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M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S



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ENVERGA
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MINDA NERI
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JANINE
GUTIERREZ
MAKING
LOVE BLOOM
IN DANGWA

Critics
slams
selective
Storm
aid

MANILA- THE United Nationalist Alliance denounced the Aquino administration for not extending relief to towns damaged by Typhoon “Lando” where mayors did not belong to or were not allied with the ruling Liberal Party.

“The reports we are receiving are lamentable. The mayor of San Miguel, Bulacan himself told us that the [Department of Social Welfare and Development] did not give them any help for those affected by Typhoon Lando,” said UNA spokesman Mon Ilagan.

“Even the citizens of Baler and the towns of Cabiao and Bongabon in Nueva Ecija were also not given any help because their mayors are members of parties not allied with the administration,” he added. “Is this how things should be done? Selective relief? If you are not an ally, you don’t get government aid?”

San Miguel Mayor Roderick Tiongson, who ran under the Liberal Party in 2013, is now vying for the governorship of Bulacan under UNA. Baler Mayor Nelianto Bihasa belongs to PDP-Laban.

“This is Yolanda all over again. Politics has sadly reared its ugly head in times of distress. We are certain that the situation would be different if the mayors are part of the LP,” Ilagan said.

“Is it really necessary that government aid for Lando-affected areas should go through party-mates rather than the local government?”

“Even Attorney Edwin Lacierda,

STORM AID
continued on page 25

Selfie-ing with the Stars



FIRST, Maria Panaligan poses with Enchong Dee. SECOND, Inah Canlapan poses with Rayver Cruz. THIRD, Edessa Andrada poses with Xian Lim.

Honoring



Rafael Nebres poses in front of Our Lady of Penafrancia during the fluvial dinner.

Baptism



Father Joe Pena baptizes Winterra D’Aoust as Dr. Solon Guzman, mom Joy Sarmiento, Josephine Almanzor (HIDDEN) and dad Warren looks on. PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



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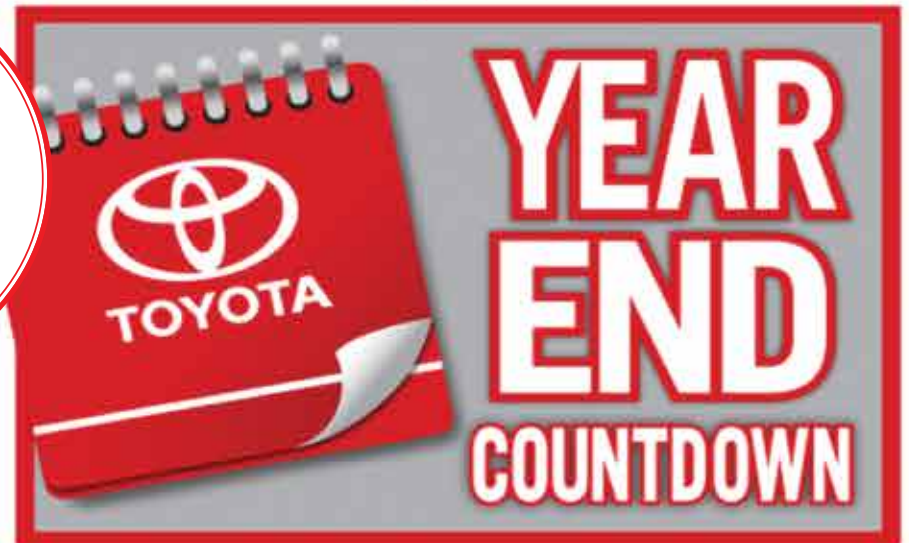
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ROSEMER ENVERGA WINS DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST MINDA NERI

By Gloria Rafanan



Rosemer Enverga

TORONTO - The lawsuit against Minda Neri that began in 2012 and dragged on for nearly 3 years has finally been resolved in Rosemer Enverga's favor.

Enverga sued Neri in Small Claims Court for defamation based on Neri's statements made at a press conference insinuating that Enverga had not fully accounted for the proceeds of the beauty pageants managed by Enverga for PIDC in 2010 and 2011.



Balita reporter
Romeo Marquez

Despite an internal PIDC audit that showed PIDC in fact owed Enverga from the pageants in question, Neri had not issued an apology.

Neri's statements became the fodder for a string of derogatory news reports and commentaries written by Romeo



Minda Neri

Marquez about Enverga which were published in Balita.

Balita's editor and publisher, Teresita Cusipag, manages a competing beauty pageant, Miss Manila, and is a rival of Rosemer Enverga in the beauty pageant business.

Marquez testified as a witness for Neri.

After Marquez's testimony, Neri's lawyer summed up Neri's defense and argued that it was not Neri's statements that were defamatory but the subsequent writings of Marquez and that Enverga failed to include or did not have the proper defendants in her lawsuit.

In his decision, Judge Chris Ashby found that Neri had failed to establish the defences of truth, fair comment or responsible communication.

On the defence of truth, Judge Ashby ruled that there was no basis for suggesting that Enverga had failed to report as required, alluding to Neri's own testimony that it was the Treasurer's responsibility to make financial reporting to the board and to the fact that Enverga had no control over PIDC's bank account.

On the defence of fair comment, the judge ruled that Neri's statements were not comments but statements of facts which were not true, therefore, that defence failed.

On the defence of responsible

communication on a matter of public interest, Judge Ashby cited the Supreme Court ruling in Grant v. Torstar Corp: "The publication must be on a matter of public interest and the defendant must show that the words published were responsible in that she was diligent in trying to verify the allegations". The judge ruled that Neri was not diligent in verifying that it was the fault of the plaintiff, knowing the PIDC structure and knowing that the Treasurer was responsible for providing financial information.

The judge wrote:

"...Her good reputation is presumed. She is well known in the particular community that she lives and works in.... There was no apology even though a Libel Notice was served.... the plaintiff did hold her own press conference. Part of the harm has been created by some shocking articles in Filipino press that are not related to the actions of the defendant."

"I am relieved" says Enverga. "The last 3 years has been very stressful, having been constantly subjected to public ridicule by a certain tabloid as a result of reckless statements made against me by Neri", she added.

Balita, Teresita Cusipag and Romeo Marquez are defendants in libel lawsuits filed in Ontario Superior Court by Oswald Magno, Voltaire de Leon, Jeff Rustia, Melinda Rustia, Tobias Enverga Jr., Philippines Canada Fashion Week and The Kol Hope Foundation seeking damages in the millions.

NOTE: This newspaper has no knowledge whether an appeal has been filed by Minda Neri.



"Being un-attached an advantage to James and Nadine"

Dahil sa very tender and memorable kissing scene nina James Reid at Nadine Lustre sa On the Wings of Love, would there be more exchange of kisses in the forthcoming episodes? Ang sagot dito ay yes, yes, yes.

There are more to come na magpapakilig ng todo-todo sa lumulobong fan base ng Jadine. Don't be fooled though dahil para sa dalawa, it is all for a show. Romansang pang-telebisyon lamang. Not being attached to each other has its advantage, says James. "Wala pong complication. If we are a couple, mahirap magtrabaho kung may hindi kami mapagkasunduan. We click because we treat it as a job na kailangan naming gawin," he said.

On the Wings of Love is rating so well kaya ipinasiya ng Dreamscape Entertainment to extend the series up to February 2016 in time for Valentine's Day.

OK, LET’S GO WITH HIM

Did Justin Trudeau win for the sake of replacing Stephen Harper but not exactly his policies? If somebody else was running, would the Conservatives have won?

And by the way, am I the only one wondering why the Conservatives had a very boring election campaign? They had the most money, and they squandered it on why Trudeau is “just not ready.”

But were the conservatives ready?

Judging from their campaign, they weren’t either.

The expectations for Trudeau were so low that him not making a major mistake was considered an accomplishment, like the discovery of sliced bread.

I’m not really sure whose story to believe, the OFW who forgets a knapsack full of money or that the investigators found evidence of employee criminal behaviour. These three might be the scapegoat for a laglag-bala scam that the investigators found no evidence. In short, sacrifice these 3 so the public will not say we are covering our own employees. You’re travelling and you forget a bag, which just so happens to contain lots of money. If I have lots of money, it will be in my person, no matter how much it is. I will not put it in my bag. Two things stay in my person, the money and the passport.

Mayor Tory pretending to stand up to the taxi lobby by not banning Uber, then asking Uber to suspend operations while it creates regulations for Uber is disingenuous. Who is he kidding? Uber refuses. We all know suspending operations pending regulation is the equivalent of being told to liquidate your business in Toronto. Toronto is not open to new business. Just look at the food truck issue. Council caved in to restaurateurs.

“Strategic voting” involves voting for someone you do not believe in. If you believe that your candidate has no chance of winning anyway, they convince you to vote for the other candidate. Huh? Never worked. It always benefits the party they are trying to bring down, often, it is the conservatives. Strategic voters always involve NDP and the Liberals.

Canada’s election focus might have been hijacked by the migrant crisis in Europe as opposition and the media used it to change the topic but the voters concern is different. What passes for headline news for the media does not necessarily mean it is a major issue for voters.



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FAR LEFT, Divina Gracia poses with Xian Lim.

LEFT, Divina Gracia poses with Gerald Anderson.

SELF-FULFILLING MOVIE TITLES

Dying Young, RIPD, Imbisibol...you know they are not going to make money at the box office

Let me get this straight. Trudeau informs the US that Canada will withdraw from the US campaign of the military bombing of ISIS and get the Keystone XL pipeline approved by the US at the same time. We already joined the US in the bombing campaign and we still cannot get the pipeline approved. The only way the pipeline will be approved is to pray that a Republican wins as the next US president. Or, hire York University tunnel-maker Elton McDonald and dig a tunnel across the border without anyone noticing.

To all those caregiver advocates who keep asking for the moon and the stars from the Liberals, you will get them but they will take away the sun.

Liberals will use the playbook of people in power. Give what you want and take something back. You have no choice but to be vocally thankful because they gave you what you asked but deep inside, quietly, you regret it because what they took was more important than what you got. Politics is a game of compromise.

So, now we have a new Prime Minister. The Liberals won a majority, the Conservatives became the official opposition and the NDP went back to third place from second place. And we went back to work the next day as if nothing happened. Thank God we live in a country that is this boring. This is not sarcasm. There are countries around the world where, regardless of who wins, violence follows afterwards. Let us keep this country boring so that people around the world will

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How do you solve Metro Manila traffic?

YOU DON’T

BY EFREN PADILLA



MANILA – A Filipino overseas who specializes in urban planning says ‘no amount of urban revitalization or urban renewal can remedy the unsustainable and cancerous growth of our leading primate city’

Let’s be realistic. There is nothing that anyone can do to solve the traffic woes of Metro Manila, even with the ingenuity and hard work of the MMDA chairman.

Here’s why:

With its current population of more than 12 million that swells to about 15 million during the daytime, Metro Manila is the undisputed primate city in the country whose close competitors such as Metro Cebu (2.5 million) or Metro Davao (2.2 million) pale in comparison in terms of population size. (READ: Can the police fix EDSA traffic?)

According to the World Bank report, Metro Manila currently houses 56 percent of the total urban land development and more than 70 percent of the total urban population of the country. Worse, three of its 16 cities – Manila’s 42,857 people/sq km; Pateros’ 30,456 people/sq km; and Caloocan’s 27,916 population/sq km – rank as the top three most densest cities in the world respectively dwarfing Mumbai’s 23,000 people/sq km; Paris’ 20,150 people/sq km; or Toyko’s 10,100 people/sq km. (READ: Our collective guilt over Metro Manila traffic)

Now tell me, how do you manage that?

The incidence of thousands of commuters and motorists spending long hours stuck in a traffic jam especially after torrential rains and consequent flooding is a given. We should not have the illusion that our existing and ongoing efforts will ameliorate our traffic problem once and for all. Our state of urban affairs is like what the legendary Yogi Berra used to quip. “It’s déjà vu all over again.” By now, we should already have learned our lesson that no amount of urban revitalization or urban renewal can remedy the unsustainable and cancerous growth of our leading primate city. Short of wiping out the entire metro area and starting from scratch, there is no other way but to find the solution for its problem somewhere else. That is, the key to solving its overdevelopment is the development of other provinces.

I share the frustration of MMDA chief Francisco Tolentino because he bears the flak despite his best efforts to solve a problem that requires a different solution. I think the undue criticism is not only unfair but also misdirected. And yet, I thought he was quite intuitive and on the right track when he intimated a political solution to depopulating Metro Manila via the creation of well-planned urban centers in central, northern and southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

I say political solution because the master planning, engineering, or architectural components to development are the easiest tasks to do. For me, it’s not difficult to plan and design a medium-range or long-range growth center plan. It’s not a problem at all. But engaging in a political solution is. And that’s an entirely different ballgame. Both in my academic work and urban planning consultancies, I have consistently espoused the re-rooting of our development to the origins of the city-state that the classical Greeks talked about. And I advocated the role of growth points and maritime development employing innovative and sustainable urban designs consistent to the natural and social characteristics of our island nation.

What is interesting about city-state planning is that, we don’t have to reinvent the wheel. Already, we have successful models to learn upon. In fact, the successes of Monaco, Macau, Hong Kong, or Singapore can be traced to the application of the city-state model of development. Unfortunately, there are people who have the planning skills and expertise like me but do not possess the motherboard of urban or town planning. In short, someone has to exercise the political will to fulfill the vision of a new development from the beginning to the end.

It’ll be interesting to find out in the coming election. Who among the political contenders – local as well as national – possess and can articulate the vision and the determination to finally implement the long overdue, serious, no-nonsense, and non-distracted development expansion throughout the archipelago?

Anyone?

Efren Padilla is a full professor at California State University, East Bay. His areas of specialization are urban sociology, urban planning, and social demography. During his quarter breaks, he provides pro bono planning consultancy to selected LGUs in the Philippines.

LAUGH RESORT

\$15 Porsche

So, a 16-year-old boy who works part-time at Applebees pulls into his parent's driveway in a Porsche.... Naturally, his mom and dad know that there's no way he earned enough with his after-school job to own such a car. "Where did you get that car?" his mom and dad scream in unison. He calmly tells them, "I bought it today."

"With what money?" his mom demands. "We know what a Porsche costs."

"Well," says the boy, "This one cost me fifteen dollars."

At this point, naturally, the parents start yelling even louder. "Who on earth would sell a car like that for fifteen dollars?!"

"The lady up the street," the boy replies, shrugging.

"I don't know her name-she just moved in. She saw me ride past on my bike and asked me if I wanted to buy a Porsche for fifteen dollars."

"Oh my gosh," the mom moans. "She must be some sort of child abuser. Who knows what she will do next? John, you go right up there and see what's going on." The boy's father and mother rush over to their new neighbor's house, ready to break down her door and demand an explanation. Curiously, their new neighbor is calmly planting petunias.

"I'm the father of the kid you just sold a sports car to for \$15," the dad says. "I need an explanation from you - ASAP!"

"Well," the neighbor says, not looking up from her garden. "This morning I got a phone call from my husband. I thought he was on a business trip, but it seems he has run off to Hawaii with his secretary and doesn't intend to come back."

"What on earth does that have to do with selling our son a Porsche for \$15?" The boy's mom asks - utterly perplexed.

"Well, my husband asked me to sell his new Porsche and send him the money. So I did."

Honey Shot

Kat used to work at FV Foods. However, she went back to school and is studying Business Management. We wish her all the luck.



Katrina de Veyra

Gabby Eigenmann joins the cast of Beautiful Strangers

Award-winning actor Gabby Eigenmann is the latest addition to the cast of the Kapuso Network's primetime series, Beautiful Strangers.



In the program, Gabby plays the role of Atty. Gani, a humble and down-to-earth lawyer who will fall in love with Kristine (Heart Evangelista). He is grateful to GMA for putting their trust and offering him this role. "Nagpapasalamat ako sa GMA for giving me another opportunity na mapasama sa cast ng Beautiful Strangers. Sana po tanggapin ng mga sumusubaybay ang bagong character ko na si Gani. I already felt the warm welcome sa first taping day ko nung Monday (September 28)."

The versatile Kapuso actor is equally excited to bond with the powerhouse cast of the series. "I'm very excited to be working with great actors like Tito Boyet de Leon, Ms Dina Bonnevie... I'm happy to be working with my friends Ben Alves and Lovi Poe. It's my first time to work with Rocco and Heart. Looking forward ako na makatrabaho sila." Gabby previously worked with Benjamin in the Afternoon Prime series Dading while he got the chance to work with Lovi in Magpakailanman.

Catch Gabby as Atty. Gani in Beautiful Strangers after Marimar on GMA Pinoy TV, GMA's flagship international channel. (30)

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NATALIE JAMES

Why we need more storms

Kabayan came too fast, left too soon

MANILA - While most Filipinos breathed a collective sigh of relief at Tropical Storm Kabayan's departure Friday morning, experts have expressed concern that it came too fast and left too soon.

Even before it made itself felt, Kabayan was forecast to do little for the country's looming water crisis.

PAGASA hydrologist Edgar dela Cruz said that the rain from Kabayan was expected to bump up Luzon's precious water reserves, but not by much.

"Sa forecast namin tataas lang ng halos 1.5m ang water reserve natin (sa Angat Dam, na siyang nagsu-supply ng tubig sa Metro Manila). Hindi ganoon ka-significant ang pagtaas na ito," he forecast.

The reason for this, according to GMA resident meteorologist Nathaniel "Mang Tani" Cruz is that Kabayan was just too weak and moving too fast to bring enough rain to sufficiently replenish the country's water reserves.

"Kahit na malakas ang ulan, dahil sa bilis ng kilos ni Kabayan, hindi magtatagal ang mga ulan na dala nito," Mang Tani said.

He added that the rain was a welcome respite from the scorching El Niño, but was just too short to have any lasting positive effect.

"Yung ulan sa ibang bahagi ng Luzon ay nakatulong kahit papaano makadagdag sa kulang na tubig, pero hindi pa rin ito sapat dahil napakababa na nga ng reserves natin," Mang Tani explained.

Experts agree that the ongoing strong El Niño will last until the middle of next year, and no more than two cyclones may be expected to enter the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) within any given month.

In contrast, in a regular year, as many as 3 or 4 typhoons may pass within the PAR in a month—usually in July to September, the peak of the typhoon season.

In light of the calamitous floods and damage brought by typhoons in recent years—2014's Ruby and 2013's Yolanda come to mind—it seems almost ironic that we would wish more typhoons upon ourselves.

However, typhoons are essential for more than just bringing much-needed rain to parched areas: they usually form above warm ocean waters, as heat is dissipated outward from the Earth. As such, they are also an important means for regulating the Earth's life-sustaining atmosphere.

VP Binay to boost Agri sector

Vice President Jejomar C. Binay has vowed to strengthen and implement reforms in the agriculture sector, including giving subsidies to farmers and scrapping irrigation fees, if he wins next year's presidential elections.

"We need good governance to strengthen our agriculture sector, and good governance means when there's a call to subsidize, then we have to subsidize," said Binay, in a statement.

Binay explained there was a need to give subsidies for those who have been included in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

"The idea of CARP is to increase production in the rice fields. Unfortunately, while the lands were given to the tenants, there was no subsidy for fertilizers and other needs in the rice fields," he said.

"So while these former tenants are now landowners, they lack the means to support themselves so yield remains low," he added.

He is also open to foreign investment to boost modernization and increase productivity.

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Ningning and Macmac take part in surprise wedding proposal

“NINGNING” SHOWS HOW DILIGENCE CAN BECOME KEY TO SUCCESS

Diligence and determination are the highlighted values this week in the top-rating Kapamilya tanghali serye "Ningning" as Ningning's (Jana Agoncillo) father, tatay Dondon (Ketchup Eusebio) shows to viewers how hard work can lead to great success in life.

After Lolo Kiko (Freddie Webb) encourages Dondon to take risks especially in business, Dondon tries his luck to experiment with cooking daing in barbecue sauce. As his newly created recipe becomes an instant favorite in their family, a determined Dondon begins to sell his creation, which he calls Daing Q with the help of Lolo Kiko.

At first, Dondon encounters a series of challenges while selling his new product, but his diligence and determination to succeed pay off in the end. "Ningning" will also shed light on the romance of Otep and Eva and how Ningning and Macmac will have a role in a surprise wedding proposal.

In the ongoing romance between Otep and Eva, Otep (Vandolph Quizon) realizes that he is really emotionally and financially prepared to get married after his serious pep talk with Lolo Kiko. Otep then decides to pop the question to his girlfriend, Eva (Mercedes Cabral) with the help of Ningning and Macmac (John Steven de Guzman) to add more fun and love in his surprise wedding proposal plan.

How will Dondon surpass the challenges in his journey to become an entrepreneur? What ideas will Ningning and Macmac suggest to their kuya Otep in their surprise wedding proposal plan to Eva? Find out this week in "Ningning," Mondays to Fridays before "It's Showtime" in ABS-CBN.

"Ningning" aims to promote the goodness and good values in everyday life among its viewers. For more information, visit the official Facebook account of Ningning (Facebook.com/Ningning).

Import more rice

MANILA - The Philippines should import more rice to cover losses in the production of the staple food due to damage inflicted by typhoon Lando in Northern and Central Luzon, the Finance Department said.



Finance Undersecretary and chief economist Gil Beltran said more rice imports were needed to avoid a sharp increase in the domestic price of the commodity.

"The country may have to import more rice to replace these losses in domestic production and avoid triggering an inflationary spiral," Beltran said in the latest finance economic bulletin.

Beltran said the rice buffer could drop below 50 days if the losses from the typhoon were not replaced.

Rice buffer of close to the September 1 level of 58 days is needed to ensure rice price stability," Beltran said.

.....

3M Pinoys may lose vote

At least three million voters may not be able to participate in next year's local and national elections if they fail to have their biometrics captured until October 31, 2015, the deadline for the registration of voters, Sen. Francis Escudero warned on Sunday.

He urged voters to validate their registration while there is still time.

At the same time, the senator called on the public to help the Commission on Elections (Comelec) boost its information drive and encourage registered voters to have their biometrics captured.

Pursuant to RA 10367, registered voters whose photographs, fingerprints and signatures have not been captured must submit themselves for validation before the city or municipal election officer.

Those who fail to validate their registration before the deadline shall be taken off the list of voters and shall not be able to vote in May 2016.

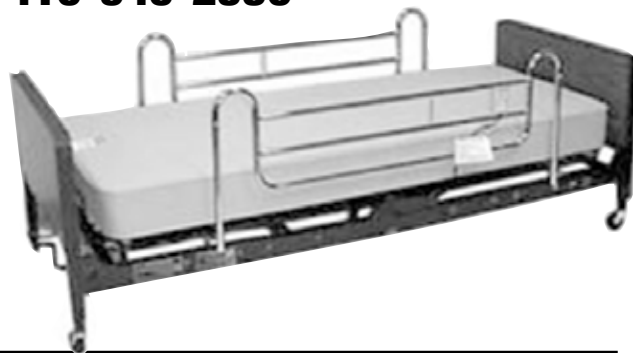
"We are running under a platform of inclusiveness. Yet at least three million qualified voters will be left behind and will not be able to vote in 2016 if we will not help the Comelec," Escudero said.

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Duterte backs Ople's senatorial bid

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte is backing the senatorial bid of labor and OFW (overseas Filipino worker) advocate Susan "Toots" Ople and vowed to campaign for her in Davao City and the rest of Mindanao. The popular mayor expressed his admiration for millions of OFWs and said he was very well aware of Ople's advocacy, particularly on the fight against human trafficking.

"The mayor and I share a common cause: the fight against human trafficking. He was very emphatic in saying that no Filipino overseas worker should end up as a modern slave on a foreign soil," Ople said. She noted that Duterte considers human trafficking to be at par with the illegal drug trade in terms of severity as a transnational crime. Ople received the Trafficking-in-Persons Hero Award from US State Secretary John Kerry in 2013.

She also received the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Alumni Achievement Award in 2010 for her work in rescuing victims of human trafficking from Syria.

Her non-profit organization, the Blas F. Ople Policy Center, works closely with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Iacat) and other government agencies to address cases of human trafficking involving overseas Filipinos.

Comelec eyes 590 bets for perpetual disqualification

MANILA - In an unprecedented move, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) tagged nearly 600 candidates “for perpetual disqualification” after they failed to report their campaign expenses in two previous polls.

It was not clear if this would be immediately executory.

The Comelec on October 23, released the names of 597

candidates who failed to submit their statements of contributions and expenditures (SOCEs) in two or more previous elections.

The Campaign Finance Unit labeled each tally as a “list of candidates subject to perpetual disqualification due to 2nd and 3rd failure to file SOCE.”

Prominent names “for perpetual disqualification” include former

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao governor Nur Misuari, former Caloocan City mayor Macario Asistio Jr, and former Quezon City congressman Ismael “Chuck” Mathay III.

The recently uploaded lists didn’t include candidates for national positions.

LJ from Paulo to Paolo: He makes me happy now

LJ Reyes goes from Paulo to Paolo. She and Paolo Contis are no longer hiding their relationship. LJ has a son with Paulo Avelino. She was later linked with JC de Vera but their relationship didn’t prosper. Paolo has two daughters with former EB Babes dancer Lian Paz and their marriage has yet to be annulled. Paolo turned 31 last March 14 while LJ is turning 28 on December 25.



Their relationship started when they became co-stars in the hit afternoon soap, “Yagit”. We remember that when we made a set visit to the show’s location then, LJ was asked about this and she said she’s not sure yet if Paolo was really courting her. A few weeks later, when someone asked her about Paolo again, she said they’re just good friends.

But now, Paolo himself has revealed that they really get along fine because they belong to the same Christian church, Victory Fellowship. They now attend its worship service on Sundays together. LJ has also posted her photos taken with Paolo and her family, so it’s obvious that they have a serious relationship with each other. Paolo says their relationship has actually just started and, at this point, they’re just happy being with each other’s company. “Siya talaga ang nagpapasaya sa akin ngayon,” he adds.

Paolo was last seen in the GMA primetime soap “The Rich Man’s Daughter” while LJ is now in the cast of two new movies, “Anino sa Likod ng Buwan” (for which she won an international best actress award at Vladivostok, Russia) and “Haunted Mansion”, the Regal Entertainment entry in the Metro Manila Filmfest where she plays the role of a ghost.

NPA Lies on Killings

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines – Captain Patrick Martinez, spokesperson of the 4th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army on Sunday said that the New People’s Army statement on the killing of Loreto, Agusan del Sur Mayor Dario Otaza is deceitful and superficial.

Otaza was murdered together with his son Daryl after they were forcefully abducted on October 19, 2015 from their home in Barangay Baan, Butuan City.

Otaza and Daryl were later found the following day, hog tied and riddled with bullets. Martinez said the NPA’s Southern Mindanao command spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez’s point-by-point accusation against Otaza and his son and their alleged crimes against humanity are superficial.

Sanchez alleged that Otaza is the mastermind of the “brutal murder” and “acts of torture” of Lumad and ordinary civilians, including the deaths of Benjie Planos and Gabriel Alindao, last September 2013.

“Ironically, these accusations are all coming from the number 1 Human Rights Violator and a criminal himself,” Martinez said.

Martinez said that both Planos and Alindao are NPA rebels and were “Sangay sa Partido sa Lokalidad” or main recruiters, organizers, and points of contact inside the barangays.

“It was the NPA that killed Planos and Alindao in 2013, after they turned their back against the NPA (and) after Otaza urged them of a better future,” Martinez said.

“Just like what Otaza did in 1986, (he) turned his back against the NPA,” Martinez added.

He added Planos and Alindao were killed by the NPA because of their betrayal.

“They were killed in September 2013 by the NPA and (the crime was) charged to Mayor Otaza,” Martinez said.

Martinez added that the other killings mentioned in Sanchez’ statement suffered the same fate with the NPA’s “inhumane and brutal” Kangaroo Court.

Bill allows Bangko to snoop

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that will authorize the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (Bangko Sentral) to snoop into the financial records and gather pertinent information from individuals as government and non-government entities.

House Bill 5875 or the New Central Bank Act was passed on third and final reading. The measure gives the Bangko Sentral the power to require any person or entity—including government offices and instrumentalities as well as government owned and controlled corporations—to provide the Bangko Sentral any data or information for statistical and policy development purposes in relation to the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities.

At present, the Bangko Sentral is only allowed to request for such records.



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Manila traffic is worse in the world

Senator Nancy Binay deplores anti-OFW policies

MANILA - Metro Manila has been reported to have the worst traffic on Earth on a city level, closely followed by Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil, and Jakarta in Indonesia, according to the community-based traffic and navigation app Waze in its latest Global Driver Satisfaction Index.

The roads of the Philippines have also been reported to be one of the worst to drive on because of the frequency and severity of traffic jams, poor road infrastructures, among other reasons. Latin American countries, including El Salvador and Guatemala, are also among the lowest on the list.

While Manila got the worst traffic, Indonesia had eight cities on the list of cities with the worst traffic all over the world, implying a dreadful driving experience country-wide.

The evaluation was made through 50 million users in 32 countries and 167 metro areas, and from a 10 (satisfying)



to 1 (miserable) grading system, the Philippines got 0.4, followed by Guatemala and Venezuela, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Colombia, as well as Indonesia, Romania, Costa Rica, and Panama.

On the other hand, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, and Czech Republic reported an easy and satisfying driving experience, as well as the United States and France which are aided by smaller cities with appropriate infrastructure that

is easy to navigate.

The average commuting time in Manila has been estimated at 45.5 minutes, making it the longest commute time in most major cities all over the world.

As a country, the Philippines also scored low in the Road Quality Index, and the Socio-Economic Index which is based on the access to cars and impact of gas prices.

Meanwhile, the Safety Index by Waze reported that the Philippines have the safest roads based on number of accidents, road hazards and weather. The Philippines scored 9.3, preceded only by Costa Rica, Netherlands, and Argentina.

The country also got the highest rank on the Drivers Services index based on access to gas stations and easy parking.

As of posting time, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the PNP Highway Patrol Group have yet to give their reactions on the matter.



Matteo Guidicelli

I want to marry Sarah

Mateo Guidicelli opened up about his relationship with Sarah Geronimo.

One of the questions asked by the host Boy Abunda was, "Do you resent it, when people say naggagamitan lang kayo ni Sarah Geronimo?"

The actor replied, "There's a bunch of reasons why we don't work together, so that sana the people won't say that. And it's a given fact that they are going to say that dahil nasa industriya po tayo at sasabihin nila talaga yun eh no matter what, kahit ayaw natin o gusto natin, masasabi talaga eh. That's why as much as possible, ayaw naming magkatrabaho; we don't want our real lives involved in our work lives. As much as possible ang gusto namin separate at ang projects nya, projects niya, ang projects ko, projects ko."

When it comes to their careers having an overlap, the actor shared, "I don't compete with her, I know who she is what she does, and she knows what I do and what I want to do, and all that stuff. She's very supportive. Kaming dalawa, sobrang supportive kami sa isa't isa."

Furthermore, he said, "Yung relationship namin, Tito Boy, bagong-bago, very fresh. So it's not as stable as a five-year, ten-year relationship na sobrang stable. So bago pa lang, we're still learning the ropes, we're still learning, experiencing life together."

During the segment Fast Talk, the actor answered "Sarah" to the following questions: "Taong nakakapag-paiyak sa yo," "Taong gusto mong makita araw-araw," and "Sino ang gusto mong sabihan ng 'Thank you for the love?'"

To the question, "Oo o hindi, si Sarah na ba ang babaeng gusto mong pakasalan?"

Matteo answered, "Oo."

Janella Salvador: 'I used to be very shy'

Janella Salvador admitted that she was not as confident as

she is now before she joined the entertainment industry. In an interview with Chalk Magazine, the young actress relayed, "I didn't expect I'd get into showbiz because I used to be very shy,

but now I'm here." Janella described her whole journey in showbiz as "amazing." With the popularity and the success that she is currently enjoying right now, Janella remarked that she is still the same person but more grown up now. "I'm still pretty much the same Janella. I'm still an introvert but I feel like I've matured so much in showbiz," she stated.

Janella is part of the popular all-girl group ASAP It Girls. The group is composed of Kathryn Bernardo, Liza Soberano, Julia Barretto, and herself. Despite the rumors that there are out to compete with each other, Janella stressed that they are the best of pals. "We don't see each other a lot because of our busy schedule but we're very good friends," she stated.

NAIA employee arrested over sex-for-flight scheme

MANILA - A security officer at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) was arrested in an entrapment operation for allegedly asking a woman for sex in exchange for clearing her travel papers.

Benedict Larcibal, 29, was arrested by the Anti-Human Trafficking Division of the National Bureau of Investigation inside a motel in Pasay City after his victim agreed to work with the authorities to entrap him.

According to the victim, who was offloaded from her flight to Singapore, Larcibal presented himself as an immigration officer and offered to remove the red marks on her papers in exchange for P35,000. The red marks indicate that the passenger has been offloaded due to questionable documents.

"Continuous yung calls niya, communicate niya na ine-explain niya 'yung pag-proseso. Nagbigay na siya ng price na P35,000 para ma-clear na 'yung lahat, para makaalis na kami," the victim said.

Larcibal, however, changed the terms of the agreement later on and asked for sex in addition to the money. He even assured the victim that she would not get pregnant even if he didn't use a condom.

"Hindi ba kita pwedeng masolo and mahihirapan na ko kung next week kasi mapapatungan na yung ibang records mahihirapan na call me para ma-explain ko ulit ng maayos," read one of Larcibal's text messages to the victim.

Larcibal denied the transaction upon arrest, despite authorities catching him in bed and in possession of P10,000 in marked money.

"Wala po sir, wala pong katotohanan, sir," Larcibal said.

Lawyer Abdul Jamar Dimaporo of the NBI asked victims of similar schemes to approach their office so they could help them seek justice.

"Lumalabas, may human trafficking angle eh, kasi he was trying to facilitate the exit ng babae. Lahat ng nabiktima ng ganitong modus, sana lumapit kayo dito sa 'min sa NBI para at least naman mabigyan natin sila ng katarungan," Dimaporo advised.

The NBI will conduct a digital forensic examination on Larcibal's phone to find out his co-conspirators.

Former Kapamilya TV host Daphne Oseña-Paez pinuri ang Eat Bulaga at AIDub



Maraming netizens ang natuwa sa post ng dating 'Urban Zone' host na si Daphne Oseña-Paez patungkol sa Eat Bulaga! at AIDub.

Sa kanyang Facebook page, nag-post si Daphne ngayong Sabado ng opinyon niya kung paano binago ng Eat Bulaga! at AIDub ang Philippine TV landscape.

Sabi niya, "Now not only have they changed the entire TV landscape and viewing habits, they even rocked the advertising industry by dictating "no commercial gaps"—instead, they did product placements and live mentions. That's power."

Dagdag ng TV host, mas lalo daw niyang minahal ang noontime show at AIDub, dahil magpapagawa pa sila ng mga libraries para sa mga estudyante sa iba't-ibang panig ng bansa. "And they're building libraries. I love them!"

Janine Gutierrez to make film debut on MMFF flick

'Dangwa' star Janine Gutierrez is all set to make her film debut!

She will be part of the cast of 'Buy Now, Die Later,' a horror film composed of five interconnected stories about people who drops by a strange curio shop.

Also in the film is Janine's mother, Lotlot de Leon.

'Buy Now, Die Later' is directed by Randolph Longjas and is an official entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Aside from Janine and Lotlot, the movie will star John Lapus, Alex Gonzaga, Rayver Cruz, Vhong Navarro, and TJ Trinidad.



PCCF Dinner

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation officers and beauties pose with guests.

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I believe in Toots Ople

A black and white photograph of Susana 'Toots' Ople, a woman with dark hair, looking down in a crowd. An inset photo in the top right corner shows Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, a man in a striped shirt, standing next to Ople and endorsing her. The background of the main photo is a crowded indoor space with other people visible. The inset photo is a smaller, framed image showing Duterte and Ople together.

Susana "Toots" Ople is running for senator. INSET, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of Davao endorses Ople.

Filipina teen joins Michelle Obama at New York panel to fight for girls' education

NEW YORK - A Filipina student joined the First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama in discussing the importance of girls' education at a panel in New York City on September 29.



Sixteen-year-old Nurfahada Jailani, a BS Social Work student at Western Mindanao State University, was a representative of the children's development organization Plan International to Glamour Magazine's "The Power of an Educated Girl" panel at Apollo Theater.

for all of us, to realise our rights," Jailani was quoted as saying. "Girls want to say to world leaders that they have the potential to do well."

Aside from Jailani and Obama, American actress and girls advocate Charlize Theron and former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard was also at the panel.

When asked about her meeting with Obama, Jailani said, "Before going on stage she kept saying to me, 'You can do it, you can do it!' She was so kind."

I think it's amazing that she is doing this for all the girls, for all the youth, around the world."

Meanwhile, Obama reminded young girls to focus on education instead of worrying about boys at the said event.

Jailani and eight other young girls also attended the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit at the UN headquarters in New York to share ideas from their communities on how to make global goals work.



Tom & Carla not ready to admit to a relationship

While Bangs is very open about her love life, the same cannot be said about the lead stars of "No Boyfriend Since Birth", Carla and Tom. They both say they're very special to each other, they don't see anyone else, but they don't want to put a definite label yet on their relationship. "What you see is what you get," Tom says. "She's very special and I wouldn't waste my time on her if she's not."

As for Carla, she says it's not yet the right time for them to admit anything. "Wala pa ang tamang panahon para sa amin," she declares. "We don't want to rush things. Lahat naman ng bagay, may tamang panahon. We both believe in perfect timing na galing kay Lord, so dapat talaga, in God's time. Basta kapag dumating ang tamang panahong 'yun, I will be ready."

Some folks say they're really on, they just don't want to admit it yet. Carla was last linked to Geoff Eigenmann while Tom's last GF was K-La Rivera, his leading lady in the theatre musical, "Aladdin". Other writers say it's obvious that Carla is about ready to admit it, but Tom is not. Honestly, the way we size it up, they're not really on yet. They're just leading us on for the sake of movie promo, since it's so easy to admit if they're actually in a relationship by now.

Between the two, we can feel it's Tom who's not yet ready to be serious. Maybe he feels his career is not that established yet. But here's hoping that their movie, "No Boyfriend Since Birth", will be an even bigger hit than their first team up in "So It's You". In the story, Carla plays a girl who has never had a boyfriend in her entire life as she is waiting for the little boy she met and fell in love when she was still a child, not knowing it's actually Tom who she meets later again when they're both grown ups and didn't recognize right away.

On TV, Tom is now busy playing Sergio opposite Megan Young in the hit remake of "Marimar" while Carla will soon start taping for a new drama opposite Gabby Concepcion, tentatively titled "Madrasta", where they will be supported by Celia Rodriguez and Iya Villania.

Kathniel is most popular love team

HONG KONG—In just one night last month, affluent businessmen here raised P90 million to help the "ultrapoor" in the Philippines who live on P13 or less a day.

Behind the effort was the International Care Ministries (ICM), a nonprofit organization that held its annual auction and charity banquet on Oct. 8 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to raise funds for 1.7 million extremely poor people scattered in 17 provinces of the Philippines.

"We concluded that the underlying cause of poverty is rooted on fatalism. And the antidote to fatalism is hope," said David Sutherland, ICM board chair and the former chief financial

officer of Morgan Stanley Asia-Pacific.

"If you want to address ultrapoverly, hope is the key. People living in extreme poverty, they experience extreme stress," Sutherland said.

ICM is present in the provinces of Palawan, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, Guimaras, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Cebu, Bohol, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Sarangani, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao.

Filipina in terror plot ?

RIYADH — A Filipina, held along with a Syrian national for involvement in terrorist activities, was wearing a suicide vest at the time of her arrest.

"She would wear an explosive vest when the Syrian man was out of the house to threaten any intruders," the Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The man, identified as Yasser Mohammed Shafiq Al-Barazi, had bobby-trapped his home in Al-Fayhaa district. It took security forces 12 hours to defuse the explosive devices and secured the premises.

Al-Barazi, who entered the Kingdom in 2010, is believed to have forced the Filipina, identified as Lady Gioi Aban Bali Nang, to live with him after she ran away from her sponsor more than 15 months ago. Malacanang said it will be giving legal aid to the Filipina



"She helped him (Al-Barazi) in assembling the explosive devices and sewing suicide vests," said the spokesman. "The house was booby-trapped and explosive devices were planted inside and outside."

The raids were the second major security operation in the capital in the past month. Security forces captured two militants and seized weapons and a explosive vest in raids on Sept. 15.

The Security authorities said that they have arrested a total of 135 Syrian expatriates for being involved in terrorist activities during the past 12 years. This year alone, 62 terrorists and supporters of Daesh (the so-called IS) were arrested. Most of the terrorists were Saudis, Yemenis and Syrians.

Filipino in Crazy Ex-Girfriend

"You do crazy things when you're in love." At least that's what Filipino American actor Vincent Rodriguez III believes: that love is an all-consuming and powerful thing—especially when you absolutely love what you do, it can make you crazy.

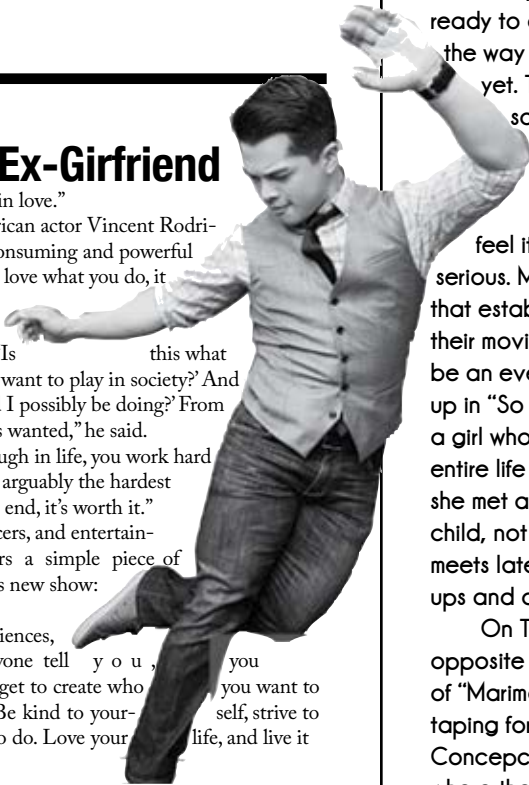
"I walked into my first day of acting school and the teacher asked us, 'Is this what will give you life? Is this the part you want to play in society?' And then I asked myself, 'What else could I possibly be doing?' From then on, I knew exactly what I always wanted," he said.

"If you want something badly enough in life, you work hard to go get it. It's not an easy path—it is arguably the hardest journey you will ever have. But in the end, it's worth it."

To aspiring actors, musicians, dancers, and entertainers of every color, Rodriguez offers a simple piece of advice that is reflected throughout his new show: be who you are.

"Be open to yourself, to new experiences, to your interests, and never let anyone tell you you can't do something. As an actor, you get to create who you want to be, and become who you really are. Be kind to yourself, strive to be the best in whatever you choose to do. Love your life, and live it joyfully, fully, and authentically."

It just might make you a little crazy.



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SENATOR ENVERGA CONGRATULATES FRATERNITY ON THEIR ANNIVERSARY



Toronto, October 3, 2015 - The Honourable Tobias C. Enverga, Jr., Senator from Ontario, joined the Triskelion Alumni Organization of Canada at the Montecassino Hotel in Toronto to celebrate the 47th anniversary of the founding of their fraternity, Tau Gamma Phi.

“Filipinos in Canada are among the most employable and productive members of Canadian society. We are growing in number, and we are making positive contributions to our new home, and for that, Canada will always be grateful,” said Senator Enverga in his address at the event. “Triskelions all over the world are known for their community involvement and passion for service. Please do continue in your

civic endeavours. As we make our marks, let us do so in a compassionate and selfless manner,” he continued.

The fraternity is one of the largest in the Philippines and has over 800,000 members in numerous chapters all over the world. Tau Gamma Phi’s civic projects are highly appreciated in the communities in which they are present, including Toronto, where Triskelions make positive contributions to Canadian society.

After his remarks, Senator Enverga presented the organization with a certificate of recognition to honour their charitable contributions and good work, and he wished them all the best in their future endeavours.

Richard and Dawn, JC and Jessy, team up for teleserye comeback...

ABS-CBN shows importance of family in “You’re My Home”

When all the love and trust are gone, can a family still pick up the pieces and rebuild a shattered home?

From the makers of top-caliber family dramas, ABS-CBN tells the heartfelt story of a daughter who would do whatever it takes to



fix her family in the newest powerhouse primetime drama “You’re Me Home” premiering this November 9.

Get to know the Fontanilla family in the eyes of eldest daughter Grace Fontanilla (Jessy Mendiola). After

many years of living in simplicity, the lives of the Fontanillas suddenly changed when Gabriel (Richard Gomez) handled the frustrated homicide case against Christian Vergara (JC De Vera), son of a powerful senator (Tonton Gutierrez). With their new and luxurious lifestyle, then 12-year old Grace realized that her dad and mom Marian (Dawn Zulueta) had no time for them anymore, thus turned rebellious.

One night, she left the house to be with her friends, and her brother Rahm together with the house help ran after her, leaving Vince alone inside the house. Shortly after, the Fontanillas learned about the shocking news that will change their lives and test their family—Vince is missing.

Twelve years later, the Fontanillas face the consequences of Vince’s disappearance. Marian and Gabriel are no longer together. Marian focused her time and strength on putting up her own clothing line while Gabriel found comfort in the arms of Roni (Lara Quigaman), the police officer who handled the kidnapping case. Rahm (Sam Concepcion), at an early age, already has a son and a wife while Grace continues to move on with life, still blaming herself for what happened.

Fate then comes into play as Grace crosses paths with Vince (Paul Salas). As Vince returns to their lives, will the Fontanillas become one whole family again? Can Marian and Gabriel give love another chance? Can Rahm accept his brother despite the jealousy he is feeling? What if Grace falls in love Christian, the very man who got convicted for the kidnapping of her brother? Is her love for her family stronger than her love for Christian? What is the truth behind Vince’s disappearance?

Also included in the cast are Assunta De Rossi, Jobelle Salvador, Mika Dela Cruz, Minnie Aguilar, Peewee O’Hara, Belle Mariano, Bugoy Carino, and Raikko Mateo. “You’re My Home” is directed by Jerry Lopez Sineneng and is produced by Star Creatives led by business unit head Malou Santos. Its creative team is led by creative manager and “MMK” headwriter Arah Jell Badayos.

Don’t miss the premiere of “You’re My Home” this November 9 on ABS-CBN’s Primetime Bida. For exclusive updates, log on to Twitter. com/StarCreativesTV and Instagram.com/StarCreatives_TV.



Miss Philippines Ann Lorraine Maniego Colis was crowned 2015 Miss Globe (3RD FROM LEFT) at the Rose Theatre Brampton in Toronto, Canada on Oct. 8 (Oct. 9, Manila) making history as the first-ever Filipina Miss Globe winner. Ann Lorraine succeeds Canada’s Jacqueline Wojciechowski. Fifty-four beauties from around the world competed in the 42nd edition of the pageant.

Philippines needs 200 new cities Philippines is not part of Trans Pacific Partnership

MANILA - Architect Felino Palafox has broadened his field of interest, from urban planning to nation-building, in search of fresh insights into the situation of the Philippines, which will celebrate its 500th year as a country by 2021.

Today, he is now more interested in discussing corruption, criminality, climate change, poverty, pollution, traffic congestion and incompetence, instead of just designing buildings.

Palafox, one of the panelists during the recent launch of the fourth Philippine Trust Index by public relations firm EON The Stakeholders Relations Group at Makati Shangri La Hotel, expressed his frustration over government’s inefficiency, such as the fact that the Philippines missed the boat in regional efforts to build a new economic bloc.

The Philippines, this year’s host of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings, was left out of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership, which recently signed an agreement to redefine global trade.

Palafox described this as an embarrassing situation for the country,



a known ally of the United States which is leading the TPP, a new powerful group within Apec.

“The government is suffering not just from corruption, but also from analysis paralysis. Like in the case of TPP or Trans-Pacific Partnership, how come Vietnam, Brunei, Singapore went into the 12 while the Philippines, which is an ally of the US, is still analyzing whether to join or not,” Palafox says.

The Philippines is still in talks to join TPP, according to the Trade Department. TPP’s member countries cover about 40 percent of the world economy and include Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam in the Asia-Pacific region as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Chile.

The pact includes provisions to bring down barriers to trade in services and remove foreign investment restrictions, in addition to lowering tariffs on goods, according to Fitch Ratings.

Palafox says the Philippines missing the boat to TPP illustrates the lack of foresight among leaders, a reason why Filipinos have little trust in the government. He says nobody in the government thinks about traffic congestion, which translates into P2.2 billion worth of man-hour losses a day.

Palafox, who went to Harvard University for graduate courses, says a study done by the US Ivy League school as early as 2000, showed that Metro Manila was the fastest growing metropolis in the world.

“A projection showed there would be 54 million more Filipinos by 2050. Computing it at 250,000 per city, we need more than 200 new cities. Who among the government is thinking about that? Most of the government programs and policies are short-term and opportunistic,” he says.

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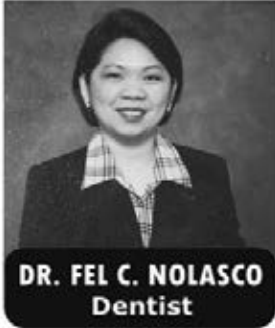
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Recycled drugs’ flooding streets?

Sotto reveals flaws in PDEA ops

MANILA - A lawmaker on revealed faults in the operations of law enforcement agencies which may have led to the reported oversupply of illegal drugs in the market and the alleged reuse of confiscated drugs.

Senator Vicente “Tito” Sotto III said the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) has failed to follow the provisions of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 on drug disposal.

Under the law, the agency is required to destroy the illegal drugs seized from their operations within 72 hours, after filing the case before a court.

“Ang nangyayari kasi kapag hindi pa nafa-file yung kaso, hindi pa nila sinusunod yung utos natin na kukuha lang ng certain quantity at quality tapos sisirain na dapat at magtitira na lang para sa korte. Ngayon, dahil hindi pa nafa-file ang kaso, ang sistemang nangyayari is hawak pa,” he told radio dzMM.

The senator added that PDEA also typically waits for seized drug samples to pile up at their office before seeking the services of private incinerators for disposal.



“Ang sistema ng PDEA iniipon muna nila daw, dahil namamahalan doon sa mga waste management company na pinagsusunugan. Mahal pala bayad doon e, sa incinerator,” Sotto said.

The PDEA has been allocated funds to purchase its own incinerator in 2015 but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has yet to issue a Certificate of Environmental

Compliance Commitment (ECC) for the equipment.

Anti-drug units also face accusations of pilfering confiscated drugs which are released back to the market for profit. Sotto has promised to hold a hearing on the allegations.

Sotto has also started drafting a bill that aims to overhaul the country’s anti-illegal drug system and elevate PDEA as the Presidential drug enforcement authority.

“Mayroon akong nakikitang sistema na dapat na nating gawin eh; gawin nang Presidential drug enforcement authority itong PDEA. Talagang [dapat] may sarili siyang prosecution, may sarili siyang enforcement arm,” Sotto said.

The senator believes that the PDEA should perform a supervisory function, and have its own offices for preventive drug education and rehabilitation.

“Sa ngayon, sabog e. Ang rehabilitation, kailangan accredited ng DOH (Department of Health), ang prosecution, nasa DOJ (Department of Justice). Wala pang 10% ang conviction rate,” Sotto pointed out.



Tessie takes lead role in new movie

Tessie Tomas never thought she’d get to play a lead role in her own movie but the feel-good film, “Old Skool”, gives her that opportunity. This is produced by Till I’m 90 Films and the directorial debut of Cia Hermosa-Jorge. “I play Lola Fely, who lost her husband and feels lost,” she says. “I spent five decades of my life trying to make others happy as a wife and as a mother.

But now, I’m faced with the question of my own happiness. I seek the answers by trying to fulfill a lifelong dream - to finish grade school and get my elementary diploma at the age of 69. With newfound determination, I go back to school to finish Grade 6, only to discover the ruthless world of pre-teen campus life. It’s hard, pero masaya. Maraming matutuwa sa experiences ko as a senior citizen na bumalik sa pag-aaral.”

The movie sees Lola Fely navigating lunchroom politics, bullying, making friends and dealing with the pressures of school. Through sincere but heartfelt storytelling, “Old Skool” will make you laugh but also tug at your heartstrings with great subtlety. It is a movie with a bold message: In your journey to your own happiness, it is never too late to pursue your dreams and aspirations.

This theme resonates strongly with Cia, whose own journey to filmmaking paralleled Lola Fely’s quest. The mother of three first forayed into filmmaking only in 2010, under the direction of the late veteran director Marilou Diaz- Abaya. “Before studying film, I held a really good corporate job for over six years. At that time, my eldest son was starting to develop into his own person and that’s when I knew I had to set a good example for him and follow my passion. I wanted him to see his mother put in 100 % to pursue her dream because that’s how he’ll learn how to soar,” says Cia. “On the first day of film school, I was so nervous because I was 30 and everything was uncertain. But I was so hungry to learn. Direk Marilou taught me that being a filmmaker is a vocation, a calling. You touch people’s hearts, you inspire action, and you make people realize things through film. It is a huge responsibility. Only five years later, and of course through blood, sweat and tears, we have ‘Old Skool’. There really is no end date for following your dream and reinventing yourself.”

‘Old Skool’ also stars Angel Aquino and Buboy Villar (of Kid Kulafu) and will be shown on November 4 exclusively at SM Cinemas nationwide. Tessie and Cia are hoping you’ll support

Only 5 passed for nuisance bets?

MANILA - Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairman Jose Andres Bautista declined to comment on reports that only five presidential candidates have hurdled the initial screening of the law department for nuisance candidates.

Asked by reporters, Bautista said: “Dapat pagbigyan ng pagkakataon sinuman na mapadalhan ng sulat na magbigay ng pruwaba na sila ay di dapat maituring na nuisance candidate. [It’s] part of due process.”

For the purpose, Bautista said they are looking at jurisprudence set by the Supreme Court as well as Comelec Resolution 9523 issued in 2012.

He said the candidates will be subjected to hearings for a preliminary conference.

“Ipatatawag sila, magkakaroon ng preliminary conference where the clerk of court will be the ones interviewing the candidates,” he said.

Bautista said the clerk will submit a recommendation to the divisions where the candidates’ cases were raffled.

A total of 130 candidates for president, 19 for vice president and 172 for senator filed during last week’s filing of certificates of candidacy at the Comelec office in Manila.

Bautista declined to answer anymore questions about the nuisance candidates.

Binay still Tops

MANILA (2nd UPDATE) - Vice President Jejomar Binay remains the top presidential contender in the 2016 elections, but Senator Grace Poe’s popularity level is catching up with the vice-president’s, the latest survey from the Social Weather Stations (SWS) said.

A March 20-23 survey, results of which were first published by BusinessWorld, shows that Binay’s numbers barely changed from the previous presidential preference poll last November 2014.

SWS said Binay got 36%, just a percentage-point drop from the previous SWS survey last November.

SWS noted that while Binay’s numbers barely changed, Poe – who has not yet declared her intention to run in 2016 – saw her numbers jump by 10-percentage points to 31%.

Given the survey’s margin of error of plus/minus 3%, Binay and Poe were actually statistically tied in the March survey.

The independent pollster said the respondents were not given a list to choose from and were instead asked to give names of up to three persons whom they thought should succeed President Benigno Aquino III.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who had said in February that he had no intention of seeking the presidency, also saw a 10-point jump in his figures to 15%.

Duterte is tied for third place with Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II, who lost four points to 15% from 19%.

PCCF 5th Anniversary Dinner

Officers and members of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) pose for a photo at Spirale during their 5th anniversary dinner.

PHOTO BY ARIEL RAMOS



New FV Product



FV Foods has introduced a new variation to the simple pandesal, a pork or chicken-filled pandesal and now available at all their branches. Go to your nearest FV store.



Love blooms in Dangwa

Love, they say, blooms in the most unexpected places.

The hashtag #DangwaGirl went viral recently as university belt students posted about a mysterious girl giving roses away on the streets of Manila. The lovely flower girl was revealed on GMA's 24 Oras newscast as Janine Gutierrez - who found a unique way to promote her upcoming series. Janine spent a day giving out red roses to strangers she met along the way, similar to her role in the Network's upcoming series entitled Dangwa. The recipients - particularly the young men - were thrilled and quickly posted their encounters on social media. In the Dangwa series, the lives of various



characters are changed by a chance meeting

DANGWA continued on page 25



SELFIE WITH THE STARS

TOP, Mel Galeon of FV Foods selfies with Rayver Cruz.

ABOVE, Kapamilya star Liza Soberano looks on as Joy Sarmiento gets up close and personal with co-kapamilya Gerald Anderson as Clarisse Gonzales and Mel Galeon looks on while Enchong Dee looks nanchalant.

LEFT ABOVE, Michelle Beloso selfies with gerlad Anderson.

LEFT Divina Gracia selfies with Gerald Anderson and Liza Soberano.





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Candy Crush concert successful

TORONTO - Candy Crush held their concert last October 17, 2015 at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall. Other performers who entertained the capacity crowd were

Britney Waito, Melissa Manaig and The Royals. Kayleigh Cerezo also performed a song. All these talented performers were honed

by Josie de Leon School of Performing Arts under the tutelage of, who else but, **CANDY CRUSH** continued on page 25



LEFT, Candy Crush entertains the crowd at their first concert. MIDDLE, Britney Waito shows her versatility. RIGHT, Melissa Manaig shows her vocal range.

Busy James Reid finds time for music

“On the Wings of Love” lead actor James Reid is one hardworking young star. From his daily soap to variety show appearances and product endorsements, James’ plate is always full. Despite his busy schedule, however, James said he finds time for the things that give him joy. “Music, my family, doing whatever I want at the moment...bring me joy,” James told the Inquirer during an event for Cadbury at Eastwood, Quezon City. James, together with fellow endorsers, singer Yeng Constantino and band Up Dharma Down, staged a concert at the mall on Oct. 4 to promote the chocolate brand. The ABS-CBN star credited his “Pinoy Big Brother” stint for jump-starting his musical career. “I started singing on PBB,” he recalled. He doesn’t only sing, he also writes songs. For his first album, the self-titled “James Reid,” he penned two tracks: “Game Changer” and “You Make My Body Move.”



figuring the “AIDub” network Bulaga.” prominently in segment of rival GMA 7’s “Eat Bulaga.” James said he wasn’t aware of it, but thinks it’s cool. “Siguro gus-to rin nila ‘yung songs (May-be they also like the songs).” How about Nadine, does she make him happy? “When I’m with her, we have a good time, so I guess I’m happy,” James admitted. Are they in love? “I’m not dating anyone,” he said. The popular love team has been the subject of controversies, mostly about their true relationship. The actor recently addressed the issue in an Instagram post, saying he didn’t expect people to understand him and people “want (him) to just live (their) fantasy.” “On the Wings of Love,” however, gets him talking. US trip “We were [in the United States] for nine days,” he recalled. “We shot eight days nonstop, from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. [the following day]. We barely slept for those nine days. We taped as many scenes as we could.” Due to some changes in the story, however, James said some of the footage wouldn’t be used anymore. “We didn’t get to use all of it because the story changed as it was being aired. It’s unfortunate; we didn’t get to use all the scenes. There are some scenes we took but people will never get to see [them].” In the series, James plays Clark Medina, a US resident who is the son of a Filipino woman, who has since died, and an American who doesn’t want anything to do with him. James is very much like Clark, he said. “Clark is very family-oriented, there is nothing he won’t do for his family. I’m like that, too. I work so hard; that’s all for my family, to bring them here, to give them a better life.” One of his realizations working on the series is about making decisions in life. “Biggest [realization] would probably be [about] choosing love or work, career or falling in love,” he said. “Clark, obviously, chooses love. Me, it’s work.” James added, “I love what I do, that’s why it’s not so hard.”

Musical duo Apart from that, he and fellow Viva talent Bret Jackson has formed a musical duo called WAW. “It means We Are Whatever, because we don’t have a specific genre,” James explained, adding he enjoys singing R&B and hip hop “because it’s fun to sing, and I sing every day.” According to James, he likes performing songs by Chris Brown, Michael Jackson, Sam Concepcion and Gary Valenciano. He, however, has not received any formal training in singing. “Never. I’ve taken maybe five voice lessons, but I don’t like it because it makes me sound like (the coaches), when I want to sing the way I do.” James added: “I feel like if someone teaches me, I’ll end up singing like them. I [would] like to keep my own unique voice.” AIDub songs His duets with onscreen partner Nadine Lustre, which have been getting major airplay and raves from fans, recently crossed over to television, even

Choosing love Told his statement could also mean he was choosing love, his face lit up. “I did! I chose love. Yes, I chose love—for career.” He loves his work so much that he doesn’t mind the things it makes him do, such as taking his shirt off in some scenes for “On the Wings of Love.” “I’ve always been comfortable with my body,” he said. He and Nadine are set to costar with Vice Ganda and Coco Martin in “Beauty and the Bestie,” a Metro Manila Film Festival entry, which he said would feature more “cute” and “kilig scenes” from their tandem. “There’s a lot I would love to do; it’s just right now I’m focused 100 percent on the show,” James said. “But I’m planning to do an album...a concert, I’m planning to make music, maybe after I’m finished with the show. There are also two or three movies coming up.”

Vice on ‘Eat Bulaga’: ‘Hindi namin matatalo ‘yan’

MANILA, Philippines – It’s Showtime host Vice Ganda took the opportunity to speak up on the show Saturday, October 24 regarding the competition between them and Eat Bulaga, which airs the famous love story of the AIDub tandem. It’s Showtime celebrated their 6th anniversary at the ABS-CBN studio, while Eat Bulaga held their show at the Philippine Arena for the Tamang Panahon event of Alden Richards and Maine “Yaya Dub” Mendoza. (AIDub’s ‘Tamang Panahon’: 10 unforgettable moments) Vice admitted that he was not feeling well but that he was enthusiastic and happy because of the energy around them. “Ang saya-saya ko kasi ang tweet ko nga kaninang umaga, ‘This is a day to be very grateful.’ Sobrang grateful ko ngayong araw na ito kasi anim na taon, hindi biro ‘yon, ha. (I’m very happy because as I said in my tweet this morning ‘This is a day to be very grateful.’ Really grateful for this day because 6 years is not a joke.) “Sa bilis na pagpapalit ng panahon, sa bilis ng mga gusto ng mga tao, sa bilis ng tiwala ng mga tao, ibang klase yung 6 years. At ang laki-laki ng nagbago sa paligid ko, ang laki ng nagbago sa mundong ginagalawan ko, ang laki-laki na ng bago sa buhay ko. (As time goes by quickly, with how quickly people want things, the trust of people, 6 years is quite something. And there were so many big changes around me, there was a big change in the world I move in, there were big changes that happened in my life.) “At ano man ang mangyari, wala akong nararamdamang sama ng loob, o galit, lungkot, ngitngit. Puro turwa lang at pagpapasalamat kasi ang laking blessing talaga nitong Showtime,” Vice said. (And no matter what happens, I have no ill feelings of anger or sadness. It’s all smiles and thank you for big blessing that Showtime gave.) Vice recalled how he and the show’s hosts were against the idea of being up against Eat Bulaga. The show started as a morning talent show. However, their bosses assured them that they were not competing with them but giving alternative entertainment. “Di ba? Kabit pagsama-samahin namin ang powers namin dito at magtitiwarik ho ako dito, di ho namin kayang talunin ang Eat Bulaga. (Right? Even if you join all our powers together and even if I do somersaults here, we cannot beat Eat Bulaga.) “Ang sabi ng boss namin, ‘Sino ba ang nagsabi sa inyo na tatalunin niyo ang Eat Bulaga?’ ‘Di naman namin kayo lalagay sa noontime para talunin ang Eat VICE GANDA continued on page 16



SELFIE-ing WITH THE STARS FIRST, Jheo Navarro, Inah Canlapan, Maria Panaligan, Edessa Andrada, Kapamilya star Liza Soberano and Mikaela Canlapan pose backstage at the teleserye Bida concert. SECOND, Inah Canlapan selfies with Xian Lim. THIRD, Maria Panaligan selfies with Rayver Cruz. FOURTH, Edessa Andrada selfies with Gerald Anderson.

Manny Yanga at PCCF 5th Anniversary Dinner



Manny Yanga of Scarborough Toyota poses (FAR LEFT ON BOTH PHOTOS) with officers of PCCF and politicians during the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF) 5th-year Anniversary gala last October 2 at Spirale.



ABOVE, Mel Galeon of FV Foods poses with the press at PCCF dinner. RIGHT, PCCF beauties Fieness Mendoza, Maisie Floriano, Nathalie Ramos Ansha Hipolito The PCCF beauties add a touch of glamour to the evening. LEFT, Jasmin Flores performs a ballet dance.



GMA lands prime time coup with Superstar-Manoy starrer

Nora Aunor and Eddie Garcia reunites in a project again after working together in the film 'May Bukas Pa' in 1996

“May Himala, Manoy!”
This is now the favorite catchphrase around GMA Network after officially announcing a November airdate for Little Mommy, a new primetime series starring Philippine showbiz’ one and only Superstar Nora Aunor and renowned actor-director Eddie Garcia.
“Himala” refers to Ate Guy’s (Aunor’s nickname) internationally acclaimed 1982 Ishmael Bernal movie, while “Manoy” (big brother in Bicolano) is the industry’s term of endearment for the 86-year-old Garcia, who proudly hails from Sorsogon.

HIMALA
continued on page 16

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JOE DAMASCO AT KNIGHTS OF RIZAL DINNER

FIRST, Joe Damasco (SECOND FROM RIGHT) poses with fellow knights. SECOND, KoR Joe Damasco poses with Tony San Juan and his wife. THIRD, Normita and Pors Canlas enjoy the night with fellow Knights.

Wynwyn not ready for Mark Herras



Mark Herras admits that at this point in his life, he is more patient when it comes to relationships.

“Definitely, I’m no longer a kid who wants to jump into a commitment right away. If your time for love will come, then it will regardless how long it takes or who your partner will be. I guess I’ve already matured when it comes to matters of the heart. Now I know the value of waiting, of being patient. I also want a relationship which is of the lasting kind,” he avers.

Many say that this admittance has

something to do with the news that he already gave up on courting Wynwyn Marquez. It can be recalled that they became very close during those times when they were mainstays of the defunct GMA Sunday musical variety show Party Pilipinas and Sunday All Stars.

But Wynwyn stated then that she didn’t want to entertain the idea of courtship since she values her friendship with Mark and she doesn’t want to ruin it. In spite of this, Mark remained persistent but then again, Wynwyn said she’ll get very busy supporting the political ambitions of mom Alma Moreno and brothers Jeremy Marquez and Vandolph Quizon in the coming elections.

“Maybe, it is not yet the right time for us to be together. Let’s just wait and see in the coming days.”

The so-called Bad Boy of the Dance Floor reveals that he gained maturity over the years with all his previous relationships including that with Ynna Asistio.

“That’s the most painful! I really loved her and her family. That’s the reason why I couldn’t tell her face-to-face about my daughter Ada...that I’d become a dad already. It was really painful.”

Instead, Mark just wants to count his

blessings. He is doing three shows under home studio GMA-7.

“That’s right! I’m with Dangwa as the leading man of Janine Gutierrez. I’m also proud to be part of Little Nanay, which is top-billed by no less than Superstar Ms. Nora Aunor. Then, I have a guest role in Miguel Tanfelix and Bianca Umali’s Wish I May. I’m simply thankful for these blessings.”

Speaking of Ate Guy, many are curious to know how Mark feels working with the cinema legend.

“I’m star-struck! I feel that on the set, she has given us a lot of inspiration. It’s my first time to see her personally and work with her. It’s really a huge honor!”

The appealing Kapuso star is doubly hardworking these days due to his daughter Ada.

“She is my lucky charm. Because of her, my life has direction now. Before, I was so extravagant but nowadays, I always think of her welfare. I became more responsible.”

This is one of his conditions when he finds a new girlfriend.

“She should accept me and Ada as a package deal. If not, let’s just forget the whole thing.”



VICE GANDA continued from page 14

Bulaga. Sasamahan niyo lang sila sa pagpapasaya ng tao.” (Our boss told us ‘Who told you that you’re going to beat Eat Bulaga? We are not putting you in the noontime show to beat Eat Bulaga. You will join them to make people happy.’)

Vice then said that from the beginning, they were never there to compete with the noontime show, knowing that they cannot compete with what Eat Bulaga has brought in the last 36 years.

“Sa simula pa lang po, talo po kami. Itinataas po namin ang bandera nila dahil sila ay aming mga idolo at mga modelo,” Vice said. (In the beginning, we know we lose. We’ve raised the flag to them because they are our idols and role models.)

“Hindi namin matatalo ‘yan,” he added. (We cannot beat that.)

Vice said that in the end, people should not fight over who is number one in the noontime slot. He said that for as long as people want them on TV, they will be there even if people continue to criticize them.

“Huwag po kayo mag-away-away sa social media. Ang dami ko nang kilalang nabawasan ang mga friends sa Facebook dahil nakikipag-away kayo,” Vice said. *“Hindi niyo ho kailangan makipag-away sa tao kung sino ang number one na noontime show.”* (You don’t have to fight with anyone as to who is number one noontime show.)

“Kami pong mga host ng Showtime at mga host ng Eat Bulaga! ay di magkakaaway sa totoong buhay. Kaya dapat kayo rin, di kayo magkakaaway,” (The hosts of Showtime and hosts of Eat Bulaga are not enemies in real life. That’s why all of you should not fight at all.) Vice said.

Winterra D'Aoust Christening

PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



Father Joe Pena blesses Winterra as dad Warren, Godparents Dr. Solon Guzman, Josephine Amanzor and mom Joy Sarmiento listens.



Grandma Inang carries Winterra.



Godfather Dr. Solon Guzman carries Winterra.



LEFT, Dr. Solon Guzman, dad Warren, mom Joy, Winterra and Josephine Al-manzor RIGHT, Kandeys David and Joy Sarmiento FAR RIGHT, Fe and Jojo Taduran with Joy



FIRST, Warren, Joey, and Winterra with Liberal MP Marco Solon Guzman and Joy THIRD The Invitation FOURTH The family poses with the



Bella family.



Mendocin SECOND, Verth Bugtong, Warren, Bong Castillo with Winterra, Dr.

HIMALA continued from page 15

Translated in Filipino, the phrase literally reads, “That’s a miracle, big brother,” which, without a doubt, best describes a nightly TV series casting these two legends.

This week, Ate Guy and Manoy held a very casual and laughter-filled round table with entertainment editors at the GMA headquarters in Quezon City, mostly filled with reminiscing over their storied careers.

Talking numbers, the network’s Vice President for Corporate Communications Angela Javier-Cruz was first to share that her staff’s research counted over 80 best actor (and in Manoy’s case, best director) awards to their names combined.

“The one and only Superstar, Ms. Nora Aunor further has 175 movies to her name; while equally daunting is

HIMALA continued on page 17

JayR is excited about writing songs for Melai Cantiveros



After a two-year hiatus from the concert scene, Jay-R shared why he is now finally ready to take the stage again. The country's Prince of R&B is gearing up for his two-day weekend concert series Press Play on November 6 and 7 at the Music Museum. "I was kind of struggling with original music. At that time I had put up two revival albums and sa akin it's not enough for me to do a concert of revival albums. Kaya ang tagal ko bago mag-concert ulit. So now that I've released my new album earlier this year. Elevated is my all-original album and it turned gold this month. So finally I said I'm ready to do a concert na and just to showcase the music I've been promoting all year

and OPM," he told Push.com.ph during the Press Play concert presscon held last October 22 at Annabel's in Quezon city. The 34-year-old artist said that even after more than a decade in the local music industry, he still feels nervous getting up on stage. "I have jitters! Kahit na Music Museum which only has 750 capacity I'm still scared na baka hindi ko mapuno (laughs)," he admitted. After his exposure on Your Face Sounds Familiar, many started to wonder if JayR would finally become a Kapamilya talent. "I don't know yet. Hopefully. I've just been very happily guesting on a lot of ABS-CBN shows lately. And I want to thank them for giving me that opportunity," he said. Apart from preparing for Press Play, JayR said he is also busy sharing his music with the industry. "I'm always producing for other artists. I just finished some songs for Nyoy Volante, Melai Cantiveros, Rayver Cruz, and Denise Laurel this month. When it comes to music, when I'm making a song for somebody I definitely have to know their personality. If I don't know them as a friend kung hindi sila talaga kilala, gusto ko yung I'll talk to them and I'll get to know what they like. I really want to cater the song to them. Ayokong gumawa ng song na parang pipilitin ko silang kantahin kasi hindi nila gusto yung subject or yung style so I really want to get the feel of what they listen to, sinong artist that they want to sound like. I interview them," he explained.

HIMALA continued from page 16

Famas Hall of Famer Mr. Eddie Garcia, with over 300 films under his belt," the top executive enthused. Both humble as ever, Ate Guy and Manoy simply smiled warmly to acknowledge the adulation of friends and colleagues, instead showing eagerness in talking about the reality of working together again after so many years. "Aba, it's a pleasant reunion dahil ang huli naming ginawa ay ang May Bukas Pa Ang Kahapon noong 1996," said the super cool and ever suave Manoy. Ate Guy on the other hand confessed that despite her Superstar stature, she still gets nervous working with the legendary Eddie Garcia. "Naku lagi kong pinapangarap makasama si Manoy Eddie," said the 62-year-old actress, who also happens to hail from the Bicol region, in Camarines Sur's Iriga City. "Pero sa totoo lang ninenerbyos pa din ako makatrabho siya. Sabi ko nga sa kanya kanina, 'Ngayon lang ako magtatapat—hindi ako nakakalapit sa inyo dahil nauunahan ako ng hiya sa sobrang respeto at paghanga sa inyo'." "Sabi lang niya yon!" Manoy quipped as if on cue. Both aware of the demands of taping a nightly TV series, Manoy acknowledged that in his past projects, he would sometimes pack up at 2 a.m. "Supposedly I should be done by 11 p.m., but if they need to air the scene the following evening, what can you do?" the consummate actor shook his shoulders. But, he thrives in being an actor, and like he always has, declared that work keeps him strong at his amazing age. Manoy continues to be part of GMA

Network's top-rating afternoon drama, Half Sisters. On Ate Guy's part, she admitted that all-nighter tapings, which is usually the case with teleseryes, take their toll on her health. "Nagkakasakit ako sa pagod," she confirmed, without mentioning her former home network TV5. "Pero paano mo matatanggihan itong ganito? Eddie Garcia na tapos yung pag-aalaga na binibigay ng GMA sa mga artista nila?" Describing Little Mommy to be "a light" drama, Ate Guy is excited to portray her Lola Annie Batongbuhay, a cool retro lola who still plays in gigs with her band. Manoy Eddie on the other hand is Don Miguel Valle, who despite his age is still very eager to learn new things in life. Bringing their characters together are mother and daughter Tinay and Letlet. Tinay, portrayed by Kris Bernal, is a 25-year-old with a mind of a nine year old; her daughter Letlet, child actress Chlauri Malayao, is a six-year-old who plays the role "Little Mommy" to her own mother, as she tries to compensate for Tinay's shortcomings. Tinay is Lola Annie's granddaughter, while Don Miguel Valle turns out to be her long-lost maternal grandfather. According to the synopsis, "Little Mommy is a story about the poignant life journey of Lola Annie, Lolo Miguel, Tinay and Letlet—and how the elders learn to become children again." Little Mommy also stars Bembol Roco, Keempee De Leon, Gladys Reyes, Mark Herras, Hiro Peralta, Renz Fernandez, Juancho Trivino and Sunshine Dizon, under the direction of Ricky Davao.

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Congress urged to pass VAT exemption bill for PWDs

The House Independent Bloc called on both houses of Congress to finally approve a measure seeking to exempt persons with disabilities (PWDs) from paying the 12-percent value added tax (VAT) on certain goods and services. Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez, who heads the bloc, appealed to the House of Representatives and Senate leaderships to convene the bicameral conference panel to pass the bill. "The Aquino administration and Congress leaders can further show its care and compassion to PWDs by finally approving the bill upholding the rights and promoting the welfare of PWDs in the country," he said. The House and Senate have already passed their own version of the measure. "I appeal to the national government to consider my proposal so that we can extend additional genuine assistance to PWDs. This is very important to help their plight," said Romualdez, the principal author of House Bill (HB) No. 1039 which "seeks to amend Section 32 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7277, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Persons with Disability.

KathNiel enjoins public to vote wisely

Teen stars Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo look forward to exercising their right to vote in 2016. The two have officially registered as voters at the Quezon City Hall recently. Daniel related his aim to vote for a presidential candidate that is sincere in his or her effort to uplift the country. "Hindi pa naman huli ang lahat para makahanap tayo ng magaling na president. Lahat naman iyan magsisimula kung hindi corrupt ang binoto mo. Kapag hindi corrupt, sunud-sunod na 'yan," Daniel said. He is still mulling on the candidate that would get his vote. Kathryn said she will go for someone who will prioritize the needs of the youth. "Siguro dahil nire-represent ko rin 'yung mga kabataan, we want someone na bibigyan ng chance and papahalagahan 'yung mga kabataan, someone na gusto talaga 'yung trabaho. Dapat dedicated... dapat gusto talaga mag-serve," she said. The actress advised voters to get to know the candidates really well before making a decision. "Dapat makita natin 'yung mga gusto nilang mangyari," she said. Kathryn urged Pinoys to go out and register before the Oct. 31 deadline. "Huwag nating sayangin ang boto natin, and i-take 'yung chance na 'to para maboto talaga kung sino ang karapat-dapat sa mga positions," she said.



Heart will not vote for Miriam

+ other stories



Heart Evangelista says she owes a debt of gratitude to Sen. Miriam Santiago for being the matchmaker who introduced her to her hubby, Sen. Chiz Escudero, but this doesn't mean that she will support the presidential candidacy of their ninang sa kasal. "Siyempre, my loyalty is with Chiz," she says. "At kay Sen. Grace Poe na siyang kasama niya sa ticket nila. Mananatili ako and my husband na good friends ni Sen. Miriam at tatanaw pa rin kami ng utang na loob sa kanya, although I was really very much surprised nang bigla siyang mag-deklara ng candidacy niya."

Heart now realizes it's not easy to have your own career and be a politician's wife at the same time. Recently, she figured in a freak accident when she fell down the stairs in her home. "Natapilok kasi ako habang bumababa at nasubsob. Tumama pati ang chin ko sa hagdan kaya namaga rin ito. Dahil dito, hindi ako nakapag-taping for a while for 'Beautiful Strangers' kasi kita talaga on screen na namamaga ang baba ko. Sila ang nag-decide na huwag muna ako mag-work and they even sent me a bouquet of flowers wishing me to get well soon. Hindi ko pinost sa social media ang picture ko na namamaga ang baba ko, but I posted the picture of the flowers they sent me."

Despite the pain, though, she had to go to the Senate to host a birthday party for her husband for Senate employees. "Out of town kasi si Chiz that day, so ako na ang nagpunta sa senado. Kapag hindi siya maka-rarating sa ibang invitations niya, ako na ang nagpupunta to represent him."

Does Sen. Chiz obligate her to do this?

"Ay, no, no. Hindi niya ako at all nire-require kasi naiintindihan din niya how busy I am sa trabaho ko bilang isang artista. But I do it out of my own accord. Gusto ko talaga kasi makatulong sa kanya, lalo na sa pangangampanya. And I'm glad nakakasama ko ang friend kong si Lovi Poe of 'Beautiful Strangers' dito. Just recently, magkasama kaming naging guests sa isang event sa Sorsogon. Bale iisang partido lang kasi kami kasi she's also supporting her sister Sen. Grace Poe."

They may be the best of friends off cam, but in "Beautiful Strangers," Heart and Lovi remain to be the worst of enemies.

Ai-Ai from supporting to lead Regal star

Ai-Ai De Las Alas signed a contract to do a special Mother's Day movie for Regal's Mother Lily. "Matagal ko nang gustong



kunin si Ai-Ai but exclusive siya noon sa ABS," says Mother Lily. "I'm very happy that now, finally, makakagawa na siya ng movie with us and we

promise to make

it a really big and good project for her." "Nakagawa na ako ng movies noon sa Regal pero hindi ako ang bida, like 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Shake Rattle & Roll 6'," says Ai-Ai.

"Confident akong magiging maganda ang special Mother's Day presentation na gagawin ko for Mother Lily."

Is it anything like her "Tanging Ina" series with ABS? "Siyempre, hindi. Nagawa na 'yun, so kailangang naiibang klase naman ng isang modern day mother ang gagampanan ko rito. Wala akong magiging leading man. Talagang iikot lang sa relationship ng ina sa kanyang mga anak.

One thing sure about this project is that her ward, Jiro Manio, will be a member of the cast. "Yun lang inilambing ko kay Mother Lily at sa daughter niyang si Roselle Monteverde.

Okay naman sa kanila para matulungan si Jiro sa pagsisimula ng bagong chapter ng buhay niya.

That's too big a responsibility? Doesn't it somehow scare her? "I know, but then, I won't be in this alone. Alam kong tutulungan naman ako ni God. Hindi niya ako pababayaan. 'Yun talaga ang laging dasal ko: Lord, tulungan Mo naman akong makaya kong maalagaan at magabayan nang tama si Jiro. Alam ko rin maraming magdadasal para sa amin. We're all in this together kasi gusto naman niya talagang magbagumbuhay at malagay na sa ayos ang buhay niya. Gusto niya talaga sa Japan pero sabi ko, anong gagawin mo roon, hindi ka naman marunong ng salita nila? Kaya bumalik ka na lang sa pag-aartista, magipon ka para sa future mo at sa future ng mga anak mo."

Wally on Maine & Alden: Love in real life is possible

Does Wally think Alden and YayaDub will eventually be going steady in real life? "Walang masama kasi binata naman si Alden, dalaga si Maine. Sa tingin ko sa kanila, after three months na araw-araw, nagpapakilig sila sa TV, siguro, malaki talaga ang chance na ma-develop sila sa isa't isa. Kita naman sa facial expressions at body movements nila pag nagpapa-fan sign sila na may kakaiba talaga silang nararamdaman para sa isa't isa, di ba?"

Does he think Maine will be a good comedian? "May pagka-natural comedian talaga ang bata. May punchlines siya na kanya talaga at hindi namin itinuturo sa kanya. May comic timing din siya. Sabi ng mommy niya, bata pa siya, mahilig na magpatawa. Nagme-make faces talaga. Pero

binibiro ko siya kasi nakita ko 'yung family nila. Mukhang Chinese ang mga kapatid niya, pero siya, malaki ang mata. Sabi ko, baka ampon lang siya. Ang maganda sa kanya, hindi pa siya aware kung gaano siya ka-popular. Dumarating siya sa set, walang kasamang alalay. Siya lang ang nagbubuhay sa lahat ng bags at gamit niya. Pag breaktime, siya ang mismong kumukuha sa pagkain niya sa catering kaya pinagkakaguluhan siya. 'Yung family niya, sabi, dati, sumasama siya sa paggo-grocery, pero ngayon, hindi na nila pinasasama kasi pinagkakaguluhan sa loob ng supermarket. Sana lang, 'wag talaga lumaki ang ulo niya kasi mas sisikat pa 'yan, lalo na may movie pa silang ginagawa ngayon ni Alden."

Mark busy again

At long last, after almost a year of not having a regular show, (his last one was 'Rho-

dora X' nearly a year ago), Mark Herras suddenly finds himself very busy doing so many shows. He's one of the leading men of Janine Gutierrez in the morning drama, "Dangwa", which will be shown weekdays

before the hit Ryzza Mae Dizon show, "Princess in the Palace". His rival will be Aljur Abrenica and we're glad that GMA7 has given Aljur a regular show again after he rebelled and became a prodigal son.

Mark's other show is "Little Nanay", where he is one of Kris Bernal's leading men which will be shown on primetime. Aside from this, he is also one of the hosts in "Starstruck Season 6" and will appear in another role in the new Miguel Tanfelix-Bianca Umali drama series, "Wish I May".

"I consider my daughter Ada my good luck charm," he says. "Ever since dumating siya sa buhay ko, naging maaliwalas ang lahat. Magaan ang mga bagay-bagay, kaya naman ang lahat ng ginagawa ko ngayon is for her to make sure I can give her a good future."

He was last linked to Winwyn Marquez but he says he has stopped wooing her. "She's very busy now so gusto muna niyang mag-concentrate sa kanyang career and in helping out her mom (Alma Moreno) na magiging busy rin campaigning sa election dahil tumatakbo ito as a senator," he adds.



KNIGHTS OF RIZAL DINNER

FAR LEFT, Knight Joe Damasco (FAR LEFT STANDING) poses with representatives from Cleveland. LEFT, Jan "Lucky" Lucas sings the Canadian national anthem.

High taxes may drive Filipino workers to ASEAN neighbor - ANGARA



MANILA, Philippines – Ahead of ASEAN integration to be formalized this year, Senator Sonny Angara has warned that the country’s high tax rates may drive Filipino skilled workers to move to neighboring countries where taxes are lower.

“Ibig sabihin ng ASEAN Integration, ay halos magsasama-sama ang ating mga ekonomiya dito at magiging mas mahalaga itong usapin ng pagbubuwis. At kung ikukumpara nga natin ang Pilipinas kung saan ang kinikita mo ay ang lampas ng kita ng P500,000 (\$10,729) kada taon, kapag lumampas ho doon ay 32% o halos 1/3 ang iyong ibabayad sa inyong kita,” Angara said.

(ASEAN Integration means all the economies will get together so it’s important we talk about tax. If you look at the Philippines, if you earn more than P500,00 annually, you will be taxed 32% or almost 1/3 of your salary.)

He pointed out that, in Indonesia, the highest tax rate is 30%, Malaysia has 26%, and Singapore has 20%. Angara, however, said that that its not always a direct

comparison.

In the Philippines, a person earning P250,00 to P500,000 (\$5,364-\$10,729) is taxed at 32% but in Singapore the equivalent bracket is only 2%, because that level of income is considered low in the developed nation, Angara explained.

Angara added that Thailand is the process of reforming its tax system in a bid to be more competitive. From 40% at the highest percentile, Thailand has slashed it to 30% and is looking at further reducing it to 25%.

“Sa Thailand po kasi nakikita ho nila na kailangan nilang maging competitive o alam ho nila na ‘pag dating ho ng araw, I think by next year ay iyong integrated na o magsama-sama na ho tayo,” he said.

(In Thailand, they see the need to be more competitive as integration happens next year.)

This, he said, may lead to countries like

HIGH TAXES
continued on page 21



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Ejay Falcon on relationship with Ellen Adarna: ‘Kelangan mo masaktan para matuto’

Kumusta sila ng co-star niya sa Pasion de Amor na si Ellen Adarna pagkatapos ng isyung iniwanan siya nito sa Star Magic Ball? Ano ba ang natutunan niya sa nangyari?

“Dahil sa mga pangyayari, naging matured ako sa bagay-bagay sa buhay, sa lahat-lahat. Malaki ang nabago sa akin, basta malaki,” paliwanag pa niya.

“May mga bagay kasi kami na bilang lalaki at yon ang pagkakamali ko, hindi klaro lahat. Hindi namin napag-usapan. Yon siguro yung natutunan ko,” dagdag pa ng actor.

Aminado naman si Ejay na hindi talaga naging malinaw ang set-up nila ni Ellen noon.

“Dapat talaga pinag-uusapan namin nang maayos. Hindi naming alam kung ano yung estado namin, eh. Pero ngayon malinaw na yon, sobrang malinaw na,” deklara pa niya.

“Yon siguro yung maturity na sinasabi ko na dumating sa buhay ko ngayon. Kasi dati, nasanay ako na parang laro-laro lang, hindi ko siniseryoso lahat ng bagay. Pero ngayon, eto na yon. Kailangan mong masaktan para matuto,” seryoso niyang pahayag.

Kahit hindi nauwi sa relasyon bilang magkasintahan ay ipinagmalaki naman ni Ejay na magkaibigan sila ngayon ni Ellen.

“Magkaibigan kami ngayon, malinaw yon. Yon naman ang importante talaga. At least, kung hindi man naging kami, ang importante ay yung friendship kasi masarap siyang kaibigan, eh,” pagtatapos ni Ejay.



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Aldub breaks record

What’s more spine-chilling than selling out 55,000-seater Philippine Arena in a matter of days? It’s seeing this huge audience sing, dance, jump and scream in delight at Eat Bulaga’s special episode “Sa Tamang Panahon.” Alden Richard and Maine “Yaya Dub” Mendoza’s Aldub, the phenomenal love team that has been the talk of the town since its accidental inception in July, proved that they are not just an Internet and television-record breakers. On Saturday, October 24, they successfully drew one of the largest crowds at the Philippines’ largest mixed-used indoor arena. Finally, after three months of tease, the two got their blessing and made many of their firsts—first meet up sans the split screen, first “touch,” first conversation without Dubmashing (or lip synching) and first hug. The 55,000 strong could not contain their emotions, as most were seen getting teary-eyed. Online, Aldub set yet another record—garnering 29 million tweets as of Saturday afternoon.

From classrooms to libraries

But more than the “kilig” that these two young television stars have been serving to their viewers, Aldub used their popularity to bridge donors and public schools around the country. It can be recalled that “Plastic ni Juan,” a pro-environment movement within Eat Bulaga’s All for Juan, Juan for All segment, has been asking contestants in each barangay they visit to donate plastic bottles where funds collected from selling these plastic bottles are used to buy chairs for public school children. Moving their social project a notch higher, Aldub will now use 100 percent of the tickets—estimated to amass P14 million—from Sa Tamang Panahon to fund public libraries in schools nationwide, majority of which have been devastated by the typhoon. Eat Bulaga promised that updates on the building of these public libraries would be shown.

Jessy ‘confirms’ split from JM

Jessy Mendiola was heavily guarded by her handlers in the launch of her new soap, “You’re My Home,” and they made sure no personal questions were asked during the interview with her. As such, writers who came to the presscon never got to ask her personally about what really happened to her at that controversial flight to London where Enrique Gil allegedly harassed her. They also never got to ask her as to what’s the real score between her and JM de Guzman, who is said to have gone backsliding to some of his old vices. But you can draw your own conclusions from some of her own statements. When asked if love is now missing in her life, this is what she said: “Ang pag-ibig, hindi na-



man nawawala, laging present ang pag-ibig. Andyan nga lang ‘yon sa paligid, nasa tabi-tabi lang. Marami namang uri ng pag-ibig, like love for family.” Her statement is a confirmation of what someone very reliable said: That she has really called it quits with JM after they reconciled some months ago when he revived his career after coming out of rehab. Because it is so easy to say that her love for JM is still there, but she chose to cite her love for her family, which is also a tie up with “You’re My Home” as it’s about a family. Jessy plays the daughter of Richard Gomez and Dawn Zulueta. The series also stars JC de Vera, Sam Concepcion and Paul Salas.

MIKE NOT OPEN TO WORKING WITH DIREK JAY AGAIN

WE’RE glad that Mike Tan was given by Mother Lily Monteverde the chance to do a movie with Regal Entertainment in “No Boyfriend Since Birth” (NBSB) since he has no new project with GMA-7 after playing the role of Rhian Ramos’ closet gay brother in “The Rich Man’s Daughter”. The lead stars of “NBSB” remain very evasive about their off cam lovelife but



Mike is very open about his relationship with his non-showbiz girlfriend. They’ve been on for nine years now but they have no plans of settling down yet. “Pareho kaming marami pang gustong gawin at ma-accomplish sa buhay,” he says. What advice can he give to Tom Rodriguez and Carla Abellana to make sure their relationship would last as long as Mike and his girlfriend does? “Hindi pa naman sila umaamin na sila na, di ba? Kapag narinig kong nang-galing mismo sa kanila na sila na nga, doon lang ako maniniwala. But kami ng girfriend ko, I think we’ve lasted this long kasi we give love and respect

to each other and we always ask God to be part of our relationship.” Because he’s the reason why Director Jay Altarejos was reportedly eased out of GMA7 when they were doing “Legacy” two years ago, Mike is understandably asked about this since Altarejos is currently under fire when a newcomer named Dalin Sarmiento complained against him of harassment. What can he say about this? “Honestly, I have nothing to say kasi wala akong anumang alam about what happened between them,” he replies. Will he be willing to work with Direk Jay again in the future? “As of now, I doubt kung we’d be given the opportunity to work again. Malabo ‘yun and to be honest about it, I’m not open to the idea.”

TIDBITS



Kris Bernal replaces Carla in new soap

KRIS Bernal, as co-host of “Starstruck 6”, really sympathized with the four ousted artista wannabes when the Final 14 candidates were chosen last Friday. We were there and we saw the compassionate Kris crying with them and doing her best to console the tearful rejected aspirants. “Sorry if I also became emotional pero talagang hindi ko mapigilang makiyak ako sa kanila,” she says. “I became quite close na kasi sa kanila and I felt ‘yung pain na nararamdaman nila. Noong araw kasi, ako rin, madalas na nasa bottom so alam ko ‘yung feelings na pinagdaanan nila. But it’s not necessarily the end of their journey for them. Sana mabigyan sila uli ng ibang chance at huwag sila basta agad susuko.” As for her, a new soap is waiting for her right after her hosting chores in “Starstruck 6”. This is “Little Mommy”, the story of a mentally-challenged young woman who’s biologically in her mid-20s but has the intellectual capacity of a 7-year old, something like “I Am Sam” which starred Sean Penn years ago. It was Carla Abellana who was first considered for the role but GMA management changed minds and gave it to Kris instead. “I’m really so thankful na sa akin naibigay ang ganito kagandang project,” she says. “Very challenging ang role kasi mabubuntis ako at a very young age, then magkaka-baby ako na gusto namang kunin sa akin dahil hindi raw ako fit maging ina because of my intellectual disability. I promise to do my best para magampanan ko nang tama ang role na ito at hindi ako mapahiya sa pagtitiwalang ibinigay sa akin ng GMA. Ninenerbiyos nga ako kasi makakasama ko sa show ang dalawang acting legends ng local showbiz, si Tito Eddie Garcia and Ms. Nora Aunor. I’m looking forward to working with them kasi alam kong malaki ang matutulung nila sa akin para mag-improve ako in my craft. I’m really excited na masimulan na ang taping ng ‘Little Mommy’ para makasama ko na sila, along with Mark Herras, Sunshine Dizon, Rap Fernandez, Gladys Reyes, child actress Chlauri Malayao and Direk Ricky Davao as our director.”



Andre torn between Yassi and Barbie

ANDRE Paras is one lucky guy. On the big screen, he’s paired with Yassi Pressman in the horror comedy, “Wang Fam”, where he belongs to a family of vampires led by his own real life dad, Benjie Paras, and with comedian Pokwang as his mom. Viva Entertainment is really pushing his loveteam with Yassi as they’ll soon be launched in their own rom com, “Girlfriend for Hire”, which playdate has been so delayed as it has had several reshoots and has even had a change of directors. But on TV, Andre is very much identified with Barbie Forteza. (Take note, Andre’s leading ladies are both pint-sized compared to him as he stands 6’3” tall.) Their loveteam has legion of followers because of their exposure in the phenomenal hit afternoon soap, “The Half Sisters”, which has been airing on TV for one and a half years now. We’ve long been saying that a film company should make a film for Andre, Barbie and also co-star Thea Tolentino as they have loyal followers because of “The Half Sisters”. The show was earlier said to be ending this October but GMA-7 management has changed its mind since it continues to rate very high so, the last we heard, the show is extended until January, which made the entire cast and crew rejoice since this means they will have truly merry Christmas season as they won’t be jobless yet. Andre and Barbie are scheduled to have their wedding scene this coming week in “The Half Sisters”. Let’s see if that will help them endear their loveteam more to their fans. As for the Andre-Yassi loveteam that Viva obviously hopes to follow in the footsteps of their successful launch of the James Reid-Nadine Lustre loveteam, we don’t think it will be really that successful as long as the Andre-Barbie love- team, that has a wider reach on TV, continues to stand in their way.

Fabio used to avoid gays

BRAZILIAN actor Fabio Ide admits the lead role that GMA7 gave him in “Destiny Rose” gave his career a very big boost. “People who see me in public now call me Gabriele, which is my name in the show,” he says.

“There’s really nothing like a hit show on TV to make you a more familiar face for the public.”

How does he feel that he stars in a show where the lead character is a gay who becomes a transwoman? “You know, in Brazil, I never associated with gays, lesbians and transgenders. I avoided them because there is prejudice against them in some places in my country. If you’re straight, why would you hang out with them? But here, I became closer to some gay friends and I’m not ashamed to be seen hanging out with them. I like their company because they’re not plastic, they’re also so talented.”

But this doesn’t mean he has had a relationship with a gay. “My gay friends know I’m straight and they respect that. We respect each other. Yun ang importante para we can go on with our friendship. And that’s why I’m proud to be a part of ‘Destiny Rose’ as it’s a show that tries to educate the viewers to have more compassion with gay people. There should be love and respect for one another. I’m also happy that we all get along fine in the cast and everyone is so good to me.”

What does he think of Ken Chan in the title role? “He’s perfect for the role. So dedicated to his craft, so it’s nice to work with him.

Also with Katrina Halili, Manilyn Reynes, Jackielou Blanco. They’re all very good. At nakakatuwa kasi we were just told na kami na raw ang number one sa afternoon dramas ng GMA7 so it’s overwhelming. This week, naikuha ko na ng visa si Katrina as Jasmine and her mom Jackielou as Dahlia. I gave Katrina a diary and I told her to write again kasi I like the way she writes, without me knowing she’s just fooling me and she just assumed the identity of Ken Chan.”

Meanwhile, Ken’s book published using his pen name, Destiny Rose, is a big success and Michael de Mesa as his benefactor Armani tells him to write more books as Destiny Rose. But Armani’s sister, Irma Adlawan as Bethilda, continues to maltreat Ken as Joey and his mom Manilyn as Daisy. Ken has met his long lost sister, Sheena Halili as April, but their dad Joko Diaz as super contravida Lito hides Sheena and orders her not to see her gay brother again. Sheena’s boyfriend, Ken Alfonso as Aris, helps her escape but Joko shoots them.

Sarah G, still aloof from the press?

Hanggang ngayon, mukhang ‘di pa rin sanay sa intriga si Sarah Geronimo.

Sa tagal na niya sa showbiz, isa si Sarah sa mga artista na laging umiiwas



sa mga miyembro ng entertainment press lalo na ‘pag may mainit na isyu tungkol sa kanya. Madalas dinadaan na lang niya sa tawa at ngiti ‘pag-iniinterbyu.

Sa isang media launch ng kanyang mobile brand endorsement kamakailan, hindi raw ito humarap sa mga press para magpa-interview. Kaya naman marami ang nadismaya. Pero sa huli nitong presscon para sa kanyang bag endorsement, balitang magiliw na nagpa-interview ang singer sa press.

I know Sarah knows this very well. After all, Sarah is intelligent. Oo nga at nakakapagod ang paulit-ulit na tanong sa kanya tungkol sa kanila ni Matteo Guidicelli. But this is showbiz. Sa pagiging Pop Princess niya, dapat alam na niyang sakyan ang laro ng showbiz press. Huwag na sana siyang magpa-bebe pa at idaan sa pagtawa at pagngiti sa tuwing iniinterbyu siya.

Who is to be blamed - Sarah or her management team?



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HIGH TAXES continued from page 19

Thailand poaching creative talent nurtured in the Philippines.

“Kunwari gusto na ng Pilipino na magtrabaho sa Thailand o gusto ng taga-Thailand na magtrabaho sa Pilipinas ay pwede ho iyon. Pero ang gusto ho nila maakit ho nila iyong magagaling na empleyado at isang paraan ho diyan para maaakit iyong mga magagaling na indibidwal, katulad ng mga manunulat o kaya mga creative people ay sa paraan ng mas mababang buwis. Kaya nakikita nila na mobile po yung tinatawag na labor capital. Iyong nag-iinvest at saka kumikitang tao ay naghahanap ng pinakapabor sa kanya na lugar para magtrabaho.”

(Integration will mean that a Filipino can work in Thailand and vice versa. But what these countries want are good, skilled workers and one way to lure these talented individuals, such as writers or other creative people, is lower taxes. They see that there will be a mobile labor force. The people you invest in and earn from will look for more favorable places to work.)

Angara, chairman of the Senate ways and means committee, is the leading proponent of a bill seeking to lower income tax rates.

He also reiterated the need for taxes to be adjusted for inflation, a process known as indexation, as the current brackets have not been adjusted since 1997. (READ: Big business group to Aquino: Reform taxes)

Highest VAT

Angara also pointed out that the country has the highest Value Added Tax (VAT) in the region at 12% while the rest don’t

exceed 10%.

He added that he doesn’t agree with the Department of Finance’s suggestion (DOF) to raise the VAT so as to compensate for the loss of government revenue by lowering income tax as it puts a heavy burden on the people who can least afford it.

“Pagdating naman ho sa VAT, mas malaki po ang porsyento ng ating populasyon dahil kahit ika’y kumikita ho ng minimum wage, ika’y magbabayad parin ho ng VAT sa binibili. Sa Mercury Drug, ... fast food, sa mga restaurants, pag bumiyahe po tayo may VAT ho yun kaya hindi tayo sangayon na dapat taasan yung Value Added Tax na 12%.”

(When you talk about VAT, it affects a bigger percentage of the population because even if you are earning minimum wage [and thus exempted from income tax] you will still pay the VAT - at Mercury Drug, fast foods, when commuting we pay VAT - so I don’t agree that we need to raise the 12% VAT any higher.)

The finance department submitted to Congress in August the government’s version of a tax reform bill, which includes an all-in income tax exemption to all wage earners with an annual income of less than P1 million (\$21,458).

Along with the proposal is increasing VAT from 12% to 14% and expanding the VAT base by removing all exemptions, except in agriculture, health, banks, education, as well as removing zero-rating, except direct exports.

Angara also dismissed the Aquino administrations suggestions that a projected P30 billion (\$643.7 million) loss in government revenue if income tax is lowered would lead to lower credit ratings citing that this amount is less than 1% of the government budget for 2016.

Snooky now willing to do daring scenes

Snooky Serna is glad that after playing supporting roles in movies like “You’re Still the One” (as the mother of Maja Salvador) and “Felix Manalo” (as one of the daughters of the INC founder) and in the hit TV show “My Faithful Husband” (as Dennis Trillo’s abusive mother), she now gets the chance to play a pivotal lead role in BG Productions’ “Nuclear Family”, directed by Jason Paul Laxamana (of “Magkakabaung”).

“Maganda yung role ko, naiiba,” she says. “Hindi kasi siya yung usual na mabait na karakter kundi anti-heroine ang dating niya na mai-involve sa isang scam. I play Barbara Balayan, a cougar na magkakaroon ng younger boyfriends, toyboys, at meron daw akong sexy scenes with them.”

So is she ready to do sexy scenes? “Okay lang basta huwag sobrang daring at sexy. I can do kissing scenes and show my bare back, pero



hindi naman ‘yung hubad talaga kasi hindi na rin appropriate for my age. I have two daughters na dalaga na pareho, so baka mapagalitan pa ako.”

She says her role as Cedes in “My Faithful Husband” prepared her for her role as Barbara. “Kontrabida kasi si Cedes. Ako ang umaapi kay Jennylyn Mercado as Dennis’ wife. But credit should go not just to me kundi sa lahat ng kasama ko, including Direk Joyce Bernal. Team effort naman yun, e. Ayan nga, dahil sa pagiging salbahe ni Cedes, nakabilango siya ngayon.”

She admits having found a new love in her life but she doesn’t want to introduce him to the press anymore. “Sa amin na lang ‘yun, kasi private person naman siya so allow us to protect his privacy. Basta he’s the one who gives me inspiration these days.”

Incidentally, what does the title “Nuclear Family” mean? Here’s the explanation of Director Jason Paul Laxamana: “A nuclear family or elementary family is a family group consisting of a pair of adults and their children. This is in contrast to a single-parent family, to the larger extended family, and to a family with more than two parents.”

Na-gets nyo ba?

Sarah L in good company

Sinusuwerte ngayon si Sarah Lahbati.

Dahil nabigyan siya nang opportunity ng ABS-CBN para marevive ang kanyang showbiz career. As everybody knows, may anak na ang aktres sa ka-relasyon niyang si Richard Gutierrez.

But surprisingly, she gets hotter these days.

Bata pa naman kasi si Sarah at maaga lang siyang naging

mommy. Pero, obvious na ngayon pa lang siya nagbu-bloom nang husto. She sizzles on ASAP with her sexy spot numbers. No wonder, she is now regularly seen in the highly-rating Sunday musical variety show. Mahusay rin ang naging pagganap niya bilang Star Power grand winner Monique Cuenca sa Maalaala Mo Kaya last Saturday. Big opportunity ito para sa kanya dahil nakapag-bida na siya sa isang episode ng award-winning drama anthology ng mismong President at CEO ng ABS-CBN na si Charo Santos-Concio. Sarah is also in the cast of the upcoming teleserye Written in our Stars. Better days in showbiz are here again for Sarah.



Bangs finds true love



LOOKS like Bangs Garcia has found her one true love in a British property developer who's handsome enough to be an artista himself. She met him by chance in Boracay last year and his name is Lloyd Birchmon. He is based in London so it's an LDLA (long distance love affair), but Bangs says this is not a problem because of today's modern technology where they can skype, text or viber. She's scheduled to fly to London next month, then by December, it will be Lloyd's turn to come to Manila and visit her again with his own family as he wants them to meet her. What does she like in him?

"When we met, hindi niya alam na artista ako," she says. "He was surprised dahil while we're walking on the beach, andaming nagpapa-picture with me. He was very nice and we had a good connection right away. We quickly became the best of friends. Nauna akong bumalik sa Manila then he followed me here. Dapat uuwi na siya sa kanila but he stayed for two weeks more to be with me. Then after some weeks, binalikan na naman niya uli ako rito. Then last May, nagkataong I had a show in London so doon naman kami nagkita. I stayed there for three weeks and we were so happy."

Isn't it a mere case of love on the rebound since she just broke up with Phil Younghusband when she met Lloyd? "No. I wasn't looking for love then kaya nga mas maganda kasi, hindi ka naman naghahanap then God suddenly sends someone your way who turns out to be very very good. When you meet the right one, somehow, you'd know and feel it kasi I've never felt like this before. We're just in sync physically, mentally and spiritually. We jive on all levels. When we talk sa skype, it takes 6 hours ang pag-uusap namin. We're like the best of friends and we can talk about anything under the sun na parang hindi kami mauubusan ng pag-uusapan. I can feel siya na yata talaga ang bigay ni Lord sa akin."

Bangs is now managed by Viva but her current movie is with Regal Entertainment, "No Boyfriend Since Birth", to open in theaters on November 11, where she is Carla Abellana's rival over Tom Rodriguez. "This is my second movie with them kasi ako rin ang first girlfriend ni Tom in their first movie, 'So It's You'. Both movies are directed by Jun Lana. Aside from this, kasama rin ako sa action dramang 'Pulis Probinsya' with Jeric Raval na opening naman in December."

Stylist under fire: Who wore it better?

SO who looked better wearing the recycled pink gown: Yaya Dub or Kim Chiu?

This is the story of Yaya Dub aka Maine Mendoza's recycled pink sleeveless princess-cut gown with an embroidered skirt that she wore at the mammoth hit "Tamang Panahon Grand Fans Day" at Philippine Arena last Saturday. We're sure that when Yaya Dub wore it, she didn't even have an inkling at all that it will later turn into a national issue.

Soon after the show, photos of Kim Chiu wearing the same gown surfaced on social media. Immediately, diehard fans of Yaya Dub blamed her stylist, Liz Uy, for choosing a gown that has already been worn by a

star of the rival network and even said that she did this on purpose because her loyalty is really with her Kapamilya friends.

Both Yaya Dub's gown and Alden Richards' suit with coat tails at "Tamang Panahon" were from designer Francis Libiran who revealed that Kim Chiu wore it first as his model for his 2013 Metrowear collection and fashion show held at Shangri-La Hotel. Several other lesser known clients of his have since asked him to make a similar gown for them but no other celebrity has worn it. "Eat Bulaga" didn't just borrow the gown from him but paid for a new gown he made for Yaya Dub and her stylists in Stylized Studio are well aware that Kim has won a similar gown before.

Now that this has been cleared, the next question being debated upon is who looked better wearing the same gown: Yaya Dub or Kim? This prompted Kim to comment that fans should not turn it into such an issue as it's only a gown. Allan K also said "a gown is just a gown."

What cannot be denied, though, is that AIDub is really the most popular loveteam in the country today. They started only on July 16 and now, after more than three months, they have gained fans not only locally but all over the world, as shown by the 50 million plus tweets their



'Tamang Panahon' encounter at Philippine Arena generated and got a rating of 50 percent. This means a lot of their fans really focused on "Eat Bulaga" that time and postponed whatever it is that they're supposed to do. AIDub has promoted GMA Pinoy TV abroad in truly a major, major way.

We know we have other loveteams like KathNiel, JaDine and LizQuen, but can they make the same claim of such a huge accomplishment on Twitter and in the ratings game? No doubt, this early, it's quite easy to predict that the first movie together of AIDub, "My Bebe Love", has all the makings of a monster blockbuster. And with the "Eat Bulaga" team of resourceful brainstormers charting their careers, Alden and Maine can be sure that they will not be mere flash in the pans, but have careers that might last through several years and several other projects.

Pokwang no sugar mommy

Pokwang says she felt hurt when some folks insinuated that she is a sugar mommy to her American BF and live in partner Lee O'Brian. "That's quite unfair, for me and also for him," she says at the presscon of her new movie, "Wang Fam". "Maganda ang buhay niya sa States at malaki nga ang sakripisyong ginagawa niya para tumira rito at ipaglaban ang pagmamahal niya para sa akin. Meron din naman siyang sariling trabaho rito sa 'Kano Luvs Pinay' ng TV5. Mabait si Lee at siya talaga ang nagpapasaya sa buhay ko ngayon. Kasundo siya ng buong family ko, lalo na ng daughter kong si Mae. Kaya sana, huwag naman silang masyadong judgmental. Basta ang mahalaga, masaya kami at wala kami ing inaagrabiyaadong tao."

Pokwang has formed a loveteam with Benjie Paras that was first seen when they played a married couple on TV in "Nathaniel". Now, they've branched out to the big screen in "Wang Fam" as the head of a group of vampires called the Wang Family. Pokwang is known as Malou Wang while Benjie is Boo Wang. "Mag-ingat ang mga Kathniel, Jadine at pati Chardawn kasi kaya naming silang kabugin, ano?" she laughs.

The horror-comedy is directed by Wenn Deramas who first cooked up the project in 2008 after he heard comedian Joey Paras saying na "si Pokwang, mukhang aswang." Pokie admits she cried because of that remark but Direk Wenn told her: "Naku, gawin na lang nating katatawanan, 'wag ka nang umiyak. Pagkakitaan na lang natin. Gawin nating movie na Aswang Family, which eventually became Wang Fam. Humingi tayo ng permiso sa Star Cinema para ipahiram ka sa Viva at magawa natin ang movie."

PCCF Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

TORONTO - The Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation celebrated its' fifth year of existence with a Gala Celebration at the Spirale Banquet Hall in Toronto on October 2nd, 2015. It was attended by about 300 members, friends and supporters.

To date, PCCF has donated \$72,348.00 to its beneficiary organizations, both in Canada and the Philippines. It has built houses for the poor through ANCOP, donated 7 dialysis machines to various recipients, donated to the victims of the Nepal earthquake and to calamity victims of natural disasters like typhoons and earthquakes in the Philippines. Donation to the Kapuso Foundation will be handed over when a PCCF contingent visits the Philippines in January 2016.

This year, PCCF has once again fulfilled its promise of advocating for Charity by walking for the poor at the ANCOP Walk and donated \$13,000. ANCOP is one of PCCF's main beneficiaries. The monetary donation will build more houses for poor families in the Philippines. ANCOP President, Ricky Cuenca, thanked PCCF and reminded everyone that, "Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP) through Faith and Action... the ANCOP Walk is an annual global fundraising event that raises funds for the poor in the Philippines and other third world countries. The donation ANCOP receives will go towards providing shelter, housing and child education programs for the poor living in extreme poverty."

PCCF promotes its advocacy for the community by holding events like the very prestigious Miss Philippines Canada, Miss Teen Philippines Canada, Little Miss Philippines Canada, and Mrs. Philippines Canada, whose finales are being showcased in one of the biggest annual and much awaited indoor community events in Canada, the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto. Rosemer Enverga, EVP of PCCF, stated that, "This is just the start of giving back to the community and there will be more announcements to come!"

Romy Rafael, President of PCCF said that, "Our officers and members would like to thank everyone who supported the undertakings of PCCF for the last 5 years, and we hope to be able to count on everyone supporting our future projects."

Please visit www.philippinecanadianfoundation.com or find PCCF on Facebook for more update on PCCF activities and events. (**Fe P. Tadoran**)

5th Anniversary PCCF Dinner

RIGHT, Attendees enjoy the night at the 5th Anniversary dinner of Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation.

FAR RIGHT, Little Miss beauties perform a dance number.

PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



Janine denies rumor about dad

Janine Gutierrez denies the rumor that her dad, Ramon Christopher, has renewed his interrupted romance with his very first girlfriend, Kristina Paner.



It will be recalled that Monching and Tina formed a love team in the late 80s and were paired in “That’s Entertainment” and the movie “Tamis ng Unang Halik”. Then Lotlot de Leon came along and Monching

eventually married her, with Janine as their “panganay”.

“Naku, hindi po totoo ‘yun,” says Janine at the presscon of her new show, “Dangwa”. “Pinagtatawanan nga ni Daddy at hindi rin niya alam kung bakit may kumalat na ganyang tsismis.”

How does she feel that she’s no longer paired with real life BF Elmo Magalona in “Dangwa” but with Mark Herras and Aljur Abrenica? “Siyempre, malungkot, kabado, kasi nasanay akong kasama ko siya (Elmo). Pero okay naman po sina Mark at Aljur, comfortable ako with them. Pero very supportive si Elmo sa akin, so thankful naman ako na laging nandiyan lang siya.”

Janine is also glad that her wish to make a movie has been granted and this is in the horror-mystery-comedy, “Buy Now, Die Later”, produced by Quantum Films and an official entry in the coming Metro Manila Filmfest at that.

Spotlight



Espana Blvd, Sampaloc district, circa 1975

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Pokwang will prioritize baby if she get pregnant again

Hindi susuko si Pokwang para makagawa ulit ng bagong baby. Ito ang ipinagmalaki niya sa Push.com. ph nang makausap naming siya sa presscon ng pelikulang WangFam na pinagbibidahan niya kasama si Benjie Paras, Andre Paras, Yassi Pressman, Wendell Ramos at marami pang iba. “Ginagawa n i y a n g t a l a g a n g old,” say ulit Balak din



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kung iiwanan ko siya,” patuloy pa niya. Idinagdag pa ni Pokwang na tuwang-tuwa rin ang partner niya kapag nakakasama nito ang iba pang miyembro ng kanyang pamilya sa bahay nila sa Antipolo. “Alam mo, tuwang-tuwa siya pag nando’n kami sa bahay, kapag kumpleto kami, kapag nakita niya kung gaano kami kaingay magkakapatid, kung gaano kami kalalakas magsikain. “Walang masamang tinapay sa kanya, sobrang bait na tao. Alam nya yan kung gaano niya ako napapasaya ngayon at ganu’n din naman ako sa kanya,” paliwanag pa ng aktres. Napakaimportante rin kay Pokwang na merong nagpapasaya sa buhay niya ngayon. Eh, what if dumating yung time na matapos na ang relasyon nila ni Lee? “Naku, huwag naman!” hirit agad niya. “Pero kasi ako, sabi ko kung ano yung merona ko ngayon ini-enjoy ko. Kung hindi para sa akin, tanggapin mo nang buo... eh, ang dami ko na kayang pinagdaanan, higit pa do’n, di ba? “Ako kasi, dasal din lang talaga. Kung ano naman yung pinagdadasal ko, binibigay naman sa akin ng Diyos.” Ang WangFam ay sa direksyon ni Wenn Deramas at palabas na sa Nov. 18.

Gerald: Parte ng buhay ang ‘nega’

Ayon kay Gerald Anderson, malaking challenge ang pelikulang Everyday I Love You kung saan ay kasama niya ang LizQuen (Liza Soberano at Enrique Gil) loveteam dahil first time niyang maging third wheel sa isang pelikula at ang kasama pa niya ay isa sa pinaka-hot na loveteam sa kasalukuyan. “First time naming magsasama ni Liza, LizQuen ’yan, eh, mayroon na silang natural

chemistry, kaya nga sila isa sa pinaka-hot na loveteam ngayon. “So, the challenge para sa akin, paano kami magkakaroon ng chemistry ni Liza dito, kasi girl-friend ko siya, eh, simula pa lang ng movie, girlfriend ko na siya. So, isa ’yun sa pinaka-difficult sa akin,” say ni Gerald.



Asked kung hindi ba siya nagkaroon ng apprehensions na tanggapin ang pelikula at makasama ang LisQuen loveteam, ani Gerald, hindi importante sa kanya kung sino ang makakasama niya at ang mas binibigyan niya ng importansiya ay ang materyal. “Ako kasi ’yung tipo ng artista na ’pag tatanggap ng proyekto, dapat talaga, ma-hihirapan at matsa-challenge ako. Kasi, wala po kayong makikitang bago kung hindi ganu’n. “And of course, it took convincing kasi hindi pa ganu’n ka-buo ’yung istorya at kumbaga, first time akong tatang-gap ng ganitong klase ng role. But kung paano po in-explain nila, and how Direk (Mae Cruz-Alviar) did the movie, you know, pagsisisihan ko ’to kung hindi ko ginawa. “And every project, gusto ko, iba-iba ang ipinapakita ko. Hindi naman po puro romantic, or action star, or drama sa soap, or may ka-loveteam. So, kailangan po, iba-iba. “And I’m very happy with the outcome and excited ako sa lahat na mapanood,” pahayag ni Gerald. Hindi ba siya nakakatanggap ng pamba-bash mula sa LizQuen?

“Actually, mabait po ’yung fans nila, na-meet ko rin po sila sa Laguna, napakabait nila. And I think, at the end of the day, kasi, sobrang supportive lang lahat, so we just wanna give you guys a good project, kung may nega man, wala po tayong magagawa, its part of life. Ang daming masasamang nangyayari sa mundo. So, hindi naman po ako maaapektuhan. “Siguro, five years ago, baka sensitive pa ako about things like that. As an actor, siyempre, I’m a thinking and working actor, ’yun po ang importante sa akin. Basta may trabaho at nagugustuhan ko ang ginagawa ko, it doesn’t matter,” sabi pa ni Gerald. Natanong sa aktor kung sino ang sinasabihan niya ngayon ng “everyday, I love you” at say niya, “Well, siyempre, mga pamilya ko, mga kasama ko, mga kaibigan ko but kung lovelife, wala pa rin, eh. Kumbaga, darating ’yun, hindi naman po ako nagmamadali.”

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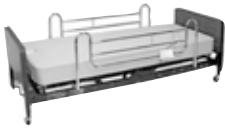
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Selfie-ing with the Stars



FIRST, Maria Panaligan poses with Gerald Anderson. SECOND, Edessa Andrada poses with Rayver Cruz. THIRD, Edessa Andrada poses with Enchong Dee. FOURTH, Divina Gracia poses with Enchong Dee and Rayver Cruz. FIFTH, Michelle Beloso poses with Enrique Gil. SIXTH, Michelle Beloso poses with Xian Lim.

with Rosa (to be played by Janine), an enchantingly beautiful flower vendor in Manila’s most popular flower market.

Each character who buys a flower from Rosa will discover that love unexpectedly blooms in his or her own life. A new love story will be introduced to viewers every Monday and end on a Friday... except for the story of Rosa herself, which will slowly unfold as the season progresses.

Rosa’s heartwarming smile and mischievous ways capture the hearts of flower delivery boy Baste (played by Mark Herras) and furniture designer Lorenzo (played by Aljur Abrenica), but there is more to the girl than they ever expected.

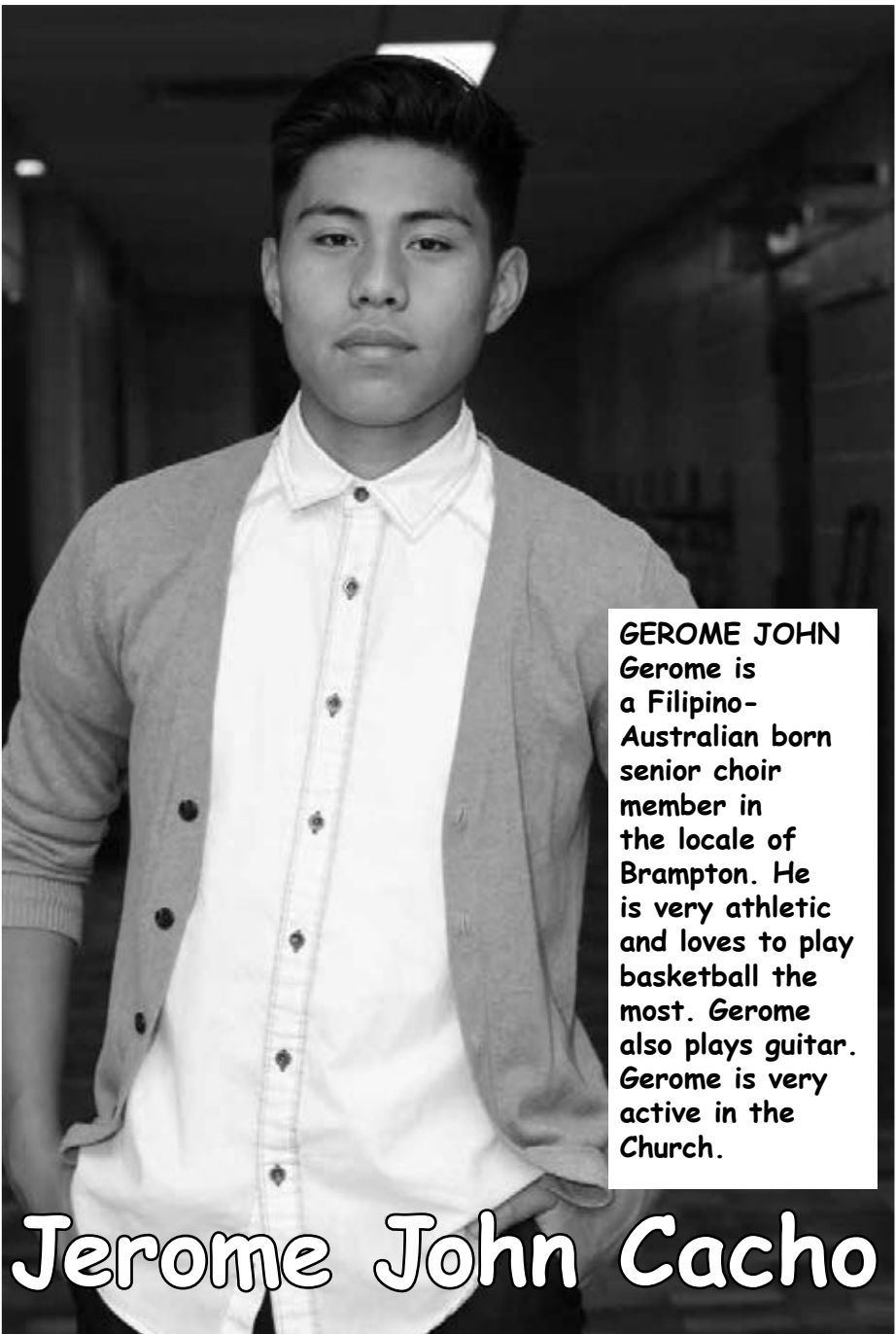
Dangwa’s pilot week, which stars Kapuso teens Barbie Forteza and Ruru Madrid, is penned by Jerome Zamora and directed by Adolf Alix, Jr. and Rember Gelera. This is followed by equally engrossing love stories portrayed by Carla Abellana and Rafael Rosell, Rhian Ramos and Geoff Eigenmann, Bianca Umali and Miguel Tanfelix, and Pauleen Luna and Gerald Napoles.

Dangwa also boasts of an appealing theme music entitled “Pag-ibig” written and arranged by Simon Tan and performed by OPM rock band Spongecola.

Discover the mystery behind Rosa and fall in love every week with the stories to be featured on DANGWA, which airs beginning October 26 only 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.

Hunk Shot



GEROME JOHN
Gerome is a Filipino-Australian born senior choir member in the locale of Brampton. He is very athletic and loves to play basketball the most. Gerome also plays guitar. Gerome is very active in the Church.

Jerome John Cacho

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CANDY CRUSH continued from page 14

singer-extraordinaire Josie De Leon and her husband Mark Cuizon Crescini. Under the combined talent of singer and producer-husband, these performers are reaching their full potential. CC and TR are still in their growing stages but the talent is evident already.

To show that each one can stand on her own, every member of Candy Crush also sang a solo at the concert. Britney sang her first Tagalog song flawlessly. Their family friend, Flor Flor Casas Martinez asked me how is Britney’s singing after the Tagalog rendition. I said it was fine. I did not hear a trace of accent on her. After the show, I told Britney’s mom Mercy Lagumbay that Britney should sing more Tagalog songs.

The concert was very entertaining. There was no lull in the program. Surprisingly, it actually started on time at 6. Well, actually, they said 5:30 but Mark said they cannot play the music until it is 6pm because of some old folks below who were still playing euchre. In conclusion, it was a great night for JDL, the performers, the families and friends, and the people behind the scenes. They delivered a show that people really enjoyed.

STORM AID continued on page 25

who is the spokesman of Mar Roxas, has said that it is more important that aid must reach the people. We agree with this. In the end, what is really important is that government aid reaches those who need it most.”

“We only wish [Lacierda] made the same remark when the distribution of aid in Casiguran, Aurora was withheld because they had to wait for the arrival of the President,” he added.

Ilagan also scored Aquino administration for tacitly allowing members of its Cabinet to use government resources to advance the presidential bid of Roxas in 2016.

“While aid is being withheld from those who are not party-mates, the allies of the administration are riding on the projects of the DSWD for their campaigns,” he said.

As Typhoon Lando approached super typhoon strength as it approached Luzon, the LP standard bearers for President and vice president were spotted in a gathering of the government’s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries in Koronadal, South Cotabato. The event was organized by DSWD, was also attended by Secretary Corazon Soliman.

Even Transportation and Communications Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya made a slip of the tongue when he credited Tourism Ramon Jimenez for providing him a copy of the survey results saying among others the preference of Filipinos to the continuity of Tuwid na Daan.

“What is the business of the DOT in political matters? Foremost in our mind is this question: Will the results of this political survey aid in explaining the failure of the Department of Tourism to get its 10-million tourist target?” Ilagan asked.

He also questioned if Jimenez had used public funds to commission the political survey that was not part of his office’s mandate.

Opposition candidate for vice president, Senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., said the government should provide all available assistance to farmers affected by Typhoon Lando to enable them to rebuild their lives as soon as possible.

“Assistance to the victims should not end with just the distribution of relief goods. We should give adequate support to our farmers so they can resume planting and return to normal as soon as possible,” Marcos said.

For starters Marcos said the government should provide cheap credit facilities to the affected farmers.

Another vice presidential candidate, Senator Francis Escudero asked why no releases have been made since June 30 from the P1-billion People’s Survival Fund that was aimed at boosting long-term mitigation and adaptation programs for local government units in light of climate change.

“Why is that money still there? What is the point of having this special fund if nobody uses it?” he said.

“It’s been three years since we passed the law—has the PSF even been useful to anybody? What is stopping the government

from releasing the money?” he added.

As local government units continued to grapple with the unmitigated impact of extreme weather, Escudero called on the government to immediately release the special fund.

“You cannot just go from storm to storm, flood to flood. Climate change is behind these frequent and extreme weather events; LGUs should be more proactive in addressing the problems at the root, instead of being merely reactionary,” he said.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, meanwhile, said allotments continue to keep ahead of last year’s rates, with 96.4 percent of funds already released to departments and agencies as of Sept. 30.

The DBM said allotment releases to agencies over the first nine months of 2015 outpaced last year’s figures, with P1.29 trillion already released compared to last year’s P1.1 trillion, he said.

“While most of this year’s national budget has already been released to agencies, we still have around 60 percent of Special Purpose Funds available. For example, only 26.6 percent of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund has been released to date,” Abad said.

“While it may seem like we’re lagging in this regard, the availability of these funds for release means we’re prepared to address the aftermath of calamities hitting the country like Typhoon Lando,” he said.

Fund releases in 2015 as a proportion of the total P2.606-trillion General Appropriations Act reached 90.2 percent or P2.350 trillion, Abad said.



Richard Gomes to keep CharDawn alive

With his plans to run for mayor of Ormoc City again in the works for next year, Goma said that no matter the outcome of the elections, he does not see himself saying goodbye to acting at all.

“Well I can work on weekends. Walang problema naman yun. Everything can be worked out. Sabi ko nga, kung manalo ako, I will bring the show to Ormoc at dun tayo magtrabaho, dun tayo gumawa ng teleserye,” he stated.

Richard also shared that part of the secret that has kept the magic of their love team CharDawn alive throughout the years is their being picky when it comes to projects.

“Masaya yung working relationship namin lagi ni Dawn. Kami kasi pag may ino-offer na project sa amin pinag-uusapan naming dalawa. Hindi yung basta may offer tanggap agad. Pinag-aaralan namin dalawa if this project will be good for our time din. Magiging lasting ba ito? Will this make an impression? Dapat ganun eh. Magiging commercially viable ba ito? Do we think na magiging successful ito? Maraming factors din ang kino-consider ni Dawn when we do a project together,” he revealed.

New study says breakfast may not be the most important meal for weight loss



Whether it's a bowl of cereal, eggs, yogurt or a bagel with cream cheese, most Americans believe eating breakfast is the right thing to do. After all, we have heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But recent research makes some wonder whether there's evidence to back up this well-worn saying.

The government currently recommends that people eat breakfast and some research suggests that starting off the day with a meal in the belly actually helps with weight loss. But a recent study challenges this notion.

Last year, researchers at Columbia University asked people to be in one of three groups — one group ate oatmeal for breakfast, one ate Frosted Flakes for breakfast, and one skipped breakfast.

Overweight people who skipped breakfast were the only group that lost weight.

“The research right now is a little bit uncertain in terms of skipping versus eating breakfast and obesity and body weight,” says Andrew Brown from the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at the University of Alabama Birmingham.

People wondering whether to skip breakfast because they hope to lose weight should remember that there are many reasons people gain weight and breakfast plays just a small part.

“There are many factors that impact weight gain and maybe skipping breakfast or eating breakfast is one of them, but it's not the only one,” says Madelyn Fernstrom, NBC News Health and Nutrition editor.

LizQuen chemistry ‘organic’

We fell in love with Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano on the TV series “Forevermore,” and they continued to tug at heartstrings in the film “Just The Way You Are.”

Now comes the magical ride “Everyday I Love You,” a film which the onscreen pair says is a happy departure from past outings.

Directed by Mae Cruz-Alviar, “Everyday I Love You,” follows the story of Ethan (Enrique), a film producer sent to Bacolod for work. There he meets Audrey (Liza), whom he would eventually decide to cast as lead star in his project. Meanwhile, Audrey is waiting for her boyfriend Tristan (Gerald Anderson) to wake up from a coma. Audrey will soon be torn between Ethan and Tristan. Liza described the film's “mature” story line as something their fans would appreciate. “Dito makikita nila na we upgraded from our last project,” she said.

Of her role, Liza said, “Nahirapan ako. I could only be thankful that our director really pushed me.”

Enrique feels the same, sharing, “Sa film na ‘to, more serious kami... Direk Mae wants us to be more mature. And I'm thankful that she helped us achieve that.”

A WITNESS

Mae was happy to guide Enrique and Liza through their paces, noting how their chemistry is “very organic.” “Parang instinctive na. Alam na nila ang gagawin nila. Meron silang rapport na hindi na nila kailangan pag-usapan ang eksena,” she explained. She attests to the duo's closeness off-cam.

“Para silang musical... song and dance number. Liza will just break into a song. As in maririnig mo na lang na kakanta siya. Si Quen (Enrique) naman parang wind-up toy na bigla nalang sasayaw,” she explained. “Swak na swak sila na parang whatever she sings eh, nasasayaw niya.”

WORKING WITH GERALD

Enrique and Liza both admire co-star Gerald not only for his dedication to work and his discipline as actor, but also for having a kind heart.

“It was nice working with him. Kasi s'yempre marami kaming ginawa na dramatic scenes tapos minsan nahihirapan ako eh, siya naman he would help me,” she said. For his part, Enrique felt good working with Gerald anew after their series “Budoy.” “I was actually new at that time. So nakikita and nakakasama ko na siya. When I observe him, andami kong natututunan,” Enrique shared. Liza hopes fans would support the film. “I am truly grateful for their support. Sana ‘wag silang magsawa at suportahan nila uli itong film na ito,” she said.

If anything, the actress also wants them to enjoy the beauty of Bacolod through the film.

“It's the center of the movie and it's perfect. Bacolod is really beautiful. We want to show our fans the beauty of the place,” she said.

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suffering from serious head and lung injuries. She was taken to the hospital but passed away the next day, October 20.

“What happened shows how fragile life can be, so we shouldn't waste any single moment of our life,” says Megan who went back to her acting career after her reign as Miss World. She now plays the title role in the hit GMA primetime soap, “Marimar”.

This week, Megan as Marimar teams up with the real mom she doesn't know, Alice Dixon as Mia, in competing with her dad, Zoren Legaspi as Gustavo who's now married to Ina Raymundo as Brenda, to get the important space in a mall for a jewelry shop. Because of Megan's beautiful jewelry designs, they were the ones who succeeded in getting the rights to the space. But Megan finds another opponent in LJ Reyes as Inocencia, who is mean to hear when they meet in their office's pantry.

“Abangan nyo dahil lalaban na si Marimar at hindi na paaapi,” says Megan. “Bubuhusan ako ni LJ ng hawak niyang kape at gaganti ako at bubuhusan ko naman siya ng soft drinks.”



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PCCF
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With this consistent performance, it is no wonder that Toots is the recipient of multiple awards, including the 2013 Trafficking in Persons Hero Award from the US State Department, and the 2010 Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Award.

Toots Ople is a time-tested and hardworking servant leader with integrity.

Most importantly, among all the senatorial candidates, it is Toots Ople who has the most clearly articulated platform. In the Senate, she will have the opportunity to set a pro-worker legislative agenda instead of just lobbying for her advocacies from the sidelines. An important aspect of her advocacies is to relieve the many thorns in the side of OFWs and labourers such as the outdated systems at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, workplace discrimination, the lack of contracts for job-order and temporary workers, and illegal recruitment.

Toots Ople will take her extensive experience as an advocate and transform these into concrete laws binding employers and cementing the direction of Philippine foreign relations. With Toots Ople in the legislative, OFWs like my father would get the attention they deserve, and the protection they are entitled to.

It was thus with enormous elation that I greeted the news that Toots Ople finally launched her bid for the Senate. She had listened and embraced the clamour of the labour sector for a passionate ally in the upper chamber of Congress.

Shared responsibility

One of the first things I did in the UK was to register at the embassy to vote. Despite being thousands of miles away from home, I could feel the heat of the elections permeating through the autumn chill.

In the comforts of the developing country and behind our own laptop and smartphone screens, we may find ourselves wondering why we should even bother. Why care about that sweltering country with its persistent traffic, unfettered commercialism, irrepressible urbanization, and regressive politics? We should care because it is our own small corner of the world that we can call home, the place that will welcome us back with open arms and adobo and fiestas. It is the place where we shall be remembered and loved no matter long we've been away. It is where our families live and toil day by day. It is the reason why we do what we do, why we work and study so hard. These are our cherished tropical islands, this is our Pearl of the Orient, our Philippines.

I hope that my Filipino brothers and sisters around the world would find a renewed zest for our beloved country's future. With our vote, let us send back our collective voice, creating a government that would change the Philippines for the better.

With our vote, let us go to the polls with the fire of progress and the passion of advocacy burning in our hearts. With our vote, let us remember our OFWs and our labourers upon whose backs we have built a gradually modernizing Philippines.

Let us help bring Toots Ople to the Senate. – Rappler.com

Adrian Paul J. Rabe is a Filipino physician studying at the University of London for the degree Master of Science in Health Policy, Planning and Financing. He is an advocate for health workers' welfare, primary care, and population health.

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Penafrancia Celebration



Liberal MP Marco Mendocino poses with Action Honda's manager Rafael Nebres at the Penafrancia dinner.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Attendees pose before the Virgin Mary; Rafael Nebres poses with Liberal MP and others; Pors (3RD FROM RIGHT) and Normita (FAR RIGHT) Canlas poses with the priests; Devotees get some flowers from the Penafrancia.



MEGAN: Don't waste our lives

Megan Young says she really felt sad when she learned about the sudden death of her batchmate at the Miss World Pageant held at Bali, Indonesia in 2013 where she won the title. This is Miss Austria, Ena Kadac, who perished at the age of 24 in a freak accident while jogging last October 19.

"We became quite close during the pageant kaya nalungkot talaga ako nang malaman ko ang balita," says Megan.

In her social media account, she paid a last tribute for her friend: "It really sad-

dens me that such a tragic accident had to happen to such a beautiful soul. I am thankful I got to meet you in Bali and stand on the same stage as you. You were a kind hearted and lovely lady. Batch 2013 won't be the same. Bless your soul, Ena."

Reports say that Miss Austria regularly jogs at Bergisel Mountain in her hometown in the Tirol region of Austria. She fell into a ravine 30 meters down,

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Joy Sarmiento poses with Teleserye Bida stars Xian Lim, Enchong Dee, Rayver Cruz and Gerald Anderson. PHOTO BY LARRY TORRES



Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil pose with Joy Sarmiento in Toronto. PHOTO BY LARRY TORRES



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