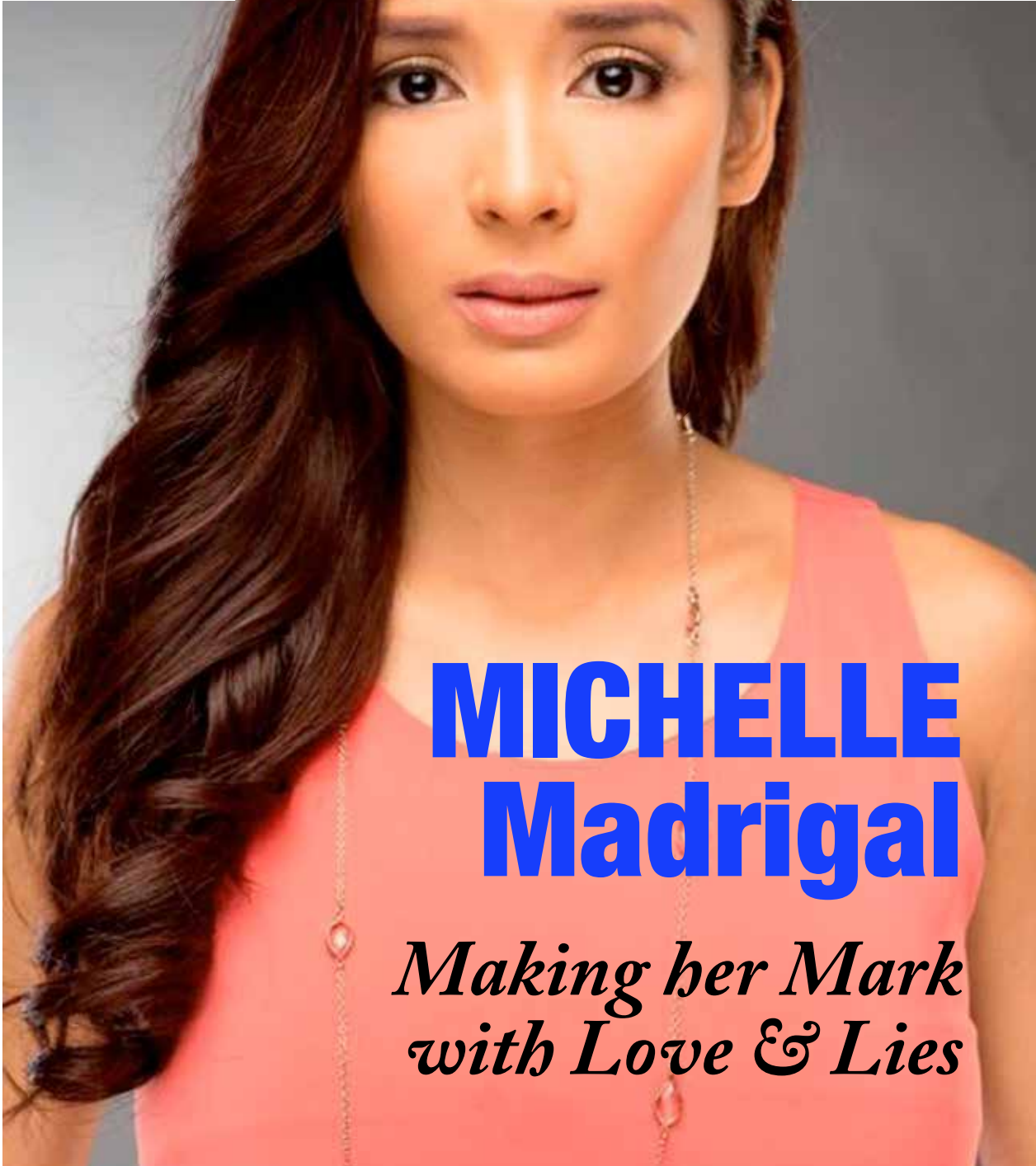




MICHELLE Madrigal

Making her Mark with Love & Lies

Why Lopezes not on BIR List

BIR, Forebs List differ

MANILA, Philippines - The Lopez brothers are reportedly wondering why they're not on the list of the country's top taxpayers. Others are wondering why the few tycoons on the list pay less than the amounts that the Bureau

of Internal Revenue (BIR) collects from celebrities. Still others are asking why several tycoons are not on the list. Sources within the Lopez group of companies on Tuesday pointed out that family patriarch Oscar

Lopez and his brother Manuel had paid P37 million and P11 million in taxes, respectively, for 2011. "This is a Catch-22 situation,"

LOPEZ continued on page 24

Magna Carta for the Poor

Mission Impossible

MANILA , Philippines - "Mission Impossible." This was how President Aquino described the proposed Magna Carta for the Poor that he vetoed, as the government had no means to allocate around P3.3 trillion from the P2-trillion annual national budget to uplift the lives of the poor. The Chief Executive justified that he cannot give false hope to 95 million Filipinos, especially since the government is cash-strapped. President Benigno Aquino III has vetoed the Magna Carta for the poor, noting the absence of a provision which gives the government ample time to provide for basic demandable rights. "Let's be merciful to government officials or employees who will be given this mission impossible and end up facing charges for failing to do the impossible. This is why I was forced to veto this law," Aquino explained. The P3.3-trillion estimate that Budget Secretary Florencio Abad gave the President does not even include the 10 percent administrative fees that will be needed for processing. "The P3.3 trillion also has a 10 percent administrative fee – the people who will process their applications for housing, supervision on the construction of houses, those who will distribute the food, etcetera," Aquino said. In all, it will be P3.3 trillion plus roughly about P300 billion "just to administer" the rights of the impoverished Filipinos, and in order for the program to be fully implemented. Aquino disclosed that the government has to spend around P600 billion for mass housing alone for the 26 percent of Filipinos who are living below the poverty line out of the 95 million total population. This means the government has to provide roughly five million social housing units to the poor. However, the government recognizes basic rights listed in the final bill submitted by Congress, Aquino said. These include rights to food, employment and livelihood, quality education, shelter and basic health services and medicine. He particularly pointed to a provision of the bill which said: "The government shall, as a matter

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE continued on page 27

Education is Important -MVP

MANILA, Philippines - A business tycoon has joined calls to ensure broader access to state education, as he noted that both government and private sector "disappoint" young Filipinos who deserve to be in school. Speaking to graduates of the Philippine Women's University Saturday, telecommunications magnate Manny Pangilinan said the death of Kristel Tejada should remind Filipinos of the importance of state education. Pangilinan was referring to the 16-year-old behavioral science freshman at the University of the Philippines Diliman who took her own life Mar. 15, days after filing for leave of absence. "I would not surmise, much less judge, the

realities which drove this promising, young lady to take her own life. I am sure things are more complex than we know," Pangilinan said. He nonetheless added: "But of this we are certain--education should be a right for all, not a privilege for the few." Tejada's death has sparked a heated debate on state education in the Philippines, with groups blaming strict tuition policies for worsening the student's financial woes. Protests have meanwhile forced UP officials to lift its "no late payment" policy and vow for reforms in the state-run school's Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program

EDUCATION continued on page 24

Senator Enverga with OFW



Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (standing at right) and MP Robert Sopuck (2nd from left), MP (C, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette) with some of the workers at the HyLife™ Foods, a federally certified, modern pork processing facility, in Neepawa, Manitoba, with whom the two government officials met to listen and address concerns on additional infrastructure in the town in anticipation for the arrival of more temporary workers and their families from the Philippines. The company employs 900 workers, 600 of whom are from the Philippines. Photo by Bernadette Tripon of Neepawa, Manitoba.

Filipino sa Canada

Senator Enverga holds dialogue with Filipinos in Neepawa, Manitoba



PHOTOS BY BERNADETTE TRIPON OF NEEPAWA, MANITOBA

LEFT, Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (4th from left) meets with some of the workers at the HyLife™ Foods, a federally-certified, modern pork processing facility, in Neepawa, Manitoba, to listen and address the concerns on additional infrastructure in the town in anticipation for the arrival of more temporary workers and their families from the Philippines. HyLife Foods employs 900 workers, 600 of whom are from the Philippines. Joining them in the roundtable discussion are (leftmost) Robert Sopuck, MP (C, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette) and Rosemer Enverga (3rd from left) – wife of Senator Enverga.

ABOVE, Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (2nd from left) with Briece Stuart (far left); Manitoba MLA (Minister of Legislative Assembly, PC, Agassiz); Robert Sopuck, MP (C, Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette) and Neepawa, Manitoba Mayor Ken Waddell (3rd and 4th from left) after a roundtable meeting with Filipino workers and company executives at the HyLife™ Foods, a federally-certified, modern pork processing facility, which employs 900 workers in Manitoba. Around 600 of the workforce are temporary workers from the Philippines.

LEFT, Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (standing at left) meets with some of the workers at the HyLife™ Foods, a federally certified, modern pork processing facility, in Neepawa, Manitoba, to listen and address the concerns on additional infrastructure in the town in anticipation for the arrival of more temporary workers and their families from the Philippines. HyLife Foods employs 900 workers, 600 of whom are from the Philippines.

NEEPAWA, Manitoba (April 12, 2013) – The Filipino Canadian community and the temporary workers here had a dialogue with Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. when the latter visited them today.

The dialogue, held at HyLife™ Foods, a federally certified, modern pork processing facility employs 900 workers, and company Chief Operating Officer Denis Vielfaure said 600 of the workforce are Filipinos. Another 37 temporary workers from the Philippines are coming soon, he said.

Among the issues discussed was the need to build more infrastructure in preparation to the arrival of future workers. Hylife Foods is rapidly expanding, resulting from the high demand for its pork products around the world.

The workers and executives alike said that immediate planning for additional infrastructre is required, such as those in accommodation, because families of the Filipino workers will follow them soon here. They said that the concerns were likewise brought to the attention of Neepawa Mayor Ken Waddell.

On another note, the company executives indicated their great satisfaction with the hard work and the dedication of their Filipino

workers.

Meanwhile, the Filipino workers expressed their wish that more representation in Winnipeg and Neepawa be extended by the Philippine Consulate General. Senator Enverga said he would relay the message to the Consulate General's Office in Toronto – which has the responsibility for Filipinos at the two areas.

The Filipino Workers were very thankful for the opportunity that Canada has given them. At the same time, they expressed their appreciation that a Filipino-Canadian is representing them in the upper house of the Government of Canada.

Senator Enverga will work with Neepawa Member of Parliament Robert Sopuck to ensure that concerns are addressed to the best of their capacity.

Neepawa – which in Cree means “Land of Plenty”, is located 185 km Northwest of Winnipeg. The town was incorporated 1883, and, as of 2011, its population has grown to over 4,000. Population is estimated to swell to 5,000 by the end of 2013 due to the arrival of Temporary workers, mostly from the Philippines.



Bamboo on Sarah Geronimo's admission that she has a crush on him: “Naku, no comment!”

Misteryoso, tahimik, at malalim.

Ito ay ilan lamang sa mga karaniwanang deskripsiyon ng mga music fans sa rock superstar na si Bamboo.

Una siyang nakilala sa bandang Rivermaya bago ito nag-solo at gumawa ng sarili niyang tatak bilang isang pop/rock icon.

Ngayon ay napapanod na siya sa ASAP at higit nang makikita ng mga televiewers sa talent search program na The Voice of the Philippines bilang isang mentor/judge sa darating na June.

Tinanong kung desisyon ba niyang paunti-unti nang bawasan ang misteryo na binuo niya sa publiko sa pagsabak niya bilang mentor/judge sa local franchise ng hit U.S. reality-competition show.

Tugon niya, “I think it's a choice.

“I think its a proper platform na pinili ko to do this Voice.

“Like what I said earlier, I think it's time to pay it forward, di ba? Daming blessings that come our way so I think it's just time to pay it forward,” saad niya.

MYSTERIOUS IMAGE. Hiningan din ng reaksiyon si Bamboo sa mysterious image na nabuo niya sa paningin ng publiko.

“Ako, it's not even a choice, it's something na di ko iniisip.

“Ako lang talaga yun, e. I'm just me, myself.

“RESPECT THEIR ARTISTRY.” Pina-describe kay Bamboo kung paano niya gagampanan ang kanyang role bilang isang mentor/judge sa programa.

“I think I'm gonna be pretty good, medyo voluble and dictator ako, I'll say that.

SARAH'S CRUSH. Sa nasabing presscon din ng The Voice, inamin ni Sarah na may crush siya kay Bamboo.

Ayaw namang magbigay ng komento ni Bamboo tungkol dito.

“Naku, no comment!” bulalas niya.

PRIVATE MATTERS. Nang tanungin kung may showbiz crush siya, walang maibigay na sagot ang singer.

Hindi naman nito itinago na mayroon siyang special someone ngunit minarapat na lang niyang itago ang medyo personal na issue.

“Wala, wala talaga. We all have our special someone, I'd like to think that.

KOR Scarborough Chapter 21st Anniversary



FROM LEFT, Singer Karen Tan is presented with flowers after a performance at the Knights of Rizal Scarborough chapter 21st Anniversary dinner. MIDDLE, Guests enjoy the party. RIGHT, Talakayan radio journalists Joey Damasco, May and Jess Cabrias, Karen Tan and husband show their support by attending the dinner party.

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Show Tax Return for License

MANILA, Philippines - Doctors, engineers and other professionals will soon need to present their income tax returns (ITR) when renewing their professional licenses with the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), according to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

The move comes as the government steps up its efforts to curb tax evasion, which Purisima says is rampant among the self-employed and professionals.

In the BIR, only 400,000 filed their ITR as self-employed. All professionals, except lawyers, are required to secure their professional license from the PRC.

Purisima noted that the Department of Public Works and Highways has also announced contractors will be required



to present their ITRs before getting any contracts with the government.

With rampant tax evasion among professionals, the DOF is exerting efforts to increase the number of tax-paying professionals and their tax payments.

"We would like to increase the number from 400,000 to 1.8 million. The average payment of the 400,000 is about P33,000. When you do the math, this means they're making less than the minimum wage earner. That's not believable... What we would like to do is increase it to a not-very-high amount P200,000 average," Purisima said.

Purisima said an average of P200,000 is the "logical minimum." "Any professional who is making less than P200,000 should just get a job," he noted.

The Finance chief also ruled out granting an amnesty for tax evaders because it only rewards cheating.

Purisima, who had objected to the previous administration's efforts to declare an amnesty, said past amnesties were "misguided." "We raised very little money and it emboldens people," he added.



The truth about Cristine Reyes, Derek Ramsey and Dennis Trillo's rumored romance

MANILA - Cristine Reyes revealed that her rumored relationship with Dennis Trillo is not true, according to her, she went to Cebu with friends but not with Dennis contrary to rumor that she went there for a date with her ex-boyfriend.

Cristine Reyes is fresh from her separation with Rayver Cruz, if you could still remember, they confirmed their rumored separation on "The Buzz" two weeks ago, but they also added that they remain friends despite of what happened.

Also on "The Buzz," Cristine answered another issue, as you all know, aside from Dennis Trillo, rumor says she is also dating with Derek Ramsey, her former leading man in the movie "No Other Woman." Cristine said that they are friends, she also admitted that she's hanging out with Derek but when it comes to heart matters, she denied everything.

When asked about the possibility of having a relationship after Rayver Cruz, Cristine said that if given the chance to fall in love again, she wants a serious relationship.



MTRCB places 'Wowowillie' on 3-month probation

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has placed the TV5 show "Wowowillie" under probation for three months.

This, the MTRCB announced April 22. MTRCB Chair Atty. Toto Villareal said the probation period has also started. Villareal's office also tweeted that it is subjecting the TV5 show to an SPG (Special Parental Guidance) rating "effective immediately." This developed after MTRCB received complaints in social media and other sources about the show's female dancers, who were wearing skimpy outfits and showed excessive flesh exposure in its April 16 episode.

Villareal said that "a dancer was practically exposing her large breasts for around eight minutes with several others skimpily dressed."

The Board's Twitter account added that the show "accepts responsibility and apologizes to MTRCB for skimpy outfits & excessive flesh exposure."



Naku ha! by Jose Baking
LittleManilaConfidential.com



Political Parties shocked at Butuan

According to survey, 8 out of 10 people in Butuan are willing to sell their votes. A shocked nation demanded an answer from Comelec? “Where in heaven’s name is Butuan?” PHL demanded that China leave Butuan. China replies, “where is Butuan?” PHL then demanded that Malaysia return Butuan. Malaysia replied, “we are not occupying any place called Butuan.” A furious anonymous Malacanang spokesman demanded, “do we even have a place called Butuan?” Political parties are most shocked that they have not heard of Butuan before, a paradise to them where people are willing to sell their votes. They are scrambling to promise everything to Butuanons, if they can find them, or the place first. If you think that the 27 billion pesos election promise to Cebu was big, wait ‘till the parties find you and they will double that to a province whose people are willing to sell their votes. Ehe, susmaryosep. Ano ba ito?

I did not get an email

A friend in facebook gets her email hacked. She said that if you received an email from her, please disregard it because her email has been hacked. What if you did not get an email? That hurt because it means you are not on their list. People’s feelings get hurt because they get unfriended on facebook. Imaging wondering, “why haven’t I received an email yet?” People will get sleepless nights. I know I have. Ehe, ano ba ito? Bukas ko na nga hinintayin iyong email niya.

How to spot a police car at night?



If you are overspeeding and you see a headlight coming at you at a high speed in your rear view mirror, then does not overtake you, that’s a police car. I was driving 10 miles (nasa US ako) above the speed limit. I was on the right lane. Then, the vehicle stays behind me on the left side. Faster than I can finish my thought “why is this guy not overtaking me,” the next lights I saw were flashing police lights.

Lots of Websites and Channels

The internet is starting to look like TV. With so many channels and websites, there is nothing to see. And Rogers decide to remove the only channel I was watching. I am still on the analogue cable. I am on what is called tier 3 or yata. I cannot remember anymore. Anyway, the only reason I paid that high is to watch Turner Classic Movies or TCM on channel 46 in Scarborough. On eday biglang nawala. Before that, Peachtree channel disappeared. I think that used to be Superstation, na naging peachtree, which show movies also. But TCM shows old movies without commercials. Then, they also removed the Food Network. So, I am thinking of just going to basic cable na lang. Madaya talaga.

What I will Miss

I will miss watching Eat Street from the Food Network. That is the show that features foods from food trucks all over the US. I will also miss Dinner, Drive-in and Dives where Guy Fieri goes from one restaurant to another sampling their delicious food. I will also miss Nigella Lawson and Giada de Laurentis, two chefs more known for their cleavage.



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Spotlight

Beauty & the Best Comedian



Josephine Estrada stars in a 1962 VP Pictures’ “Tanzan The Mighty” with Jean Lopez and Dolphy.

Josephine Estrada

Josephine Estrada was one of those many beauty titleholders to grace the Philippine movie world in the 60s. Almost as soon she was voted Miss Luzon of 1960, Miss Aviation of 1961 and runner-up in the Miss Philippines pageant losing to eventual winner, Edita Vital by only one vote, Dr. Jose Perez of Sampaguita Pictures was already handing her a movie contract. She decided to skip her medical studies to pursue a movie acting career. She made Ginang Hukom, her debut movie, Sa Linggo ang Bola, The Big Broadcast, Tatlong Panata and Octavia.

In 1962, she finally represented the Philippines in the Miss Universe Pageant. With beauty, brain and talent, there was no turning back for Estrada from then on. She was given an important role and her biggest break in Bird of Paradise, together with two other beauty queens, Cynthia Ugalde and Sylvia Gumabao. With the proper guidance of his mother studio, her career zoomed, more movies followed--- Holiday in Bali, Tanzan the Mighty (with future comedy king in the making, Dolphy), Tanzan vs. Tarzan, Prinsipeng Tulisan, Anak ni Kamagong, Ang Rosaryo at ang Tabak, among others. Estrada went freelance sometime in 1965 and became the favorite leading lady of top actors that time--- Joseph Estrada in Tatak: Double Cross, Tony Ferrer in Sabotage and The Infiltrators, Bernard Bonnin in Hijack and Estranghero, Jun Aristorenas, Eddie Gutierrez, Vic Vargas, Eddie Mesa and others.



Culture Philippines to Highlight Pinoy Fiesta Cultural Show !

Watch the premier dance group in Canada, the Culture Philippines of Ontario, as they perform their repertoire of amazing performances that highlight Philippine Folk Dances like the tribal dances from the mountains of Cordillera to the fast and fun paced Tinikling of the low lands to the elegant Singkil from the shores of the Sulu Seas.

Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto on June 22 will be one big and exciting event not to miss this summer. Rain, Storm or Shine, all day entertainment will go on at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre Hall 'D' right at the door steps of the Union Station of Toronto. Over 100,000 square feet of space will be opened for all of you, complete with an endless activities and over 200 vendors and exhibitors provided by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto. Of course, this will include our favourite food vendors offering their sumptuous Filipino delicacies like Palabok, Lechon, Halo Halo and many more of our favourites, yummmmm!

The Highlight? The number one TV network in the Philippines, GMA Pinoy TV has once again promised to bring our favourite kapuso stars to entertain everyone. People have been clamoring for the stars from the teleserye “Temptation of Wife” or the hit shows “Eat Bulaga” and “ Party Filipinas” or even stars from the funny show “ Bubble Gang”... Who will it be? excitement and intrigue sure fills the air!

For more information visit www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com, www.torontopcct.com or email pinoyfiestatontario@gmail.com.

LAUGH RESORT



ESCAPE FROM PRISON

A man escapes from a prison where he's been locked up for 15 years

He breaks into a house and inside, he finds a young couple in bed.

He ties him to a chair. While tying the wife to the bed, the convict gets on top of her, kisses her neck, then gets up and goes into the bathroom.

While he's in there, the husband whispers over to his wife, "Listen, this guy is an escaped convict. Look at his clothes! He's probably spent a lot of time in jail and hasn't seen a woman in years."

I saw how he kissed your neck. If he wants sex, don't resist, don't complain. Do whatever he tells you. Satisfy him no matter how much he nauseates you. This guy is obviously very dangerous. If he gets angry, he'll kill us both. Be strong, honey. I love you!"

She responds: "He wasn't kissing my neck. He was whispering in my ear. He told me that he's gay, thinks you're cute, and asked if we had any Vaseline. I told him it was in the bathroom. Be strong honey. I love you, too."

Honey shot



Krista's favourite food is sushi. She stays in shape by with basketball, volleyball, karate and track and field. For relaxing, she listens to music. Someday, she wants to be a pediatrician. She is the daughter of Joe and Carol Bella.

Krista Bella



Alex Gonzaga is Kapamilya Again, Signs Contract with ABS-CBN

Alex Gonzaga returns to ABS-CBN after 5 years of being a Kapatid.

Alex Gonzaga's last projects with ABS-CBN were the primetime series "My Girl" which she co-starred with Gerald Anderson, Kim Chiu and Enchong Dee and "Tiny Tony" with John Prats in 2008.

Her first project with TV5 was the showbiz talk show "Juicy" and then became the Kapatid network's 'Primetime Princess' starring in various drama series like "Babaeng Hampaslupa," "P.S. I Love You," and "Enchanted Garden."

April 16, Alex returned to ABS-CBN. She officially signed a contract with the Kapamilya network Tuesday afternoon.

Present during the contract signing were her mom and manager Pinty Gonzaga, ABS-CBN President Charo Santos-Concio and ABS-CBN Channel Head Cory Vidanes.

Aside from a teleserye opposite Jericho Rosales, Alex will also be seen as co-host of her sister Toni Gonzaga in "The Voice of the Philippines. She will also be joining "ASAP 18" and "Banana Split."

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Filipino World

Living it High in Macau

Macau, a sparkling metropolis at night, is home to thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Famously described as the Las Vegas in Asia, the city bustles with activity day and night, with well-heeled tourists flocking to its five-star casinos and first-class hotels.

There are an estimated 30,000 Filipinos working in Macau, half of them as domestic helpers and the rest as professional workers and casino and hotel employees.

Acting Labor Attaché Ramon Pastrana, with his staff, tries to keep the number of labor disputes to a minimum by enforcing strictly the standard work contracts for OFWs issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

While the standard contracts call for \$400 (about P17,000) the minimum monthly salary for domestic workers, some employers pay their domestic workers as much as 6,000 patacas (P30,000).

Esperanza Salangad, a native of Bolingit, San Carlos City, Pangasinan, is one of the highly-paid OFWs in Macau. As a resident or white card holder in Macau for the last 10 years, she works in the security department of the five-star Wynn Casino with a princely monthly salary of 15,000 patacas (P75,000).



Philippine welfare officer and acting labor attaché, Ramon Pastrana, checks on conditions of Filipino workers in the gaming city.

He said there are not so many legally and physically distressed OFWs, compared with those in other countries, particularly in the Middle East.

“We encourage mediation and conciliation as the modes for settling labor complaints of OFWs against their employers,” Pastrana said. “The results are impressive.”

As a retired labor attaché, I saw a big difference in the attitudes of OFWs in Macau with those of OFWs in the Middle East, particularly Kuwait.

I was greeted with warm smiles by OFWs I had met in Macau, an indication that they were enjoying their work. In Kuwait, I saw a big number of Filipino domestic workers who had run away from their cruel employers and were kept in an Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) welfare center in the Philippine Embassy.

It is really a matter of luck for Filipinos leaving their country to work abroad. Some found themselves in hostile destinations and others in friendly and hospitable countries with civil and understanding employers.



LAS VEGAS SANDS casino sits behind the Fisherman’s Wharf in Macau, one of two administrative territories of China.

She rents an apartment near the business center of Macau, subleasing two rooms to other Filipino workers. With her salary, she has invested a modest amount in buying real estate in her hometown.

She had funded the college education of two nephews, who are now civil engineers and gainly employed in Manila.

Esperanza had worked as a DH (domestic helper) in Hong Kong for 10 years and became a Macau resident when she married a Filipino white card holder in the small Chinese territory.

“Many Filipino maids work either as stay-in or stay-out DHs and their salaries differ, depending on the financial capacity of their employers,” she said.

I met a Filipino waiter working in the Hard Rock Hotel during my recent visit to Macau. He told me his boss is a Filipino working as the manager of the hotel restaurant with a big salary.

My daughter, Tita, who works as administrative assistant in the labor office at the Philippine General Consulate in Macau, introduced me to three Filipino women working in the front desk of the AIA Tower, where the Philippine Consulate is located.

I visited the labor office and saw a large crowd of vacationing workers queueing for their overseas exit clearances (OECs).

Pastrana said an average of two hundred workers come to the Consulate daily to secure OECs. I asked him for the deployment figure of Filipinos coming to Macau and he said the hiring of OFWs has been steady but not as large as the figures in Hong Kong.

“If the hiring trend continues,” he said, “I will not be surprised if the number of OFWs in Macau will peak to as high as 50,000 in the next two years.”



We’re just Roommates

A Mom visits her son for dinner who lives with a girl roommate.

During the course of the meal, his mother couldn’t help but notice how pretty his roommate was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between the two, and this had only made her more curious....

Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact, she started to wonder if there was more between him and his roommate than met the eye.

Reading his mom’s thoughts, his son volunteered,

“I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, we are just roommates.”

About a week later, his roommate came to him saying,

“Ever since your mother came to dinner, I’ve been unable to find the silver plate. You don’t suppose she took it, do you?”

He said, “Well, I doubt it, but I’ll email her, just to be sure.” He sat down and wrote :

Dear Mother:

I’m not saying that you ‘did’ take the silver plate from my house, I’m not saying that you ‘did not’ take the silver plate But the fact remains that it has been missing ever since you were here for dinner.

Love,
your son.

Several days later, he received an email from his Mother which read:

Dear Son:

I’m not saying that you ‘do’ sleep with your roommate, and I’m not saying that you ‘do not’ sleep with her.

But the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her OWN bed, she would have found the silver plate by now, under her pillow...

Love,
Mom.

Knights of Rizal Scarborough Chapter 21st Anniversary



LEFT, Guests at the 21st anniversary of the Knights of Rizal Scarborough chapter pose for a picture. RIGHT, Guest are delighted to pose with our beloved Toronto Consul General Junever Mahilum-West (6th FROM RIGHT STANDING)



“TEMPTATION OF WIFE”

Cast members, STARS AT PINOY FIESTA!



Award Winning actor and singer, Dennis Trillo, will lead the star studded attraction at the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto on June 22, 2012 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre... as announced by Rosemer Enverga, Marketing Consultant for GMA Pinoy TV, the number one TV network in the Philippines. Supporting Dennis in the much awaited summer event in Toronto are the equally talented actress and singer, Glaiza de Castro and best supporting actor and dancer, Rafael Rosell.

An extremely strong group of talents that will surely add to the enjoyment of everyone in the whole day summer entertainment galore. Attraction for the

summer Fiesta will include the much acclaimed and premier dance company, Culture Philippines of Ontario, the most glamorous and most prestigious Santa Cruzan of them all to be led by the beauties of the Miss Philippines Canada, Little Miss Philippines Canada and the Mrs. Philippines Canada and the biggest indoor Pinoy Cuisine extravaganza. The famous, Ati Atihan and the authentic Ifugao performances and so many more will surely entertain everyone all day and evening long.

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Wife, being the romantic sort, sent her husband a text: "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams.

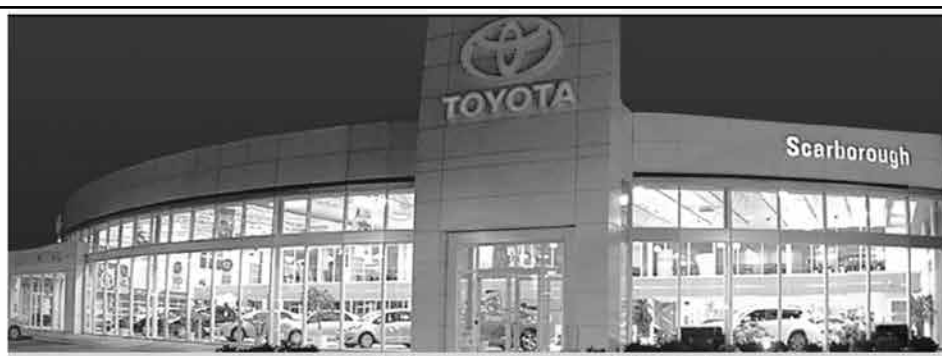
If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears.

I love you!"

The husband, typically non-romantic, replied, "I'm on the toilet. Please advise."



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Knights of Rizal Scarborough Chapter 21st Anniversary

Toronto, February 26, 2013 - The Knights of Rizal Scarborough chapter held their 21st anniversary dinner last April 20. With Hawaiian as a motif, everybody was in their best casual Hawaiian attire. Even our beloved Consul-General Junever Mahilum-West, who appears in a lot of events that she can squeeze in her tight schedule managed to show her spirit of solidarity with her outfit that straddles casual and formal at the same time. Here's to the KOR and may they have more power to continue their good deeds of upholding the spirit of our national hero Jose Rizal and also doing their charity work.

KOR chapter commander Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota (MIDDLE) pose with PCCF's Bing Marasigan (2nd FROM LEFT) Congen Junever Mahilum-West (4th FROM LEFT) and Sir George Poblete, Rizal Canada Region Commander.



Fake Time Cover fools Newspaper



MANILA, Philippines - A top Philippine newspaper was taken in by a spoof cover of Time magazine depicting President Benigno Aquino with his mouth agape, running the picture on its front page.

"We stand corrected. It was an honest mistake," said a short statement issued by the Inquirer's editor-in-chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc.

She did not say who gave the paper the picture, which had the Filipino leader saying in its caption: "I'm just the face of the whole country."

The picture however remained on the

paper's website for one whole day.

Time named Aquino on its annual list of the "100 Most Influential People in the World".

But he was not among the seven on the list who graced the covers of the magazine's US and global editions, according to the magazine's website.

The Spin Busters, a satirical website that focuses on local press issues, was the first to call out the fake cover, though the error was also pointed out by readers in the comments section of the paper's website.

"It's a faux Time cover not even his mother probably would have loved," Spin Busters said, while calling for the sacking of newspaper staff behind the mistake.

Aquino spokesman Ricky Carandang told AFP he did not wish to comment.

In the magazine, Time praised Aquino, son of the late Filipino leader and democracy icon Corazon Aquino, for "making his own name".

"The sputtering economy stabilised and became hot. Aquino pushed through a reproductive-rights law that many said was impossible in the fervently Catholic nation," it said.

"Most important, he became the face of the regional confrontation with Beijing over its claim to virtually all of the South China Sea. It is a brave stance, the long-term consequences still unknown."

Liberals shower Cebu with promises

LAPU-LAPU CITY— Taking his relentless campaigning for his chosen candidates to opposition-held Cebu, President Benigno Aquino III announced P27 billion worth of good news for the vote-rich province.

Among the big-ticket infrastructure projects being lined up for the Cebuanos is the Mactan Island Circumferential Road in Lapu-Lapu City that will widen the existing road network and improve access from the Mactan Cebu International Airport to various resorts on Mactan island.

The biggest of these projects in terms of cost is the proposed Mactan Cebu International Airport passenger terminal building, which has a budget of P17.5 billion.

The rest of the projects include a new P1.3-billion Naga power substation; the P1.4-billion Cebu City-San Remegio road improvement project; the P702-million Carmen bulk water project; the P20-million master plan study for the Metro Cebu drainage system; and the P166-million management information project of the Cebu Port Authority.

Earlier, Mr. Aquino presided at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the P3.7-billion Mactan circumferential road project at Barangay Ibo in Lapu-Lapu



City before picking up his campaign schedule in the province, attending scheduled rallies for the administration-allied tickets in the cities of Bogu, Toledo and Cebu.

Public works Undersecretary Romeo Momo said the Mactan island circumferential road project will cover 26 kilometers. The road will start and end in Barangay Ibo and traverse the municipality of Cordova. One kilometer of the road network will have five lanes, two kilometers will have four lanes and the rest will have two lanes.

An initial P300 million has been released—P100 million for road right of way acquisition and P200 million for the construction of a 2.15-km four-lane asphalt pavement, including lanes for bicycles, jogging and plant boxes.

In a speech at the ground-breaking ceremony, Mr. Aquino said the road will cut down the travel time from Cebu City to Lapu-Lapu City by 15 minutes.

He said the project aimed to increase tourist arrivals and encourage more investments on Mactan island.

He said the proposed Mactan Cebu International Airport passenger terminal building project would increase the airport capacity from the two million a year at present to 10 million.

Another wholesome drama series premieres today on GMA network



RAYMART SANTIAGO and Roxanne Guinoo with the rest of the cast of GMA 7's 'Home Sweet Home'

Premiering last April 22, on GMA 7, is an engaging drama series for the whole family, aptly titled "Home Sweet Home." A wholesome program, it is not only packed with magical and fun-filled adventures that kids and adults alike can relate to, it also actively promotes traditional Pinoy values and practices.

Leading the cast is celebrity dad Raymart Santiago who has previously starred in the network's family-friendly programs "Bantatay" and "Futbolilits." Raymart tackles another endearing role as Reden Caharian, a devoted husband and responsible father

who loves his family more than anything.

Joining Raymart is celebrity mom Roxanne Guinoo, who portrays Raymart's adorable wife Dulce in the series. The 27-year-old mother of two in real-life is raring to make a comeback via her first show in GMA.

The Kapuso Station's sought-after "Tween" stars – Jake Vargas and Bea Binene – rekindle their on-screen tandem in the family drama as they play the roles of Benjie and Lucy, respectively.

Playing equally vital roles are three of the network's lovable child stars – Jillian Ward as Jessie, Arkin Magalona as Arko, and the newest Kapuso child actor Rain Quite as Ivan.

Adding star power to this heartwarming Kapuso offering are Gladys Reyes as

Agoncilla, Rochelle Pangilinan as Wendy, Arthur Solinap as Kulas, Patricia Ismael as Mikay, and Ms. Celia Rodriguez as Pandora.

Making "Home Sweet Home" even grander is the special participation of award-winning actress Ms. Lorna Tolentino.

Under the helm of Director Gil Tejada, Jr., with original concept by RJ Nuevas, the creative storyline and beautiful visuals of "Home Sweet Home" bring to Filipino homes a one-of-a-kind adventure that viewers, most especially the young ones, will surely enjoy watching.

Experience an exciting and wonderful adventure at the comfort of your own homes via "Home Sweet Home" on GMA.

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Philippines

PH faces water crisis in 5 Years, lawmakers warn



‘FREE WATER’ IN DOWNTOWN MANILA – Residents turn part of downtown Manila into their own bathroom as they make the most of free water coming from a leaking pipe in Plaza Lacson, Sta. Cruz, Manila, yesterday. (Michael Varcas)

Manila, Philippines --- Filipinos face a water crisis in five years. Team PNoy senatorial bet Edgardo “Sonny” Angara and Bagong Henerasyon Party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy issued this warning yesterday as they called on Congress to swiftly act on a bill that would address the water security problem the country is likely to face in the next five years. Angara and Herrera-Dy said government action is needed

immediately if the country is to be saved from a water crisis of the same magnitude as the power crisis now gripping Mindanao. The two lawmakers said water rationing is likely to take place in many parts of the country if no action is taken to address the country’s diminishing water sources in the country. Angara and Herrera-Dy disclosed that at least 17 million Filipinos still do not have access to safe water yet with only one-third of the country’s river systems classified as possible sources of public water supply. They also cited an Asian Development Bank study released last month naming the Philippines

in the list of Asia-Pacific countries that will likely face a water crisis unless swift action is taken by the government to address the situation. “The poor will suffer most in the event that water supply comes short and the cost of the commodity starts to soar,” Herrera-Dy warned. Angara and Herrera-Dy are the principal authors of HB 4137 which seeks to create the Water Regulatory Commission (WRC), an independent superbody that would rationalize the economic and administrative regulation of water utilities. The WRC is envisioned to take over the regulatory functions of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the National Water Regulatory Board (NWRB) and the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) even as it takes the lead in identifying and developing new sources of water. HB 4137 would impose a 12-percent return of investment cap for water supply and distribution to businesses to ensure the availability of cheap and clean water to the public. Angara and Herrera-Dy revealed that HB 4137 has been included in the list of legislative priorities identified by the Legislative-Executive Advisory Council but was not passed due to lack of time.



Anne Curtis not ready to settle down

TELEVISION host Anne Curtis said that she’s not ready yet to settle down anytime soon. The “It’s Showtime” host said she plans to study an Early Education course, as she dreams to become a preschool teacher, before jumping into marriage. “I always have a heart for children. I don’t know if it’s because of ‘Showtime’ that I’m always exposed to kids, I always have a lot of patience for them. I believe that’s a profession I could excel in if I wasn’t in this industry,” she said. “I don’t think I could have kids and be a pre-school teacher at the same time. Enjoy muna yung pagiging pre-school teacher then settle down,” she said. Anne said that she and boyfriend Erwann Heussaff has lots of dreams yet to fulfill. They know that getting married will just come along their way, she said. “No. Not anytime soon. We both have so many dreams... personal dreams that we want to pursue, kaya hindi pa,” she added. But when that special day comes, the actress said she wants to get married during sunset. Anne said she is happy when she is with her boyfriend of three years and shared that is close to his family. Erwann is the brother of Anne’s friend, Solenn. When asked about the secret of their relationship, Anne replied: “It’s about making time, being patient and wanting to make it work. Yun lang naman yun. Yung sinasabi na hindi kayang pagsabayin ang career and love life, if you really want to make it work, you will make it work.”

RP Economy stays Resilient

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expecting the Philippine economy to remain resilient on robust domestic demand with inflation within the target band. In its latest assessment on the Philippines, the IMF says adjustment to large persistent inflows is set to continue, further narrowing the current account. However, the global economy presents a downside risk to Philippine growth. On the domestic front, overly rapid credit extension, with intensified real estate activity and stretched asset prices, could accelerate

gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the near term, but make it more volatile in the longer run. The IMF has recommended that with macroeconomic conditions on a solid footing, low interest rates and ample funding should be harnessed to foster sustained, more inclusive growth, while vigilance and deft policymaking are needed to contain stability risks. Allowing the exchange rate to continue to move broadly in line with fundamentals would limit further reserve buildup beyond

already very high levels. A mix of tools should be used to enhance liquidity management and complement interest rate decisions in strengthening monetary control, the IMF said. The IMF noted that focusing financial sector oversight on real estate, loan concentration, and nonbank intermediation would limit the buildup of systemic risks. Broadening and strengthening the legal authority of the Bangko Sentral and raising its capital, are required. The IMF says that continuing to mobilize

fiscal revenue while stabilizing the deficit at 2 percent of GDP would fund increased spending for inclusive growth and strengthen resilience of public finances to shocks. Improving the investment climate by allowing more foreign ownership, timely and transparent execution of PPPs, and adopting a continuously rolling medium term fiscal plan would promote foreign direct investment, expand competition, relieve infrastructure bottlenecks, and catalyze private investment in productive sectors.

IPEN’s Coronation



LEFT, IPEN’s Impressario Edgar Sulit looks on as Krista Bella is crowned Prettiest Filipina of Toronto. MIDDLE, Meghan Garvida models a swimsuit. RIGHT, Maria Panaligan performs at the coronation.

Filipino World

Paper Dolls

Meet the real Paper Dolls behind the hit London show



Chiqui and Angela in their trademark flamboyant costumes

LONDON - The exuberant tale of a group of Filipino migrants in Israel has dazzled theatre audiences in London, including some of the real people who inspired the true story on stage.

Paper Dolls, a new play with music by American writer Philip Himberg, tells the story of five gay and transexual Filipinos in Tel Aviv, who work as warm care-givers by day and feisty club performers at night.

The show, which debuted at Tricycle Theatre in February, was inspired by an award-winning 2006 documentary of the same name, directed by Tomer Heymann, featuring the complicated lives of real Filipino overseas workers in Israel.

Some of the original members, whose characters are central to the play, are now based in England, including brothers Chiqui (played by Ron Domingo) and Jojo Diokno (played by Jon Norman Schneider), and their friend and fellow member Angela Libas (played by Angelo Paragoso).

"It's very accurate," said Jojo about the play while speaking to ABS-CBN Europe. "I feel so proud and nervous. I cried when I watched it, because I never thought that

my character on that play will become a big role."

His brother, Chiqui, the self-confessed leader of the group, added: "I'm happy [about Paper Dolls]. I never thought we'd be in this position. It's like being famous."

Angela, formerly known as Janjan before she became a transexual woman, also said: "We have rights as gays and transexuals. This [play] is our true story. It's about what happened to us in our lives."

With their lives immortalized on film and on stage, the group has come a long way from their humble beginnings in the Philippines, and their journey has taught them a few things along the way.

"I learned so many things, like how to respect,

how to love, and how to appreciate people. And whatever happens, whatever it takes, just be strong," said Jojo, who now works as a nurse at a hospital in London.

Angela, now a healthcare assistant at a Jewish nursing home, added: "As a gay man, and now as a transexual, I was able to develop over the years. There were much more discrimination before, but here in London, I was able to become the real me."

"Not all gays are the same," said Chiqui, who also works as a nurse. "I want people to accept us for who we are, just like the way we are in the play."

After acclaim in the club circuit of Tel Aviv, where they lived and worked for nearly a decade, followed by a brief stint in the London scene for a few years, where some of them moved afterwards, the original Paper Dolls have now been off the stage for sometime, mostly due to work and geography.

"The feeling is very different compared to when we were in Israel," said Jojo, who recently celebrated his 40th birthday.

"When we were in Israel, we do have

lots of time, going out, seeing each other, almost everyday. But when we moved here in London, we actually had a hectic schedule so we haven't got time to see each other."

For Chiqui, their passion and glittery life on stage live on through his memory, revealing: "I really miss Israel: all my friends, all the Paper Dolls. We didn't end up in the same place after all."

While some found a new life in the UK and the Philippines, one original member was not so lucky. Their friend Salvador Camatoy, affectionately known as Sally, one of the pivotal characters in both the documentary and the play, became the victim of a tragic crime, highlighting the potential dangers faced by LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) migrant workers in more traditional countries.

He was found lifeless after being bludgeoned to death in Dubai in 2007, a year after the documentary gained praise at film festivals around the world.

The remaining members dedicated the success of the play to Camatoy.

"I know [Sally] can hear me. I'm sure she's very happy with how far Paper Dolls have gone, of all the things we've achieved all these years," said Chiqui.

Jojo added: "Sally is one of the most important characters in Paper Dolls. He did very well during the documentary. And if he's alive today, I know he'll appreciate the play."

The play, directed by Indhu Rubasingham, has been extended for two extra weeks due to popular demand, and it continues to entertain audiences with its true story of friendship, love, tradition, family, identity, sexuality, migration and showbusiness.

"I just want to say thank you to Philip Himberg for doing this musical play, which we really appreciate a lot. I would also like to thank my co-Paper Dolls. We're still here and we're still having fun," remarked Jojo.

Angela concluded: "Thank you to everyone who watched the play. And for those who haven't, I hope you'll find Paper Dolls and see our story."



Antidynasty movement moves into Singson country

VIGAN CITY – The civil society group, Movement Against Dynasties (MAD), on Sunday took their crusade to the province controlled for the last three decades by the influential Singson clan.

MAD made its presence felt at a 9 a.m. Mass in St. Paul's Metropolitan Cathedral in this capital, led by its chair, Quintin San Diego, and its Ilocos chapter chair, Edgar Bacungan.

Addressing a crowd from the pulpit, San Diego said the movement is nonpartisan, nonsectarian and purely voluntary, and is motivated only by the constitutional provision banning dynasties, which many believe, continues to be violated.

San Diego cited Section 26, Article 2 of the Constitution, which says: "The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties, as may be defined by law."

San Diego said MAD has been campaigning nationwide to gather 5.2 million signatures for a petition urging Congress to enact a law prohibiting political dynasties.

"It is now the people who will vigorously campaign for their leaders, lawmakers and politicians to pay respect and obey the law, and to end dynasties," he said.

San Diego said a people's initiative is the only option left "as provided for under Republic Act No. 6735 (The Initiative and Referendum Act)."

The MAD contingent wore red shirts bearing phrases like "Isa lang kada angkan (Just one per clan)" and "Hindi negosyo ang pwesto sa gobyerno (A position in government is not a business opportunity)."

Bacungan said MAD also campaigned in La Union, where the Ortega clan is most influential.

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Welcoming Spring

For some reason, winter keeps reminding us that we will not get spring that easy. Just when everyone is ready to chuck their winterwear to the closet, comes a blast of chill in the air that winter seems to be saying, "you won't get rid of me that easily. However, Filipinos find time to welsome spring their own way.



TOP LEFT, Eva Agpaoa strikes a pose in front of her "Eva Salon and Spa" at 3177 Bathurst Street on April 6, 2013 grand opening. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS • BOTTOM LEFT, Congen Junever Mahilum-West takes to the floor with KOR Canada commander George Poblete. BOTTOM RIGHT, Gabrielle & Jillian, granddaughters of Bert & Nellie Mondragon of the Knights of Rizal attend the KOR 21 st anniversary.

The Knights of Rizal Scarborough chapter headed by Sir Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota held their 21st anniversary party with the theme of Hawaiian. What better way to welcome spring than with casual

wear? Eva Agpaoa decided to wlecome spring by opening her own salon at 3177 Bathurst Street. It was attended by family, friends and dignitaries from the Filipino community. May her

business, like spring, bloom and grow.

It's Filipino event season again when everyone comes out and find a reason to enjoy the warm weather.

KOR Meet the Senator



Knights of Rizal hold a luncheon meeting with Senator Tobia Enverga at Woodside mall. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

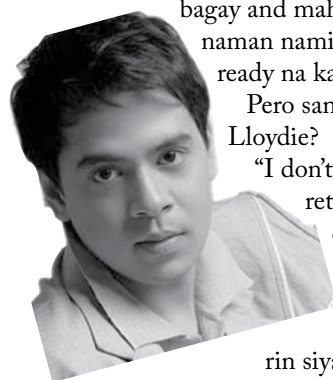


Angelica Panganiban:

John Lloyd will retire when he's ready

Natanong namin ang aktres kung napag-uusapan na ba nila ni Lloydie ang kasal since may dialogue nga ang aktor na gusto niyang mag-retire at an early age.

"Hindi pa naman. I think, masyadong personal ang mga ganyang bagay and mahirap 'yan pag-usapan. Siguro nakikita naman namin kung doon kami papunta or kung ready na kami."



Pero sang-ayon ba siya sa early retirement ni Lloydie?

"I don't think na 'yung sinasabi niyang early retirement, eh, magre-retire na siya bukas or next year, 'di ba? Siguro, ang ibig lang niyang sabihin, hindi niya siguro nakikita 'yung sarili niya na puti na ang buhok niya, eh, nagtatrabaho pa rin siya."

Marriage is not yet in the offing in 26-year-old dramatic actress Angelica Panganiban's relationship with actor John Lloyd Cruz, but when it happens, she stresses that a prenuptial agreement won't be necessary.

"I don't think nag-ma-matter siya alam mo kasi 'yun 'yung bagay na pinag-uusapan ng dalawang taong ikakasal kung saan sila comfortable. Kung salungat man kayo ng paniniwala pero kung mahal nyo ang isa't isa, mag-adjust kayo. Mag meet kayo in-between, kung hindi eh di mag-adjust 'yung under," explained Angelica laughing. "Sa akin, hindi siya importante kung meron or wala."

As for Angelica and John Lloyd fans, a movie for them together is not possible yet.

"Bago naman naging kami may gagawin kami dapat eh noong naging kami na, hindi na namin siya magawa eh nailang kami saka mahirap parang hindi pa naman siguro, hindi pa kami ready, siguro pagdating ng panahon," smiled Angelica.

Xian gives Kim a promise ring on her birthday

Kim, radiant in her off-white gown with silver accents, was wearing a pair of dangling earrings. But they're not the ones Xian gave her.



"I kept them at home," she revealed.

Kim spent her own money for the cash prizes she gave to her 400-strong fans that night. They had a talent showdown, went home with loot bags and had a sumptuous dinner.

A grateful Kim said it's her way of paying back fans who always defend her from bashers and never fail to support her show. "Ako naman ang magpapa-party sa kanila ngayon," she explained.

As for Maja Salvador, with whom she had a falling out after learning that she's dating Gerald Anderson (Kim's ex), the birthday girl made an admission.

"It's easy to forgive but it's hard to forget," Kim told "The Buzz" host Boy Abunda on Sunday, April 21.

She tearfully added, "Mahirap malimutan ang ginawa nila sa akin."

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Live-in caregiver's coma leaves her daughters' future in limbo

Maricon Gerente dreamed of bringing her two young daughters here from the Philippines. They're by her bedside now, but she may never know.

TORONTO - Maricon Gerente has long dreamed of having her two daughters join her in Canada from the Philippines. The girls have finally arrived, at least temporarily, but she may never know it.

The 44-year-old Oakville woman has been in a coma since she underwent two surgeries to remove a benign brain tumour.

Lean, 14, and sister Saniel, 11, arrived Canada this week to visit their mother and are burdened with the task of deciding, with input from other relatives, if they should tell doctors to let her go peacefully.

"We brought the girls here to see their mother before she became a memory for them," said Aileen Banzon Tan, Gerente's cousin, who escorted the girls to Canada. "We'll have to set a time to stop Maricon's medication. We don't want to see her suffer any more."

Photos View gallery zoom

Working in Canada as a live-in caregiver since 2008, Gerente, the breadwinner for the girls and her siblings, has been waiting to get permanent resident status in Canada since 2011.

She was so close to fulfilling her dream. Two days after she went into the coma, immigration officials tried to contact her for an interview regarding her application.

Her passing will put Lean's and Saniel's future in limbo.

Eli and Jodie Gilbert, Gerente's former employers and now friends, are trying to help the dying woman's hopes for her daughters come true.

The Oakville couple set up an Aeroplan Charitable Pooling Account to accept



Ma Concepcion Ala Gerente, known to her family and friends as Maricon, in her hospital bed, with her former employer Jodie Gilbert and her two daughters, Lean and Saniel, at her bedside.

donated points to cover the plane tickets for the trio. A trust fund has been established to raise money to help support the young girls.

"It's just so sad — all these women like Maricon have to move away and work so hard to provide for their family back home and bring them here," said Jodie Gilbert. "She's spent her entire life doing that, looking after others' children while away from her own."

Gerente, who is divorced for the girl's father, left them in her care when they were still infants, working as a caregiver in Paris before coming to Canada because this country could offer her a pathway for permanent status.

While working for the Gilberts, she spent her evenings taking classes in a two-year program to become a personal support worker. She left the family's employ in 2011, when she had met the live-in requirement and obtained an open work permit.

"She believes this is the place for the future of her children," Tan said.

Lean and Saniel last saw their mother in the summer of 2012 and were told she had already started collecting items her girls would need when they joined her in Canada.

However, in October, Gerente was hit by a debilitating headache. The Gilberts, who remained good friends, took her to

Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, which transferred her to Trillium Health Centre in Mississauga. A tumour the size of a mandarin was found in her brain. She has been in a "chronic vegetative state" since then.

"It's hard to see her like this. I can't imagine her in bed. She was a strong woman," said Lean, who, along with her sister, attends a private school because Gerente wanted them to have the best education.

"She always talks about the dream of all of us being in Canada. She says she loves Canada because it is good for the kids and the people are very kind."

Tan said the family plans to spread half of Gerente's ashes in Canada and take the other half to the Philippines. "This is the place where she wants to be forever."

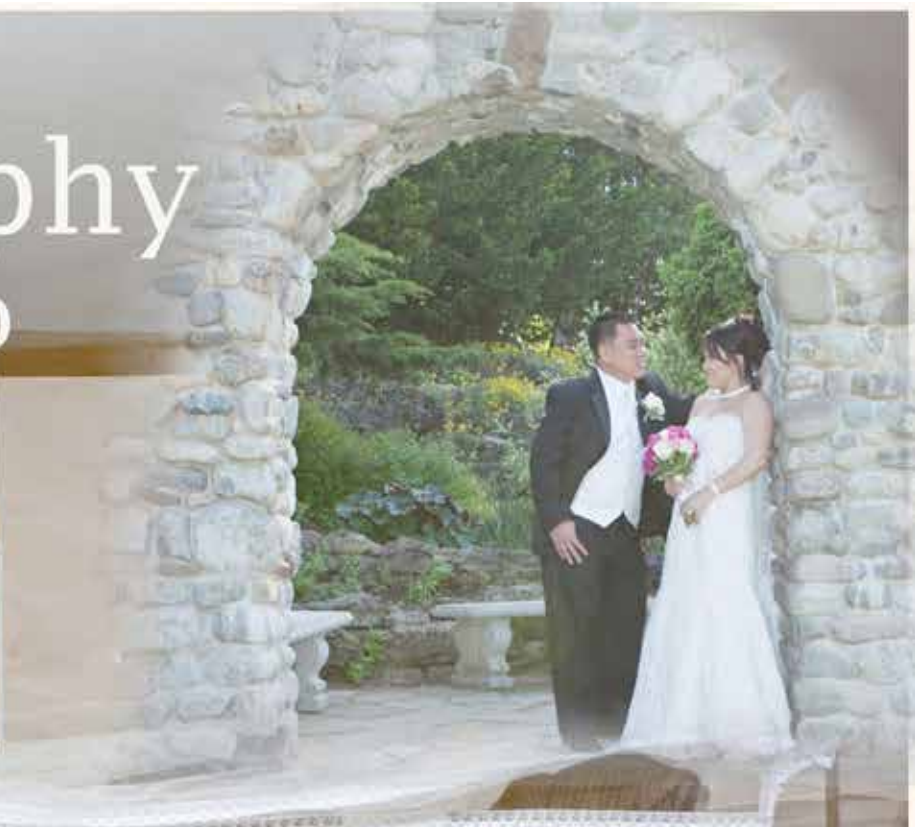
An immigration application usually terminates with the death of the applicant, but there have been exceptional cases where processing of dependants proceeds, under humanitarian and compassionate considerations.

Gerente's daughters said they want to live in Canada. But their case would be very complicated as they are still minors, with a living parent back in the Philippines, and have no immediate family in Canada.

Contributions to the girls' air mileage can be made to the charitable pooling account 771296605. Donations can be made to the Bank of Montreal, at the account 2472-897-8219, or through Interac and e-transfers to maricontrust@icloud.com .

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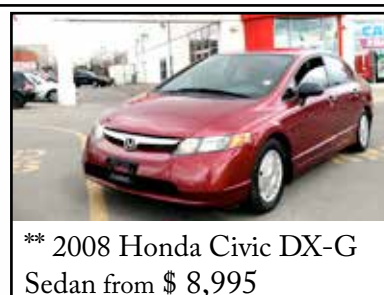
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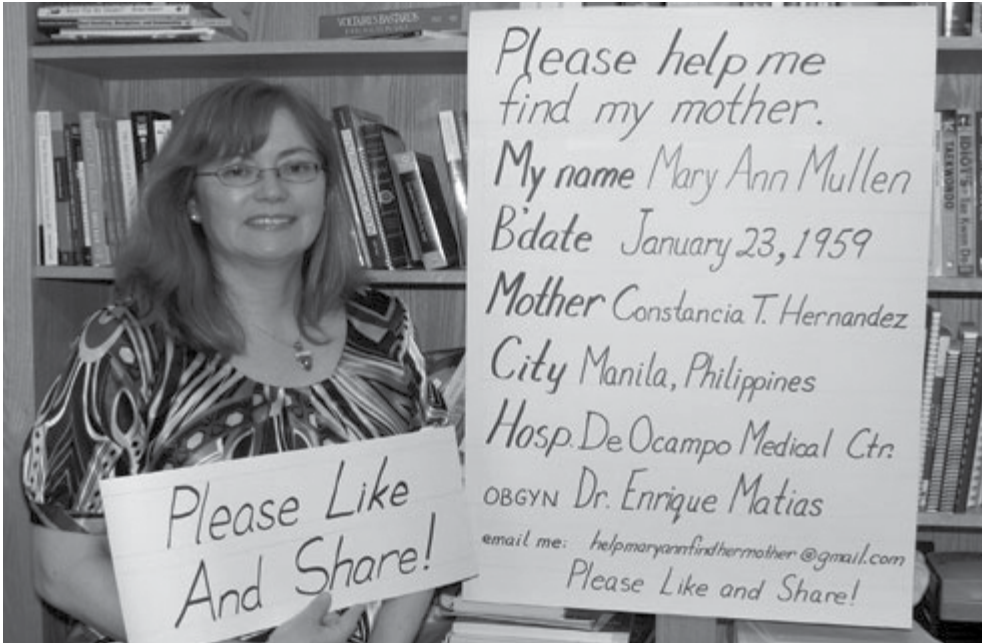
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Canadian woman searching for Filipina mom

MANILA, Philippines - For nearly five decades, Mary Ann Hernandez Mullen believed that she was the natural child of her Canadian parents. But recently, she found documents that led her to the truth: she was adopted and her real mother is a Filipina. Mullen, who was born in the Philippines in the late 1950s, was already 49 years old when she discovered that she was an adoptee. She obtained her original birth certificate, adoption papers, and various documents from both the Philippine and Canadian governments. “Everyone in my adoptive family knew, but I was the last to find out,” Mullen said in a website (constanciabayonhernandez.com) she created for her search for her biological mother, Constancia Tibayon Hernandez, who still lives in the Philippines as the Fil-Canadian believes.

Mullen also learned that she has an older brother and sister named Jose and Normina Hernandez, who was born in 1939. “I would dearly love to find them and meet them,” she said. Mullen was born at the De Ocampo Memorial Medical Center in Pasay City in January 1959.

Her father, Frank Mullen, worked for Mobil Oil and was a supervisor of the company’s Pandacan Terminal while her adoptive mother, Lydia Mullen, was a Russian émigré and a housewife, “who played mahjong with the other ladies in her neighbourhood.” Mullen said they lived first in Pasay City and then moved later to Forbes Park and Belair. Constancia lived with the two Canadians at 245 Loring Street in Pasay City, according to Mullen.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Mullen also attended the International School (American School) in Manila. During those years, several people would repeatedly ask her if she had an identical “sister,” which she would “vehemently” deny.

“I was brought up as an only child and believed that I did not have any siblings. I had asked my adoptive mother several times if I was adopted, but was always told that I wasn’t,” Mullen said.

Allice also has a godmother, Allice T. Warren, who is a friend of her adopted mother Lydia. “Allice also knew my natural mother quite well. I have heard that she kept in touch with Constancia long after my family left Manila,” Mullen said of Warren, who moved to Hong Kong in the 1970s.

Mullen said she wants to find out what happened to her mother and siblings even if they don’t wish to meet her. “She doesn’t know I am looking for her, and her other family members may not even know I exist,” Mullen admitted.

“I understand they may have emigrated to the United States or another country. Or they may have remained in the Philippines,” she added. But as she searches for Constancia, Mullen confessed that she holds no hatred towards her biological mother. “Rest assured, I have no hard feelings towards Constancia. I only want to know the woman who brought me into this world,” Mullen said.

Filipinos, among first responders to Boston bombing

BOSTON — Last April 17 evening, Angel Matteo, a Boston Marathon volunteer, said he was on his way to a stress debriefing. “I haven’t been to a war or something but this seems to be like that,” said Matteo. Nurse Eden Gianan admitted that behind her smiles was an overwhelming sense of sadness. “I’m in shock and I just go to work and I’m always in tears,” said Gianan. And Tricia Pimentel said that from here on she will never look at Boston, the city she calls home for 20 years, the same way again. Pimentel may not know the other two Filipino-Americans, but a single tragedy binds all of them. Gianan, the president of the Philippine Nursing Association of New England, and Matteo were both volunteers at the medical tent at the Monday’s Boston marathon. Matteo, who started his day giving first aid to sore dehydrated runners, ended up treating bloodied victims with missing limbs. “Blood all over the place; left and right. You don’t even think about fear, you see them coming to you in shock,” said Matteo. Gianan was attending to a runner when the explosion happened. “After that, [I realized] that life is really special,” said Gianan. Pimentel was there to watch the prestigious race—as she does every year—because it’s in her neighborhood. She lives a few blocks away from the finish line and said she was lucky enough to have left an hour before the bomb went off. “Boston, I feel, is the safest town and it’s just never going to be the same,” said Pimentel.



HAGEDORN He turned Palawan into an ecotourism haven, its capital into the “City of God in a Forest.”

Gangster turned Green Mayor

MANILA, Philippines—Now that he is a reformed environmental champion, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn has no qualms about admitting during campaign rallies that he used to destroy Palawan’s forests. “We were the first loggers, the first mining claimant (in Palawan). We used to shoot down birds for no reason. We cut down trees regardless of their kind. I was a bandit before,” he said. According to his 1996 biopic, which starred the late action star Fernando Poe Jr., before he became city mayor, Hagedorn and his brothers led a “gangster” lifestyle. Hagedorn admits he had no plans of giving up his lucrative businesses, including illegal gambling, when he was asked to run for mayor in 1992. When the then Palawan Bishop, who is now Pasig Bishop Emeritus Francisco San Diego, and former seminary rector Msgr. Jose Delfin asked him to sign a covenant to stop jueteng, Hagedorn recalled he merely obliged to get their support. “I was planning to trick them. But my conscience hit me and I couldn’t do it,” he said. Twenty-one years later, no one is more surprised than the 66-year-old Puerto Princesa mayor by the city’s and his own personal turnaround.

A changed life “I’m very happy with how his life has turned out. He was a bad guy before. But his life has changed,” said Parañaque barangay councilor Cesar de Leon. De Leon was interviewed at a recent campaign rally in Parañaque organized by Hagedorn’s childhood friends from his Tambo hometown where he was born in 1946. While not one to wear religion on his sleeve, Hagedorn is unequivocal in attributing to Divine Providence Puerto Princesa’s successful turnaround from an unknown, backward city to an urbanized ecotourism showcase in such a short time. He recalled that when he delivered his inaugural speech after his landslide win as Puerto Princesa’s first non-Palaweno mayor, he found himself rambling not knowing what he was saying. “When I reviewed the tape, I saw that I had promised to stop all illegal activities in Puerto Princesa. Many were dismayed. I said out of gratitude I will protect the natural resources,” he said. “That was the turning point of my life. So I think it was the Lord who put the words in my mouth,” he said. He gave up logging and jueteng and went after the “untouchables” engaged in environmentally destructive activities.

Cosmetic surgery for Angeline Quinto.

Ayon sa ulat ng ABS-CBN News, ipapagawa ng Kapamilya talent ang kanyang ilong, mata, pisngi, kili-kili at likod sa celebrity doctor na si Vicki Belo. Isa si Angeline sa mga endorsers ng Belo Medical Group na pag-aari ni Dra. Vicki. Ayon kay Angeline, napagdesisyonan daw niyang ipaayos ang kanyang ilong dahil maraming nagsasabing “disproportionate” ito sa laki ng kanyang mukha. “Matagal ko nang sinasabi na sana, kung may chance, mapagawa ko ‘yong ilong ko,” pag-amin ng singer-actress. “Kasi dati pa naman marami nang nagsasabi sa akin na parang hindi raw proportion ‘yong ilong ko sa mukha, kasi medyo malaki. “So ngayong mas bumayat ako, mas lalong napansin ng mga tao na malaki pala ‘yong ilong ko talaga.” Bukod pa sa pagpapagawa ng kanyang ilong, ipapa-enhance din daw ni Angeline ang kanyang mata, na maraming nagsasabing parating mukhang “sad.” Sasailalim din sa liposuction procedure ang 23-year-old na aktres, upang matanggal ang taba nito sa likod, dahil napuna raw niyang “madalas akong nagsusuot ng gown na fitted, kaso meron pa ring baby fats, so nahihiya ako, so kailangan ipatanggal talaga.” Inamin din ng aktres na noon pa siya mayroong glutathione treatments at kasi nga medyo pawisin ‘yung kilikili ko talaga.”



Facing a ‘stronger’ Heart



MANILA, Philippines - It's hard to say if the current issue surrounding Heart and her family is the toughest challenge in her life so far. Many people may admire Heart for sticking by Sen. Chiz Escudero through these very tough times yet some may condemn her for not following her parents' wishes to break up with her boyfriend.

For the actress, one thing is for sure - this experience is making her a 'stronger' person. In an interview with Yahoo! Philippines OMG! held in Palawan recently, Heart Evangelista makes it clear that she is surviving this obstacle by being true to herself.

"Artistas my age haven't gone through the things that I've gone through. Like I said from the beginning of time I'm a very honest person... I'm very transparent. What you see is what you get. I date this person, this happened to me and I have to be honest about it... because of that I developed a backbone," Heart says.

Heart admits that the pressure on her as a celebrity and as a public figure is different.

"I developed a strong personality. I

always believe that if you have a good heart, you just want to do what's right. You don't want to step on anyone," she says.

As of this writing, the Ongpauco family and Sen. Chiz Escudero still have unresolved issues. But Heart isn't letting the problems get in the way of her becoming a more mature person.

"Being in the public eye, going through so much in life personal and my work, all of that put together it's either it will destroy you or make you a better person. I choose the other path," she says.

Now Heart says she is taking control of her fate. "I know what to do, not all the time. I'm confident that if you do what's right, and you work hard and you pray a lot, no matter what it is, everything will just fall into place."

Kim Chiu: 'Madali magpatawad pero mahirap kalimutan yung ginawa nila sa kin'

Sa isang exclusive interview ni Boy Abunda sa "The Buzz" kay Kim Chiu ay isiniwalat ng aktres ang pinagdaanan niyang mga pagsubok sa buhay ngayong 23 years old na siya.

Mahirap man, wala daw pinagsisisihan ang dalaga at imbes na mainis ay nagpapasalamat pa nga raw siya sa mga ito. "Sa 'kin wala akong nireregret sa mga pinagdaanan ko sa buhay, ni isa, kasi thankful ako na nangyari sa akin yun, at this early age. Naharap ko sila at nalampasan ko isa-isa. Kasi yung iba darating yung problema matanda na sila, so ako bata pa lang humarap na ko ng mga problema. From my parents, down to my friends and sa labat ng mga nangyayari sa buhay, and ayun thankful ako kasi ganito na ako tumayo ngayon."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity News & Gossip

Julia Barretto

Focuses on Career Despite family Feud



The Barretto sisters are reportedly feuding again.

And this time, it's over an Instagram message which threatened to bring down teen actress Julia Barretto. Although the source of the message is unknown, Gretchen and Marjorie reportedly think it is their younger sister Claudine.

Entertainment writer Ogie Diaz also said that Gretchen posted a message on Instagram which supposedly took a jab at Claudine.

"I'm not affected. I have no comment about it. Kung may makaka-answer niyan, it's my mom (Marjorie Barretto) and my tita themselves (Gretchen and Claudine Barretto). Marami na akong naririnig na rumors and we surpassed them all. We're okay. Whatever trial that may come our way, for sure, kaya naming lagpasan ito," Julia said.

Julia was there to support cousin Cholo Barretto, who is part of the cast, along with Andi Eigenmann, Boy 2 Quiz0n and Carla Humphries.

Julia said she'd rather stay positive because life is too short. She also stands by her family, no matter what happens.

"Family is family. And I think it's more of an advantage to belong to the Barretto family."

Julia took a break from showbiz five years ago but is back, more determined than ever.

The Star Magic artist says she wants to focus on her career and would love to have Kapamilya stars Piolo Pascual, John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby for her leading men.

"No more backing out," she stressed.

Gretchen and Claudine patched up last year after locking horns over a family matter.



Marian Rivera may just be in network transition

MARIAN Rivera and Rafael Rosell in her most recent Kapuso show "Temptation of Wife"

GMA 7 star Marian Rivera, rumored to be transferring to rival network ABS-CBN, is "in the process of negotiating" her Kapuso contract, which will expire in August, said a source close to the actress.

"Since other networks also know [about the contract], it's natural for them to send feelers. However, this doesn't mean Marian is definitely leaving GMA 7. She's still exploring her options," the source told the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Friday.

The source pointed out that Marian's talent manager, Popoy Caritativo, is "friends" with TV5 executives. "Let's not discount the possibility that Marian and Popoy are talking with them, too," the source stressed. "The rumor of Marian transferring to ABS-CBN could have stemmed from the fact that she is working with Ai-Ai (de las Alas, a top Kapamilya actress) in a movie."

The source was referring to the fantasy-comedy film "Kung Fu Divas," which the two actresses are coproducing with its director, Onat Diaz.

The film is being made by the same production team that created "Tikik: The Aswang Chronicles," which Marian's boyfriend, Dingdong Dantes, produced and starred in.

"A lot can still happen between now and August," the source added. "Although GMA 7 fulfilled its end in the contract with Marian, people around her feel the network could have done better."

Marian's last project with GMA 7 was the prime time series "Temptation of Wife," which aired its last episode April 5. Her romantic comedy film with Richard Gutierrez, "My Lady Boss," produced by GMA Films, was originally scheduled for showing on Valentine's Day, but has yet to be released in local theaters.

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LEFT, A Hawaiian dancer provides a welcome entertainment for the hawaiian-themed party. CENTRE, Knights of Rizal Scarborough chapter commander Manny Yanga and Nandy Diaz pose for a picture in the middle of a celebration. RIGHT, Sir Joe Luzadas tells the history of the KOR.

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‘Learn to detach from your co-star’

But is she ready to fall in love now? “Hindi ko masasabi kasi meron akong The Voice at concert tours na gagawin. Tignan natin.”

Nagpasalamat ang dalaga sa narinig at sinabing nagiging mas mabuti pa ang samahan nila ni Piolo. “Maraming, maraming salamat sa napakagandang mensahe, Papa P. He’s always been a good friend naman to me. At ngayon nga mas nagiging mabuting magkaibigan pa kaming dalawa. At nagpapasalamat din talaga ko na mas gusto pa niya ako makilala.” Naging mas malapit ang dalawa dahil na din sa pelikulang “OTJ” kung saan ginampanan ni Shaina ang papel ng asawa ni Piolo. Mas matured na Shaina din daw ang mapapanood dito dahil parang ang love scene daw nila ni Piolo ang highlight ng kanyang pag-cameo sa movie. “Parang ang partisipasyon ko lang ata ay ang love scene naming dalawa...Pinaka...wala na ata akong matatago kina Direk at tsaka kina Papa P habang ginagawa yun. Lakas na lang ng loob sabi ko eto nay un daanin ko na lang po sa confidence.”

APRIL - MAY 2013

Sarah says Kiss with Lloydie is Real

+ Kris will not quit ABS + other stories



“Wow! Thank you, thank you! Sabi ko nga po, sabay-sabay dumarating ang blessings, wala na akong mahihiling pa,” says Sarah Geronimo’s about the success of her latest film with John Lloyd Cruz, It Takes A Man And A Woman. Ang award-winning actor na si John Lloyd Cruz na nga ang maituturing na first onscreen kiss ng Popstar Princess na si Sarah Geronimo.

May ilang press kasi ang nagsabing “daya” lang or “hindi natuloy” ang kissing scene nila sa bandang huli ng pelikula, dahil hindi naman ito naipakita sa harap ng kamera.

Pero agad namang pabalik na tanong ni Sarah: “Sinong may sabing hindi natuloy?!” “Maniwala po kayo, ilang takes po ‘yon.”

Nauna nang sinabi ni Angelica Panganiba, girlfriend ni John Lloyd na wala siyang dapat ikaselos.

Ayon kay Sarah, bukas siya sa ideya na makatrabaho muli si John Lloyd sa isang pelikula.

Pero tulad ng sagot ng kanyang movie partner, sabi ni Sarah, “If could come up with a better material than sa ginawa namin sa It Takes A Man And A Woman, bakit hindi?”

Sa It Takes A Man And A Woman, makikita si Sarah na tila hindi na masyadong conservative sa pagganap niya bilang Laida.

Bukod sa natuloy na kissing scene, naging may naging linya pa siya na “braver, bolder, and fiercer.”

Handa raw siyang maging ganito sa mga susunod niyang proyekto, pero hindi dapat masyadong magiging liberal.

Ani Sarah, “Hindi ko gustong isiping sexier. Gusto kong magkaroon ng maturity sa acting ko.

Bea Binene thinks green

How much does Bea Binene love Mother Earth?

Let us count the ways. She has no leftovers on her plate because she knows wasting food is squandering the Earth’s diminishing resources. She is a junior child ambassador of Haribon Foundation, which is devoted to preserving biodiversity.

A few weeks ago, she was awarded her certificate as ambassador of the Philippine Biochar Association, an organization that promotes the use of biochar, or charcoal formed by burning with minimal amount of oxygen. Thus, it doesn’t release harmful carbon dioxide into the air and is as earth friendly as can be.

The GMA 7 artist has five shows – “Home Sweet Home,” “Vampire Ang Daddy Ko,” “Party Pilipinas,” “Good News” and “Pepito Manaloto.” She is also enrolled as a junior high school student in a distance learning



school. On top of that, she’s preparing a new album.

Kris Aquino won’t quit ABS-CBN, will take a leave instead

MANILA, Philippines – Show business personality Kris Aquino will not resign from ABS-CBN but would “take a leave instead,” the network giant said Wednesday in statement.

“ABS CBN and Kris Aquino have met several times to discuss her intent to resign” but “after thorough discussions, [she] has agreed to take a leave instead,” Bong R. Osorio

head of ABS-CBN Integrated Corporate Communication said.

The statement said ABS CBN understood Kris’ wish to devote her time to sons Bimby and Josh.

“On the other hand, ABS-CBN values Kris as an iconic talent and a respected national media personality. Both parties recognize her responsibilities to the public, her co-workers and to the advertisers,” the statement added.

ABS-CBN said Kris’ leave of absence would allow her “to spend quality time with Bimby in June when he is on school break and to bring Josh abroad to advance his developmental progress.”

“After her leave, Kris will honor her responsibilities and will fulfill her contractual commitments to ABS-CBN without impairing her role as a mother,” it added.

Anne Curtis says Derek Ramsay is her ‘yummiest’ while Sam Milby is her ‘freshest’ onscreen kiss

While Anne Curtis refused to disclose details about her current beau Erwan Heussaff, she gamely recalled her kissing scenes with her former leading men in line with Cinema One’s screening of her past films for the whole month of July. When asked who among them is the



yummiest kisser, Anne was quick to say that it’s her No Other Woman co-star Derek Ramsay. “I have to say that one of the yummiest and also came out as yummy onscreen

was Derek. Kasi kapag pinapanood ko yun, talagang, ‘Oh my gosh! Ginawa ko ba ‘yan?’ I think it was the yummiest kiss, I have to say. So siya, sa No Other Woman,” she cheerfully stated.

On a different note, Anne was also teased about why she did not choose former reel- and real-life partner Sam Milby for her yummiest onscreen kiss. To which she replied, “With Sam, very safe ang mga kissing scene. Yung No Other Woman medyo aggressive ako dun. Sabi ko, ‘Wow, I have another side,’” she exclaimed in between laughs.

But when asked who among her leading men is her freshest onscreen kiss, Anne easily shared that it would be Sam. “Ang pinaka freshest, I have to say, was Sam, kasi mahilig siya mag-lip balm ng mint so amoy mint, amoy Doublemint!”

Dingdong Dantes dances for Election

It’s his turn to endorse former Senator Ramon “Jun” Magsaysay Jr. Actor Dingdong Dantes has declared he is backing the return-to-Senate bid of Magsaysay Jr., volunteering to campaign for free to increase awareness of the former lawyer’s platform, especially among the youth.

“May integridad, mapagka-katiwalaan, may pinatunayan. ‘Yan si Senator Magsaysay Jr., my guy,” says Dantes in the new TV ad to be aired next week.

The politician and the actor shot the ad on April 17 at the Ramon Magsaysay Center along Roxas Boulevard Manila.

Dantes wore a yellow shirt with the number 24 prominently displayed on his breast pocket. Magsaysay’s official campaign color is yellow, and 24 is his number on the



Bella’s Birthday



FROM LEFT, Bella is carried by her sister Angel Dawinan, Gabby and Nadeene play musical chairs, the girls pose for a photo.

official ballots for the 2013 midterm senatorial elections.

Dantes is the founding chairman of YesPinoy Foundation, an organization that seeks to empower underprivileged children through education.

Indie directors Bongo Ferraren, Mark Meily and Mike Plana, who filmed the previous endorsement by Richard “Ser Chief” Yap, also directed Dantes’ commercial.

‘Bayan Ko’ goes from strength to strength

When we watched the premiere episode of “Bayan Ko” on the GMA News Channel, we wrote glowingly about it, categorically citing it as the best TV drama in town. Privately, however, we fretted that, as usually happens in these parts, the hard-hitting political drama could end up being watered down, or losing its firm focus, or resting on its laurels.

Happily, as we watched the series from week to week, our fears proved to be unmerited. The show tackled various aspects of local politics’ endemic culture of corruption, abuse and incompetence, rising to its climax with a feistily detailed look into log smuggling—and a terrible flood!

The show’s artistic and thematic vigor and pertinence have done wonders for the career of lead star, Rocco Nacino, who used to be just another promising starlet.

Instead of revealing his limitations, the challenge pressured Rocco to measure up to his difficult role as a principled young mayor—and he has succeeded beyond expectations.

Even better, after the elections, GMA should continue telling the story of the

series’ principled young mayor, as he faces more confounding challenges in his effort to prove that genuine public service is not an impossible dream!

Kris Bernal splurges on designer bags, European vacation

Kapuso actress Kris Bernal brought home quite a collection of designer bags when she arrived from her one-month vacation in Europe.

Kris explained that since “wala akong gastos sa sarili ko ay doon ko na tinodo (ang expenses).”

She rattled off Hermes, Prada and Gucci bags as among her newest pricey acquisitions.

Although she spent quite a fortune on said designer bags, Kris is far from “guilty” as “alam ko ‘yung mga purchases namin ay magagamit ng lahat.”

“Hindi kami nakaalis (agad) kasi tsini-check pa ang schedule ko sa GMA, so, nagpaalam muna kami,” she said.

The trip was Kris’ gift to her mom Annalyn and sisters Kathleen and Kathryn.

Among the countries that Kris and her family visited were Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Prague, Switzerland. But it was her trip to Amsterdam that gave her the most memorable experience.

“May mga na-meet akong fans, yes. Pumunta sila sa hotel ko. Sila ‘yung naglibot sa amin so napaka- memorable kasi ‘yun ‘yong first country na pinuntahan ko,” she shared.

“Alam mo ‘yung priceless doon ay ‘yung kasama ko ‘yung family ko. Ramdam na ramdam ko na mahal na mahal ako at saka alagang-alaga ako ng mga kapatid ko.”



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Brillantes wants to be envoy to Eastern European country

MANILA, Philippines—As if to show that he was really serious about his threat to resign, Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. disclosed on Friday that he had never wanted to head the poll body and had asked President Benigno Aquino III for an ambassadorship shortly after the 2010 elections.

Brillantes, who has been asked by Mr. Aquino to remain in the Comelec, said he was eyeing an ambassadorship in Eastern Europe and would tell the President so.

“He does not need to appeal to me (to stay) because this is going to be my



decision. I know what to do, but thank you,” he said.

According to Brillantes, he had asked Mr. Aquino for an ambassadorship

after the latter won the presidential election in 2010.

“I thought I would get it but (then Comelec) Chair (Jose) Melo resigned. That’s when everything went haywire,” he said in an interview.

Where no Filipinos go

He said he would reveal his decision on whether to stay or resign on Monday, but would still want to meet with the President next week.

“I will wait to see the President so that I can ask him ... My plan was to ask him, ‘Could you give me an ambassadorship instead so that I can rest. It’s so tiring in the Comelec,’” he said.

Brillantes, who was Mr. Aquino’s lawyer during the 2010 presidential elections, said he had asked even then to be made envoy to an Eastern European country.

“Romania, Slovakia, or Hungary ... where no Filipinos go,” he said.

According to Brillantes, it would not be problematic if he were to go on leave now as the most critical phase of the election preparations was over and the polls can be adequately handled by the Comelec’s senior staff.

“Our work is finished. We’re winding up already. The dangerous (part) is over. I’ve even been able to travel. I think it’s about time. If I decide not to continue as chairman of this commission, I would have done my job already,” he said.

Isabela Cultural Association Induction



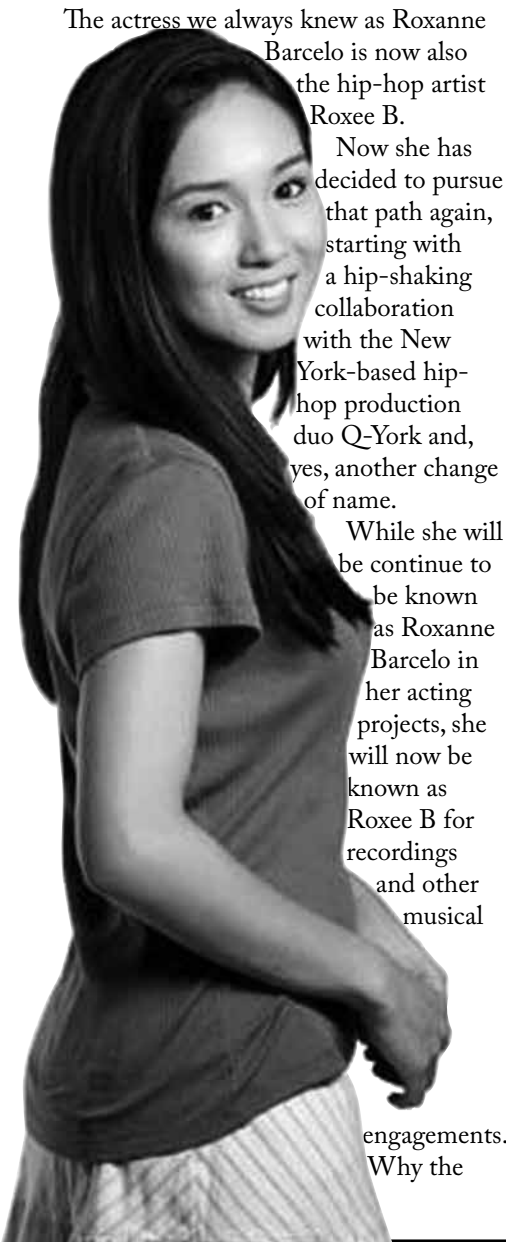
LEFT, Newly Inducted Officers of the Isabela Cultural Association of Ontario; with Eva Agpaoa as their President; inducted by Consul General Junever Mahilum-West on April 13, 2013 at Rambrandt Banquest Hall; and special speaker Ambassador Leslie Gatan. RIGHT, Congen Mahilum West inducts the officers. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

Roxanne Barcelo

Reinventing herself

Roxanne
very good one at that.

Barcelo has reinvented her career so many times that many have already forgotten that she actually started as a singer—and a



name Roxee B?

“The name is sexy, classy and never trashy,” quipped her new manager, former radio DJ Jerome B. Smooth during Roxanne’s recent appearance on Radio Republic’s “Celebrity Spin” program.

It can be recalled that Roxanne had previously released an album under the name Roxie and was also known as Ate Anne in “Batang Bibo”, the children’s show that she hosted. Roxanne’s career odyssey did not just consist of several name changes but also an equally good number of detours along the way.

Born in Fairfax, Virginia, she was only 8 years old when she won in the “Best of the Best” singing competition in the United States. When she arrived in the country at the age of 13, Roxanne became a contestant in GMA’s “Metropop Search” before becoming a regular at the now defunct “S.O.P.”.

But despite scoring a smash hit with the song “Kung Alam Mo Lang”, a Tagalog adaptation of the Korean love song “Because I’m A Girl” by Kiss, Roxanne was not able to sustain a recording career mainly because she also pursued acting and had success as one of the original cast members of the hit teen series “Click” as well as memorable turns in teleseryes like “Kahit Kailan” and the original “Sana Ay Ikaw Na Nga” also for GMA.

Her acting mettle was also not to be scoffed at as proven by noteworthy performances in such indie films like “Mudraks” and “Haruo” as well as in series

like “Darna”, “Amaya” and, most recently, “Cielo De Angelina”.

Roxanne’s determination to explore the other facets of her talent can also be reflected in her participation in several reality competition series, including the MTV Philippines VJ Search, TV5’s “Hollywood Dream” and “Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Edition”.

Her new song “Wow!”, of which she wrote the lyrics herself, is all about the lessons she learned from these episodes that continued to inspire her to constantly improve on her craft.

“The song is about the women of the world. Whatever you experienced in the past, good or bad, you just have to accept what happened and know how to move forward,” she pointed out. “In a way, you could say it’s all about girl power, as the Spice Girls used to say. You really have to believe in yourself as a woman and do what God wants you to do.”

Roxanne revealed that she’s actually been writing songs in between film and TV projects for the last five years, getting some help and pointers from the likes of Drip, Mike Madriaga (aka Evo Evolver) and Malik Lopez while becoming more partial to the hip-hop and R&B genres.

“Timing is everything, I guess,” she said when asked why she has decided to pursue singing again at this point of her career. “My stint in ‘PBB’ and all the other reality shows has only made me stronger in my resolve.”

That doesn’t mean that acting will

now take a backseat. In fact, Roxanne is now more open to exploring new things including posing for men’s magazines and accepting sexy roles.

“Years ago, I would’ve said absolutely no. Roles are roles. It just depends on how I attack them. As long as the project is really good. The photography is beautiful. It has to be very artistic for me to consider,” she said. “Although as dream roles, I would like to play something like the role of Nicole Kidman in ‘Moulin Rouge’. That would be great.”

As for settling down, Roxanne, now 28, said she is once again single as of the moment and is actually enjoying it. Now that she’s actually looking but Roxanne admitted that back in 2009, she actually wrote a letter to her future husband—whom she still has not met.

“Now that I’m really looking for one right now but I do hope my future husband is someone I can truly connect with, someone who loves God, someone who can take of himself and someone who knows how to have a good time.”

Having had showbiz and non-showbiz boyfriends, would she prefer one over the other?

“There was a time when I would have preferred someone who’s not from showbiz but I guess you never say never. It really doesn’t matter as he has all the things I’m looking for in a man.”

Is President Aquino dating Beauty Queen Bianca Manalo?

President Benigno Aquino III’s love life is back in the spotlight, as rumors swirl that he is dating another celebrity.

The bachelor president reportedly went out on a dinner date with beauty queen-turned-actress Bianca Manalo.

Manalo for her part admitted that she has seen Aquino, even as she noted that the President is not pursuing her.

“Na-meet ko po si Mr. President (I’ve met Mr. President),” Manalo said. “Wala naman pong ligawan but nakipag-dinner po kami with him (No courtship happened but I had dinner with him),” she said.

The actress, model and TV host added that her sister was with her when she met Aquino. This is not the first time that Aquino is reported to be dating a celebrity, even as he consistently urged the media to respect his private life.

Last year, Aquino was rumored to have been in a relationship with Korean TV personality Grace Lee.

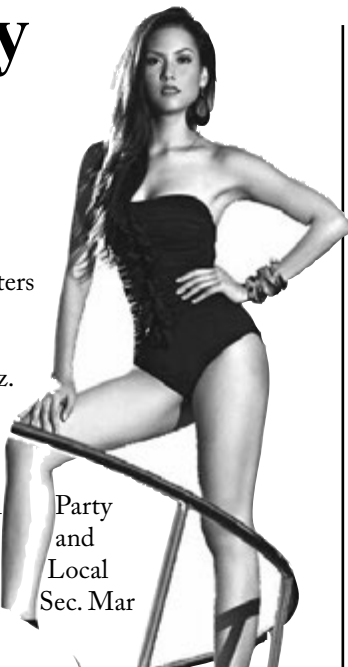
The President had also admitted dating socialite and celebrity stylist Liz Uy, her sister Kris’s friend, in 2010.

During his campaign for the presidency and his early days in Malacanang, Aquino dated Valenzuela City Councilor Shalani

Soledad.

Aquino had also previously dated broadcasters Bernadette Sembrano and Korina Sanchez.

The latter is now married to Aquino’s fellow Liberal Party stalwart Interior and Local Government Sec. Mar Roxas.



Dr. Mary Joy Miller, head of the research team of the Father Saturnino Urios University Policy Center in Butuan City, presents the results of a survey they conducted that showed 80 percent of respondents willing to sell their votes.

Butuanons willing to sell votes

BUTUAN CITY, Philippines -- A Catholic university here has raised the alarm after a survey conducted by its think tank indicated that 8 out of 10 Butuanons, mostly from the 18-30 age group, are willing to sell their votes. Lawyer Josefa Sorreza-Ty, director of the Father Saturnino Urios University Policy Center, said 80 percent of the 1,833 respondents they surveyed from April 1 to 7 had nothing against selling their votes.

“In this third survey ... respondents were asked if they will receive money from somebody in exchange for their votes ... 8 out of 10 said yes. And still seven out of 10 of these respondents said they knew of others who will do the same,” Ty said.

The question put to the respondents couldn’t have been more direct: “Modawat ba ka ug kwarta baylo sa imong boto karong muabot nga eleksyon (Will you accept money in exchange for your vote this coming election)?”

Ironically, she said 51.22 percent of respondents to their January survey and 51.63 percent of those surveyed in March said they do not expect to receive any money in the elections.

Eva Agpaoa’s *New Salon*



FIRST, From Left to Right : Tania Sinotte, Jennifer Sinotte, Eva Agpaoa, and Sue Ann Jones SECOND, Eva Agpaoa strikes a pose in front of her “Eva Salon and Spa” at 3177 Bathurst Street on April 6, 2013 grand opening. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

IPEN's Coronation

FV Foods' Melchor Galeona and Flor Vendiola pose with Toronto's Prettiest Filipina during the coronation at downtown Toronto. IPEN's producer is Edgar Sulit (with Microphone)



Kim Rodriguez gets her big break in 'Kakambal ni Eliana'

One of the freshest faces on television, Kim Rodriguez has captivated viewers with her charm in Tween Hearts and the Philippine version of Coffee Prince. The 2012 PMPC Star Awards "New Movie Actress of the Year" now gets her biggest break as she topbills the newest Afternoon Prime series on GMA, Kakambal ni Eliana.

The series revolves around the life of Eliana, a girl who was born with a snake attached to her back. The reptile wraps itself around her hand every time she experience extreme emotions like sadness or anger. She spends her life hidden in a basement, until she manages to get away. In the process, she strives to find out the truth about herself and her family.

In the outside world, she meets new friends and two of them, Gabo (played by Kristoffer Martin) and Julian (played by Enzo Pineda) fall in love with her. Gabo is a street-smart lad who accepts Eliana for who she is, while Julian is a fashion photographer who is bewildered by Eliana's beauty, not knowing that she has a snake twin. However, she also meets her rival, Margarita (played by Lexi Fernandez), who is Julian's model-girlfriend.

The fantasy series also features Jomari Yllana, Antonio Aquitania, Sheriyn Reyes, Chynna Ortaleza and Jean Garcia. Completing the star-studded cast are Leo Martinez, Carmen Soriano, Eva Darren, Carlene Aguilar and Jay-R.

GMA Network.com caught



The cast of 'Kakambal ni Eliana' meets the press.

up with the stars of the newest GMA Afternoon Prime series at the Kakambal ni Eliana Press Conference held last April 10.

Kim Rodriguez shared that she is still in disbelief that she is finally being launched as a Kapuso lead actress through the upcoming afternoon drama. "Sobrang saya ko po... Naiiyak ako sa sobrang tuwa ko. Hindi ako makapaniwala na ako na 'to, ako na po 'yung nasa billboard, na ako na po 'yung lead role," shared Kim.

Jean Garcia, who plays Eliana's estranged mother, Isabel was all praises for Kim. "Very telegenic [si Kim], at magaling siyang umarte. Nararamdaman mo siya, so ako, malaki po ang tiwala ko na malaki ang potential ng batang ito," she said.

Kakambal ni Eliana's director, Dick Lindayag is also very impressed with Kim. "So far, nagagampanan niya 'yung role niya nang tama, at lahat ng emotional scenes, nagagawa rin niya. Hindi

madali 'yung pag-arte kasama ang tunay na ahas. 'Yun 'yung isa pang challenge na ginagawa ni Kim na extraordinary for her role here sa Kakambal ni Eliana," explained the talented director.

When asked how it was working with snakes, Kim Rodriguez stated, "Nung una po, takot po talaga ako sa ahas, pero kailangan ko pong ipakita sa manonood na kasama ko po lumaki 'yung ahas, tapos nawala na po 'yung takot ko nung nagsimula na po 'yung Kakambal ni Eliana."

Kristoffer added, "Ngayon hinahanap ko na sa set [iyong mga ahas]. Lagi rin naming nilalaro. Nakaka-relax siya, actually."

Enzo shared a similar sentiment. "Tama si Kristoffer. Tinuruan din po kami kung paano humawak ng ahas. Actually, sa workshop, kaming dalawa ni Kristoffer 'yung may hawak ng ahas, tapos may monologue kami. Kumportable na kami sa ahas."



'No one has the right to usurp country's laws,' TG tells rebels who hurt mom

MANILA, Philippines -- Senator Teofisto Guingona III said the explanation of communist rebels who wounded his mother, Gingoog City Mayor Ruthie Guingona, and killed two of her aides that she had ignored warnings against bringing armed escorts with her did not wash.

A policeman was also wounded in the incident.

"We would like to remind everyone in this country that there is only one government of the Republic of the Philippines," the senator said in a statement. "There is only one President who is in charge in executing the laws of this land. That is President Noynoy Aquino. He is the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And most importantly, he is the leader of this nation."

"No one else has the right to usurp the laws of this country," he added.

The senator said the New People's Army "fired upon an elderly and innocent woman who is already bowing out of politics."

He said his mother, who is wrapping up her third term as mayor, "is now safe and in stable condition" even as he grieved for the deaths of brothers Nestor and Bartolome Velasco, "loyal employees of long standing in our family's home in Mindanao."

Security authorities have said New People's Army guerrillas ambushed the mayor on her way home from a village fiesta late Saturday night.

While acknowledging that the NPA was involved in the incident, Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, spokesman of the National Democratic Front in Mindanao, claimed Mayor Guingona's police escorts fired first at rebels manning a checkpoint, prompting them to fire back.

Daniel padilla on being PHL’s Justin Bieber:

‘Thanks but No Thanks’



As successful as he is right now, rising teen Kapamilya star Daniel Padilla revealed he also has his share of bashers and haters online. The 17-year-old actor-musician said he is very much thankful to all his loyal fans who have stayed by his side. DJ said he is not bothered nor pressured being touted as the Justin Bieber of the Philippines. The comparison comes from their meteoric rise to fame and large fan base. “Siyempre Justin Bieber yan eh, salamat pero hindi ko kasi siya gusto eh. Hindi ako nakikinig ng ganun eh. Talagang old soul ako; ayoko ng ganung music, more on luma talaga yung gusto kong pinapakinggan,” he explained.

Kris wants Josh to undergo stem cell therapy

Kris Aquino will try anything -- even the new stem cell therapy technology in Singapore to help eldest son Josh cope with his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) condition. “Meron akong mga friends na yung mga anak nila underwent stem cell therapy. And yung condition nila is just like Josh’s and they’re special children. Sobrang laki kasi yung naging improvement,” Kris said. “Hindi mo naman matatangi sa akin na anything to improve my son kasi ngayon na-achieve namin yung physical improvement. Kasi di ba naka-lose nga siya ng 120 pounds? So ngayon we have the means naman, bakit hindi ko susubukan kung makakatulong ito for him to become more verbal, yung cognitive skills lalong ma-improve?”

Lea Salonga, Bamboo Manalac, Sarah Geronimo, and Apl.de.Ap get to know each other

Although the coaches of The Voice of The Philippines are required to do whatever it takes to make their respective teams win, Broadway superstar Lea Salonga stressed that there wouldn’t be any rivalry between her, Bamboo Manalac, Apl.de.Ap, and Sarah Geronimo and that they wouldn’t intentionally outshine each other in the show. “The thing is The Voice of The Philippines has picked four illustrious individuals, all of whom have achieved something in this industry. However, the focus cannot be on us. It has to be on the person who’s singing, who’s working towards that ultimate goal. And that is our job—to help push



them and encourage them to get where they want to go,” said Lea.

Lovi Poe, on premarital sex: “Our generation is open-minded [but waiting is] definitely important to me.”



No return for Willie to ABS

Itinanggi ng Presidente at Chief Executive Officer (CEO) ng ABS-CBN na si Charo Santos-Concio ang balitang magbabalik diumano sa Kapamilya network ang controversial na TV host na si Willie Revillame. Sa ulat ng ABS-CBN News ,tahasang pinabulaanan ni Ms. Santos-Concio ang balitang ito. Saad niya, “That’s not true. We’re not in talks with Willie Revillame. We’re very happy with the ratings of [It’s] Showtime. We’re very happy with Showtime.”

Ang It’s Showtime ang daily noontime program ng ABS-CBN at katapat ng noontime show ni Willie sa TV5, ang Wowowillie. Matatandaang naging malaking isyu ang pag-alis ni Willie sa Channel 2 noong 2010 sa kabila ng hindi pa raw tapos ang kontrata nito. Ilang buwan pagkatapos nito ay lumipat ang TV host-comedian sa TV5.

No swimsuit for Jen Mercado

SUKI ng ospital si Jennlyn Mercado. Kaya naman ang pagkaroon ng malusog na katawan pati na ang pamilya ang laging hiling niya lalo na’t tambak na naman ang trabaho niya. Yung ina niya kasi ay nakaospital kamakailan lang habang siya ay na-confine din two weeks ago. Sa sexy movie niya TBATL, hindi raw niya kerig ang mag-two piece swimsuit. Talbog siya ni LJ Reyes na meron na ring anak. “Kasi nga, kerig niya ’yon! Ako, hindi! Nakita ninyo ba akong nag-two piece nang dalaga ako? Hindi naman. Ay, nu’ng wala pa akong anak. Hanggang pictorial lang naman ako. Poster. “Pero dito, hindi talaga nila ako napilit! Walang nagbabawal sa akin!” diin ni Jen.

LOPEZ continued from page 1

Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares said. “Some are complaining why we published the list [of top 500 individual income tax return filers] and some are complaining why they’re not there.”

BIR, Forbes lists The public almost instinctively juxtaposes the annual list of the country’s top 500 individual tax return filers against the list of the country’s tycoons. (Forbes magazine’s annual billionaires’ list is usually released a month earlier). “How come Kris Aquino paid more taxes than Henry Sy Sr.?” was the complaint over social media like Twitter and Facebook the past few days. The show-biz personality was the country’s top individual taxpayer with P49.8 million in payments versus the country’s richest man who only ranked 15th on the same list with P16.5 million.

Income, assets Indeed, the agitation felt by the public is all too common. And according to experts from both the BIR and the private sector, this is also often misguided and misinformed. “You have to make a distinction between income and assets,” Henares said. “The tycoons on the Forbes list, for example, may hold the most assets but they don’t necessarily earn the most income. There’s a big difference.” The annual list published by tax authorities as mandated by law, she said, is based on the taxes that individuals have to pay based on transactions—not the static level of assets a person owns.

Stock dividends As such, President Aquino’s youngest sister who earns millions of pesos from her commercial product endorsements and TV shows may be earning more than a mall tycoon whose assets are in the form of shares of stock, Henares said. (Dividends from stocks are subject to a 20-percent final withholding tax and not subject to further levies.) In the same vein, most of the country’s richest like those on the Forbes list are business owners whose stock holdings are subject to taxes on dividends instead of income taxes.

Employed by own firms Those who are employed by their own firms as top officials, meanwhile, have their income taxes withheld on their behalf by the very firms they own. “Only those who filed income tax returns (ITRs) will find themselves on the top 500 list,” the BIR chief pointed out. “If you did not file an ITR—if you had a ‘substituted filing’ where your company withheld income taxes for you and remitted it straight to the BIR, just like regular employees—it doesn’t matter how big your salary and tax payments are. You will not appear on the list.” Henares’ explanation coincided with a flurry of complaints received by the tax bureau from people who found their names on the list (fearing that the disclosure would pose a security risk) and people who were upset at not being included (for fear of being perceived as tax dodgers).

Henares said some top officials of large corporations who found

LOPEZ continued on page 27

Education, Not Wealth

EDUCATION continued from page 1

(STFAP). But militants instead demanded a total repeal of the STFAP and an across-the-board tution rollback, along with the resignation of officials involved in Tejada’s case. For his part, Pangilinan said Tejada’s suicide “devastated all of us—you as students, and us, your elders--because we all know that we continue to disappoint millions of young Filipinos who deserve their education.” “If we continue on this path, we will ultimately fail our own future,” said the head of the Philippine Long Distance Telecommunication Co. and TV 5, among other firms. Noting that he himself “was not born to a life of privilege or pedigree,” Pangilinan said graduates are “richer than most

Filipinos, simply for having received a quality education.” He added: “Which means that the same question constantly asked of me must be asked of you now: how much of your blessings will go to helping Filipinos uplift their welfare?” Tejada was laid to rest Saturday, her hearse accompanied by her family and friends, as well as UP students and faculty who had called her death a wake up call. In a statement released for the funeral, UP President Alfredo Pascual said: “With all UP stakeholders collectively working towards reform, I am confident we can soon truly say that no qualified student is denied education in UP because of financial reasons.” “Soon we can claim that UP, the country’s national university, has indeed become the University of the People,” Pascual added.

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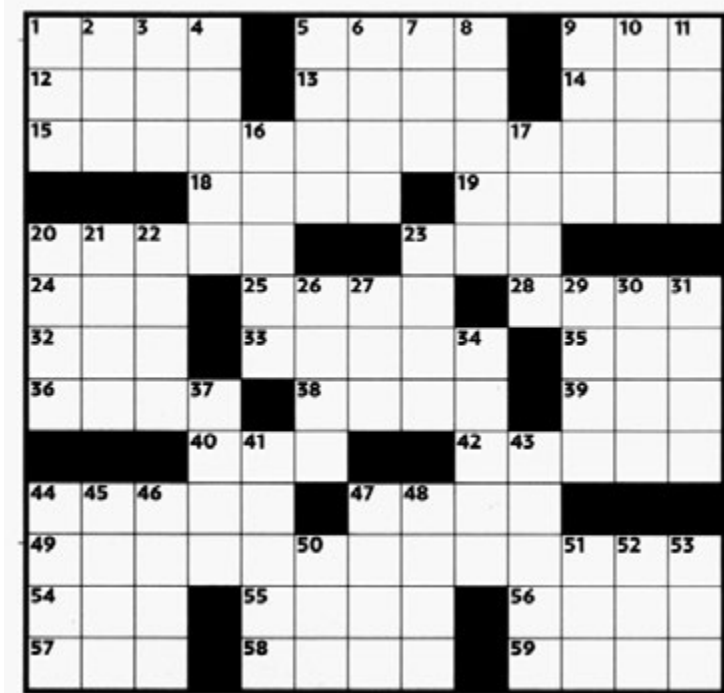
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Joe Biden, now (slang)
- 5 Nicole Kidman thriller *Dead* ____
- 9 Rosario Dawson of *Eagle* ____
- 12 Busta Rhymes's "____ Party" (2 wds.)
- 13 No Smoking ____
- 14 *Valkyrie* and *Tropic Thunder* star Cruise
- 15 *Stop-Loss* actor (2 wds.)
- 18 Actress Skye
- 19 American Red Cross founder Barton
- 20 ____ Carter (15 Across's first film)
- 23 Vintage rock group ____ Na Na
- 24 X, Y or Z (abbr.)
- 25 Marilyn Monroe in *The Seven Year* ____
- 28 ____ Up stars Jenna Dewan and 15 Across
- 32 Actress-acting teacher Hagen
- 33 Walter Matthau comedy *Out* ____ (2 wds.)
- 35 Child-psychology author LeShan
- 36 Animated-film dog
- 38 *There* ____ *Be Blood*
- 39 Muslim VIP's title
- 40 Gilbert & Sullivan's ____ *Pinafore*
- 42 Burt Lancaster's Oscar film ____ *Gantry*
- 44 ____ Hawkins Day
- 47 Catherine O'____
- 49 Director of *Gran Torino* (2 wds.)
- 54 Ruckus
- 55 ____-a-Cop stars Liza Minnelli
- 56 Film with the Oscar-winning song "Falling Slowly"
- 57 *She's the* ____ stars Amanda Bynes and 15 Across
- 58 Gymnast Korbut
- 59 Steve Martin's *A Simple Twist of* ____

DOWN

- 1 Damone, Dana or Tayback
- 2 Numerical suffix
- 3 Salma Hayek's "that"
- 4 Jodie Foster stars in ____ *Room*
- 5 Abel's brother
- 6 Composer of "Rule Britannia"
- 7 Give a ____ up (help to advance)
- 8 Jonathan Rhys Meyers of ____ *Point*
- 9 Jazz singer James
- 10 *A Guide to Recognizing* ____ *Saints* features 15 Across
- 11 *Last Chance Harvey's* Thompson
- 16 ____ game (pitcher Craig Breslow's goal)
- 17 ____ and alack
- 20 *Fight* ____ starring Brad Pitt
- 21 Director Preminger
- 22 Russian inland sea
- 23 Kids' books author Silverstein
- 26 What a tugboat does
- 27 ____ *Miami* (where 15 Across made his TV debut)
- 29 *The Dream* ____
- 30 *Bridget Jones: The* ____ *of Reason*
- 31 Early *Tonight Show* host Jack ____
- 34 Wide-awake
- 37 *The* ____ *Man* (classic Nick and Nora Charles whodunit)
- 41 ____-Goldwyn-Mayer
- 43 ____ averages (assumption about chances; 2 wds.)
- 44 Con game
- 45 *M*A*S*H* with Alan ____
- 46 Singer Celine ____
- 47 Suspend
- 48 Dog in 37 Down
- 50 Moray or conger
- 51 Hitchcock's *Strangers* ____ *Train* (2 wds.)
- 52 Mario Lopez's birth month (abbr.)
- 53 Pop singer Kiki ____



Knights of Rizal go Hawaiian



Lawyer Alex Guarnes (SEATED) poses with the consulate's Rolly Mangante (STANDING FAR RIGHT) and Willie Reodica (STANDING 2ND FROM LEFT) and other knights of Rizal.

Answers on
Page 26

Richard Gutierrez topbills GMA Pinoy TV's new series Love & Lies



Richard Gutierrez shows how far a man will go just to rescue the girl he loves as he takes on his newest role as a Philippine Navy officer in GMA Pinoy TV's first suspenserye *Love & Lies*. Playing the character of Edward in this fast-paced action-romance series, Richard returns to drama after appearing in the successful series *Makapiling Kang Muli*. His leading ladies are Michelle Madrigal as Cathy and Bela Padilla as Denise. *Love & Lies* promises its audience with unpredictable and breathtaking twists and turns. The series tells the story of Edward (Richard) and the challenges that he has to overcome for his wife Cathy (Michelle).

Love & Lies, created by the GMA Drama Group, is supervised by the Officer-In-charge for Entertainment, Lilybeth G. Rasonable; AVP for Drama, Redgie Acuña Magno; AVP for Drama, Cheryl Ching-Sy; Program Manager, Helen Rose S. Sese with Executive Producer, Leilani Feliciano-Sandoval.

Love & Lies premieres April 9 on GMA Pinoy TV, the flagship international channel of GMA Network. To get the latest updates on your favourite Kapuso programs and stars, visit the GMA International website (www.gmanetwork.com/International), facebook page (www.facebook.com/GMAPinoyTV), and twitter profile (www.twitter.com/GMAPinoyTV).

Richard, Coco and Daniel: WHAT'S THEIR SECRETS

NO doubt, today's hottest leading men are Richard Yap, Coco Martin and Daniel Padilla.

These three have captured different age brackets.

Richard Yap or Ser Chief, as he is fondly called by his fans, has strong appeal to thirty-somethings and above. He was first noticed in Binondo Girl as Papa Chen. Then, he became immensely popular in the hit kilig-serye, "Be Careful with My Heart" opposite Jodi Sta. Maria. His character, Ser Chief, is now a household name. At mid-40s, Richard epitomizes the cliché "life begins at forty."

Coco Martin makes the twenty-somethings wild and crazy with his killer smile. Never mind if he has a love child with Katherine Luna. That doesn't make him lesser as hot leading man, despite a lackluster acceptance on his current teleserye "Juan dela Cruz."

Daniel Padilla brings the house down when he performs and makes his fans go gaga over him. Coming from a Padilla clan with both parents as celebrities, it has been easy for Daniel to penetrate showbiz. But not all so-called showbiz royalties have the same magic as he has. And to top it all, Daniel is set to rock the Big Dome.

So is there really a formula for success? Just asking...

Vilma Santos "Extra" won't participate in the Cannes Film Festival.

When Ate Vi was asked during the shooting of the indie film, she had no comment whether or not it is joining said film festival.

Despite the bad news, the producers weren't disheartened. In fact they are optimistic that there are other international filmfests which can give their film the opportunity to be noticed.

Gov. Vilma Santos has been successful at the box office, in her political career and family life. She also had her shares of acting awards from local award-giving bodies.

But unlike rival Nora Aunor, her kind of acting still has to be recognized abroad.

Does that make life fair? Just asking...



Can Green Tea Help You Lose Weight?

Most of us have seen the headlines: Green tea blasts away fat! But before you start bonging gallons of the Eastern cure-all, understand that green tea won't magically melt away the pounds.

Take a close look at one recent study: Scientists at Unilever—ahem, that's the company that owns Lipton—split 83 overweight but otherwise healthy men into two groups. One group took capsules of green tea extract, while the other took a placebo.

After six weeks, the green tea group dropped an average of 1.5 pounds, while the placebo group gained 1 pound. Those results aren't exactly staggering.

Another important point: The study involved only sedentary, middle-aged men. That could explain why other research has produced conflicting results about green tea's weight-zapping benefits.

Don't get us wrong; green tea is a healthy alternative to energy drinks or soda. The leafy liquid contains catechins—natural antioxidants that studies show promote fat oxidation and nutrient absorption by activating specific protein pathways. Previous studies have also shown the brew can lower your risk for heart disease and certain types of cancer.

But here's another catch: The guys in the Unilever study swallowed 530 milligrams of the extract every day. That means you'd have to down roughly 50 ounces—or about 6 cups—of the liquid variety to see the same benefits! (Did we mention walking to and from the bathroom could also help you lose weight?)

Of course, there's a supplement. Two pills a day could net you the same benefits as the men in the study. (The Vitamin Shoppe offers an inexpensive option.) But let's put this all in perspective: A 1-pound weight loss after 6 weeks might be better than a 1-pound weight gain. But it's not going to make up for poor eating habits and a lack of exercise.

The bottom line is that green tea offers a variety of health benefits—within modest limits. For brewed tea done right, pour 8 ounces of near-boiling water over 1 teaspoon of tea leaves, and steep for 30 seconds. Then go for a jog. (And while you're out there, remember varying your speed can help you burn three times as much fat as running at a steady pace. Try this interval workout that takes only 10 minutes.)

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



Newsman Ace Alvarez seems to be whispering some top secret information to Philippine Consul-General Junever Mahilum-West.

Crossword Answers

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

their names on the list submitted “mixed filings” which incorporated taxes due from their regular employment with income from other nonemployment-related activities.

Conversely, the president of a large conglomerate who received purely what BIR calls “compensation income” for the year—taxes for which were withheld by the employing conglomerate—would not appear on the top 500 list either.

Army of tax lawyers

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the head of one large accounting firm told the Inquirer that the country’s ranks of billionaires also employ an army of tax lawyers and auditors to minimize their tax liabilities.

“There is a difference between tax avoidance and tax evasion,” he said. “The former is legal while the latter is not.”

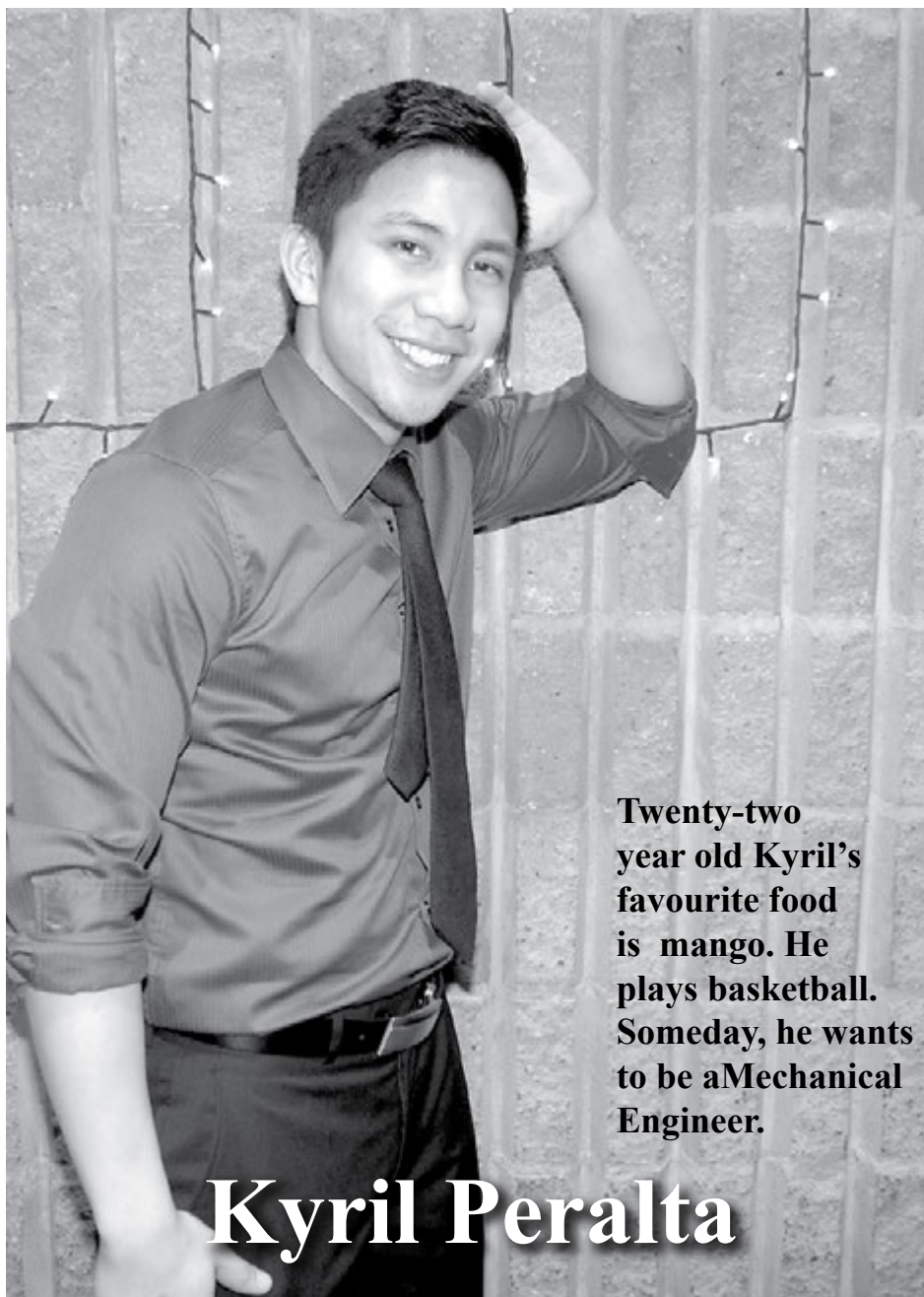
Henares acknowledged this, but pointed out that the wealthy should not go overboard by “incorporating” even their personal expenses under separate companies just to minimize their tax liabilities.

“There are things you cannot do,” she said.

“You cannot book groceries for your household under a separate corporation, or the salaries of your helpers, or your mobile phone bills,” Henares said.

“And remember, being on our list of top taxpayers doesn’t exempt you from further investigation,” she said.

hunk shot



**Twenty-two
year old Kyril’s
favourite food
is mango. He
plays basketball.
Someday, he wants
to be a Mechanical
Engineer.**

Kyril Peralta



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
from page 1

of duty and obligation, provide the requirements, conditions, and opportunities for the full enjoyment of these rights of the poor and which the poor can demand as a matter of right.”

But the President highlighted the need to include the phrase “progressive realization” on the part of the government, which he admitted may not be able to immediately provide for these rights.

To stress his point, Aquino said the national budget, which stands at P2.006 trillion this year, will still be unable to provide for the housing needs alone, which has been pegged at five million units.

“So, sa madaling salita, pwede akong nagpa-cute. Pwede kong pinirmahan itong batas na ‘to, pogi tayo, pero alam ko hindi mami-meet ng gobyerno (In other words, I could have signed this bill to look good, but I know the government can’t live up to it).”

The veto does not mark the death of the Magna Carta for the poor, however, with the President noting that he has ordered his Cabinet to draft a new law.

“Our corrective action here is to direct our social cluster to draw up a substantive measure that we will give to the next Congress, and hopefully, they will act upon it with haste,” Aquino said.

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