



Senator Enverga visits Survivors

Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) confers with children at the Trauma Center set up by NGO "Save The Children" in Estancia, Iloilo. Sen. Enverga, Jr. visited central Visayan town during his four-week work and vacation trip to the Philippines recently.

US to help PHL if China invades

In this April 2, 2013 file photo, United States Secretary of State John Kerry meets with Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C.. US State Dept.



MANILA, Philippines - Washington is ready to help Manila in the event that Beijing invades Pag-Asa, the second largest island in the disputed Spratly Islands, a top US military official said. Adm. Jonathan Greenert, naval operations chief of the US Navy, could not say what form of assistance may be extended to the Philippines but noted that the two countries have existing defense treaties.

"Of course we would help you and now I don't know what that help would be (given) specifically," Greenert told students of the National Defense College of the Philippines in Quezon City. "I mean we have an obligation because we have a treaty, but I don't know into what capacity that help is," he added. Greenert was asked whether the US will help the Philippines defend its territory if China seizes Pag-Asa, which is being occupied by Filipino soldiers and more than 200 civilians. A Chinese news network has reported that the Chinese Navy has a detailed plan to seize the Pag-Asa Island from the Philippines this year. Pag-Asa, which China calls Zhongye, is part of Kalayaan Island, a fifth class municipality in Palawan. The Philippines has built a town hall, a 1.3-kilometer

airstrip, a naval station, a health center and a kindergarten school in the island. Greenert said aggressive acts that violate international norms should be opposed. "We will continue to say that aggressive behavior outside of international norms, not using the established procedures... is contrary to, I'll call it, good order here and we have to manage, we oppose it, we will work to clarify that," he said. The Philippines and the US signed the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951, which provides that the two countries, separately or jointly, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacities to resist armed attacks. China has been flexing its muscles in the West Philippine Sea, conducting maritime

US HELP continued on page 7

Friends watch Rey

Chito Sarabia, Rafael Nebres of Action Honda, Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda and Chuchi Punsalan have a few bites before the start of the Rey Valera concert.



Is "Intsik" a racial slur?

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—It is not odd that "Intsik" (Chinese) is still part of the Filipino's vocabulary because the presence of Chinese in the Philippines and their influence on Filipino culture remain strong. President Aquino is a Filipino of Chinese descent, as his late mother, former President Corazon Aquino, was a member of the influential Chinese-Filipino Cojuangco clan.

INTSIK continued on page 23

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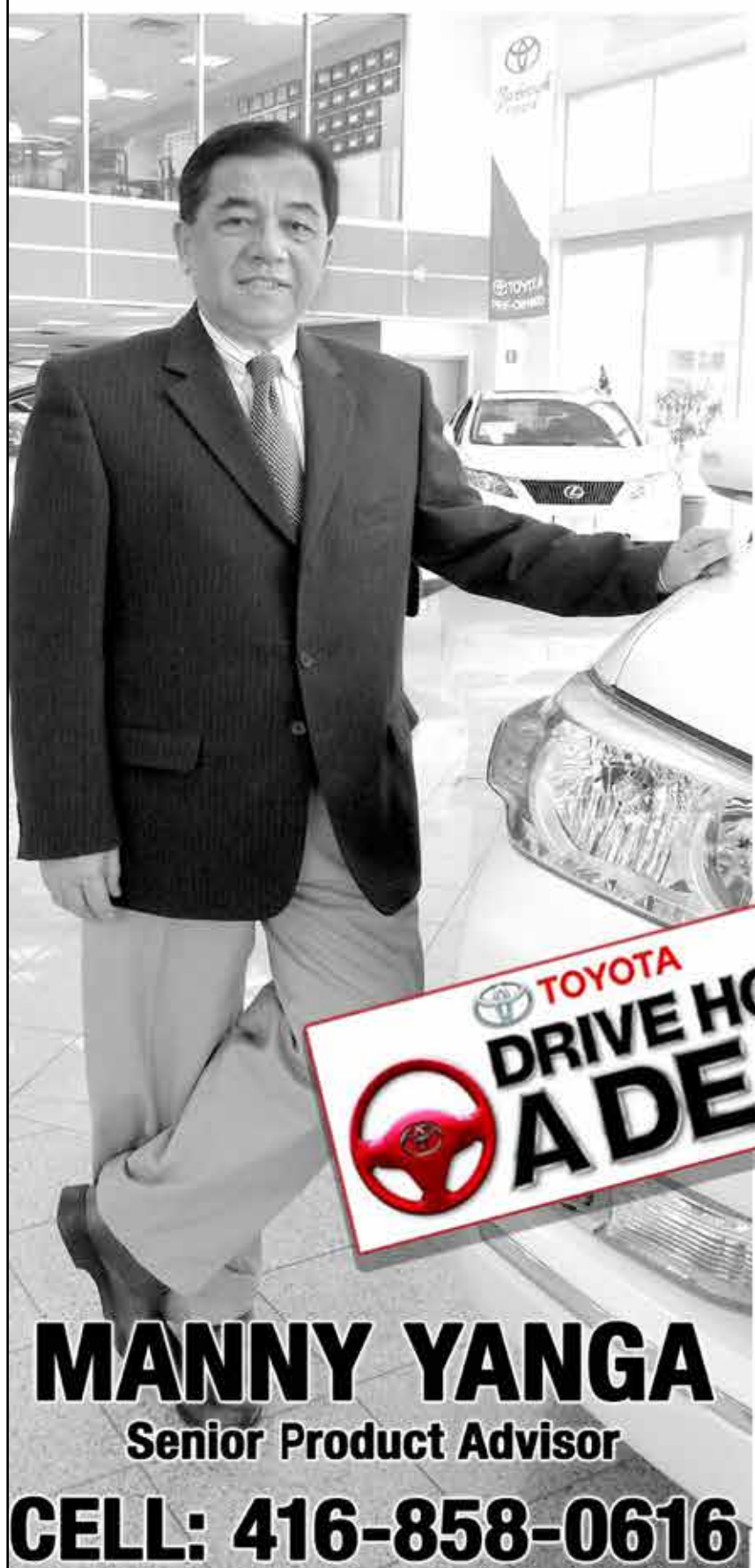
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Sagip-Kapamilya Helps More Than 700,000 Families Affected By Typhoon Yolanda

Through the continuous support of various individuals and sectors all over the world, ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya has already helped 724,995 families in the Visayas and Mindanao, after Typhoon Yolanda hit the country last November 2013.

Aside from constantly providing relief assistance to the 14 provinces in the said regions, Sagip Kapamilya also aims to foster learning among the youth despite the tragedy they experienced. It already started building new classrooms and has already given children new school supplies to help with their education.

"We have already started building schools. Probably, we can finish 10 to 15 classrooms within the next two months" said Sagip Kapamilya program director Tina Monzon-Palma.

Sagip Kapamilya has also helped in rebuilding the livelihood of the typhoon victims. In fact, more than 100 boats had been given to some families in Basey, Samar and Dulag, Leyte. There are 4,000 boats more to be distributed to other coastal areas in the said provinces.

To date, Sagip Kapamilya has received a total of P701 million of cash donations and P250 million worth of in-kind donations.

Despite the huge amount of donations gathered, Palma said that support for the affected families must not stop as they continue to rebuild their lives from scratch.

"We may think that we've already received massive amounts of donation, but the daily needs of the families in devastated areas go on," said Palma.

Celebrity Ink

Celebrities get into the tattoo bandwagon



Not long ago, tattoos were mainly associated with convicts and gangsters. Today, it is considered a form of art, supposedly a style of self-expression, as popularized by a huge number of celebrities.

Among local stars who have their bodies inked for life is Kapuso actor Mark Herras, who had his first tattoo done when his grandmother died. It wasn't the last.

Herras proudly showed off his many colorful the tattoos in a 15-second video he posted on Instagram recently. Among his tattoos is the name "Dolores," as with "Santos," and the phrases, "UNO," "One Chance," "One Life," and "One Dream." He also sports tattoos of several Chinese

characters and some geometric patterns.

Another is singer Charice. Her first tattoo, as displayed on her left forearm reads, "Love Eternally." It comes with an infinity sign, which is supposed to signify her love for her family and friends. She also has the words "Let's start with forever," tattooed on her chest as a dedication of sorts to girlfriend Alyssa Quijano.

Meanwhile, actor Vandolph Quizon followed the lead of other Quizon family members, when he had a portrait of his father Dolphy done on his arm upon the latter's death.

"It's Showtime" mainstay Vice Ganda has a tattoo of a red star on his right wrist, a rosary around his right arm and, four playing cards on the knuckles of his right hand. Another star on his neck signifies a big career milestone.

Lovi Poe got her first set of tattoos, the phrases "My Wings" and "My Gravity," during the first death anniversary of her father, the King of Philippine Cinema Fernando Poe, Jr. She has a new tattoo done below her breast line that read, "Quiet Child."



Daranak Falls, Tanay Rizal.

Palace lauds inclusion of PH on world's top tourism list

MANILA, Philippines— The newest online survey tagging the Philippines as among the top 10 places in the world to visit would attract even more tourists to come to the country, Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said Saturday.

Valte was referring to the online survey by Huffington Post Travel 2014, which recommended the Philippines for "bargain hunters, outdoorsy types and the food obsessed."

"That's really good news. We hope our inclusion in this particular top 10 will serve to draw more tourists to our shores," she said on radio.

Hunffington Post said the "cosmopolitan affordability and splendid nature" makes Philippines a destination that offers a lot for the money.

Valte said the Aquino government is turning to tourism as it tries to recover from recent calamities, including Super Typhoon "Yolanda" (Haiyan).

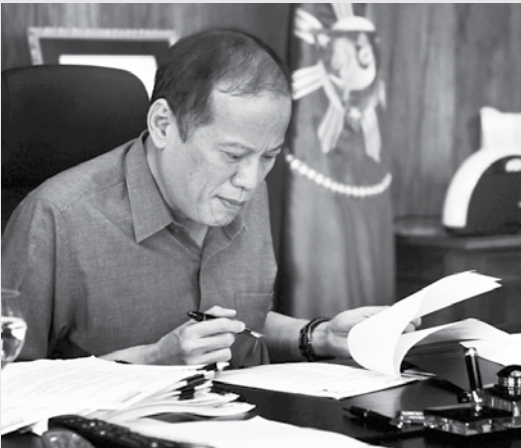


Naku HA! by Jose Baking
LMConfidential.com

VERY MISLEADING HEADLINE

Deniece Performed Oral Sex To Vhong; CCTV Exposes The Truth!

Ito po ang headline sa ibang mga balita sa internet. The CCTV does not show the oral sex. The CCTV shows Vhong, other men, and Deniece going in and out the lobby and elevator, that's all. Kaya tuloy ako napabasa. Akala ko iyong oral sex ang nasa CCTV. Iyong iba naman, you ahve to click share before the video plays. I do not do that. I want to know if there is something worth watching in the video first. Otherwise, you end up posting useless videos on your timeline.



President Aquino is an Enigma

President Aquino is an enigma. He is a scion of a prominent family. He has Chinese blood from what I know. Yet, he refused to apologize to HongKong for the hostage fiasco. In dealing with China on the West Philippine sea issue, he has the balls to call them names while his enemies, who have no Chinese blood sides with China. he is also the president who finally stopped the decade-long debate on the reproductive health bill and declared that it is time to put it to a vote and in turn, incurred the wrath of the Catholic church. He is an enigma.

Is it still news?

The definition of news is "newly received or noteworthy information, especially about recent events." But if it is not new anymore, what is it? If you keep writing the same thing again and again without new information being added, what do you call it?

Gossip?

Propaganda?

Smear campaign?

Kung paulit-ulit mong sinusulat ang balita na naisulat mo na ng mga limampung beses, ano

ang gusto mong mangyari? Do you expect people up rise up and revolt just because you want them to take your cause? If you want people to take your cause, you have to pay them. They are called employees. But if you think people will take time off from work, dedicate themselves to your cause, when you know you are the only beneficiary, you must be dreaming, hindi ba?

Only in the Philippines

Only in the Philippines can you make a false accusation and get away with it without being charged. A disqualified pageant contestant named Roxanne Cabanero accused Vhong Navarro of raping her. Unfortunately for her, her story unravelled as to the timing of when she was raped. At the time she claimed Vhong raped her, Vhong was singing at the concert of Vice Ganda. So, the question is, will she be charged? Well, if she did not file it with the police, probably not. But if she did, she should be charged with filing a false report. Why? Because she used their time and money who ahd to investigate her claim, that's why. Sus Guinoo naman.

Why sabay sabay ang construction?

Bakit kaya sabay sabay ginawa ang construction sa Metro Manila? Dahil kaya may pera ngayon at they are worried na mawala. Kasi, it does not make sense dahil the traffic nightmare na mangyayari. Baka naman dahil alam ng mga planners na kapag hindi mo ginawa ngayon, iyong mga losing bidders sa construction projects, maghahabla sa korte at wala na namang mangyayari. Alam mo naman sa atin kapag may bidding. Pag natalo, magdedemanda. Bago matapos ang kaso, ilang taon na nakaraan. Hmmm, hindi kaya?

Spotlight

Rosanna Ortiz

From Bold star to a Fine Actress



She was one of those who started the bold trend in the 60's but she became a fine actress when she won Asia 's Best Supporting Actress for the movie Patayin Mo Sa Sindak Si Barbara , directed by Celso Ad. Castillo.

She was only 16 when she entered the movies in the late 60's.

She appeared in several sex flicks such as Hayok and Ang Magsasaging ni Pacing.

In 1971 alone, she finished 15 movies.

While other bold stas remained in bold films, she transitioned to serious and dramatic roles such as in Daluyong (1971) for Ishmael Bernal, Ang Kampana ng Santa Quiteria (1971) for FPJ for which she earned a Famas Best Supporting Actress nomination, Anthony and Cleopatra (1972) for Dolphy and Patayin Mo sa Sindak si Barbara (1974) for Celso Ad Castillo, where she was praised for her memorable performance.

She also appeared in Ibong Adarna with Dolphy, Panchito Alba and Babalu as the three prince brothers. She was the reason for the sensational killing of a businessman's son which sent Eddie Fernandez and Berting Labra to prison.

She was one of the bold stars during the 70's but she grduated from bold roles to dramatic when the bold movies were no longer popular.

She is now a resident of UK.

Scene in the City



Odette Scala (FV Foods Bathurst's manager) celebrated her birthday with coworkers, and friends. Odette very much appreciated the support of FV Foods Bossing, Mhel. The event was held on Feb. 9, 2014 at FV Foods Bathurst Party Room. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

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Without a second thought, he takes off after her. A few miles later puffing and puffing, he finally gives up. The same girl shows up for the next four days and the same thing happens. On the fifth day, he weighs himself and is delighted to find he has lost 5kg as promised.

He calls the company and orders their 5-day/10kg program.

Same thing happens for the next 4 days as before. Much to his delight on the fifth day when he weighs himself, he discovers that he has lost another 10kg as promised. He decides to go for broke and calls the company to order the 7-day/25kg program.

"Are you sure?" asks the representative on the phone. "This is our most rigorous program." "Absolutely," he replies, "I haven't felt this good in years."

The next day there's a knock at the door; and when he opens it he finds a huge muscular guy standing there wearing nothing but pink running shoes and a sign around his neck that reads, "If I catch you, you are mine."

He lost 33 kilos that week.

Honey Shot



Sharmaine loves playing soccer, fashion designing, modelling, reading and spending time wit her family. She is studying at St. Joseph's College and plans to take up law in the future. One of her priorities in the next five years is to give her mom a better life. She believes that "you're the only one who can build your future and no one else." Well said. We wish her all the luck in her endeavour.

Sharmaine Salvacion

Vice Ganda Sad For Vhong Navarro Amid Controversy

Vice Ganda has shared that he feels bad especially for his friend and "It's Showtime" co-host Vhong Navarro amid the controversy Navarro is in right now.

The comment follows Roxanne Acosta Cabanero filing a case against Navarro for allegedly raping him four years ago.

"Sobra akong malungkot kasi stress ito para sa lahat," he told Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino in a recent interview for ABS-CBN's "Aquino & Abunda Tonight".

He said that he is feeling bad not only for Navarro but for his family, his friends and those who are close to the actor.

Vice Ganda said he feels this way because this controversy including the legal battles that has stemmed from it will take a long time to resolve.

He said that while the physical hurt - including the blackeyes, the bruises and body ache caused by the mauling of Navarro - will go away soon, the trauma for those involved in the issue will take a longer time to heal.

He said, "yung trauma nito sa lahat ng sangkot, 'di natin alam kung kailan ito matatapos. Kaya I feel so bad for them, for him (Vhong), especially."

As for making jokes out of the whole thing, the comedian said that it was Navarro who requested that Vice Ganda make him laugh.



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CBCP blows up over condom ads



Just when we thought the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) was keeping it low-key, they do this. "The CBCP appealed to the Ads Standard Council and TV networks to stop airing condom advertisements."

The report quoted Father Melvin Castro, CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Family and Life executive secretary, who said, "These ads are corrupting the minds and the hearts of our young people."

According to the report, Castro "also expressed disappointment because the condom ads are still being aired despite the temporary restraining order issued by the Supreme Court on the Reproductive Health Law."

Filed: Bill criminalizing the buying of school papers

Those who are planning to let their money get them through those school papers—dissertations, theses, term papers, and other reports to acquire academic credentials—should be afraid.

"AGRI party-list Rep. Delphine Gan Lee filed House Bill 3793 or 'The Academic Honesty Act of 2013.'"

The report quoted Lee, who said that "it is imperative that such academic achievement be obtained only through the efforts of the person claiming it as person's own, and not the work of people he or she just paid to write said materials."

Under the bill, "any person found guilty of violating the proposed law shall be meted a penalty of imprisonment of arresto menor (one day to 30 days), or a fine of not more than PHP10,000, or both, at the discretion of the court."

Pinay hurt in Lebanon Bombing

BEIRUT, LEBANON - A Filipina was

hurt in one of the two suicide car bombings in South Beirut last Wednesday that killed 11 people, and injured 128 others.

Teresa Dorado never thought that she would end up as one of the victims of successive

suicide bombings that have been terrorizing south Beirut recently.

"Pumunta ako ng kitchen, kasi nga iinom sana ako ng tubig," she recounted. "Mabuti kamo, nakatalikod ako. Bale,

Suicide bombings have been occurring in Lebanon since July of last year. This year, bombing incidents have escalated to almost every week. Most of the bombings have been focused on the predominantly Shi'a-Muslim area of south Beirut, also called Dahiyeh.

"Conventional wisdom is that, because of the sort of population who are residing in that area, it is possible that there are not really too many Filipinos that are going to be working or residing in Dahiyeh. So I think our efforts really are just to ensure that we are able to have a more exact knowledge about the presence of the Filipinos there. But really at the back of our minds also is a hope that the number will not be that many," said Ambassador Leah Ruiz of the Philippine Embassy.

Just like the last year's bombing of the Iranian embassy, a group of Sunni jihadists



nakatagilid na 'ko na nakaharap ako dito sa kwarto ko. Kung hindi, 'yong pagsabog na 'yon, kasi puro salamin 'yong kitchen namin na 'yong door ... sa akin lahat 'yon—sumabog lahat sa grabeng lakas," Dorado said. Dorado is now recuperating at a hospital in Beirut.

The incident occurred around 9:30 a.m. when a Mercedes Benz was blown up outside the Iranian cultural center and a BMW was detonated near the European exhibition center, close to Dorado's place of employment.

Though the blast left her with a swollen foot and cuts all over her body, especially her neck and hand, she is still thankful to God that she is alive.

"God is good, kasi walang naano sa akin, kompleto ho ako. Kahit puro galos ako, may sugat, at least buo daw ako," she said.

linked to Al-Qaeda, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades claimed responsibility for the recent twin car bombs, both on Twitter and YouTube.

They threatened they would not stop until the Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah withdraws from fighting alongside President Bashar Al-Assad of Syria.

Lebanese government officials also asserted the bombings were an attack on Lebanon's new government, formed on February 15. Prime Minister Tammam Salam, President Michel Suleiman and other officials urged the Lebanese to even stronger solidarity in the wake of terrorism and other attempts to promote sectarian strife.



Sheena Halili on being single: "Willing ako mag-wait"

Being single doesn't mean that you are unhappy. In fact there are those who enjoy being single more than being in a relationship. One example is Kapuso artist Sheena Halili, who is very vocal about enjoying her single status.

"Di naman ako nagmamadali, 'di naman sinasabi na dahil wala akong boyfriend 'di pa ako nakaka-move on. Ako lang 'di lang ako doon nakakahanap ng happiness. Hindi naman natin masasabi na masaya ang tao dahil may lovelife siya," she said.

According to Sheena she knows how good it is to be in love and be with someone, but she is currently focused on her faith. She shared, "Kung darating man 'yun, ang ipinagdarasal ko talaga ay man of God, 'yung magiging mabuting leader for me, na hindi ako malalayo sa Kanya. Hihintayin ko 'yun. Darating naman 'yun, ang focus ko lang ngayon e i-share ko 'yung happiness na ipina-feel sa akin ni God."

Sheena admitted that she has suitors. However, she does not go out without her friends. "Never pa akong nakipag-date ng dalawa lang kami. Laging group and kapag alam ko na, [walang chance, sinasabi ko na]. Kasi importante pa rin sa akin na [maging patas], kasi ayokong makasakit or magpasa."

Sheena admits that at the end of the day, she entertains the thought of companionship and falling in love again.

"Gusto ko mag-start as friends kasi ayoko ng magjump agad na parang may audition na maging boyfriend ko. Ayoko ng ganoon. Gusto ko maipakilala ko muna kung ano ako, at gusto kong makilala kung ano siya. Kasi pag ligaw laging best ang ipinapakita e. Gusto ko 'yung talagang barkada lang then mas masarap siguro 'yung ma-fall nalang kayo sa isa't-isa," she said.

Sheena keeps her heart guarded in finding "the one". She shared, "Ganoon naman ako mula start, hindi naman ako 'yung lumalabas na lang basta-basta or nakikipag-date. Basta may gusto sa akin, date na. Ako siyempre, importante pa rin sa akin na babae ako and 'yung future ko. Wala akong ibig sabihin, pero ang nasa heart ko kasi, ayokong masabi na 'ayan na-date yan ni ano 'yan, or na-date ni ano 'yan'. Ayoko ng ganoon. Gusto ko kapag nakipag-date ako, siya na."

Sheena happily declared that she is not looking for a boyfriend. She prays for the right guy to come along and be her husband. "30 sana nameet ko na 'yung guy. Okay lang sa akin basta 'yung right guy, willing ako mag-wait."

Scenes in the City



FIRST, Romer and Annie Tolentino proudly presented their debutante daughter, Khriessie, to gathering of family, classmates, and friends at Roma's Banquet Hall on Jan. 25, 2014; also in the picture are her sister Kim, and brother Paulo. Khriessie will soon be pursuing a career in Nursing. SECOND, Khriessie Tolentino celebrated her 18th birthday with family, friends, and worshipper on Jan. 25, 2014 at Roma Banquet Hall. THIRD, Leo Alexander Casucci was baptised at Saint Mary's Immaculate Roman Catholic Church on Jan. 11, 2014. Very proud grandparents, Jess and Tess Mallari (Mabini Money Remittance) invited the guest for lunch at the newly opened Barrio Fiesta for the reception. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

PAENG NEBRES IS REELECTED PRESIDENT OF BICOL CANADA

Rafael Nebres was reelected president of the Bicol Canada Community Association, Inc. A native of Camalig, Albay, he will be serving until 2015.

The BCCA is composed of Bicolanos and Bicolanas who came from the provinces of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon who opted to settle down in the different Canadian provinces, cities, and towns.

Nebres was president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Toronto (PCCT) and he is the general manager of ACTION HONDA. He can be contacted at (416) 281b-1234 and Emails: rafael@myactionhonda.com and rafael168@yahoo.com

He appealed to all bicolanos and bicolanas in Canada to get in touch with him so as to be included in the forthcoming directory which will come out in the near future.

Other BCCA officers elected include: Jojo Taduran, vice president for membership and government relations. He is a veteran Filipino print and broadcast journalist. He is an active regular member of the Knights of Columbus, the Order of the Knights of Rizal an a lifetime member of the National Press Club of the Philippines.

Two civic leaders in the Filipino community in Ontario were elected vice president for public relations



Photo shows Rafael Nebres (middle), reelected president of the Bicol Canada Community Association, Inc.; Leon J. Aureus, Jr., founder of BCCA (exteme left) and Jojo Taduran (exteme right), BCCA vice president for membership and government relations. (St. Jamestown News Service, Dindo Oroboso)

Ms. Estrella Dilla Carpenter and vice president for sports and youth development Noli Aquino.

Immigration consultant Arlene Martirez is still the secretary and Monsie Royong, assistant secretary.

Ching Ragos, the die-hard Bicolana is the new treasurer while Aida Dolores Lagarde is the assistant treasurer. The new auditor is Bobby Achacon who served the association as president and treasurer.

Ronnie de la Gana of Del Gallego, Camarines Sur and veteran radio broadcaster Nestor Canton, directors

for special projects. The other members of the BCCA board of directors include: Jess Cabrias, executive prducer of Telakayan radio program; MegaWorld Country Manager Larry Bercasio; Fely Ortega; Naty Gutierrez; Benhur Ll. Salcedo, Jr. Retired Police Officer Ely Olayon; Naty Gutierrez, Virgie Manaog, and businesswoman Helen Lopez. In the meantime, President Nebres said that there will be a massive membership campaign for the Bicol Canada Community Association this year. (St. Jamestown News Service)



Vice Ganda And Karylle Remain Mum On Alleged Rift

"It's Showtime" hosts Vice Ganda and Karylle remained mum about their alleged rift as many netizens noticed how Vice ignored the singer-TV host in the said noontime show.

There were rumors that the two are not in good terms lately because of three possible reasons: one, Karylle failed to attend Vice's victory party; two, Karylle said something to Vice that did not bode well for the comedian; and three, Karylle's fiance, Yael Yuzon, does not agree with the Vice-Karylle loveteam of the show.

The "madlang pipol" have been noticing how Vice avoids Karylle during the show's segments, "I Am PoGay" and "Stars on 45."

Vice and Karylle have always traded banters with each other, but it is noticeable how Vice stays close to Anne Curtis and Billy Crawford during scenes with Karylle. He also didn't say anything when it was Karylle's turn to judge, which is unusual for the TV host-comedian.

When Karylle announced her impending marriage to Yael last week on the show, Vice was also absent despite the fact that the boys of "It's Showtime" were supposed to serenade the singer-TV host.

But in an interview with "TV Patrol," Vice wished Karylle the best of luck on her marriage. "Good luck sa kanyang napipintong pagpapakasal at pag-aasawa. Sana magsama sila habambuhay at maging happy forever. Mukha naman silang masaya, masayang masaya naman sila."

The staff and hosts of "It's Showtime" are supposedly well-aware of the rift between the two, but they also refused to speculate on what could be the cause.

US to help Phl if China Invades

US HELP continued from page 1

patrols in disputed areas to assert its territorial claims.

It has also declared an air defense zone above waters separating China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, raising concerns from various countries who believe this would affect freedom of flight in international airspace.

In January, Chinese media reported that Beijing is imposing a fishing law in the West Philippine Sea that will require foreign boats to seek permission before operating in the area.

Japanese media also reported that China is planning to impose an air defense zone over the West Philippine Sea but this has been denied by the Chinese government.

China, whose recent actions are causing tensions in the region, is claiming almost the entire West Philippine Sea through its so-called nine-dash line, which covers more than 100 islets, atolls and reefs. Its claims also overlap with those of the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei and Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the US is sending its newest military assets to the region as part of its rebalancing to the Asia Pacific.

Greenert said they would increase the number of US ships in the region to 60 by 2020. "For the last 20 years, we have had at at least 50 ships at any given day here in the Western Pacific...Actually, it will grow toward 60 ships by the end of this decade," the US military official said.

"This is all part of our, what we called rebalance, the rebalance to the Asia Pacific. It's not just ships, it's not just airplanes, it's about tough process. It's about intellectual capacity. It's about sitting down with our partners," he added.

Greenert said among the assets to be deployed is the P8, which is a Boeing 737- 800 battle aircraft.

"We got fancy cameras, fancy infrared, fancy motion detectors, and a lot of established aircraft capability on a general craft," he said. Also to be deployed are littoral combat ships LCS 10 and LCS 3, which will sail towards the Western Pacific waters this year.

"Our presence here is not as much

US HELP continued on page 25

Nadeene's Birthday



FROM LEFT, Nadeene Panaligan celebrates her birthday.; Nadeene's brother Joshua is carried by Tita Lanie.; Nadeene gets a ride from her dad Sherwyn.; Nadeene poses with her family.; Nadeene poses with sister Ampee, Allan and Claudia.; Nadeene poses with her friends.

Carabao vanishing in Pangasinan



LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The carabao, the country’s national animal, is fast vanishing in Pangasinan province, according to an official of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in the Ilocos region.

“At the rate carabaos are being slaughtered for meat and meat products, the animal will completely vanish in 10 years,” said Gloria de la Cruz, director of the PCC based at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in La Union province.

“You know, carabao meat is cheaper than beef. But, ironically, the nutritional value of carabao meat is higher than that of beef and goat meat,” De la Cruz said.

As a result, the province’s carabao population decreased from 110,268 in 2010 to 77,609 in 2012.

Pangasinan’s carabao population in 2010 accounted for 60 percent of the carabao population in the Ilocos region. In 2012, it was down to about 50 percent.

Only 14 towns and Alaminos City have a “good” number of carabaos in the province, said Dr. Eric Jose Perez, provincial veterinarian.

He said that last year, meat and meat products produced from carabao were about 6,685 metric tons, below the Pangasinan consumers’ demand of 8,867 MT.

Crossbreed also slaughtered

De la Cruz said the PCC started crossbreeding carabaos in the province with foreign-bred Murrah buffaloes through artificial and natural insemination in 1999.

“But based on our findings, the offspring, which were improved breeds, were slaughtered, [negating] our efforts,” she said.

Protecting females

To arrest the dwindling carabao population in Pangasinan, De la Cruz said she met with Perez last year and together, they lobbied the provincial board for the enactment of an ordinance that would regulate the sale or slaughter of female carabaos in the province. The ordinance was passed.

“This is the first ordinance of its kind in

the country that will hopefully help stop the downswing of the carabao population in Pangasinan,” De la Cruz said.

Under the ordinance, anyone caught selling and slaughtering a “quality” carabao will be punished. First offenders will be reprimanded and will be required to attend a one-hour orientation on the ordinance. Second offenders will lose their license to

transport livestock.

Buy-back plan

The ordinance also established a buy-back plan in which the provincial government buys breedable female carabaos to be distributed as additional stocks to dairy cooperatives in the province.

De la Cruz thanked Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino Jr. for approving the initial allocation of P1.5 million, and P500,000 in the succeeding years, for the buy-back scheme.

Nationwide trend

At the news conference, De la Cruz announced that the PCC was giving two cooperatives 30 Bulgarian Murrah buffaloes each for their dairy project.

She said her office and local governments would conduct an information caravan to educate farmers about carabao raising.

De la Cruz said that although the decreasing carabao population was more visible in Pangasinan, it was also a nationwide trend.

“This is why in other provinces, we also conduct crossbreeding activities and encourage farmers not to slaughter their carabaos,” she said.

“The dramatic decline in population in 1991–1994 coincided with a clear rise in the slaughter rate, pointing to an obvious direct cause and effect relationship between these two variables,” the PCC website said.

Carabao Act

De la Cruz said that aside from the Philippine Carabao Act of 1992 (Republic Act No. 7307), which was authored by then Sen. Joseph Estrada, there should be a law banning the slaughter of carabaos.

“I really hope a law concerning the

preservation of our carabaos will be passed. In the entire country, the carabao population continues to go down,” De la Cruz said.

She said the late Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III had filed a bill that would ban the slaughtering of carabaos. This was approved by the House of Representatives but the measure remained pending in the Senate.

“I hope they will revive the bill, or better still adopt the Pangasinan ordinance,” De la Cruz said.

“I do not want us to be in a situation where we no longer have any carabao left. When that time comes, the next generation will just be seeing carabaos as figurines or statues in museums,” she said.

Bishop says RH Law, poverty causes Pinoys to get into Internet porn

He sounds like he’s joking...but he’s not.

“Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo attributed Internet pornography patronage in part to the Reproductive Health (RH) Law,” reports ABS-CBNnews.com.

Citing an article from the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) website, the report said “Pabillo blasted the culture of addiction, which he said is rooted on the promotion of condoms, contraceptives, and the RH Law itself.”

Pabillo went on to blame poverty for the rise in Internet pornography. He said, “It is because of poverty among our people that pushes them to cyber pornography and it should be addressed sincerely. What is happening is that most parents were unable to provide education for their siblings causing ignorance that eventually drives their children to cyber pornography to make a living.”

On top of that Pabillo wants the the government to teach the “sacredness” of sex.

Dear Bishop Pabillo, you should know by now that people don’t need help when it comes to being led into temptation or other worse things. They can get there all by themselves. If you’re an RH Law advocate, it doesn’t mean you’re addicted to porn. If you’re poor, it doesn’t mean you’re going to force your children to be featured in pornographic shows.



Maria Panaligan, Philip Beloso, Genelie Panaligan, Tess Beloso and Shirley LeBlanc enjoyed the concert.



Liza Diño

I Love Aiza

Actress-beauty queen Liza Dino is in love. Her eyes sparkle, her voice has a lilt and the smile hardly leaves her face.

Two days before, singer-songwriter Aiza Seguerra went down on her knees and popped the question before a cheering crowd of theater goers at Liza’s alma mater, UP (University of the Philippines) Diliman.

Aiza proposes to girlfriend Liza

A flushed Liza was wearing the blue sapphire engagement ring Aiza gave her during the exclusive interview with this writer in a restaurant along Tomas Morato, Quezon City. She just came from an acting workshop with Piolo Pascual in nearby ABS-CBN (Liza plays Sam Concepcion’s mother in the upcoming soap, “Mirabela”).

Aiza’s 32-year-old fiancée hardly looks harassed. She introduces herself and orders a light dinner. And she doesn’t mind answering rapid-fire questions while eating.

Liza admits the whole business of being engaged has yet to sink in.

Unexpected

“It is unexpected. I’m already happy, complete. I thought I’d end up being in a relationship (that’s all). I have a (five-year-old) daughter. I have a job. I can fend for myself. I’m in independent woman. People come and go in my life.”

But Aiza is different. The sparks started to fly 14 years ago, when Aiza was 16; Liza, 18.

Aiza was in high school at OB Montessori; Liza in college. They were good friends who’d call each other up, watch a movie and hang out. Liza would fetch Aiza from school. They’d meet at a nearby McDonalds store.

They exchanged songs and love poems they wrote for each other. Liza takes pride in the fact that Aiza dedicated her very first composition to her.

The relationships has our parents’ blessings.

Liza admits both of them felt something back then, but they can’t make heads or tails about it. After all, they were both in their teens, and it was their first crack at love.

“The reason why we are the way we are

LIZA DINO continued on page 26

Rey Valera wows the fans



FROM LEFT, After the concert, Rey Valera took time in signing and picture taking with his fans like FV Foods bossing, Mhel, Allan, and Odette Escala; Harold and company during Rey Valera’s concert. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS • Rey Valera is mobbed by fans Nieves Mangante and Marissa Andrada. PHOTO BY BONG MOLANO • Maria Panaligan, Britney Waito and Isabella Santiago performed at the concert. • Rey Valera makes an appearance at FV Foods Wilson and Allan and Mendoza Madyn poses with the composer.



Court says online snooping illegal



MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines Supreme Court said online surveillance by authorities is illegal without a court order and that online libel is a criminal offense, in a ruling that allows a cybercrime law to be enforced.

The court ruled on petitions in which opponents argued the 2012 law is unconstitutional and restricts freedom of expression.

The judges found only parts of the law unconstitutional, such as provisions allowing real-time collection of online data by authorities and shutting down a website without due process, court spokesman Theodore Te said.

It upheld libel online as a criminal offense but only the author of a libelous posting can be charged, Te said. Those who merely receive or comment on the post are not liable, he added.

Te said the court also struck down a provision doubling the penalty on libel, which carried a maximum 12-year imprisonment or a fine of at least 200,000 pesos (\$4,400) under the anti-cybercrime law.

The law aims to combat Internet crimes such as hacking, identity theft, cybersex

and online child pornography. The law was suspended shortly after it passed in 2012, but it can now be implemented except for the unconstitutional provisions.

Opponents are considering whether to appeal to the court for reconsideration.

Law Professor Jose Jesus Disini, one of the petitioners, told ABS-CBN television removing the provision of real-time monitoring of online traffic data without a court order was a “major win” for the right to privacy but lamented the decision to

keep libel a criminal offense.

He said he will study the decision more closely to determine “if it makes sense to file a motion for reconsideration.”

The left-wing New Patriotic Alliance and journalist groups have called for the decriminalization of libel to remove it as a threat to free speech.

“It may not be a crime to like, share or react or comment on a certain post, but the original author may still be charged with libel, and that could be anyone,”

said Renato Reyes, the alliance’s secretary general.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, one of the petitioners, criticized the court’s ruling as a step “a century backward” for retaining the old libel law.

It said the court made the Internet, “a once infinite venue for expression, into an arena of fear, a hunting ground for the petty and vindictive, the criminal and autocratic.”

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Manila ‘lechon’ sellers face BIR roasting



MANILA -To be sure, lechon sellers raked in huge profits during the last holiday season. They can cut the celebration, because the taxman is planning a roast and may send for them to serve as the pig.

Unknown to them, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has been watching the industry and found it crispy enough to be served up at an investigation for tax evasion and under declaration of income.

In its latest “Tax Watch” ad, the BIR says it has found that a third of the most popular lechon sellers are not paying taxes, while the rest are declaring “very low” income.

For instance, the BIR says in its tax-payment performance of lechon sellers for 2012, Mila’s Lechon reported an income tax payable for the year of only P5,099.

“Mila’s Lechon had P5,099 income tax due, which is less than the price of its 18-kilo lechon,” the BIR says.

Sellers Three Little Pigs and Rico’s Lechon declared that they had no income tax liability for 2012, the BIR says.

Out of the 17 most popular lechon sellers in the country, six did not file income tax returns for 2012, it says.

The BIR named the six as Sabroso Lechon,

Elars Lechon, Hecky’s Lechon, Jiro’s Lechon, Cris Native Lechon and Aling Loring’s Lechon.

Top roasters

The BIR lists 17 most popular lechon sellers, based on the published choices of online magazines Interaksyon, Choosephilippines.com and Spot.ph.

Besides Mila’s Lechon, Three Little Pigs, Rico’s Lechon and the six that did not file income tax returns, the other sellers in the top 17 are CnT Lechon (which declared the highest tax due of P465,270), Ucing’s Lechon (P123,255), Ping-Ping’s Lechon (P93,456), Charlie’s Pritchon (P67,282), Lydia’s Lechon (P47,017), Zubuchon (P32,697), Jun & Jun’s Lechon (P17,259) and General’s Lechon (P5,594).

They can start worrying, although the BIR earlier said the weekly “Tax Watch” was not making a conclusion that the businesses mentioned in it were tax evaders.

But tax officials involved in the BIR drive against tax evasion said those businesses were among the establishments that the taxman had started to monitor closely.

Should the investigation show that those businesses are violating tax laws, they would face charges, the officials said.

Charges filed weekly

To scare evaders, the BIR brings tax evasion charges every week against erring businesses and personages.

The drive aims to eradicate tax evasion which, according to the World Bank, costs the Philippine government an estimated P450 billion in lost revenue every year.

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Ai-Ai Delas Alas Hints At Rift With Kris Aquino

When Comedy Concert Queen Ai-Ai Delas Alas was asked about her “friendship” with Queen Of All Media Kris Aquino, her short and simple answer was “no comment.”

This was after she was also asked about the different terms of endearment she has for her friends. Ai-Ai calls Kris “friendship” while Sharon Cuneta is “BFF” and James Yap, Kris’ ex-husband, is “My Friend.”

Ai-Ai and Kris apparently had a misunderstanding because the TV host was in London when Ai-Ai’s biological mother died. She wasn’t able to attend the wake or the funeral.

Kris already apologized for this, but it is clear that they have not mended the fence.

Ai-Ai also denied what James said that she watched the semifinals competition between his team, San Miguel Coffee Mixers, and Ginebra with her supposed “boyfriend.”

The comedienne clarified that she was with her business partner during the game. She even said that “friend” already has a wife and a family. She stated that James was just joking about the boyfriend part.

Even when she was still married to Jed Salang, Ai-Ai said it is to James she usually turns to for tickets to the games. Although James is separated from Kris, Ai-Ai maintains a good relationship with the cager, and that’s why she was able to ask for

tickets. Some also saw that she was seated next to James’ Italian girlfriend. Ai-Ai said that wasn’t exactly her choice because it was James who gave her the tickets and the seat number.

Meanwhile, Ai-Ai said she is not yet ready to be friends with Jed, her husband of one month. The comedienne said her former husband must first apologize for what he did to her before offering his friendship.

Jed allegedly abused the comedienne, and cheated on her with other women. Their marriage lasted for only a month. It was recently granted the decree of divorce.

Jed sent greetings during her birthday, but she’s not ready yet to be friends with him. “Siguro pag ready na ako, ipapasabi ko na lang din sa kanya. Pero kung hindi naman siya hihingi ng tawad, paano ko naman mai-offer yung friendship?”

Jed was seen by the media during Martin Nievera’s and Regine Velasquez’ concert entitled “Voice of Love” last Valentine’s Day. He was with two women, who he said are his cousins.

Ai-Ai hinted that one of the women may be the third party to the breakup of their marriage. The woman was described as petite and chinita. The comedienne said she has heard about her before.

Right now, Ai-Ai is in the process of accepting what happened in her marriage. After this, maybe she can finally forgive him and what he did.

“Siyempre magdadasal pa ako na patawarin ko ang taong nagkaroon ng ano sa buhay ko Yung taong nakapagbigay ng sakit sa puso.”

Once the pain is gone, then maybe Ai-Ai can start the process of forgiving “from the bottom of my heart.”

The Comedy Concert Queen said she’s ready to meet someone new again. “Kung puwede lang hindi showbiz, sana ibigay na siya sa akin ni Lord. Dapat na akong mag-move on, ‘no!’”

This time, she will be more careful with the men she will meet. She will also prefer to be quiet about it--if she ever meets someone. “Huwag masyadong mabilis, ligawan muna na medyo matagal.”

WASHINGTON-PITTSBURGH (USA): JUNE 28 – JULY 1, 2014

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CONTACTS

Wilfred Gomez – Tel: 416-292-5707
Romy Ylagan – Tel: 416-494-1793

Pilgrimage to Washington on June 28-July 1, 2014

TORONTO, CANADA - The St. Aidan Knights of Columbus’ annual pilgrimage this year is to the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception in Washington, Franciscan Monastery, St. Anthony’s Chapel containing world’s 5000 sacred relics, visiting the White House President’s Park and among others.

The dates of the trip are from June

28 - July 1, 2014. .

Departure from St. Aidan Church will be at 6:00 a.m. on the 28th of June, 2014 and to return at 9:00 pm on the 1st of July, 2014.

for more information please call Brother Wilfred Gomez at Tel. 416 - 292 - 5707, email: aggiewilfre@bell.net. (St. Jamestown News Service)

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More exciting updates to follow! Help us share this good news. Salamat

PCCF donates Dialysis Machines for Benguet

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) headed by its’ President Romeo Rafael donated recently several dialysis machines for Benguet in Mountain Province. Shown in photo from left to right include: Mr. Lorenzo Payaket, Ms. Nops Ganang (KKMK), Mr. Geoffrey Afidchao, and Mr. Valenciano Toyaoan. The foundation continuously sending donations to depressed areas in the Philippines in coordination with GMA Kapuso Foundation. (St. Jamestown News Service, Romy Zetazate)



Local authorities in Estancia Iloilo brief Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) on the ongoing rehabilitation effort in the area. The town was one of the areas hardly hit by Super Typhoon Haiyan last November.



Music, Women & Food

Skipping out of the second half of a wonderful Rey Valera concert, I went to a birthday bash for Lakambini beauty Keesha Cerezo and joined her fellow beauty contestants and winners. Oh what a Night. And that was just the first night of a 3-day weekend.

I spent the evening covering the first half of Rey Valera concert. The composer, singer, musical arranger, and of of the original members of the OPM was a delight to watch. The other singers in the concert were equally impressive. Britney Waito sang the opening number. Maria Panaligan sang "Pers Lab," the first composition of Mon Toralba, an original member of the Hotdog band. isabella Santiago sang "Mr DJ" an original Rey Valera composition that catapulted a then-young Sharon Cuneta to stardom. They did justice to the popular songs that are by now well-loved by millions of Filipinos all over. For somebody who is more composer than singer, Rey can righteously be called Mr. Entertainer. He is not really a singer per se but his ease by which he makes the audience laugh with



Rey Valera greets Action Honda's Rafael Nebres.

this tories is a revelation. The production by musical power couple Mon Torralba, formerly of Hotdog and his wife Teresa was superb.

Afterwards, I had to drive to Cucina for a birthday dinner for Keesha Cerezo at Cucina. She is joined by other winners and contestants of the Lakambini pageant like Lakambini 2014 winner Krista Bella, Melissa Rejante, Shawna Mae Fresco and Sharmaine Salvacion. Keesha was the 2nd runner-up at the pageant. Lakambini producer-impressario Candace Mallari Davidinvited me to join them. At around 11pm, we had to leave Cucina because some of the girls are not of drinking age yet. So, we went to Country Style donuts across the

street. So, this is how my evening of Valentine went.



TOP, Harold Guarin (HOLDING A CAMERA) of Roadsport Honda and company enjoy the concert. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

ABOVE, Lakambini beauties join Keesha on her birthday. SEATED FROM LEFT, Shawna Mae Fresco, Keesha Cerezo and Krista Bella STANDING FROM LEFT, Lakambini producer Candace Mallari David, Sharmaine Salvacion, Melissa Rejante



LEFT, Rey Valera chats with Hotdog's Mon Torralba on stage. ABOVE, Don Torres, isabella Santiago, Ryan Orlanda, Maria Panaligan and Joshua performed at Rey Valera's concert. RIGHT, Britney Waito poses with Rey Valera and Philip Beloso.



concert, I went to a birthday bash for Lakambini beauty Keesha Cerezo and joined her fellow beauty contestants and winners. Oh what a Night. And that was just the first night of a 3-day weekend.

I had to cover a very entertaining concert, pose with beautiful girl and then run off to cover a birthday party with beautiful girls again. Now, I know what writer Irwin Shaw said about war photographer Robert Capa being always ready to go "to the next war or the next bar." It's not an easy job for a newsman but somebody has to cover the news.

The next day, I went to FV Foods at Bathurst & Wilson to see Rey Valera where no less than the FV Foods honcho himself, Mel Galeon entertained him during the merienda buffet from 1 - 6pm. I have finally tasted the puto dulce de leche combination and was pleasantly surprised that it works. The combination of the two just felt perfect in the mouth and it was not too sweet or bland. In fact, one could call it the

perfect umami, that indescribable taste and feel when a food is just right. His mini bibingka is also a revelation. Straight from the oven it has that moist feel like a chocolate molten lava cake but not runny. I also had the taste of the puto bungbong straight from the oven. It was perfect afternoon.

And it was not over yet. Keesha Cerezo sang with her sister Keena at prestige whein harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda was judging a show prodeuced by Leo's Skilled Caregivers.

The next evening, former Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation Ms Philippines Canada 2012 titlist Alev Usta had her debut at prestige again.

It was a non-stop feast of a weekend. It may not rival the schedule of the Philippine ambassador or the Consul-General but it is hectic enough for me already.

Thank goodness Monday is a holiday.



LEFT, Debutante Alev Usta (standing, 5TH FROM LEFT) and her cotillion strike a pose. PHOTO BY RAMIL BANAAG. RIGHT Alev and her 18 roses partners pose for pictures. BOTTOM LEFT, Mercy, Britney, Alev, Kim and Cody. BOTTOM RIGHT, Alev's 18 candles



PCCF to Build Homes for Leprosy Victims

MANILA - Missing limbs and disfigured faces are just some of the qualities of Leprosy victims. Although this ancient disease is now curable, the victims are still being haunted by their misfortunes. Leprosy victims were more often ostracized by their communities, even their families. They are the poorest of the poor and they are the most likely to be hopeless and feel their lives as meaningless.

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation or PCCF wants to give them hope, PCCF wants to give them dignity and meaningful life. PCCF are donating the funds to build them homes through ANCOP or Answering the cry of the Poor organization. Last January a group of PCCF officials led by EVP Rosemer Enverga with Miss Philippines Canada Caitlin Pantaleon, Mrs. Philippines Canada Chona Stinson and Little Miss Philippines Canada Anjali Pathmanathan visited the site at Tala, Caloocan to meet the recipients of the first ten houses. Another ten houses were pledged to complete the village. The delegation was greeted by performances from the children and adults. Later on that day, the pageanties distributed four balikbayan boxes of backpacks donated by the Pantaleon Family, full of school supplies to children and bags full of candies and other goodies.



LEFT, Miss Philippines Canada 2013 Kaitlin Pantaleon with the children at Tala Leprosorium;
RIGHT, Chona Stinson, Kaitlin Pantaleon and Little Miss Philippines Anjali Pathmanatham with Rosemer Enverga.

It was truly an experience of a lifetime for the PCCF delegation, most especially the pageantry for indeed their hard work has paid off, they made quite a remarkable difference to other peoples' lives. They are giving hope and dignity to the leprosy victims, they are even

bringing their families together by living in their own homes. One of the recipients quoted, "they are not only beautiful outside but also beautiful inside". PCCF president, Romy Rafael declared, We can only help if our events like Pinoy Fiesta and the pageantry are successful, we have to work harder, we need everyone's support, we

have to be united to be able to help the poorest of the poor, we have to have fun and help at the same time.

For the latest updates, please visit:
www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com

Typhoon survivors express Appreciation through Senator Enverga jr.

Survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in Estancia, Iloilo relayed their appreciation to Canada and its people, through Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) saying, had it not for them, probably, "we would not have survived the catastrophe which befell us last November."

Senator Enverga, Jr. visited the Central Visayan town during his four-week work and vacation trip to the Philippines.

During his talk with the residents, one family told Senator Enverga that they were attributing their survival to the timely arrival of Canada's DART (Disaster Assistance Response Team) unit. The family told him that the medical team did a tremendous job in the relief effort.

The residents described that the distribution of relief goods was well-planned and orderly.

Senator Enverga said that shelter being one of the immediate needs after Typhoon Haiyan, the tents sent by Canada, according to the locals, were certainly a blessing. Water purification and distribution were set up by Canadian engineers. Today, over a hundred families still live on tents.



Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (C, Ontario) visits the Town of Estancia, Iloilo -- one of the areas hardly hit by Super Typhoon Haiyan last November. In photo, a local resident points to the oil spill washed ashore when Power Barge No. 103 ran aground at the shores of Estancia during the height of Typhoon Haiyan. The spillage of heavy oil of the bunker C type, contaminated the coast and mangroves up to 10 km downstream. Sen. Enverga, Jr. visited Estancia during his four-week work and vacation trip to the Philippines recently.

The Conservative Senator recalled that when his party was headed to Estancia, he saw the devastation in the area. Thousands of coconut trees -- one of the major crops of central Visayas, and other trees were

uprooted, rooftops of concrete edifices blown out, commercial signages have their frames twisted, caused by Haiyan's exceptional wind, packing at a sustained 230 kph speed.

"From what I saw, I believe that the Canadian relief goods went to the right parties," the senator said.

"While reconstruction is ongoing, rehabilitation and recovery will take years. The support of Canada and its people, through various NGOs, continue and more support for programs will be announced soon," Senator Enverga revealed.

You will recall that at the height of relief efforts, Senator Enverga, Jr., -- together with his wife, Rosemer and children, were on the frontline of the operation at the "Our Lady of Assumption Parish (OLA)" -- the seat of the Filipino Chaplaincy in the Archdiocese of Toronto and worked with countless volunteers working with Fr. Ben Ebcas, Pastor of OLA and Head of the Filipino Chaplaincy.

When the first batch of the DART Team came home to Canada from a month of tour-of-duty in Central Visayas for the relief operation, Senator Enverga led a busload of Filipino Canadians to Trenton, Ontario to welcome back the soldiers and express the entire Filipino Canadian community's appreciation for their work.



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Finding Love on the Net



MARRIAGE AND MIGRATION Filipinas Gallardo, an overseas worker, and Eddy Van Wijnsberge, an engineer, found each other on the world wide web. The Switzerland-based couple have been together for 15 years.

GENEVA, Switzerland - Filipinas Gallardo Van Wijnsberge was among the young professionals in the late early 90's who sought work abroad as a nanny. But hers is not a sob story because she ended up finding her "prince charming" through the web which ultimately changed her life. On April 1986, Filipinas went to Geneva, Switzerland as a caregiver to a slightly autistic child. Although she had a job as a teacher in one of the public schools in Diliman, Quezon City, she was not contented.

"I am basically an adventurous person. Maybe I was so ambitious, I got bored of doing the same daily routine and receiving a low salary. And I was broken-hearted, too," she recalls.

Finding love on the Net

Before Facebook and other chat rooms for finding partners or friends became a fad, 12 years ago, there was ICQ, an instant messaging computer program where one can meet someone.

"I met my husband through ICQ. He moved to Switzerland from the US after several months of communicating with me. I was 35 years old at that time," she says. She clarifies that they were not both looking for a partner at the time they met online. They were chatting for more than a year without realizing that they were falling in love with each other. Thus, when Eddy Van Wijnsberge, a service engineer of an industrial machine manufacturer came to Switzerland, they were already comfortable with each other. They were married in Switzerland in 1999. "Since then, I've see a lot of other parts of the world, built new dreams and plans for the future, particularly our

retirement," she said.

"I became aware and interested in what's going on in the world. I did a lot of things that I couldn't do before, such as helping my family and friends out. I feel different—popular and important—with him. I am considered an ordinary worker here, but I am better off than I was in the Philippines. Life became easier for me and I thank God for that," Filipinas says.

Formula for lasting love

Filipinas, 53, has been married to Eddy, 60, for 15 years now. After her marriage, she was a full-time housewife for five years, adjusting to her new environment and status in life. Without kids to keep her busy, she learned the German and French languages and eventually started working at a leading pharmaceutical wholesaler in Switzerland. She has worked as a packer of medicines ordered by clients through the Internet since 2009.

"Our marriage is full of ups and downs, like every other normal marriage. We are trying to enjoy our life as well as we can and have courage when we have problems to face. We share everything we have. We are open to each other: good or bad news—no secrets, no limits, no hesitations," she explains.

There is really no secret to their relationship. Filipinas says that enjoying every simple moment that they are together is enough.

Hotel workers rally for higher wages

LOS ANGELES – Hundreds of hotel

workers took to the streets in support of higher wages at all Los Angeles hotels.

Nico Quiapos, who works at a hotel just outside of Los Angeles International Airport, earns about \$11 an hour. He said it is difficult making ends meet, and he supports the city council's proposal to increase the living wage to \$15.37.

"Nowadays, if you have a minimum wage of \$7.75, how can you afford it? So I think this is a good drive for us workers in the hotel to have a minimum of \$15 per hour," he explained.

After President Obama announced an increase in federal wages earlier this month, Los Angeles City Hall presented a living wage ordinance this week that would require hotels with a hundred or more rooms to increase the minimum wage to \$15.37.

For Quiapos, his salary would increase by about a third.

"We need that extra \$4 for our living benefits, because we have to have health insurance, dental, vision, that's why we are raising up to \$15," said Quiapos.

Some neighboring cities and the Los Angeles International Airport have had



living wages ordinances for several years.

Eleanor Ramos, a server at the airport where the living wage is a \$13 minimum, marched in support. She said she was making \$7 per hour, but after they passed the ordinance over a few years ago, she is now at about \$20 dollars per hour. She said better paid workers leads to better communities.

"Look how many communities get affected by the airport," she explained. "A lot of people that work in the airport live in the communities surrounding the airport right? All the communities around the airport are thriving because of the workers that live there."

The Hotel Association of Los Angeles said it is unfair for city hall to put laws on a single industry.

They also expressed concern that a pay increase would force some hotels to cut staff and operations.



Solenn Heussaff renews with GMA

Actress, recording artist, model and TV host Solenn Heussaff has opted to remain a Kapuso, inking another exclusive three-year contract with GMA Network, Inc. recently.

Solenn expressed excitement over the renewal of her contract saying, "GMA is like family to me, the company has done a lot for me in the past three years. GMA gave me my first break on TV, kahit I didn't speak Tagalog dati. Even if I had offers from others, I still chose GMA because I started with them and I believe in being loyal."

Apart from being a regular on "Sunday All Stars" and being one of the hosts of "Taste Buddies," Solenn now joins the cast of the primetime series "Adarna" as the beautiful-winged "Ibong Adarna."

She is quite happy with the role, excited as she is to work with Kylie Padilla, Geoff Eigenmann, Mikael Daez and Benjamin Alves. "We are all friends. Fun sa set and they help me with my lines. Very helpful sila," Solenn said about her co-stars.

Lilybeth is very proud of Solenn's achievements saying, "Ever since, ipinakita niya how good she is as an artist. She is very easy to work with. There was no doubt that we will renew her contract."

Leo, for his part, said he is happy with his ward staying in GMA as, "This is where Solenn was discovered. This is where she started her career so it is just right na dito siya mag-grow. I want her to have more drama projects because 'yun na lang ang hindi pa niya masyadong na-e-explore."

The night before the contract signing, Solenn lost her laptop, camera and other valuables to robbers who broke into their house in Forbes Park, Makati. But the robbery seemed inconsequential in light of the opportunities given her by GMA Network.

Online courses not for Jasmine

Fellow celebrities can take online courses all they want. Jasmine Curtis prefers a regular school where she mingles with fellow students, teachers and the academic staff. She goes for the thrill of trying to outdo her classmates in raising her hands when the teacher asks something. And she enjoys making a beeline for the library with her friends to research on a paper or major assignment.



Sadly, he has to put these things on hold. The TV5 princess is so busy she had to file a leave as a freshman student at the Ateneo de Manila so she can focus on her work.

"On leave ako for one sem at hindi ko pa sure kung kalian ako babalik. And daming pumasok na projects, it's so hard to say no. So why not grab it and do your best?"

Her younger sister's decision surprised Anne Curtis, who tried to convince Jasmine to change her mind. But no way will Jasmine's schedule allow it.

"Hindi kaya ng katawang lupa ko. It's unfair sa kontrata ko sa TV5 (where she renewed her contract late last year). I'll have no time work and for rest."

But make no mistake about it. Jasmine tried to juggle her time between school and showbiz, only to find out it's useless.

"At least I tried. Hindi ko kaya ang full-time (schooling)."



Adrik De Leon celebrated his 7th birthday on Feb. 9, 2014 at their home in North York. Proud parents Josie, and Johnny invited friends, playmates, and relatives. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS

Kapampangan culture reaches Japan



MICHAEL Pangilinan wearing the barung kapampangan in Japan.

Michael Raymon Pangilinan’s passion for his own Kapampangan culture got him a plum pass to Tokyo University, one of the most prestigious universities in Asia.

Michael, 44, from Angeles City is a visiting researcher at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS). Since his arrival there in 2013, he has been working on the documentation of Kapampangan language, history and folklore.

A graduate of San Carlos University in Cebu City with masteral units in archeology at the University of the Philippines, Michael says he is also now discovering many similarities between his traditional culture and that of the Japanese.

The Kapampangans, rooted in Central Luzon, are the 6th largest ethnic group in the Philippines.

Sharing the culture

“I was invited to share my knowledge on Kapampangan language, history and folklore since the number of scholars working on this is very limited,” he explains.

Despite his lack of a post graduate degree, his experience as a researcher in the field for many years and his presentation of various scholarly papers in international conferences over the past decade, established his credentials. He has published a book on the indigenous Kapampangan script,

“Kulitan,” and has been promoting it, among other aspects of their language and culture, within the Kapampangan community at home and abroad.

Pangilinan’s efforts earned him an award as Most Outstanding Kapampangan Award in the field of Culture in 2010.

“Aside from the usual research and lecture presentations on Kapampangan language and culture to colleagues, I make sure I always introduce myself as a Kapampangan and explain what a Kapampangan is, should they ask for more clarification,” Pangilinan clarifies.

Similarities

Pangilinan says he sees many similarities between his traditional Kapampangan upbringing in the foothills of Bunduk Alaya (Mt. Arayat) in the town of Magalang, Pampanga, and Japanese culture.

He was raised by his grandfather. “From him I learned how to communicate nonverbally, be respectful and courteous to both man and nature, to know my place before I act or speak, to respect my elders and to always be sensitive to the situation and other people.”

The Japanese are a master of nonverbal communication and of being sensitive to the feelings of others, he says, adding: “As a result of growing up under my grandfather’s care, I can cope very easily with Japanese culture.”

According to Pangilinan Japanese culture may be quite confusing and even frustrating to the current Filipino generation who grew up in this “wannabe-American Manila-based mainstream Wowowee-Eat Bulaga culture.” He often see this conflict with young Filipinos who often come to Japan without learning the language and culture first, thinking that since they are “visitors” they are exempted from cultural norms. Sadly, it does not work that way in Japan. The first thing most Filipinos realized when they first come to Japan is that English is not widely spoken.

He explains that in Japan, one can’t be late or talk loudly. One must always consider the people around.

“Make sure that whatever you do does not inconvenience other people. You always have to be polite and courteous and grateful. You are not supposed to publicly express anger or

disappointment, or whine or complain,” he adds.

In Japan, a person who complains all the time or has no control of his or her emotion is viewed as someone who is weak and unreliable.

However, according to Pangilinan, Filipinos who grew up in traditional households in the provinces will have no problem in Japan.

In traditional households, many of the Filipinos were brought up to be patient, respectful, grateful and always sensitive to the feelings of others. Most of all, those who grew up in traditional households are masters of nonverbal communication, “something that we share in common with the Japanese.”

Being an OFW

Pangilinan says he does not experience discrimination among his coworkers or by the Japanese people in general. The Japanese people are naturally curious about things outside of Japan.

“A Filipino who is well grounded in his indigenous ethnic identity—his ethnic language, history and culture—is very much appreciated in Japan. Keepers of indigenous ethnic traditions are highly appreciated,” he explains.

Pangilinan believes that there has been a change in the wind ever since Japan became stricter with human trafficking and the sending of female entertainers from the Philippines who end up working as bar girls. The growing number of students and intellectuals, culture bearers and professionals from the Philippines who are entering Japan now who have a very good understanding of the Japanese language and culture. Many of these OFWs and scholars have good working ethics and are sensitive to Japanese culture.

“I believe many of us are helping to change the stereotypical image of the overseas Filipino as a “Yankee” (troublemaker) or “Japayuki,” he says.

To fellow OFWs, he has this to say, “Be proud of who you are and your identity. Go back to your roots and recall the teachings of your parents and grandparents. In a foreign country, the major source of strength and stability is how firmly you are rooted to your true indigenous self.”



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MARCH 2014

L. M. Confidential

17

Piolo and Toni's Love Scene is Animalistic

That's according to Olivia Lamasan, the director of their upcoming movie *Starting Over Again*. However, she told Pep.ph that people will giggle when they understand why exactly the love scene is animalistic. "It's very, very clean," she said. (Boo.) As for the scandalous part, the director thinks Toni's parents are the ones who will consider the love scene scandalous. Direk added that there were times when Toni would shake when it came to the kissing scenes and other intimate moments. And then stare blankly into space right after. LOLers.



Heart Evangelista had a hard time interviewing Deniece Cornejo

Deniece was a guest on *StarTalk* last Feb. 2, and Heart admitted that she had a hard time with the interview (which she did together with Butch Francisco) because it was her first time to do something that controversial. "I'm not used to handling that kind of situation," she said. "It was so controversial." She said that she "was iffy about the whole thing" but that she had to do what she needed to do coz it was her job. "That was the only thing I could give. That was the only thing that was given to me. I couldn't do anything else. My hands were tied," she said, explaining that the GMA legal department and Deniece's lawyer were all there. She added that she's usually very vocal and spontaneous and that she was frustrated because they couldn't change or add questions.

Mat Ranillo allegedly introduced Janet Napoles to lawmakers

"According to Benhur Luy, before moving on to senators, alleged pork barrel scam mastermind Janet Lim Napoles first offered her services to members of the House of Representatives after getting introduction from actor Mat Ranillo," reports ABS-CBNnews.com.

The report cited Luy's lawyer, Atty. Levito Baligod, who said Luy claimed that Ranillo supposedly introduced Napoles to members of the House of Representatives. The report explained that "Napoles would then offer hefty kickbacks to the congressmen for every pork barrel-funded project that the lawmakers would funnel to her foundations."

As Luy said, "Ranillo and Napoles had a falling-out since the businesswoman no longer needed the actor after he made the introductions."

In any case, the report also noted that "Ranillo was also linked to the scam by Ruby Tuason, former social secretary of former president Joseph Estrada and the alleged conduit of pork barrel kickbacks for Senators Jinggoy Estrada and Juan Ponce Enrile."



CRISTINE REYES SARCASTICALLY SAYS IT'S MABANGO IN DUBAI

Cristine was definitely being sarcastic when she sang "napakabango, napakabango dito, guys," while inside a train in Dubai together with a lot of passengers, including ex-boyfriend Rayver Cruz. Some commenters defended her by saying that she's entitled to her opinion and that it's true what she said anyway, there are those who are emphasizing how "rude, immature, and insensitive" she was to post such a thing. What do you think?



AI-AI DE LAS ALAS DOES NOT WANT TO GET MARRIED AGAIN

Well, not anytime soon, that is, especially after marrying businessman Jed Salang in 2013 and then separating right after a month. The blooming Ai-Ai told Pep.ph that she feels extra beautiful these days because she's at peace - no worries, no problems, no stress. She still wants to fall in love but with the "proper person" and at the "proper time." But as for getting married, that's not gonna happen anytime soon. "Hindi na puwede. Ayoko na muna," she said.



TONI GONZAGA VISITS VHONG NAVARRO

The *Starting Over Again* actress visited the It's Showtime host last week and she made sure she wouldn't cry in front of him knowing that they'd just end up in a crying spree. What he needs now, according to Toni, is encouragement, prayers, and to be reminded that friends are just there for him. During their meeting, Toni gave him a tight hug and said she misses him. She also apologized for not being able to visit sooner because she just came from the US and Dubai, and then she got sick, too.

BETONG IS NOT GAY

Some people might assume that the comedian is gay simply because he gets a lot of gay roles in *Bubble Gang*, where he is a mainstay, but he clarifies that he's straight. So why all the gay rumors? Maybe it's because he's single. Asked about that, he told pep.ph that he wants to concentrate on his career. why not when things are picking up for him. Apart from *Bubble Gang* Betong is also part of the horror movie *Basement*. So what about Mae, his fellow *Survivor* castaway? He refers to her as tita, so we're guessing there's nothing romantic going on between the two.



MARK HERRAS DOES NOT HAVE A SECRET LOVE CHILD

Every guy in showbiz will get involved in two issues: he is already a father, or he's gay (or has had a gay lover). Mark never really had one of those gay rumors but he was rumored to be a young dad during his early days in showbiz. Now the rumor has resurfaced, with added info that the kid is already big and that Mark provides financial support. Not true, according to the Rhodora X star. He also told Pep.ph that he's single right now (after a five-year relationship with Ynna Asistio) and is focused on his career. (Photo: mercadojenny Instagram account)



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Kim Mahistrado and Danna Luna judge a pageant at Prestige.



Aysu Usta and Britney Waito have fun at Aysu sister's debut at Prestige.

Toni on sex before marriage:
*‘I think love should be greater than
your lust for each other’*



MANILA, Philippines- Toni Gonzaga turned emotional in her interview with Boy Abunda and Kris Aquino in “Aquino & Abunda Tonight.”

In the February 12 episode of the show, Kris noticed that Toni’s eyes seemed sad. The TV-host actress then admitted that she felt sad, especially after the premier night of her film “Starting Over Again” Tuesday night, February 11.

Then the song “Starting Over Again” started playing, which made Toni more emotional. When asked why she’s crying, “kasi iba na ang effect ng kantang ‘yan sa akin,” she replied.

“Kasi kahapon hindi ko nga naiyak lahat ng nararamdaman ko kagabi sa pelikula kasi nagkakaro’n ata ako ng separation anxiety kasi we did the film for eight months.

“Halos araw-araw magkakasama kami, tapos na-realize ko do’n sa premier night tapos na lahat—hindi ko na makakasama sina Inang [Olivia Lamasan], si PJ nang gano’n karegular. So kagabi sa party kumanta ng Starting Over Again, do’n ko naiyak lahat, namaga mata ko.”

Toni then related that the first line of the song is her favorite.
“It made me realize so many things,” she explained. She then related these things, “[that] you have to value what you have, that sometimes...a lot of things happen to you and that [they] happened for a reason. Tapos you have to learn to forgive yourself.”

No to pre-marital sex

Meanwhile, Toni and her boyfriend Paul Soriano have been together for more than six years and they’re both open to talks of settling down. Nothing has been made formal yet,

however.

In that six years, Toni said that they’ve vowed not to engage in pre-marital sex. “Sobra hirap, sobrang hirap panindigan,” Toni admitted candidly. “Honest lang talaga ako. Mahirap talaga panindigan. Hindi naman ako magsasabi ng napakabanal ko. “

So they both exert effort to avoid the “temptation” even if they go on trips together saying, “you do no put yourself in that kind of situation.”

Asked if she’s not worried if they’re not sexually compatible, the TV host-actress quickly replied, “Ako kasi ang paniniwala ko, tsaka kung pa’no rin ako pinalaki, I think that love should be greater than your lust for each other.

“Naniniwala ako that love should be unconditional. I think that love should be the strong foundation of the marriage, and I think that the trust and the commitment that you want to stay together in the marriage.”

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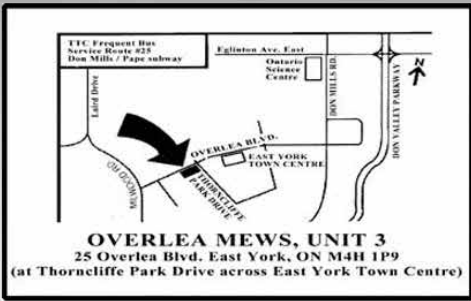


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Maricel Soriano Signs Program Contract With GMA-7

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Diamond Star Maricel Soriano signed a program contract with GMA-7 for a drama series with Dingdong Dantes and Lovi Poe. The title of the drama series is “Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real.”

Maricel wasn’t able to answer questions from the press after the contract signing because she has another commitment. Lilybeth Rasonable, the senior vice president for entertainment, was the one who answered queries from the media.

She said they offered a program contract to Maricel to test first if the drama series she will be starring in will took off. If it will be a success, then it’s possible the Kapuso network will offer an exclusive contract to the Diamond Star.

“Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real” will be directed by Andoy Ranay. The decision to field Maricel for the new drama series came after she guest starred on “Pilyang Kerubin” in 2010.

It was an easy negotiation with Maricel, Rasonable said, adding that the Diamond Star immediately liked the idea of the story and the plot.

The GMA executives are all excited to see Maricel work with their younger stars because they will surely be inspired by the veteran actress. “I think for any artist na makasama si Maricel, napakagaling na artista, it will draw also the best from her co-stars.”

They are all hoping that Maricel’s participation in the drama will be a good experience for all.

Meanwhile, Maricel said she already let go of all the issues that hounded her in the past. Now that she is active in showbiz again, the Diamond Star doesn’t want to dwell anymore on these issues.

Her downward spiral started when her mother, Linda Martinez, passed away in July 2009. Since then, not much of the Diamond Star was seen in public, and some said she underwent extreme depression.

There were also rumors of drug use, but Maricel shrugged that off now.

Since her mother died, Maricel said she felt she has no one anymore. But now that she’s busy with work again, the Diamond Star can finally laugh and smile for the first time in years.

Whatever it is that she has to go through the past years, Maricel already lifted that up to God. “Di ba, nagdadasal tayo? Nasasabi natin sa Diyos lahat na, ‘Lord, ito ang dala-dala ko, nasaktan ako, ganyan.’”

Maricel said she already surrendered everything to God. And because she did, she also realized it’s time to move on and let go.

When it comes to her lovelife, the Diamond Star hopes there will still be someone out there for her. “Sana nga meron, kasi bukas naman ang pinto saka mga bintana. Kailangan bang kumaway pa?”

The Diamond Star said she’s excited to work with Kapuso actors and actresses. She worked with Lovi before for “Yesterday Today Tomorrow,” but they didn’t have a scene together.

She hasn’t worked with Dingdong yet, but she already met him through the late Wyngard Tracy. Maricel maintained she is excited with the prospect of working with the two artists.

Also, Maricel said she heard a lot about Dingdong through his girlfriend, Marian Rivera, who the veteran actress worked with in Bahay Kubo (2007).

Asked whether it will make a difference now that she’s a Kapuso artist (she has long been with ABS-CBN), Maricel said the depth of her love for her craft cannot be measured by the network she’s working with.

Eat Bulaga’s “You’re My Foreignoy” a Hit

The noontime show sure knows how to handle competition. Remember how they came up with “That’s My Tambay,” their answer to the popular It’s Showtime! segment called “That’s

My Tomboy”? Now they’ve come up with another interesting and entertaining segment, “You’re My Foreignoy,” featuring foreigners (good-looking, of course) doing challenges that involve Tagalog words and phrases. We’re definitely tuning in for this. Watch a sample episode above!

Andi Eigenmann says daughter has no father yet

“Legally and technically,” she says, because she’s not yet married and no one has adopted Ellie. As for the little one’s biological father, actor Albie Casino, she thinks he doesn’t even wanna meet her. She emphasizes that she will never lie to her daughter: She’s not going to hide anything from her regarding her father. But as for the two of them meeting, Andi says it depends on when Ellie wants it to happen. She’ll make sure, however, that she will do this for Ellie and not for Albie. She adds that she is not getting any form of support from Albie’s camp, even financially.

Karylle and Yael Yuzon are getting married this March

Congrats to the lovebirds! They never really confirmed that they are an item, but Karylle’s announcement in It’s Showtime! was that and more. Karylle announced they’re going to get married this March,



and that they’ve been together for three and a half years already. “I started as a hurado here in Showtime and I became part of the Showtime family,” she said.

Kris Aquino defends James Yap vs. game-fixing allegations

“In ABS-CBN’s evening talk show, Aquino and Abunda Tonight, on Feb 11, actress-TV host Kris Aquino declared that her ex-husband, basetball player James Yap will never resort to ‘selling’ a game.”

“The game fixing allegation came after Yap’s team, San Mig Super Coffee Mixers, lost to the Ginebra San Miguel Kings on Monday, February 10, after he was called for a loose-ball foul and missed a three-point shot during the game’s fourth quarter.”

Aquino went on to say, “As somebody who used to read the contracts of James Yap, I know that if they make it to the finals, then whatever amount is supposedly being offered for them

to ‘fix’ the game is easily trumped by the money they’d earn if they reach the finals. That’s how huge his contract is. There’s no reason for him to sell the game.”

Aquino and Yap were married in 2005. They separated in 2010 and their marriage was annulled by the court in 2012. Yap is the father of Aquino’s son, Bimby.

Xian Lim sends Bea Binene flowers

Looks like the Kapamilya actor really wants to clear his name after poking fun at a Kim Chiu Kalokali and saying that she’s Bea Binene. He recently sent the real Bea Binene flowers and a letter, and Bea posted a photo of these peace offerings in Instagram. In the letter he said, “I just want to apologize for what happened during Chinese New Year. I want you to know na I didn’t mean it as an insult noong banggitin ko ang pangalan mo. Thanks po for understanding and sorry for everything.” Bea on the toher hand cpaitoned the photo with, “I was surprised when I saw this when I got home. Thank you, @xianlim! You don’t need to give me these, but still, you did. God bless you!”



Anne Curtis has 6M Twitter fans

The Kapamilya actress remains to be the Twitter Queen of the country, reaching the six million mark. “Wow,” she messaged everyone. “Hit 6 Million this evening! Thank you to all of you, my crazy sweethearts for choosing to follow me and all my craziness, fun and sometimes serious posts. This is one ANNEmazing early Valentine/Birthday Gift! Big Hugs and Kisses to all of YOU! Maraming Salamat Po!”

Wally Bayola returns to eat Bulaga

The comedian has returned to the noontime show five months after his sex scandal video with EB Babe Yosh Rivera surfaced. Last Feb. 8, he appeared in the Juan for “All, All for Juan” segment, which he used to do with Jose Manalo, and apologized to everyone and asked for forgiveness and for a second chance. He also apologized to Jose for not listening to him. Birthday boy Jose, on the other hand, was very supportive, and explained that “ang tunay na Dabarkads, laging andyan at laging handang magpatawad.”

Scenes in the Cities (ANYWHERE)



LEFT, Debutante is escorted by her friend who flew all the way from Britain to attend her debut party at Prestige. RIGHT, Meghan Garvida gets her picture taken with Cody Waito.



Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. briefly chats with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III during a reception recently at Malacanang Palace. Also in photo are Mrs. Rosemer Enverga and Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder and his wife, Irene. This was the second time that the only Filipino Canadian legislator in the Parliament of Canada met President Aquino III – the first when he accompanied Prime Minister Harper during the latter’s state visit to that country in November 2012. Senator Enverga, Jr. visited the victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in Estancia and four other towns in Iloilo where he was met with a rousing welcome by the town’s grateful community. (Office of Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr.)

Megan Young misses the Simple Life

In an interview with Ricky Lo, the reigning Miss World shared that the simplicity of her life beack when she still didn't have that crown on her head. "I am a very simple person," she said. "I miss the times when I can go out anytime without thinking about what dress to wear. Or what makeup and hairstyle I should have." She added that "having to dress up and act like a real lady all the time" is the biggest adjustment she had to make, considering how she "used to dress in a laidback and casual style" all the time.

Luis Manzano & Angel Locsin are back together

We all knew they would end up back together when Luis and Angel split ways with their respective lovers (Jennylyn Mercado and Phil Younghusband). Luis confirmed that they have officially gotten back together. He narrated that he felt a spark last New Year, when they started to text each other again. And then Angel revealed that she still has feelings for Luis during the press con for her show The Legal Wife. Luis said during the interview that he's very happy. "You know, in every smile, every tear that you go through in life has a reason, and you're supposed to be where you are," he said. "No matter what you experienced in the past, whether it's happiness or a low point, it's supposed to be there for a reason."

Rex Smith insults Charice

First of all, for those who do not know him, Rex is the singer responsible for the song "Simply Jessie." Okay, moving on. According to Charice's manager Glenn Aldueza, she was doing sound check for a show at a hotel in Cebu early this week when Rex came up to her, pointed his finger at her, and asked her to stop what she was doing. He even said the f-word on his way out, according to Glenn, who added that someone from Ovation Production (they brought Rex to the country) apologized to them and said

that Rex himself would personally say sorry. But that didn't happen. However, the guy from Ovation claims that "it was a case of misunderstanding," Rex not knowing that Charice was going to perform before him. He added that Rex went to the stage and commented on the set-up and was shouted at by the Fil-Am musical director of Charice.

Julia Barretto is OK with being compared to Claudine Barretto

Her mom Marjorie may not be on good terms with her aunt Claudine, but Julia is perfectly fine with being compared to her. Claudine after all was known for being a really good actress during her younger years. "Normal naman siguro siya pero on my side naman I won't let it affect me because my tita has been in the industry for so many years. You can't compare somebody who's been in the industry for many years to somebody who has just entered. So hindi mo talaga mako-compare yun," said Julia, whose show Mirabella will be airing very soon.



What Michela Cazzola loves about bf James Yap

The two have been together for over a year now and it looks like they're going strong. What does she love about him? A lot of things. For example, she likes how James is "easy to be with" even if he's usually quiet. Actually, she loves how quiet he is. "The main thing is that we are both quiet," she told Ricky Lo in an interview. "We love to stay home. I could never stay with a boy who is out all the time. We are not the party-going type."



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Louise Delos Reyes feels privileged to be compared to Anne Curtis+ other stories



also thinks it is a privilege to be compared to Anne. You go, girl. (Photo: lou_delosreyes Instagram account)

Kris Aquino goes house-hunting with Vice

It was when Vice Ganda renewed her contract with ABS-CBN that she decided to buy a bigger house. Her house-hunting partner? The Queen of All Media. Vice shared with Pep.ph several anecdotes about house-hunting with kris. Like how loud she is, but that she actually makes sense. Or how they sometimes don't even leave the car when Kris sees that the house is ugly. She also shared that there is one that she likes, which is worth around PHP67 million. She didn't want to share her budget, however.

Jen Mercado, Mark Herras, and Kristoffer Martin have no time for Love

These Kapuso stars are all single right now and they won't have it any other way. In an interview with MB.com.ph, Jennylyn said that what's important for her right now is her work, her kid (Jazz, thanks to baby daddy Patrick Garcia), her family and friends. She also emphasized that she's never gotten back with any of her ex-boyfriends, such as Mark, who doesn't want to complicate things with Jennylyn, especially because they're working together via Rhodora X. He added that he is not using the show or Jennylyn for a career boost. As for Kristoffer, he is still recovering from his failed romance with Joyce Ching. He says he's still open to possibilities but that he understands that the split was destined to happen.

Local Pretty Little Liars is Impressive

And it's not just someone, it's James Kramer, Warner Bros. creative consultant, who is in the country right now to work with TV5 in the pre- and post-production of the hit US series. "TV5 has such incredible enthusiasm and a wonderful plan [for Pretty Little Liars]. Warner bros. is very happy about this project," he said. More good words from the guy: "Hollywood level, with higher production values, beautiful lighting, elegant camera movement, and sharply polished dialogue." Now we're really excited.

Joey Marquez gets together with Alma Moreno

It was only recently Joey found out about how ex-wife Alma is already separated from hubby Sultan Fahad "Pre" Salic, who is the mayor of Marawi City. Asked by Pep.ph whether he's open to the idea of getting back together with her, he said that while he is single right now, he's not sure whether getting back together is the best idea because they enjoy their set-up right now. "You don't have to be married to have companionship," he said.

John Lloyd Cruz gets into bike accident near

Mt. Pinatubo

Don't panic, he's OK. "On Thursday, Feb 20, actor John Lloyd Cruz was rushed to the hospital after he figured in a bicycle accident in Mt. Pinatubo," reports Nestor Corrales on Inquirer.net. The report revealed that Cruz had been "shooting a segment that was supposedly a part of the new ABS-CBN station ID when an accident happened." Cruz was riding on a bicycle. The report added that "Cruz received four stitches for an open wound under his left nostril and underwent a CT scan."

Cesar Montano wants Sunshine Cruz cited for contempt

Let's blame this all on Facebook. "Actor-director Cesar Montano has asked a Quezon City court to cite for indirect contempt his estranged wife Sunshine Cruz after she posted a Facebook status message that allegedly contained details of their custody case despite a gag order issued by the court," reports Janvic Mateo in The Philippine Star. Indeed, as the report revealed, "Montano, through his lawyer Alwyn Franz Villaruel, filed a petition with the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81." Cruz's Facebook status message supposedly asked this question: "If you are awarded full custody of the kids and the father gets visitations rights, can the father just get the kids without mom's permission?" She had also reportedly tagged her lawyer Atty. Carlo Alentajan in the message. Maybe next time she should just PM her lawyer.



Kim Chiu denies split of Kim-Xian

With P300M earned at the box office for Bride for Rent, Kim Chiu said she is happy about the start of her Chinese New Year. "I'm so happy and sobrang thankful na abot langit na yung pasasalamat ko," she said. Although she is set to be paired with Coco Martin in her upcoming Kapamilya series Ikaw Lamang, Kim said it was not her personal decision to work separately from Xian Lim in the new project. "Yun din ang hindi ko maintindihan eh pero wala, sumusunod lang kami as workers ng ABS-CBN, sila ang nag-deisyon nun," she shared. Kim said that fans shouldn't automatically assume that this means the end of the KimXi love team. The talented actress also addressed the issue that she was the more popular one in the love team. "Hindi naman, kaya naman ni Xian yun. Siyempre iba rin yung talent na nabibigay ni Xian, iba yung humor niya and napakagaling niyang artista and napakadami naming supporters na nagsasabi na hindi nila kami pabababyaan, nandiyang lang sila kabit magkaiba yung project namin and masaya kami na naririnig namin yun," she explained.



Kabataan, slam UP for shifting opening to August

"Last month, the University of the Philippines Board of Regents (BOR) approved the academic calendar shift to August starting academic year 2014-2015—but not everyone is happy with the change," reports ANC. To begin with, UP Diliman is still not on board with the shift "due to opposition registered by certain sectors." The report said that the Kabataan party-list wants the BOR to "explain why it forced changes in the academic calendar despite the opposition from the student groups." Meanwhile, the Anakbayan party-list said "the state university should instead prioritize efforts to lower the cost of tuition." Both groups assert that "adopting changes in the school calendar will not necessarily make Philippine schools more competitive."

SC junks petition questioning appointment of Ping Lacson as rehab

Ping Lacson stays. "The Supreme Court has denied a petition against an order of President Benigno Aquino III specifying the functions of the Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery, the post assigned to former senator Lacson." The report explained that "petitioner Louis Biraogo argued that Lacson's appointment violates Republic Act 10121, which created the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) that is in-charge of post-disaster rehabilitation programs of the government." Biraogo was basically saying that "with NDRRMC's existence, there is no need for the new office created for Lacson." Well, the SC didn't agree with him.



Senator Tobias Jun Enverga & Company with President Aquino



Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. (3rd from right) during a reception recently at Malacanang Palace hosted by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III. Also in photo with him are Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder and his wife, Irene; Mrs. Rosemer Enverga; and the Senator's daughter Rocel. This was the second time that the only Filipino Canadian legislator in the Parliament of Canada met President Aquino III – the first was when he accompanied Prime Minister Harper during the latter's state visit to that country in November 2012. Senator Enverga, Jr. visited the victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in Estancia and four other towns in Iloilo where he was met with a rousing welcome by the town's grateful community. (Office of Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr.)



Filipino Canadian Senator Tobias Enverga, Jr. with wife, Rosemer, and daughter, Rocel, and Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines Neil Reeder and wife, Irene, join Philippine government officials led by President Benigno Aquino III (center) for a souvenir photo at the reception given for the participants of Winter Escapade 2014 organized by the Philippine Diplomatic Mission in Canada. This was the second time that the only Filipino Canadian legislator in the Parliament of Canada met President Aquino III – the first when he accompanied Prime Minister Harper during the latter's state visit to that country in November 2012. During his stay in the Philippines, Senator Enverga, Jr. visited the victims of Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in Estancia and four other towns in Iloilo where he was met with a rousing welcome by the town's grateful community. (Office of Sen. Tobias Enverga, Jr.)

Max-Luis of ‘Innamorata’ another winning tandem by GMA, says Michael de Mesa

Ang veteran actor na si Michael de Mesa ang gaganap na Lloyd sa Innamorata, ang ama ni Edwin Manansala na gagampanan naman ni Luis Alandy. Hindi pabor si Lloyd sa pag-iibigan ng kanyang anak na si Edwin at ni Esperanza (Max Collins) dahil nandidiri siya sa sakit sa balat ni Esperanza na porphyria.



Ipaglalaban ni Edwin ang pag-ibig niya kay Esperanza ngunit paglalayuin sila ni Lloyd. Marami pang makakasama si Michael de Mesa sa Innamorata na kapwa niya beterano na sa mundo ng showbiz katulad nina Pinky Amador, Rita Avila, Leandro Baldemor at Juan Rodrigo. Bago sa lahat ang tambalan nina Luis Alandy at Max Collins kaya ayon sa beteranong actor, “It’s going to be interesting.” Aniya, kapansin-pansin ang galing ng GMA sa pagkilatis at pag-build up ng mga bagong love team kaya naman very promising ang first

tandem nina Max at Luis. “GMA has come up with another sought-after tandem,” dagdag niya. Ang advice ni Michael de Mesa sa leading lady ng Innamorata na si Max Collins: “My advice to Max would be to just stay the way she is. Study her craft. Love her work. Most importantly, huwag lalaki ang ulo.” Inanyayahan din niya ang Kapuso viewers na tangkilikin ang Innamorata, ang bagong show sa GMA Afternoon Prime. Abangan ang Kapuso veteran actor na si Michael de Mesa sa Innamorata pagkatapos ng Villa Quintana.

Is ‘Intsik’ a racial slur? Chinese-Filipino prof in US says it’s not

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Filipinos heed the preaching of religious leaders of Chinese origins like the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, and are inspired by the rags-to-riches stories of the country’s taipans, among them Henry Sy whose Chinese ancestry is not in dispute. Some Chinese-Filipinos in Baguio City bristle every time they hear the word Intsik. But not hotel owner Peter Ng. A former taxicab driver who saved up, invested, built and operate Hotel Supreme here. Ng said he had realized that Intsik was not a racial slur. “I don’t get offended. I am used to it. I am Intsik, after all. But more important, I am Filipino,” Ng told author Richard Chu, a Filipino scholar who lives in the United States. Chu, an associate professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, said that Filipinos live in a time when China is moving closer to becoming the most powerful nation in the world.

Self-definition

That possibility makes it important to know how the Filipino descendants of pioneering Chinese migrants define themselves, Chu said. “Do they still allow people to refer to them as Intsik or ‘Chinoy’ [Chinese-Filipino or Chinese-Pinoy]?” Chu asked

in his Jan. 13 talk at the University of the Philippines Baguio about migrant Chinese and the road they took to become Chinoy based on archival, documentary and anecdotal accounts from the 1860s to the 1930s. Much like the history of the Igorot of the Cordilleras, these tales describe the Intsik as “The Other,” people who are set apart because of their “strange ways,” he said. Many of the stories that Chu gathered from local government, tax and court records showed a pragmatic Chinese population that was flexible about cultural and racial identity in order to assimilate and obtain some economic advantage and status. The Intsik was present in almost every flash point of Philippine history. Chinese descendants, among them Jose Rizal, were inspirations for the Philippine Revolution against Spain. A Chinese, Ignacio Paua, was involved in the revolutionary government set up by Emilio Aguinaldo, Chu said.

‘Uncle’

Chu, whose UP talk is detailed in his book, “Chinese and Chinese Mestizos of Manila: Family, Identity and Culture, 1860s-1930s,” said Intsik may not have been an offensive word from the start. Intsik is a Tagalog word, which sounds

like the Hokkien word “in-chek” (his uncle), that was used to introduce a Chinese newcomer, he said. Chu wrote that he found the earliest references to Intsik in the 19th century “Manual del Cabeza de Barangay (Manual of Village Leaders in Manila),” written by Rafael Moreno y Diez in 1874. The same manual, however, also used “Sangley” (merchant travelers), the Spanish reference to the Chinese. When the Spaniards first came to Manila in 1570, Chu wrote, they encountered a Chinese settlement composed of 150 men, women and children. Most of the Chinese families in the Philippines, including Filipinos of Chinese descent, trace their roots to Fujian province, he said. The Chinese, Chu wrote, traded with the precolonial Filipinos, yet Chinese sea merchants found a profitable niche when the Spanish colonial government opened the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade in 1571. But Spain soon restricted Chinese migration to the Philippines when their numbers grew, although Spain eventually relaxed its immigration laws due to the colonial government’s extensive requirements for cheap labor, which the

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Barbecue & the Wiener

Ted and his wife were working in their garden one day when Ted looks over at his wife and says: “Y o u r butt is getting really big, I mean r e a l l y big! I bet your butt is bigger than the barbecue.”



With that he proceeded to get a measuring tape and measure the grill and then went over to where his wife was working and measured his wife’s bottom. “Yes, I was right, your butt is two inches wider than the barbecue!!!!” The wife chooses to ignore her husband. Later that night in bed, Ted is feeling a little frisky. He makes some advances towards his wife who completely brushes him off. “What’s wrong?” he asks. She answers: “Do you really think I’m going to fire up this big-ass grill for one little weenie?”

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Are they the “Bagets” of the new generation?
Will that change with the young Pinay’s sixth album? + other news



Nadine Lustre, Andre Paras, Yassi Pressman and James Reid, stars of “Ang Diary ng Panget”

The stars of the classic “Bagets” (e.g. Aga Muhlach, Herbert Bautista and Raymond Lauchengco, etc.) who graced the big screen 30 years ago is a tough act to follow.

Happily, a new set of young actors is embracing this challenge in the same way Aga and company did when “Bagets,” that Maryo J. Delos Reyes-directed classic, was released in the ‘80s.

These stars are Nadine Ilustre, James Reid, Yassi Pressman and Andre Paras, who play a regular girl, an arrogant campus heartthrob, a down-to-earth pretty lass and a cute but emotionally- sensitive guy, respectively, in “Ang Diary ng Panget.”

It all started with a book that became an online phenomenon and whose film adaptation captures the very essence of being teenagers in this age and time.

Bestselling online “Ang Diary Ng Panget” garnered 12 million reads when it was published on free literature website Wattpad in 2011.

“We actually believe in the book,” said Viva Films SVP June Rufino when asked what made the company gamble on relatively yet-to-be-big stars for the movie based on a story penned by 19-year old Filipina fiction writer Denny.

For today’s generation

Yassi noted, “Ang saya ng feeling kapag nakakarelate ka mismo sa character sa libro. That’s what we found out after reading the book. Si Andre sobrang sakto ang personality niya kay Chad.”

Chad is the sweet boy who does not judge people by their looks.

“Panget” is the nickname rich and boastful Cross Stanford (James) gave to the simple-looking Eya (Nadine) whom he hires as personal maid.

No pressure

Andre, son of basketball legend Benjie

Paras, said he does not feel pressured at all about being compared to the “Bagets” characters of decades past.

“I’m enjoying what I’m doing and I’m taking things one day at a time.”

Yassi as the British girl Lori secretly in love with Cross, cited the role of social media as driving force behind “Ang Diary Ng

cross paths. Bea has handled the situation pretty well, even thanking Xian for comparing her to Kim.

2014 Miss World to be held in the Philippines?

According to elysplanet.com, there is a proposal for the next Miss World pageant to be held in the Philippines after our bet Megan Young won the title last year in Indonesia. “Philippines hosting the pageant this year would show the world coming together to rebuild the country after Yolanda,” she said during a courtesy visit to Vice President Jejomar Binay at the Coconuts Palace. Mr. VP, on the other hand, said that the proposal is “very convincing.” We, on the other hand, are very excited.



Did Phil Younghusband get Denisse Oca pregnant?

The footballer has already denied getting the daughter of actress Melissa Mendez pregnant with the tweet: “Dear everyone, to put an end to doubts & rumors, I’m not the father of the baby of Denisse nor was it the reason Angel & I broke up. Angel & I ended on good terms. Can I ask we stop bothering Denisse, Angel & myself about this issue. Lets respect all parties and let everyone be happy & concentrate on their lives with their families & careers.” However, there is a screengrab of a tweet from Phil, saying “It’s true I got @d_oca pregnant!” This tweet was eventually deleted, however. But, yeah, there is a big possibility that it’s just fake, too.

Vin Abrenica bags lead roles in 2 TV5 Shows

It’s not just Aljur Abrenica who’s enjoying great projects (he’s the lead in the upcoming Kambal Sirena series), his little brother Vin is also getting some. Two, to be specific: he’ll be one of the pursuers of Jasmine Curtis-Smith in the stalker-themed show Jasmine, and the love interest of Alwyn Uytingco in Beki Boxer. Let’s see whether Vin gets to match or even surpass his older brother’s success.



Panget.”

“Social media is behind all this. Its power is there everyday and as for me, it’s a daily routine. There isn’t a day that I don’t update my status in Twitter or Instagram.”

The love angle is gets complicated because Chad has feelings for Lori while Eya has a crush on Chad.

“Ang Diary Ng Panget” is Viva Films’ follow-up to the Jericho Rosales-starrer “ABNKKBSNPLAKo?!” which is also an adaptation of a popular book.

Kim Chiu says Xian Lim is deeply Affected by Bea Binene Issue

Quite expectedly, people criticized the actor when he poked fun at a Kim Chiu lookalike and dragging Bea Binene’s name. He’s already apologized for the incident, but Kim says that he’s still deeply affected. He reportedly doesn’t eat, doesn’t talk, and even doesn’t want to get a haircut. We wonder what he’d do (or won’t do) if he got involved in a sex scandal or something like that.



Jake Vargas offended by Xian Lim comparing Kalokalike with Bea Binene

Jake definitely didn’t like how Xian had to use Bea’s name when he poked fun at the Kim Chiu Kalokalike, emphasizing that girls should be respected. “Dapat alam mo obligasyon mo sa babae?” he told Pep.ph. However, he admits that he won’t say anything to Xian if ever they



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period’s Chinese supplied.

Chu said the Spanish government’s prejudice against the Chinese appeared to have been ignited by various issues, beginning with the Chinese “heathen ways” that offended the colonizer whose chief mandate was to convert the natives to Christianity.

Spain’s response was to classify the Chinese apart from the “Indio” (natives), and Sangley became a derogatory term. The Chinese settler was also heavily taxed.

Spanish treatment of Chinese settlers improved in the 19th century, partly because Spain had established diplomatic and economic relations with China and because Chinese descendants soon joined the middle class.

In his book, Chu wrote: “After 1850, with the increasing industrialization and participation of the Philippines in the global market, the number of Chinese contract laborers who worked as stevedores or store employees rose... Those who came may have likely ended up being involved in trade or commerce.”

‘Racialization’

But the social segregation or “racialization” of the Chinese in the Philippines became aggressive between the late 19th century, when the Spanish colonial government began to weaken, and the early 20th century, when the United States began its own colonization of the Philippines, Chu said.

In exploring the stories of colonial Chinese families, like the clan of Carlos Palanca Tan Quien-sien, Chu concluded that they employed “tactical and strategic ways to evade, manipulate or collaborate with hegemonic (colonial government) efforts to control their bodies, their identities, families, movements and resources.”

Many converted to Catholicism in an attempt to secure citizenship, or widen their social circles, personified by the number of kinship they develop when they perform roles like baptismal godparents, Chu said.

Some married Filipinos and their children became a new class—the Chinese mestizo.

The Spanish and the Chinese mestizo gained some measure of social advantage up to Spain’s waning years, becoming part of the middle class before the rise of American power, Chu said.

When economic dissatisfaction of Spanish rule erupted into a revolution,

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SceneS in the City



FROM LEFT, Tess & Philip Beloso, Noemi Laguer and friend sell Rey Valera t-shirts; Dado Laguer poses with Rey Valera; Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto attend the 40th day of mourning for Flor Vendiola; Lakambini beauty & birthday celebrant Keesha Cerezo with fellow beauties Krista Bella and Shawna Mae Fresco watch Sharmaine Salvacion onstage (LAST PHOTO).

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US HELP

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about balancing power as much as ensuring or trying to assure our partners and our allies that were all in this together and ensue that we have freedom of navigation," Greenert said.

"We've been in this region a long time, and we all know that. We've been partners for decades and we will be here for a long time."

In 2012, the US bared plans to deploy majority of its naval fleet to the Pacific by 2020.

US naval assets would be realigned from a roughly 50-50 split between the Pacific and the Atlantic to about 60-40 split between those oceans.

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Spotlight

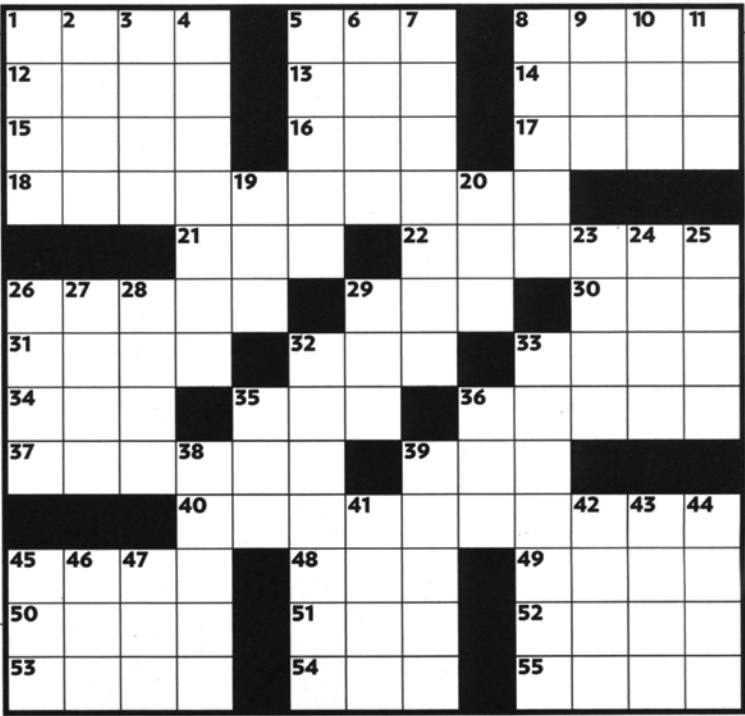


intramuros Street, Circa 1950's

Crossword Puzzle



FILIPINO JOURNALISTS 2014 REUNION WORLDWIDE
Tony Sicat (middle), former editor-in-chief of PILIPINO STAR together with veteran journalists Willie Jose (1st from left) and JojoTaduran (extreme right) met recently at The Village Roaster, 3452 Kingston Road (Corner Markham) planning the 2014 Reunion of Filipino Journalists both active and retired throughout the world. Sicat left for the Philippines some few days ago to closely coordinate with the National Press Club of the Philippines and other publications in the Philippine in connection with the planned reunion of Filipino journalists. (St. Jamestown News Service - RAZ)



ACROSS

- 1 Norwegian king
5 Setting for Bravo's *Work Out*
8 Teen thriller ____ *Night*
12 Prefix for bucks or phone
13 ____ vs. Wade
14 Movie tough guy George
15 Tennis pro Lendl
16 "You ____ My Sunshine"
17 McGregor of *Moulin Rouge!*
18 Actor-director-writer of the *Madea* movies (2 wds.)
21 Peggy ____ *Got Married*
22 *Madea Goes to Jail* star ____ Knight Pulliam
26 *Madea's* ____ *Reunion*
29 Marcia ____ Harden
30 Container for coffee lovers
31 *The Sopranos* actress Turturro
32 *When Harry* ____ Sally
33 Russell or Spinks
34 *The Hunt for* ____ *October*
35 Sandra Bullock thriller *The* ____
36 *House of* ____ (18 Across sitcom)
37 Mel Gibson or Nicole Kidman, e.g.
39 "____-a-dub-dub . . ."
40 Oscar-winning actress who appeared in 8 Down (2 wds.)
45 Actor Idris who starred in 18 Across's *Daddy's Little Girls*
48 *Win a Date* with ____ *Hamilton!*
49 Angelou who appeared in *Madea's Family Reunion*
50 Plane assignment
51 Step on it, old-style
52 ____ *on a Wire*
53 *The Da Vinci* ____
54 "To ____ is human . . ."
55 Sheltered from the wind (2 wds.)

DOWN

- 1 Leave out
2 Eugene of *American Pie*
3 "I've Got ____ in Kalamazoo" (2 wds.)
4 Williams of *Ugly Betty*
5 *What's Eating Gilbert* ____
6 The olden days
7 Animal Planet's ____ *Manor*
8 *The Family That* ____ (18 Across movie)
9 *WWF Monday Night* ____
10 *Diary* ____ *Mad Black Woman* (18 Across's first movie; 2 wds.)
11 Everest, for example (abbr.)
19 Moscow's country (abbr.)
20 Fernando or Alejandro
23 ____ Lewis and the News
24 Action flick ____ *Man*
25 Heche or Hathaway
26 "____ Mia" (Jay and the Americans hit)
27 In ____ of (replacing)
28 Totals
29 *Why Did I* ____ *Married?* (18 Across movie)
32 ____ *Browns* (18 Across movie; 2 wds.)
33 Ritchie Valens hit of 1959 (2 wds.)
35 Actress Peeples
36 Tavern
38 Kristi Yamaguchi does it
39 Actress Winona
41 *Shear Genius* subject
42 *An American* ____
43 Jane ____ (Charlotte Brontë novel)
44 "Smooth Operator" singer
45 Computer key abbr.
46 Actor DiCaprio, for short
47 *I Can Do* ____ *All by Myself* (18 Across movie)

Answers on
Page 26

LIZA DINO
continued from page 8

now is because when she met me, I was not jaded. I was idealistic. Walang angst. Nakita namin yon sa isa't isa," Liza looks back.

"I love Alza as a person. I love her beyond her sexual orientation. If the definition of lesbian is someone who is with a woman, so be it."

No wedding date has been set although Alza and Liza are already looking at wedding themes. The couple is looking at Baguio as the setting for their union because "may minister daw doon."

"We want to share the occasion with loved ones," Liza adds.

Meanwhile, the couple's fans, followers, Juan and Juana de la Cruz, are watching and waiting.

Kaye & Guji Split

Another showbiz couple have called it quits.

Kapamilya actress Kaye Abad revealed during the February 21 episode of "Kris



TV" that she has broken up with longtime boyfriend Guji Lorenzana.

She did not delve into details, but shared that she

isn't seeing someone new. The former couple remain friends, although Kaye believes this is not ideal.

"I try to (stay friends). Mas gusto niya. Pero mas mahirap kasi hindi siya makaka-move on," Kaye told host Kris Aquino.

The 31-year-old actress believes in what other people say that it would take at least three months before she can start dating again.

"Pero hindi mo masasabi kung may mami-meet ka."

Last year, Kaye said in an interview that although she thinks Guji is husband material, she isn't ready to settle down anytime soon. She explained that fear of a failed marriage is keeping her from rushing into it.

"Hindi ko pa nararamdaman na mag-settle down. Kasi ang bilis lang sabihin na gusto kong pagpakasal, tapos pwede kayong magpakasal anytime. Tapos ang dami ko pang nakakausap na nanay at tatay na nagsasabi na kapag nag-asawa na kayo, doon mo pa lang malalaman yung totoong ugali kapag magsama na kayo sa bahay. Parang ayaw ko muna."

Does Rinsing Fruit Make a Difference?



People are eating more raw and organically grown fruits and vegetables these days. And that has many consumers concerned whether they are properly cleaning their produce. Michael Doyle, a professor of food microbiology at the University of Georgia and director of its Center for Food Safety, offers his opinion on how to wash fresh food—and whether it's OK to rub an apple on your shirt.

Harboring Enemies

When it comes to anything plucked from the produce aisle, Dr. Doyle says there are two main concerns—pesticides, which he doesn't worry much about, and microorganisms, which he does. "There have been lots of studies done by the government showing that pesticide contaminant tends to be at levels that are below health concerns," he says.

The more serious threat is microorganisms, especially salmonella, listeria and certain strains of E. coli. These sicken more consumers as a result of eating fruits and vegetables than eating meat or poultry, he says. The bacteria are sometimes spread through contaminated irrigation water and can settle on the surface of fresh produce, particularly those with layered leaves.

"Washing produce with tap water should help reduce residual pesticides and any dirt on the surface, where listeria and other bacteria often harbor," he says. But if harmful bacteria are present deep in the leafy greens that have been cut, "the extra washing you do at home isn't going to help," he says.

In the Bag

Even when bagged lettuce says it's been double washed, microorganisms that make their way into the water at the processing facility can spread onto whatever is being washed, Dr. Doyle says. Also, once the lettuce or spinach has been cut, surface microbes can become entrapped within the leaf itself. "When that happens, there

is no washing it out, no matter what you do," says Dr. Doyle. "This may be one reason why bag salads and cut greens have been some of the biggest culprits in spreading foodborne illnesses recently."

He recommends consumers buy heads of lettuce instead of cut, bagged lettuce. "Remove the outer leaves, wash your hands, then rinse the remaining leaves," he says. Fresh herbs, like basil, rosemary, cilantro and parsley, also should be washed. And keep fresh produce away from other bacteria carriers, like raw chicken.

Extra Precautions

Homemade cleansing solutions with bleach, vinegar or lemon juice are fine for bathing fruits and vegetables, though Dr. Doyle says they aren't likely to kill all harmful bacteria or microorganisms present. Store-bought produce washes have been shown to eliminate even more bacteria and microbes, but a good 20-second wash under the tap should be sufficient for most uncut produce. "Any longer won't make much of a difference," says Dr. Doyle. Neither will higher temperature, since getting the water hot enough to destroy bacteria will wilt the lettuce.

A trusty method to ensure clean produce: peeling. "Removing the outer peel has been one of the strategies for avoiding illnesses when visiting foreign countries for a long time," says Dr. Doyle. "And it can apply at home."

Risky Business

Small amounts of bacteria in food won't affect most people, whose bodies usually fight off minor infections. But older or very young people, and pregnant women, are at greater risk and should always wash produce carefully before eating. Dr. Doyle recommends everyone avoid eating alfalfa and bean sprouts unless they are cooked. "Because of the way they are grown and washed, you cannot be sure that they are not harmful," he says. "I like bean sprouts, and I eat them, but only after they've been put into a boiling bowl of Vietnamese pho" soup.

The dietary benefits of eating fresh fruit and vegetables are high, but assuring that the produce is free of microbes is also essential. "I always rinse my produce under the tap," says Dr. Doyle. As for that old-school method of rubbing an apple on one's shirt? "There have been studies that show that the friction from rubbing a paper towel on an apple does remove bacteria," he says. "So if you rub it vigorously on your shirt, that probably would do the trick."



Are X-rated billboards the cause of road accidents?

This bill doesn't just want to save lives, it aims to save souls, too. (Insert evil laugh here.)

"Samar 1st District Rep. Harlin C. Abayon has filed a bill seeking to ban obscene billboards along major roads in the country."

The bill, which is known as "An Act Prohibiting the Public Exhibition or Display of Obscene and/or Distractive Motion or Still Pictures Along Major Thoroughfares," seeks to protect drivers from getting distracted by sexed up images.

As Abayon explained, "Kung masyado malaswa, nakakapantawag ng pansin. Kung nagmamaneho ng sasakyan, maaaring makadulot ng sakuna sa daan. Sa kabataan, nae-expose sa ganitong tanawin, maaring ma-corrupt ang pag ilisip (If it's too sleazy, it calls attention. It may lead to accidents. Minors who see them may also have their minds corrupted)."

Replace PCOS Machines

"Sen. Koko Pimentel has urged the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to discard the Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines in favor of a newer technology for the 2016 presidential elections," reports Newsbytes Philippines.

Pimentel, who's the chairman of the Senate Committee on Electoral Reforms, is backing the plan to sell the old PCOS machines, which were used in the 2010 and 2013 elections.

The report revealed that the COMELEC is mulling the use of a new technology, called Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) which is akin to touchscreen technology where voters cast their votes by picking candidates from a touchscreen."

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



Ryan Orlanda and Joshua confer with keyboard man before the Rey Valera concert.

Crossword Answers

OLAV	GYM	PROM
MEGA	ROE	RAFT
IVAN	ARE	EWAN
TYLER	PERRY	
	SUE	KESHIA
CLASS	GAY	URN
AIDA	MET	LEON
RED	NET	PAYNE
AUSSIE	RUB	
	KATHY	BATES
ELBA	TAD	MAYA
SEAT	HIE	BIRD
CODE	ERR	ALEE

he said, the Chinese served as “cash cows” by paying taxes to the revolutionary government at the last stages of the Spanish colonial government, and when war broke out against the American invaders.

But Aguinaldo also decreed that all foreigners, including the Chinese, may be recognized as Filipinos once they acquire certificates of naturalization under his government.

That beneficial policy for the Chinese proved to be brief, however, once the Americans took over the country. According to Chu, most historians credit the liberal economic policies of the American colonial government for the growth of the Chinese business enterprises.

But he stressed that the Americans barred the entry of Chinese workers to their country in 1882 and they imposed the same racist exclusionary law on their colonies in 1902 believing that mixed-race relations, particularly with the Chinese, would spoil their mandate to “preserve the Philippines for Filipinos.”

This policy affected the Chinese mestizo, who were regarded with distaste by the American government for their role in the revolution and in the Philippine-American war that was waged by Aguinaldo, a mestizo, Chu said.

He said the real political demarcation between the Chinese and the Filipino took place in the first decades of the 20th century, when Filipino nationalists adopted the Western idea that they alone could govern themselves.

Hunk Shot

Aaron wants to be a dentist someday. He plays basketball and badminton. He goes to Francis Lieberman Secondary School. He is the son of Alma and Roland.



Aaron Perez

‘Go Negosyo’ bill 2nd reading

Manila, Philippines — The Senate has passed on second reading the “Go Negosyo” bill that seeks to attract potential investors and would-be entrepreneurs to put up their own businesses and address the country’s rising unemployment rate.

Senator Bam Aquino, chairman of the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, asked his colleagues to support the final approval of Senate Bill.

“I call on my fellow lawmakers to join hands and push for the bill’s approval because it will be a big help to the government’s efforts to reduce unemployment and push for inclusive growth,” said Aquino.

He noted that the Go Negosyo bill will be the first inclusive growth-related law if approved by the 16th Congress and enacted into law. “There is an urgent need to create more jobs in the country. One way to do it is to make it easier for businesses to start up and succeed—which this bill will enable,” said Aquino, noting that that 12.1 million Filipinos are unemployed.

The GO Negosyo bill cited the important role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in strengthening the economy as they comprise 99 percent of all businesses in the Philippines and at least 66 percent of all jobs in the labor force.

“The numbers show that boosting the MSME sector will help us create more decent, sustainable jobs that can lift many Filipinos out of poverty,” Aquino said.

The measure calls for the establishment of Negosyo Centers in each city and municipality.

Trade and Industry Secretary Gregorio Domingo lauded the passage of the bill, thanking the Senate for approving it on second reading.

“We’re grateful to have a champion in the Senate like Senator Aquino, and we’re confident that with a law like this, we’ll be able to support MSMEs as an engine of inclusive growth,” he said.

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