

Watch the Toronto concert of Sarah Geronimo on May 9 / 7:30pm at Roy Thomson Hall.

Call Genelie Panaligan for concert tickets at **647-867-0740**

Born to Migrate?

More and more are emigrating 'for the sake of the children'

MANILA - My old friend feels he has lost his youngest son. The boy has moved to Canada with his wife and daughter.

For many Filipino families, migrating is no longer a big deal. Every day, some 3,000 of our people depart for foreign places, whether temporarily or for keeps.

In early March, 10.4 million Filipinos—roughly 1 in 10

of all our people—were away from home. Of this number, over 4.9 million are migrants; and over 4.2 million are overseas contract workers. For Filipinos, even Toronto is now just a long commute away. Cell phones are handy,

MIGRATE
continued on page 11

GabRu

GMA-7's Newest Loveteam

Gabbi Garcia & Ruru Madrid

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SHARON CUNETA
HOW SHE LOST 40 LBS

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LIZA SOBERANO
HIT SHOWS GIVES CAREER A BOOST

SHOULD ROTC BE MANDATORY AGAIN?

FOR CARLA ABELLANA, TOM RODRIGUEZ MAY BE THE ONE



SISTER ACT

ABOVE, Ampee Panaligan wins Miss Photogenic and 2nd runner-up at the Miss Katipunan pageant.

RIGHT, Ampee's sister, Maria Panaligan sings at the Spring Fling dinner party afterwards.

No Tinikling At APEC In The Philippines

MANILA - No tinikling, rondalla or cheesy folk songs. Instead, there were hip-hop, tribal drums and sopranos in Grecian gowns because, finally, the bureaucracy has realized the need to upgrade the entertainment offered to foreign guests.

Delegates at the Asia Pacific Economic Conference (Apec) finance deputies meeting could not help whipping

NO TINIKLING
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Cayetano favors Divorce

MANILA - With a survey showing 6 out of 10 Filipinos in favor of divorce, Senator Pia Cayetano sees the need for Congress to begin discussions on the matter. While no bill legalizing divorce has yet been filed in the Senate, Cayetano said she can include it in proposed amendments to the Family Code.

She said the unavailability of divorce can be considered discriminatory. "We consider that discriminatory because women are forced to stay in a marriage that is harmful to them, either physically or emotionally," Cayetano said. The measure would also benefit men.

Cayetano said the survey show the people want divorce to be available.

"Your chairperson is ready to present a bill in any form to initiate the debates. But is Congress ready for it?"

A predominantly Catholic nation, the Philippines is one of only two countries in the world that prohibit divorce. For Cayetano, who sponsored the reproductive health law in the Senate amid strong Church opposition, this is not something to be proud of.

"What does it mean? That we are self-suffering? That we allow women, or men for that matter, to stay in horrible relationships and possibly not even be good parents to their children simply because our law does not recognize that they should live separate lives?" she said.

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Sarah Geronimo to Matteo: 'Seek God' no matter what, 'I love you'

MANILA - Singer-actress Sarah Geronimo made her actor boyfriend Matteo Guidicelli cry on stage after surprising him with a performance, a heart-felt message and a kiss on the cheek during his 25th birthday celebration.



Sarah to Matteo: "Maraming salamat sa lahat ng pagmamahal mo. I pray that you will continue to seek God, Lovely. You will become the man, that God has planned you to become. Okay?, Okay. Ako man ang makatuluyan mo o hindi, okay. I love you, I love you, I love you very much."

In a series of videos posted on Yes! Magazine's Facebook page, Sarah was seen singing Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud" and then emotionally extended her birthday wishes for Matteo. "I love you... Maraming salamat sa lahat ng pagmamahal mo. You are now becoming a man and I am praying, lovie, that you will continue to seek God, that you will become the man that God has planned you to become, okay? Okay? Okay? Ako man ang makatuluyan mo o hindi. Okay, Okay? I love you," Sarah

said. They then did a duet of John Legend's "All of Me."

The actor looked very happy celebrating his special day with Sarah and his loved ones. "I would like to say thank you to everyone that made my birthday extra special. Thank you everyone for the birthday greetings. It meant a lot. Thank you to all the friends and family that came to my celebration last night. I hope everyone had a great time! I'm blessed to have amazing, loving people around me. Thank you!! #25 #blessed #good-vibes," Matteo said in his official Instagram account.

Kristoffer Martin deny Bea Binene romance talk



Kristoffer Martin denied that he and Bea Binene are dating. The actor said he and Bea simply have similarities like hiking but that doesn't mean that they are already dating.

It's funny that they are being linked romantically now when he and Bea have been working together since "Tweenhearts." Not because they were seen together means they are dating. Kristoffer explained that they were with other friends when they had a recent hike. He also denied that he is the reason why Bea and Jake Vargas broke up. He asked the public not to make up stories. He assured, too, that his friendship with Bea won't be affected by these controversies, and that he's open to work with her in the future. He isn't choosy with his co-workers. He can work with anyone because it is up to GMA-7 who he is going to work with.

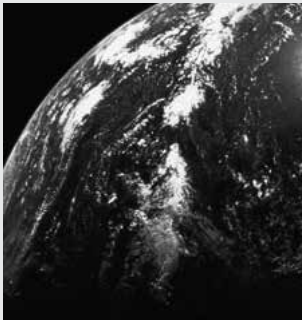
For now, Kristoffer has zero love life, and he will focus on his work and his studies. He knows that the right girl will come along, so he doesn't want to force himself to look for her.

In the end, Kristoffer also denied that he and ex-girlfriend Joyce Ching have already gotten back together. They are just friends now, he added.

EARTH HOURS

THIS VERSION OF MINE IS BETTER

Earth Hour is helping the environment by turning off the lights for one hour on March 23. I should get a Nobel Peace Prize then for environmentalism.



My Earth “Hours” is better. It lasts from 11PM-6AM and from 6:30AM to 3PM. Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, it is from 11PM to 9AM, then 10AM to 6PM, then it resumes at 11AM to 6AM. In some parts of the world, their Earth Hours lasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year.

Rico Puno Again?

Apparently, Philippine entertainer Rico Puno was criticized for some of his innuendo in his act when they performed in Toronto recently. I have seen Rico Puno’s shticks before and it involves sexually suggestive body movements and some dirty jokes. I will not even say green, or what they call double-entendre here in Canada. There is no subtlety na nga. But, what else is new? You cannot teach an old dog new tricks. People who watch it know what he is going to say and do. But they watch it not because of that. They watch it because of the other 90% of the act. If they have to put up with Rico Puno’s 10% dirty jokes that are not even funny, well, it is a small price to pay ika nga.

Not a Concert Venue Anymore

He was one of two reasons why a certain The Prayer Palace Church does not rent out for concerts anymore. Iyon ang alam ko. I do not know if it rents out to other groups or jsut Filipinos. The other reason is John Lapuz who ended his segment with a “FY,” in an attempt at shock comedy before exiting stage right. He was bombing in his act and that was what he said. Prior to his appearance in that show, he was in Toronto as part of a concert at Molson Amphitheatre. I cannot remember if it was with Pops Fernandez or Martin Nievera and he was funny at that time. I guess he had an off night at the Prayer Palace.

What’s in a Name?

Ika nga ni Shakespeare, “ a rose by any other name would smell jsut as sweet.” Apparently, there was a Mutya ng Manila or Maynila pageant

recently that was launched at Prestige Bar. Sabi ni Pareng Mon Datol, they started that last year. He is surprised daw that another group has taken it over. Sabi naman daw ng mga nagpatakbo ng Mutya recently, Mon datol daw was there during the talks to run the pageant. Well, he said, they said, hindi natin alam.

Name of my Pageant?

Let me see. What name can I use if I want to start a pageant? Miss Caregiver was started by one group which inspired my friend Mon Datol and Cecille Araneta to start Anghel ng Tahanan. PIDC had it’s Miss Philippines which made PCCF to call their Miss Philippines- C a n a d a . The is Miss M a n i l a of Fiesta F i l i p i n a . Maybe, I will start one that is called Miss Maynila. If s o m e b o d y was to start a Rose of the Philippines pageant, let us remember what Shakespeare said that a rose by any other name will smell jsut as sweet. If we call it Rafflesia of the Pghilippines. Yes, such a flower exists in the Philippines. It is literally just flower – without stems, branches, or leaves – and can grow to the size of a car tire. The odor – that’s right, odor, not scent, not aroma, odor – of this Philippine flower can be downright offensive. But I guess it is not a rose that’s why it smells bad.



PIDC Hosts Farewell Party for ConGen Junever Mahilum-West

by Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Philippine Independence Day Council -PDIC hosted an evening despedida - farewell party for the outgoing Philippine Consul General-Toronto Junever M. Mahilum - West on March 20, 2015 at Casa Manila, North York. After serving for more than 3 years in the Toronto consulate post and recently promoted, Mahilum-West will now assume her diplomatic assignment as the new Philippine Ambassador to Jordan.

Organized by officers & members of PIDC and led by president Norma Carpio and her 2 vice presidents Gene Elamparo and Rory Elefano, the dinner event was attended by more than 70 notable leaders and personalities from various FilCan community and Ontario multicultural , social & political organizations.

Among those who graced and said goodbyes to the departing ConGen were members of the Liberal Caucus: MP candidates Michael Levitt (York Centre), Bill Morneau (Toronto Centre), Salma Zahid (Scarborough Centre), Omar Alghabra (Mississauga Centre), Gary Anandasangree (Scarborough-Rouge Park) and Zubair Patel and Mazhar Shafiq, representatives of MP Arnold Chan and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne, respectively. Present too were: Michele Serrano, MP Scarborough Southwest nomination candidate and Julia Krupa, M. Levitt’s assistant.

Also in attendance were officers of Canadian Multicultural Council- Asians in Ontario (CMC-AO), namely: Henry Lee, Joe Chen and Mr & Mrs Sid Ikeda . The FilCan community leaders are Ted Dayno, Anita Diaz, Aida D’Orazio, Rafael Nebres & Bill Quibrall .Media personalities include Fairchild- Talakayan Radyo producer Jess Cabrias, Nelson Galvez & Tony A. San Juan.

Luminous Financial and World Financial Group, major sponsors of PIDC 2015Mabuhay Festival were represented by George Dela Rosa, Neil Ceasario & Peaches Madarang and WFG president Agnes Miranda, respectively.

The PIDC Board and Council Members present were : Amy Ada, Verth Bugtong, Pedro Carpio, Gene Elamparo, Aris & Rory Elefano, Helen Lao, Aimee Maravilla, Minda Neri, Jesse Pacetes, Roy Start, Vilma Tahsin, Roger Tarca, Nene & Nanding Ticzon, Vincent Treyes and Al Tupe Other notable guests were : Diwata Viado-East, Samantha & Emely Gavin, family of Pinky & Hazel Knight, Elizabeth Leggett, Alfonso Pico, Joseph Redoblado, Ophelia Monterde



Consul-General Junever Mahilum-West is greeted by PIDC President Norma Carpio at the PIDC despedida.

Santiago, and Monina Lim - Serrano .

The 5 - hour evening celebration of kumustahans sans iyaan, speeches, singing, native cuisine dining , photo ops & selfies, networking and fellowship was ably coordinated by event chair Suzy Llanera . With a welcome speech by emcee Tom Tan and opening address of S. Llanera, the program includes: Nene Ticzon led the “grace before meals” prayers, Jesse Pacetes stirringly sang the Philippines and Canada’s national anthems, harmonica solo by Sid Ikeda of the Japanese Cultural Centre, Liberal Party leader Justin Trudeau’s message(read by Michael Levitt) and tribute songs rendered by diva Jennifer Camacho. In her closing remarks, PIDC prexy Norma Carpio aptly thanked the guests, her officers and members and bade her official pama-maalam to the charming and admirable ConGen.

Guests, Canadians and Filipinos alike, were sumptuously treated to native food favourites such as: kare-kare, pancit bihon, lumpia shanghai, lechon kawali, chicken kawali, chicken tinola, with appetizers of salad, kalamansi & orange iced tea, and halo-halo and Mango sansrival desserts.

The evening’s highlights centred on the presentation of plaque and token of appreciation by PIDC prexy N. Carpio to ConGen J. M. Mahilum-West and as well, the cutting of cake, courtesy of Casa Manila’s Mila Nabor-Cuachon and karaoke sing-alongs.

In her farewell address, Ambassador Mahilum- West expressed her profound appreciation to the PIDC and the community for honouring her with such a memorable celebration. She reiterated her wishes that Filipinos in Toronto and their relatives & friends “will continue to support the homeland by becoming dual citizens, election- active, participating in organized trips and visits to the Philippines and generously contributing for the progress and development” of our beloved native land.... ang ating bansang Filipinas.(T. San Juan)

Submit ads & press releases by April 15 for the May 2015 issue.

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LAUGH RESORT

A married man was having an affair with an Italian woman. One night, she confided in him that she was pregnant.

The man not wanting to ruin his reputation or his marriage, told the Italian woman he would pay her a large sum of money if she would go to Italy to secretly have the child. And If she stayed in Italy to raise the child, he would also provide child support until the child turned 18. The Italian woman was skeptical but she agreed, she then asked how he would know when the baby was born.

To keep it discreet, he told her to simply mail him a post card, and write 'Spaghetti' on the back. And once he got the postcard he would then arrange for the child support to begin.

One day, about 9 months later, he came home to his confused wife. 'Sweetie, she said, 'you received a very strange post card today from Italy.' 'Oh, just give it to me and I'll explain it later,' he said.

The wife said ok and then watched as her husband read the card, turned white, and fainted.

On the card was written: Spaghetti, Spaghetti, Spaghetti. Two with meatballs, one without. Send extra sauce.

MISS UNIVERSE INTRODUCTION
Miss Hungary: Gutom ako, gutom ka, gutom tayong lahat HUNGARY!!
Miss Haiti: Seventy eight, seventy nine HAITI!!
Miss Kenya: Hindi sa'yo, hindi sa'kin.. KENYA!!
Miss Nepal: Hindi naman kausap, sabat ng sabat.. NEPAL!!
At syempre..
Miss Philippines: Mula sa lupaing mahal ang bigas at maraming mandurugas.. PILIPINAS!!

Honey Shot



Thea, as she is called is graduating in IBT program in Brampton. She is aiming to complete a business program in university. She loves any desert that includes mangoes and bubble tea. Thea is very talented in digital art and traditional art, and loves to draw anime characters. She wants to be able to inspire and send positive messages through art. Thea is an honour student from grade school to present. Congratulations!

Andreanne Gracielle Aviso

Jen attend ex's wedding

PATRICK Garcia finally tied the knot with live-in partner Nicole "Nikka" Martinez last Saturday, March 21, at Blue Bay Leaf in Parañaque, and ex-GF Jennylyn Mercado was a no show even if she earlier signified her intention to attend the affair. But she sent their love son, Alex Jazz, to be the ring bearer in his dad's wedding. Patrick and Nikka's own daughter, Chelsea, was the flower girl and she was also celebrating her first birthday on that day.



Someone close to Jennylyn says she cannot be blamed if she decided not to attend the affair. "Siyempre, moment 'yun ni Patrick and naging misis niya," says Jen's friend. "Ayaw naman niyang makaagaw pa ng eksena from them kung sakaling pupunta siya roon, kaya 'yung anak na lang nila ang pinapunta."

Honestly, we think it's a wise decision. No matter what people say, it's not in good taste for a guy's ex to attend his wedding to another woman. We're sure they'll just all feel uncomfortable. As for Patrick and Nikka, here's our best wishes for a long and lasting marital life. Cheska Garcia, Patrick's older sister who's married to cager Doug Kramer, says she's personally happy for Patrick as Nikka reformed him from his easygoing ways as a bachelor and brought him closer to the Lord.

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CARLA NAVA-LONGMIRE
REINALYN TORADO
AGNES MUNOZ
MAY FEGIDERO
NATALIE JAMES

DHL build facilities in the Phl

Upgrades needed to meet increasing demand



MANILA – DHL Express is spending about P150 million in the Philippines to expand its existing facilities and build new facilities in the country. The new international express service provider said the new facilities will be put up in Clark, Cebu and Las Pinas. “This year is really an exciting year for us at DHL Express Philippines,”

said DHL Express country manager Nurhayati Abdullah (INSET PHOTO). About P30 million will be spent for a new 1,000-square meter DHL Express service facility in Clark, which will cater to customers in Northern Luzon. The Clark facility aims to increase handling capacity and facilitate the industry’s growing demand for trade in

the region. “The Philippine market holds great potential for us and we are always on the lookout to further expand our footprint in the country,” Abdullah said. Abdullah added that about P78 million will be spent for a new facility in Las Pinas, which will cater customers in Southern Luzon. Another P42 million, meanwhile, will be spent to expand its existing facility near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). Abdullah said the Cebu facility is expected to be established within the year. Currently, DHL Express has eight service center facilities and 195 service points in the country. “We will continue to invest in upgrading our facilities and skill sets of our employees to meet the changing demands of our customers in the Philippines,” said Abdullah. DHL operates in more than 220 countries and territories worldwide.



Wanted: A new leading man for Solenn

Solenn Heussaff has officially signed up with Universal Records after doing two albums with MCA. Present at the album signing are managing director Kathleen Dy-Go, operations director Peter Chan, producer Ito Rapadas and her manager Leo Dominguez. So why did she move? “For a change,” she says. “My two albums with MCA are both heavy on dance tunes. The first one got a platinum award. I was joking my dad kasi he bought half of the stocks. With Universal, I’m doing something for easy listening with more laid back songs to show a different side of me as a singer. I might include some songs I myself have written. I’m really excited kasi ibang genre naman ito and I also want to do some Tagalog songs. Then I might do a mini-concert.” Her PR, Jun Lalin, asks if she doesn’t want to do it in a bigger venue, like the Philippine Arena. She frowns, “Let’s be realistic. That’s 50,000 seats. But I was really excited when I performed there in Ogie Alcasid’s ‘Musikatin’ concert. Wow, napuno! I did a duet of ‘Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang’ with him and it gave me an adrenaline rush when the audience reception was very positive.” Ito Rapadas says they will gather new songs from various composers for inclusion in her new album. They expect to start recording next month and release the album in the 2nd or 3rd quarter of the year. So what else is in store for her for the rest of 2015? “I’m shooting a new movie for Direk Ellen Ongkeko, ‘Padyak Love’, about bikers, mostly shot on location in Baguio. I’m with Dennis Trillo and Kit Thompson. In June, I’m also doing a new horror-love story with Direk Peque Gal-laga. They’re still looking for a new lead-ing man for me. Then on April 15, the beauty and lifestyle book I wrote with Georgina Wilson, ‘The Bestie Project’, will be released. We did the cover design ourselves. I also have a new show with GMA News TV, my second with them after ‘Taste Buddies’ with Iya Villania-Arellano. This one will be a travel show called ‘Pilipinas’.” Any new teleserye with GMA7? “None yet. My only show with them now is ‘Sunday All Stars’.

Aquino scraps 301-day women rule

Law Repeals Premature Marriage after Husband’s Death

MANILA - President Aquino has signed a law repealing the crime of premature marriage in the country. Republic Act 10655 nullified a Revised Penal Code provision that penalizes widows who marry within 301 days after the death of their husbands. The measure also covers women whose marriages have been annulled or dissolved, if she marries before the expiration of the period of 301 days after her legal separation. “Without prejudice to the provisions of the Family Code on paternity and filiation, Article 351 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code, punishing the crime of premature marriage committed by a woman is

hereby repealed,” the law read. “All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly,” it added. The new law will take effect 15 days after its publication in two newspapers.

Charo retiring at 60

Charo Santos-Concio attended the special screening of the restored version of “Maalaala Mo Kaya, The Movie” at UP Film Institute last Monday night. We got to talk to her at the cocktails before the screening started and she confirmed she’s retiring (as ABS-CBN president) at 60. Why? we ask her. She’s still young since 60 is the new 40. “That’s the rule. You have to give in to younger blood, but I will stay as an adviser,” she says. But she’s definitely not leaving “Maalaala” and will continue to host it. The



show started in May 1991 with Romnick Sarmenta in the episode “Rubber Shoes” and has been on the air for nearly 24 years now, the longest running drama anthology in the history of local television. For its 3rd anniversary in 1994, they came up with “Maalaala Mo Kaya The Movie”, the full length film directorial debut of Olivia Lamasan which won for Aiko Melendez the Manila Filmfest best actress award (the year that there was a scam) as the young woman who took care of her cousin’s abandoned son. It formally introduced Chin Chin Gutierrez, who won the Urian best supporting actress award for her role as the biological mom who went to Japan and became the victim of the Yakuza. The film also featured Richard Gomez as Aiko’s love interest who turned out to be the boy’s biological dad, Caridad Sanchez as Aiko’s mom, Robert Arevalo and Liza Lorena as Richard’s parents, Jao Mapa as his younger brother, Glenda Garcia as Chin Chin’s friend who took her to Japan, Eula Valdes as Aiko’s friend and child actor Karl Angelo Legaspi as the 5-year old son who really gave a three-handkerchief performance to make this a sure fire tearjerker.

Expanding Organ

Mrs. Samson, a teacher in a girls’ school asked the science class: “Who can tell me what organ of the human body expands to 10 times its usual size when stimulated? Mary, can you tell me?” Mary blushed furiously as she stood up. Then replied, “Ma’m, how dare you ask such a question? I will complain to my parents, who will complain to the principal.” The teacher was taken aback at first by Mary’s reaction. Then, as understanding dawned on her, she called for another pupil, this time a volunteer. Lilly put up her hand. “Yes, Lilly?” asked the teacher. “Ma’m, the correct answer is the iris of the eye.”

“Very good. Thanks, Lilly,” said Mrs. Samson. She then turned to the 1st girl, who threatened to complain to her parents and principal: “Well, Mary, I have 3 things to tell you: First, you have NOT done your HOMEWORK. Second, you have a DIRTY mind. And thirdly, I fear, one day in future, you are going to be sadly disappointed!”

Tinikling, rondalla or cheesy folk songs were replaced by hip-hop, tribal drums and sopranos in Grecian gowns

NO TINIKLING
continued from page 1

up their smartphones and recording the scenes as a youthful cast of Pinoy artists wowed them at the welcome dinner and cultural presentation at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City last March.

Creative team

Leading the pack was Aicelle Santos, lead star in the longest-running Filipino musical “Rak of Aegis,” whose powerful voice reminded the rest of Asia-Pacific why Filipinos rule as singers.

Pao Gumba played Broadway, the Bee Gees and OPM on a ukulele while Luna, an all-female vocal ensemble, serenaded the audience with songs ranging from classical arias to John Legend’s “All of Me.”

Nestor Jardin, former president and currently a member of the Cultural Center of the Philippines board of trustees, chuckled when told that guests were watching what seemed like “the Jardin is head of the creative team within the CCP tasked by a subcommittee on arts composed of the CCP, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Tourism Promotions Board and the private sector, to oversee these cultural presentations.

He will handle 18 of the 35 other events that began last December with one for Apec senior officials in a five-star hotel in Makati City.

The last event will be on Nov. 18 with US President Barack Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Japanese

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the guest list when Manila hosts the Apec Economic Leaders Meeting.

Lasting impression

Jardin said top officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs were very clear when he was tasked to organize the shows for visiting dignitaries. “The cultural presentations are an important facet of Apec. Several DFA officials told me they create a lasting impression of the host country and these (impressions) might redound to us in terms of tourism,” he said.

“The positive impression [delegates] get from these welcome dinners and cultural presentations could [bolster] the thinking and perception of the delegates who are very important people to us,” Jardin explained.

It is actually Jimenez’s tourism department that is in charge of the hospitality receptions. The sub-committee it formed includes Jardin and renowned composer Ryan Cayabyab.

Jardin said Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr. specified one thing: The shows must “create a cumulative net impression that the Philippines is one of the most progressive, youngest and most inclusive societies in the 21st century,” and that these presentations must showcase “contemporary Filipino culture, reflect... soft power and our modern modes of thinking.”

Local flavor

Last March 5, members of the Centro

Escolar University Folk Dance Troupe donned colorful native costumes and interpreted “Isang Bangka” by The Dawn in choreography sprinkled with hip-hop and breakdance.

Ballet Philippines’ Cyril Fallar and Gillianne Therese Gequinto’s pas de deux utilized the massive stage with a backdrop of geometric-shaped houses and other architecture reminiscent of a Baldemor painting.

Ballet Manila’s half-naked male dancers braved the chilly winds while female performers incorporated cheer dancing in a number choreographed by Gerardo Francisco for “Anting-”

The De La Salle University Dasmariñas Chorale and Imusicapella provided local musical flavor at dinner.

“Everything is fast-moving, never a dull moment,” one delegate raved. The whole show ran for about 30 minutes.

Earlier at the cocktail reception, Madeline Jane Banta played piano while Gaille Ramos played flute before guests at Taal Vista’s covered terrace, while the Citizen’s Brigade Band of Dasmariñas City played covers of American pop songs to liven things up.

Pride of place

Jardin said pride of place is one of the thematic pegs for the Apec presentations. When senior officials of the conference were feted at the CDC Parade Grounds in Clark, Pampanga, on Feb. 6, BMX bikers did their

NO TINIKLING
continued on page 25

Is Bea Binene ready to love?

After almost a month of speculations, teen Kamakailan lang nang aminin ni Bea Binene na break na sila ng kapwa Kapuso teen star na si Jake Vargas. Ngayong single na ulit



ang aktres, ready na kaya siyang magmahal ulit?

“Hindi naman ‘yan kapag ready ka na o hindi eh.

Nasa oras lang ‘yan, nasa tamang sitwasyon. Pero

ako ngayon, hindi ko muna iniisip ‘yon kasi ang dami pang

puwedeng pagtuunan ng pansin,” sagot ni Bea sa GMA News.

Ayon pa sa report ng Unang Balita, kahit daw break na sina Bea at Jake ay nagpapansinan pa rin naman daw ang dalawa kapag nagkikita. Pero ang diin daw ni Bea, malabo pa na magkabalikan sila ngayon.

Ayon nga kay Bea, maraming bagay ang pinagtutuhan niya ng pansin ngayon. Isa na rito ang kanyang bagong project bilang guest character sa Afternoon Prime soap na Yagit.

“Ako rito si Jam. Ako ‘yung magiging protektor ni Eliza ‘tsaka ako ‘yung tutulong sa kanya na makabalik sa pamilya niya,” paglalarawan ni Bea sa kanyang role.



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PNOY Fails To Curb Poverty

Filipinos Concerned About Economic Issues

MANILA - The administration failed to gain a majority approval rating on its performance in 12 key issues, and even posted negative ratings on efforts to reduce poverty and control inflation, the latest Pulse Asia survey shows.

The March Survey on Urgent National Concerns showed that the administration posted approval ratings of 40 percent for promoting peace in the country; 41 percent for enforcing the rule of law; 42 percent in fighting government corruption; 43 percent in defending national territorial integrity; 45 percent in fighting criminality; 48 percent in protecting the environment; and 49 percent in addressing the needs of calamity victims.

Reacting to the survey, the Palace said the administration will focus on pushing good governance, creating jobs and fighting poverty in the next 15 months.

“The government continues to imple-



ment measures to stabilize prices of commodities. Various programs have been put in place to bring about poverty reduction. This includes breaking ntergenerational poverty through the conditional cash transfer program, skills development for enhanced employability, and improving the business climate in the country through good governance,” said Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma.

According to the Pulse Asia survey, Filipinos continue to be most concerned

about economic issues.

In March 2015, the leading urgent national concerns among Filipinos are controlling inflation (46 percent), increasing the pay of workers (44 percent), and fighting corruption in government (40 percent). Other urgent concerns were poverty reduction (37 percent), job creation (34 percent), criminality (22 percent), peace (22 percent) and the rule of law (19 percent). Filipinos were least concerned about environmental degradation (13 percent), population control (9 percent), national territorial integrity (5 percent), terrorism (5 percent), and charter change (4 percent).

Public opinion was split three-ways with respect to the administration’s performance in the area of increasing the pay of workers, with 33 percent approving, 33 percent disapproving and 35 percent undecided.

EDU EXPLAINS WHY HE AVOIDED ACTING FOR A LONG TIME

EDU Manzano is enjoying his acting comeback on ABS-CBN as Lorenzo Antonio, the rich business tycoon who acts as the father-mentor of Paulo Avelino.

“When they offered the show to me, I immediately liked my character,” says Doods. “He’s a man of mystery whose name is synonymous to power and authority so no one has enough guts to dare oppose him. The only one who can come close to him is his adoptive son, Paulo as Carlos. Maraming twists na mangyayari sa characters namin but I’m not at liberty to disclose them. Basta viewers will surely be hooked when they start watching.”

We first met Doods when he was launched in “Alaga” by Bancom in 1980. Since then, he has always maintained a close and friendly relationship with the press. No wonder he’s generally well liked. He has also maintained his slim good looks. Everyone agrees that he’s better looking than his son Luis. What’s his secret?



“I eat right. I don’t eat rice, I avoid salt and sugar. I eat mostly fruits. I work out. I don’t use expensive creams or lotions but I do see a dermatologist for advice. I avoid stress, which is one reason why I avoided acting for a while. My last soap, ‘Walang Kapalit’, was in 2006 yet and my last movie was ‘Tanging Yaman’ pa. Ayoko noong magdamagang puyatan. Hindi ko na kinaya kasi I accepted being the Optical Media Board chairman. But I’m so glad everyone in ‘Bridges of Love’ is so professional. Lahat, dumarating on time, alam na ang gagawin nila, so it all makes our jobs easier.”

So what happened to the OMB after Ronnie Ricketts was suspended as chairman? “Magulo. Walang chair or CEO ngayon. I’m really surprised they haven’t appointed a new one. Kaya piracy is running rampant. May sarili na silang building. Nakakuha na sila ng business permit. Naaawa lang ako roon sa regular employees ng OMB na naabutan ko pa roon. Lahat sila ngayon, suspendido rin.”

Doods doesn’t really have to act since he owns three restaurants he himself is managing. Two, Lucky Rainbow Chinese Restaurant and Black Sheep, are both in Makati. And he has a new one in the City of Dreams. “But nami-miss ko na rin ang pag-arte and I’m glad I’m now doing ‘Bridges of Love’.”

Philippines NEWS

Philippines to resume repair, work in disputed South China Sea

MANILA - The Philippines said it would resume repair and reconstruction works in the disputed South China Sea after halting activities last year over concerns about the effect on an arbitration complaint it had filed against China.

Manila had called on all countries last October to stop construction work on small islands and reefs in the South China Sea, virtually all of which is claimed by China.

China itself is undertaking massive reclamation works in the area, while Taiwan, Malaysia, and Vietnam have also been making improvements on their facilities.

“We are taking the position that we can proceed with the repair and maintenance,” Foreign Affairs Minister Albert del Rosario told diplomats, military officers, and foreign correspondents.

Stimulus Needed

MANILA - The Philippines needs higher rates of investment to bolster the pace and quality of economic gains to make a significant dent on poverty while ensuring solid safeguards against global headwinds, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said. The Manila-based Asian lender said the country must not only rely on consumption and remittances but should increase government spending on infrastructure to attract investment.

“The challenge is to stimulate investment to raise productivity in industry, agriculture and services,” Richard Bolt, ADB Country Director for the Philippines, said in the Asian Development Outlook 2015 (ADO).

Achieving higher levels of investment also requires reforms to enhance competition, and reduce the administrative costs of doing business in the country, the ADB said in its flagship annual economic publication.

“These measures are needed to more create jobs and reduce poverty,” Bolt added.

Aquino assures power supply

MANILA - The government has tapped a “menu of options” to plug the potential power supply deficiency in Luzon this summer, including the dispatch of hydropower plants and the swift rehabilitation of Malaya power plant Unit 1, President Aquino said.

Addressing the Philippines Investment Forum in Makati City, the President recognized that the country’s power situation has been “complicated” for the longest time but assured the government has taken proactive steps to boost clean and reasonable priced energy supply.

“Right now, the Philippines has a total dependable capacity of 15,665 MW, which is – or should be – sufficient to meet our highest projected demand level of 10,222 MW for 2015. But we cannot be content with this, especially with the potential power supply gap in Luzon this summer, due to the threat of El Niño and rehabilitation of the Malampaya gas field,” Aquino said in his speech.

New Actress Does A Sharon

Newcomer Monica Cuenco is so happy to be chosen to play the iconic role of Dorina Pineda in the stage version of one of Sharon Cuneta’s biggest blockbusters, “Bituing Walang Ningning,” that will be staged at Newport Theatre in Resorts World. It already had a TV soap version on ABS-CBN with Sarah Geronimo starring in it, but the stage



version seems more exciting as Monica will be playing with theatre stalwarts Mark Bautista (who shone in London in “Here Lies Love”) and Cris Villonco (a veteran of countless stage musicals).

Mark will reprise the role originally played by Christopher de Leon, while Cris will be the new incarnation of the contravida Lavinia Arguelles, first played by Cherie Gil who uttered the now immortal line “You’re nothing but a second rate trying hard copy cat!”

“I’m so excited, but also nervous,” says Monica. “I’m so thankful for this big break

that Viva pero siempre, kinakabahan ako as I have no previous theatre experience. Pareho ring napakagaling ng mga kasama ko so I really have to do my best para hindi ako mapahiya sa kanila.”

Max To Go To A Place She Has Never Been

Max Collins revealed at the special presscon GMA conducted for her that although she has been to various other countries, like the U.S.A., she has yet to set foot in the nearby favorite destination that is Hong Kong. “Nakakatawa nga kasi lahat na yata ng tao, nakapunta na roon, ako na lang ang hindi,” she laughs. “Kapag sa mga



kuwentuhan, nababanggit kong I’ve never been there, lahat, nagugulat.”

So this coming Holy Week, her plan is to go there for a brief vacation with her mom and siblings. “That is, kung wala kaming taping for ‘Kailan Ba Tama ang Mali?’ at wala akong commitments for my other shows in GMA na ‘Bubble Gang’ and ‘Sunday All Stars’,” she adds. “Gusto kong makarating doon para makapag-relax, mag-shopping, and spend some quality time with my family.”

Senator Enverga welcomes continued discussions between Canada and the Philippines

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, March 20, 2015 – The Honourable Tobias C. Enverga Jr., Senator from Ontario, welcomes the continued discussions between Canada and the Philippines on how to deepen and modernize relationships between the two countries.



Today, Minister of International Trade Ed Fast met with his counterpart in the Philippines, Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry met to discuss the potential for enhanced bilateral trade and investment relations, and ways to build on our current commercial relationship, which is already supported by existing agreements, such as a double taxation agreement, an investment promotion and protection agreement, and a recently expanded air transportation agreement.

“It is important to identify and foster growth in areas of common interest, such

as agri-food, transport, energy, infrastructure, education, defence and security, and for the two governments to make commitments to resolve a number of market access issues in a timely fashion,” said Senator Enverga in a statement.

Minister Fast will lead a trade mission to the Philippines in May with a Canadian business delegation and Secretary Domingo, accompanied by a number of Philippine company representatives, may visit Canada at a later stage this year.

The Philippines holds the Chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) for 2015 and shares Canada’s commitment to fostering the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the global economy. Also, the Philippines is designated as a priority emerging market under the Global Markets Action Plan (GMAP) of Canada, which is a positive step towards a progressive bilateral relationship.

For more information please contact:
Eric Parungao
Senator Tobias C. Enverga’s office
(416) 616-1823
eric.parungao@sen.parl.gc.ca

Convicted trafficker retrial outrages groups

VANCOUVER, Canada - A landmark human trafficking case involving a Filipina caregiver is getting the attention of the community, especially after her employer’s conviction was overturned by the court.

Two years ago, a Filipina caregiver stood in the middle of a landmark court case that handed down a guilty verdict to Franco Orr on charges of human trafficking under Canada’s Immigration and Refugee Act. “Nagpapasalamat ako na sa pagkakataon na nakalabas ako sa pamilyang Orr. Di ko inaasahang may mga tao palang makakatulong sa akin,” the victim had said before.

But in a surprise reversal, the Court of Appeals overturns Orr’s court conviction and ordered a retrial.

Caregiver groups were shocked and disappointed with the decision. “This is really shocking kasi alam mo it’s not fair for the caregivers na nagpunta sila dito, na-abuse na sila, napatunayang na-abuse sila, and then there’s another retrial? It’s not really fair,” said Annette Beech, Victoria Caregivers Association President.

Julia Diesta, a caregivers’ right advocate, said, “Nakikita talaga kung sino ang may pera siya ang laging nabibigyan ng pagkakataon, wherein, itong domestic worker palibhasa domestic worker

nagtatrabaho, walang pera, ay wala talaga siyang magawa”.

Public prosecutors are now reviewing the Court of Appeals decision.

The West Coast Domestic Workers Association vows continued support for the Filipina caregiver, but they fear that the court decision will negatively affect similar cases of abuse and exploitation.

“We are a little concerned about the impact of the case on the ability of some of our most vulnerable workers in Canada, the live-in caregivers and migrant workers, to come forward and make complaints about labor trafficking,” said Natalie Drolet.

But the Committee on Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights warn incidents of abuse will not stop unless government addresses the defects on the caregiver and temporary foreign worker program.

“Kailangan talaga itong ipaglaban para hindi na maulit, mabawasan dahil nga temporary workers ay pwede lang isangtabi at base nga sa ngayon ay parang disposable,” said Diesta.

As Holy Week draws near, a group of migrant workers offered Stations of the Cross to pray for the welfare of the witness and all other domestic workers in Canada.

Mel Tiangco: At home in Kapuso Network



(L-R) GMA Network SVP for News and Public Affairs Marissa L. Flores, President and COO Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., GMA News pillar and multi-awarded news anchor Mel C. Tiangco, Chairman and CEO Felipe L. Gozon, and EVP and CFO Felipe S. Yalong

MANILA - GMA News pillar and multi-awarded news anchor Mel C. Tiangco renewed ties with GMA Network at a contract signing held on March 9. Present during the contract signing were GMA Network Chairman and CEO Felipe L. Gozon, President and COO Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., EVP and CFO Felipe S. Yalong, and SVP for News and Public Affairs Marissa L. Flores.

Tiangco, who has been with the Network since 1996, expressed her continued loyalty to GMA Network. “The day I entered GMA, I knew it was going to be my home forever,” says the veteran broadcaster.

Apart from co-anchoring GMA’s flagship newscast 24 Oras with Mike Enriquez and Vicky Morales, and hosting the award-winning drama anthology Magpakailanman, Tiangco is also the EVP and COO of GMA’s socio-civic arm, GMA Kapuso Foundation.

In these various roles, she is highly regarded by GMA’s top management with Gozon saying, “Napakaganda ng aming experience, not only with each other but also with the Network, so that it has come to the point na mahirap nang isipin na may GMA without Tita Mel.” [Our

experience has been a good one, not just personally but also with the Network, so that it has come to the point that it’s difficult to think of GMA without Tita Mel.]

Moreover, Duavit extols Tiangco’s credibility and commitment to service as seen in her work with the Kapuso Foundation and GMA News and Public Affairs. “Madalang makatagpo ng isang tao na lahat halos nasa kanya na,” he says. “Sa madaling salita, isang tao kung saan napapaloob ang lahat ng ibig nating sabihin sa serbisyong totoo. Mapalad tayo na si Mel ay bahagi ng Kapuso and we are proud to be Kapuso dahil sa mga katulad ni Mel,” he shares. [Seldom would you find a person who has almost every good quality,” he says. “Suffice it to say, a person who truly espouses true service. We are fortunate that Mel is part of the Kapuso Network and we are proud to be Kapuso because of people like her,” he shares]

Of her contributions to the Network, Flores shares, “Tita Mel has been instrumental in cementing GMA News and Public Affairs’ reputation as the most credible news organization in the country. We look forward to more years of working with her.”

Indeed, Mel Tiangco has consistently shown the heart of a Kapuso throughout her years of service. “To say that I love this company is an understatement. I have served it with all my heart and with all my soul and I will continue to do so,” she expresses.

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Pinoy Magician in the US wants to be a Surgeon

Magician Matthew Aaron Go did not realize the connection at first until he majored in Neuroscience at NYU and began to study the brain, this walnut-shaped organ powerful enough to mobilize all senses of the body.

Matthew appearing at Makilala TV talk show. Photo by Ronnie Ocampo Jr.

"There is an interesting connection," Matthew, 22, explained to The FilAm in an interview. "Neuroscience is the study of brain, how it works and how it controls our thoughts. Magic uses the brain and human thoughts to distract your attention. It's all in the head."

Matthew is currently a senior student taking up additional courses in Pre-Med Chemistry and Psychology. He is looking to become a brain surgeon.

Magic got him preoccupied as a young boy of about 10 years old. He remembered going on a family trip to Las Vegas and while there watched a magician perform. His father later got him a magician's starter kit with cards and coins, and he began practicing when he got home.

31 Pinoys qualify as caregivers in Japan



TOKYO - A total of 78 people from the Philippines and Indonesia have passed Japan's annual exam to certify caregivers for the elderly and others, the Japanese welfare ministry said.

Japan is trying to bring in more foreign workers in the nursing-care industry, which has suffered labor shortages due largely to the country's shrinking birthrate and aging population.

The successful candidates -- 47 Indonesians and 31 Filipinos -- accounted for 44.8 percent of 174 people who took the exam after meeting the condition of having work experience at nursing facilities in Japan for at least three years under the economic partnership agreements Tokyo has concluded with each country.

The pass rate for the fiscal 2014 testing

was a record high and up from 36.3 percent the previous year, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said. Including Japanese examinees, the rate expands to 61.0 percent.

The Japanese government has taken various steps to have more foreign applicants pass the exam, allowing a longer stay in Japan for study, offering Japanese-language training and even extending testing time.

A total of around 1,500 people have visited Japan from the two countries and Vietnam to take the annual exam under the partnership agreements. The Vietnamese candidates began staying in Japan this fiscal year.

In a different national qualification exam for nurses, the pass rate among those from the three Southeast Asian nations dropped to 7.3 percent in fiscal 2014 from 10.6 percent the previous year. The rate for all examinees stood at 90 percent.

A total of 357 people from the three countries took the test, but only 26 -- 11 from Indonesia, 14 from the Philippines and one from Vietnam -- got qualified.

"We will analyze (the fall in the rate for foreigners) and re-examine how to offer future training," a health ministry official said.

Fil-Am is a Billionaire

Bobby Murphy a Filipino-American co-founder of mobile app Snapchat is now the second world's youngest billionaire's at the age of 25 according to the latest list released by Forbes Magazines for the year 2015. Snapchat co-founder Bobby Murphy is now having a net worth of \$1.5 billion.

Bobby Murphy ranked second in the world, while his Snapchat co-founder Evan Spiegel ranked no. 1 in the world as the youngest billionaire at 24 years old.

According to Forbes, Bobby Murphy and Evan Spiegel's company Snapchat had received new funding offers at an eye-popping valuation of \$19 billion. Based



upon Forbes estimates, Bobby Murphy has a stake of at least 15% shares in Snapchat.

The Filipino-American graduated from Stanford University and met fellow Kappa Sigma fraternity brother Evan Spiegel way back the year 2010 and on 2011 they launched an app originally called Picaboo, which got little traction.

Bobby Murphy graduated with a degree in Mathematics and Computational Science, he is the son of California State employees and a Filipina mother, who emigrated from the Philippines and grew up in Berkeley, California.



Gwen split clears Ellen

When we talked to Gwen Zamora on the set of "Innamorata" a couple of months ago, she was very open talking about her relationship with Raymond Romualdez, the son of Tacloban Mayor Alfred Romualdez. She was even telling stories of how she helped Raymond in the relief operations after typhoon Yolanda and us writers who were listening to her concluded that they must be altar bound after they've been on for two years.

But now, she'd rather not talk about him at all. She confirms that they have broken up five months ago and she'd rather not dwell on it as she has already moved on. The fact that she wants to gloss over it indicates that they didn't part ways amicably as it's easy to say that they still remain to be good friends and it's not a case of bad breakup.

The rumor is that Ellen Adarna, who's now with ABS-CBN, has actually stolen her BF. But Gwen refuses to dignify this. She and Ellen have been friends when she was still with GMA. "I don't know kunsaan galing ang ganyang issue but I never said or posted anything bad about Ellen in social media," she says. "So sana, huwag na lang gawaan ng intriga basta I'm very happy now and let's just leave it at that. I'm with 'Bubble Gang' now and I'm about to start a new soap, so okay ako."

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Ontario Toronto Filipino Parents Slate Metro-wide Conference on Catholic Education

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT

The Filipino Canadian Parents Association in Catholic Education (FCPACE) will conduct the First Conference of Filipino Canadian Catholic Students, Youths, Parents and Educators in the Greater Toronto Area on April 25, 2015 (Saturday), 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre Atrium, TCDSB, # 80 Sheppard Avenue East (Yonge St. / Doris Ave.), North York, Toronto.

The Conference, with its theme: “Meeting the Challenges of Filipino Canadian Students, Youths, Parents and Teachers in Catholic Education” and in cooperation with the Toronto Catholic District School Board, aims to engage participants, speakers and resource persons to determine and discuss opportunities, issues, and problems of the members of the Filipino Catholic community. Purposefully, the whole-day affair will cover significant topics and make recommendations relating to achieving student success and enhancing academic performance in Catholic schools.

The complimentary one-day event will include a free meal and a two-part program : 8:00-12:00 a.m.-a 30-minute Mass, speeches, greetings, networking,

and brief entertainment and 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.-- facilitated group workshops and plenary session-conference group reports. The organizers are encouraging participants to attend the whole day activities especially in the equally- important scheduled afternoon workshop sessions.

FCPACE, organized in November 2013, is composed of Filipino Catholic parents, teachers and community leaders in Toronto who are fully committed to engage, involve and support Catholic parents in addressing challenges and concerns in respect of : authentic faith development & spirituality, school-home adjustment, learning resources, and curriculum understanding for their children’s education and well-being.

For a meaningful participation into this first- ever, Metro-wide forum, interested Filipinos are requested to register, ASAP, by email to Marla Tanuan at : mtanuan@yahoo.com or booking via Eventbrite at : <https://eventbrite.ca/event/15969712841/> . (T. San Juan).

Newbie singer Neo Domingo denies dating Mich Liggayu of Jamich

Up-and-coming singer Neo Domingo was Mama Belle’s guest DJ in ‘Sikat Sa Barangay’ this morning, March 19. He was there to promote his new single ‘Kaching-Kaching’ with boy group Fifth Dynamics.



The hot singer admits that he is fond of joining talent search competitions. In fact, he once competed in Eat Bulaga and has recently joined the McJm’s Dreams Get Real competition. He was also part of an all-male group named Takeoff that competed in a reality talent show.

Neo shares that one could gain a lot of confidence by performing live in front of many people.

He says, “Kasi iba talaga ‘pag nasa stage ka like ‘yung sinasabi ko ‘yung pinaka best na practice o pinaka best na training is ‘pag nasa live ka na. ‘Yun ‘yun eh. Kasi kahit mag-practice ka ng mag-practice sa bahay pero ‘pag nasa stage ka na, minsan ma-ba-blanko ka.”

Neo adds, “Ako nangyayari sa akin ‘yun. Kahit ilang beses ko na nape-perpekto sa bahay, ‘pag nasa stage na ako na-ba-blanko ako, nawawala ako. So iba ‘yun, so ‘pag nasanay ka na doon sa stage, sa harap ng maraming tao, feeling ko ‘yun ang advantage.”

We’re just friends

Neo is recently under fire for allegedly dating Mich Liggayu of YouTube sensation Jamich.

This sparked outrage from Jamich fans. In fact, he and Mich was on the receiving end of numerous nasty comments from enraged fans of the late Jam Sebastian.

Neo appealed to Jamich fans to stop bashing him and his good friend Mich, since the rumor is simply not true.

Neo stresses, “Itigil po natin ‘yung mga pang-ba-bash kay Mich, sa akin. Magkaibigan lang po kami. Sa ngayon, kailangan ni Mich ng pang-unawa dahil sa pinagdadaanan niya.”

“So hindi nakakatulong po ‘yung mga pang-ba-bash kung wala naman po talagang sense talaga ‘yung isyu, kumbaga tulungan na lang natin siya dahil alam niyo naman ‘yung pinagdadaan niya.”

Are We Raising Our People To Become Migrants?

MIGRATE
continued from page 1

and there’s always the Internet. But even so, emotional distance is as tyrannical as ever; and, at least for old men like my friend and myself, the chances of ever seeing absent friends again are unavoidably uncertain.

So that my friend is devastated: a Catholic charismatic, he has kept his Quezon City family close-knit. The four children live nearby; and the family gathers for lunch after Mass every Sunday. His wife tells him, “We can’t tell our children how to run their lives.” But he still can’t understand why his son feels he must go. Though barely 40, the son, a financial analyst, and his wife were two-income, two-car, art-collecting, upwardly mobile Makati professionals. They are migrating, the son tells his father, “for the sake of the child.”

And my old friend asks himself, how have we become a country that can’t assure a future for its grandchildren?

Exporting warm bodies

Labor export was a stopgap many East Asian states—including today’s South Korean powerhouse—took up in the 1970s, while moving from a strategy of import-substituting industrialization to labor intensive exports. Most of our neighbors have given it up, as their economies picked up speed and gave their workpeople more pleasant alternative occupations. In our country, by contrast, labor export has become a prime development program.

Unlike our vigorous neighbors, we simply have no alternative. Since we have few competitive goods to trade, we export warm bodies instead.

The University of the Philippines economist Ernesto Pernia points out that two policy failures forced this policy on us.

One, we had kept up import substitution in a closed economy even after our neighbors had shifted to an export strategy. Two, we have failed to sustain the population moderation policy we had been among the first East Asian states to adopt in 1969.

These policy failures resulted in weak long-term GDP growth in the context of galloping population growth. From 1970 until 2006, our individual incomes grew at no more than 1.45% net—since over the same 36 years, population growth decreased only slowly, from 3% to 2.1%.

Not just the desperate

More and more of those migrating are no longer just the desperately jobless. They now include well-established young people: middle managers, computer professionals, doctors and nurses, engineers, architects, hospital technicians.

More and more OFWs are college graduates. Yet, typically, first-generation migrants must resign themselves to lower-rank work than they did at home.

We’ve all heard of migrant-doctors who turn into ICU nurses. A newspaper editor I know became for a time an unlikely security guard.

One of my nephews—a civil engineer—rivets the wings on “Bombardier” aircraft at an assembly line off Toronto. What pains him most is the severity of the Canadian winter, and not seeing the sun for weeks on end.

Meanwhile, most every other Metro Manila college seems to be offering courses in nursing, care-

giving, physical therapy, computer programming, sea-faring. Language courses—not just French or Spanish but also German, Japanese and Korean—are more and more popular.

You could even enrol in a unique course that will teach you to speak English with an American accent. And I am certain all these courses serve a practical purpose. But why are we raising our young people to become migrants?

A mobile global order?

Growing interdependence—globalization—is enforcing a worldwide redistribution of jobs, not just in traditional manufacturing but in once non-tradable sectors such as services.

And the optimists say—with Wired Magazine—that the Philippines, far from lagging behind its vigorous neighbors, is in fact the forerunner of tomorrow’s distributed economy: the herald of a “new mobile global order.”

The Central Bank says demand is rising for “skilled, professional Filipino manpower.” The Bank valued the dollar-remittance industry at \$24 billion in 2014—equivalent to 8% of GDP. Our country is already the third-highest OFW income earner, after India and China and on par with Mexico.

The pessimists worry about the social problems created by families with absent parents, and the “disturbing dependency syndrome” among those these elders have left behind. Far too many of these dependents have dropped out of the job market—content with living on the manna from abroad.

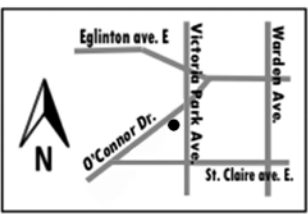
Even for the economy as a whole,

MIGRATE
continued on page 22

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Bongbong eyes Presidential run

Supporters convincing him to run for the Top Job

MANILA- Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said he is considering a run for the presidency in 2016.

Marcos said although seeking reelection as a senator was his “default setting,” there were calls for him to run for president.

“Many have been saying that I should run (for President). I listen to all of them, and I’m happy for their strong support. So, we will thoroughly study everything,” Marcos said.

The only son of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imelda Marcos, Senator Marcos had kept silent on any plan to run for President.

In her birthday celebration last year, Mrs. Marcos said she dreamed of returning to Malacañang with her son becoming president.

The senator said he has seen the presidency from different sides, while most people just see the grandeur and power.

“I saw my father at the end of the day and at the beginning of the day, the kind of problems he had to face. The kind of very serious sacrifices you have to make if you want to become a good president,” he said.



Marcos said anybody can be a president, but not everyone can be a good one. There is no use in becoming president if you cannot be a good one, he added.

The Nacionalista Party senator told dzMM that he was going to be a candidate for 2016, but it was as yet unclear for which position.

“But we have a saying that luck is only being ready when opportunity presents itself. This means one should be ready for luck. So I will make myself the luckiest to the best of my ability,” he said.

Anticipating questions about his graduation from Oxford, Marcos said he would go to London over the Holy Week to collect his records to put an end to the controversy.

“Slowly, I am addressing these concerns. I already got my file from La Salle, that’s for my high school. I will get everything so that when questioned again, I can show them the papers, and there’s no need for me to explain,” he said.

He also said he expects some people will take it against him for being the son of the martial law strongman.

“We cannot change history, and we really cannot change what actually happened,” the senator said. “You can’t say this happened, and this did not happen. It would just be easy to prove my father accomplished many things, and there were significant developments in the country when he was President,” he said.

“Now, if there are personal issues or whatever it is, that’s a different matter. But as a President, I cannot perhaps turn my back on the record of my father. Also, I have always been saying that whatever opinions you have about my father, I think that can no longer be changed, regardless of what I may say or do. So the record of my father will stand. My father does not need help to explain his record. History speaks for itself,” he added.



Willie Revillame to launch ‘Wowowin’ in GMA Network

Controversial comedian and TV host Willie Revillame has finally inked a contract with GMA on March 20.

“Yung excitement is not for me eh. Doon sa mga tao, especially ‘yung mga kababayan natin na na-miss ko. Sa araw-araw mong ginagawa ‘yun for nine years, ito babalik ka para sa kanila. It’s not para sa akin, ‘yung pagbibigay ng saya, pagbibigay ng konting pag-asa at ‘yung konting tulong, ‘Yun ang gusto kong gawin talaga,” says Willie.

The signing was held at the GMA Network Center and was attended by the network’s high-ranking officials such as GMA Chairman and CEO Atty. Felipe L. Gozon, President and Chief Operating Officer Mr. Gilberto R. Duavit, Jr., and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Mr. Felipe S. Yalong.

Joining Willie are his lawyers, and the director of his program, Randy Santiago.

“Naisip ko, siya [Randy] naman nagbigay sa ‘kin ng break dati, Siguro, ito na ‘yung chance na I’m saying ‘thank you.’ At the same time, samahan mo naman ako. Ako naman ang magbibigay ng konting pasasalamat sa ‘yo. Siya ang director ng programa,” says Willie.

He is set to have a variety/game show, similar to the previous ones he had with the other TV networks.

“Itong programang ito ay ‘Wowowin’. Yung ‘win,’ sila ang winner dito eh. ‘Yung wow na feeling, ‘di ba? ‘Yung feeling na ‘yun, it’s Wowowin,” he shares. Willie says the program is set to debut soon. He remains mum about the exact date, but says that it will be a weekly show that will air every Sunday.

Philippines

NEWS

NBI goes Online

MANILA - Starting April 1 this year, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) will fully implement the online registration and electronic payment, including the appointment system clearance. “Almost all of us are using internet, we better make use of them in transacting business with NBI,” NBI spokesman Nick Suarez said. He said those interested need only visit the NBI website at www.nbi.gov.ph or clearance.nbi.gov.ph and you will be directed on how to register your clearance online, get appointment and when and where to bring your e-Payment prior to your appearance at any NBI Clearance Center. Suarez said this procedure is nationwide in scope.

Big Business Support BBL

MANILA - The Makati Business Club (MBC) reaffirmed its continuing and unwavering support for the Mindanao peace process on the eve of the first anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB). “We renew our call to the government to put the peace process back on track at the soonest possible opportunity,” MBC said in a statement. To enhance prospects for peace in Mindanao in southern Philippines, it urged Congress to resume discussions on the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) at the earliest time.

The influential business group warned against being distracted by the massacre of 44 police commandos in a clash with separatist rebels in Mamasapano, Maguindanao, last January 25.

Peace with Leftists Urged

MANILA - Lawmakers have urged the Aquino administration to likewise continue its peace talks with the communist rebels to once and for all end the decades-long insurgency problem in the country.

1-BAP party-list Rep. Silvestre Bello III, who served as government peace negotiator with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) during the Arroyo administration and Justice Secretary of then President Fidel V. Ramos, said the current administration should not be too preoccupied solely with the Mindanao peace process, and should also flex its muscles to ensure the resumption of the peace negotiations with the leftists.

Despedida in the PCCF



Well-wishers attend the despedida for new Ambassador to Jordan Junever Mahilum-West at the St. Ohrid church at East York.

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GMA Summer Primetime treats

Dingdong Dantes and Marian Rivera's shows dominate

GMA Network kicks off the summer season as it presents an exciting line-up of new programs – among which are the faith serye *Pari 'Koy*, the romantic drama *Let The Love Begin* and the intriguing soap opera *The Rich Man's Daughter*.

First on the list is the family-friendly series *Pari 'Koy* starring Primetime King Dingdong Dantes in his first-time portrayal of an unconventional priest known for his non-traditional ways of bringing the people closer to God. Dingdong as Father Kokoy made his international debut this March on GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Network's flagship international channel. Also in the cast are Sunshine Dizon, Gabby Eigenmann, Chanda Romero, Jillian Ward, Luz Valdez, Dexter Doria, Rap Fernandez, JC Tiuseco, Carlo Gonzales, Jeric Gonzales, Hiro Peralta, Jojit Lorenzo, Lindsay de Vera, among others. Also, GMA Network's newest child prodigy David Remo stars as Pinggoy, the high-spirited "village's son" of Barangay Pinagpala who will put Fr. Kokoy to the ultimate test of faith.

The Kapuso Network's fast-rising love team Ruru Madrid and Gabbi Garcia topbill the romantic drama *Let the Love Begin*. The program is all set to make audiences laugh, cry and fall in love as it presents the beautiful story of two individuals who will share a special friendship that withstands the test of time.

Last but certainly not least, the premiere of the compelling drama series *The Rich Man's Daughter* with Primetime Queen

Marian Rivera in the title role. Marian takes on the challenging character of Jade Tanchingco, an heiress from a very wealthy family. In the story, Jade's father is looking for a suitor for her and is willing to pay millions to any man who can make her fall in love with him. She will be joined by Glaiza de Castro, Katrina Halili and Luis Alandy. The series also stars Paolo Contis, Mike Tan, Pauleen Luna, TJ Trinidad, Sheena Halili, Charee Pineda together with Al Tantay, Glydel Mercado, Tony Mabesa and Ms. Gloria Romero.

Without a doubt, primetime viewing will never be the same as GMA-7 continues to chart new grounds this year. Catch a preview of GMA's newest offerings in the summer launches plug currently airing on GMA Pinoy TV.

To see your favourite Kapuso shows on GMA Pinoy TV, GMA Life TV and GMA News TV International, check the airing schedules in your territory through the website www.gmanetwork.com/international/programguide.



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Marian preparing for political career?



MARIAN Rivera is so proud to be given the chance to speak before Congress for the 2015 Women with Disabilities Day Celebration. She was chosen because of her advocacy in helping children repair with harelip in Yan ang Smile. This is what she said in her Tagalog speech that she herself wrote:

“Maraming salamat sa pagpapaunlak sa akin upang magpahayag ng mensahe sa mga Kababaihang may kapansanan. Ika ko nga ay kanya-kanya tayo ng toka sa buhay. Kani-kaniya tayo ng misyon sa buhay. Kung may isang bagay na makakapagsasabi ng ating pagkapare-pareho ay ‘yan ang ating biyayang mabuhay at mabuhay sa pamamagitan ng pagiging mabuting tao. Ang biyayang ito ang nag-inspire sa akin para gumawa ng mga bagay na tumutulong sa ating kapwa. Dahil bukod sa pagiging artista, masaya akong nakakapagbigay inspirasyon din ako sa iba. Kaya naman saludo ako sa inyo, na sa kabila ng pagkakaiba-iba natin bilang tao ay hindi nawawala ang inyong abilidad na mangarap, magpasalamat at magkaroon ng mabuting puso na siya naman talagang tunay na sukatan ng pagkakaroon ng makabuluhang buhay. Kaya ngayong buwan ng kababaihan, sabay-sabay nating itaas ang ating mga pangarap, sabay-sabay tayong ngumiti sa biyaya ng mga pagpapala sa atin. Sabay-sabay nating isigaw na sa mata ng Diyos, lahat tayo ay pantay-pantay. Mabuhay ang mga Kabataan, mabuhay ang mga Kababaihan at mabuhay ang mga Kababaihang lumalaban.”

Marian got a lot of applause for her speech. Because of this, some quarters quickly concluded her appearance in Congress is in preparation for the coming elections and she must be planning to run for public office. “Naku, hindi!,” she says. “Gusto ko lang talaga makatulong to children and women with disabilities. Wala akong balak pumasok sa pulitika. Sa showbiz pa rin ako.”

She is now in the thick of taping for her new soap, “The Rich Man’s Daughter”, where she plays the title role in a story that is bound to be controversial as it’s about bisexuality. Playing her wealthy dad is Al Tantay and Gloria Romero is her understanding grandma. Also in the cast are Luis Alandy, TJ Trinidad, Mike Tan, Glydel Mercado, Sheena Halili, Chynna Ortaleza and Glaiza de Castro as Marian’s lesbian lover. This is under the direction of Dominic Zapata who earlier megged the equally controversial “My Husband’s Lover” and has expressed his desire to push the boundaries in presenting potentially controversial stories and subject matters on television.

Marian is also leaving in April to do a show for GMA Pinoy TV in Vancouver, Canada and in Anaheim, California with Alden Richards, Christian Bautista, Jonalyn Viray, and Betong Sumaya. “Kaya double time kami ngayon sa taping ng ‘The Rich Man’s Daughter’, dahil sa first week of May ang airing nito to replace ‘Second Chances’ at kailangang marami na kaming naibankong episodes bago kami magsimulang umere.”



Gie Alvarez of Frontpage Philippines introduces the contestants of the Little Miss Philippines of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.

Kris Bernal on her next relationship: ‘Gusto ko long-term na relationship’

After her last relationship ended last year, Kris Bernal admitted she has learned to move on and be happy with her single blessedness. “I’ve moved on and [become] happy, not because I’m dating someone or whatever. I’m not dating anyone. Happy ako kasi nahanap ko siya sa sarili ko. Nahanap ko siya sa family ko, nahanap ko siya sa mga kaibigan ko na at first akala ko makaka-move on lang ako kung may kapalit. Pero hindi pala yun yung solusyon. Na-realize ko na if you give more time to yourself, to your family and friends, you will find happiness,” she shared.

Kris said every relationship has its good points no matter how it ends. “Kasi every love story, it gives you a lesson. Ang natutunan ko dun sa last relationship ko, a person won’t change no matter how much he loves you. If it’s real love and it’s 100% love, he will be willing to change but as long as it’s not 100%, kahit mabawasan lang ng 1% yan, hindi siya magbabago kahit gaano ka niya kamahal,” she added.

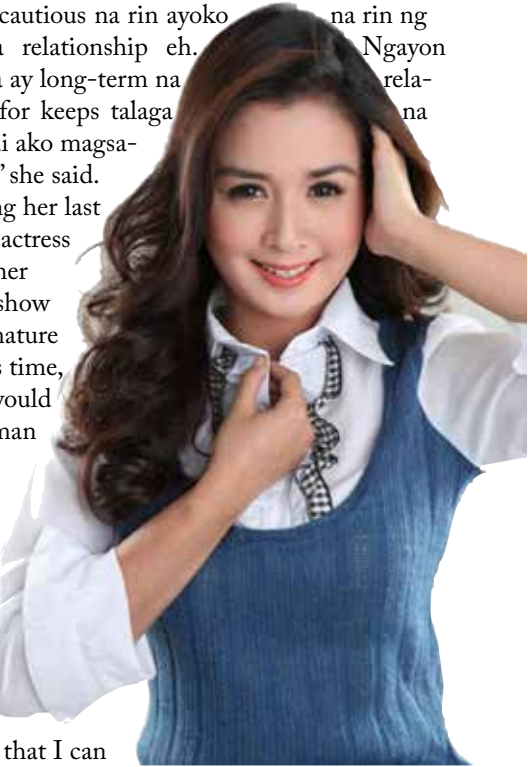
The pretty Kapuso actress said contrary to what the public may think, she does not find it easy to meet guys because of her limited social circle. “Medyo mahirap kasi yung mundo ko kasi, I don’t go out, wala akong mga hangouts, mga club. Hindi ako pumupunta sa ganyan, hindi ako umiinom. So ang environment ko lang talaga yung showbiz so kami-kami lang. Hindi talaga ako yung masyadong nagiging open sa ibang tao kaya medyo mahirap kasi konti lang kumbaga yung mga nakikilala kong mga tao. Pero hindi ko rin naman kasi pinipilit. Kumbaga may makilala man ako, kung alam kong wala rin talaga, hindi ko na rin i-pu-push,” she admitted.

When it comes to dating, Kris said she is still searching

for her Mr. Right. “I’m dating pero right now I’m very picky and very cautious na rin ayoko na rin ng basta basta na relationship eh. Ngayon ang gusto ko na ay long-term na relationship, yung for keeps talaga na alam kong hindi ako magsa-sayang ng oras,” she said.

After finishing her last soap, the petite actress said she wants her next project to show her in a more mature light. “Sana this time, this year, they would see me as a woman already, not the sweet-sweet, teenybopper na they’ve gotten used to. I want to prove to them that I’m getting older too! (laughs)

I want to prove that I can portray mature roles also and that I can be sophisticated and I can be a woman. That’s my goal this year, that people will see me as a woman. I want to try more mature roles or let’s say drama siya na mature sa akin,” she explained.



Miss Katipunan



FIRST, First runner-up Moon Torres, Miss Katipunan 2015 Chue Cruz and second runner-up Ampee Panaligan pose for a picture. SECOND, Ampee’s family drove all the way from Ohio. THIRD, Singer Berlane Gavino poses with Philip Beloso.

Jericho’s TV comeback lives up to expectations

The first week of telecasts of Jericho Rosales’ new TV starrer, “Bridges of Love,” has ended on a bracingly high mark, giving the acclaimed actor’s loyalists reason to hope that his latest comeback is going to be successful. He plays a hard-up student and jack of all trades who strives to make it as an architect, so he can meet the “practical” requirements of the woman (Maja Salvador) he loves. For his part, Paulo Avelino portrays Jericho’s long-lost younger brother, who has been adopted by a fabulously wealthy and powerful man.

Unfortunately, however, he has inherited not only his adoptive dad’s wealth, but also his coldly manipulative and acquisitive ways—and he’s also interested in Maja! —More trouble up ahead! To date, the brothers have met, but don’t know that they’re long-



lost siblings! So, the expectation is, when they do find out, there’ll be the devil to pay, because they will end up fighting over the same woman! —Welcome once again to the exceedingly small and even continually shrinking world of the Pinoy teleserye! At the moment, Avelino is merely passing muster as the predictably cold, evil and wealthy and powerful sibling. For her part, Maja is given the “colorful” role of a sexy club dancer who has to have many sidelines to support her family and pay for her sickly father’s medical bills. Despite this strong and textured back story, however, Maja’s performance is, like Paulo’s quite predictable, and has yet to flash and flare with genuine pain, rage and love. It’s a good thing that Jericho is all present and accounted for, to take the new drama to the next level with his focused and felt portrayal. He’s able to mix lighthearted scenes with moments of fierce pain and frustration—the hallmarks of his performances when he was at his prime (circa “Santa Santita”).

Yes, it’s an older and more mature actor we’re seeing in charge of things now, but the rare thespic combination of directness and subtlety is the same.

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PCCF beauty contestants, and current titleholders pose for a picture at the TV Taping for Frontpage Philippines.

LEFT, MP Carmichael pose with Ambassador Mahilum-West while a well-wisher (RIGHT) poses with her. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

Sef Cadayona hit gold

Hanggang saan aabot ang 20 pesos mo?

Higit na tumatak sa isipan ng mga Kapuso natin ang nakakatawang commercials ni Sabado-badoo host Sef Cadayona sa isang ice cream TV ad.

Pero para sa Bubble Gang star, dugo at pawis ang pinuhunan niya para makamit ang starring role sa mga 'Cornetto' ice cream commercials.

Sa eksklusibong panayam ng GMA Network.com sa Kapuso comedian, dumaan daw siya sa butas ng karayom dahil mahigit isang daang talents ang nag-audition para sa naturang role.

Kuwento ni Sef, "When that commercial came up, I auditioned. Siguro mga 150 kami doon. So 'yun nasuwerte."

Dagdag pa ni Sef, gustong-gusto raw niyang sumasabak sa mga auditions dahil iba 'yung satisfaction na nakukuha niya. Kailangan daw niyang ibigay 'yung best sa bawat casting call.

"I did the audition. I always do auditions 'cause actually kahit noong StarStruck nag-audition din naman ako. I didn't do the special screening."

"Siguro iba kasi 'yung tension when you audition.

It's like you have to give your best. Not unlike if it was given to you like on a silver platter."

Sa tagal na nga niyang endorser ng nasabing ice cream brand, binibigyan daw siya ng kalayaan ng mga ito na magbigay ng suggestions para mas lalong maging effective at interesting ang mga commercials na ginagawa nila.

Aniya, "Oo kailangan. We have to share ideas, kasi like for me, I have to create things on my own dahil para mag-mesh dun sa gusto nilang concept. Kasi usually 'yung mga nagbabato ng concepts sa commercial na 'yun iba-iba."

"And since I have the signature, kailangan ma-employ siya. So we put inputs as well. I started when I was 18. I'm 26 right now. So 'yung chemistry rin namin as a team okay na."

PCCF DESPEDIDA FOR CONSUL-GENERAL JUNEVER MAHILUM-WEST

Outgoing Consul-General Junever Mahilum-West (HOLDING THE PLACQUE) gets a certificate of Recognition from the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) at her despedida dinner. Ms. West has been appointed Ambassador to Jordan.

Despedida with the PIDC



FIRST, PIDC despedida chair Suzy Llanera starts the program. SECOND, Jess Cabrias (SEATED) of Talakayan Radio, Ted Dayno of Forex and Rafael nebres of Action Honda enjoy the company of friends. THIRD, Little Miss contestants and parents join the dinner. FOURTH, Angelo and Anita Diaz of Ready Honda pose with MP candidates Michael Levitt (York Centre).

Carla Abellana hopes Tom Rodriguez is the One + other news

Carla Abellana and Tom Rodriguez may be “officially dating” for less than a month, but when the GMA 7 star was asked if she saw her former “My Husband’s Lover” costar as “the one,” the answer was swift and sounded a touch optimistic.

Hope, pray
“It’s very easy to see and imagine,” Carla told reporters shortly after her recent 3-year contract signing with GMA 7. “Let’s hope so... and I’m praying.”
The 28-year-old loves the fact that she can let her hair down when she’s with Tom. “I feel relaxed. I laugh a lot when he’s around because he’s so makulit,” said Carla, who admitted that she’s not hard to please. “We just go out and eat, watch movies... We try to meet up when we don’t have work.”

Raised well
She described Tom, whom she also worked with in the drama series “My Destiny,” as an “independent, kind and very simple” guy. She learns a lot from him, she said. “He’s well-read; he’s into science, music, art, books—he loves them all. It’s great,” she said. “More importantly, he’s responsible. You can see that he was raised well.”
But at the moment, Carla said, she would rather not put any labels on her blossoming romance with Tom. “Just so there’s no pressure or any expectations,” she pointed out. Carla feels ready to start a new serious relationship, she said, because she has moved on from her nasty breakup



last year with ex-boyfriend Geoff Eigenmann, thanks to her family’s support. “You can’t be in a relationship when you’re not confident or strong enough,” she said. “I’m whole again... and very happy.”
However, marriage is still not something that has crossed her mind. “Only time will tell,” related Carla, who is part of the sitcom “Ismol Family.”

Clamor for show
Carla is about to start work on a new soap and a project for GMA News TV. The fans have been clamoring for another show with Tom, but Carla said it would be good for her to work with other actors. “I believe it’s part of my job as an actress...to get better and hone my craft,” she said.

Jennylyn Mercado is Grateful for the

Blessings

Now that her soap, “Second Chances”, is on its last few weeks, Jennylyn Mercado is grateful that GMA management has given her another assignment right away as one of the judges in the new season of “Starstruck”. “This is very meaningful for me kasi ako mismo, produkto ng very first batch ng Starstruck,” she says. “Ngayon, after ten years in the business, isa na ako sa judges na pipili sa mga magiging bagong

set of winners. It’s really a big honor and I promise to do my best in sharing with the new contestants ang mga sarili kong naging experiences noong aspiring wannabe pa ako sa showbiz.”
After winning best actress for “English Only, Please,” Jennylyn is all set to do a new movie. Everything is coming up roses for her, except for her lovelife. Despite rumors that she has reconciled with ex-BF Dennis Trillo, she insists that they are just good friends. “Sa akin, kapag nakaraan na, tapos na ‘yun. At natutuwa ako na ‘yung mga ex ko, nagiging kaibigan ko naman. Mas maganda ‘yung wala ka nang kinikimkim na anumang sama ng loob. Kami nga ni Mark Herras, best of friends din kami and I’m very happy for Patrick Garcia na magpapakasal na sila ng bago niyang love na si Nikka. Positive vibes na lang ang lahat.”
Her only ex-BF she is not in good terms with is Luis Manzano, who’s now back in the arms of his own ex, Angel Locsin. “Hindi pa lang kasi nagko-cross ang path namin since we broke up two years ago. But if ever na magkikita kami by accident, I’m sure hindi kami mag-iiwasan. Ako na ang unang babati sa kanya and I don’t think Luis is the type na pagtataguan ako. So, confident akong magkakabati rin kami in the near future.”
Iya Happy At GMA
Iya Villania is enjoying hosting “Taste Buddies” on GMA News TV with Solenn Heussaff and doesn’t mind if she’s a replacement for Isabelle Daza. “I’m having fun with Solenn kasi masaya siyang kasama,” she says. “Sa taping, tawanan kami nang tawanan. I’m really happy sa paglipat ko sa GMA kasi they also gave me the chance to host the documentary, ‘Mundo ni Juan sa Japan’, which was shown last Saturday and was about the life of Filipinos working there. Favorite travel destination ko ang Japan along with my husband (Drew Arellano) even before we got married kaya doing the documentary was really a good experience for me.”

Just like Drew, Iya is very athletic and she’s training to join the Iron Man 70.3 Triathlon Competition to be held in Vietnam in May. “First time ko to join it and I’m really preparing hard for it,” she says. “As much as possible I try to work out everyday. Parang nilalagnat ako kapag hindi ako nakaka-work out. I’m hoping I’ll be fit enough by then para tapusin ‘yung competition. I don’t want to be quitting nang hindi ko yung nakukumpleto.”



Dingdong as Priest creates Imapct

Dingdong Dantes is amazed at the impact of his role as Father Kokoy in the hit soap “Pari ‘Koy” as people who see him in public now address as Pari ‘Koy. “Some kids even ask me to bless them,” he says.
In one episode, the show tackles the significance of being baptized. The boy Pinggoy (played by David Remo) turns out to be unbaptized because he is a neglected orphan so he asks Pari ‘Koy to baptize him and get him his own ninong and ninang. It turns out that many children in Barangay Pinagpala remains unbaptized so Pari ‘Koy explains to them what the sacrament of baptism signifies in the holy church.
But the hypocritical ladies of the church led by Chanda Romero as Madam Martha are against Pari ‘Koy’s idea of giving free christening to kids whose parents are immoral. Pari ‘Koy disregards their opposition and goes on with the baptismal rites. The hypocrites turn off the electricity in the church, but Pari ‘Koy remains unfazed and continues administering this important rite of the church since this grace of God is not just for the rich who can afford to pay for it but for everyone who wants to be a baptized Christian.



Miss Katipunan



FIRST, Baby Joshua Panaligan is happy with his balloon seated at Shirley Leblanc’s lap while her sister Ampee (SECOND) competes at the Miss Katipunan pageant. THIRD, After the pageant, Ampee joins the rest of her family, some of whom drove all the way from Ohio.

A story like no other...

“Bridges Of Love” Fights For Family, Identity, And Love On Primetime TV



ABS-CBN presents its newest powerhouse drama offering this 2015 via upcoming primetime TV series “Bridges of Love,” an intense love story involving brothers, who will be separated by hatred and guilt, and their common love for a woman who will bridge them together.

Dubbed as a “story like no other,” “Bridges of Love” shares the tale of two brothers, Gael (to be played by Jericho Rosales) and Carlos (to be played by Paulo Avelino), who were bound by their promise to each other but separated by an

unfortunate tragedy. Separated by guilt and hatred, Gael and Carlos will be bridged together by love embodied by only one woman — Mia (to be played by Maja Salvador), a vivacious club dancer who happens to be Gael’s greatest love and the woman who completed Carlos’ broken heart. Will their love for Mia be the ultimate test to Gael and Carlos’ brotherhood torn asunder in the past? In the end, will love bring them together, or will it create an irreconcilable gap that will tear them apart permanently?

Aside from Gael, Carlos, and Mia, viewers will also unravel the mysterious lives of the powerful businessman, Lorenzo Antonio (to be played by Edu Manzano) who is the adoptive parent of Carlos, and Alexa Meyers (to be played by Carmina Villarroel), a woman of power, drive, and unparalleled glamor whose scorned heart who longs to be loved again.

“Bridges of Love” is directed by Dado Lumibao, Will Fredo, and Richard Somes. It is under the Star Creatives production, the creator of recent TV hits including “Princess and I,” “Got to Believe,” “The Legal Wife,” and “Forevermore.”

The upcoming series will also feature Antoinette Taus, Max Eigenmann, Maureen Mauricio, Lito Pimentel, John Manalo, Janus del Prado, William Lorenzo, Joross Gamboa, and Malou de Guzman.

Don’t miss the ABS-CBN’s newest powerhouse drama offering this 2015, “Bridges of Love,” to premiere this March on Primetime Bida. For exclusive updates, log on to [Twitter.com/StarCreativesTV](#) and [Instagram.com/StarCreatives_TV](#).

Fishin’ Trip

A young guy from North Dakota moves to Florida and goes to a big “everything under one roof” department store looking for a job.

The Manager says, “Do you have any sales experience?”

The kid says, “Yeah. I was a salesman back in North Dakota.” Well, the boss liked the kid and gave him the job. “You start tomorrow. I’ll come down after we close and see how you did.” His first day on the job was rough but he got through it.

After the store was locked up the boss came down. “How many customers bought something from you today? The kid says, “One”.

The boss says, “Just one? Our sales people average 20 to 30 customers a day. How much was the sale for?” The kid says, “\$101,237.65”.

The boss says, “\$101,237.65?” What the heck did you sell?” The kid says, “First I sold him a small fish hook. Then I sold him a medium fish hook. Then I sold him a larger fish hook. Then I sold him a new fishing rod. Then I asked him where he was going fishing and he said down the coast, so I told him he was going to need a boat so we went down to the boat department and I sold him a twin engine Chris Craft. Then he said he didn’t think his Honda Civic would pull it, so I took him down to the automotive department and sold him that 4x4 Expedition.”

The boss said, “A guy came in here to buy a fish hook and you sold him a BOAT and a TRUCK?”

The kid said, “No the guy came in here to buy Tampons for his wife and I said, ‘Dude, your weekend’s shot - you should go fishing.’”

Lea Salonga Join George Takei in New Broadway Musical Allegiance

Producers Lorenzo Thione and Andrew Treagus announced March 12 that Tony Award winner Lea Salonga and Telly Leung will join the previously announced George Takei in the Broadway premiere of the new musical Allegiance next season.

The production is scheduled to begin previews Oct. 6 at the Longacre Theatre (220 West 48th Street) prior to an official opening Nov. 8.

All three actors were part of the musical’s world-premiere engagement at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

Allegiance has a book by Marc Acito with music and lyrics by Jay Kuo. Helming the production is Olivier Award nominee Stafford Arima.

Allegiance, which is inspired by Takei’s true childhood experiences, is described as such: “Traversing the lush California heartland, the windswept prairies of Wyoming and the battlefields of war-torn

Europe, Allegiance tells the epic multi-generational tale of deep family loyalty, romance, humor, optimism and unparalleled heroism in the face of fear and prejudice against Japanese-Americans during World War II and beyond.”

Additional casting and ticket information will be announced at a later date.

Lea Salonga won Tony and Olivier Awards for her performance in Miss Saigon. She was the first Asian to play Eponine in Les Misérables on Broadway and returned to the show as Fantine in the 2006 revival. Salonga, also seen on Broadway in the revival of Flower Drum Song, garnered a Craig Noel nomination for Outstanding Featured Performance in the musical Allegiance at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego.

Telly Leung’s Broadway and national



touring credits include Flower Drum Song, Pacific Overtures, Wicked (Boq, original Chicago company), Rent (final Broadway company) and Godspell. He can currently be seen in Off-Broadway’s The World of Extreme Happiness.

For more information visit [www.AllegianceMusical.com](#).



FOR SALE

(NOT THE MODEL)

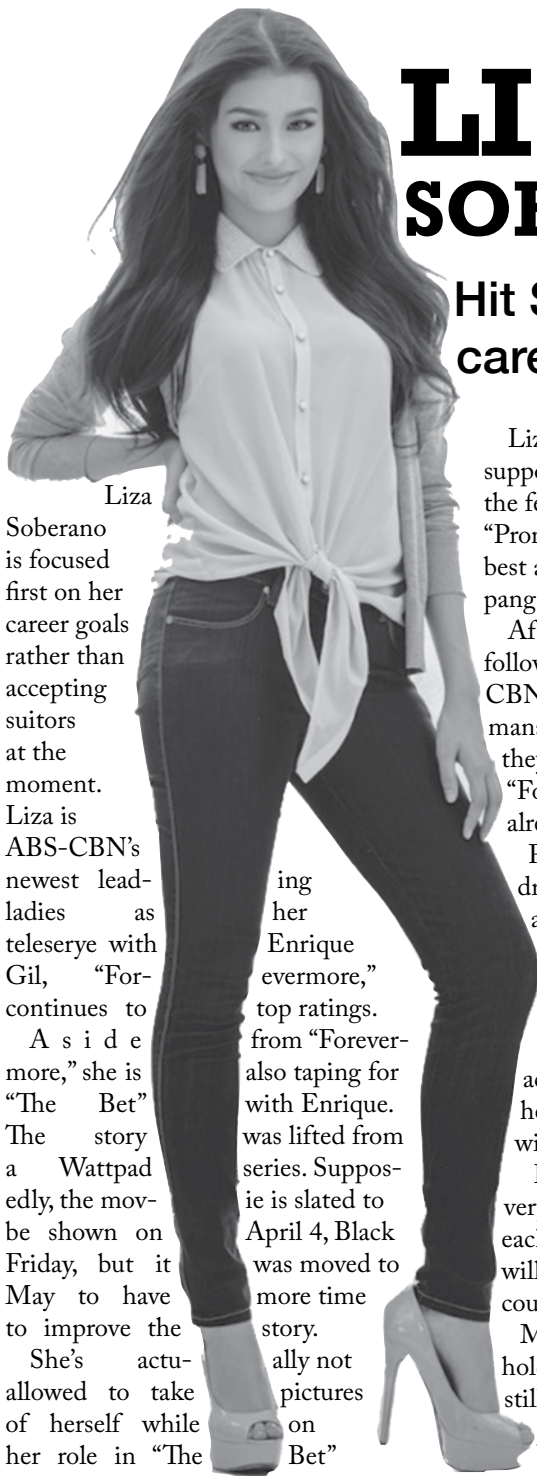
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LIZA SOBERANO

Hit Shows Puts career On Fast track

Liza wants to thank everyone who supports the series. She always reads the feedback on Twitter and Instagram. “Promise po namin that we will try our best and we will do our best para lalo pang mapaganda yung show.”

After “Forevermore,” Liza will just follow what the management, ABS-CBN, Star Magic and Ogie Diaz (her manager)--want her to do. She is sure they have plans for her too. After “Forevermore” and “The Bet,” there are already plans for her and Enrique.

For now, Liza is focused on her dream to have two houses (one for her and one for her family), a condo unit and two cars. When she has those already, then she can start thinking about love.

Of course, she wouldn't be able to achieve those without the support of her fans. She owes them whatever she will achieve in her career.

Liza and Enrique have always been very vocal about their admiration for each other, although Enrique said he will have to wait for the right time to court the actress.

Meanwhile, although Liza is a household name now and very likable, she still has bashers on social media. She just doesn't mind them because they don't know her anyway.

She just tries to understand her bashers, but she is also thankful to those who defend her against her bashers. Ogie always tells her to be thankful when she has bashers because it means she's worth their time.

Liza also denied that there's rivalry between her and Julia Barretto. She's in fact invited to her debut on March 10, although she's not sure she can make it because she has tapings for “Forevermore” on weekdays and for “The Bet” on weekends.

Liza will also be turning 18 next year, so what will be her plans for her debut? She'll be happier if she can get time off to meet her non-showbiz friends because she really misses them. But if ABS-CBN and Ogie will throw a party for her, then she wouldn't be choosy anymore.



Newest child star Alonzo Muhlach will bring smiles to worldwide viewers' faces

Alex Gonzaga brings comic character ‘Inday Bote’ to life on TFC worldwide

The Filipino Channel (TFC) is set to give worldwide viewers a magical and inspirational viewing experience as it breathes new life into the masterpiece of veteran komiks novelist Pablo Gomez, “Inday Bote,” starring Kapamilya TV host-actress Alex Gonzaga.



“Inday Bote” will revolve around the story of Inday (Gonzaga), a free-spirited young lady who is ready to do everything for her family. Because of her kind heart, Inday is given a magic bottle which, unknown to her, is inhabited by dwarves with magical powers. How will the dwarves and magic bottle change Inday's life? Will they brick her luck or misfortune?

“Inday Bote” will also introduce the newest Kapamilya child actor Alonzo Muhlach, son of former child star actor Niño Muhlach. He will play the character of Entoy, one of the dwarves who will become Inday's friend. Under the direction of Malu Sevilla and Jon Villarin, “Inday Bote” will also star Matteo Guidicelli, Kean Cipriano, Alora Sasam, Smokey Manaloto, Nikki Valdez, Malou Crisologo, and Izzy Canillo.

Catch the magic of Inday and her friendly dwarves on TFC's official online service, TFC.tv. Catch “Inday Bote” also via TFC's video-on-demand or VOD (Internet Protocol television or IPTV) service available in the U.S.A, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

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Despedida with the PCCF



Guests, friends and well-wishers attend the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation send-off dinner for newly-appointed Philippine Ambassador to Jordan and former Consul-general to Toronto Junever Mahilum-West.

Sharon Cuneta

How she lost over 40 pounds



“I just do not like being big and fat because of the demands of this industry I move around in.”

MANILA –Sharon Cuneta was formally announced as one of the jury members of “Your Face Sounds Familiar,” ABS-CBN’s newest variety show and the Megastar’s latest TV project. Sharon Cuneta has been contending with “mega” problems of late (her daunting battle with the bulge, TV shows that don’t click with viewers), so little has been heard from her of late.

Imagine her fans’ pleasant surprise last week, therefore, when she up and hit the headlines running with a series of breaking-news declarations:

First, she was giving up her cushy TV5 contract and returning to ABS-CBN, where she will serve as a judge on a new

impersonation tilt, “Your Face Sounds Familiar,” debuting on the Kapamilya network today.

Next, she revealed that, instead of eating her blues away, she has in fact been on a weight-reduction regimen that has already pared off 40 lbs from her hefty frame. A lot more still needs to be sweated and dieted off—but, it’s a good start!

“I just do not like being big and fat because of the demands of this industry I move around in.,” she said.

Third, Sharon hopes that when she’s back to fighting trim, she can make a film or drama series with her daughter, KC Concepcion. Now, that would be a “royal” thespic event truly worth looking forward to!

Now that Sharon is back in the public eye, she can expect the usual suspects to cynically and cruelly rain on her parade, sniffing that she’s too fat and old and “feeling entitled” to make a big, successful comeback at this low point in her public life. Well, she should just sweetly tell them to go fly a kite—and prove them wrong!

If Sharon does make a successful comeback, she would provide strong motivation for other overweight stars to slough off those unwanted pounds and bring back the glow and glitter to their languishing careers.

Alex, jack(ie)-of-all-trades, master of none?

Alex, jack(ie)-of-all-trades, master of none?

Alex Gonzaga has no reason to sulk in one corner at akusahang pinababay-aan siya ng Kapamilya Network. On the contrary, para siyang kabute. The tingting like (Vice Ganda’s description) sister of Toni G. is everywhere doing just about everything.



She is into hosting na kung saan pakikinabangan nang husto ang kanyang so-brang kadal-dalan . Careful, careful though with what she says at baka she ends up apologizing. She has the tendencies you know just like her Ate. A dream interview, however, is a one-on-one with Kris Aquino.

Meron din siyang nilalabasang teleserye, ang Inday Bote that showcases her flair for comedy. We’ve seen her in Sosyal at Di Sosyal segment ng Banana Nite and we give her a BIG STAR.

As if she is not overloaded with work ay isinabak din siya as a recording artist. That’s what we call a complete package. We give her a LITTLE STAR dahil she doesn’t possess an exceptional singing voice. We would rather listen to Daniel Padilla’s mom.

But wait, there’s more. Sa mani-wala kayo o hindi, she is going to have a concert at hindi po sa Zirkoh on Tomas Morato kundi sa Araneta Coliseum. How lucky can she get? So many talented artists waited for years makatuntong lang sa Big Dome stage. Pero here comes Alex G. na

in one iglap ay magko-concert?

She is must be a jack (or jackie)-of-all trades (master of none?) or a product of hype?

TONI, MARAMOT SA WEDDING DETAILS

Bumaling naman tayo kay Ate Toni G. Kung gaano siya katipid sa wedding details ay full-blast naman ang promotions ng You’re My Boss, her last movie sa pagkadalaga.

This is another challenge for direk Antoinette Jadaone na mabangong-mabango ngayon dahil milyones ang isinampang pera ng road movie “That Thing Called Tadhana.” Admittedly, there is pressure on her part lalo na nga’t may feedback na parang walang chemistry between the lead stars. Well, problema na ito ng mga writer and direktor.

Aminin man o hindi, may pagkahawig sa Hollywood rom-com The Proposal ang istorya ng You’re My Boss. Toni is the boss and a switch of roles will occur somewhere. Mataray si Toni at maamong tupa si Coco Martin. This kind of situational comedy works well with Pinoy moviegoers.

On the business side, You’re My Boss has a good playdate. After a week of pagtitika at pagsasakripisyo, gutom ang lahat para manood ng sine and the only choice they’ve got is to see You’re My Boss,

BIG STAR ang verdict namin. Panalo sa box-office.

FOR RENT

Bathurst and Wilson

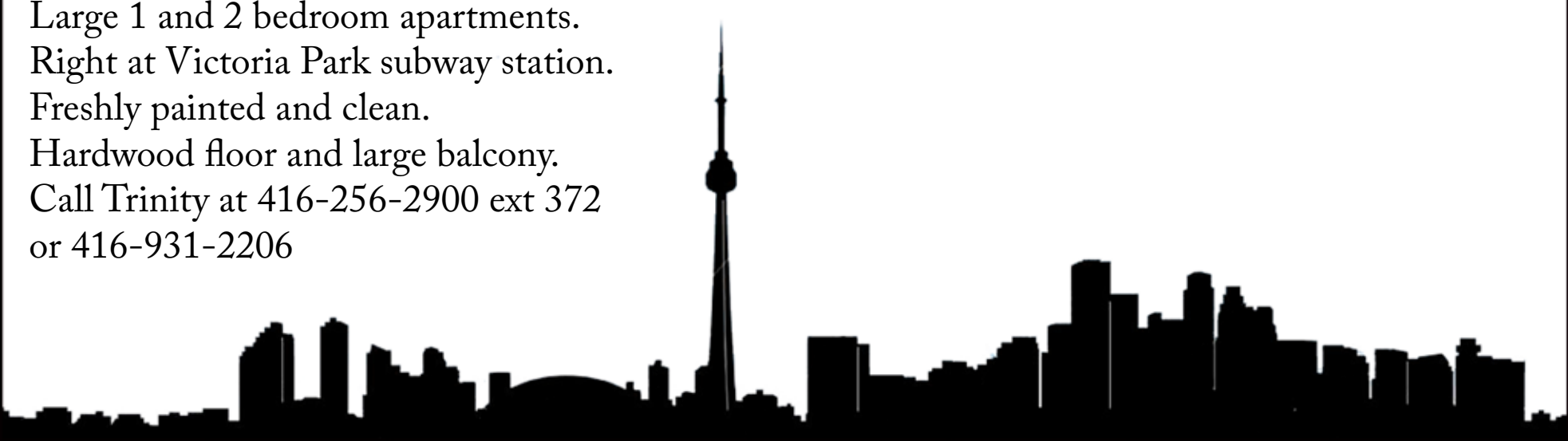
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Bianca to Miguel:

Never Change



Bianca Umali is very proud of her ka-love team Miguel Tanfelix for graduating with honors from high school at Cavite School of Life. Miguel got the Most Outstanding Awards in Performing Arts, Theater Arts and the Loyalty Award. Bianca herself attended the graduation rites last Saturday, March 21, with Miguel’s family and here’s what her own message for him says: “Congratulations, graduate! Super duper proud of you! Will always be here lang for you. Don’t change ha! Here’s to a new chapter of your life... High Five.”

Miguel himself declares: “Masayang-masaya po ako dahil isang malaking achievement po para sa akin itong pag-graduate ko ng high school kahit working student ako. Unti-unti ko pong natutupad yung mga pangarap ko at napakalaking bagay po sa akin yung pag-aaral ko. At the same time, nagpapasalamat din ako sa lahat ng mga sumuporta sa akin. Siyempre po, unang-una akong nagpapasalamat ako kay God.

Lagi ko pong pinagdarasal noon pa na sana makatapos ako ng high school at binigyan Niya po ako ng lakas para magawa ko ito. Sunod po sa aking mga magulang na nandyan parati para suportahan ako. We come from a family rin po kasi of educators. Yung lola ko po owns a school and simula po pagkabata itinuro na nila sa akin ang kahalagahan ng pag-aaral kaya po para sa kanila rin po iyong diploma ko. Kahit po nung nag-artista na ko, sinasabi po nila parati sa akin na hindi habang buhay yung pag-aartista kaya dapat mag-aral ng mabuti para meron din ibang career na mapupuntahan aside from showbiz.”

What is his advice to other artistas who want to finish their studies despite their hectic showbiz schedule? “Dapat talaga, alam nila kung gaano kahalaga yung education sa buhay nila. Wala namang imposible kapag ginusto mo, di ba. Tapos time management is very important. You have to devote time for your studies kahit pagod ka na sa taping mo. Maraming sacrifices na dapat gawin like hindi ka na muna lalabas or maglalaro with your friends just to focus on your studies. And last is discipline po sa sarili if you want to achieve something.”

As a teen actor, Miguel is seen regularly in three GMA-7 shows: The nightly primetime soap “Once Upon a Kiss” and the weekend shows

“Ismol Family” and “Sunday All Stars”. We heard that as graduation gifts to himself, Miguel got a new van and a new condo unit. His next goal is to obtain a college degree.

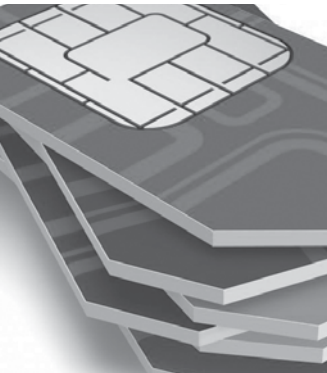
But in “Once Upon a Kiss” this week, things take a turn for the worse when Bianca as Ella is diagnosed to have a brain tumor and has to be operated on as it’s affecting her neurological functions. Miguel as Prince tries his best to take care of Ella and even asks to be in the same section as her in class so they can sit beside each other. Meantime, Mylene Dizon as Giselle gets terribly jealous when she learns that her husband Cris Villanueva as Eric has become the business partner of Manilyn Reynes as Aurora, his ex-GF.

On na sila Eula and Christian

Officially on na ngayon sina Eula Caballero at Christian Samson, ang dating finalist ng Star Factor ng TV 5 four years ago. Dito nagkita ang dalawa sa TV5. Nagkadevelop-an sila hanggang naging mag-MU. Lately, napagtanto ni Eula na siya’y 19 na at puwede nang makipag-boyfriend. Naging madalas ang dates nila at nakilala na nila nang husto ang isa’t isa.

Inamin na ni Eula ang tunay niyang nararamdaman para kay Christian. Naramdaman daw niya na mahalaga pala si Christian sa kanyang buhay. Si Christian ay 22 years old na ngayon.

In fact, kaya siya napapayag na mag-pose para sa cover ng FHM ay dahil sa payo na rin ni Christian na nagsabing isa itong art form.



SIM card mandatory registration nears passage

MANILA - All prepaid subscribers need to register their Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card should the proposed measure, which passed on second reading becomes a law.

This after members of the House committee on Information and Communications Technology, led by Chairman and Rizal Rep. Joel Roy Duavit, unanimously approved House Bill 5231, otherwise known as SIM card Registration Act of 2015, a consolidation of nine bills.

Under the proposed measure, all direct sellers are mandated to registered pertinent data in a registration form device for the purpose to include full name and address of the end users.

Authors of the measure are Representatives Marlyn Primicias-Agabas (Pangasinan), Magnolia Rose Antonino-Nadres (Nueva Ecija), Sergio Apostol (Leyte), Rodolfo Biazon (Muntinlupa City), Winston Castelo (Quezon City), Joel Roy Duavit (Rizal), Sherwin Gatchalian (Valenzuela City), Maximo Rodriguez Jr. (Abante Mindanao party-list), Rufus Rodriguez (Cagayan de Oro City), and Marcelino Teodoro (Marikina City).

Under the bill, every direct seller shall require the end user of a SIM card to present valid identification with photo to ascertain the latter’s identity.

The direct seller shall also require the end user to accomplish and sign a control-numbered registration form issued by the respective Public Telecommunications Entity (PTE) of the SIM card being purchased.

The registration form shall include an attestation by the

SIM CARD continued from page 24

TIDBITS

Rachelle Ann Go

LESSONS ON EBING ALONE



A lot has changed since Rachelle Ann Go first left for London.

Today, the Kapuso performer is already an award-winning stage actress, the theme song vocalist of a Cinderella remake and a proud domesticated woman.

During her guesting in The Ryzza Mae Show, she remembered how she previously shared with the child host that she cannot cook at all, and how that doesn’t hold true anymore.

“Di ba kinu-kuwento ko dati na ‘di ako marunong? Ngayon, marunong na ko magluto. ‘Di na siya karegang (kare kare at sinigang). Hindi na masabaw ‘yung kare kare ko,” she joyously said.

Living alone in London has urged her to learn doing things for herself, including cooking her own meals.

“Wala akong kasama dun sa London. Ako lang mag-isa, tapos ang mahal ng pagkain so natuto akong magluto mag-isa,” she added.

Rachelle is having the time of her life playing Gigi in Miss Saigon but admits to be missing a lot about the Philippines. Learning how to prepare Filipino cuisine appeases her homesickness. “I’m very proud of myself. Marunong na kong magluto ng kare kare, sinigang, adobo (at) gising gising,” she told Ryzza.

Manual Voting looms

SC gives TRO on Comelec-Smartmatic deal

MANILA - There is a possibility that the 2016 elections may revert to the old manual system if the Supreme Court rejects the use of the 82,000 Precinct Count Optical Scan machines that were used in previous elections.

“Manual elections remain in the realm of possibilities,” Comelec spokesman James Jimenez said after the SC stopped the controversial P268-million diagnostic and repair deal the Comelec awarded to the Smartmatic-TIM consortium. Although the probability of returning to manual elections is “low,” Jimenez said the poll body is not discounting the possibility and the Comelec was preparing contingencies.

“You have to understand that machines are the bulk of machines we will be using. The whole project will last 5 months if we can get TRO lifted [so] early resolution of this TRO would mean we have time to finish the program within the year,” he said.

Although the Comelec is also contracting the acquisition of 23,000 more voting machines, that can only

cover “a small section of the Philippines,” Jimenez said.

He said the Comelec is considering the possibility of allowing its own computer experts to refurbish the old machines instead of commissioning Smartmatic.

Even retired Comelec chairman Sixto Brillantes Jr., who was severely criticized for pushing the Smartmatic contract although he was already set to retire, is concerned at the possibility that the 2016 elections will revert to the manual system based on the election automation law.

Smartmatic-TIM President Cesar Flores on the other hand expressed confidence that the firm will be able to surpass a legal hurdle in its P268-million deal with Comelec. “This calls to mind the year 2012 when the Court issued a TRO against the option to purchase.

After the oral arguments, the Supreme Court upheld with finality the validity of the contract. Similarly, we are confident that after the Court hears our arguments, it will eventually decide for the soundness and validity of this contract.”

Rey Pamaran:
**Forgive
Melissa
Mendez**



Nakiusap si Robin Padilla sa kampo ni Rey Pamaran na magkapatawaran na sa nangyaring engkuwentro nila ng aktres na si Melissa Mendez, habang lulan ng Cebu Pacific plane papuntang Pagadian City, noong Biyernes, March 20.

Humantong na kasi ito sa paghahain ni Rey ng reklamong slander laban kay Melissa, na may kaakibat na damages na tatlong milyong piso.

Ayaw nang magkomento ni Melissa tungkol sa reklamong inihain laban sa kanya ni Rey, base na rin sa text na ipinadala niya sa PEP.ph (Philippine Entertainment Portal),

“Since nasa court na ‘yan, in respect of the court, I opt not to comment. Thank You,” sabi ni Melissa.

Sa pamamagitan ng Instagram ay may panawagan si Robin sa kampo ni Rey na patawarin na si Melissa.

Hindi raw siya nakikialam sa away nina Melissa at Rey, ngunit nakikiusap siya sa ngalan ng respeto at pakikipagkapwa-tao dahil nagpakumbaba na raw ang aktres.

Pahayag ni Robin, “Sir, it will be very good for everybody, especially to the young men of sports/bodybuilding and law school, if the both of you will set an example of practicing the code of chivalry.

“Matanda na rin po si Melissa, 50 yrs old na siya, maliit na babae at hindi naman mayaman, may naipon ngunit hindi naman sobra, sapat lang para sa pamilya.

“Hindi po ako nakikialam, bagkus ay nakikiusap.

“Naniniwala po ako na kayong dalawa ay marangal na tao at hindi umaatras sa laban, ngunit nagpakumbaba na po si Melissa at humingi na ng paumanhin at patawad.

“Malinaw na ayaw na po niyang lumaban pa.

“Dasal po ng Katipunan ay magkaroon na po ng katapusan ang hindi pagkakaintindihan na ito at magsilbing aral sa lahat ng sumasakay ng eroplano, babae man o lalaki.

“Ang pagpapatawad po ninyo kay Melissa Mendez ay tatanawing utang na loob ng lupon ng mga Rebolusyonaryong Pangkapayapaan.”

Matatandaang humingi na ng public apology si Melissa, sa pamamagitan ng Instagram, ngunit hindi ito tinanggap ni Rey at itinuloy pa rin ang paghahain ng reklamo laban sa aktres.



Joey Baking's (www.Filipinogoodlife.com)
Filipino Good Life

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation
**Filipino Community Bid Adieu
to Ambassador Mahilum-West**

TORONTO - Members of the Filipino community in Canada bid farewell to newly appointed Philippine Ambassador

to the Kingdom of Jordan with concurrent jurisdiction over the Palestine Republic, Her Excellency Junever Mahilum-West.



ABOVE, Member of Parliament John Carmichael poses with Ambassador Mahilum-West. BELOW, a well-wisher poses with the Ambassador.

The Despedida Party held March 21st at the St. Ohrid Macedonian Banquet Hall in Toronto, was hosted by the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF), headed by its' President Romy Rafael and Executive Vice-President Rosemer Enverga, and Ancop (Answering the Cry of the Poor) Canada, headed by its' President Ricky Cuenca. It was attended by more than 200 leaders, members, media and friends of the Filipino community from the Greater Toronto Area, Barrie and other areas in the central Ontario Simcoe County and Montreal in the province of Quebec. Also amongst the well-wishers were Senator Tobias (Jun) Enverga, the first Canadian of Filipino origin appointed to the Senate and Member of Parliament John Carmichael.



Ambassador Mahilum-West served the Filipino community as the Consul General of the Greater Toronto Area, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for the last three years. She is very popular and is well loved by the Filipinos in the jurisdiction she served for the personalized service she provided as a Diplomat.

Proceeds of \$3,000 from the farewell event was presented to Ambassador Mahilum-West, which was put towards the construction of a house in her name in Ancop's PCCF Village to be in built in the storm ravaged Tacloban in Leyte.

In her remarks to those present in her send-off, Ambassador Mahilum-West said that, “You make me feel honored, humble and inspired. The best is yet to come for our community here and with your drive, initiative and bayanihan spirit, it will start to happen soon.”

Now on its 5th year of existence, PCCF through its' projects, is working towards getting more houses added to the PCCF Village in Tacloban. Construction of one house in the village costs \$3,000.

PCCF's main event for the summer of 2015, is the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show in Toronto, scheduled for June 27th at the Metro-Toronto Convention Centre. It will be highlighted by the PCCF pageants and a Trade Show . Tickets are now available for the event. Interested exhibitors are also invited to pursue the opportunity of promoting their products and services. For more information or any inquiries, please e-mail: pageantsphilippines@gmail.com or pinoyfiestatoronto@gmail.com. (** Fe P. Taduran**)



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Singers for Flor Vendiola



LEFT, Alyssa Datu gets interviewed by Philip Beloso at FV Foods co-founder Flor Vendiola's 1-year death anniversary remembrance dinner last January. Alyssa will have her first concert on May 16 at the Chinese Cultural Centre at 5183 Sheppard Ave. East. RIGHT, Chyrell Samson sings in honor of Flor too at the same event.

VIRAL: Pinoy in Canada saves woman from raging partner

TORONTO – A Filipino living in Ontario, Canada went an extra mile to confront a complete stranger who was physically abusing a woman.

Kevin Panlilio, a native of Cainta, Rizal, said he was waiting for his dad to pick him up at a bus station around midnight when he chanced upon a couple arguing.

“Few moments later it turns to screaming, with the guy of course overpowering the girl,” he told ABS-CBNNews.com.

Panlilio said he did not want to step in, especially since he did not have anything to do with the couple.

“I wanted to pretend I wasn’t hearing them so I turned up the music on my iPhone. I was actually walking away slowly too because, to be honest, I didn’t want to have anything to do with them,” he said.

However, he suddenly felt an urge to intervene when he saw the guy pulling the girl’s hair and punching her. “To be honest with you, I got scared, but as soon as I saw that fist hit the girl’s face it was almost of impulse reaction, instinct that I just had to go and intervene,” he said.

He said that as he walked closer to the couple, he knew he had to be gentle “because fighting fire with fire is foolish.”

Panlilio said he calmly told the man to stop what he was doing, but the man was too angry.

“As I was just about to tell the girl to leave, the guy grabs my hoodie and sucker punches me couple of times in the face. I went down on my knees but can still see and hear the girl being able to drive away,” he said.

The girl was able to escape while the man vented his anger upon the Filipino. Instead of hitting back, Panlilio said he just asked the guy to stop.

“The guy was still taunting me and wanted to hit me more but I just again asked for him to stop and ‘find something that’ll make him happy’ or something to that effect,” he said, explaining that the phrase he used was something that his mom has always been telling him since he was a child.

“The guy then ran to his car, and so did I to the nearest bus shelter in fear of him getting some sort of weapon. Luckily, he didn’t,” he added.

The punch left Panlilio a damaged tissue on the face and a black eye.

He admitted that at first, he was apathetic to the issue of domestic violence, but the incident he got into was an eye-opener. “It made me realize that domestic violence is a much bigger issue than I expected. It’s definitely a bigger conversation that everybody needs to have,” he said.

Panlilio said that after the incident, many of his friends opened up to him about the abuse they had been experiencing. “But after this incident, a lot of my friends had messaged me, phoning me, texting me, telling me that they themselves are victims of domestic abuse; from their fathers, boyfriends,” he said.

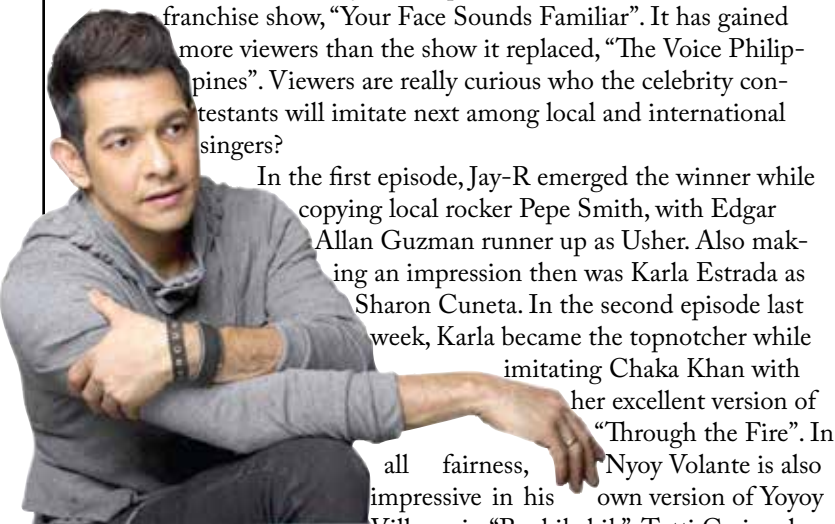
Panilio is now involved with a group in Ontario that helps women and children suffering abuse.

He also posted his “black-eye” photo (PHOTO)on Facebook to raise awareness about the issue of domestic violence, not only in Canada, but in other places too.

Panlilio’s photo has now more than 40,000 Likes and 1,000 Shares on Facebook.

“I just hope with this picture that people will not get scared to intervene with the fear of getting a black eye, but rather be encouraged to step in when witnessing domestic violence,” he said.

Panililio lived in the Philippines until he and his family left for Canada in 2005. He said they still visit the Philippines once in a while and he still considers himself “100% Pinoy.”



Entertainment

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‘Your face’ Sounds Familiar Now

ABS-CBN has definitely come up with a real winner in their new franchise show, “Your Face Sounds Familiar”. It has gained more viewers than the show it replaced, “The Voice Philippines”. Viewers are really curious who the celebrity contestants will imitate next among local and international singers?

In the first episode, Jay-R emerged the winner while copying local rocker Pepe Smith, with Edgar Allan Guzman runner up as Usher. Also making an impression then was Karla Estrada as Sharon Cuneta. In the second episode last week, Karla became the topnotcher while imitating Chaka Khan with her excellent version of “Through the Fire”. In all fairness, Nyoy Volante is also impressive in his own version of Yoyoy Villame in “Buchikchik”, Tutti Caringal as Adam Levine, and Jay-R as Stevie Wonder. In the case of the other contestants, some are obviously put there just for comic relief, like Melai Cantiveros imitating Nora Aunor in the first week, then Britney Spears in the second episode.

Viewers also follow the comments of the show’s three judges: Sharon Cuneta, Gary Valenciano and Jed Madela. In the last show, Edgar Allan imitated Gary V’s singing and dancing. They even had a showdown. He’s quite good, but Gary himself was obviously not pleased or impressed and gave him a very low rating of just 1. The fans of the stars who are part of the contest also make their presence felt, like in the case of Jolina Magdangal fans who complained in social media when Sharon Cuneta gave Jolens a low rating.

Barbie still regales fans

Barbie Almalbis is a 37-year-old mother of two kids, but the pop rock singer remains so young looking that she remains in demand even as an endorser. She is now the endorser of D&D Guitars and she’s happy about it for she has always been associated with the musical instrument that she is famous for and that “I love to strumm every now and then”. Also, her contract as Nestle’s Nido endorser has been extended for a year and a half as she’s a perfect example to young moms who know how to give her kids proper nourishment.

Barbie has also just released her new album, “My New Heart”, with new original songs that music lovers can appreciate like “Run for Cover,” “Say Goodbye” and “My New Heart”. Barbie herself produced it under 12 Stone Records label, with paintings on the cover done by her own husband, Martin Honasan. For more updates about, check out her Facebook account at facebook.com/barbie almalbis.



Natural comedian si Marian - Paolo

Maagang nagsimula sa showbiz si Kapuso actor Paolo Contis kaya’t maituturing na siyang beterano sa industriya. Pero ayon sa Yagit star, kahit dekada na ang binibilang niya sa pagiging artista ay mayroong bagay pa rin daw na nagpapahirap sa kanya sa pag-arte.

“I find it hard to make people laugh especially with our culture since the Filipinos cry easily. Emotion-tayo,” pahayag ni Paolo. In fact, mas challenging daw pagpapatawa niya sa Bubble Gang kaysa sa pagkontrabida niya sa Afternoon Prime soap.

Aniya, “Pag sa soap, madaling magpaiyak. Maging honest actor ka lang kaya mo na ‘yon. Pero it’s hard to make people laugh especially ‘pag weekly mo ginagawa. So para sa ‘kin mas challenging ‘yung comedy.” Nang minsang mag-guest si Marian Rivera sa Bubble Gang, na-amaze raw si Paolo dahil sisiw lang sa Primetime Queen ang magpatawa.

“Natural comedian si Marian eh,” saad niya. Ayon kay Paolo, sana raw ay maging madalas ang pag-guest ni Marian sa gag show. Marami raw kasi silang plano ni Michael V. para sa upcoming lead star ng The Rich Man’s Daughter. Kuwento ni Paolo, dahil sa galing ni Marian ay gumawa sila ni Bitoy ng isang on-the-spot sketch. “Sabi namin ni Bitoy, gawa tayo ng sketch na Michael Cinco. So ginawa nga. Siya [Bitoy] ang nagsulat, kami ang nag-conceptualize,” anang Yagit star.

“Hopefully kapag bumalik si Marian, it could be a recurring sketch with her. I think mga two or three more guestings pa [sa Bubble Gang],” pagtatapos ni Paolo.



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MIGRATE continued from page 11

the success of our OFW recourse—by driving up our exchange rate—is hampering our competitiveness in other exports; and lulling our political and economic leaders into thinking our economy’s in better shape than it is.

Then there’s the problem of “brain drain.” Pernia cites research that shows labor export is indeed creaming off the finest of our blue-collar workers too fast for our education system to replenish. And, of course, rich-country migration policies cherry-pick technologists, literates and other highly-educated people. We console ourselves with the thought that our OFWs learn skills they would eventually bring home. But the higher their skills—Pernia argues—the more likely their host-societies would assimilate them.

Assuring our young there’s hope

Whether the optimists or the pessimists are proved right on the OFW question, we can’t deny there’s a growing sense of despair about our country’s future. And it’s not just our present-day leaders who are to blame.

“Philippine policymaking,” the World Bank noted in 1993, “has historically been captive to powerful vested interests that have shaped economic policy, to protect and enhance their privileged position, often to the detriment of national well-being.”

Even the Jesuit sociologist Fr. John J. Carroll became pessimistic about the long-term viability of democratic politics in our society of great inequality, “where the powerful use the law to oppress the weak.” (Fr. Carroll’s recent death left a gap in Philippine scholarship we will not soon fill.)

The system works less and less well; and since its problems are structural, there are no prospects for short-term improvements to which people could look forward. Stability based on stagnation may not last forever—but it can last long enough. So that for more and more of our young people, the only remedy is to start over elsewhere; and the earlier, the better.

So what are we stay-at-homes to do? We who continue to believe in this country’s capacity to renew itself must chart for it a new beginning. We must assure our young people there is hope for this country.

Until the system begins to work for everyday people—and not just for the influential and the powerful—parents and grandparents will wait endlessly for their children to return home.

by JUAN T. GATBONTON

Western night at the Scarborough Chapter Order of the Knights of Rizal KOR

By Romy Zetazate



It will be a western night during the 22nd anniversary of the Order of the Knights of Ruzal, Scarborough Chapter which will be held on April 18, 2015 (Saturday) at the Ellesmere Community Centre, 20 Canadian Road, Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

According to Sir Manny Yanga, immediate past chapter commander, and Sir Aristeo (Bert) Mondragon, incumbent chapter commander, of the OKOR Scarborough Chapter, the attire will be western or “cowboy). There will some surprises

during the event and for more information, kindly call Sir Manny Yanga, 416 - 858 - 0616; Sir Aristeo (Bert) Mondragon, 416 - 388 - 4293; Sir Vir Amante, 547 - 391 - 4600; and Lady Emy Amante, 416 839 6464. (St. jamestown News Serice)

Photo shows Fe Taduran, Sir George Poblete, Sir Jojo Taduran, Sire Bert Mondragon and Sir Manny Yanga at the PCCF despedida for Ambassador Junever Mahilum-West. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS (St. Jamestown News Service) *****

Hunk Shot

Neil, as his friend call him is a Christian - follower of Christ In Irish, his name means champion or passionate. This young lad lives in Brampton. Champion as per his nickname defines; “Neil” has a lot in his mind to accomplish. He is working on his electrical engineering career and hoping to help out his parents and have his own place, car and family. He wants to try mountain climbing or skydiving. His favorite place to visit is Tokyo, Japan. Kare-kare and pork chop are his flip foods to savour.



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Jennylyn Mercado to cohost Willie’s show

“He was simply waiting for the right time,” Randy Santiago said of good friend Willie Revillame’s return to the biz. The singer-actor will direct the controversial TV host’s new Sunday game show, “WowoWin,” which airs on GMA 7 starting April 26.

Randy said he and Willie kept in touch this past year, brainstorming for their latest project. “It will be similar to Willie’s previous variety programs, but we will introduce new twists,” he told the Inquirer by phone.

Both started in GMA 7 in 1987 via the defunct noontime show “Lunch Date.” Willie was one of Randy’s so-called “hawi” boys (bodyguards). With John Estrada, they later cohosted “Magandang Tanghali Bayan” on ABS-CBN.

Asked what he thought about “WowoWin” being in the same turf as “Eat Bulaga”—which Willie’s original program “Wowowee” attempted to topple a couple of years ago, Randy said: “There was some teasing, but never any badmouthing among the two show’s hosts. We all meet outside work; everything’s fine.”

Willie recently inked an airtime deal for the showing of “WowoWin” on the Kapuso network. Present during the signing were the station’s top bosses, led by GMA 7 chair and chief executive officer, Atty. Felipe Gozon. “We are pleased to have him in the network,” he said in a statement. “Willie has a very large following.”

Homecoming

Other GMA 7 bosses were likewise receptive of Willie’s homecoming.

“If he comes up with a great show, it will help the network... And we welcome that,”

vice president for drama productions Redgie Acuña-Magno told the Inquirer before GMA 7 made the official announcement of Willie’s transfer.

Magno noted that Willie was very “hands-on and passionate” about work. “I used to work for Helen Vela, so I became friends with him and [ex-wife] Princess Punzalan,” she related.

Lilybeth Rasonable, senior vice president for entertainment television, described him as a “good and entertaining host” and based on several meetings, “friendly and accommodating.”

Rasonable and Magno clarified that Willie will not be directly under their supervision, as the new show will not be network-produced. Willie isn’t a contract talent either, but a block-timer—which means he is purchasing airtime, allegedly worth P2 million per week.

Elaine Timbol, business unit head of Willie’s own production firm WBR Entertainment, declined to confirm the amount, saying she wasn’t privy to the negotiations. “That figure sounds quite big though,” she said.

Though she couldn’t reveal much about the program—slated for the 3:30 p.m. Sunday slot—Timbol assured that “WowoWin” will have the same core as the various incarnations of “Wowowee,” like “Wil Time Big Time” and “Wowowillie,” which both aired on TV5.

Planning stage

“The aim is still to make people happy,” she said, adding that the show is still in the “planning stage.”

According to the grapevine, Jennylyn Mercado is being eyed as a cohost. Timbol was tight-lipped on this, too, saying, “We’re just working hard on our pilot episode.”

GabRu feels surreal on having a new show



Parehong kinakabahan at excited sina Gabbi Garcia at Ruru Madrid, o GabRu, sa kanilang upcoming teleserye na Let The Love Begin. Pagkatapos nilang maging bahagi ng My Destiny at Seasons of Love, bibida ang dalawa sa kanilang kauna-unahang primetime series.

“Napaka-surreal pa ng lahat. Unang una sa lahat, hindi naman namin in-expect na after My Destiny ay bibigyan agad kami ng new show,” pahayag ni Gabbi, who recently went to her graduation ball.

Dagdag pa ng aspiring pilot, “It’s always fun naman working with Ruru, so looking forward ako to more experiences with him in terms of work. And also ang viewers, alam ko excited na rin sila. Nae-excite din kami na gawin ‘tong show na ‘to and this is for them.”

Para naman sa kanyang katambal na si Ruru, mas nararamdaman daw niya ang excitement kaysa pressure at kaba.

“Sobrang nakakakaba din pero mas nangingibabaw po ‘yung excitement kasi matagal ko nang pinapangarap ‘to, matagal ko nang gustong makamit ang bagay na ‘to. And ito na nga siya, so bibigay ko na lang talaga ang best ko dito ang talagang sisiguraduhin ko na bawat eksena na ibibigay ko ay ang pinaka-best ko.”

Pagdating naman sa pressure ng pagbibida sa isang primetime show, ito ang nasabi ng GabRu.

“Siguro ‘yung pressure, more on the challenging part. Natsa-challenge kami na mas pagandahin pa ‘yung love team namin para sa mga tao. And na-challenge kami in terms of our talent, of our acting skills,” saad ni Gabbi.

Ayon naman kay Ruru, “‘Yung pressure siguro kailangan naman namin ‘yan para ma-remind ‘yung sarili namin na huwag kaming maging kampante.”

SIM CARD continued from page 24

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The bill also imposes a penalty of suspension of its operation on any direct seller who fails to comply with the provisions of the measure and a fine ranging from P5,000 to P50,000.

The House of Representatives is targeting to pass the bill on third and final reading before they adjourn sine die on June 11.

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Despedida in the PIDC



LEFT, Singer Jenifer Camacho performs for the Congen. MIDDLE, Consul-general Junever Mahilum-West (SEATED WITH PLACQUE) poses with PIDC and their Liberal politician supporters. RIGHT, PIDC Officers pose before the Congen’s arrival. RIGHT, Little Miss Philippines contestants and their parents join the despedida.

stunts among tables and ramps arranged at the back of the stage set up inside the former US military base.

Ballet Philippines danced a beat-box version of “Atin Cu Pung Singsing.”

“We featured the contemporary culture of Clark and Pampanga. The bikers are very strong there. Aside from Pampanga parol, there were also hot-air balloons and hip-hop groups [to indicate] the strong influence of American culture,”Jardin said.

A similar effort to allow foreign guests to experience the local lifestyle was supposed to take place in Albay province. Jardin said Albay Governor Joey Salceda stopped at nothing to spruce up their astrodome. Local bands practiced Bach and Vivaldi and more than 120 dancers from Manila were set to arrive.

Alas, a weather disturbance forced organizers to relocate the entire event to Fairmont Makati hotel. Jardin managed to pull in eight choirs from all over Metro Manila for the finale.

“We got a standing ovation,” he said.

Food and cuisine

Food is another important element. Via Mare was tapped for Pampanga cuisine served during the Clark presentation. Taal Vista pulled out former Malacañang executive chef Babes Austria, who has just retired.

Jardin is busy prepping for the dinners and cultural presentations for two ministerial meetings in Boracay that would be held three days apart in May.

No shirts and ties while on the island. Jardin said loot bags will contain flip-flops, insect repellent and a selfie stick. And instead of ushers in baro’t saya, there will be diwata, sirena and other mythical creatures from Pinoy folklore to entertain the guests.

“We have already showcased tinikling and singkil in the past. Gasgas na, and foreign visitors should now see a different facet of Philippine society,”Jardin stressed.

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Philippines! If you still haven’t heard, we know how to party.

Filipinos 5th
happiest

The Philippines ranked 5th happiest country in the world in 2014, US-based Gallup said, as the world marked the third annual International Day of Happiness.

In its Positive Experience Index report, the Philippines has a score of 80, tied with Singapore and Switzerland, as the 5th happiest countries among 143 countries surveyed last year.

Paraguayans are the happiest in the world with a highest score of 89.

Columbia, meanwhile, tied with Ecuador and Guatemala, as the second happiest with an index score of 84. Honduras, Guatemala and Panama tied for third; while Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua ranked fourth.

The top 10-ranked countries are all situated in Latin America

The least happy country is Sudan with an index score of 47.

Gallup said more than 70 percent of people worldwide experienced a lot of enjoyment, smiled or laughed a lot, felt well-rested and felt treated with respect.

Additionally, 50 percent of people said they learned or did something interesting the day before the interview.

Spotlight

At the corner of Ayala Avenue and Makati Avenue was the grand dame of movie theaters, the Rizal Theater. This place was a lovely example of stylish art deco and was an awesome place to watch a flick for anyone from the 1950s to the 1980s. Memories are made of these: Many children of those eras recall watching Snow White, Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo, Pete’s Dragon and Star Wars in this theater, the only one that had three levels – Orchestra, Balcony and Loge. What it is now: With many malls opening their own cineplexes, standalone movie theaters weren’t all that commercially viable and so the Rizal Theater was sadly demolished. The Makati Shangri-la Hotel now stands in its place.

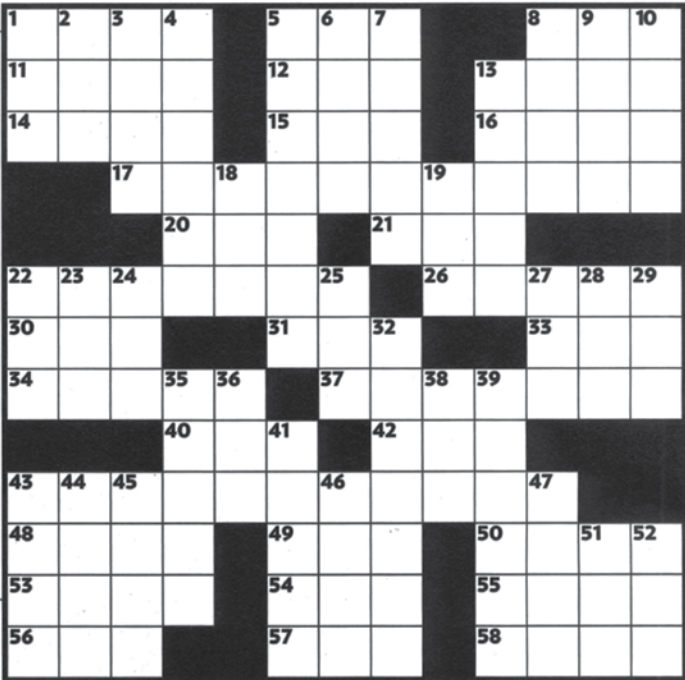


Crossword Puzzle

OUR MAN IN OTTAWA



Senator Tobias Enverga (SECOND FROM LEFT) poses with well-sihers during the PCCF despedida for Ambassador Mahilum-West.



ACROSS

- 1 “To Sir, with Love” singer
5 *Meet the Browns* network
8 ____-Wan Kenobi
11 Sportscaster Hershiser
12 Home on *Gilligan’s Island*
13 Singer Sheryl
14 Someone like Allison on *Medium*
15 Spoon-bender Geller
16 Beyoncé song
17 Late-night host, formerly of *Saturday Night Live* (2 wds.)
20 *Kindergarten* ____ (Schwarzenegger comedy)
21 Polly Holliday TV show
22 Amy who followed 17 Across as coanchor on *SNL’s* Weekend Update
26 ____ *Pitch* (movie starring 17 Across)

- 30 17 Across’s Weekend Update co-anchor Tina
31 *A Yank in the* ____
33 Debt to be paid, for short
34 Old Eric Clapton band
37 *The Year of* ____ *to Know Us* (movie featuring 17 Across)
40 ____ *the Bounty Hunter*
42 “Hooray!”
43 17 Across’s *Late Night* predecessor (2 wds.)
48 “Let me sleep ____” (Meat Loaf lyric; 2 wds.)
49 ____ *to Me* (Tim Roth series)
50 Jagger impersonated by 17 Across on *Saturday Night Live*
53 Actress Macpherson
54 Benicio ____ Toro
55 Singer India.____
56 “Steaverino” pal Louis
57 ____ *My Children*
58 Rudolph has a red one

DOWN

- 1 ____ Lobos
2 U.K. actress Mary
3 Actor ____ Cobb (wd. & init.)
4 *Jericho* actor Skeet
5 Bambi’s rabbit pal
6 ____ *My Heart at Wounded Knee*
7 Scared ____ (Martin and Lewis comedy)
8 Evangelist Roberts
9 String tie
10 *How* ____ *the War* (2 wds.)
13 Actress Sevigny
18 *Life on Mars* actress Gretchen
19 Sitcom creature from outer space
22 Jessica Lynch’s rank
23 “____ the land of the free . . .”
24 *Queer* ____ *for the Straight Guy*
25 “____ Doll” (Four Seasons hit)

- 27 *Friday the 13th Part* ____: *The New Blood*
28 Long, long time
29 With “rats,” an animated TV series
32 17 Across’s *Saturday Night Live* costar Will
35 *Win* ____ *with Tad Hamilton!* (2 wds.)
36 *Hiroshima* ____ *Amour*
38 Ice skater Babilonia
39 ____ *Who Knew Too Much* (2 wds.)
41 Israeli politician played by Ingrid Bergman on TV
43 Filmmaker Ethan or Joel
44 “ ____ the Lonely” (Roy Orbison song)

- 45 *Death on the* ____
46 *7th Heaven* actress Jessica
47 Robert De ____ (guest on 17 Across’s first *Late Night* show)
51 Sue Grafton’s ____ *for Corpse* (2 wds.)
52 *Children of Men* mom

Answers on
Page 26

Loving Burnt Toast is Love



His Mom Served Burnt toast , but he was shocked when his Dad said this.

“When I was about eight or nine, my mom burnt some toast .

One night that stood out in my mind is when she had made dinner for us after a very long and rough day at work, She placed a plate of jam and extremely burned toast in front of my dad. Not slightly burnt but completely blackened toast.

I was just waiting to see if anyone noticed the burnt toast and say anything. But Dad just ate his toast and asked me if I did my homework and how my day was. I don’t remember what I told him that night, but I do remember hearing my mom apologizing to dad for burning the toast. And I’ll never forget what he said:

“Sweetie, I love burned toast.”

Later that night, I went to tell my dad good night and ask him if he really liked his toast burned. He put his arm on my shoulder and said,

“Your momma put in a very long day at work today and she was very tired. And besides, A burnt toast never hurts anyone but you know what does? Harsh words!”

The he continued to say “You know, life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people I’m not the best at hardly anything, and I forget birthdays and anniversaries just like every other human. What I’ve learned over the years, is that learning to accept each others faults and choosing to celebrate each other’s differences, is one of the most important keys for creating a healthy, growing, and lasting relationship. Life is too short to wake up with regrets. Love the people who treat you right and have compassion for the ones who don’t.”

Enjoy Life Now.



Alex Gonzaga feels embarrassed about being pitted against Vice Ganda

For Alex Gonzaga, the rumors pitting her against phenomenal star Vice Ganda is utterly ridiculous. This issue stems from the fact that Vice’s Vice Gandang Ganda Sa Sarili: Eh Di Wow! Concert is happening almost a month after Alex’s own Unexpected Concert also at the Big Dome.

Although Vice has already denied any rivalry between one of his best friends, Alex, during her contract signing for smartphone brand Blackview, nevertheless addressed the issue a day after hearing about it.

“Oo kasi may mga nag-ta-tag sa akin. Nahihiya ako for Vice kasi bakit naman? Parang bago pa itapat ang dami ko pang kakainin na bigas. Kasi si Vice Ganda is Unkabogable Phenomenal Star,” she began.

Alex continued, “Tsaka from day one talaga never nagpakita si Vice ng poot or [nagparamdam na] hindi ako pwedeng mag-promote sa kanya. He’s always been so nice, accommodating and even sa Daddy ko. Sobrang pinaparamdam sa amin ni Vice na parang kapatid niya talaga kaming magkapatid. So nakakahiya na ganon.”

Nevertheless, the Inday Bote actress claimed that she reached out to Vice after her It’s Showtime stint earlier.

“Kaya nga kanina nag-Showtime ako, naglagay ako ng letter kasi tinawag niya ako eh kasi late siyang dumating. Hindi ko siya nakausap pero naglagay ako ng letter,” she said.

Charo tells students:

Good values matter



ABS-CBN president and CEO Charo Santos-Concio reminded over 1,000 communication students on the importance of having good values in her keynote address at the Pinoy Media Congress (PMC) Year 9, held recently at St. Paul University Manila.

“Your talent may win you your dream. But only your good values that will make you feel proud of yourself,” she said.

Santos-Concio is one of the speakers who shared wisdom and inspiration in the event organized by ABS-CBN and the Philippine Association of Communication Educators Foundation (PACEF) to help prepare communication students for their future roles in the media.

Resource speakers were ABS-CBN executives Fernando Villar, Maria Concepcion Alcedo, March Ventosa, Marah Faner-Capuyan, Roxy Liquigan, Ging Reyes, Donald Lim, Leo Katigbak, Enrico Santos, Vivian Tin, and Laurenti Dyogi.

Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication president Prof. Ramon Tuazon, ABS-CBN News correspondent Atom Araullo, and Movie and Television Review & Classification Board chairman

Atty. Eugenio Villareal. Among the congress’ panelists were ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. president Ernie Lopez, ABS-CBN Film Productions Inc. (AFPI) creative director Vanessa Valdez, AFPI consultant Angie Yu-Pineda, and ABS-CBN business units heads Linggit Tan-Marasigan, Deo Endrinal, Julie Ann Benitez, Ginny Ocampo, Lui Andrada, Joyce Liquicia, and Relly Santiago.

After learning about the current and future trends and practices in the industry, the students also had a dialogue with the ABS-CBN bosses led by head of Free TV Cory Vidanes. Apart from answering the delegates’ questions, they also gave them advice on how to make it in the industry.

The delegates, some of them coming from as far as Baguio, Tacloban, and Cagayan de Oro, took to social media to express their satisfaction with the event, which also featured surprise performances from Kapamilya stars.

With another successful staging of the PMC, ABS-CBN Integrated Corporate Communications Division officer in charge Kane Errol Choa said the best is yet to come for Pinoy Media Congress.

Should ROTC be made mandatory again?



MANILA -- Should the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) be reinstated as a mandatory course in colleges and universities?

Speaking to dzMM, Col. Antonio Lastimado, Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs of the Philippine Army, said the country’s reserve force drastically went down when the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Law was passed in 2001.

“Napakalaki po ng kakulangan [sa reserve force]...bulk po ng pinanggagalingan ng ating reserve force ay ROTC talaga. Kapag bumaba po ang enrollment sa ROTC, wala na po tayong pagkukunan ng reserve,” he added.

Ideally, the country’s reserve force should be 80% more than its active force.

At present, Philippine Army has 20,000 reserve officers, while it has 126,000 active officers.

“Ang ating reserve force po, they will serve as base for expansion ng ating armed forces, kapag nagkaroon tayo ng emergency or giyera, sila ay tatawagin, imo-mobilize po. Then ‘yun na po ang magiging trabaho nila,” Lastimado explained.

The passage of the NSTP Law was in response to the death of Mark Chua, a University of Santo Tomas student who was killed after exposing the anomalies in the university’s ROTC program.

Volunteerism, love of country

Atty. Philip Sigfrid Fortun, who was an ROTC officer when he was in college, shared that being part of the reserve officers corps helped him a lot in being a lawyer.

“One of the things ROTC develops in the student, aside from adventure, is volunteerism. ‘Pag andun ka na sa ROTC, it becomes love of country eh, because you are taught precisely how to sacrifice your life, to a point na it develops love of country, it develops a burning desire to serve the people,” he added.

He added that it is time to reinstate ROTC, especially since the country is critically affected by climate change.

“Lalo na ngayon na we are the most critically affected ng climate change kasi archipelagic tayo. Tumataas ang dagat, nag-iiba ang simoy ng hangin...kailangan talaga ng ready reserve force, ito ‘yung focus precisely ng ROTC: able bodied people who are volunteers, who are willing to suffer and to do things for the country without compensation,” Fortun said.

There has also been a call to boost the Philippines’ reserve forces in the face of a growing China, which has become more assertive in its claims in the West Philippine Sea.

Valenzuela Representative Sherwin Gatchalian, who authored House Bill 2388 which calls for ROTC’s revival, shared Fortun’s view on the ROTC.

Candid SPOOF



Action Honda’s Rafael Paeng Nebres tries to figure out how much the halo halo weighs at the despedida dinner for Congen Junever Mahilum-West.

Crossword Answers



Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF)
A Despedida for Congen Junever Mahilum-West



FAR LEFT, Miss Philippines-Canada contestant Nathalie Ramos is introduced to the audience. LEFT, Katrina Rafael attends the dinner with her parents.



Scarborough Toyota's Manny Yanga, MP John Carmichael, PCCF's Rosemer Enverga, Romy Rafael, PC Senator Tobias Enverga, Pors and Norma Canlas pose at the PCCF despedida.



ABOVE, PCCF's Rosemer Enverga, PC Senator Tobias Enverga present outgoing Consul-General West a Certificate of Recognition. Far right is Congen's husband John. LEFT, Frank Maralag of Pillars Seniors poses with Senator Tobias Enverga. BELOW, Everyone poses with the Ambassador.



Diana to wed model

Diana Zubiri is all set to tie the knot with Fil-Australian model Andrew "Andy" Smith on May 10, 2015. They just had their pre-nuptial photos taken in Japan, which is meaningful for them as it is where Andrew proposed marriage to Diana. Their photos have been posted on Instagram.

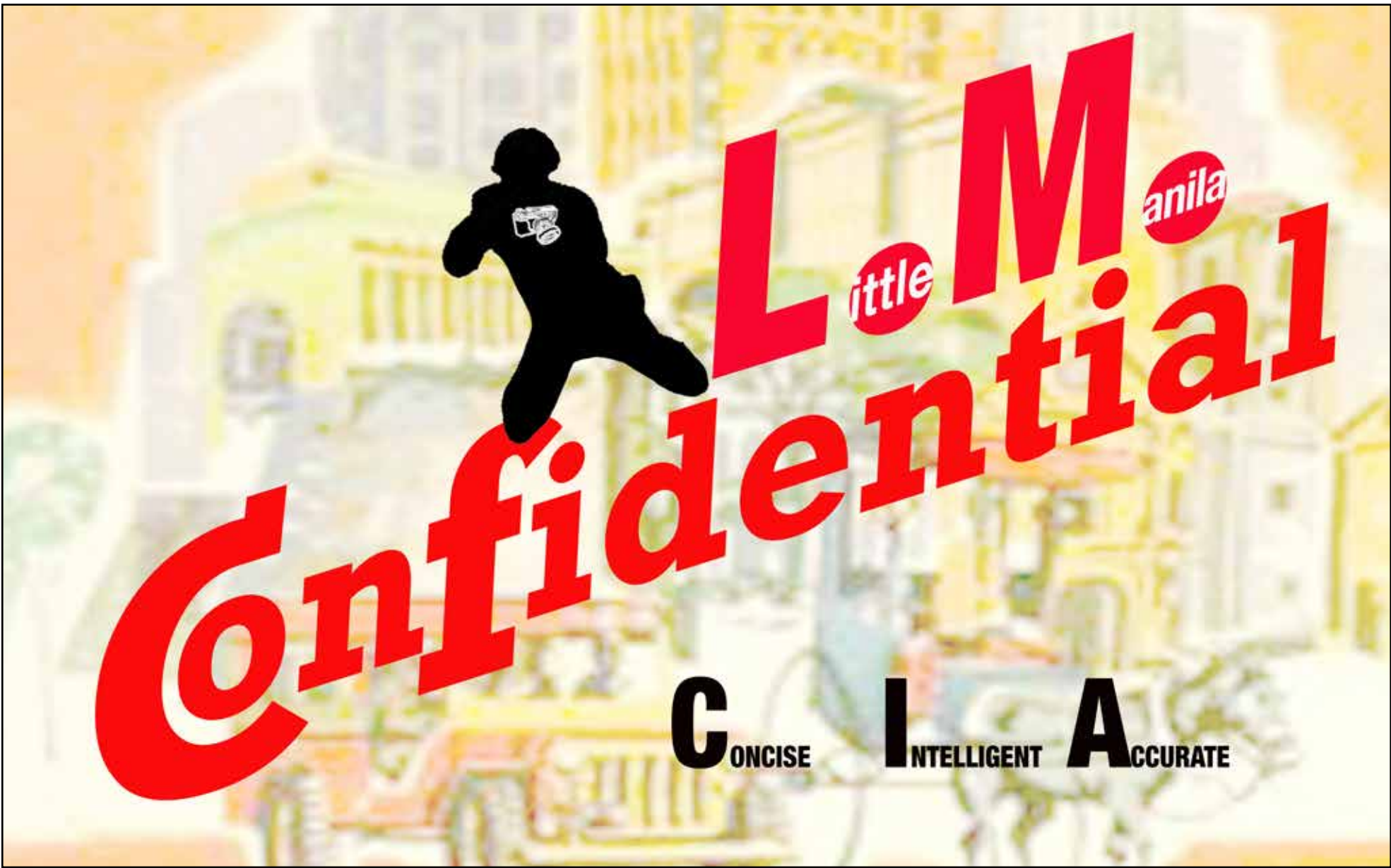


Diana was last seen in ABS-CBN's "Bukas na Lang Kita Mamahalin" and "Juan de la Cruz". She is now busy shooting the drama movie, "Daluyong", where she plays a woman who falls in love and has a son with a priest, played by Allen Dizon. "Daluyong" also stars Eddie Garcia, Ricky Davao and Aiko Melendez, directed by Mel Chionglo and produced by Mrs. Baby Go. She has a child from a previous relationship.

Andrew was the big winner in the Mossimo Bikini Summit in Boracay in 2007. He hosted some TV shows, including one with Andi Manzano, and some local events, but his showbiz career didn't really take off mainly because he doesn't speak Tagalog fluently. He also used to be a professional tennis player.

In his Instagram account, this is Andrew's message for Diana: "Everyday I wonder how I got so lucky with you. The happiness you give is more than I ever expected. Soon you will be mine forever@dianazubiri."

Our best wishes to the couple and may your marriage be truly successful and last a lifetime. Last Friday, March 26, Gary Valenciano's younger son, Gab, also tied the knot with Tricia Centenera in a Christian wedding in Tagaytay. Congratulations to the newly weds. Only Gary's daughter, Keanna, is the one who remains single in their family.



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