

MAY 2014

Premarital Sex

Increase after Typhoon Yolanda

Philippines is 3rd Most Dangerous for Journalists

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the US
more than the
Americans**



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to wait*

Facing the Enemy

Philippine soldiers on lonely Ayungin Shoal outpost face the 'enemy'



In this photo taken March 31, 2014, Philippine Marine Lieutenant First Class Mike Pelotera stands to attention with his 8 colleagues before receiving bronze cross medals after a five month mission manning the Philippines' remote outpost on the Second Thomas Shoal in the disputed Spratly Island in the South China Sea, at the Naval Headquarters in Palawan.

PUERTO PRINCESSA - Nine hungry marines guarding the Philippines' loneliest outpost aboard a rusted World War II vessel had just one option after Chinese vessels blocked fresh supplies from reaching them -- go fishing.

The troops were 200 kilometres (120 miles) from the nearest major Philippine island, holding on to a tiny reef in the South China Sea as part of a decades-long territorial row that in recent months had grown increasingly hostile.

"We knew about the dangers signing on to the job, but my worry was we were running out of supplies," Mike Pelotera, the leader of the Marine unit, told AFP after his five-month mission ended this week and he returned to shore.

"But we are marines and we adapt, we

FACE THE ENEMY
continued on page 7

PHL Economic boom leaving street Children Behind

MANILA, Philippines - With the Philippine economy doing better than expected, some international donors are starting to pull out.

They think a better economy means more opportunities for the poor, but one NGO says, the benefits have not yet reached those who need them most.

Everyday for 25 years, street children gather here in Luneta Park.

Jude Natividad has been going to the Mobile classrooms for the last 10 years. He is now 17.

JUDE NATIVIDAD, CHILDHOPE ASLA SCHOLAR: Nung kinausap ako ng social

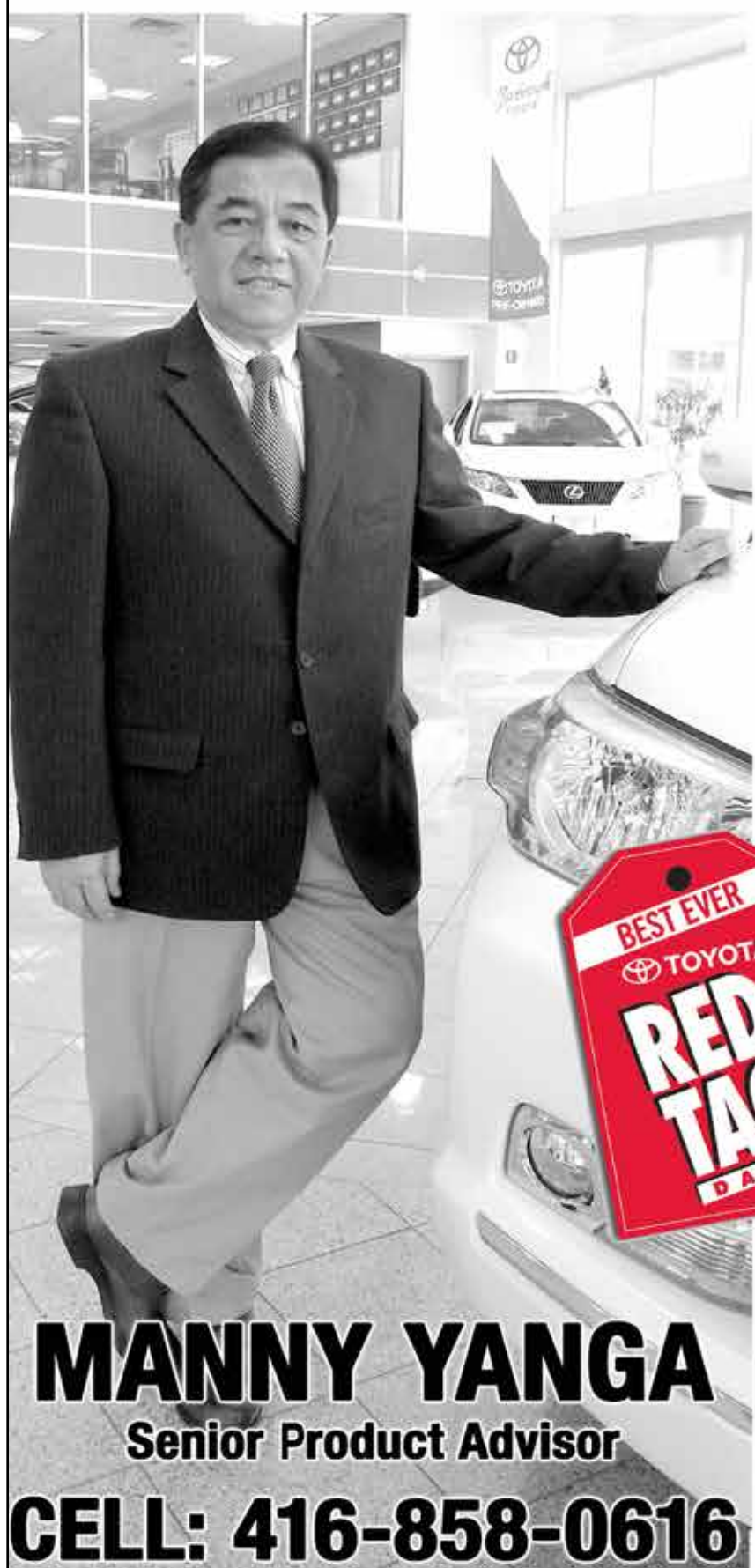
CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND
continued on page 23

Dance like nobody's watching



But they did fine. man-about-town and Birthday celebrant Dr. Solon Guzman and his wife Dr. Josephine perform a wonderful dance number to the delight of the guests.

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Escudero ready to defend self should name appear in Napoles' list

MANILA, Philippines—Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero on Thursday said he is not worried with the “tell-all” testimony of alleged pork barrel mastermind Janet Lim-Napoles.

“Hindi ako kinakabahan. Hindi ko alam at hindi ko pa nakikita ang affidavit ni Napoles,” Escudero said in an interview over Radyo Inquirer 990AM. (I am not worried. I do not know and I have not seen the affidavit of Napoles.) He said he never allocated his Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) or pork barrel to the bogus non-government organizations linked to Napoles.

Escudero expressed reservations about the credibility of Napoles saying her testimonies might contradict the earlier statements exposed by the whistle blowers.

“Dapat bang pagkatiwalaan ang lahat ng sasabihin ni Napoles? Paano kung ‘di mag match ang testimonya niya sa mga whistleblowers?” he said.

(Should we believe all the statements of Napoles? What if her testimony won't match with the whistleblowers?)

According to him, the Department of Justice (DOJ) should not screen the statements made in the sworn testimony of Napoles.

John Lloyd regrets shelved series with Anne, Piolo

MANILA – “Wala kaming problema ni Anne. Wala talaga.”

These were John Lloyd Cruz's own words when asked about his relationship with Anne Curtis, months after the actress reportedly slapped him at a high-end bar in Taguig.

Cruz said all is well between him and Curtis and they were even supposed to work on a TV series, except that this was shelved.

“Dapat may gagawin kaming teleserye, pero dahil tatlo kami, Piolo (Pascual), Anne and ako, hindi talaga magtugma-tugma ang schedules namin,” he explained.

Curtis is currently doing the remake of the fantasy series “Dyesebel,” while Pascual is also gearing up for his television comeback.

“Sabi namin maybe sa movie na lang tayo magkakasama. Ang daming possibilities. Kapag nagsara ka [ng pinto], dapat magbubukas ka ng iba,” he said.

Apart from the weekly sitcom “Home Sweetie Home,” Cruz said he is currently focused on his upcoming movie with Jessy Mendiola, Richard Gomez and Gretchen Barretto to be directed by Chito Rono.

“Nagkaroon kami ng pagpupulong a couple of days ago. Nagkaroon lang



ng major script revision kaya na-stop kami. And siyempre alam niyo naman si direkt Chito maraming inaasikaso so medyo natigil lang kami. Pero right now, pasimula na kami ulit, pabalik na,” he said.

Cruz said he is looking forward to working with the three stars, especially Mendiola, whom he

described as having a “nakakakabang kagandahan.”

“Yung mga eksena namin, medyo distant pa ‘yung characters namin. Kumbaga hindi pa umiinit... Hindi niya kailangang kabahan,” he said referring to Mendiola.

As to sharing scenes with Barretto, the Kapamilya actor said, “Napaka-exciting kung iisipin kasi as we all know, si Gretchen very iconic figure sa showbiz. Strong ‘yung kanyang personality. Nae-excite akong makita siya in her character kasi opposite talaga ng personality niya.”

As for Gomez, Cruz said they have already worked together before.

“Medyo kilala ko si Kuya Goma. Kapag nagda-dialogue ako sa ‘Palibahasa Lalake,’ inaangat niya lagi ‘yung damit ko. [But so far], ‘yung mga eksena ko, ako lang and si Jessy pa lang,” he said.



Edgar Sulit says Goodbye to a Loved One

After being with you for many years, I think it is time to let go. I had given it a good thought. we had our ups and downs in the past and I never gave up on you. But this time its for real. I have to decide what is best for me. You have failed me many times in the past. You stood me up and lately you were always frozen.

I have to start from zero again. Lucky thing James promised to show me the

EDGAR SULIT SAYS GOODBYE
continued on page 7



Naku HA! by Jose Baking
LMConfidential.com

New Group waging War in Mindanao

How many groups are there in Mindanao?

First, the Philippine government made a deal with the Moro National Liberation front (MNLF) to have peace in Mindanao. Then, MILF group did not agree and wanted their own deal so they waged war. Now, the government made a deal with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to have peace in Mindanao. Now, another group called BIFF is waging war because they want a deal with the government too. No, it does not stand for Best Islamic Friends Forever. It stands for Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters. And on both previous deals, outside countries were happy to mediate. What's the next alphabet group, MIFF? More like MIFFed because there will always be another group wanting a deal. And they will be LOL all the way to the B.A.N.K. It's good deal the government had not made a deal with the NPA. They know another group will come out wanting a deal faster than the ink dries on a treaty if a deal with the NPA is signed.



Lindsay Lohan List of Sex Partners Stolen?

When in rehab, one of the steps is to list the names of your all your sex partners you have had. Apparently, Lindsay Lohan's list was stolen. I was not worried about my name being made public because. I did not give her my real name.

MILF Commanders join MNLF

NOW WHAT?

Some commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have joined forces with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) along with thousands of their men because they do not want to give up their high-powered firearms and ammunition. Now, let me get this straight. The purpose of a national government is that they are the only government, with one army, one navy, etc... Why bother having one peace treaty after another with every armed group if some of their followers will not disarm anyway? Why not do like Peru and fight the rebels until the rebels disappear? A government cannot get tired of fighting rebellion and resort to treaties. It only encourages others. Let us also stop this nonsense of ceasefire after ceasefire because only the government soldiers observe them anyway. The rebels attack our soldiers and they justify it with stupid excuses and outside observers agree with them for the sake of agreeing.

Treaty to bring Peace?

Peace treaty with MNLF to bring peace before was opposed by MILF. Now deal with MILF supposed to bring peace is also opposed by MNLF and BIFF. Next, deal with BIFF will bring...what? Why is the PHL negotiating with these "rebels?" "Now what" is right.

One Organization begets another

This is like Filipino organizations abroad. A new organization is created, for example, Pilipino United Toronto Association or PUTA for short. They have a first set of officers. Then, after a few years, they have an election and the first set of officers are not re-elected. The first set of officers sourgrape of vote

rigging or whatever to no avail. They separate and create a new organization called FIRST PUTA, to signify that they were the first officers of the original PUTA. Some organizations do not like to join either one because they do not want to offend officers of either organizations because they are friends with both of them. Or maybe just bad vibes. Or maybe they just want to be officers themselves. But to distinguish themselves, they have to think of a Unique Selling proposition so they call themselves Pilipino United Toronto Association International, North America or PUTA-INA. Then, the 3 similarly-named associations try to get the embassy or consulate involved and all ask to endorse one of them to claim legitimacy, in their mind. If one of them get the recognition, they will then claim that as an endorsement and they expect the other association to cease and desist...existing, if that is possible. And so it goes.

Selfies on Stage Fade out?

What do you think of taking selfies while on stage, whether with a star or not? Ellen started it. Is it going to live forever like the "achy break heart line dancing?" Or is it over before it even caught on?

"Vehicle Lost Control"

I just do not understand the grammar of people writing the news. How does a car lose control? Cars do not lose control - drivers do. Or you can say, "the car had mechanical failure and the driver lost control." Or you can say "the driver had a heart attack and lost control." BUT A CAR CANNOT LOSE CONTROL. It is not a living thing. Despite movies like Terminator, Terminator 2, Terminator 3 or Transformers, cars are machines. They do not think on their own and move by themselves.

Catholic Church is friendly to corruption?

A friend made a good observation. Why has no one in the Catholic church like the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines or CBCP, denounce the corruption scandals in the Philippine government? The church make very loud noises against the RH bill but none involving the senators and other politicians. Or is he wrong? Did somebody in the church hierarchy denounce anything yet besides the RH bill?

Spotlight

Berting Labra

Give him a role, any role and he'll own it



Berting Labra (April 17, 1933 - February 10, 2009), born Roberto Labra, was a Filipino child star and veteran actor equally adept in comedy and drama, in action flicks and musicals.

Labra starred in Apat Na Taga in 1953. He was a child star who shared screen with Fernando Poe, Sr. in several hits, including "Palaboy ng Tadhana," "Sagur," "Kanto Boy," and "Alimudin."

He was only six years old when he made his stage debut. He was discovered by Poe Sr when he was looking for a child actor who could sing for the movie.

Labra also witnessed the murder of his father, Francisco Labra, former bantamweight and featherweight champion of the Orient, in the hands of Japanese soldiers. "He was tortured," Labra told the Inquirer in 2005 interview.

The elder Poe became the 10-year-old's foster father.

Five years after the elder Poe's death, Labra, then a teenage, teamed up with Fernando "Da King" Poe Jr. in the 1965 box-office hit "Lo' Waist Gang," a film that spawned a string of other movies and a lifelong friendship with Da King.

In 1969, Labra and fellow action star The Late Eddie Fernandez were jailed for murder.[1] Labra spent 13 years in Muntinlupa, only to be exonerated by the Supreme Court.

Labra appeared in the 1991 action film "Manong Gang" with actor now Senator ramon "Bong" revilla Jr Alongside Dina Bonevie as Bong Revilla's Leading Lady, and the late Actors Paquito Diaz and Max Alvarado. Labra's last film, the 2007 comedy "M.O.N.A.Y ni Mr. Shooli," co-starred actor Leo Martinez.

He appeared in supporting roles in soap operas and indie films in the Philippines.

Labra died last February 10, 2009 due to emphysema. He was 75 years old. Labra's remains were buried in the Garden of Memories in Pateros

Submit ads & press releases by
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After having great sex ... she spent the next hour just rubbing his testicles, something she just loved to do.
As he was enjoying it, he turned and asked her, "Why do you love doing that?"
"Because" ... she replied
"I Really Miss Mine"

A barber gave a haircut to a priest one day. The priest tried to pay for the haircut, but the barber refused, saying, "you do God's work." The next morning the barber found a dozen bibles at the door to his shop.
A policeman came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused to pay, saying, "you protect the public." The next morning the barber found a dozen doughnuts at the door to his shop.
A lawyer came to the barber for a haircut, and again the barber refused payment, saying, "you serve the justice system." The next morning the barber found a dozen lawyers waiting for a free haircut.

GURO: Imagine na kayo ay MILYONARYO. Isulat ang iyong activities.
ALL: Yes mam!
GURO: Juan bat di ka nagsusulat?
JUAN: Intay ko po ang SECRETARY ko!

Q: Did you hear about the guy who died of a Viagra overdose? A: They couldn't close his casket.
Q: Who was the worlds first carpenter? A: Eve, because she made Adams banana stand

A guy goes to the store to buy condoms. 'Do you want a bag?', the cashier asks 'No', the guy says, 'she's not that ugly'

Honey Shot

Denice enjoys hanging out with friends, taking pictures, reading and spending quality time with family. She values Filipino traits like respect for elders, warmth and hospitality. She plans to be a travel writer and author in the future. We wish her all the luck in her endeavours.



Denice Anne Raagas

What Sam Milby
looks for in a
woman

MANILA - Actor Sam Milby knows exactly what he wants in a woman.
Milby told host Anthony Taberna that he prefers someone down-to-earth and that he is looking for a certain "connection" when choosing a potential girlfriend.
"The simpler, the better. I love natural beauty. 'Yung sobrang down to earth. Of course, mas importante 'yung personality, pero higit sa lahat, 'yung connection," he said.



Milby, star of ABS-CBN's latest fantaserye "Dyesebel," used to date co-star Anne Curtis but their relationship controversially ended in 2008.
He was also linked with other celebrities such as American singer Marie Digby and actress Shaina Magdayao. Most recently, he admitted to be interested in "Maria Mercedes" star Jessy Mendiola.
When asked about his ideal age to marry, Milby, who will turn 31 on May, answered: "Thirty-three to 35, 'yun perfect age para sa akin."
Milby hopes that given his age, he will be able to continue to what he loves: acting, a job which he considers as the "most unstable" of all careers.
"You have to strike while the iron is hot. You have to enjoy it while you can and invest your money, the right way," he said.
"One thing that I hope, though, is hindi ako titigil sa pagkanta. That's where my heart is, 'yung singing, 'yung naggigitara, kahit kailan, I never wanna stop that," he added.



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Believe it or not:

Filipinos love US more than Yanks

Filipinos rank first in a global survey on the image of the United States, beating even the Americans when it comes to a favorable view of the United States.

According to the 2013 Global

Attitudes Project of Pew Research Center in Washington, 85 percent of the Filipinos polled said they had a favorable view of the United States.

Following the Filipinos are the Israelis and the

Ghanaians, both scoring 83 percent, and the Americans, who scored 81 percent.

Among those who had had unfavorable views of America who scored the highest are the Jordanians, 85 percent; the Egyptians, 81 percent; the Palestinians, 79 percent; and the Pakistanis, 72 percent.

Only 13 percent of the Filipinos said they had unfavorable views of the United States.

The Global Attitudes Project “conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people’s assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day,” Pew Research said on its website.

The 2013 survey, posted online at www.pewglobal.org/database/indicator/1/, was conducted in 39 countries and interviewed 37,653 respondents.

Nonpartisan

On its website, Pew Research Center describes itself as a “nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America

and the world.”

Pew says it does not take policy positions.

The center also says the Global Attitudes Project team “regularly consults with survey and policy experts, academic regional and economic experts, activists and policymakers” whose expertise gave “tremendous guidance” in shaping the surveys.

60 countries covered

Since 2002, the Pew Global Attitudes Project has surveyed more than 325,000 people in 60 countries.

Other facets of the US image also polled in the study included opinion regarding confidence in the US president, the spreading of American ideas and customs, American democracy, business, music, movies, television, technological advances, drone strikes and the US president’s international policies.

Also covered were the world economy, the European Union and China’s image.

The survey also showed 85 percent of Filipinos thought the United States gave their country’s interests a “great deal” or “fair amount” of consideration.

Here, the Kenyans scored 79 percent, placing second, followed by the South Africans (73 percent), and the Americans (70 percent).

Leading superpower

On the question, “Will China eventually replace the US as the world’s leading superpower?” the Filipinos also ranked first, with 74 percent, answering that China will never outrank the United States.

The Japanese placed second, scoring 72 percent and the Egyptians came in a distant third with 56 percent.

The Philippines and Japan are locked in territorial disputes with China in the East and South China Seas.

Among the people who believed China would eventually replace the United States as the world’s leading superpower, the Chinese scored the highest, 58 percent.

The Spaniards and the British tied for second place with 55 percent, followed by the Canadians and the Australians, also tied at 52 percent.

Influential partner

Ninety percent of the Filipinos thought the United States greatly influenced their country’s affairs,

followed by the Kenyans (85 percent), the Brazilians (83 percent), and the South Africans (77 percent).

But the Filipinos ranked only fourth in considering the United States a partner of the Philippines, scoring 81 percent.

The Israelis were the top scorers there, with 90 percent, followed by the Salvadorans (88 percent) and the Senegalese (84 percent).

Abuse of Pinoys shows anti-foreign anger in Singapore

SINGAPORE - An abusive campaign by Singaporeans opposing a planned Philippine independence celebration has shone a light on anti-foreigner sentiment in the city-state, home to large numbers of guest workers accused of taking jobs from locals and causing overcrowding.

The Philippines marks its 116th year of independence on June 12 and a group of Filipino residents in Singapore is planning an event on June 8 at a shopping complex along busy Orchard Road.

It became a hotly debated topic after commentators on anonymously-run local websites and Facebook pages heaped racial abuse on Filipinos and attacked the choice of venue, saying it should be held in the Philippine embassy grounds instead of the public Orchard Road area.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who attended a “Singapore Day” celebration in London on March 29 attended by 9,000 people, condemned the “thuggish behaviour” of people who harassed the organisers of the Philippine event, calling them a “disgrace to Singapore”.

Blaming “a few trolls” for the online attacks, he wrote on his Facebook page: “How would we have felt if British netizens had spammed our website, and abused Singaporeans living in Britain?”

A spokeswoman for organisers Pilipino Independence Day Council Singapore (PIDCS) referred to a previous statement which said they were “heartened, grateful, and happy to receive support from Singaporeans.”

She declined to comment on whether the event would go ahead as planned on June 8. Police say they have not yet received a permit application for it.

The Philippine embassy in Singapore was moved to post an advisory on its website urging Filipino residents to exercise caution.



Maja, Jericho and Angel

‘The Legal Wife’ earns 27% in TV ratings

“The Legal Wife” earned more than 27% in TV ratings, a huge cause for celebration for the series’ main cast, Angel Locsin, Maja Salvador and Jericho Rosales.

Angel appreciates the support they are getting from viewers.

“Nakakatuwa ‘yung mga reactions na nababasa namin kasi ang hirap ng kwento. Hindi naman ito typical na formula lang ng ABS-CBN tapos nag-rereact sila ng ganun. Nakakataba ng puso na na-appreciate nila ang ganitong klaseng kwento kasi nangyayari talaga ito sa totoong buhay,” said Angel who plays Monica Santiago De Villa, the aggrieved wife in the series.

Angel attributes the series’ success to the beautifully written script which, she says, gives her and her co-stars “goosebumps.”

Maja who plays Nicole, Monica’s best friend, is happy to hear about the latest ratings result.

“Basta nasa cloud nine yata kaming lahat ngayon. Grabe sobrang init ng pagtanggap,” Maja said.

For her, it is inevitable that more Kapamilya viewers will be glued to the series with Monica finally discovering Nicole’s affair with Adrian.

“Mamaya sasagasaan na niya. So sobrang excited na kami na mapanvod ninyo na ‘yung ibang mga eksena kung saan talaga sasabihin mo, ‘ano kayang gawin ni Monica pagkatapos niyang malaman?’ ‘Anong gagawin ni Adrian?’ ‘Si Nicole ipagpapatuloy ba niya?’ ‘Kaya ba niyang mawala si Adrian?’ ‘Yung mga ganun,” she related.

“Sobrang sarap panuurin ang show na involved ang buong bayan. We’re happy kasi alam naming hindi kami kumukuha ng ratings because kung ano-anong gimiks ginagawa namin. It’s really something that happens because the story is that good,” added Jericho.

Jericho reveals that there are times that he just couldn’t believe what the characters would go through.

He commented, “Minsan ‘pag nag-babasa kami ng script, minsan ibababa ko ‘yung script at matitigilan ‘ano ba ito?’ Minsan mapapahinto ako. Hindi ko alam kung gusto kong mag-sorry for playing this character or say thank you.”

Lastly, Angel stressed that with “The Legal Wife” they hope to inspire and give hope to families that are facing challenges.

So watch out for the much awaited confrontation scene among Monica, Adrian and Nicole, which will finally happen so, don’t miss the nation’s most followed “TV Affair,” “The Legal Wife” after “Ikaw Lamang” on ABS-CBN Primetime Bida.

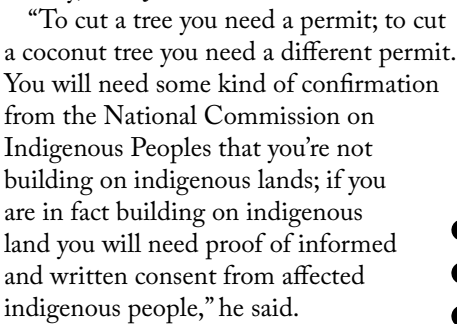
Sheila Coronel at PPCO Forum

Philippine Press Club Ontario (PPCO) hosted Sheila Coronel’s function; a veteran Filipino journalist and expert in Int’l Affairs Investigative reports; on March 18, 2014 at the University of Toronto. PPCO President, Hermie Garcia, extended the invitations to people of diverse background, and all age-groups. The full house event was a resounding success. The Question and Answer period was dominated by youth who are studying journalism. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



Amid need for add'l capacity, PH power sector seen fraught with risks, red tape

This entails additional costs for investors

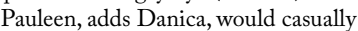


A problem that has come back to haunt investors in recent months is the deadlock caused by judicial

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Premarital Sex increase after Typhoon Yolanda + other news



Call centers like the one in the photo operate 24x7 and consume a huge amount of electricity. Member companies of IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IT-BPAP) are concerned that the recent sharp increases in the cost of electricity would result in slower growth for the industry.

Possible surge in pre-marital sex cases in Leyte worries UN agency

ALANGALANG, Leyte - A United Nations agency has raised concern on the possible rise in cases of post-Yolanda teenage pregnancy due to the absence of electricity and “lack of diversion among the youth.”

To address this concern, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has been implementing measures in storm-hit towns of McArthur, Mayorga, Dulag, Tolosa, Tanauan, Palo, Alang-alang, Kananga, Ormoc City, and Tacloban City.

In the case of Alangalang town alone, of the 30 pregnant women this month, two of them are 14 years old. However, both girls are seven months pregnant, which means that they had sex before typhoon Yolanda struck the region, according to UNFPA report.

A UNFP study shows that most teenagers from the 10 assisted areas had their first sexual contact at the age of 14 for male and 15 for female.

“Peer pressure is among the reasons why they had been involved in such activity which is why this should be provided with immediate solution as most of those who engage on it are not aware of its consequence,” UNFPA said.

The UNFPA expressed concern on early pre-marital sex and teenage pregnancy since this might trigger maternal and child mortality. Those engaged in unprotected sex with multiple partners might contribute to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Among the intervention of the UNFPA, in partnership with Save the Children and Plan Philippines, is the establishment of Youth Friendly Tents where youths learn how to empower themselves to protect their bodies, manage personal hygiene, and are provided information about responsible adulthood.

Dr. Amador Catacutan, UNFPA’s reproductive health coordination specialist, emphasized the need to provide sexual education among youths in the region. He noted that most post-Yolanda health initiatives are focused on maternal and child health care.

In the latest survey of the Commission on Population, Eastern Visayas is the second region with the highest cases of pre-marital sex, followed by the National Capital Region.

“Local government units, after six months, will have to continue the program, which is why they need support from every LGU to make the program successful.” said Catacutan.

Alangalang Mayor Loreto Yu pledged to support the UNFPA initiative, adding that this should reach barangay and school levels.

He added that now that Sangunian Kabataan was already abolished, funds of LGU should go and support a program like this to ensure that youth in their respective areas become more active and responsible citizens.

PH 3rd most dangerous country for journalists

by Roy Mabasa
April 18, 2014
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The Philippines has retained its unenviable position among the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists.

According to the 2014 Impunity Index, the continued killing of journalists in the Philippines has pinned the country to its third-place ranking behind Iraq and Somalia, a ranking that it has held for four years.

The Philippines retained its ranking despite last year’s conviction of a gunman who shot broadcast investigative journalist Gerardo Ortega in 2011, which the Impunity Index

itself described “a welcome development.”

Issued on April 16 and published by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the newly updated Impunity Index noted that there are 51 unsolved murders of journalists in the Philippines from 2004 to 2013, giving the country a rating of 0.527 unsolved journalist murders per million inhabitants.

The figure belies the claim made in November, 2013, by the office of President Benigno S. Aquino III that “there is no more impunity” in the Philippines, the Index pointed out.

The country has held the third worst spot on the Index since 2010 after the November 23, 2009 Maguindanao Massacre, in which 58 people, including 32 journalists and media workers, were killed in a single election-related incident in Ampatuan town, Maguindanao province.

In 2009, at least three journalists were gunned down, including freelance photographer Mario Sy, who was shot in front of his wife and daughter following the publication of several photos on drug trafficking.

The most recent fatality was tabloid reporter Robelita “Ruby” Garcia, who was shot inside her home on April 6.

The Index ranks each country on the basis of the number of convictions of journalists’ killers relative to the population. “Impunity” refers to the exemption from punishment of those killers.

For this year’s edition of the Impunity Index, which calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of a country’s population, CPJ examined journalist murders in every nation in the world for the years 2004 through 2013. Cases are considered unsolved when no convictions have been obtained.

Only those nations with five or more unsolved cases are included in the index. This year, 13 countries met the Index criteria, compared with 12 last year.

In February, 2014, the Philippines dropped from 147th to 149th in the 2014 World Press Freedom Index released by the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontieres, RSF), with the country described as being in a “difficult situation.”

Another organization monitoring global press freedom, Freedom House, gave the Philippines a score of 43 in their 2013 Freedom of the Press Index, qualifying the local press as only “Partly Free.”



Is Jessy Mendiola is the next Darna?

ABS-CBN’s contract artist Jessy Mendiola is now rumored to play the famous Filipino female superhero “Darna” in her upcoming project at the network following the end of her television drama series “Maria Mercedes.”

Jessy Mendiola Rumored to Play “Darna”

The 21-year old star said that she was happy about hearing that she will be playing the lead character of the possible remake of the comic series.

But she added that the it was not yet confirmed about the portrayal and the management have not yet talked to her about the series and in case that will happen, she would love to play the role.

Jessy Mendiola said that she really wanted to act as superheroine especially “Darna” because she admires the character for being strong but many get mad and called her “wannabe.”

“Si Darna, pwede siyang maging example sa mga kababaihan dahil matapang siya pagdating sa pagiging babae,” she said. The dancer-actress has yet to confirm the role because she have not heard it coming from the authorized persons.

Three months after “Maria Mercedes” ended, Jessy Mendiola is currently busy for her out-of-town shows, endorsement shootings and taping her upcoming movie with kapamilya hunk John lloyd Cruz.

Asked if how was her shooting with the film, she answered that she was having fun working with the casts and crews especially to the box office director Chito Roño.

Jessy Mendiola refused to give further details about the movie and said that it’s a must watch film.

Aubrey’s Birthday at Chako



FIRST, Birthday celebrant Aubrey Panaligan poses with friend. SECOND, Aubrey poses with Joshua. THIRD, Aubrey (3rd FROM RIGHT) and family pose for a photo on her birthday. FOURTH, Friends join Aubrey for a photo-op. FIFTH, Family friend Shirley Leblanc watches over Joshua, the youngest sibling of the Panaligans. SIXTH, Rosemarie Relos takes her turn carrying Joshua. SEVENTH, Mom Genelie picks up a newly-awaken Joshua.

Arrest made in Fraud investigation,
Maria Rowena Santiago Belen 44 years of age

On Monday March 31, 2014, the Toronto Police Service, Financial Crimes arrested a female in relation to a Fraud investigation

It is alleged that:

- Between 2011 and 2014,

 Maria Rowena Santiago Belen, licensed as a travel agent had been offering discounted fare prices on travel to Asia. Payments were made by victims, but tickets were never actually purchased by the accused.

- It is also alleged that between 2011 and 2014 Maria Rowena Belen defrauded investors via a bulk airline ticket purchase scheme.
- Victims of the offences, are primarily from the Filipino community

On Monday March 31, 2014, at 4:50 p.m., Maria Rowena Santiago Belen, 44 years, of the city of Toronto, was arrested and charged with Fraud Over x 17 and Fraud Under x 6.

Total amount of loss at this time is in excess of \$1M. Investigators suspect that further victims of the alleged offences may

exist. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 416-808-7300, Crime Stoppers anonymously at 416-222 TPIS (8477), online at www.222tips.com, text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637), or Leave A Tip on Facebook. Download the free Crime Stoppers Mobile App on iTunes, Google Play or Blackberry App World.

Constable Victor Kwong, Corporate Communications, for Staff Inspector Mary Lee Metcalfe, Financial Crimes

DON'T BE THE NEXT VICTIM

Ms. Rowena a.k.a. Winnie Lin Santiago s no longer connected or affiliated to SmartChoice Travel & Tours. She has been a free lance outside agent since Oct. 2013. She had a written contract which has been terminated. She did not act based on the scope and limitations of selling travel services from a registrant like us. Outside agents are not on our payroll. Acting on her own and without our knowledge, Ms. Santiago misrepresents herself as a co-owner of SmartChoice Travel and encouraged many people to invest and in return will get 10% interest monthly.

She was telling her victims that her price for airline tickets was a group /wholesale ticket rate but can only pay cash. Many victims paid her direct since her price was even lower than our price given to

her. We have a rate contract with the airline and or airline consolidators to follow. She is giving her victims the cost of airline tickets hundreds of dollars lower than our price given to her. Many people booked with her because of the price difference. They paid her direct instead of paying our business account with the right amount based on our ticket amount given to her.

Without their consent or knowledge she recently used the credit cards of her passengers to pay for other passenger's ticket. Also, she will give hundreds of dollars lower than our price and will charge their credit card with the higher amount which is different from the original amount agreed between her and the passenger but will pay them back or rebate them the difference later.

We feel sorry for all of her victims, and even our company is one of her victims for



owing us \$29,000 worth of airline tickets we paid for customers without tickets excluding the credit card disputes. Many of her victims are calling our office and looking for their airline tickets they have paid for but not received. They were told by Winnie Lin Santiago that they were booked and holding an airline ticket, but it was actually a detailed flight itinerary only.

E-ticket or Electronic Ticket Receipt is different from a flight itinerary only. E-ticket will show a 13 digit ticket numbers e.g. 079-4828678901 for PAL, 160-4828678901 for Cathay, 180-4828678901 for Korean Air and 695-4828678901 for Eva Air passengers just to give a few ticket number samples. Her victims only had airline confirmation number but no e-ticket receipt number indicated.

Having an itinerary does not mean that you already have a ticket number. Please be aware that after selling the travel service the Outside agent is required to promptly provide the consumer with an invoice from the Registrant Section 38(1) of the Regulation. The details that should be set out in the invoice, are : the customer who purchased the travel services, ; the business

name, address, and telephone number of the registrant; the name of the company supplying the travel services; a brief description of the travel services purchased, the amount of payment, any fees, taxes or other charges and whether those amounts are refundable or non-refundable and whether trip cancellation and out-of-province health insurance was accepted or declined.

We have already informed TICO about this issue and we initiated a police report which is now under investigation. Please call Financial Crimes Unit at 416 808 7299 refer to report number 178 7786 to report that you are a victim or if you have any information to provide.

PLEASE REPORT TO US IF THIS PERSON IS STILL USING OUR BUSINESS NAME AND MISREPRESENTING OUR COMPANY. PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL TO SMARTCHOICETRAVEL@BELLNET.CA

MAY ALL OF HER VICTIMS BE STRONG IN THIS TIME OF STRUGGLE AND ADVERSITY.

Tom Rodriguez' career flying high

"I'm not with anyone right now," said Tom Rodriguez about his lovelife.

The actor revealed this during the press conference of his upcoming romantic comedy film, So It's You., Just last March 27, Tom was pleased with his blooming lovelife. "I am happy. Let's just put it that way," he said back then.

At that time, he was being linked to Kaye Rivera, formerly known as K-La Rivera, a finalist in the ABS-CBN singing competition Star Power: Sharon's Search For The Next Female Pop Superstar.

When asked about the status of his lovelife now, Tom said: "I'm choosing to focus on my career kasi ang daming oportunidad.

"Yung oportunidad na ito, bibihira naman dumating. Yun naman ang pinunta ko dito, para magtrabaho. Marami akong obligasyon at responsibilidad."

Does he still communicate with Kaye Rivera?

He admitted, "Of course, we remain really good friends. We remain in constant contact."

Follow-up question: is he single?

Tom paused for a long time and did not directly answer the question.

"I go out but I'm not with anyone right now."

Is he open to dating again?

"I go out naman. Pero sa ngayon, trabaho ang focus ko. Sayang rin kasi ang lahat ng opportunities.

"For the past two years, hati lagi ang attention ko. Siguro it's time naman na I gave myself a chance."

The actor said he feels lucky because of the blessings that continue to come his way.

Rocco Nacino's dream roles

An on-screen chameleon, Rocco Nacino seems to have done it all. He has portrayed a

politician, a saint, a con artist, an evil boss and the list goes on.

Every single time, Rocco has managed to wow in his performances. Among those he has done, which one is his favorite? What other roles is he keen on pursuing? The award-winning actor revealed that breathing life into our National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal would be the biggest honor for him.

Rocco has played Jose Rizal before in GMA News TV's "Pluma". It is a docudrama produced to commemorate national hero Jose Rizal's 150 birth anniversary.

He shared, "I wanna do it again. I was supposed to be part of Katipunan kaso nga hindi natuloy. Sana makagawa ulit ako with [GMA] News TV at saka sinasabi ko na rin sa kanila na gumawa ng book two ng Bayan Ko." Naturally drawn to nationalistic and historically significant characters, the Kapuso leading man added, "Doon ako na-nominate sa Golden Screen [Awards]. I had two nominations. 'Yung isa sa Pedro Calungsod, tapos 'yung isa sa Bayan Ko. Bayan Ko had two nominations too. I'm really proud of the project. Hindi ko inakalang magiging ganoon siya. I'm happy na tinanggap ko iyon." Rocco revealed that he will be busy with projects after his European tour this April.

He said that there is a huge possibility that he would be appearing in a TV project this May or June. He will also be busy working on an independent film which topbills the Superstar, Nora Aunor. The Kapuso actor shared that viewers should expect another totally different side of him in his upcoming film.

He describes his character as dark and out of the box. He also wants to experiment with his characters more in the future. He said, "For me, YOLO (You Only Live Once). Lahat ng pwedeng gawin, gawin mo. Lahat ng experiences, subukan mo. That's my outlook when it comes to my goals."





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Filipino Good Life

Westerville, Ohio ethnicization

Fresh produce starting to appear in Ethnic Stores



WESTERVILLE, Ohio - While the church I went to last Easter Sunday is still predominantly white, signs of ethnicity is slowly entering the landscape of Westerville, a suburb of Columbus, Ohio. Two years ago, the only ethnic market we went to looked like it was about to close down. We were looking for pork bung, or intestine. Luckily, we found them, but in the frozen section.

This time, we found a supermarket called Saraga International Grocer that sells ethnic products from a wide variety of products. They also had a wet market inside. While we buy a pig's head or whole pig already cooked here in Ontario, they had frozen uncooked



pig's head and a full-body lechon that sells by the pound (ABOVE RIGHT).

Some of the items are Spanish products because of the influx of Mexican immigrants. A skid of hominy sits on the floor. Hominy is a food made from kernels of corn which are soaked in an alkali solution of either lime or lye.



In the vegetable and fruit section, they sell cactus paddles or nopales, sugar cane and other fresh fruits.

Of course, we did find our Filipino products too like the bagoong, which we were looking for. These sort of products were unheard of just a few years ago in Westerville. I have yet to see an influx of Chinese products like in Scarborough.

While the ethnic population of Westerville is not that many yet to make grocery shopping crowded on that Saturday that we went, the fact that there is a grocery catering to them points to that direction.

“MIRABELLA” beats new Competition

ABS-CBN's top-rating Primetime Bida drama series “Mirabella” won its time



slot despite having a new rival program. According to data from Kantar Media last Monday (April 21), “Mirabella” scored a national TV rating of 20.5%, or almost 10 points higher than GMA's latest series “My

Love From the Star” (11%). Meanwhile, “Mirabella” will surely keep its avid viewers at the edge of their seats as a mysterious girl named Bella enters the life of Mira (Julia Barretto). Who is Bella and how will she be able to change Mira's world? Don't miss the drama series that will change the true meaning of beauty, “Mirabella,” week-nights, after “TV Patrol” on ABS-CBN Primetime Bida. For more information about “Mirabella,” visit the show's official social media accounts at Facebook.com/MirabellaOnline and Twitter.com/MirabellaOnline.

PH presses bid to keep rice import controls

MANILA - The Philippines has renewed its appeal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) to allow Manila to keep its restrictions on rice imports.

During the Council for Trade in Goods meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, last April 9, “the Philippines reiterated its request for a waiver relating to special treatment for rice,” the WTO said on its website, referring to the quantitative restriction (QR) being slapped by Manila on the commodity.

According to the WTO, the Philippines “again emphasized that this request is in the context of its food security needs.”

In 1995, the WTO allowed the Philippines to impose a 10-year quota system for rice importation. The QR was extended in 2004 and then lapsed in 2012. The Philippines has been requesting the WTO to further extend the QR on rice up to 2017.

During the meeting, the Philippine WTO mission cited that “it had been working on this matter for the past two years with other members, not only in Geneva but also in Manila and other capitals.”

So far, China, India, Indonesia and Vietnam have expressed support for the Philippines’

request and have urged other WTO members that might be affected by a QR extension to conclude consultations with Manila, according to the WTO.

As for Australia, Canada, Thailand and the United States, their consultations with the Philippines were still ongoing, the WTO noted.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala last December, Justice Secretary Leila M. Lima thumbed down the Department of Agriculture's (DA) position of extending the QR, citing that “among the considerations are the possible legal repercussions of the Philippines being perceived to be in breach of its WTO commitments.”

The DA and the National Food Authority (NFA), however, had both insisted that they could still implement the QR while WTO negotiations for its extension were ongoing.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Romeo S. Recide in March expressed confidence that trading partners would support the Philippines’ bid for an extended QR. “We are very positive that we will acquire consensus with interested countries. This will allow us to operate under a new quantitative restriction extension,” he had said.

The QR is being seen as a measure that would buy time for local farmers to prepare for free trade under the WTO in light of the government's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in rice production by end-2015.

\$500M investments seen relocating from China

MANILA, Philippines—A number of foreign manufacturers are looking at investing about \$500 million and employing up to 3,000 workers in the Philippines in line with moves to relocate operations from China, which has become a less attractive production base, according to the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. (PhilExport).

PhilExport quoted Foreign Buyers Association of the Philippines (Fobap) president Robert M. Young as saying that two potential investors from France would visit the country this month, on top of several companies from Canada, China and the United States that would visit in May.

“These people are financially capable, they are ready, they mean business, they are serious,”

Young said, adding that these medium-sized firms produce apparel, garments, housewares, shoes and toys.

According to Young, these investors were pulling out of China because of the labor unrest in the mainland that has resulted in a shallower labor pool as well as more expensive capital costs.

The Philippines has beaten its Asean neighbors as an alternative investment site to China mainly because of the quality labor force available here, he said.

“They went to other Asean countries but they do not like it there. [Since] they used to be buying from Manila, they know that Filipinos are really good in skill, quality control and workmanship,” Young said.

Fobap plans to increasingly source goods from these soon-to-be-established factories as the group's members wanted to prioritize procurement from local sources.

“Right now, we are running out of suppliers because in the past five years, they closed shops one by one. If they will come back, our own business will also flourish together with the Philippine economy,” Young said.

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Dance as if no one's watching

Dr. Solon Guzman's 50th Birthday



Dr. Solon Guzman celebrated his big 5-0 birthday last April 5. Surrounded by family and friends, it was a joyous affair. Doctor, Dentist, Good husband to Dr. Josephine Guzman, loving father to Princess and Angeline, philanthropist to the community, there was no shortage of kind words to describe the well-loved and people-loving person. His wife Jo, said "he has reached the age where he has achieved what few men can at his age, so it was time to dance like no

one is looking, sing like no one is listening and live your life as if it were your last day on earth" and slow down a bit. When others spoke of him being a rich man already, "Dr. Solon Guzman demurred and said, "I am rich with family and friends, not money" and he is very happy with that. For birthday gift, He asked that people write a cheque to him and he will "give all the proceeds to four foundation."

"Not a single cent will stay with me," he

said.

If you ever wondered, what is more to achieve for the good doctor, he quoted CS Lewis, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

And with that, we can only wait what he will set out to achieve next.

May the blessings and the happiness of the day stay with him log after the day is over.

MORE PHOTOS AT

www.Filipinogoodlife.com



Senator Tobias Enverga, Atin Ito Newspaper's Marita and Eddie Lee and Rosmer Enverga attend the party.



The future is with 'Pepito Manaloto'

Malayo na ang narating ng family-oriented comedy na Pepito Manaloto, pati na rin ng cast members nito.

Nang matapos ang kanilang Book 1 noong March 2012, agad itong nasundan ng Book 2 na mas kilala bilang Pepito Manaloto: Ang Tunay na Kuwento pagdating ng September noon ding taon na iyon.

Recently ay nagkaroon din sila ng campus tour kung saan ipinakita nila sa mga mag-aaral ang mga nangyayari behind the cameras. They also had the chance to shoot some episodes abroad, including the United States.

Hindi rin pahuhuli sa awards ang programang ito dahil sila ang hinirang na Best Comedy Program sa 2013 Catholic Mass Media Awards (watch the video here) at sa 5th Golden Screen Awards for TV (read full story here).

Sa dami ng achievements ng Pepito Manaloto, may gusto pa kaya silang abutin? An album and a movie, maybe?

"As a matter of fact, pinipilit kong gumawa ng medyo unique at mga naaakmang kanta para sa mga sitwasyon doon sa Pepito Manaloto," paliwanag ni Michael V., who is both the lead actor and the creative head of the show, nang aming tanungin sa kanilang live chat.

He adds, "Mayroon tayong ilang nagawa. Sinimulan natin noong Pasko, 'yung Hindi Kailangan na kinanta ni Jake Vargas. Tapos may isang awitin akong ginamit na ginamit ko na sa pelikulang Yaya and Angelina, 'yung Not Without These Tears na ginamit ko sa eksena na nasaktan si Nikki (Julie Anne San Jose) ni Chito. Tapos 'yung eksena naman na binasted ni Nikki si Chito, gumawa rin ako ng isang awitin doon na ang title ay Huhuhu, na maaari niyong marinig sa SoundCloud."

Hindi raw dito nagtatapos ang mga katang ipo-produce niya para sa Pepito Manaloto dahil marami sa cast ang magagaling kumanta.

When asked if they have any plans of bringing the show to the silver screen, ito ang naging sagot ni Bitoy: "Mayroon ng basic plot para doon sa Pepito Manaloto the Movie. Kaya lang nirereserba pa namin. Posibleng gawing transition doon sa current episodes ng Pepito Manaloto, or kapag hindi nag-work out 'yun, gagawin na lang naming movie."

Don't miss the Pepito Manaloto live chat rewind, soon on GMANetwork.com, and keep on watching Pepito Manaloto: Ang Tunay na Kuwento, Sunday nights after Kap's Amazing Stories.

Max Collins, *the next Marian Rivera*?



Innamorata’s Max Collins is not really dismissing the possibilities that she could be groomed by GMA 7 to be the next Marian Rivera but she also declines to magnify it. Innamorata is her second lead role after her huge break by starring opposite Dingdong Dantes and with Lorna Tolentino in “Pahiram ng Sandali” (November 2012- March 2013). Aside from Jennylyn Mercado, Heart Evangelista and Rhian Ramos, with the pretty face and with the promise to improve her craft, Max is a worthy candidate to be the Kapuso’s next bankable leading lady.

The 21-year old actress admitted though that she still has a lot of things to prove to herself and to the industry. Her inclusion in the lead cast of “Pahiram Ng Sandali” was consid-

ered by online critics as premature. Some say Max was not ready for the role which requires gigantic dramatic scenes with multi-awarded actors Dingdong Dantes and Lorna Tolentino. Is she ready to prove them wrong for Innamorata? “I cannot assure them but I can only do my best,” she said.

In Innamorata, Max takes on what she calls a semi-dual role as Esperanza and Evangeline. She is the bearer of this magic necklace which transforms her into a beautiful woman once worn. She is joined by her leading men Luis Alandy and Dion Ignacio in the lead cast with Gwen Zamora and Jackie Rice. The soap is being aired from Monday to Friday at the second afternoon slot after Villa Quintana.

A leading lady needs her ‘Knight in Shining Armor’ of course and for Max, she’d like to be paired with Alden Richards. “I also like Tom Rodriguez and Dennis Trillo because they are very effective actors but gusto ko sana same age sakin.”

On a real-life romance with fellow Kapuso Pancho Magno, Max was straightforward in saying that he has a good chance. “Same church kami (Victory) and same din kami ng

level ng optimism. He is a great guy overall,” she described.

Will Jeron Teng Going to Pursue Jessy Mendiola?

Basketball star Jeron Teng, who repeatedly reveals that he had crush on the sexy kapamilya actress Jessy Mendiola said that she is hard to pursue especially both of them are from different industry.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) of last year’s University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) told push.abs-cbn.com that he is not in a relationship and he is not courting anybody.

Asked if why he did not woo the 21-year old actress, the De Lasalle Green Archer replied that she was hard to pursue especially that she is working in the showbiz while he is so busy concentrating for his basketball career.

“Mahirap i-pursue eh kasi siyempre maraming factors, yun,” the 20-year old basketball player said.

Sarah, Matteo no longer hide ‘relationship’

The rumored sweethearts no longer hide their feelings for each other. In Matteo’s recent birthday party held at the Topsy Pig Restaurant in Pasig City, Sarah spent his special day with him along with Matteo’s parents and friends. The pop princess was even accompanied by her strict mom, Divine to the party.

“That was my most memorable and happiest party ever,” Matteo said. Sarah met Matteo’s parents for the very first time in the latter’s birthday party. Aside from Matteo’s birthday party, the rumored couple were also seen having lunch in Alabang Country Club recently.

Matteo is 24 while Sarah turns 26 on July 25.

Meanwhile, Sarah is currently shooting her first movie with drama prince Coco Martin entitled “Maybe This Time” directed by Jerry Sineneng and co-produced by Star Cinema and Viva Films. Sarah’s previous movies with John Lloyd Cruz and Gerald Anderson were all box-office hits.

Sarah is slowly discovering Coco’s good traits.

“I admire his being humble and simple,” says Sarah of Coco.

“He’s also slowly loosening up and we’re both comfortable now with each other,” she adds.

ASEAN harmonizes consumer protection

The 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN 10) have harmonized almost all of their consumer protection laws signaling their readiness to protect over 600 million consumers as the region is moving closer towards a single market by 2015.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Victorio Mario Dimagiba told reporters at the 9th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee for Consumer Protection (ACCP) held yesterday in Makati City that ASEAN members in general have over 90 percent harmonized their consumer protection laws.

The ACCP meeting, is composed of delegates from ASEAN member countries

namely, Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The meeting will continue discussions on the ACCP’s initiatives to ensure measures that will assist consumers in coping with the effects of the Asean Economic Community 2015.

“We are ready for 2015 and we are on track with our schedule,” Dimagiba said noting the ACCP is now moving beyond its advocacy works into implementation of the 2015 work plan. The remaining sectors that need to be harmonized are on the areas of services.

According to Dimagiba, Cambodia is the latest to adopt a consumer protection law.

While the 10-member countries have harmonized more than 90 percent of their consumer protection rules and processes, Dimagiba said there are other ASEAN countries that are way advanced in terms of consumer protection.

These countries include the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and even Vietnam.

There has been no overall consumer protection being planned for the region, but Dimagiba stressed that consumer protection is very basic, “You will be surprised we have many similarities and we have harmonized positions already.”

The only kink, he said, is the cross border mechanism for products purchased from one border to another.

The ACCP also seeks to build the ASEAN consumer website called aseanconsumer.org to provide a portal of information and advisories for Asean members and consumers.

ACCP also seeks to come up with ASEAN leaflet to contain the list of national focal points for consumer complaints in each member. This aims to inform consumers in ASEAN of government agencies that they may visit or coordinate with in filing complaints and seeking redress.

In the Philippines, the ASEAN leaflets are displayed in airports and leading hotels in the country. (BCM)



Maja despises mistress role

Maja Salvador hates Nicole Esquivel, the character she plays on “The Legal Wife.”

“Gusto kong sabunutan ‘yung sarili ko sa TV,” Maja told ABS-CBN News.

She added, “Ay, nakakaloka! Grabe, ang hirap nung character ko, ang hirap maging mistress!”

Still, Maja welcomes the challenge.

“Iyon ‘yung trabaho. At siyempre, may mga Kapamilya tayong nakaka-relate, na at least, dito sa teleseryeng ito, makikita nila ‘yung bawat

sitwasyon ng mga characters namin,” she said.

Maja weighs in on why many can relate to her character, saying, “Puwede mangyari sa totoong buhay. Kasi, totoo, puwedeng mangyari ‘yon.”

She explains, “Sa totoong buhay, walang may gusto maging kabit, ‘di ba? Hindi mo alam kung paano ka napupunta sa ganoong sitwasyon. Magigising ka na lang, ‘di ba, na nandoon ka na, na-in love ka na sa isang taong may pamilya. Isang araw, magigising ka, home wrecker ka na.”

She adds, “Natutuwa nga ako eh ‘pag may nababasa akong tweet na parang, ‘Dear girlfriend, huwag ka na manood ng ‘Legal Wife’ kung aawayin mo lang din ako.’ So parang ‘yung mga husband nila, mga boyfriend nila, naiinis na, kasi ‘yung mga girls, ‘di ba, napa-praning.”

“The Legal Wife” has been dominating local and worldwide Twitter trends of late because of its intriguing story arc.



PHOTOS FROM LEFT, Anais Mondragon poses with her parents on her debut party; Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda and friends enjoy the evening; Anais dances with uncle Deo Rojas during the the 18 roses; Anais poses with her cake. MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM



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Filipinos second shortest in Asia



MANILA, Philippines—If Southeast Asians stood in a straight file, Filipinos would be at the second spot, in a line according to height.

According to a study that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations DNA conducted, Filipinos are the second shortest race in the region.

Indonesians are the only people who are shorter than Filipinos in Southeast Asia.

Based on the study, Filipino males and Vietnamese males have an average height of 162 centimeters, 2 cm shorter than the average Southeast Asian height of 164 cm. and 2 cm taller than the Indonesian males.

On the distaff side, Filipino females have an average height of 150 cm. a humble 3 cm. advantage over Indonesian females but also 3 cm shorter than the Southeast Asian average.

Cambodia, 163 cm. for males and 152 cm. for females, and Vietnam, 162 cm. for males and 152 cm. for females, are the other two Southeast Asian nations who might must need their tippy-toes to reach the average Southeast Asian height. Singaporeans are the tallest among Southeast Asians, towering over their neighbors with an average height of 171 cm. for males and 160 cm. for females.

Thais are nearly identical to Singaporeans with Thai males standing at a good 170 cm. and Thai females at 159 cm.

Malaysians round up the Southeast Asians with their males standing above the average Southeast Asian height at 165 cm. for males with the females right on the average feminine height of 153 cm.

Jose Vargas’ documentary to screen in 10 US cities

NEW YORK – Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and filmmaker Jose Antonio Vargas’ documentary about his life and journey as

an undocumented immigrant in America is now gaining momentum.

After a preview screening and panel discussion at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York last week, “Documented” will be screening in 10 US cities before its TV premiere on CNN this summer.

The former Washington Post reporter said the documentary is about humanizing the issue of the 11 million or so undocumented immigrants in the US. It’s a story of a Filipino family’s struggle after being separated by the broken US immigration system.

“We’re premiering here in New York for a week, then we’re going to be in LA, we’re going to Phoenix, San Diego, Chicago, Denver, and hopefully the Filipino communities in those areas, you know, really show up. As you know, the film, a third of it is in Tagalog,” Vargas said.

While the “Documented” US tour is in full swing, the US immigration overhaul has been stalled in Congress. President Obama, whom Vargas often refers to as the “Deporter-in-Chief,” has promised to pass a comprehensive immigration reform in 2014.

But Vargas believes that promise may not happen at all this year. “It would be intellectually dishonest for me to say that President Obama is the only person to blame. You know, at the end of the day you have a dysfunctional Congress that doesn’t want to do anything,” Vargas said.

New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito said that on a state level, there may be some other ways to provide the undocumented some forms of relief while immigration reform is stalled.

Mark-Viverito said, “Because of that lack of movement and commitment to get something done at the federal level, we’re seeing states and we’re seeing municipalities take it upon themselves to see what they can do. We’re seeing states pass the Dream Act — local State Dream Act.”

On a personal level, after being separated from his mother for over 20 years, Vargas had only one big birthday wish this year.

“To have a green card and to have any kind

of card you know,” Vargas said. “But there’s one wish: That I get to see my mom and I’m trying everything I can to make that a reality before the year is over.”

Pinoy Texas church claim to drive away evil spirits

PEARLAND, Texas - Reports of exorcism and deliverance are nothing new in the Philippines. But kababayans have brought this Filipino practice to a city in Texas, hoping to save one soul at a time. An amateur video taken three years ago by members of the International Victory Christian Church of Texas. The Filipino-led church claims that the footage was an actual deliverance of a woman who only wished to be identified as Cheryl, which was said to be possessed by an evil spirit.

Cheryl, who admits she had a troubled past, sought the help of the Filipino church leaders after she said she started hearing a voice that seemed to order her to hurt herself.

The church hired a psychiatrist to see her. They said the psychiatrist concluded that Cheryl did not suffer from any mental illness. The church leaders decided that the only way Cheryl would get healed is through deliverance. “Gaya ng sabi niya sa Luke 10:19 ‘I have given you authority to tread down all serpents,’” Wennie Liga of International Victory Christian Church of Texas said.

The church leaders said they began their ministry delivering people from evil spirits back in the Quezon City, Philippines in 1999.

When some members moved to the United States in 2002, they formed a deliverance group in New Orleans, and eventually in Texas in 2006. To date, they claim to have delivered about a 100 people from evil spirits free of charge. Besides delivering people from evil spirits, church leaders said they also drive out evil spirits from homes. In one house, they conducted a house cleansing ritual to rid the house of dark elements.

“The 11-year-old and 9-year-old kids were also infested with sickness and also the voice of Satan himself is telling them to get a knife and kill your mom,” Liga said. “So this is very, very infested with evil spirits — most especially the room and everything. The smell of death was so strong inside the house.”

The Filipino church leaders said they now have close to 90 members in Texas and hope to continue their ministry and touch and heal more people with their faith and conviction to defeat what’s evil in this world.

Dion Ignacio praises ‘Innamorata’ co-stars

Masaya ang Kapuso actor na si Dion Ignacio dahil bukod sa hindi siya nawawalan ng TV project ay nakakatrabaho pa niya ang ilan sa mga magagaling na artista.

Sa nakaraang live chat ng cast ng Innamorata, where he plays the role of Dencio, we asked Dion to describe his working relationship with his co-stars. All praises ang Starstruck alumni sa kanyang mga kasamahan, who are all very easy to work with.

Ayon kay Dion, si Luis Alandy, who plays Edwin na love interest ng character ni Max Collins, ay “mabait at saka maalaga.”

“Sa kahit sino sa amin, concerned siya. Kunwari sa scene ko, nag-buckle o nalilito ako. Sasabihin ni Luis, ‘Okay lang ‘yan. Relax.’ Ngayon, magiging comfortable na ako, mararamdam ko na ‘yung energy, magiging okay na ‘yung scene namin.”

He says the same thing about Max. “Kay Max, sobrang comfortable din ako. Mabait siya, at open. Nagkukuwentuhan kami about sa scene, kung paano namin mapapaganda.”

Hanga naman si Dion sa professionalism ni Jackie Rice, na gumaganap bilang Gina dahil sa hangad nito na lalong matuto ng acting.

Dagdag niya, “Nagkukuwentuhan kasi kami tungkol sa acting, ‘yung mga techniques. Ako kasi sa YouTube ako [kumukuha]. Sabi ko sa kanya, ‘Mag-YouTube ka. May videos doon kung paano mag-build ng character.’ Gusto niya maging beterano rin.” Tips sa pagta-Tagalog naman ang bonding moments nina Dion at Gwen Zamora. “Parang nahihirapan siya, so tinuturuan ko siya,” aniya. Kumusta naman ang katrabaho nilang veteran actors tulad ni Michael de Mesa: “Si Direk Michael [de Mesa], first time ko siyang makaeksena. Siya relaxed lang kapag nasa set, pa-joke-joke. Minsan blocking o rehearsal, jino-joke niya ang mga lines. Pero kapag take na, sobrang in character, makikita mo sa mata. Ang daling katrabaho ng mga beteranong artista. Mas nacha-challenge ka kasi. At nakakahiya, (kaya) dapat galingan mo.”

Malaki raw ang naitutulong ng pagiging in character ng kanyang co-stars sa kanyang acting. Naikuwento pa ni Dion na minsan ay tinext pa niya si Luis para magpasalamat sa pagtulong sa kanya.

“Kahit late na, makikita mo pa rin sa kanila ang character. Kaya sinasabi ko talaga kapag nag-cut na, ‘Ang galing mo.’ Like kay Luis dati, may scene kami. Naramdaman ko siya, so tinext ko ng ‘Luis, salamat kanina ha, naramdaman ko ‘yung character mo.’ Parang ako rin mas naging in character sa scene natin kanina.”

Patuloy na panoorin ang Innamorata, weekdays after Villa Quintana, on GMA afternoon Prime.



Deo Rojas celebrates his 50th Birthday



Deo & wife Lilibeth



Deo with brother, sisters, and mother



Deo prepares to blow the candle on the cake.

Deo Rojas celebrated his 50th birthday at Qssis surrounded by family and friends. It was a surprise party. With a loving family, good friends, delicious food, it was amemorable and happy night for Deo. May the blessings and happiness last long after the night is over. God bless. MORE PHOTOS AT FILIPINOGOODLIFE.COM



Deo poses with friend Harold Guarin of Roadsport Honda.



Deo poses with Harold Guarin (2ND FROM LEFT) of Roadsport Honda and friends.



Deo poses with mom, family and friends.

Facing The Enemy

FACE THE ENEMY
continued from page 1

went fishing.”

In a remarkable act of military doggedness, the Philippines has since 1999 stationed a tiny number of marines on a former US Navy boat that was deliberately grounded on a group of islets and reefs called Second Thomas Shoal.

The 100-metre (328-foot) BRP Sierra Madre, built during World War II then acquired by the Philippines in the 1970s, is now little more than a rusted hull and incapable of sailing.

But it has thwarted Chinese efforts to occupy all of the area, which is believed to contain huge deposits of oil and gas.

The Philippines grounded the boat at the tiny shoal in response to China’s military occupying Mischief Reef, about 40 kilometres miles away, in 1995.

Both are within the Philippines’ internationally recognised exclusive economic zone, and roughly 1,100 kilometres from the nearest major Chinese landmass.

But China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, even waters close to the coasts of the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia. Taiwan has a similarly large claim to China.

The competing claims have made the sea, which is also home to some of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, a potential trigger for major military conflict.

Dozens of Vietnamese soldiers died in losing battles in 1974 and 1988 with Chinese forces for control of the Paracel islands in the sea’s north.

China increases pressure

China had largely tolerated the Philippines’ plucky effort to hold on to Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratlys archipelago to the south, but last year began increasing pressure to end what it termed an “illegal occupation”.

In May the Philippines said a Chinese warship had begun “provocatively” circling the Sierra Madre, and lodged a formal protest.

Since then, the Philippine military has reported a near constant presence of Chinese vessels encircling the marines.

However China had always allowed the Philippine vessels to sail up to the reef and deliver new supplies to the marines, who generally do tours of duty lasting between three to six months.

This changed last month when vessels marked “China Coast Guard” blocked two civilian resupply boats, forcing Pelotera and his men to cast their fishing lines into the sea.

The marines said they were relieved a few days later to see a tiny twin-propeller Philippine military plane fly low and drop sacks of food near the boat.

Some of the marines jumped into the water and swam out to collect the bags. They filmed the joyous moment and the military this week released that footage, as well as clips of the initial blockade, to AFP.

“We were happy when the plane dropped the supplies... we were good for another few weeks,” a heavily bearded and deeply tanned Pelotera said.

“But we were also worried because we knew the Chinese ships were still around.”

The Philippine military sent another

civilian vessel last weekend with a fresh batch of marines to rotate with Pelotera’s crew, plus many months’ worth of food.

Vessels marked with “China Coast Guard” again tried to form a blockade, which was witnessed by AFP reporters flying above in a Philippine military plane.

But after a dramatic stand-off lasting two hours, the smaller Philippine boat out-manoevred the Chinese ships and sailed into the shallow waters of the shoal.

“Some of the troops jumped 40 feet (12 metres) from the top of the deck to the sea in celebration,” Pelotera said.

“It meant we could now go home to our families, have a haircut and showers.”

The Chinese government reacted with fury to the defeat, with the mood in Beijing souring further when the Philippines also appealed to the United Nations for it to rule that China’s claims to most of the sea were invalid.

China has refused to take part in any UN arbitration, saying it will only negotiate directly with rival claimants but at the same time insisting it will never concede any territory.

“The Philippines must bear all consequences for its provocations,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said.

For Pelotera, 30, confronting China at sea was more daunting than other missions fighting deadly jungle battles against Islamic militants in the southern Philippines.

“Both missions are dangerous. But here, we are against a bigger enemy. And we are protecting our sovereignty, not just fighting a small group of rebels... here we are always in danger.”

Alden Richards to star in an indie film with Aljur Abrenica

After shooting a short film with Superstar Nora Aunor, Carmela actor Alden Richards adds another achievement to his acting resume as he headlines an independent film with Kambal Sirena leading man Aljur Abrenica.

Alden shared his excitement over sharing screen time with Aljur. He has gone over the film’s script and mentioned that the theme is more mature than anything else he has ever done. Viewers should look forward to the battle of hotness in the Alden-Aljur starrer.

Alden clarified, “It’s not naman a competition [with Aljur]. Tinry ‘yung chemistry namin as magkapatid doon sa episode sa Magpakailanman at wala namang negative feedback na nangyari. Then ngayon, medyo mas magiging heavy ‘yung roles namin kasi movie na ‘to.” Alden also revealed that he will be having love scenes with his leading lady.Alden looks forward to shooting his new film.

At the moment, he is busy taping for Carmela: Ang Pinakamagandang Babae sa Mundong Ibabaw. He said the plot is getting thicker now that Yago and Carmela have eloped. He urged viewers to watch out for Yago’s next move.

Do catch Alden in Carmela: Ang Pinakamagandang Babae sa Mundong Ibabaw, and Aljur in Kambal Sirena. Get your weekly dose of Alden and Aljur in Sunday All Stars. For more updates on their upcoming independent film, keep visiting www.gmanetwork.com.



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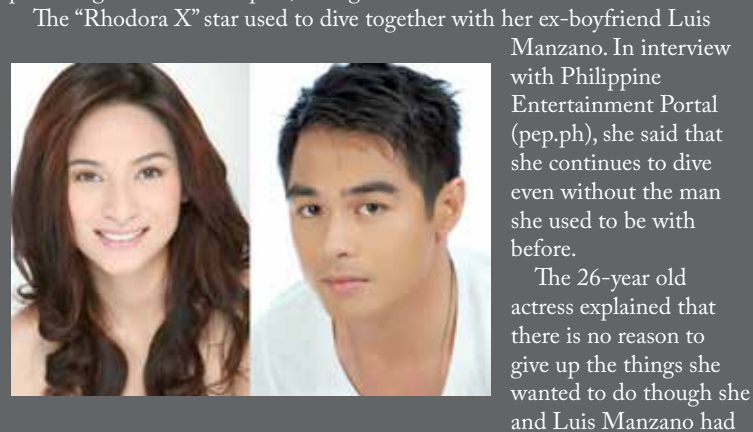


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Jen Mercado is single

GMA contract artist Jennylyn Mercado denies the rumors that she is dating with hunk actor Benjamin Alves after they were seen together practicing their favorite sport, diving.



The “Rhodora X” star used to dive together with her ex-boyfriend Luis Manzano. In interview with Philippine Entertainment Portal (pep.ph), she said that she continues to dive even without the man she used to be with before.

The 26-year old actress explained that there is no reason to give up the things she wanted to do though she and Luis Manzano had

already broke up.

Asked if there is something between her and Benjamin Alves, who accompanies her always, Jennylyn Mercado said that people should not put malice on it because they were already team mates long time ago and they are just friends.

“Matagal na kaming team mates, e. Kumbaga, yung team ko, matagal na niyang team. So, huwag na nilang lagyan ng ibang kulay,” she said.

Jennylyn Mercado said people should not insist them to be in a relationship because she was not yet ready and still enjoying her single life. She knows that there is always a perfect time for everything.

She wanted first to focus on her career and to her son Alex Jazz with former boyfriend Patrick Garcia.

Jennylyn Mercado was so happy because she has received a lot of good feedback from her hit drama series “Rhodora X” aired every weekdays on GMA network.

From shy to funny guy: Sef Cadayona before and after ‘StarStruck’

It’s difficult to imagine that someone who dominates the dance floor and possesses a natural ability to make people laugh, used to be shy.

However, Sef Cadayona admitted that it was exactly the case for him when he was younger. In school, he’d hesitate to crack a joke in fear of his classmates not finding it funny.

“Kasi noon, gustong gusto ko magpatawa pero nahihiya ako. Syempre pag nagpapataya ka, minsan, ‘di mo maiwasan na baka may ma-offend ka, pero noon pa man, gusto ko na magpatawa. Gusto ko maging class clown pero shy ako,” he said.

A lot has happened since then though. He joined StarStruck and qualified in the Final Fourteen, people started to recognize him because of his popular commercial series, and of course, he became part of other GMA shows.

Sef feels very blessed to have reached this point in his career as he gets to work with industry veterans and even bag prestigious awards (read full story here).

Aside from gaining the confidence to crack jokes and not being afraid to make a fool of himself, he has gained wisdom which he applies to his work, himself, and life in general. He acknowledges that there is more to achieve (read full story here) and more to learn, but that doesn’t keep him from recognizing what he has now, and being grateful for the blessings he gets to enjoy.

“Sef right now is happier. I’ve been blessed with wonderful parents, wonderful friends, a wonderful career, wonderful co-workers. [I have] nothing but the best [in my life right now],” he added.

Witness Sef’s growth and his constant reinvention of himself every weekend—Bubble Gang on Fridays, Vampire Ang Daddy Ko on Saturdays, and Sunday All Stars on Sundays.



Marian Rivera says no to politics

Kapuso star Marian Rivera doesn’t see herself running for political office despite offers to do so.

“Kahit tumutulong ako o hindi, may offer naman talaga (to enter politics). Pero sabi ko nga, wala sa pag-iisip ko ang tumakbo,” Marian told reporters at the press launch of “Women’s Health,” where she is on the cover of the April issue.

She would rather stay in the sidelines – by supporting boyfriend Dingdong Dantes if he decides to enter politics.

“Kung sakali mang tatakbo si Dong, oo naman, susuportahan ko siya. Una sa lahat, naniniwala ako na mabuti siyang tao. At alam kong marami siyang matutulungan. Ganoon ka-dedicated si Dong sa kapwa niya. So, if ever tumakbo man siya, alam kong magiging isa siyang magandang ehemplo.”

Aside from her own charitable causes, Marian helps Dingdong’s Yes Pinoy Foundation.

She adds, “Naniniwala ako na kapag mahal mo ang tao, kapag alam niya kung saan siya patutungo at alam mong makakatulong siya higit lalo sa kapwa niya, hindi mo dapat pigilan iyon.”

Meanwhile, Marian wants women to stay healthy and fit.

“Dapat alam mo kung ano yung dapat at hindi dapat kainin.

At siguro dapat maging passionate ka sa sarili mo na mag-gym ka. Kahit sa bahay lang, bumili ka ng dumbell, mag-work out ka lang, magsayaw ka lang. Mas maganda siguro na pinapangalagaan mo yung sarili mo sa lahat ng aspeto.”

‘Diary Ng Panget’ fever in US

THE teen romance-comedy that broke local box-office records is creating a a loud buzz in North America.

Diary Ng Panget, due to incessant clamor from Filipinos in the North American continent, will finally get screenings next month, hence calming the intense nerves of fellow Filipinos who have heard about the movie in social networking sites.

Enjoying numerous screenings in U.S.

cinemas: Diary Ng Panget cast Andre Paras, Nadine Lustre, Yassi Pressman, and James Reid

Produced by Viva Films and based on the hit online romance novel of the same title by 20-year-old author Denny, a.k.a. HaveYouSeenThisGirl, the film launched to full stardom Viva’s new finds—James Reid, Nadine Lustre, Andre Paras and Yassi Pressman. Andoy Ranay directed the film.

The four new stars gained a tremendous following in the Philippines, and for sure, those in America will love them, too.

Diary Ng Panget tells the story of Eya (Lustre), a poor, plainly-faced girl who works as a personal maid to the handsome but arrogant Cross Sandford (Reid).



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Voice of Megaworld



Megaworld launches their singing contest called Voice of Megaworld at Cucina restaurant. Every singer is called on to join this contest which includes a trip to the Philippines and cash prizes. Photographers are also called to send in their Icons of Toronto contest and one photo will be picked to be included in the Megaworld calendar. LEFT TO RIGHT, Marissa Corpuz explains the contest; Mediaman Jojo Taturanbelts one out; MW’s Larry Bercasio sings for the team; Marissa blows out the candle on her cheesecake slice; Shikan of Megaworld flashes that winsome smile.

Last April 15, the cameras rolled for the first time as scenes were shot for the upcoming GMA Telebabad series, *Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real*. Kapuso Primetime King Dingdong Dantes shot his first scenes with Diamond Star, Maricel Soriano. How did he feel and what did his girlfriend, Kapuso Primetime Queen

For more updates on Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real, keep visiting www.gmanetwork.com.

(Also starring Alice Dixon and Carl Guevarra, "More Than Words" airs on May 11.)

Last year was a turbulent time for Sarah



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Kambal Sirena cast thanks viewers & netizens' support

+ 7 New York Fest Medals for GMA Network + other stories



GMA Artist Center prime talents Louise Delos Reyes, Mike Tan, and Aljur Abrenica feel thankful and blessed for the overwhelming support of viewers and netizens from around the globe for their sirena serye Kambal Sirena. Kambal Sirena airs internationally via GMA Network's flagship international channel, GMA Pinoy TV. On social networking sites, Kapuso netizens continue to share their positive reviews on the program. Aside from the acting skills of Tessie Tomas, Mickey Ferriols, Nova Villa, Lotlot De Leon, Pancho Magno, Wynwyn Marquez, Chanda Romero, Angelika Dela Cruz, Rich Asuncion, Polo Ravales, and Gladys Reyes, lead stars Louise, Mike, and Aljur promise more exciting and must-watch scenes as their characters start to develop closeness with each other. Here are some of the comments from social networking sites:

Im hooked.. Nakakapanibago.. Im not into pinoy drama pro i lyk dis. Heavy and light @ d same tym. @GMAKambalSirena #KSAngPulserasNiAlona — *nadj ismael (@nadj_21) March 27, 2014*

Napangangiti ako pagpinapanood ko ung Kambal Sirena :-> @GMAKambalSirena :) #KSPagbalikNg-Nakaraan #KambalSirena — *Madeline Baker (@naomirgmen) March 26, 2014*

With the heartwarming support that Kambal Sirena is receiving, Louise, Mike, and Aljur share their appreciation and happiness. "I'm very thankful. Simula noong nag-umpisa kami ganoon pa rin sila, mainit pa rin ang pagtanggap nila sa Kambal Sirena. Meanwhile, Aljur just celebrated his 24th birthday last March 24. "Last March 1,6 I had a birthday mall show then I also had the chance to celebrate with the kids of World Vision last March 20. On the 24th, my family visited

on the set of Kambal Sirena," Aljur said. The Kapuso actor is also very vocal on talking about his character and the challenges they're facing on taping Kambal Sirena, "Hindi po siya madali pero hindi kami tumitigil dahil exciting talaga, laging may bago." Meanwhile, GMA Network once again brought honor to the country by clinching seven world medals at the recently concluded 2014 New York Festivals International TV & Film Awards. Among the Filipino awardees, the Kapuso Network went home with the most number of awards—eleven in total, including four finalist certificates—and sent the biggest contingent to the recognition ceremonies held last April 8 at the 2014 NAB Show in Las Vegas.

Return of 'Ibong Adarna'

"The goal is to get as many students as possible to watch it," said actor-director Jun Urbano of his adaptation of "Ibong Adarna." The 18th-century epic about a magical bird is required reading material for high-school freshmen. The first film version in 1939 had Victor Salumbides as director and Urbano's late father, Manuel Conde, as technical supervisor. The movie starred Fred Cortes and Mila del Sol. In 1955, Conde remade it in color. A version by Pablo Santiago was released in 1972, starring Dolphy and Rosanna Ortiz. "I'm fortunate to have made the fourth version," said Urbano, who is seeking the endorsement of the Department of Education and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. He would like his "Ibong Adarna: The Pinoy Adventure" to tour schools and universities around the country before the year ends. "The movie is finished. It's an honest-to-goodness and sincere film, worth viewers'



JUN URBANO (right) directs a scene with Leo Martinez (center) and Benjie Paras, and Lilia Cuntapay (background).

hard-earned money," Urbano told the Inquirer. "I hope that, for students, it would feel like watching (the Hollywood adventure movie) 'Indiana Jones.'" Urbano said he made sure that today's Filipino youth could relate to the script. "It's very Pinoy, featuring a sultan instead of a king, the

aswang, the nuno sa punso and the Haribon, or Philippine eagle, among others," he explained. Urbano said finding the perfect backdrop for the film was a major hurdle. "It is set before the Spanish occupation. We needed a location that hadn't been seen in any other period movie. We found just that in San Pablo, Laguna. We used the area surrounding one of the Seven Lakes as the sultan's kingdom." "Ibong Adarna" is Urbano's answer to a clamor that he perceives for unique and sensible film projects. "Sadly, industry people nowadays think only of making money. I see the movies being produced today and end up asking, is this all that we can come up with?" He is confident of his movie's chances against mainstream local productions. "People just need to know there's such a film," he said. Urbano, also a writer, popularized the character Mr. Shooli of the comedy series "Mongolian Barbecue." Conde directed the classics "Genghis Khan" (1950) and the "Juan Tamad" series (1947-1963).

Maja Salvador swallows pride in reconciling with Kim Chiu

MANILA, Philippines—Maja Salvador apparently was the first to swallow her pride to end her rift with Kim Chiu, as she admitted that she made the move to make peace with Kim. "Hindi naman kailangang magtaas ng pride," Maja said. (There is no need to show your pride.) The former best friends became estranged middle of 2013 when news broke out that Kim's ex-boyfriend Gerald Anderson and Maja were dating. The two have since admitted their relationship. News of their reconciliation was announced early April by radio host-showbiz columnist Ogie Diaz. Pressed to explain more, Maja only said one really has to swallow her pride to end the fight. "Dapat iisa talaga sa inyo," Maja said.

Jackie Rice, handa na bang mag-asawa?

Limang taon na ang relasyon ni Jackie Rice at ng kanyang non-showbiz boyfriend. Ayon sa Innamorata actress, lalong tumatag ang kanilang relasyon. Sa altar na nga kaya ang tuloy nila? Nilinaw ng StarStruck season 3 Ultimate Female Survivor na hindi pa siya handang mag-settle down sa ngayon. Aniya, "Iniisip nila na doon na papunta ang relasyon namin. Bata pa po ako. Hindi pa po naming napag- usapan."

Sa ngayon,priority niya ang kanyang career. Mas bukas na rin siya sa pagtanggap ng mas challenging na roles dahil nais niyang mas pagbutihan pa ang kanyang pag-arte. Sa katunayan, parte si Jackie ng isang independent film under sa award-winning director na si Joel Lamangan, ang Sitio Cam-cam. Sa pelikula, si Jackie ang ikatlong asawa ng isang siga. Marami pang gustong magampanan at mapatunayan sa industriya si Jackie, at nakasuporta sa kanyang mga desisyon ang kanyang kasintahan. "Marami pa po akong plano. Alam ko po iyong priority ko at alam niya rin iyon. Alam niya iyong pangarap ko at iyong mga gusto ko pang puntahan. Alam niyang gusto kong tulungan ang pamilya ko. Alam kong mahal niya ako kaya naiintindihan niya iyon," ani Jackie. Kung hindi pa handang mag-asawa si Jackie ngayon, kailan kaya? Sagot ng mestiza actress, "Siyempre nag-boyfriend ako kasi gusto kong siya na sana, pero hindi pa ngayon, hindi pa bukas, hindi pa next year. Matagal pa po. Siguro po kapag 29 na ako, bago mag-30." Patuloy na subaybayan si Jackie Rice sa Innamorata araw-araw sa GMA Afternoon Prime. Para makatanggap ng updates, mag log-on lamang sa www.gmanetwork.com.



Carla denies using Geoff to hype own movie

Carla Abellana laughs off the rumor that she broke up with Geoff Eigenmann just to help promote her new movie, "So It's You", with Tom Rodriguez and JC De Vera. "I will certainly do no such thing, use my personal life just to promote something," she says. Some haters even bashed her after she appeared in "Startalk" to admit that they've indeed called it quits, but she chose to just ignore them, saying: "Life is too short to worry about what other people say or think about you." Which, of course, is very true, since you really cannot please everybody. Another nasty rumor accuses Carla of just breaking up with Geoff so she could go back to former BF cager JC Intal after he has proposed marriage to current GF Bianca Gonzalez. "That's ridiculous. Bakit ko naman gagawin yun? I'm happy for them and wish them all the best," says Carla. While shooting "So It's You", she was then having problems with her relationship with Geoff but the people working with her didn't notice it at all. "Hindi niya dinadala ang personal problems niya sa set," says Tom.



Hermie Esguerra's 65th Birthday



LEFT, Hermie Esguerra is surrounded by his grandchildren at his 65th birthday held at Aristotle's Restaurant in Mississauga. CENTER, Luth Esguerra cuddles one of their grandchildren. RIGHT, Son-in-law Vins Sichantha carries his son, one of the Hermie and Luth's grandchildren.

“So wala kaming inkling at all na may pinagdaraan pala siya.” Carla says it’s great working with Tom again after they played husband and wife in the hit bekiserye, “My Husband’s Lover”. “But this time, we’re doing a light love story at wala ng mga kadramahang ginawa namin noon sa aming soap,” she says. “We enjoyed doing ‘So It’s You’ and I’m sure maraming young people who have experienced ups and downs in their romantic life na makaka-relate sa mga sitwasyon dito. It’s a movie about second chances in love, very hilarious but full of heart warming kilig moments.”

On TV, Carla is all set to tape for a new mini-series on GMA News TV before she goes back to GMA7 for another full length soap.

Bianca does not believe tumors about Carla and JC

Aafter the very showbiz proposal Bianca Gonzalez got from fiancé JC Intal at the airport, they’re now all set to tie the knot this coming December.

“We’ve been together since 2011, so three years na rin,” says Bianca at the presscon of “PBB All In”. “Nagulat din ako nang sabihin niya sa akin na this year ang gusto niyang pakasal. But, why not? E, hindi na rin naman ako bumabata. I’m already 31. Patanda na lang ako nang patanda! So go! Sana, November ang original wedding date namin but people told me mai-stress lang ako kasi that’s too near and magiging very short lang ang planning time, so ginawa naming December. We now have eight months to prepare.”

How did she like JC’s theatrical proposal?

“It was so unreal, sabi nga nila, parang movie. I really cried sa tuwa. Ang maganda, he informed my family beforehand kaya mas una na nilang nalaman.”

What can she say about the rumor that JC’s ex, Carla Abellana, broke up with Geoff Eigenmann to reconcile with him?

“I don’t think so. She’s such a decent girl. I personally have not met her but from what I know, I don’t think naman na capable siyang gawin ang something like that. Ano ‘to? Pang-teleserye!”

Toni on wedding: God’s timing is perfect

We ask Toni Gonzaga at the presscon of the new season of PBB what she can say about her co-host Bianca Gonzalez about to wed BF JC Intal this December when she and Director Paul Soriano have been going steady for a much longer period of time?

“I’m happy for Bianca,” she says. “When you see a friend reaching a milestone in her personal life, you can only be happy for her.

As for my own wedding, ayaw ko munang isipin ‘yan. Darating at darating naman tayo diyan sa takdang panahon. It’s God’s will. God’s timing is always perfect, na-realize ko ‘yan all these years. His timing is always perfect, so I don’t want to rush things.”

Angel shares how relationship with Luis has improved

Months after her reconciliation with Luis Manzano, Angel Locsin shared that they have resolved past issues and are working to improve their relationship.

The Kapamilya actress said she and Luis can now express their feelings towards each other more, and avoid any misunderstanding.

“Masyadong assuming kaming dalawa. Kung ano yung sabihin mo, iba yung interpretation ko, iba yung interpretation niya. So doon kami nagca-clash lagi. Hindi kasi kami matanong. Tsaka ayaw namin pag-usapan kapag problema na. Ngayon narealize namin na kailangan din naman pala namin iyon (pag-usapan),” Angel said.

Angel has also learned to be more vocal about their relationship.

Luis admitted in a separate interview that Angel has become a sweeter girlfriend.

Angel also defended herself from persistent accusations online that she cheated on ex-boyfriend Phil Younghusband.

It will be recalled that weeks after she and Phil broke up, Angel revealed that she still loves Luis. However, she denied that Luis caused her breakup with Phil.



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Krystal Reyes to design Shoes

+ other stories

Teens nowadays have various interests. Carmela actress, Krystal Reyes let us in on the activities that fuel her fancy when she’s not in front of the camera.

The cute mestiza actress’ smiley demeanor draws people closer to her. The fact that she has zero star complex makes her even more refreshing.



She shared, “Mahilig po akong manood ng Korean dramas. Kapag nasa bahay po ako, kadalasan nag-aalaga ako ng kapatid ko.”

Considering herself as a normal teenage girl, Krystal prefers it if her friends or classmates would call her by her real name, “Jolina Marie”.

“Gusto ko po iyong totoo kong pangalan kasi ayoko din pong masanay na

ganoon ‘yung atmosphere na hinahangaan ako. Ang hirap po ng ganoon, ‘yung hindi mo na alam ‘yung feeling ng totoong tao... na hindi artista,” she said.

Currently in college and taking up Business Administration, Krystal tries her best to balance work and her studies.

Krystal said, “Medyo mahirap po, pero pinipilit ko. Gusto ko po sanang i-push ang pag-aartista kasi iyon naman po talaga ‘yung gusto ko. Kung mabibigyan ako ng chance, gusto ko rin pong maging fashion designer.”

“Parang mas gusto ko pong mag-design ng shoes. Ako po kasi ‘yung tipo ng tao na shoes ang unang tinitignan. Mahilig po talaga ako,” she added.

Catch more of this creative and goal-driven teen in Carmela: Ang Pinakamagandang Babae sa Mundong Ibabaw after Kambal Sirena on GMA Telebabad.

For more updates on Krystal Reyes, keep visiting www.gmanetwork.com.

Piolo to retire in the US

LOS ANGELES -- For actor-singer Piolo Pascual, Louis Armstrong’s “What A Wonderful World” is the song that best tells his story as he embarks on a new chapter in his life and career.



He said he still can’t believe how much audiences worldwide embraced “Starting over again,” his movie with Toni Gonzaga, which is now one of the all-time highest grossing Philippine movies.

But before the movie came out, Pascual admitted he was thinking of saying goodbye to showbiz.

“We’re not getting any younger. My son is not getting any younger. I want spend more time with him,” the 37-year-old actor said, referring to his only child, Inigo.

“I want be able to attend to some other stuff, do some other businesses. I’ve been so busy with work almost half my life, and I thought, you know, before I get married, at least I’ll have time for myself so I can still enjoy my bachelor life,” he said.

Asked if he is considering having another child, Pascual answered: “I think that’s one of the reasons why I wanted to retire -- so I can spend more time alone and just really smell the flowers, and you know, be on the lookout.”

But it’s also his son and the love and support of his fans that made him

rethink his early retirement plans.

At his concert, he was met with loud cheers and applause by his loyal fans. “I guess there’s still a reason for me to stay,” Pascual said.

But when the time comes, the actor said he embraces the possibility of retiring in the United States where he enjoys a normal life. Here, Pascual said he can go wherever he wants, like when he attended Manny Pacquiao’s recent fight.

“I crave for it. I like it, I enjoy it. Kanina coming from Vegas, I flew alone. Maganda rin ‘yung anonymity, maganda rin na, you know, nandoon ka lang sa isang side and no one bothers you,” he said.

But right now, he’s not rushing anymore to leave his celebrity life behind.

“I don’t know what legacy I’m leaving, but one thing for sure is that I’m grateful for what the Lord has given me. I’m grateful for the chance that I was given,” he said.

Pascal added that he is very excited about his new ABS-CBN teleserye, “Hawak Kamay,” where he will play an adoptive father of five.

He also hopes that the plans for him to team up anew with Gonzaga will materialize soon.

Jennylyn Mercado confirms Benjamin Alves’ hospital visit

Inamin ni Jennylyn Mercado na enjoy siya kahit na nananatiling single.

“Masaya rin pala,” ang tumatawang pahayag ni Jennylyn. “Hindi muna ako nag-e-entertain,” sinabi pa ng actress/host sa tanong kung may nanliligaw ba sa kanya ngayon.

“Mas okay ito and at peace kasi hindi ka... wala kang iniisip, alam mo na wala kang tinatapakan na tao, wala kang ginagawang masama, alam mo na wala kang ginagawang mali, ‘di ba?”

“Masarap ‘yung pakiramdam na ganun. ‘Yung lahat walang sama ng loob. Ano naman, sabi ko wala namang masama kung magpapahinga e, ‘tsaka wala, e.

“I think darating din ‘yung tamang oras para doon, ‘pag ready na talaga ako.”

Samantala, na-ospital siya dahil sa kanyang hindi bumababang lagnat bunga ng isang viral disease.

Halos tatlong araw ding na-confine ang Rhodora X female lead. Tinanong si Jennylyn kung bakit siya na-ospital.

Kuwento niya, “Bigla na lang pong ano, bigla na lang ‘pag gising ko, sobrang taas ng temperature ko. “Pag gising ko, hindi ko na tsinek kung ano ‘yung temperature ko, nagpadala na ako sa ospital kasi may taping ako nung araw na ‘yun, e.

“Tapos pagdating ko dun, nasa 40 ‘yung lagnat ko, ‘yung fever ko.” Biniro si Jennylyn na kaya siya nagkasakit ay dahil loveless ito. “Tanggap ko na ho,” ang tumatawang sagot ni Jennylyn.

Biniro rin ito na kaya siya nagkasakit ay dahil bumalik siya sa Batangas, sa diving site nila ng ex-boyfriend niyang si Luis Manzano at naalala niya si Luis.

“Hindi, ‘yung pagpunta ko doon trabaho naman ‘yon, e. Wala ‘yon,” ang tumatawa pa ring sinabi ni Jennylyn.

Dalawang araw daw siyang na-ospital. Tinanong naman si Jennylyn kung dinalaw siya ni Benjamin Alves sa ospital. Si Benjamin ang bagong nauugnay kay Jennylyn.

Kinumpirma naman ito ng aktres, na dinalaw nga siya ni Benjamin. Pero marami naman daw na dumalaw sa kanya.



EB Dabarkads delight over 3000 fans in Toronto

The Philippines’ longest running noon time show Eat Bulaga, which airs worldwide on GMA Network’s flagship international channel, GMA Pinoy TV, once again delighted its international fanbase in Canada with the much-awaited concert, Eat Bulaga Live In Toronto, at the Sony Center for the Performing Arts last April 12.

The Dabarkads, led by the noontime show’s renowned trio, Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, entertained the crowd of over 3000 Filipino-Canadians who came to see the TV hosts as they brought “isang libo’t isang tuwa” to their kababayans in Canada. Completing the show’s highly entertaining cast were Pauleen Luna, Ruby Rodriguez, Jimmy Santos, Allan K., Julia Clarete, Keempee de Leon, and the “Sugod Bahay Gang” Jose Manalo, Wally Bayola, and Paolo Ballesteros, with the show’s well-loved Aleng Maliit, Ryza Mae Dizon, joining the Dabarkads for a show abroad for the first time.

Presented by GMA Network’s international channels, GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Life TV and GMA News TV International, Kapuso viewers in Canada were brought closer to home through a night of fun, laughter and entertainment.

Aside from the freebies and prizes given away during the concert, Canadian communications provider, Rogers, which carries GMA’s international channels, gave those who attended a chance to avail a free Eat Bulaga Toronto shirt and a My Husband’s Lover DVD box set.

After more than 3 decades of entertaining Filipinos worldwide, the Eat Bulaga Dabarkads continue to bring smiles and laughter into the lives of Kapuso viewers.

Eat Bulaga Live in Toronto will be aired on GMA Pinoy TV on April 27 through its carriers in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, the United States and Canada.

Pinoy New Talent Finals



ABOVE, Maria Panaligan competes in the open category. It was won by Zoe Virola.



RIGHT, Isabella Santiago wins the junior category.



Street Children left behind in Philippines' Economic Boom

CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND
continued from page 1

worker, nahibiya ako. Ininuite niya ako papunta doon sa may kasama nung mga bata, hanggang sa marami akong nakilalang mga bata. Tapos, ayon, then the rest araw-araw na akong umaattend. Sinasali nila ako sa mga program nila. Hanggang sa na-improve yung skills ko. Halimbarwa natin yung pagsalita sa harap ng mga tao. Dati ayaw na ayaw ko yun e. (When the social worker approached me, I was shy. They invited me to go to where the children were, until I got to know the other kids. Then there, I just attended everyday. They would let me join their programs until my skills improved. For example public speaking, I could never do that before.)

Jude got a scholarship to finish high school in Japan, under the International School of Asia Karuizawa. Sadly, he had to decline the offer. Childhope Asia lacked the funding to process his papers after international donors pulled out.

JUDE NATIVIDAD, CHILDSHOPE ASIA SCHOLAR: *Gusto kong i-grab ito e, gustong gusto ko kaso hindi lang sa ako yung isa sa mga batang nabigyan ng pagkakataong makapunta sa ibang bansa dahil sa scholarship kaso yung pagkakataon na iyon, naputol e kasi nga dahil hindi nga kaya ng Child Hope na tustusan yung mga dapat na ibigay sa akin. Tapos, kulang talaga sa budget. Napanghinaan ako ng loob. (I wanted to grab it. I really wanted it because I get to study abroad, but the opportunity is gone now. Child hope could not shoulder the expenses for the things I needed. We didn't have the budget. I felt really disappointed.)*

Childhope Asia founder, 83-year old Teresita Silva, dedicated her life helping street children like Jude. Silva says



international donors scaled back financial support because the Philippine economy is doing well. The assumption is that a booming economy will create more opportunities for the poor. She says that's not yet true for the Philippines.

TERESITA SILVA, CHILDSHOPE ASIA FOUNDER: *The benefits of economic growth in the Philippines is not yet reaching the poorest of the poor. Street children are very much part of the poorest of the poor. They live on the streets, many of them are abandoned, some of them have families but they are dysfunctional families or urban poor.*

Everyday, Childhope Asia teaches lessons on sanitation, reproductive health, and their rights as a child.

The organization provides temporary spaces where street children can feel safe

and learn without fear of discrimination. But now the group is forced to scale down.

CHIPS GUEVARRA, CHILDSHOPE ASIA BOARD MEMBER: *As you know we have a street education program as you can see here at the back, but... We used to take care of 1,200 street kids. But because we've had to reduce our street educators, we have to pay them salary for them to be sustainable. We had to reduce it down so now we're down to about 600, down to half that number.*

Jude dreams of finishing college and helping Child Hope Asia.

JUDE NATIVIDAD, CHILDSHOPE ASIA SCHOLAR: *Almost ten years na po ako sa Child Hope. Gustong gusto ko po tumulong sa Child Hope. Bilang pagtanaw ng utang na loob sa Child Hope, kasi hindi*

hindi ko po makakalimutan ang Child Hope. (I've been in Childhope for almost ten years. I really want to help Childhope. I want to give back after what they've given me, I will never forget Childhope.)

Childhope Asia is looking for ways to raise awareness for educating street children. But with limited resources, the NGO is struggling to stay afloat. For children like Jude, the future depends on how much longer Childhope Asia can remain financially viable.

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Entertainment

Mark Fernandez follows Daboy

+ other news



Mark Anthony Fernandez following the footsteps of “Daboy”

Aside from good looks, Mark Anthony Fernandez inherited a lot from his late father Rudy Fernandez, who we all know as “Daboy.” Both possess qualities of being a family man, passionate in showbiz, and a good heart, just to name a few.

As the eldest son, Mark Anthony has seen so much in Daboy’s life. Today, how is Mark following the footsteps of his father?

Both father and son are helpful and generous to their fellow actors and fans. There are many stories that could attest these qualities of theirs. Many might not know that Mark is very close with half-brothers Renz and Ralph Fernandez. They strive to learn from each other and be there for each other at all times.

Mark describes himself as a hopeless romantic. Similar to his father, he is also considered a sensitive actor as seen in Bukod Kang Pinagpala and his current role in Rhodora X. It is through his mother Alma Moreno that he learned how to be careful when falling in love.

His dad being an action star, Mark still hopes to be given a project that would showcase his love for the action genre. He wants to be given a Rambo-like story and firmly believes he could still make action work.

To this day, Daboy continues to be an inspiration to many of his fans. That certainly has been the case for Mark. His relationship with his father proved to have an enormous impact to the kind of man he has become. Today, he remains to be a stage dad to his son Cameron just like when he was guided by Daboy growing up.

It is a true testament that the connection

a man has with his father shapes his life. Without a doubt, Daboy is smiling from above as he sees his son continue his passion. As directors say ‘cut’ or ‘roll camera,’ life goes on.

Catch Mark Anthony as he returns to primetime TV as Nico in Rhodora X.

Derek has no advice to Kris on ‘Mr. Bautista’

Derek Ramsay admitted he has been giving good friend Kris Aquino pieces of advice on life from “a guy’s point of view.” But only he and Kris know just what these words of wisdom are.

Now that Kris has admitted she is taking a “second chance at forever” with Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista, Derek would

rather keep his hands off the Kapamilya host’s love life.

“I didn’t advise Kris on Mr. Bautista,” the Kapatid actor-host said.

Derek denies that Kris is using him by posting sweet messages on social media their friendship. In fact, Derek is shocked and hurt that others have been accusing Kris of using him to draw attention to herself.

“Nakarating ako kung saan ako naroon ngayon through my own efforts. It hurts na lumalabas na parang ginagamit ako.”

The year 2014 looks very promising for Derek. He admits having a quiet love life which he wants to keep that way.

“Masaya ang puso ko. And I wanna keep that part of me to myself.”

He promised that his love life won’t get in the way of his projects with Regal, especially if the movie requires him to go sexy the way he did in the blockbuster sexy drama “No Other Woman.”

One of the Regal babies he is looking forward to working with is Marian Rivera. Derek can’t have a TV project with her because she is a GMA 7 artist while he is with TV5.

So he is glad about the upcoming Regal movie with Marian.

“We talked for five minutes in New York. Marian is so down-to-earth and simple for someone of her stature,” Derek observed.

Another Regal Baby Derek wants to work with is Kris. Regal Entertainment founder Mother Lily Monteverde and her daughter Roselle Monteverde, the film outfit’s CEO, are all for this.

But while his first project with Kris under Regal is still tentative, Derek is sure about a couple of things. He will do an indie film

for Cinemalaya and is slated to go to Brazil to cover the World Cup for TV5. Derek is just as excited about his hosting job for “The Amazing Race Philippines,” where he will start work on come July.

He also hopes to get a new leading lady for an indie film on the Maguindanao Massacre after Kris had to back out due to a conflict of schedule.

As usual, Derek has no qualms working with anyone the production outfit pairs him off with.

“The reason why I have this sort of success is I am not choosy (with co-workers),” he states.

The other reason for his success is that he says what he means. When Derek issues a statement, it is for real -- no pluses and minuses.

That’s why you believe him when he says Kris is just a family friend -- no more, no less. Others believe him as well.

Benjamin Alves did not watch ‘Adarna’ while it aired

Adarna cast member Benjamin Alves admitted that he did not watch a single episode of the GMA Telebabad show while it was airing. He only started watching when it ended last March.

Ben portrayed two roles; that of Bok, a street-smart kanto boy and Agalon, the lead antagonist’s half-brother.

“I’ve never watched a show when it was airing, but I started watching it

recently kasi I don’t like to watch it when it’s happening eh... I’m able to take out myself from the character, so napapanood ko siya as Bok, not me playing Bok,” he said.

Although it was him giving life to the characters, watching himself playing two characters, Bok especially, surprised him.

“Sabi ko, ‘ako ba yan?’ Surprisingly, nakakatuwa naman... Sa totoong buhay, baka hindi ko kayang gawin ‘yung [mga ginagawa ni Bok] eh. It’s nice to have an outlet na maging ganun, maging kwela, maging spontaneous or whatever. Sana mapunta sa totoong buhay,” he shared, smiling.

Only over a month since the show ended, Ben said that he already misses Adarna, and being part of it.

“I miss the show, I miss the bonding with the cast, especially the latter part na palagi kaming nasa Subic. Nakakamiss yun. I miss our EPs, everyone... For me, I miss playing Bok talaga. Hopefully, I’m able to play someone as earthy, as real as Bok (again),” he declared.

Erap delivers as HK lifts sanctions

HONG Kong lifted the diplomatic sanctions it imposed on the Philippines



after former President and incumbent Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada met with Chief Executive

Leung Chun-ying to offer official apologies for the incident, officials from both sides announced.

“It was a very fruitful and successful resolution of the case,” Estrada said in a telephone interview with the ABS-CBN television network via phone from Hong Kong. “Our relations with Hong Kong are now normal and I pledged on our side that all Hong Kong tourists will be protected under my watch.”

The breakthrough came after a deal was struck on the four demands of victims and their families on an official apology, compensation, sanctions against responsible individuals and tourist safety measures.

“The resolution of the incident enables the normalization of the bilateral relations between Hong Kong and the Philippines,” Leung told reporters after the deal was struck.

Cabinet Secretary Rene Almendras, who was also present in the meeting with Leung, thanked the victims and relatives for accepting the terms of the apology.

“I am most grateful to the people of Hong Kong, especially the family members and the victims... that have now spoken out in favour of the final resolution,” Almendras said. “From here on end, we believe that it is time for us to heal the relationship.”

“The four demands made by the victims and their families on apology, compensation, sanctions against responsible officials and individuals, and tourist safety measures will be resolved and settled,” said a joint statement released by the Hong Kong government.

“The Philippine Government expresses its most sorrowful regret and profound sympathy, and extends its most sincere condolences for the pain and suffering of the victims and their families.

Scenes in the City



FIRST, Nerisa Zuniga (1st Runner Up), Maricel Ermube (Filtown - Miss Runway 2014), and Merecy Cauton (2nd Runner Up). The event was held at Prestige on March 22, 2014. SECOND, Omy Romero (Chairman of OTI Group) conducted a seminar for the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Toronto (PCCT) on March 22, 2014 at Monte Carlo Hotel. Such seminar training are given to corporate, and military personnel of different countries. THIRD, Action Honda is a prime supporter of FILTOWN - MISS RUNWAY 2014; the event was held at Prestige on March 22, 2014. Candidates from left to right are Aniza Valenzona, Carren Shiwprasad, Kriszella Mei Canonigo, Jinky Orpilla, Maricel Ermube, Nerisa Zuniga, Shanny Joy Ramos, Tisha Maritess Pascua, Anna-Liza Maniquiz, Merecy Cauton. PHOTOS-ARIEL RAMOS

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EDGAR SULIT SAYS GOODBYE
continued from page 3

ropes and teach me. Thanks
God this wonder boy is a tech
savvy. All I can say is thank
you for the partnership. I will
surely miss you but my new
babe will definitely make up
for all your shortcomings.
GOODBYE MY
BLACKBERRY.....

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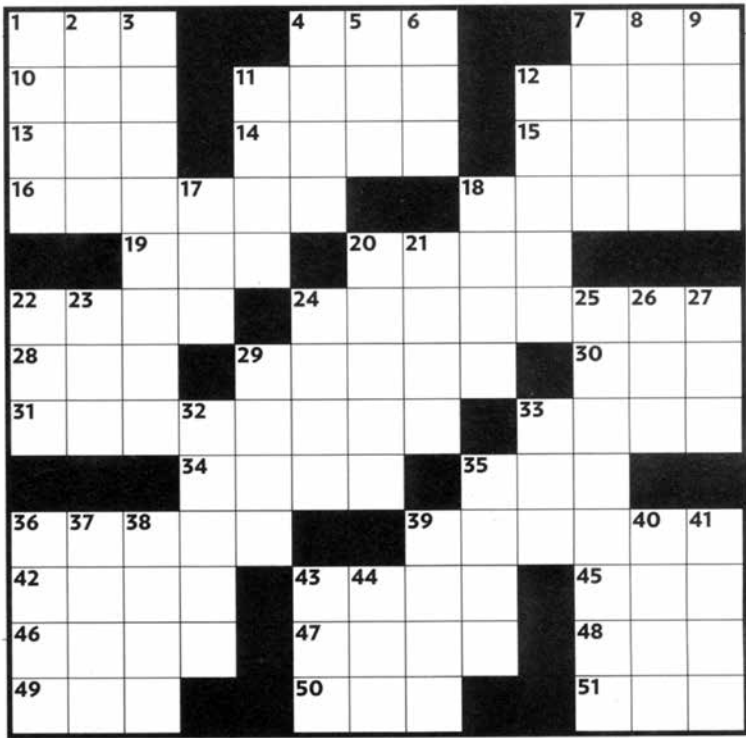


Side View, Sto. Domingo Church, Manila 1920

Crossword Puzzle



Tess Panaligan looks ecstatic as she cuddles younger brother Joshua at a birthday lunch for sister Aubrey's birthday at Chako.



ACROSS

- 1 *Sponge*____
SquarePants
4 300. to Nero
7 *Phar* ____
(horseracing movie)
10 Rosa Parks's home
state (abbr.)
11 *A Guide to Recognizing*
____ *Saints* stars
24 Across
12 Curtin or Alexander
13 Always, to poet Keats
14 ____ *McBeal*
15 "____ *Misbehavin*"
16 First name of
24 Across
18 Tom Bergeron, e.g.
19 *Good Night* ____
Good Luck features
24 Across
20 *Slumdog Millionaire*
costume
22 Actress Sela ____
24 Oscar nominee for
Tropic Thunder
(wd. and abbr.)

- 28 "Are you a man ____
mouse?" (2 wds.)
29 *Heart and* ____ stars
24 Across
30 Gérard Depardieu's
"Yes"
31 ____ *Bang Bang* stars
24 Across (2 wds.)
33 *The Hunchback*
of *Notre Dame*
by Victor ____
34 Rock diva Turner
35 *The Salton* ____
(Val Kilmer movie)
36 Actor Dennehy
39 Fisher or Underwood
42 *Schindler's* ____
43 Diane Keaton drama
Marvin's ____
45 The *Flapper* ____
(1920s)
46 Skin problem
47 Actress Davis
(*Charlie Bartlett* costar
of 24 Across)
48 "Just Be Good to Me"
by the ____ Band
49 ____ *Shots*

- 50 Photo ____
(chances to take pics)
51 Meryl Streep drama
____ *True Thing*

DOWN

- 1 Boxer Max ____
2 Stand-in for butter
3 Walters and Stanwyck
4 Samuel ____
(revolver inventor)
5 ____-de-sac (blind alley)
6 Jodeci's "____ for You"
7 Secular
8 Fashion designer Klein
9 Townshend of
The Who
11 Adam Sandler's
The Longest ____
12 Actor Foxx
(*The Soloist* costar
of 24 Across)
17 *A Home at the*
____ of *the World*
18 Coastal eagles
20 John Philip ____
21 Boring tools

- 22 Asian frying pan
23 Jackie O's spouse,
for short
24 Exhaust (2 wds.)
25 Joe Cocker's "____
Beautiful" (3 wds.)
26 "Little Brown ____"
(Glenn Miller standard)
27 Michael Caine's
Blame It On ____
29 "I've Got You
Under My ____"
32 ____ of *Play* stars
Russell Crowe
33 Tom Selleck movie
____ *Alibi*
35 Whitney Houston &
Deborah Cox's "____
Script, Different Cast"
36 Dull; insipid

- 37 Puerto ____
38 "If It ____ Love" by New
Edition
39 Police reality series
40 24 Across blockbuster
____ *Man*
41 "____ On Down the
Road" (*The Wiz* tune)
43 Greek letter
44 Alley ____ of comics

Answers on
Page 26

The Queen of Soul's journey

At the young age of 12, Jaya was made to join her mom's shows as a singer. Little did she know that the small gigs she scored, will bring her opportunities to make it big.



Her mom, celebrated singer Elizabeth Ramsey, shared that she didn't teach Jaya to sing. She believes that her daughter just naturally acquired the skill, and developed her own style.

"Si Jaya, ni isang letra, ni isang tono, wala akong itinuro. Ang sabi ko lang sa kanya, ganito 'Kailangan kumanta ka kung gusto mo mabuhay tayo,'" she said.

Jaya became her mom's pride, because Elizabeth had always wanted one of her kids to follow her footsteps. Fueled by her talent and inspired by her mother, she worked her way into the music industry. She worked as a back-up singer until the owner of the recording company that she worked for, saw tremendous potential in her, and signed her right away.

She found her way into bigger stages, and eventually her own.

Today, she's one of the veterans of the Filipino music industry and has been dubbed as the 'Queen of Soul' and keeps her grounded.

"Privilege 'yun. I'm honored to be part of the roster of artists na may title, and it makes you up your game."

It hasn't been easy, she admitted. Being in the public eye, opens one to a lot of scrutiny. She eventually learned to handle it with grace and strength.

"Ang realidad, ke maayos ka, ke 'di ka maayos, may masasabi sayo. Just do your job, the best way you can," she said.

Watch Jaya, as she mentors and helps out the young stars of the industry in Sunday All Stars, every Sunday at noon.

10 reasons why someone will never be Rich



There's an interesting maxim about how long wealth actually stays with a person and their descendants. The saying is three generations, tops: one to make it, one to spend it, and the third to blow it. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule, but have you ever sat down and seriously thought about wealth and what it means to you? Being wealthy means different things to different people. But according to the experts, there are financial mistakes many people make that keep them away from their possible wealth.

What is Wealth Anyway?

Most people do not equate wealth with a mansion or a big yacht. In fact, a scanty 7% of people surveyed associate wealth with material possessions like cars, houses and boats. Rather, to many, being rich means having just enough to not worry about the next payday – that's according to 33% of those questioned. Yet most people who are rich don't even consider themselves rich. Maybe it's because being 'rich' or 'wealthy' has very little to do with material possessions, and more to do with how people feel about themselves. Nonetheless, according to financial experts you will never be rich if you are bogged down by anything on the following list:

Ten Reasons Why Someone Will Never Be Rich

1. Overspending

If you have a ferocious appetite for spending beyond your means, you're not alone. According to a survey, of the 52% of people who habitually overspend, many balance the shortfall by taking from their savings, and 22% rely on credit cards. Blowing all your money each month is not a realistic pathway to wealth. Start tracking where your money goes each month, check where you can cut back, and create a 'realistic' budget that allows you to pay your bills and invest in a retirement account or an emergency fund.

2. Not Saving Enough

Welcome to the club! The personal savings percentage in the US is a measly 4.9% of disposable income. Saving should become a priority if you want to accumulate wealth. Start with an emergency fund. Once your emergency fund is substantial, you can redirect small amounts toward other goals like purchasing a home or paying for college.

3. You Have Too Much Debt

Certain debts are a precursor to financial success, like purchasing real estate or starting a business; however, a high-interest credit card balance is not. Pay off credit cards with the highest rates first.

4. You Don't Have a Plan

Without a definite, clearly defined plan, becoming rich will seem like an unbelievable dream. This alone will solidify your excuses for overspending and not saving. As the saying goes, "Those who fail to plan, plan to fail." Putting together a financial plan may seem tedious, but it doesn't have to be, and you can get used to it.

5. You Don't Have an Emergency Fund

Experts say you need at least six months of income saved in case of an emergency. Life is tricky, and not having some type of safety net can turn a comfortable situation into a disaster.

6. You Started Late

Time is slipping by. Just like starting an exercise routine, the most difficult part about saving is getting started. Even if you have debt, a small income, or many expenses, you can save something, even if it's only a small amount.

7. You Complain Rather Than Commit

"I don't earn enough money"; "Life is too expensive"; "It's hopeless, I'll never get out of debt." Have you uttered any of these statements before, or perhaps all of them? Old habits die hard; however, as long as you do nothing to change, nothing will change. Stop complaining and making excuses. Instead, take responsibility for your non-productive habits and concentrate on how to change them – and then do it!

8. You Live for Today, and Forget About Tomorrow

It's no fun getting serious and thinking about

TEN REASONS
continued on page 26



Angel on Phil: We had a good breakup

MANILA - Actress Angel Locsin stressed that she and her former boyfriend, football player Phil Younghusband, had a "good" breakup.

Locsin made the statement as she reacted to issues that they broke up because Younghusband cheated on her. "Si Phil, mabait na tao. Wala siyang ipinakitang masama sa akin. Feeling ko nasira lang 'yung okay na breakup namin dahil sa mga taong nag-a-assume," she explained.

"Ako, hanggang ngayon nga 'di ako nagbubura ng pictures niya sa Instagram kasi wala naman kaming masamang tinapay sa isa't isa," she added.

While she no longer wants to bring up her past with Younghusband, Locsin said she felt the need to address the issue to clear his name.

"Ayaw ko na sanang banggitin ulit ang pangalan niya kasi alam ko na ayaw na niyang pag-usapan pero 'yun nga, sana stop na 'yung bashing-bashing na ganyan kasi maayos kaming naghiwalay," she said.

Locsin, who is now dating actor-host Luis Manzano, also reiterated that the latter has nothing to do with her breakup with Younghusband.

Currently, Locsin is busy with her hit series "The Legal Wife" with Maja Salvador and Jericho Rosales.

"The Legal Wife" airs weeknights after "Ikaw Lamang."

Candid SPOOF

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



Senator Enverga and wife Rosemer greets Mama Ching at Dr. Solon's 50th birthday celebratory bash.

Crossword Answers



NBI raid rescues 3 Russians, 3 Ukrainians, 13 Pinays from sex den in Pasay

MANILA - Three Russian, three Ukrainian, and 13 Filipino women were rescued by authorities during a raid Tuesday night of a sex den fronting as a disco club in Pasay City.

A report from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said the raid at the Starwood VIP Lounge was conducted by its Anti-Trafficking Division with the participation of a team from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The raiding team also hauled all the employees of the bar for further questioning. The NBI did not say, however, if the club owner-operator was among the arrested.

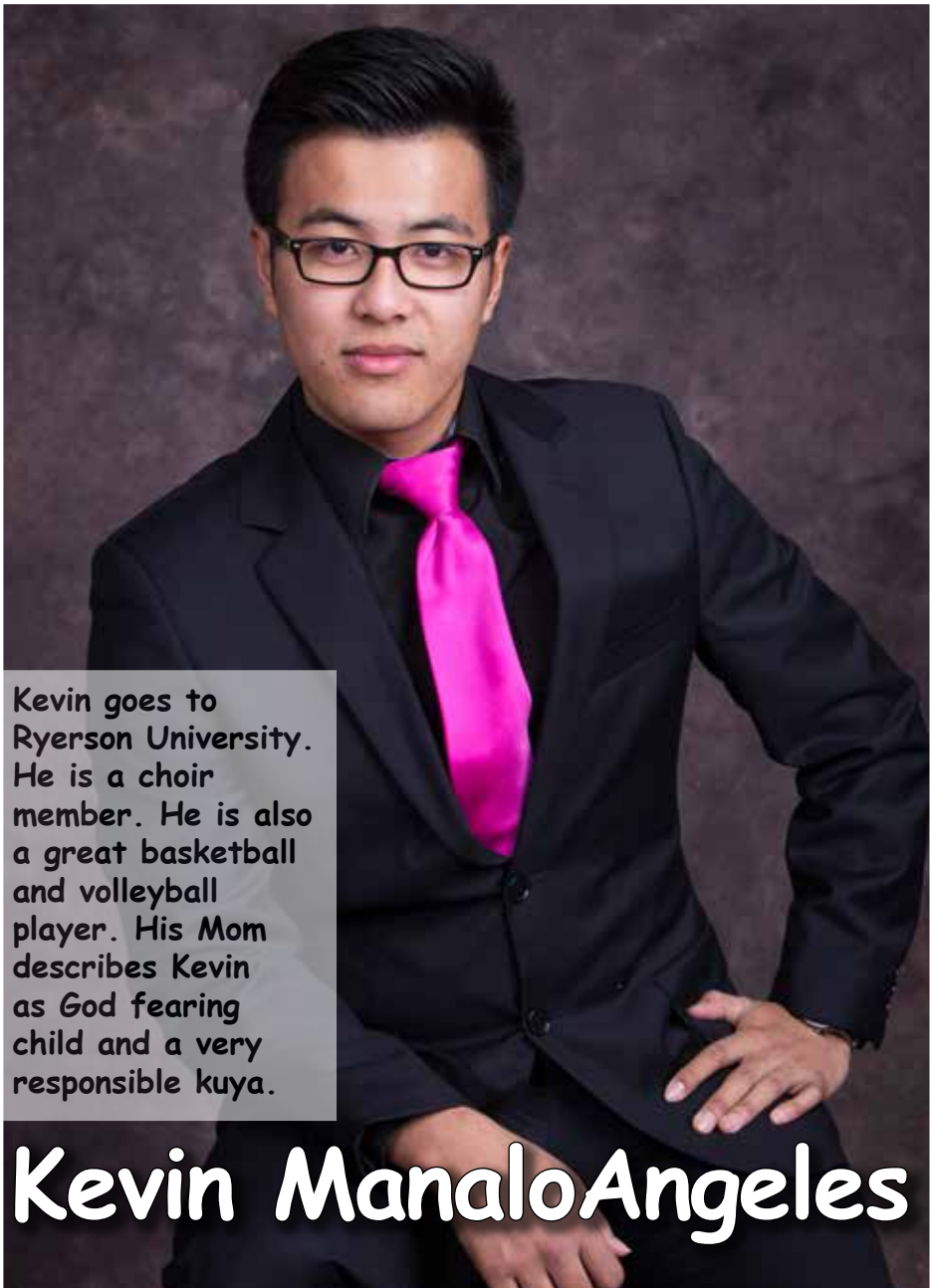
The agency said this was the first time it encountered foreigners working as sex workers in the country.

Based on interviews made by the DSWD representatives, a customer is charged P1,500 for a naked lap-dance and up to P10,000 for a VIP room with a guest relations officer (GRO).

It was learned that the club was barred from operating in Makati City some time ago but transferred its operation to Pasay.

Authorities were also looking at the passports and visas of the rescued foreigners.

Hunk Shot



Kevin goes to Ryerson University. He is a choir member. He is also a great basketball and volleyball player. His Mom describes Kevin as God fearing child and a very responsible kuya.

Kevin Manalo Angeles

TEN REASONS continued from page 25

retirement and all that stuff. Nonetheless, eventually it has to be done. The problem is that impulsive and unregulated spending leads to debt... period! Do yourself a big favor: Get rid of the 'buy now, worry later' attitude, and switch to a 'save now, get rich later' way of thinking.

9. Putting All Your Eggs in One Basket

You might get lucky by wagering all your money on one type of investment. Just like you might get lucky winning the lottery. But that's not a strategy to live by, or for getting rich. Putting all your money in one place is not advised because it puts you at too much risk. Your investment portfolio should include multiple investments with varied levels of risk and ROI potential and liquidity.

10. You Just Don't Get It!

You may be one of those people who believe that somehow something will come along and save you, so why bother with saving or trying to get out of debt? Maybe you will get lucky and land a fantastic job, receive a big pay raise, inherit money, hit the lottery, or whatever! But 'whatever' won't cut it if you really want to become rich. Yes, life is uncertain. No one knows what will, or will not, actually happen; therefore, why not focus on what you can control today? Get it together now and save yourself, in case someone or something else won't.

One thing you can be sure of: You are already rich. Think about it. If someone came to you and offered you a million dollars for your arm, would you give it up? Why not, you have two; you can surely spare one of them! Of course the answer would be no! Being rich is more than physical ownership; it's a state of happiness and well-being, while wishing the same for others. So while you are working on getting rich materially, remember to be happy along the way!

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