture.



Philippines

MALNUTRITION in school children

MANILA, Philippines - The word “malnutrition” is generally associated with frail, skinny, and hunger-stricken bodies. However, health experts time and again point out that this is not necessarily the case. In fact, a person may appear outwardly normal and fit but is actually malnourished.

Part of understanding malnutrition is to know that it manifests itself in two types, namely undernutrition and overnutrition.

Undernutrition occurs when insufficient nutrients are absorbed by the body. Overnutrition, meanwhile, is the condition in which nutrients are oversupplied in a way more than the body is capable of absorbing.

To combat these forms of malnutrition, a balanced diet that includes plenty of vegetables must be given to children especially in their growing-up years. Many nutritious and affordable vegetables



can be prepared within the limits of one’s budget.

Regular intake of fortified milk is also among the most viable ways of helping address malnutrition, particularly undernutrition. Fortified milk, like Bear Brand

Powdered Milk Drink, has been added with more vitamins and minerals than regular milk, offering a nutritious way for kids to get the benefits of the Tibay Resistensya nutrients iron, zinc, and vitamin C.

Jasmin Estacio, consumer marketing manager for Bear Brand Powdered Milk Drink, points out that the product’s affordable price also makes it easier for kids as well as adults to start the healthy milk-drinking habit at home.

“Being the main parent who prepares the dishes, mothers have the crucial role to play in providing the right food on the table for the whole family,” says Estacio. “They are also in the best position to promote the importance of drinking fortified milk every day, and Bear Brand Powdered Milk Drink is here to support their nutritional requirements every step of the way.”

PH objects to new Chinese gunboat

MANILA – The Philippines on Friday said it “strongly objects” to China’s deployment of a new patrol vessel in the South China Sea, where the two countries have a seething maritime territorial dispute. Such patrols will not boost China’s claim to the disputed territory where the two countries have had a standoff since April, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said.

“The Philippines strongly objects to the Chinese patrol of Philippine maritime domain in the West Philippine Sea. It called on China to respect the country’s “territorial sovereignty and EEZ”, referring to the Philippines’ 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone. China said an ocean-going patrol vessel equipped with a helipad would be deployed to the South China Sea, the first of its kind in the area. In late November, China said it had granted its border patrol police the right to board and turn away foreign ships entering the disputed waters, raising fears of a confrontation.

Both the Philippines and China have overlapping claims over parts of the South China Sea, a major shipping route that is also believed to hold vast mineral resources.

Tensions between China and the Philippines have risen in the area since April after ships from both countries had a standoff over a rock outcropping known as the Scarborough Shoal.

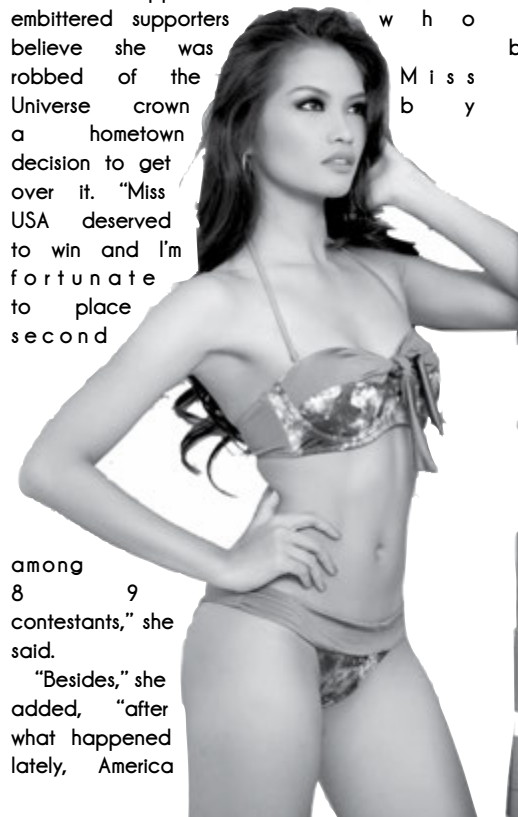
While the Philippines has withdrawn its ships, it says China reneged on an agreement to pull out its own vessels.

China claims the shoal as well as nearly all of the South China Sea, even waters close to the coasts of neighboring countries. The Philippines says the shoal is well within its EEZ.

Janine Tugonon

No Formula, or Right Answer To Winning Miss Universe

MANILA, Philippines - In a press conference held after she returned to Manila on December 22, Miss Philippines Janine Tugonon told embittered supporters who believe she was robbed of the Miss Universe crown a hometown decision to get over it. “Miss USA deserved to win and I’m fortunate to place second



among 8 9 contestants,” she said.

“Besides,” she added, “after what happened lately, America

needs this win to boost its morale.” What happened “lately” of course was the massacre of 20 school children and 7 adults in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, just 5 days before the Miss Universe pageant in Las Vegas.

The Philippines could have certainly used the morale boost after typhoon “Pablo” had devastated the Philippines leaving 710,224 Mindanao families homeless in its wake and exacting a death toll 50 times more than were killed in Newtown.

But by refusing to be depicted as a victim of a hometown decision, Janine Tugonon exhibited humility, dignity and class.

Q&A: straightforward or ‘profound’?

It seemed she gave an easy answer to what was viewed as a very simple question, compared to what judge Nigel Barker had asked Janine.

Responding to the question of whether Miss Universe should be required to speak English, Janine said the position transcends language but involves inspiring and being an influence to others as well as having the heart and mind to serve.

While many would consider this response as much more profound and clever, Janine said Miss USA’s response was “not bad

and also spontaneous.”

But despite her humble “explanation” of why Culpo took home the title, observers felt the decision as unbelievable, even to the point of calling it fraudulent.

But then again, just like any beauty or talent competition, decisions will always be subjective. As Janine said, “However great your answer may be, the judges may like another response more.”

Surprisingly, some judges seemed to appreciate an unadorned and straightforward answer rather than one with insight. Even though how thought-provoking an answer could be, some judges either didn’t want to think, or may have had enough of motherhood, a.k.a. “world peace” statements.

Maybe this should be considered in the orientation and training of future candidates.

Margie Moran on Janine’s 1st Place Win

MANILA, Philippines - Margie Moran-Floirendo, the second Filipina to be crowned Miss Universe in 1973, has admitted that she initially felt “disappointed” and “annoyed” over this year’s Philippine bet Janine Tugonon’s first runner-up finish.

Margie, like many of our kababayans, thinks that Janine outdid her four other finalists in the question and answer round.

“Napakaganda ‘yung answer niya... and she spoke in very good English. And compared to the rest ng candidates, I think she gave the best answer.”

However, the former beauty pageant titlist believes that the audience, as mere spectators watching the pageant on television, “cannot tell talaga kung ano talaga ‘yung nasa isip ng mga judges...”

“It’s different kasi when you watch it live in the theater. And may preliminaries, nag-judge na ‘yung mga judges... So maraming factors. And I agree with [what] Janine [said] na there’s no formula [to winning the Miss Universe crown]; only scientific methods there in the accounting of the scores. But it’s very subjective. So we can’t tell why the judges voted the way they did,” she explained.

Asked if she thought Miss Universe 2012 titlist Olivia Culpo had a “home court advantage” since the pageant was held in the USA. Margie said no. For one, “yung mga judges naman eh galing sa ibang bansa. They have their own opinion.”

Another factor, as far as her memory serves her, is that an American contender snagging the crown in a pageant held in her own country “hardly happens.”

In parting, Margie wished her well.

“To Janine, you should do well. I wish you a very good future.”

TID-BITS

Marriage Is A
Relationship In Which
One Is Always Right
And The Other Is The
Husband

PANTY
INTSIK: Bili kayo panty.
Kapag sinuot ito, di kayo
mabubuntis.
BABAE: Tatlo nga.
3 months later, galit si girl...
BABAE: Bakit ako nabuntis?
INTSIK: Baka hinubad mol

BABAE DAW
Nagkaroon ng trouble ang
airplane at sabi ng piloto
"Fasten your seat belt".
Isang babae nag-panic at
ang sabi: "Ako'y babae, nais
kong maranasan ang dapat
maranasan ng isang babae
bago bumagsak ang eroplanong
ito! Mayroon ba sa iyong
magpapatunay na ako'y babae?"
Tingin ang mga kelot at
kinilatis si babae. Medyo may
edad at medyo di maganda.
Walang nag-voluntir agad.
Sigaw ng babae: "Patunayan
ninyong ako'y babae!"
"Ako!" sigaw ng isang pogi at
matchong lalake habang ina-
alis niya ang bitones ng kanyan
kamisedentro.
Nanginig ang babae habang
lumalapit ang kelot sa kanya.
Tahimik ang lahat...
Hinubag ang polo at ini-abot
sa babae. Sabe niya sa babae,
"Pakiplantsa mo 'to!"

GOLF COURSE
Chinese: I have 4 wives, 1
more and I have a basketball
team.
American: I have 9 wives, 1
more I have a football team.
Pinoy: I have 17 wives, 1
more I have a golf course - 18
holes.

ACE ALVAREZ

Fil-Can Journalist honoured with the QE
II Diamond Jubilee Medal



Print and Broadcast Journalist Ace Alvarez receives the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and Citations from the Honorables Senator Asha Seth (Conservative, Ontario) and Mark Adler, MP (Conservative, York Centre).during formal ceremony held Friday, November 30, 2012 in Toronto. The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal is awarded to outstanding 60,000 Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada who made a significant contribution to their fellow countrymen, their community, or to Canada over the past 60 years.

TORONTO, Canada - Print and Broadcast journalist Ace Alvarez was bestowed by the Government of Canada through the Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall for his exceptional and meritorius contribution to Canadian print and broadcast journalism and in the further propagation of multiculturalism and diversity, a national policy of Canada.

The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal is awarded to outstanding 60,000 Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada who made a significant contribution to their fellow countrymen, their community, or to Canada over the past 60 years.

An active news and public affairs person, Alvarez has contributed to community development work for the last 16 years..

He was the multictlural media representative from September 2007 to September 2009 to the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA) — the organization which runs the annual Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), an 18-day fair, which has grown to be the largest annual fair in Canada and the fifth largest in North America attracting approximately 1.25 million visitors each year during the CNE's 129-year history..

Alvarez was also a member of the CNEA's Marketing Committee during the two terms he served from 2007 to 2009. During his term, the committee adopted Alvarez's recommendation aimed at making the advertising and promotion of the CNE cost effective to specific cultural communities in

the GTA.

As an officer and board member of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association (CEMA), Alvarez worked closely with the Board, community publications and some Members of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario to reverse the provincial government's ruling to make advertisers' pay the provincial sales tax.

In 1999, Ace was awarded by the Canadian Ethnic Journalists' and Writers' Club for his consistent trenchant editorials in the Manila Media Monitor during award ceremonies aired over Toronto's CFMT Television.

Since 2000, he has been (and probably remains to be the only Filipino-Canadian in media) listed for his contribution to Canadian journalism in "Canadian Who's Who"— the only reference book containing names of distinguished Canadians (listing in which is by invitation only and based on merit), compiled and published annually by the University of Toronto.

Ace serves as resource on ethnocultural media to two Toronto-based advertising agencies and has, in the past, been a resource to a high profile multicultural PR company based in Toronto. Likewise, he served as resource to journalism students at one of Toronto's leading communication and media colleges, as well as the Ontario Chapter of the Federal Communications Council — an organization composed of Information/Media Relations Officers of the various Ministries of the Canadian federal government.



Hayden Kho & Sarah G?

Pop princess Sarah Geronimo denied that Hayden Kho is supposedly courting her.

The former doctor-turned-actor was among the guests of the Pop Star Princess on "Sarah G Live." Their live banter supposedly drew positive reactions from viewers, which led to rumors of Hayden's supposed intention to pursue Sarah. Asked to comment on Hayden's guest appearance on her show "Ay, that's good na kinikilig sila," the singer-actress said.

Sarah insisted, however, that Kho has made no move to "court" her. "Wala naman po," she said.

The singer-actress refused to answer when asked if she is open to entertaining Hayden should he express intentions to court her.

QUOTE

"Hindi ako naniniwala sa New Year's resolution, e. Kasi, parang sa akin, bakit ka kailangang maghintay ng Bagong Taon para magbago ka kung puwede mo naman siyang gawin any time of the year?"

— *Judy Ann Santos*





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ABOVE LEFT, RIGHT, Rachelle Ann Go and Toni Gonzaga were flown in by PAL to serenade the well-heeled guests. FAR RIGHT TOP, Ace Alvarez of Frontpage Philippines TV, Joseph Alilio of Forex and Commerce Chamber's Oswald Tugadi listen to the speech. FAR RIGHT BOTTOM, Michelle Dy of New York's Tourism office attend the Toronto launch.

High Season for the Social Life

December is the busiest month of the Year when everyone is in a Festive Mood to party, party and party.

It started with the Paskuhan Village sa Toronto, a new festival that aims to replicate the festive mood of the season. in the Philippines. They had a mass in the morning that was already packed and it did not let up until closing time in the evening. Kapamilya provided the stars Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga and Gerald Anderson.

The next day, I attended the Caregivers party hosted by Western Union with the presence of Philippine star Gabby Concepcion.

Afterwards, I went to Senator Jun Emverga's house where he was hosting his birthday aptry in the company of family and friends.

Then, I bumped into the Philippine Airlines launching at the Shangri-La Hotel. I went there to meet my

cousin who owns Annset Travel in the Philippines. It turns out to be the launching of PAL Toronto-Manila non-stop flight. What a glamorous night it was. Travel agents, community leaders, media from the Filipino-Canadian community, Philippines and Canada were on hand. Filipino food and San Miguel were available to the well-dressed guests.

Showbiz personalities like singers Rachelle Ann Go and Toni Gonzaga entertained the crowd.

If they were launching a non-stop flight, the population of Filipinos in Ontario must be reaching a level where it makes economic sense to offer that service.

Which would make sense coming on the heels of a launching of the book "Filipinos in Ontario" by the University of Toronto press. The launching was held at the Filipino Centre Toronto.

There was the Bicol Canada Christmas party at Bluffer's Park. The night was chilly but it was warm inside the

restaurant as members, family and friends dined on delicious dinner of pancit, chicken and thinly-sliced yet juicy and succulent roast beef.

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation Induction dinner was held at the Rembrandt Hall on the same night as the Forex Christmas party on the same hall. It was a wonderful night as I was able to cover both events just by walking back and forth to the next room.

Th next weekend was followed by the Philippine Press Club party at prestige. Then, more Filipinos received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal. Dr. Solon Guzman had their Christmas party. I was unable to attend but my friend Joy Sarmiento of Pinoy News promised to attend on my behalf and take photos for both of us. There was also a Caregivers party at the North York Centre hosted by singer Jenifer Camacho.

Rachel Alejandro: To be like JLo

When you've performed before so many people ever since you can remember, you realize the you need to introduce yourself to a whole new audience out there. They're younger, they have different tastes. But they appreciate good music.

This is what's on top of Rachel Alejandro's mind right now. The powerful voice behind OPM classics "Kay Tagal," "Mr. Kupido," "Paalam Na" and "Bulag sa Katotohanan" wants to show the younger crowd of music lovers that she can also perform for them Gangnam Style and the latest fads notwithstanding.

And so she is reinventing herself, like the glam personified way Jennifer Lopez, or JLo, did. Like JLo, Rachel can dance up a storm. And Rachel's body is as to-die-for as JLo's is.

Rachel has maintained her curves thanks to The Sexy Chef, which she and sister Barni run. It creates healthy, slimming diet programs to those who want shapely figures and all the nutrients they can get hold of.

So just like many artists out there, Rachel admits that yes, JLo has become her peg. After all, like JLo, Rachel can still perform in clinging dresses and sexy shorts. Like JLo, Rachel wears many hats. Aside from singing, she acts and runs her own business.

But Rachel is not copying the American artist all the way. Rachel is taking a different tack in her comeback bid in the music industry next year.

Rachel is channeling that powerful voice into a five-song album of Tagalog remixes and a bit of club music. In the process, she is taking the road less taken.

"Para maiba naman," she explains. If her 'experiment' works, Rachel can teach some of her contemporaries to abandon tired formulas and explore the untried.

For an industry that needs fresh approaches, new, original sounds, this is could be just what the doctor ordered.

Bianca King hopes for a Better 2013

Her breakup with actor Dennis Trillo aside, Kapuso star Bianca King's 2012 has been a very fruitful one. In fact, she even calls it her "most fulfilling year" so far.

So what would Bianca wish for in 2013? "True love," Bianca said .But the actress immediately said, "I'm kidding!"

Bigger goals, bigger loves Turning serious, she elaborated: "I'm grateful already for what I have this year. Hindi ko sinasabing, 'Ay, hindi okay itong taon na ito, sana next year (okay) naman.' Basta whatever blessings I received this year, I'm thankful for them and hoping for an even better year."

However, this doesn't mean Bianca will settle with what she already has right now. "I don't want to be so specific. I just wanna continue to have good work on TV and film, nice roles, sustain my finances, and travel the world, travel to more countries I haven't been too," she said. 2012 was such a milestone, she just closed "one chapter of my life."

"Now I'm about to open a new one with bigger goals and more exciting things, bigger loves and more exciting travels," Bianca explained.



Western Union Caregivers Party

Western Union hosted an all-day party for Caregivers in Ontario. The presence of star Gabby Concepcion added glamour to the affair. Skits, dances and songs were presented. Gabby Concepcion was in his element, dancing, mingling, chatting, posing with the caregivers. For one day, he made them forget their hard life outside of work and country.

RIGHT, Philippine star Gabby Concepcion poses with Jose de Leon and Mark and friends. FAR RIGHT, Gabby Concepcion hams it up with the caregivers.

More photos at filipinogoodlife.com



Travelling Cheap

When to Spend and when to save



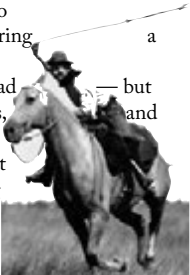
Sometimes, smart travel means spending an extra few dollars. For example, taking a taxi in Buenos Aires.

In 2010, on a choppy boat trip to see Isla del Sol, an island in Lake Titicaca, I had a tip for a grimy backpacker making his way through Latin America. His hostel in Copacabana, our Bolivian departure point, cost \$7 a night, and I suggested he move to Hotel La Cúpula, where a comfy bed, en suite bathroom, artistic touches and a lake view had cost me just \$12 a night. For five extra dollars, he'd get a one-night break from bunk beds and funky bathrooms. I expected, I don't know, a high-five. I got barely a nod. Perhaps he simply loved the hostel lifestyle. Possibly those five dollars really made a difference. Or maybe — and this was my conclusion — he had crossed the line from frugal traveler to irrational cheapskate. If that's true, my acquaintance was guilty of a woefully common phenomenon among budget travelers: putting the budget before the travel. One of the hardest parts of traveling on a shoestring is figuring out when not to save money. I call it Pound-Foolish Travel.



I see it all the time. People become so obsessed with saving that it becomes the focal point of the trip, the primary topic of conversation and even the subject of competitive one-upmanship. Oh, you drove a hard bargain at the hostel and paid \$11 instead of \$12? Well, I crashed on the floor of a church for free — unless of course you count the cost of aspirin for the backache and coffee for the lack of actual sleep. (Accounts of these grand victories, by the way, all too often take place over drinks that wipe out any savings many times over.) Irrational saving is particularly common in transportation

decisions. Two years ago, when I landed in Buenos Aires early on a Sunday afternoon for a five-day trip, I went straight for the taxi line. For \$31, I had a direct and quick route to the Mataderos neighborhood to see its once-a-week street fair, featuring a midafternoon gaucho horse-riding competition called "Race of the Ring." The cost pained me deeply — oh, the bife de chorizo steak I could have had — but I do not regret it. Yes, I could have taken a bus into the center of Buenos Aires, then caught another bus back out to the far-flung working district, and maybe, possibly, made it on time. Or, more likely, I would have been caught without exact change, or found that a certain bus didn't run on Sundays, or got on in the wrong direction, or got off the wrong stop. At the very least I'd be tense the whole trip. With the cab, I made it so early that I managed to see some traditional dancing performed, have a sausage sandwich, shop for leather goods and finally stroll over to the event. (Obviously, I took a bus back.)



Safety can also be a legitimate reason to spend more. I tend to think people overestimate danger, and often end up missing out on great experiences. But even I can be spooked into paying a premium. The morning of an intercity bus trip in Colombia, I happened to spot a newspaper with front-page article about a bus crash. One bus company, it seemed, had been crashing quite a bit recently. At the terminal, I found it ran the route I was taking that day and, perhaps not coincidentally, had the cheapest tickets. I went with a pricier carrier. Pound Foolish Travelers often make poor airline ticketing decisions. Which airport will you depart from? How many hours of layover are acceptable? What about very late-night or early-morning flights? On the other hand, saving a few bucks on a 5:45 a.m. flight to kick off a weeklong hiking trip makes less sense — do you really want to start down the trail with eyelids drooping? For me, many-hour layovers are also best avoided, unless the savings is in the triple-digits or my miles-accumulating credit card just sent me a free pass to an airport lounge, where I can spend quality time working, napping or drinking free Scotch (or some combination thereof). Even saving \$30 for an hour layover is worthwhile only if you can guarantee you won't blow that cash on an overpriced lunch in the layover airport.

I think most rational travelers have figured all that out. But it's my experience that a surprising percentage of otherwise normal people have gone berserk in recent years as airlines have begun charging for checked bags. Are the airlines horrible for charging us for checking a bag? Let's say they are. Still, this new carry-on-or-die attitude is silly. Sure, if you can fit your stuff into a carry-on, you should save the \$50. But to not be able to bring back wine from France, or pack your extra thick sweaters for Alaska, or take a nice gift to a CouchSurfing host is really not worth it.

Eating is also fraught with potential for superfluous stinginess. I love visiting supermarkets — it's fascinating to see what local products get prime display (the ham section alone in Portugal is worth the trip) — and checking out local manifestations of American cereal imperialism. And, of course, I advocate buying snacks and breakfast supplies and picnics rather than blowing your budget in restaurants. But one meal out a day — at a local hole-in-the-wall, at least — is practically a requirement for me.

The exception that proves the rule for me came last summer, when I traveled with a gaggle of young Norwegians in the Lofoten Islands, and we picnicked or cooked every meal ourselves. Not only were restaurants outrageously expensive, but by letting Norwegians make the decisions, I got real local meals anyway: brown cheese, Kvikklunns chocolate bars, sausages grilled on cheap disposable barbecues. Lodging may be the slipperiest slope of all. A common error is to disregard location on that booking.com or Airbnb.com search, ending up sleeping outside town without checking public transportation options. It sounds good on paper, but you might need to end your day early to catch the last local bus or spend your savings on taxis. Staying in a residential neighborhood outside the touristy city center is wonderful — as long as you've thought it through. Which is not to say don't research the heck out of your flights or bargain your tail off or cut your food budget to the bone. There's an undeniable rush to getting a great deal — you've gained more than you're giving up. I'm all for being a miser, but not if it makes you miserable.



Kapit-Kamay sa Pagdamay

A Night to Rebuild Hope for typhoon Pablo victims

A fundraiser for typhoon 'Pablo' victims called "Kapit-Kamay sa Pagdamay," A Night to Rebuild Hope for typhoon 'Pablo' Victims has been slated in January. In this regard, we are cordially inviting you join us in the fundraiser. Please find the details of the event below:
Date: January 18, 2013 (Friday)
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Place: The Great Hall, Glenview Presbyterian Church
1 Glenview Ave., Toronto, M4R 1P5
Sincerely yours,
Pidoy Pacis, Chairman of the Board - Gawad Kalinga Canada

Subject: Fundraiser for Typhoon Pablo victims on January 18, 2013
Contact Person: Cheryl Cantonjos t: 647-962-2002 e: ccantonjos@gmail.com

FOR TYPHOON PABLO VICTIMS
Kapit-Kamay sa Pagdamay fundraiser set

Going on a Friday night out? Make it matter. Join the fundraiser for typhoon 'Pablo' victims dubbed "Kapit-Kamay sa Pagdamay, A Night to Rebuild Hope for Typhoon 'Pablo' Victims" on January 18, 2013, Friday at 7 p.m. at the Great Hall of Glenview Presbyterian Church in 1 Glenview Ave., Toronto, M4R 1P5. GK Canada chairman Pidoy Pacis is urging everyone to come out on Friday night for refreshments and entertainment that will help rebuild the lives of typhoon 'Pablo' victims in the Philippines. Typhoon 'Pablo' hit the Philippines early in December, 2012 and left a death toll of over 1200 with 800 people still missing as of December 22nd, according to news wire reports. The reports added that the death toll is expected to rise to 1500, while damages to infrastructure, agriculture and private properties have been estimated at Cdn \$873 million.

The fundraiser will feature a short video presentation and updates of on the ground relief efforts. Exciting prizes, courtesy of GK heroes and warriors, await raffle and silent auction winners. More raffle tickets and auction bids mean increased chances of winning and more help going to typhoon 'Pablo' victims, Pacis added. Donations will be accepted at the door and online through the GK Canada website at <https://onecanadagk.com/secure/donate.php>. To complement local efforts in Toronto GK Canada is making arrangements for live streaming of the event over Skype so those outside Toronto and overseas can make their donations through the website. Proceeds of the fundraiser will go directly to the One Canada Village in Northern Mindanao.

For more information please contact Kim Jose at 416-557-0234 or send an e-mail to kimmarjorie@hotmail.com; or
Cheryl Cantonjos at 647-962-2002 or send an e-mail to ccantonjos@gmail.com.

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Representing the Government of Canada, Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) is guest speaker at the formal ceremonies recognizing seventeen Filipino Canadians for their vast contributions to improve their community. The recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal seated with Sen. Enverga, Jr., (4th from left) are (L-R) Ben Ferrer, Emiliano Silverio, Flordeliz Dandal, Victoria Santiago, Gene Dorotheo, Sr., Alex Parucha. The recipients who are on the 2nd row are (L-R) Artemio Pangilinan; Very Rev. Francis Galvan, OSA; Andy Garcia, Romy Mananquil, Eduardo Lee, Resty del Rosario, Dr. Francisco Portugal, Bonner Villabroza, and George Poblete. Other awardees who were not able to attend the ceremonies were Eleanor Calbes and Linda Javier, who was represented by FCT Director Ed Birondo.



Gov't recognizes 17 Filipino Canadians for their contributions to society

Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) has stressed the importance of volunteer work to help one's fellowmen and improve the community and the country. The Conservative Senator for Ontario spoke before the seventeen recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in the presence of their families and guests during a formal and inspiring ceremony held in Toronto, Ontario, Saturday December 15, 2012.

The recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal – one of the prestigious recognitions given by the Government of Canada are as follows: Flordeliz Dandal, Executive Director of the Kababayan Community Centre Multicultural Services, who has dedicated 23 years of her life on the settlement agency to help and support newcomer immigrants; Artemio Pangilinan, President of ANCOP International Canada Inc. -- a registered Canadian charity, who, among other things, led the 2012 ANCOP Walks in major cities across Canada, raising more than \$300, 000 for marginalized people in the Philippines and other third world countries; Resty del Rosario, a long-time community leader who led and handled various projects in the Filipino-Canadian Community; Victoria Santiago, a dentist by profession; and recognized supporter of many community and charitable organizations and events; Romy Mananquil, a recognized leader in the field of visual arts; Emiliano Silverio, one of the founders of the Order of the Knights of Rizal in Canada and serves as its Knight Grand Commander and Canada Region Adviser of the KoR for 17 years. Throughout the years, he has also been an active community leader; Andy Garcia, a philanthropist who has donated to many causes around the world, including the Sto Nino Chapel in the Philippines; Alex Parucha, a World War II Veteran. Now 94 years old, he continues to be active in Filipino-Canadian affairs; Ben Ferrer, a dedicated community leader and the vice-president of the Silayan Community Center which provides services for newcomers and drop-in center.

Also receiving the Queen Elizathe II Jubilee Medal were Eleanor Calbes, a world-renowned soprano singer,

who played lead roles at various productions of the Canadian Opera Company. She is the founder of Opera Mississauga, City Centre Musical Productions and the Fiesta Filipina Dance Company; Linda Javier, President of the Filipino Center in Toronto (FCT) and a dedicated community leader, whose tireless efforts continue to give the Fillipino Canadian Community a home in Toronto; Dr. Francisco Portugal, a Family Physician, whose charitable work for his fellow Filipinos in the Philippines is widely known through the "Canadian Aid Relief Project; Gene Dorotheo, Sr., a WWII veteran. At age 93 now, he continues to tirelessly advocate and leads various causes in the Filipino-Canadian community; George Poblete, a dedicated community leader, whose work, among many others, on the implementation of the Leyte Disaster Relief Funds Campaign gave huge financial assistance to land slide victims.

Also recognized with the prestigious award were Bonner Villabroza, an active and dedicated community leader in Hamilton, Ontario. He is also the President and CEO of the Hamilton Community Filipino Centre; Very Rev. Francis Galvan, OSA (Order of the St. Augustinians), a very recognized religious leader, whose pastoral duties started at St. Brigid's parish in Toronto, then as the Administrator of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish on Danforth . He was later sent to Rome for his Doctorate in Canon Law. Cuurently, he is the Provincial Superior of the Agustinians in Canada; and, Eduardo Lee, the publisher of the longest-running Filipino paper in Toronto, "Atin Ito", and where his work contributed to a well-informed Filipino Canadian community in the Greater Toronto Area and nearby cities.

The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal is awarded by the Government of Canada through the Office of the Governor General, to outstanding 60,000 Canadian citizens and Permanent Residents of Canada who made a significant contribution to their fellow countrymen, their community, or to Canada over the past 60 years. (Trix Andrade)



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Dr. Solon and Josephine Guzman’s Christmas Party



LEFT, Dr. Solon and Josephine Guzman with their daughters Princess and Angeline pose for a picture. RIGHT, Family and friends gather around for a Christmas picture. MORE PHOTOS ON FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM / PHOTOS BY WARREN D’Aoust AND JOY SARMIENTO OF PINOY NEWS

Dr. Solon Guzman and his wife Dr. Josephine Adorna Guzman held at Christmas party for their staff, families and friends. The motif of the party was festive red and it shows in these photos. It looks like a very happy celebration. While there are some multinational companies that do not even have a Christmas party, Drs. Solon and Jo still find the time and effort to hold one. It is a celebration that makes one feel the Christmas spirit to all the peole who are closes to us. All these photos were taken by Joy Sarmiento & Warren D’aoust of Pinoy News and Pinoy World TV.

Filipino World

Singapore employers’ upgrade of maids’ pay hailed

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) lauded Singapore for agreeing to meet the minimum salary of Filipino household service workers of SGD500 (equivalent to \$400).

DOLE Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz (PHOTO), who cited the report of the Association of Licensed Recruitment Agencies for Singapore, Inc..

“It also reflects a magnanimous response, on the part of the employers, to meet the minimum standards of the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Convention 189 Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers,” said Baldoz,



PAL starts TO-Manila Flight

Philippine Airlines introduces non-stop and with-stop travel from Toronto to Manila and back. Travel agencies from the Philippines came fro business to business meetings with local counterparts, tour operators to showcase what they have to offer. While they only have economy and business class available in their current fleet serving Toronto, the planes on order will have economy, upper economy and business class. I am not sure what they will call the class the one that is above economy which offers more legroom and wider seats. It will probably priced around \$100 to \$300 more than the economy.

They held a press conference and party at the new Shangri-La Hotel in Toronto complete with native Filipino food and drinks. San Miguel beer of course was one of the drinks available. Filipino Community leaders, members of the media and travel agents from all over Ontario and Montreal were on hand to welcome the new airline that will serve the Filipino and Canadian community to and from Toronto to Manila. They brought in Philippine singers Rachele Ann Go and Toni Gonzaga to add showbiz glamour to the affair.

It was a wonderful dazzling night for Philippine Airlines.

MORE PHOTOS ON FILIPINO GOODLIFE.COM

Tagalog goes global

In this age of globalization, nothing could be more difficult for a Filipino living abroad than to work for the preservation of one’s own language and culture. But Dr. Ruth Elynia S. Mabanglo is not so easily discouraged.

As a multiawarded poet and playwright, her love for the Filipino language has found meaning and it remains a calling. The first woman to join the Hall of Fame of the Don Carlos Palanca Awards for Literature, Ruth has made it her mission to promote Filipino worldwide.

“You cannot learn a language without understanding its culture so I have developed many courses. I have a course on Philippine films... on Filipino food, music and rituals. Language and culture: they are like twins.”

Fil-Am to sit as Federal judge for NY

NEW YORK, USA - A female American judge of Filipino descent will serve as a Federal District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York.

The US Senate confirmed the nomination of Lorna Schofield last December 18, 2012, by a vote of 91-0.

In private practice, Schofield represented celebrity Rosie O’Donnell in the \$100 million lawsuit against the former publishers of the defunct Rosie Magazine.



Elena Lapid starts Lapid Foods in US

CALIFORNIA, USA - Elena Lapid was living the American Dream, but was bored. She was lonely. The family moved to United States in 1993, but her husband had to be in Manila several months a year to oversee her father’s Lapid Chicharon, a USDA-approved business that was their only source of income. So, she started Lapid Foods in the US to make the chicharon and it was a hit. These days, Elena looks back on those years and asserts that if she had to go through every single experience again, she wouldn’t change a thing at all. And this she has to say in earnest, “When it comes to perseverance and industriousness, I can give credit to only two people—my father, Federico ‘Ka Dicong’ Lapid, Sr., and my husband, Alfonso Salonga, Jr. Jun, being an engineer, did a good job helping me improve the process. He even enhanced the taste by concocting a good blend of spices.

“And, of course, it was my father’s hard work and vision that started it all.”



FV owners Mel Galeon and Flor Vendiola pose with Philippine singer Rachele Ann Go at the launching of Philippine Airlines at Shangri-La Hotel Toronto.

PCCF Inducts New Officers, Proceeds to be Donated to Typhoon Victims



Consul General Junever Mahilum-West inducts the new officers of the PCCF.

(Toronto, December 7, 2012) Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation or PCCF celebrated the induction of new officers at the Rembrandt Banquet Hall last December 7. The new Officers were inducted into office by the Consul General, Juniver Mahilum-West. Over 300 guests witnessed the Oath Taking of the officers for the years 2013-2014. PCCF was founded by the Honourable Senator Jun Enverga in 2008, however, full operation for the Organization started in 2010 with the outgoing president, Jimmy Marasigan at the helm. Two years of operation contributed close to two million pesos to various charitable and worthy organizations.

True to the vision PCCF, incoming president, Romy Rafael indicated that money raised on this event will be donated to the victims of the recent Typhoon Pablo. PCCF is known for their big events like the “Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto” and the prestigious pageants.

Inducted into office for this term were: President

- Romy Rafael; EVP - Rosemer Enverga; VP's - Alex Dooc, and Fred Thomas; Exec. Secretary - Lita Leano; Asst Sec. - Bing Marasigan; Treasurer - Ethel Panganiban-Stewart, Asst Treasurer - Vida Cruz; Bookkeeper - Danio Penuliar; Auditor - Jun Perez; PRO - Gloria Rafanan; Social Media Officer (SMO) - Alain Canizares; Asst SMO - Leslie Ruiz; Community Liason - Ben Ferrer; Business Managers - Sheila Canizares & Noemi Milanes; Sgt. at Arms - Gil Dicion & Ramon Cruz; Youth Dev. Officer - Joey Abrenilla; Board of Directors - Bobby de la Cruz & Alex Saroca; Adviser and Past President - Jimmy Marasigan.

Foundation Leaders inducted were: Marita Enriquez, Tony Leano, Zeny Crescini, Sena Flores, Bal Yujuico, Arnold Cruz, Rebecca Rafael, Merle Dooc, Cristina Ferrer, Mila Lupangco, Kim Belen, Philip Rafanan, Amado Santiago, Juancho Delos Santos, Mario Alpuerto, Frank Crayford, Faye Santiago, Fidel de Guzman, Jojo Taturan, Pors Canlas, Mitzy Canlas, of the Eduardo Deang, and Madeleine Ong.

Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show sa Toronto will be on June 22, 2013 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre. www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com or email pinoyfiestatoronto@gmail.com.



The byelection last Dec. 10, saw longtime resident Garry Tanuan (RIGHT) elected to fill the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) trustee position left vacant in September following Tobias Jun Enverga's (LEFT) appointment to the Senate.



Bal Yujuico interviews Miss Philippines-Canada Alev Usta.

MORE PHOTOS ON FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM



WOMEN LOOK BETTER WITH A LITTLE MAKE-UP - Leighton Meester

Leighton Meester thinks people should admit that most women look better with make-up on.

The Gossip Girl actress doesn't agree with plastering on layers and layers of cosmetics, but she does believe everyone benefits from a little help. Leighton's trick is to make sure she only plays up her best assets.

"Everyone looks better with a little bit of make-up," she said. "Y'know, a little bit of mascara and a bit of concealer... but a little goes a long way. You've got to get used to seeing your face without make-up, otherwise it becomes thicker and heavier and more and more, and then you don't recognise yourself without it."

The star describes her make-up routine as "minimal" although she does like creating a nice base.

Her eye make-up doesn't always go so well though. Leighton struggles with eye-liner and even though she always watches carefully when her cosmetics artists apply it she has never been able to master it.

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KimChiu Moves On No more Anxiety over Gerald



MANILA, Philippines -- During the promo period of *24/7 In Love*, one of the most anticipated love teams was that of Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson's since it had been two years since they worked together in the movie *Til My Heartaches End*. Their past relationship was brought up and most people wondered whether or not their reunion project could spark a romance once again. But Kim made it clear that she and Gerald are better off as friends. "Siyempre, ano, matagal na [sarado ang puso ko para kay Gerald]. Yun, siyempre, masaya ako na magkaibigan kami ni Gerald at hindi magkaaway," she said during that November 2012 press con.

Kim further shared how she was able to honestly answer that she's no longer romantically interested in Gerald who happens to be her first love. "E, siyempre dalawang taon na ang nakalilipas, wala na akong angst. Tanggalin na natin yun. Mas maganda kung lagi kang positive. Nangyari na, e. Wala ka ng magagawa. Kung ie-stress mo 'yung sarili mo, mahu-hurt ka pa sa mga tanong na gano'n, problema mo na 'yun sa sarili mo. Parang tapos na, okay na," she reiterated.

It was probably a good closure for Kim since she and Gerald were able to catch up like old times. "Nitong 2012, ang daming nangyari sa akin at ang daming nangyaring hindi ko inaasahan. Tulad ng *24/7 In Love*, 'yung pagkakatrabaho namin ni Gerald, and kung paano kami towards each other after two years."



Vice & Ai-Ai Non-showbiz Connection

Neither one of them realized it. But Ai Ai de la Alas and Vice Ganda's paths almost crossed when both were not yet in showbiz.

Ai Ai revealed that Vice Ganda's brother, Lito Vical, happened to be a high school friend.



And they were so close, Ai Ai already stepped into their home and met Vice Ganda's mom, way before he became the toast of tinseltown.

"Ito ang inisip ko para ma-love ko siya," Ai Ai said at the presscon of Star Cinema's "Sisterakas," her Metro Manila Filmfest movie with Vice Ganda and Kris Aquino. The non-showbiz connection persists to this day. Ai Ai admits her businessman-boyfriend Jed Salang, who she fondly calls "Babe," knows Vice's special someone. This common denominator is again the key in bringing Ai Ai and Vice even closer, especially after they just patched up things between them. Vice happily relates how he and Ai Ai closed the gap between them backstage at ABS-CBN's noontime show, "Showtime."

"Hindi ako sinabihan na magkakatatapo kami. Na-off pa nga ako noong una kasi wala man lang nagsabi na magtatago kami ni Ms. Ai. Hindi naman ako nakapag-prepare."

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FCT Book Signing & Volunteer Appreciation Day



LEFT, Filipino Centre Toronto Paraluman volunteers like Ready Honda's Anita Diaz standing on the far right get honored. RIGHT, Authors of the book *Filipinos in Canada*, published by University of Toronto sign some copies. More photos on Filipinogoodlife.com.

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Upcoming Events:

- Hon. Consul Bolivar Bao will represent the Toronto Consulate Office in the noon time Wreath Laying at the Rizal monument at Earl Bales Park, Bathurst St., Toronto on Dec. 30 to commemorate the 116th Rizal Martyrdom at Bagumbayan.

This event will be hosted by Brampton Chapter Commander Sir Dr. Romy Sinajon. Deputy Commander Sir Delfin Palileo, KCR, will lead the ceremonies. He will be supported by Toronto and Scarborough Chapter Knights and Ladies. The celebration will continue indoors at Carnegie Hall in Steeles Ave., West. Rizal Knights and Ladies, in their Rizal uniform, will attend this important event. Our new Senator Hon. Tobias “Jun” Enverga, KCR

Events in YR- 2013:
The Commanders laid out their plans for monthly events for the year 2013.

This include the following major events:

- The Region Council is finalizing the list of Canadian Knights and Ladies who will travel to the Philippines for the The 19th Rizal International Assembly in Manila and Baguio cities, Philippines in Feb. 22-25, 2013. Interested Knights and Ladies who planned to join this Assembly in the Philippines were asked to notify their Area/Chapter Commanders or Officers of the Region Council, to be a part of the

Canadian Delegation.

- Canada Region Council accepted the proposal of Montreal Chapter to host the 4th Canada Region Assembly in Montreal, from August 30 to September 2, 2013. Eastern Area Deputy Commander Sir Rey Balansi, KCR. Sir Rey's committee will be submitting their detailed program for this 4th Canada Regional Assembly and 14th Commanders' Ball. Montreal Chapter has been working closely with the local government and the Association in Montreal have expressed their support to this Rizal Event. Canada Region Executives will work closely with them. Rizal Chapters from all over Canada are looking forward to join this Montreal event. Delegates from Rizal International Regions; the Supreme Commander and the Supreme Council officers were already informed of this event during the recent USA Regional Assembly in Hawaii. They will be invited to participate in this Assembly. They are excited to be with us in this in this multi-cultural City of Montreal.

Rizal Chapters in the major cities in Canada (Winnipeg, Windsor, Montreal, Ottawa...) will concurrently celebrate the 116th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Martyrdom on Dec. 30, 2012, in their respective areas.

+ Rhian eyes Acting Improvements

MANILA. Star Power winner Angeline Quinto will star in “Kahit Konting Pagtingin” starting January.

The Star Power grand winner will star opposite Sam Milby and Paulo Avelino in romantic comedy entitled “Kahit Konting Pagtingin”.

The said series is also the return of Sam Milby on the boob tube and comedian John “Sweet”Lapus in the Kapamilya channel.

“I’m so excited to work again. Very happy ako.”

used to have but I've gotten more. I have even more to be thankful for. I don't know

if I have anything else I could ask for," she ended.

PACQUIAO
continued from page 9

really depends upon how he feels and what he wants to do. We'll get back in the gym and if I see signs of decline, I'll tell him to retire. If I don't, I'll tell him to go on."

Roach has long said that he's promised Pacquiao he'll tell him when he thinks it's gone. And Pacquiao has said he'll heed that advice and retire. For now, Roach says he doesn't feel they're at that point. And maybe a fifth Marquez fight does make sense -- groan if you want to, but after his defeat, are you really not going to tune in?

Whatever Pacquiao does in the future, though, his era is over. And what an era it was. For nearly 10 years, Manny carried the sport of boxing on his shoulders. His popularity in his native Philippines and throughout the rest of the world more than matched his scintillating performances in the ring. He's been exactly what the allegedly "dying" sport of boxing has needed in the face of fierce competition from the UFC and other mixed martial arts enterprises. If Manny Pacquiao didn't exist, someone would have had to invent him.

The only point of criticism for Pacquiao is that he never made the blockbuster-of- blockbusters superfight against Mayweather at the time when interest in that match was at its peak. But that was as much Mayweather's fault as it was Pacquiao's.

Manny deserves the best life has to offer over the rest of his days. It's too soon, however, to write the obituary of his boxing career.

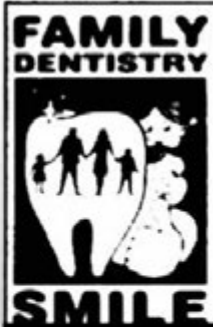
And congratulations to Juan Manuel Marquez. He saw his opportunity, and he immediately took advantage of it. Pacquiao would have done the same thing.

But Manny Pacquiao is not finished with boxing.

He'll be back. That's the assurance Manny Pacquiao gave to his fans and countrymen.

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Anne Curtis See-thru Gown gets Buzz

+ Kris Aquino’s Cleavage-baring Gown



Anne’s See-Through Gown Gone Viral Online, Garnering Thousands Of Comments

A photo of “It’s Showtime” host Anne Curtis in a see-through gown by Filipino designer Francis Libiran at a recent gathering of ABS-CBN stars has gone viral online, garnering thousands of comments in a matter of hours.

The dress’ see-through material exposed the “It’s Showtime” host’s cleavage and the sides of her thighs up to her waist.

As of writing it, the viral photo has been “liked” on the social networking site more than 55,700 times, a huge number compared to the number of “likes” garnered by other photos on the same fan page, which average 4,000.

The photo has also gotten over 2,500 comments. The number of users who have shared the same image, now over 1,700, has multiplied its viral spread on Facebook.

At the ABS-CBN Christmas concert,

Curtis, 27, appeared on stage alongside her “Kailangan Ko’y Ikaw” co-stars Robin Padilla and Kris Aquino. Angeline Quinto sang the theme song as the three actors interacted before a cheering audience.

Curtis thanked Libiran for designing the gown, which is inspired by the hit song “Diamonds” by pop star Rihanna.

Zanjoe Gets Offer To Star In Korean Indie Film

After gaining good critics and for his performance in the Cinemalaya entry “Kalayaan,” Kapamilya actor Zanjoe Marudo is eager to do more independent films next year.

Actor has revealed that he might do a Korean indie film soon after a Korean director saw him in “Kalayaan,” where he played a soldier assigned to the Spratlys, which won the NETPAC Best Asian Film award at

the Warsaw International Film Festival. The film was also screened at the Busan International Film Festival last October in Korea where it won good reviews.

Zanjoe added that he has already received the synopsis of the Korean film under study. “Sana ay matuloy yung film,” he said.

Zanjoe added that the Korean director had also contacted “Kalayaan” director Adolf Alix, Jr. “because gusto niya akong i-cast sa movie niya na ako ang bida kasi ang character ay isang sundalo na half-Filipino, half Korean.”

According to Marudo, he really learned a lot from doing indie films.

The actor plans to do more indie films in 2013. He said that these allow him a variety of roles that further hone his craft in acting.

Dennis Trillo On chooses ABS-CBN Over TV-5

Kapuso actor Dennis Trillo has only one year left before his contract expires with GMA-7. In an interview with actor, Dennis said that if he will to choose between ABS-CBN or TV-5, he prefers the former.

“After ng contract na yun, siyempre may mga negotiations, e. So, hindi ko pa alam. Marami pang puwedeng mangyari sa isang taon, so tingnan na lang natin.”

If ever his manager Popoy Caritativo choose for him to transfer, Dennis said that it will be fine with him but pinpointed the ABS-CBN network as a better choice over the TV5 network.

“Siguro mas pipiliin ko ABS [CBN]. Ano kasi, e, siyempre yung iisipin mo yung mileage mo bilang artista. Maganda yung mga nangyayari sa ABS, di ba? Shows nila, maraming nanonood. So, baka iyon, kung sakali,” Dennis Trillo explained.

If the actor determined to transfer to Kapamilya after his contract expires with GMA-7, then it will be a sort of homecoming.

The singer actor started his showbiz career as a Kapamilya. He is part of Star Magic (then Star Circle Batch 10) with Bea Alonzo, Alfred Vargas and Karel Marquez, among others. He became part of the defunct ABS-CBN teen series K2BU

opposite Angelene Aguilar. Bea Alonzo is also part of the show.

Enchong Dee And Julia Montes Split Up Explanation

Dee said he and Montes indeed became more than friends and were just waiting for the actress to turn 18 before going public about their relationship.

“I was just waiting for her to turn 18 in three months’ time. Iyon na sana iyon eh, para kahit sinong magtano ng official na yes, oo, kami. Pero ang daming naghohold back because she is only 17. “Pero kung

tatanungin mo kung more than friends or naging kami, I can say na parang ganun na kami. pero we can’t concretely say na yes naging kami because I was really waiting for her to turn 18,” Dee added.

Dee however, said he is sad that this blossoming romance did not end well.

“It’s because of the time. ‘Yung last part of 2012, ibang klaseng hectic ng schedule na even my brothers, my parents, I can’t see them even though nakatira kami sa isang bahay. Naging malaking factor ‘yung time kaya hindi nag-prosper ‘yung whatever it is,” he said.

Asked if he is still planning to pursue Montes anew, Dee said: “Hindi ko talaga alam eh. How I wish kaya kong sagutin at the moment, na sana kaya kong bigyan ng sagot ang mga nanonood pero hindi ko talaga alam.”

Meanwhile, Dee said he is not in the position to comment on reports that actor Coco Martin is planning to court Montes once she turns 18.

Psy said Gangnam near End

South Korean pop star Psy welcomed 2013 performing his hit song “Gangnam Style” with rapper MC Hammer in front of thousands of revelers in Times Square, New York City on New Year’s Eve.

But was this performance the beginning



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of the end of “Gangnam Style?”

On his official Twitter, Psy called the performance at Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve as #GangnamFinale.

In an interview on MTV News, Psy hinted he’s ready to move on from “Gangnam Style.”

“Being in Times Square on New Year’s Eve is already special - it’s the biggest stage in the universe - plus it’s my birthday, so, with all that, it may be the ending of ‘Gangnam Style.’ I mean, what better way to do it? It’s my biggest and most meaningful birthday,” Psy told MTV News.

Psy, who turned 35 on December 31, said he needs to write a new single because “Gangnam Style” became too popular.

But he quickly added that he will still perform “Gangnam Style,” since he still gets a lot of invitations from around the world.

Kris’ cleavage-baring dress sends netizens abuzz

Apart from the big winners at the recently concluded 38th Metro Manila Film Festival awards night, Kris Aquino’s revealing gown was also the talk of the town.

In a post on the image-sharing site Instagram, Aquino is seen posing in the cleavage-baring dress, which she credited to designer Cary Santiago.



Several netizens called the gown “daring,” while others joked that her outfit deserved an “award” of its own.

Putting an end to rumors linking her to Brazilian-Japanese model Daniel Matsunaga, actress-host Kris Aquino said that she wants to have an old man as her next boyfriend.

Matsunaga, 24, recently debuted as a guest host on “Kris TV” hosted by Aquino, 41.

“Ayoko na ng bata,” said Aquino, who has separated from 30-year-old basketball player James Yap, when asked about her opinion on Matsunaga. “Gusto ko na talaga ng matanda. Matandang matanda.”

Actor-host Luis Manzano to join ‘Be Careful With My Heart.’

Luis Manzano is now part of Kapamilya’s hit daytime kilig-serye “Be Careful With My Heart” starred by the sensational love team of Jodi Sta. Maria and Richard Yap.

Actor-host portrays the role of James Ventura, the vice president for flight operations of Time Airways, the company where Maya (Jodi) works as an OJT.

“I was very ecstatic when I learned that I’ll join the show because I’m a fan of it to begin with,” said Luis who is so excited to work with Jodi again. “Jodi is really my first partner in showbiz so it’s a pleasure being able to work with her again,” he said.

When asked whether his character is off to break the Maya-Sir Chief love team, Luis simply answered, “Le’ts wait and see! But I hope you guys enjoy my character. We are all fans of the show,” he added.

John Lloyd: Health Is My Priority This Year

Kapamilya actor John Lloyd Cruz admitted he is looking forward to doing more television and movie projects this year.

John Lloyd said he is currently shooting his up-coming movie with Pop princess Sarah Geronimo, which is slated to come out next year.

John Lloyd said he might also do a movie with young superstar Judy Ann Santos, although nothing has been finalized yet.

Aside from these two films, Cruz said he might do another television series for ABS-CBN.

“Pero parang gusto ko rin i-prioritize ang health ko sa taon na ito. I’d like to last longer — longer than two years in the business,” he said.

John Lloyd said it is really his goal to have time to take care of his health.

“Well, gusto ko talagang i-incorporate sa schedules ko, ang health and wellness. Makapag-exercise ka, makapag-workout ka kahit dalawang oras sa umaga before going to work,” he said.

Currently, Cruz said he is working six times a week from 8 a.m. until 2 a.m. the next day. He only gets one day to rest, and he makes sure to spend it with his loved ones, he said.

Maja Salvador Deny Gap Between Her And Julia Montes

“Ina Kapatid Anak” star Maja Salvador denied that there is rift between her and fellow Kapamilya star Julia Montes because of actor Enchong Dee.

Maja and Enchong, who has openly admitted that he is courting Julia Montes, are working together in the hit primetime series “Ina Kapatid Anak.”

According to the King of talk show Boy Abunda, Salvador said there is no truth to the reports.

“Nakausap natin si Maja. Maayos daw ang relasyon nilang dalawa.

“Ito naman ang sagot na nakuha namin from Julia and we quote, ‘Wala, walang ganoon. Basta lahat kami okay kami.’”

Solenn: “I am not Sossy”

Don’t ever call Solenn Heussaff “sossy”. The socialite tag, she explains, only started when she joined the reality show “Survivor Philippines.”

“Sila ang naglagay ng titulo na iyan,” she said. “I hate the term. Kasi yung totoong socialites are, like those who attend all the parties, (just) to be seen or to be photographed.”

That’s why sometimes Solenn hopes she won’t have to attend certain events or functions.

“I think kasi in the job we’re in, like, everyday you put makeup on, everyday you dress up, everyday you have events. So kami kapag may free time, you don’t wanna dress up. You don’t wanna put on makeup.”

Solenn may not see herself as a socialite, but she acts the part in “Sossy Problems,” where she co-stars with Rhian Ramos, Bianca King and Heart Evangelista.

Solenn plays Margaux, the French ambassador’s daughter.

Solenn explains that the movie is a parody of the upper class and clarifies that her role is a far cry from what she is in real life.

“I don’t relate to my character at all. Sobrang bobo siya, as in. Laging nakabukas iyong bibig niya. She’s very nice, very sweet, very caring naman, pero iyong utak niya nasa langit. Actually, minsan I’m like that, my brain is flying around. But, yeah, I’m not similar to Margaux naman,” Solenn insisted.



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Georgina Wilson

It looks like it’s going to be a very new sexy year for Ginebra San Miguel fans. After being chosen as the team’s muse for this season of the Philippine Basketball Association, the host/model fulfills the wishes of her male fans as she poses for the liquor brand’s 2013 calendar. Georgina was chosen after topping a poll conducted by Ginebra. According to the brand, they chose Georgina because she exudes a universal appeal that transcends gender and class, much like Ginebra San Miguel, which appeals to a diverse and wide range of people.



Georgina goes fom From Cover Girl to Calendar Girl

And Pirelli Calendars becomes noticeable for lack of NUDITY

The Filipino-British model was officially launched as Ginebra’s newest endorser at the Imperial Palace Suites in Quezon City on Friday, following the footsteps of her celebrity best friends Anne Curtis and Solenn Heussaff who are also endorsers of the company.

Georgina said she considers her newest project as a milestone for her career, and a chance to reach out to her “masa” fans.

“I can’t believe I was no. 1 in the lineup to be selected especially because I don’t have movies out, unlike the previous calendar girls,” she gushed.

Previous Ginebra calendar girls include Angelica Panganiban (2007), Iwa Moto (2008), Marian Rivera (2009), Krista Ranillo (2010), Anne Curtis (2011) and Solenn Heussaff (2012).

“I am a certified ‘Lahing Ginebra Girl.’ I may have been born in the US, raised in Britain and studied in Australia, but my heart belongs to where my home is—here,” the stunning 26-year-old told the media.

“The fact that they feel that I can represent their brand, that the masa is aware of me and knows me, it’s really surreal and a huge

honor.”

Georgina considers this calendar as one of her toughest and most daring yet.

“I was also very hands-on in choosing the outfits para maging sexy, like yung mga bikinis that I like wearing, as well as the theme of water sports because I think that to have that fun spirit and a body that you can be happy with, you have to be active in sports, you it was something na talagang fit sa calendar.”

When asked why she agreed to do the calendar for a very “masa” brand, she replied; “I feel this is the right time to do this, while I’m still young. It’s something I’ll be proud of in the years to come.”

She said that her boyfriend of three years, Borgy Manotoc, had no objection, and had been very supportive of her projects.

“He’s going to be happy when he sees the rest of it. Even my family is proud of the outcome. I feel like I’ve found a new family.”

With all her appearances as host of numerous shows both on cable and free TV, as well as her TV commercials, it’s quite surprising to note that Georgina has yet to formally make her acting debut.

Is she willing to venture into acting just like her best friends Anne and Solenn, and compete with them?

“I think the showbiz world is very receptive of me and parang feeling ko, I’m really in showbiz already. Hindi pa nga lang ako ‘actress.’

“If ever the right movie comes along or there’s a project or teleserye na bagay sa akin, I’ll be very much willing to take it,” she said. “But right now, I’m very happy with what I’m doing. I don’t think [we will] be competing naman, I really respect the careers of my friends, and they share their experiences with me and give me tips.”

2013 Pirelli Calendar: No more Nude Models?

Recipients of the 2013 Pirelli calendar might be surprised to find that it contains no nude photographs — an obvious departure from recent tradition. “When I told the models there would be no nudity, some of them were disappointed,” laughs casting director Jennifer Starr, who has worked with Pirelli on the calendar for seventeen years. Petra Nemcova was one of them: “I found out only a week before that it wasn’t nude,” she said. “I’d been, like, working out, getting ready, and I was like, ‘Oh, I have to wear these?’”

Kyleigh Kuhn, on the other hand, was relieved: “I have three brothers.”

The decision to cover up was twofold: All of this year’s calendar’s models were chosen specifically for their extensive charity work, and it was thought that nudity might, as Starr put it, “dilute the message.” Meanwhile, the Pirelli team knew that some women might feel uncomfortable posing nude because of the causes they supported. Kuhn, for example, does a lot of women’s rights work in Afghanistan, and a nude photo could compromise her efforts.

This year’s Pirelli photographer, Steve McCurry, reunited with Starr and models Kuhn, Nemcova, and Summer Rayne Oakes at McCurry’s studio in Long Island City a few weeks ago to look at a version of the calendar. McCurry is known for his photographs of impoverished, war-torn countries; his most famous image, Afghan Girl, became iconic when it appeared on the cover of National Geographic in 1985. Although the Pirelli assignment wasn’t his first time working with fashion models (“I did a couple of shoots in Italy, years ago”), it’s a far cry from the raw photojournalism he’s built his career on.

At the back of the calendar is an index chronicling the causes that each of the eleven models is committed to. Also featured are Elisa Sednaoui, Hanaa Ben Abdesslem, Liya Kebede, and Karlie Kloss. Starr says she also tried for activists Lauren Bush and Christy Turlington, among others, but they had scheduling conflicts and couldn’t do it.

What did McCurry take away from the experience? “There was a lot of waiting around for makeup touch-ups,” he said. “I always thought they looked fine!” As for whether Pirelli would make the charity theme part of their regular repertoire, a rep for the company demurred: “Next year we will probably do something different.”

Forex Christmas Party



LEFT, Forex holds a Christmas party for their employees, family and friends. RIGHT, Emcee Philip Belosos introduces Patricia Baguisa and Johannah Alilio who entertained the guests with their duet. MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY continued from page 3

that could open up a complex, messy and energy-sapping political process.

“I don’t think it’s going to be touched for now,” Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who is also vice president of Aquino’s party and one of his close advisers, told Reuters.

“You create another uncertainty. Investments are coming in anyway, predominantly by local guys.”

While policy transparency is widely seen as improving under Aquino, the Philippines’ volatile political and legal systems regularly throw up unpleasant surprises for foreigners. Aquino’s

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY continued on page 26

Angelica Panganiban wants rest for Lloydie

+ Is nancy Castiglione leaving Acting behind?

MANILA, Philippines – Angelica Panganiban wants for boyfriend John Lloyd Cruz this year is for him to slow down on work.

“He’s such a workaholic and pushes himself even when he’s sick,” Angelica said. Despite Lloydie’s workload, though, the 26-year-old actress said they always find time for each other. Asked before Christmas what she was giving Lloydie, she said finding a gift for someone who had everything wasn’t easy. “I’ll probably give him a credit card!” she said,

laughing. “Trying to outdo each other with expensive gifts is passé. The simpler, the better—and more heartfelt.”

She said Lloydie was ecstatic about her holiday reunion with her family. “He suggested things to do, restaurants ... he could be an events coordinator!”

Like comedy

What else had she learned about him? Angelica replied, “I didn’t know that we had similar personalities. When we’re together, it’s as if we’re doing a comedy flick.”

One of the lead stars of the Metro Manila Film Festival best picture “One More Try,” Angelica said she never knew there was something missing in her life until Lloydie became part of it. “I still can’t believe this kind of feeling exists,” she said.

Even so, she admitted, they have spats like other couples. “It happens usually when he doesn’t reply to my text messages,” she said. “It’s so ... high school!”

Nancy Castiglione opens a Modelling Agency

Is Nancy Castiglione done with acting in front of the cameras? If not, why hasn’t she been visible lately?

Answer: she’s busy trying to bring back the old Supermodel days, when tall, reed-thin ladies not only had the looks, they had the class and the breeding to stand above the rest. Nancy’s new venture is called Vanity Model Management, which she put up with cousin Paul Sunga, who has worked as fashion photographer in Hong Kong for years.

“I want to bring back the days of (New York-based Filipino supermodel) Cristina Garcia and Joey Mead,” Nancy said at the press presentation of her company’s Eurasian models.

The models, she and Paul proclaim, can be everybody’s dream girl: educated, sensible, and beautiful, of course.

“They’ve worked everywhere,” Nancy crows like a proud mom. “And they’re not just a pretty face. They have a good head

above their shoulders. They’re not just in it for fun.” There was one big hitch, though. The Euroasian models were scared to go to Manila — at first.

Paul had a ready, fool-proof solution. He brought them to Boracay and said, “Know what? You can model here too.”

One look at the beautiful beaches of

hasn’t seen in the past five years. Paul’s connections are just as solid.

Although the cousins are starting with Eurasian models, they hope to groom Filipinas as well. In fact, Nancy is eyeing a 14 year old, 5’9” tall stunner from Bacolod.

“We’re waiting for her to mature,” she relates. Besides promoting Filipino

possible projects in the biz). Nancy can’t stop talking about her new modeling agency and how it makes her feel like she’s come full circle.

“I’m glad to have this opportunity while I’m still young,” she gushes. “This is something new for me.”

The flexible schedule allows her to weave

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Boracay and the girls were convinced. Now, Nancy and Paul have big plans for them. They plan to promote their models in various countries, thanks to the cousins’ wide network. Nancy, a former commercial model herself, is getting a lot of help from her friends in the industry, some of whom she

modeling talent, the cousins dream of pushing Pinoy couture as well. “We’re promoting Pinoy designers at the upcoming Philippine Fashion Week in Hong Kong,” Paul beams. So wonder no more why Nancy has been scarce in the showbiz scene lately (although she still has Arnold Vegafría as manager for

in her tasks as mother and wife into her new role as entrepreneur. “I’ve always loved the idea of being in the modeling industry,” Nancy reveals. Her eyes dance, a smile lights up her face. And you know she’s in her element. Nancy the businesswoman is off to a good start.



FIRST, Philip Beloso works with kapamilya’s Rosary Escano. 2ND, Singer Maria Panaligan poses with Kapamilya star Sam Milby. 3RD, 4TH, 5TH NMP group with Paul Biaoco, Noel Aquino, and Paul Biaoco perform at the Paskuhan. MORE PHOTOS ON FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM

Entertainment

Heart Evangelista

“Oo, maarteng tao ako, pero mabuting tao naman ako.”



Heart Evangelista started the year with a breakup and closed it with a relationship. And as the girlfriend of Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero, the Kapuso star has a lot of things to be happy about, and her budding love life is “just a bonus.”

“I’m already so content with my life and I have a bonus pa, so masaya,” she told the entertainment media during the press conference for “Sosy Problems” recently.

Heart said this year has been good to her. “2012 was like a time na... (It’s) a change in my life na parang

na-close ko yung chapter—which is exciting kasi when you turn one page, may next na papalit. So na-excite na ako.”

The “Sosy Problems” star is positive the following year can only be better. “One thing I learned with changes in your life: it happens for a reason, for a good one, because God wouldn’t want anything else for you except good things.”

However, she has no specific expectations for 2013. “I have no deadline,” Heart added.

Relationship getting serious?

She also applies her “no expectations” mentality in her relationship with Chiz, which she said is doing “very good.”

“I’ve known him (Chiz) now for seven months, almost eight, so I think it’s working for us na hindi namin tinatago. Mas pribado lang kumpara sa past ko. But I think it’s working for us.”

Is she already thinking about the possibility of becoming a politician’s wife?

“Oh my gosh, hindi ko iniisip yan,” Heart said. “I really have no expectations with anything. That’s what makes it better now, kasi I’m just really enjoying the moment.”

She reiterated that she has no deadlines as she now goes with the flow.

Still, Heart said her relationship with Chiz is a serious one.

“But it’s a very serious relationship and I really like the level that I’m in.”

Jessy eyes Korea



Kapamilya star Jessy Mendiola just can’t have enough of South Korea, where she recently had a stint for a TV network and a magazine shoot.

“Bumalik ako doon for a pictorial for a cover shoot for a magazine. Sobrang ganda ng Korea. Mas malamig ngayon kaysa noon,” Jessy said.

Jessy joined Korean Broadcasting System’s “World Date,” where she and other girls from various countries had a meet and greet with Key and Jonghyun, members of K-pop group Shinee.

Jessy added that she wants to do more projects in Korea.

“Gusto ko pang mag-work doon. Gusto ko pang maka-trabaho ang mga Koreans doon.”

Jessy is counting her blessings for 2012 and looks forward to 2013.

Bela on Love

While Bela Padilla admits she is seeing poker player Neil Arce, she says she is taking her love life slowly as career remains her number one priority.

The star of the GMA afternoon teleserye “Magdalena,” where she plays the title role admits she has become a workaholic with little time for her love life. “I think right now I’m one of the most driven people you’ll meet here in showbiz. I’m not saying it because it’s me, but because it’s a fact. I think I’m turning into a workaholic. Parang I can’t breathe when I’m not in taping. I really want to work, that’s why I didn’t expect na I would give even a little time to think about my lovelife. But when I did, it actually turned out well and I’m taking things slowly. This is still my number one priority,” Bela said.

Bela says Neil, fellow Kapuso star Maxene Magalona’s former flame, is also very busy.

But they’re happy with the way things are between them. “It’s nice to have him around,” she relates.



News Bites

This time, it’s Philippines vs Taiwan

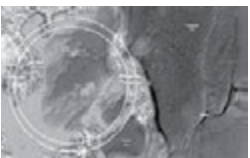
MANILA, Philippines – MANILA, Philippines—Another conflict is brewing in the West Philippine Sea, this time between the Philippines and Taiwan over oil and gas exploration around Ligao Island, the largest islet in the Spratlys group.

The Philippine government on Saturday asserted its sovereign right to “explore and exploit” resources in the country’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) as Taiwan announced plans to begin looking for oil and gas in disputed areas of the Spratlys Islands chain.

Assistant Secretary Raul Hernandez, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson, said that only the Philippines could explore in those parts of the Spratlys that lies within the country’s 200-nautical mile continental shelf.

Reports from Taiwan said island nation’s Bureau of Mines and state-run oil supplier CPC Corp. were keen on starting exploration for oil and gas in waters around Ligao Island, the largest Spratlys island that the Taiwanese call Taiping.

China, Vietnam and the Philippines have claims to Ligao Island.



Japan to attract PHL tourists

MANILA, Philippines - With its “very robust economic growth,” the Philippines is now being eyed as a source of tourists by Japanese tourism officials and travel agencies.

Masahide Adachi, director of the Japan Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in Singapore said that in the Philippines, not a lot is known about Japanese tourist attractions, and that this has to change.

When it comes to Southeast Asian tourists to Japan, the Philippines is near the bottom of the list, official records show. According to Adachi, 80,000 Filipinos visited Japan as tourists in 2010 and only 60,000 in 2011.

For 2012, however, the number is expected to reach 90,000.



PHL eyes 2M Korean visitors by 2016

After the arrival of the one millionth Korean tourist last year, the Department of Tourism (DOT) now sees two million visitors from the land of kimchi by 2016.

“We are confident that the country will hit the two million Korean tourist arrival mark by 2016,” said Tourism Assistant Secretary Benito Bengzon Jr. (PHOTO).

On Dec. 27, 2012, the agency welcomed Kook Nam Han, the one millionth traveler from Korea who was selected randomly among the passengers of the flight carrying Korean tourists.

When asked about what brings Koreans to the Philippines, Han was quoted in the statement as saying, “It’s the people who are smiling all the time. Filipinos do not hurry and are more laidback, and they definitely know how to enjoy life. I feel so much at home here, I consider this as my second home.”

Tourism Undersecretary Daniel Corpuz noted that South Korea – which remains the largest source market for Philippine tourism – is the first source market to hit the one million mark in a year.

Pleasure, business and studies are the top reasons for Koreans visiting the Philippines.



Bill to Scrap Taxes On Int’l Carriers

MANILA, Philippines --- The Philippines will soon experience a boost in tourist arrivals once the bill scrapping taxes on international carriers and shippers is signed into law.

This after the Senate approved on third and final reading Senate Bill No. 3343 which introduces amendments to the national internal revenue code to exempt international carriers including shippers, from paying Gross Philippine Billings Tax (GPBT) and common carrier’s tax (CCT). “It will help usher in the great promises of the highly touted tourism sector of our country as it will boost tourist arrivals in 2016 and help increase the capacity of local and foreign carriers for tourists to 15 million seats from current six million seats,” Drilon said.

Its enactment into law would also establish the country as a tourism hub and elevate its status as a viable gateway to Asian neighbors.

The measure was certified urgent by President Benigno S. Aquino III.

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A place or face from the Past
Do you remember?



Santo Domingo church and convent was indiscriminately destroyed by Japanese bombs as they invaded in1941. Santo Tomas Plaza has been a public plaza since 1861 and is still there today.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1

U.S. crime-fighting agency (inits.)

4

Miles ____ gallon

7

Actress Sarandon

12

Lamb's father

13

Cheerleader's word

14

"Hot ____" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

15

"... Baby ____ Time" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

17

"A Boy ____ Sue" by Johnny Cash

18

Running ____ (a joint-ticket partner)

19

Unit in a building (abbr.)

21

Pot cover

24

"Don't Let Me Be the ____ Know" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

29

Ready, ____ fire!

32

Actress Turturro

34

____ apparent (oldest child of the monarch)

35

"Womanizer" singing star (2 wds.)

38

Christian ____ of The Dark Knight

39

____ -final (next-to-last match)

40

"Wheels are Turnin'" by ____ Speedwagon

41

"I'm ____ 4 U" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

43

"____ Then We Kiss" by 35 Across

45

Bob Dylan's "____ Be Your Baby Tonight"

47

Wise old birds

51

"____ That I'm Used To" by Depeche Mode (2 wds.)

55

"Oops! ... I Did ____" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

58

"____ Wine" by Elkie Brooks

59

"Soda ____" by 35 Across

60

____ lodge

61

"____ Be" by 35 Across (2 wds.)

62

If You ____ Him

63

____ cat (cool guy)

DOWN

1

"____ the Bottom of My Broken Heart" by 35 Across

2

Eric ____ of Munich

3

How ____ Your Mother (2 wds.)

4

Opposite of amateur

5

Play by ____

6

Actress Perlman

7

The ____ Clause

8

"Born in the ____" (inits.)

9

____ card (cellular chip)

10

George Strait's "____ in the Hole"

11

Actor Beatty of Charlie Wilson's War

16

Actor Gibson of Braveheart

20

____ TV

22

Actor McKellen of Lord of the Rings

23

Babylon A.D. star Vin ____

25

Murder, ____ Wrote

26

"____ da Roof Off" by Busta Rhymes

27

Spare ____

28

Approximately (2 wds.)

29

"Dancing Queen" rockers

30

Author Levin and lyricist Gershwin

31

George Harrison's "Run of the ____"

33

Hair-coloring mixture

36

Actress Leoni

37

____ the Tail on the Donkey

42

Actor Vaughn

44

____ Day Afternoon

46

"Our ____ are Sealed"

48

Comedy Car ____

49

"What It's ____ to Be Me" by 35 Across

50

Sound of scissors cutting

51

"You Got It ____" by 35 Across

52

"American ____"

53

Elevation above sea level (abbr.)

54

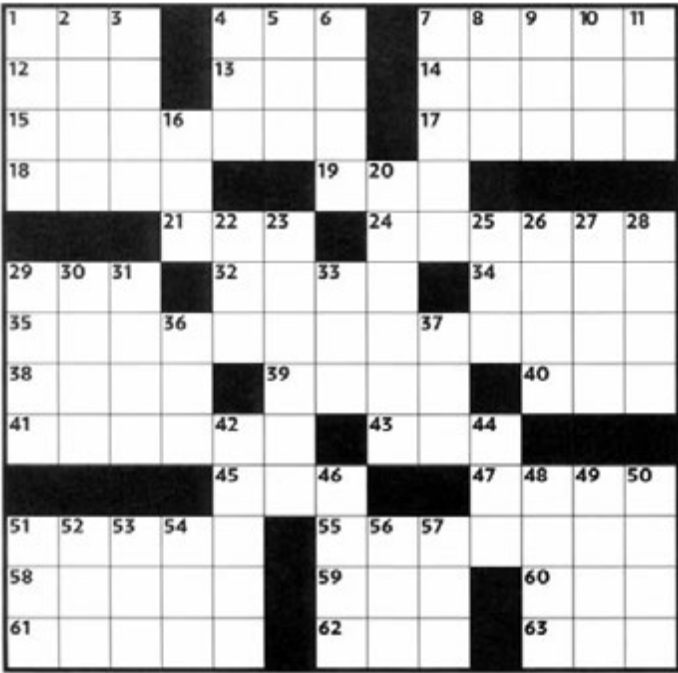
____ Legend (2 wds.)

56

Tic-tac- ____

57

Tarzan, the ____ Man



Hellenic Home for the Aged



Maria Panaligan and Mery Halli pose with an appreciative resident after they performed at the Christmas party at the Hellenic Home for the Aged.

Answers on
Page 26

Moderate Drinking OK for Women

Men with beer bellies at higher risk for osteoporosis

A study has found that moderate women may be linked to a reduction postmenopausal women are at high tissue and a loss of bone density fracture.

“Drinking moderately as part good diet and exercise may be postmenopausal women,” said Ursula College of Public Health and Human one of the study’s authors.

The researchers pointed out that have unwanted side effects, while be part of a healthy lifestyle.

But the key is moderation. Too much alcohol can increase the risk for some cancers, high blood pressure, heart problems or liver disorders. Canadian guidelines say women should have no more than 10 drinks a week, with no more than two drinks on most days. For men, the guidelines suggest no more than 15 drinks a week, with no more than three drinks on most days.

In men with excessive fat around their abdomen, commonly known as a “beer belly,” are at an elevated risk for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes, and now researchers are adding osteoporosis to the list of potential hazards.

While obesity is associated with a host of other health problems – hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma, sleep apnea and joint diseases – it has been widely accepted that overweight men were at a lower risk for bone loss.

“Not true,” said Dr. Miriam Bredella, a radiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor of radiology at Harvard Medical School. “Everyone thinks of osteoporosis as a disease of women. Studies all focused on women, and men were always thought to be fine. We specifically wanted to look at young men.”



intake of alcohol among postmenopausal in bone loss. It’s a significant issue, as risk for osteoporosis, a thinning of bone that increase the chance of suffering a

of a healthy lifestyle that includes a beneficial for bone health, especially in Iwaniec, associate professor in the Sciences at Oregon State University and

many osteoporosis medications can moderate consumption of alcohol may



To Lose Weight,

eat three meals not six mini-meals

For weight loss, should you eat six small meals or three larger ones? If you’re an obese woman, a new study offers some advice: don’t eat like a Hobbit.

While some proselytize the weight-loss benefits of six mini-meals, a slew of prior research says that high frequency eating doesn’t boost metabolism and can actually make you fatter. The more times you eat, the more likely you are to overeat, experts say.

Now a new study looks at the debate from a different angle: it examines the insulin and blood fat of obese women who either ate equal calories as either three larger meals or six smaller ones each day over the course of two days. Findings showed that those who consumed three substantial meals had lower blood-fat levels over time, which researchers say could lower their risk of developing heart disease.

“Our data suggests that, for obese women, eating fewer, bigger meals may be more advantageous metabolically compared to eating smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day,” says the study’s lead author Tim Heden of the University of Missouri.

In the research, Heden and his team kept tabs on meal frequency and blood sugar and blood fat levels in eight obese women over two 12-hour periods on two separate days.

All of the women consumed 1,500 calories, with one group consuming three 500-calorie liquid meals while the other group consumed six 250-calorie liquid meals. Researchers tested blood sugar and blood fat levels every 30 minutes.

Their research appears in the journal Obesity.

In a 2010 study, researchers from the School of Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa found no weight-loss benefits from higher frequency eating in a study of 16 obese men and women. That study appeared in the British Journal of Nutrition.

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY continued from page 22

government has halted new mining projects, stalling development of an estimated \$850 billion in mineral reserves, until Congress approves a mining tax reform – a vote that is unlikely to take place before May 2013 mid-term elections.

In October, Manila added to restrictions on ownership of real estate, lending firms and professions. Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission is looking at expanding the 40 percent foreign ownership limit to apply to all classes of shares in a company, rather than just common or voting shares, following a Supreme Court ruling last year that telecoms firm PLDT (TEL.PS) had breached the cap.

“The Philippines will be shooting itself in the foot because it will severely restrict the available shares for

foreigners,” said Francis Ed Lim, managing partner of the Accra law firm and a former head of the stock exchange.

Two Philippines

While service sectors such as call centers, retail and tourism are growing strongly, the manufacturing sector – an engine of development in countries like Vietnam and Thailand – struggles to compete with neighbors and attract investment.

Ford Motor Co (F.N) announced in June it was closing its Philippine production factory, citing an inadequate supply network and a lack of economies of scale.

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY continued on page 27

Candid SPOOF

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



Magluto ka pa ng marami. Ubos na paninda dito sa Paskuhan Village. Kadami ng customers.

Mel Galeon of FV Foods is busy making calls for more food amidst the busy crush of customers that lined up at their stall at Paskuhan Village from opening until closing time.

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

FAIRY TALE ECONOMY
continued from page 26

Foreign executives here tell a tale of two Philippines. One is the country's special export zones, where companies can set up wholly owned units easily and receive incentives and efficient services as long as they ship their output abroad. The other Philippines is encountered when companies try to tap the domestic market, running a gauntlet of heavy bureaucracy, local government corruption and sometimes troublesome partnerships with Filipino firms.

Companies have to go through 16 separate procedures to start a business in the Philippines, compared with three in Singapore and nine in Indonesia, according to the World Bank report.

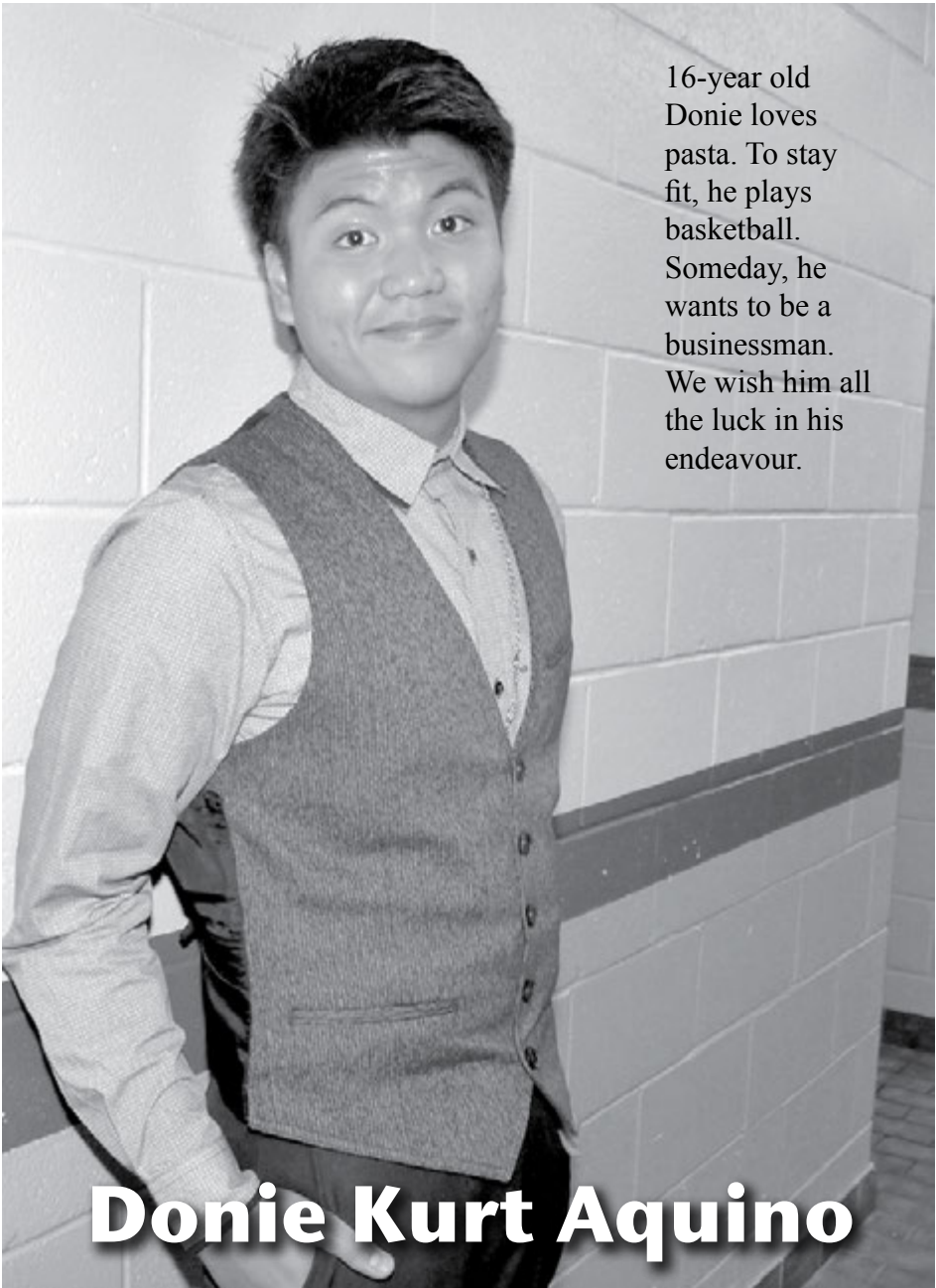
Japanese firms have rekindled their long-dormant interest in the Philippines this year, prompted by rising wages in China and Beijing's territorial dispute with Japan. Still, a potential flood of money has been slowed by ownership limits and other restrictions, said Takashi Ishigami, president of Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp (8002.T) in the Philippines.

Marubeni is teaming up with a local firm to bid for a \$1 billion railway project, among at least eight major Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) that make up Aquino's flagship plan to improve infrastructure.

But Ishigami said Marubeni was only supplying equipment as part of the bid, and had been deterred from taking an operational role by the government's refusal to guarantee rail fares. That shortcoming would likely deter Japanese firms from bidding for other PPPs, he said.

"The Filipino PPP is far away from our standard."

hunk shot



16-year old Donie loves pasta. To stay fit, he plays basketball. Someday, he wants to be a businessman. We wish him all the luck in his endeavour.

Donie Kurt Aquino

PHL to stop Marcos Loot Hunt

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippine government is to wind down a near-30-year hunt for the embezzled wealth of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, with more than half the supposed \$10-billion fortune still missing, the man in charge of the search said.

With Marcos' widow and children back in positions of political power, and the government tightening its belt, the cost of the pursuit has become prohibitive, said Andres Bautista, head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The PCGG chair said he had recommended to President Aquino that the commission wind down its operations and transfer its work to the justice department.

If Mr. Aquino agrees he would have to get Congress to pass a law abolishing the agency.

"It has become a law of diminishing returns at this point," Bautista said at the commission's offices, a rundown building where Marcos' oldest daughter Imee used to hold office.

"It's been 26 years and people you are after are back in power. At some point, you just have to say, 'We've done our best,' and that's that. It is really difficult.

"In order now to be able to get these monies back, you need to spend a lot," the PCGG chair said.

"They (the Marcos family) have the resources to go head-to-head with us in respect to litigation. Why do you think forfeiture cases are still languishing 26 years after?" Bautista said.

The agency's annual budget of less than P100 million was only enough to pay its staff of about 200, many of them young lawyers who turned down high-paying jobs elsewhere, he added.

"It's a lonely job. It doesn't win you any friends," Bautista said.

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