

JANUARY 2016

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expects
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GARCIA
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**Do not say
mass in
campaigns,**
*orders Cardinal Tagle
to priests*



**The Manila archbishop
also says priests should
not allow politicians to
organize mass baptism,
confirmation, or wedding
ceremonies**

MANILA, Philippines – Months before the May 2016 elections, Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle advised priests not to say Mass in political events or campaigns.

In a circular dated December 10, Tagle also said priests should not allow politicians to organize mass baptism, confirmation, or wedding ceremonies.

"First we advise priests not to accept invitations to celebrate Mass at political events and campaigns. The Eucharist is the source and sign of unity. Its celebration should not be seen as favoring or endorsing particular candidates, organizations, or parties," Tagle said.

Referring to sacraments in the Catholic Church, Tagle added, "We should not allow candidates to organize binyagang bayan, kumpilang bayan, and kasalang bayan." (We should not allow candidates to organize mass baptisms, mass confirmations, and mass weddings.)

Tagle issued this circular as politicians launch their campaigns even before the official campaign period begins as early as February 2016.

NO MASS
continued on page 25

Scenes in the City



FIRST, Dr. Solon Guzman dances the Bachada at their clinic's Christmas party. SECOND, Senator Enverga and wife Rosemer poses with Fashion Designer Renee Salud. THIRD, FV Food's Mel Galeon poses with singer Julia Clarete. FOURTH, Dr. Annette Simbulan holds a Christmas party for staff and their family. FIFTH, Ready Honda's Anita Diaz cozies to Philippine Fashion designer Renee Salud.

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PNOY makes Duterte looks good

Mar Roxas night suffer because of Aquino endrovement

MANILA – A political science professor on said the perceived shortcomings of the Aquino administration may be contributing to the popularity of Davao City Mayor and presidential aspirant Rodrigo Duterte.

Speaking to dzMM, Assistant Professor Dennis Coronacion of the University of Santo Tomas said, “Kaya kasi siya (Duterte) popular sa ngayon, ang tingin ko kasi diyan, yung kanyang leadership style ay naaayon naman sa kakulangan sa ating administrasyon.”

“Kung sapat lang sana, magaling lang sana, may end game lang sana ang ating kasalukuyang administrasyon, eh sana hindi siya papansinin, yung ganyang style ng pamumuno,” he explained.

“Pero dahil nakikita ng mga tao na malambot sa bandang huli ang Aquino administration, eh napapansin nila yung pagiging tough guy ni Mayor Duterte.”

Professor Francisco Magno of the De La Salle University, meanwhile, said it is Duterte’s use of street language that may have attracted supporters.

“Yon ‘yung naiintindihan ng mamamayan natin. Malaking porsiyento ng botante natin, ay nasa class D and E. In fact ‘yun ang pinakamalaki. Yung ABC influential, pero hindi ganoon kalaki. Kung kaya yung paggamit ng ganoong lenggwage, masasabi nating even ‘yung subject, ‘yung content, may pagka-populist,” he said.

Magno added that should Senator Grace Poe gets disqualified from the race with finality, voters may side with either Liberal Party standard bearer Mar Roxas and United Nationalist Alliance bet Vice President Jejomar Binay.

Coronacion noted that, among the major



Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez

presidential candidates, Roxas and Binay have had the longest preparations for 2016.

Asked who among the two has an advantage, Coronacion said that it might be a close fight between the two candidates.

“Except that lately na lumalabas yung issue na parang walang end game yung Aquino administration. Di niya kayang tapusin nang maayos yung kanyang magandang sinimulan. So ang posibleng mangyari is madamage si Mar Roxas,” he said.

Coronacion said criticisms against the present administration will definitely hurt its bet. He said Roxas might suffer the fate of Lakas-Kampi-CMD 2010 presidential bet Gilbert “Gibo” Teodoro in 2010, who was endorsed by the unpopular administration of then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.



John Lloyd, Angelica are still together

John Lloyd Cruz is sick and tired about endless questions on his love life. Writers keep on asking him if it’s true that he and Angelica Panganiban have broken up. But he remains very polite in patiently explaining to them that even if Angelica went on a recent vacation in the States all by her lonesome self, it doesn’t mean that they have called it quits. He adds that they don’t have any relationship problems and he was just so busy with work then, so he couldn’t afford to go on vacation.

When we attended the preview of his filmfest entry, “Honor Thy Father”, at the Dolphy Theatre, we personally confirmed that JL is telling the truth that they have not broken up. Angelica was there inside the theatre, patiently waiting for him to sit beside her while JL was being interviewed by some people and was later called in front with Director Erik Matti and the rest of his co-stars in the movie.

JL is very proud of “Honor Thy Father” and stresses that he’s glad that when he finally joined the Metro Manila Filmfest, it’s with an entry like this where he was deglamorized in his role as a man pushed against the wall and has to fight for the safety of his wife and daughter. Aside from this, JL has completed another serious movie, the indie flick from Lav Diaz entitled “Hele sa Hiwagang Hapis” where he co-stars with Piolo Pascual, Sid Lucero, Alessandra de Rossi, Cherie Gil, Angel Aquino and Ely Buendia.

AFP to turn Manila Green

MANILA - With the help of the public, the Armed Forces of the Philippines aims to transform Metro Manila into a forested area of sorts next year.

Under a program it launched December 2015, the AFP is targeting the propagation of one million seedlings from fruit seeds to be planted later on in vacant lots. With “Race to 1,000,000 Seedlings” set to begin in this month, the military has encouraged the public to pitch in by raising seedlings from fruit seeds in their backyards for the next six months. The AFP’s Civil Relations Service (CRS) will be leading the effort, utilizing social media to urge participants to post their experiences on Facebook or Twitter to inspire others.

“This project also aims for participants to make it a habit to always save the seeds of fruits they eat. We look forward to a future when every resident in Metro Manila would always plant seeds of fruits they eat, and reuse plastic bags as poly bags,” said Lt. Col. Marlowe Patria, the AFP-CRS’ 7th Civil Relations Group chief.

According to him, the program was part of the military’s efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and high gaseous emissions in the metropolis.

Trudeau is Conservative in Liberal clothing

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised 25,000 refugees will be in Canada by the end of this year during the election while former PM harper promised 10,000 at the end of the year and more after that saying that accepting 25,000 at the end of the year is impossible. Now that the Liberals won, they have implemented Harper’s promise of only 10,000 at the end of the year. Even that is near-impossible to achieve. So, in short, they are now implementing the Conservatives’ platform.

Immigration Promises

Right now, the flavor of the month for the media is Syrian refugees. Will the Liberals promise to make it easier for our caregivers and domestic workers to get permanent residence and sponsor their families disappear in a cloud of smoke? These refugees are so lucky because they land here as permanent residents while our fellow Filipinos have to prove that they will work hard. And even with that, one mistake in their application for permanent residency can result in deportation. While there are stories of Syrian refugees families having been massacred, it does not apply to all of them. It’s just that the sympathy for one is applied to all which makes it easy for them to come here. So in short, Filipinos voted for Trudeau just so he can implement conservative policies. Ika nga, as always, parang sa Pilipinas, kapag artista ka, iboboto ka. So, dahil guwapo, ayun nilagay sa trono. Pareho din pala. If they wanted permanent residency upon landing for our kapwa Pilipino, they should have voted NDP.

US distrusts Canada

Accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees makes Canada look compassionate to the world. The US only promised to take in 10,000. And this is the problem for Canada. To the eyes of the Americans, we are willing to accept anybody without security checks. The Americans in turn will make it harder for us Canadians to travel to the US. In fact, as has been pointed out, the US does not need to build a fence between our countries. They only have to slow the movement of goods and people to retaliate against Canada.

Compassionate Canada?

Accepting 25,000 Syrian refugees makes us look good compared to the US who only accepts 10,000. We should not think so highly of ourself. Germany is accepting 1.5 million refugees just in 2015.

PNOY makes Duterte look good?

Why is Duterte popular? Well, PNOY’s style of running the country is like a former US President in the 1920’s, Calvin Coolidge. He presided over a booming economy and he did not get in the way and virtually just relaxed while in office. Just like Coolidge, he also presided over a term that was marked by increasing crime and did not do anything about it. He presided during prohibition,

a time when crime skyrocketed because of prohibition where alcohol was banned. As a result, only criminals went into the business of alcohol while the legitimate businesses like breweries and some hotels closed down because they cannot serve alcohol. So, the result is a war among criminals that increased the murder rate. In his case, PNOY is the same. He did not do anything when a lot of passengers were being victimized. He did not do anything about Tacloban when it was devastated by typhoon because it was run by a rival political family, the Romualdez’. This is the reason Duterte is popular. Duterte talked tough. Whether he will follow it up if he is elected is another issue altogether. Baka talk tough lang siya.

What is Facebook for?

Well, as the name implies, it for, saving faces. We like to put our deepest emotions. Or as we like to say, emoting to death. We like everyone to read what we write. We like them to sympathize with our pains, share in our joys and laugh at our silliness that we write down for the whole world to see. Most of the time, we want to look good. If we do not want the world to see, we would just share it to ‘me only.’ Or, we will not be in facebook at all. My friend does not dabble in fb. Sabi niya, there are some people in your life that you do not want to meet again, either in person or online. He he he.

Drinking and Hosting?

Miss Universe host Steve Harvey announced that Miss Colombia is the new Miss Universe 2016. Two minutes alter, he corrected it by saying that it was Miss Philippines who won. Now, news came out that Steve Harvey was drinking and gambling before hosting the show. That is news? The pageant was in Las Vegas. What the hell is he supposed to do? He was not going drinking and driving. He was going to host a beauty pageant. The last time I checked, it is not against the law to drink and host a show. He did not slur his words. He did not get drunk. He was not going driving. He flubbed. Simplae as that. Let us put this simply - even if he did not not make a mistake, the winner will still be the same and nobody would be paying attention to Miss Universe. But because of a simple mistake, everybody is talking about Miss Universe.

Denise Laurel named Season 2 Grand Winner of ‘Your Face Sounds Familiar’

‘Kafamiliars,’ went ‘Crazy in Love’ with actress’ Beyonce impersonation



QUEZON CITY – Actress Denise Laurel emerged as the grand winner of the second season of hit reality competition “Your Face Sounds Familiar,” besting her co-finalists after scoring the highest percentage of Philippine public votes in the show’s two-part finale on The Filipino Channel (TFC) worldwide.

Laurel, who garnered 27.51% of the total public votes, transformed into pop diva Beyonce and sang “Love on Top” and “Crazy in Love” for her final performance.

She took home P2 million, half of which will be donated to her chosen charity, Caritas Manila.

Dubbed the program’s Sultry Heiress, Laurel beat co-finalists Kean Cipriano, KZ Tandingan, Sam Concepcion, and Michael Pangilinan despite the fact that she has not won any of the weekly competitions.

“I never won, and every week my son would cry. But I wanted to show him hard work and perseverance, and that whatever happens, try and try until you succeed,” she said.

Harana Prince Pangilinan, meantime copied rocker Adam Levine and came in second. Absolute Performer Sam Concepcion, who donned his best impersonation of Justin Bieber, placed third. Soul Supreme Tandingan, who impersonated Lady Gaga, and Rebel Rock Royalty Cipriano, who turned into Ricky Martin, ranked fourth and fifth, respectively.

The four placers all got P200,000 each, half of which will also be given to their chosen charity.

Meanwhile, on finale show, other celebrity performers Kakai Bautista, Eric Nicolas, and Myrtle Sarrosa took the stage for the last time for their impersonation of the 80’s band Bee Gees.

The finale show was also opened by jurors Gary Valenciano, Jed Madela, and Sharon Cuneta who sang a medley of Christmas songs.

The two-night “Your Face Sounds Familiar: The Grand Showdown” was hosted by Billy Crawford and first “Your Face Sounds Familiar” Grand Winner, Melai Cantiveros.

Relive the fun and exciting transformations in “Your Face Sounds Familiar” on TFC’s official online service, TFC.tv or via video-on-demand or VOD (Internet Protocol television or IPTV) service until January 13, 2016 available in the USA, Canada, Europe, Middle East, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

Aquino Cabinet’s satisfaction rating down

MANILA - The net public satisfaction rating of the Cabinet of President Benigno Aquino III plunged in the fourth quarter of the year from +16 in September to +11, the Social Weather Stations said in its latest survey.

Malacañang downplayed the SWS survey results. “We note the latest Social Weather Station survey on Public Satisfaction with top government officials and top government institutions which show that the satisfaction rating for the Cabinet as a whole remained “moderate” with 38 percent of respondents satisfied, 32 percent undecided and 27 dissatisfied for a net satisfaction rating of +11,” said Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. The SWS also said public satisfaction of several top officials in the country also plunged, with some hitting their personal record lows. Among those whose public satisfaction ratings dropped were Vice President Jejomar Binay, Senate President Franklin Drilon, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes P. A. Sereno, the SWS said.

Results of a December 5 to 8, 2015 survey of the SWS, among 1,200 adults nationwide—with sampling error margins of ±3 points for national percentages and ±6 points each for Metro Manila, “Balance of Luzon,” the Visayas and Mindanao— showed that Drilon suffered the biggest drop in his net satisfaction rating, falling two grades and 35 points to a personal record-low “neutral” +7 from “good” +42 in September. Some 38 percent of those surveyed said they were satisfied with Drilon, as opposed to the 31 percent who were dissatisfied.

According to the SWS, Binay’s net satisfaction rating dropped 9 points to a personal record-low of “moderate” +24 (with 52 percent satisfied against 28 percent dissatisfied) from +33 (with 58 percent satisfied and 25 percent dissatisfied) in September.

“It used to be very good to excellent from March 2011 to September 2014, and good from December 2014 to September 2015,” the SWS said.

The SWS said Sereno’s ratings decreased 5 points to a personal record-low of “neutral” -1 (with 29 percent satisfied and 31 percent dissatisfied) from September’s +4.

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L.M. Confidential

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LAUGH RESORT

Sa harap ng nursery window
Friend: Pare, pag laki ng anak mo,
am sure magaling mag-drive
Dad: Bakit, pare, malaki ba ang
kamay?
Friend: Hindi. Kasi kamukha siya
ng driver ninyo!

misis1: lolokohin ko ang mister ko
kunwari isa akong call girl
misis2: o sige game ako jan!
nakita ni misis1 c mister
misis1: helllo boy pwede ka ba
ngaun?
mister: ayoko nga sayo kamukha
mo miss ko!

ANAK: tay! sino mas mahal mo, ako o si
nanay?
TATAY: syempre ikaw anak....
ANAK: kaya pala kapag madaling araw,
ako po ay kinukumutan niyo at si nanay
naman po ay hinuhubaran niyo...

JUAN: Alam mo, ayaw na ayaw kong
makakita ng nakatayong babae sa bus
habang ako eh nakaupo!
MAX: Kaya pinapaupo mo?
JUAN: Hindi, natutulog ako!

INAY: Binigay na ba card nyo?
PNOY: Opo nay, good news ala na po ako
line of 7!
INAY: Talaga? Patingin! English-65
Math-60 Science-69 Pilipino-67..Ala
nga!

INAY: Bat ka umiiyak?
BERTING: Si kuya, sinabihan ako pangit
INAY: Totoo ba sumbong ng kapatid
mo?
JUAN: Wag po kau maniwala sa sinasabi
ng pangit na yan!

BF: Kainis si Juan, sabihin ba naman na
mukha ako Magsasaka pag katabi kita!
GF: Wag ka na magalit nagbibiro lang
yun. Bakit nya naman daw nasabi?
BF: Kasi mukha ka daw kalabaw
GF: GRRR!

Honey Shot



Maisie Floriano is one of the beauty titlists of the Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation. When not fulfilling her duties for the foundation, she is busy modelling for Mahistrado Fashions.

Maisie Floriano

Kiray gets biggest break as she teams up with Derek

Young comedian Kiray Celis gets her biggest break as the lead character in

Regal's first offering for 2016, the rom-com "Love is Blind", directed by Jason Paul Laxamana. Kiray plays a vertically-challenged and plain-looking girl

who's looking for love, but no one would even give her a second look. She falls in love with the hunky Derek Ramsay and with the help of a love potion or gayuma that she makes Derek drink, he does get enamoured with her.

Its trailer was shown at the special midnight screening of "Haunted Mansion" and the audience was really laughing at the antics of Kiray and Derek, who surely make an unlikely combination. The conceit of the film is that when Derek looks at her, he does not see her as Kiray but as the sultry and sexy Solenn Heussaff.

There's one funny scene where she tells Kiray: "You're so hot!" Solenn is in front of him but the people around him are wondering why he said that because it's Kiray who's actually with him. The storyline is quite reminiscent of the Farrelly Brothers comedy, "Shallow Hal", where Jack Black sees the very fat Gwyneth Paltrow as someone who's so sexy. Let's see if Director Laxamana (who did acclaimed indie films "Babagwa" and "Mag-kakabaung") will succeed in pulling off this kind of odd-ball comedy in his first attempt at comedy and mainstream filmmaking.



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AGNES MUNOZ

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NATALIE JAMES

Japan to patrol the West Phil. Sea on behalf of our allies



TOKYO, Japan – Japanese warships may soon be dispatch to patrol and monitor the West Philippine Sea on behalf of her allies. Vice Admiral Yasuhiro Shigeoka, commander of Japan’s Self Defense Fleet, said that the Maritime Self-Defense Force is prepared to enter into patrol activities at any time, and “upon command,”(referring on Prime Minister Abe’s orders) the Mainichi Shimbun reported. The statement comes the same day the United States and Japan said that both sides has plans to launch joint patrols in the South China Sea(West Philippine Sea), even as the two navies conducted a joint training exercise at sea. Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, commander of the U.S. 7th Fleet, headquartered in

Yokosuka, Japan, said the exercises would “enable pacific allies[U.S and Japan] to help one another because ships can be spread out over the ocean...We think it bodes well for the future, not only for our two countries but for the Western Pacific.” The Philippines and Vietnam on their part has welcomed the unitary actions made by Japan. In the pacific sphere, the Japanese Self Defense Fleet is the only naval power that can match the Chinese Navy. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has warned Japan that any uninvited actions in the South China Sea may result to confrontation and instability and that the Chinese Navy will uphold its rights in defending the indisputable sovereignty of China over the South China Sea.

Massive Army of-fensive kills +30 Abu Sayyaf Terrorist in a week-long battle in Basilan

BASILAN, Sulu – Government forces have launched a massive offensive against a terrorist camp holding almost 100 strong Abu Sayyaf members. The week-long assault by Philippine troops ended with the capture of a Muslim extremist camp and the deaths of 35 militants and three soldiers, a military spokesman said. Soldiers captured the Abu Sayyaf camp in a forested area on the southern island of Basilan but an improvised explosive device left behind by the rebels, injured 12 soldiers on Sunday, said Major Filemon Tan. Philippine Army have received intelligence reports that the Abu Sayyaf terrorist are holding a base camp at a specified forest in Al Barka, Basilan. The AFP immediately launch a massive assault comprising of the Scout Rangers, Marines and Navy Forces totaling 600 troops. In the ensuing week-long battle started on December 17, the Abu Sayyaf suffered heavy casualties totaling 35 terrorist while 3 Filipino soldiers were killed in action. The soldiers are Cpt Cordero, PFC Tirambulo and Marine SSg Tuting. The General Headquarters have sent Army representatives to comfort the soldiers’ families.



Jennylyn admits Amsterdam trip with Dennis, but denies reconciliation

JENNYLYN Mercado is paired with another Kapamilya actor after the hit romcom, “The Prenup” with Sam Milby. This time she teams up with Jericho Rosales in the Metro Manila filmfest entry “Walang Forever”. Last year, she won as Metro filmfest best actress for “English Only, Please”. What are the chance of her winning again this year? “Ay, hindi ko po alam,” she says. “Last year, hindi talaga ako nage-expect so it came as a big surprise. This year, wala rin akong expectations but kung ibibigay ba, e di maraming salamat. Pero magkaiba ‘yung dala-wang movies, e, kahit pareho sila ng director, si Direk Dan Villegas. ‘English Only’ is more of comedy. Ito namang ‘Walang Forever’, more of drama about relationships.”

She plays Pia Nolasco, a well known scriptwriter of rom-coms, just like script-writer of “Walang Forever”, Antoinette Jadaone. (So could it be that this autobiographical on the Jadaone’s part?) She falls in love with Jericho as Ethan, but later decides to break up with him. Why? “Kasi sarili lang niya ang inisip niya. But after some years, babalik siya uli and will court me again at makukuha na naman niya ang pag-ibig ko, then every thing that happened in the past will happen all over again. Masa-saktan na naman ako. Kaya nga sa trailer, may line na, kapag paulit-ulit ang sakit, maniniwala ka pa ba sa forever?”

Supporting them in the movie are Lorna Tolentino as Jen’s ‘kunsintidora’ mom who supports Jericho’s comeback bid in Jen’s life; Nico Antonio, Jerald Napoles and Kim Molina as Jen’s friends, and Pepe Herrera as Jericho’s friend. The movie is partly shot in Taipei, Taiwan as Jericho decides to leave Manila and work there. About her lovelife, Jen continues to deny that she and Dennis Trillo have kissed and made up but they were just seen traveling together in Amsterdam. “That’s true, pero hindi kaming dalawa lang ‘yun. We’re a group of friends. Kasama ‘yung mga regular na non-showbiz kabarkada namin sa sports, like biking and trekking. Actually, nau-na kaming magpunta roon at sumunod lang si Dennis. Hindi rin ako nagtagal kasi I have to come back right away as I’m a judge sa StarStruck 6 tapos we have to fly to Taiwan pa to shoot the ending of ‘Walang Forever’ kaya madalian lang yung biyahe ko.”

Philippines first country to use dengue medicine

PARIS, France – The Philippines became the first Asian country on Tuesday, December 22, to approve the sale of the world’s first-ever dengue vaccine. Dengvaxia, manufactured by French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, secured its first regulatory approval in Mexico a fortnight ago and is currently being reviewed by around 20 countries in Asia and Latin America. It is hoped the drug could eventually help prevent millions of deaths from dengue, the world’s fastest-growing mosquito-borne disease. The World Health Organization says as many as 400 million people are infected worldwide every year, and two-thirds are in Asia. “It’s a major step in the prevention of dengue and for public health,” Olivier Chameil, head of Sanofi’s vaccines division, said in a statement. Scientists have long been stumped by dengue, which has 4 separate strains, forcing researchers to find a drug able to fight all of them at once. Clinical tests -- carried out on 40,000 people from 15 countries -- have found Dengvaxia can immunize two-thirds of people aged nine years and older, rising to 93 percent for the more severe form of the disease, dengue haemorrhagic fever. It was also found to reduce the risk of hospitalization by 80%. Dengue can trigger a crippling fever, along with muscle and joint pain. There is no known cure, and children are at particular risk. The deadliest form of the disease kills 22,000 people a year, the WHO says. It was once considered a disease of the tropics, endemic in only 9 countries, but globalization, urbanization, climate change and jet travel are helping it to move into more temperate zones. It is now endemic in more than 100 countries.

Over 100,000 Filipinos register for OAV in US

Over 100,000 Filipinos in the United States have registered for the overseas absentee voting (OAV) for the 2016 elections. Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose Cuisia said the Commission on Elections (Comelec) is expected to come out with a final list of voters from the different states soon. Because of this, Cuisia also expects a higher voter turnout from the US. The Philippine consulate is constantly working with various Filipino and Filipino-American communities in campaigning for participation in the overseas voting.

MARIA OZAWA
from JUAN NATIONALIST



Maria Ozawa, former Japanese porn star moves to the Philippines.

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Tourists refused at ‘La Presa’

BAGUIO CITY—The government has stopped tourists from driving up to the community made popular by a television series in Mt. Sto. Tomas in Tuba, Benguet, in order to enforce the permanent environment protection order imposed by the Court of Appeals in May. The ban was imposed early last month, drawing objections from residents and officials of Tuba town, which covers a larger portion of the Mt. Sto. Tomas forest reservation. Many motorists were turned away on Christmas Day by policemen and members of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as they proceeded to Sitio Pungayan in Barangay Poblacion, Tuba. Pungayan was the location of the fictitious community of “La Presa” where television crews shot episodes of the soap opera “Forevermore” there last year until early this year. Julio Lopez, Benguet provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the tourist ban covers the entire Mt. Sto. Tomas reservation and not just Sitio Pungayan. Anabel Solano, Tuba assistant tourism officer, said the DENR policy forced the local government to recall five employees tasked to manage and haul out garbage in the reservation, and to collect the P25 environmental fee from visitors, most of whom drive to Pungayan, which is more than 10 kilometers from downtown Baguio. Tuba Mayor Florencio Bentrez said the local government would follow the DENR’s order.





Heart attack led to Chinese MMA fighter’s death in Manila

One the day of ONE Championship’s Spirit of Champions event in Manila, Philippines, it was reported that Chinese MMA fighter Yang Jian Bing had passed away due to complications in cutting weight.

Yang was scheduled to fight Filipino Geje Eustaquio in a flyweight bout, but the fight was ultimately scrapped the day before the event.

According to the official autopsy report posted on the ONE Championship website, Yang’s death was caused by an acute myocardial infraction, or simply put, a heart attack.

“Yang Jian Bing’s passing has been and extremely sad and painful time for me and the entire MMA community. My thoughts are with Yang’s family, friends and fans around the world.” ONE Championship CEO Victor Cui said.

The 21-year old Yang was supposed to compete in his seventh professional mixed martial arts contest.

Philippines is set to become a trillion dollar economy



MANILA, Philippines – The IHS Global Insight predicts that the Pearl of the Orient(Philippines) will grow into a \$1-trillion economy by 2030 and will become the only sovereign in Asia with a credit status that will improve better than other pacific nations.

The IHS Global “Sovereign Risk Review” report for the third quarter, credit scorer IHS said as far as the Philippines is concerned, its positive credit future is anchored on its strong macroeconomic fundamentals and improvements in governance standards, and reforms that enhanced the country’s competitiveness

Rajiv Biswas, IHS chief economist for Asia Pacific, noted that the Philippines which currently has gross domestic product (GDP) of \$292 billion, has the potential to grow into \$695-billion economy by 2025 and over a \$1-trillion economy by 2030.

“Two important growth drivers for the Philippines’ economy are the rapidly growing information technology-business process outsourcing (IT-BPO) sector and the strong flow of remittances from Filipino workers abroad,” Biswas said. “The rapid growth of the IT-BPO industry is also creating positive

transmission effects for the rest of the economy, including rapid growth in demand for commercial floor space, underpinning the development of existing and new office parks in urban centers.”

IHS has also upgraded its outlook on the Philippines’ credit rating from “stable” to “positive.” “The improved outlook means that the Philippines’ existing credit rating which is set at the minimum investment grade of ‘BBB-‘ has a chance of being raised over the near term,” according to the central bank’s Investment Relations Office.

Based on the review which compares and assesses every sovereign worldwide across ratings agencies, the country is the only sovereign in Asia that garnered a positive action from IHS.

“IHS recognized the Philippines’ comfortable liquidity as evidenced by sustained surpluses in its current account, as well as continually improving manageability of debt on the back of prudent fiscal management and growing economy,” said IRO.

The IHS Global also noted the good governance drive of the Aquino administration that bolstered the confidence of foreign investors.

Lovi, Solenn admit something they neglected

Both Lovi Poe and Solenn Heussaff are singers who have their own hit albums. But lately, they’ve both neglected their singing careers as they became much busier with acting jobs.

“But now that tapos na ako in taping ‘Beautiful Strangers’, babalik naman ako sa pagkanta kasi



na-miss ko talaga ito,” says Lovi. “I will do a pre-Valentine concert with Solenn.”

“Ako rin, I got busy doing one movie after another like ‘Flotsam’, ‘Padyak to Love’ and ‘Love is Blind’, then nasa ‘Marimar’ pa ako,” says Solenn. “But it’s really time to sing again and I’m glad I have this concert with Lovi soon. Actually, after I joined ‘Survivor Philippines’ kunsaan ako unang nakilala, what I really wanted to do is to have a singing career, but then, dumami agad ang acting projects ko before I was given the chance to my own album.”

Their concert is scheduled just before Valentine. Everyone knows Solenn is now officially engaged to her Argentinian BF, Nico Bolzico, so she definitely has a Valentine. But Lovi is said to be loveless this Christmas season after she and Rocco Nacino broke up some weeks ago, although they have yet to officially confirm this.

“Ayaw na kasing mag-comment ni Lovi tungkol diyan,” says someone close to Lovi. “Dedma na lang siya tuwing may nagtatanong sa kanya. But obvious na wala na talaga sila. The stars of ‘Beautiful Strangers’ had a reunion recently at pareho silang nandun at kitang-kita mong cold na sila sa isa’t isa at ni hindi na sila nagtatabi.”



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Binay expects more smear

MANILA – After regaining his lead in the latest Pulse Asia pre-election survey, Vice President Jejomar Binay believes that his political foes will intensify their smear campaign against him.

Binay said he is glad that despite the “dirty politics,” many people continue to trust him. “Sagitna ng maruming pamumulitika, marami pa rin ang patuloy na nagtitiwala. Taos puso ang aking pasasalamat sa ating mga kababayan sa inyong walang sawang pagsuporta. Ang inyong mainit na pagsalubong at pagtanggap sa akin sa tuwing ako ay dumadalaw sa inyong mga lugar ang siyang nagpapalakas sa akin,” said Binay, who is known for his campaign strategy of actively reaching out to the grassroots.

Binay’s popularity suffered in the wake of the long-running Senate investigation into the allegedly overpriced Makati City Hall Building II. The investigation prompted other corruption allegations against Binay when he was still the mayor of Makati City to surface.

In October, the Ombudsman also indicted Binay and his son, former Makati City Mayor Junjun Binay, of graft over the allegedly anomalous project.

Poe benefited from the image problem plaguing Binay, overtaking the latter in the pre-election surveys. But it has been since a bumpy ride for the neophyte senator, who is now dealing with numerous bids to exclude her from the presidential race because of her citizenship and residency.

Sen. Poe’s camp admitted the various disqualification cases have hurt her chances.

Now that he has regained the lead, Binay said he is preparing for an intensified smear campaign against him.

“Matagal pa ito at inaasahan ko na gagawin nila ang lahat para siraan uli ang aking pangalan at pagkatao,” Binay said.

“Sa halip sana na paninira, asam ko ay magsama-sama na lamang tayo at bigyang pansin ang pagtulong sa ating mga kababayan, lalo na ang mga nasalanta ng bagyo sa Gitnang Luzon, Samar, at Mindanao.”

‘Binay’s days as top pick are numbered’

Vice President Jejomar Binay’s days as survey front runner are numbered, a spokesman for Liberal Party standard bearer Manuel Roxas II said.

“I don’t think he [Binay] is in a secure position,” Rep. Barry Gutierrez said.

“Once people are reminded of his extensive links to corruption and he continues to avoid the issue, his support will once again drop.”

Gutierrez made his statement even as Binay vowed to create more jobs should he become the next president to reduce the number of Filipinos seeking work abroad. Binay, former presidential adviser on migrant Filipino workers, told members of the Federation of Free Workers in Cagayan de Oro City that he would do his best to improve the lives of Filipinos.

Binay earlier said he would focus on strengthening the five biggest creators of employment: agriculture, mining, business process outsourcing, manufacturing and exports.

Gutierrez said Binay’s emergence as the top pick in the presidential race was a result of the change in the public’s interest from the corruption charges Binay was facing to the issues affecting Duterte, Poe and Roxas.

“VP Binay was simply forgotten in the national conversation as it shifted to Poe, Duterte and Mar,” Gutierrez said.

“And in his case, that was a good thing because the numerous unanswered corruption charges against him also faded into the background, allowing him to recover some lost ground,” he said.

Binay surged 33 percent to regain the top spot in the latest Pulse Asia presidential survey.

Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte ranked second with 23 percent followed by Senator Grace Poe with 21 percent.

Roxas ranked fourth with 17 percent while Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago placed last with 4 percent.

SC to favor Poe?

MANILA - The lawyer of Senator Grace Poe will challenge the Commission on Elections before the Supreme Court for the disqualification case it rendered against the leading presidential candidate, and expressed confidence that the SC will favor Poe.

“The Supreme Court would decide in favor of genuine democratic elections that allow foundlings like her to run once it sees the evidence to be presented by her camp,” Poe’s lawyer George Garcia said.

Poe said she trusts the court to act swiftly on the petition that her legal team submitted and expressed confidence that the Supreme Court would decide on her favor.

The Supreme Court will be on recess until Jan. 10 but under Rule 7, Section 7 of the SC Internal Rules, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno is empowered to act on urgent cases and issue temporary restraining orders or status quo ante orders without holding a session of the justices.

Such reliefs, however, must be confirmed by the majority of the justices when sessions resume, which is on Jan. 11 for the divisions and Jan. 12 for the full court.

“I assure everyone that I am still a candidate for president,” Poe said.

The Comelec en banc decided to grant the four petitions seeking to remove Poe from the presidential race on Dec. 23, or after government has taken a break for the Christmas holidays. Following the promulgation, Poe’s camp has only five days to seek relief from the Supreme Court.

The poll body, however, said that Poe’s name will remain on the ballot.

Chief Justice Sereno has earlier told media that she does not see the election-related cases as just a contest for 2016, saying the impact of the High Court’s decision will have long-term consequences for the country and will gauge the Philippines’ ability to be a modern democracy.



Carla’s choice: It’s a free country

Carla Abellana was bashed in social media when she appeared in the music video of Mar Roxas. Some folks even unfriended her saying she’s making a wrong decision in endorsing Mar. What can she say about this?

“It’s part of the decision in choosing a presidential candidate,” she says. “Pinag-usapan namin nang matagal ‘yan ng manager ko (Arnold Vegafria) and I guess hindi mailwasan na may hindi gusto sa ginawa mo at magagalit sa’yo. You can’t please everyone naman, but this is a free country and you can choose anyone you prefer.”

She is the latest endorser of ATC Health Products for their Vitamin E preparation called Vita E. She was launched at the new Novotel in Cubao. “This promotes good skin and well being, which is a must for someone like me who currently has four regular shows (“Because of You”, “Karelasyon”, “Ismol Family” and “Kitchenomics”) kaya lagi akong puyat at pagod.”

What’s the difference of ATC’s Vita E compared to other vitamin E preparations? “ATC is trustworthy. Marami na silang ibang health and wellness products at maganda ang track record nila kasi very effective. When my fans learned I’m promoting this, pati sila, bumili na rin and they even post photos of the box to show me they’re also using it.”

Will she recommend it to rumored beau Tom Rodriguez? “Of course, hindi naman ito for women lang but also for men, for everyone.”

She is happy that her new show on GMA7, “Because of You”, is rating so high nationwide. “Bentang-benta ang mga eksena namin ni Kuya Gabby Concepcion, like ‘yung scene na lasing na lasing siya tapos mapagkakamalan niyang ako ang wife niyang si Valerie at hahalikan niya ako. Maraming kinilig dun. Isa-suggest sa kanya ng friend niyang pagselosin si Valerie para bumalik sa kanya. Ako naman, feeling lonely pa rin after my groom, Rafael Rosell, deserted me on our wedding day kaya I go to a bar with my friends, Iya Villania and Vaness del Moral, without knowing I’ll bump into Rafael there, so gagamitin ko naman si Betong Sumaya as my new boyfriend para pagselosin siya. Kaya lang, mabubuko akong di ko talaga boyfriend si Betong. Para hindi ako mapahiya, Kuya Gabby naman, who turns out to be in the bar also, claims na siya talaga ang kasama ko. Doon nga, sinabi niyang totooanin na lang namin ang pagpapanggap na may relasyon kami, much to the dislike of his children, lalo na ang eldest niyang si Joyce Ching.”

Madlos pessimistic about peace talks

DAVAO CITY—A top communist leader in Mindanao has expressed pessimism over calls by various sectors for a fresh round of talks with the government in a bid to end one of Asia’s longest insurgencies, accusing the latter of insincerity by violating even its self-imposed ceasefire with the rebels.

Jorge Madlos, alias Ka (Comrade) Oris, National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) spokesperson in Mindanao, said the military continues conducting offensives under the cover of “peace and development operations” even as the government and rebels had declared separately a 12-day lull in fighting that started Dec. 23 in deference to the Christmas and New Year’s Eve festivities throughout the predominantly Christian nation.

“I’m not optimistic with the proposal,” Madlos said, referring to appeals for an extended ceasefire with government troops than could well reach up to next year’s elections.

The rebel spokesperson said the military has been violating its own ceasefire by launching attacks and operations against rebel-held areas in Surigao del Sur province in Mindanao, forcing the rebels’ armed wing, New People’s Army (NPA), on the defensive.

PNP now on election mode

PHILIPPINE National Police chief Director General Ricardo C. Marquez said they are fine-tuning all their security preparations for the forthcoming 2016 presidential and national elections.

“We are now preparing for the 2016 elections which will again test the resolve of the police to ensure that the will of the people will be followed without violence,” said the PNP chief while citing the need for police officials to make sure that genuine patrolling is done on the ground and that the PNP Oplan: Lambat-Sibat program will continue to arrest criminality and keep the streets safe 24/7.

The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group headed by Chief Superintendent Victor P. Deona, the PNP Directorate for Intelligence and Intelligence Group headed respectively by Director Generoso R. Cerbo Jr. and Chief Supt. Fernando H. Mendez Jr. and the 18 Police Regional Offices led by the National Capital Region Police Office under Director Joel D. Pagdilao have mounted a stepped-up campaign against loose firearms, partisan armed groups and organized criminal gangs that may be used by politicians in the elections.

The PNP is set to enforce a 5-month nationwide gun ban starting January 10 this year as part of its election security measures. The prohibition against the unauthorized carrying of firearms in the streets will end on June 8, 2016.

Drs. Solon and Josephine Guzman’s Christmas Party

Drs. Solon and Josephine Guzman held their Christmas party for staff, their families, friends and clients and everyone had a great time. Here are just some photos.





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Just as she promised, Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach makes up for Pacquiao loss to Mayweather

Manny Pacquiao says he will be dedicating his next fight to 2015 Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach.

MANILA, Philippines – When Manny Pacquiao steps on the ring for the last time in April next year, he will be thinking about Pia Wurtzbach’s historic 2015 Miss Universe victory.

The Filipino icon hailed Wurtzbach for ending the Philippines’ 42-year title drought in the Miss Universe pageant, saying her feat will serve as his inspiration for his next fight.

“Courage is grace under pressure – this is what Pia showed in the middle of the confusion and controversy that marked her coronation as the new Miss Universe,” Pacquiao told Philboxing.com’s Eddie Alinea, aware of the pageant’s controversial nature that saw host Steve Harvey wrongly announcing Miss Colombia as the winner.

It can be recalled that Wurtzbach vowed to make up for Pacquiao’s loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. last May by winning the world’s most prestigious beauty pageant.

She made good on that promise, and Pacquiao isn’t someone who easily forgets.

“Remember when I lost to Floyd last May, she made a promise to all of us Filipinos that she will avenge that defeat

comes the Miss Universe pageant which she just has fulfilled,” he continued.

Regardless of who Pacquiao fights next – be it Timothy Bradley or Terence Crawford – he said he is dedicating the bout to Wurtzbach as his way of returning the favor.

“Ipinangako niya yun at tinupad niya. Ang masabi ko lang ay tatandaan ko ang mga yun which I intend to use as an inspiration and additional motivation for me in my next fight,” Pacquiao added.

“Kung kaya nga’t ipinangangako ko rin sa kanya na iniaalay ko sa kanya at sa mga kababayan natin ang susunod kong laban at pipilitin ko ring ipanalo alang-alang sa bayan (That’s why I also promise to dedicate my next fight to her and to my countryman and that I will do my best to win).”



Vhong still fears for his life

Vhong Navarro attended the presscon of “Buy Now Die Later” with some bodyguards. “Mabuti na kasi ‘yung nag-iingat,” he says. “Kasi alam naman natin ang panahon ngayon, delikado. Ang tao ngayon, kapag pinapatay, parang ipis na lang, di ba? So mahirap, eh.”

Is he scared that the beatings he received last year from Cedric Lee and friends might have a take 2? “Oo, hindi naman nawawala ‘yung takot. Pero kasi, ang paniniwala ko sa Panginoon, binibigay ko na sa Kanya ang lahat. Basta ang pananampalataya ko, ‘yung proteksyong hinihingi ko, nasa Kanya ‘yon. Kasi, kahit anong dami ng bodyguards mo, kahit trenta pa ‘yan, kung kukunin ka na, wala rin tayong magagawa.”

Is he amenable to an amicable settlement of the case against Cedric and friends? “Hindi po ako makikipag-ayos. Hayaan na lang natin ang korte. Sana lang, mas bumilis ang takbo ng kaso sa husgado. Ang sarap sanang magsalita. Ang sarap magsabi ng kung ano ‘yung mga nararamdaman ko. Ang hirap lang kasi, may gag order tayó. Kumbaga, hindi pwedeng magsalita kasi baka maapektuhan naman kami. Tuloy pa rin naman ‘yung kaso. Kaya ko naman silang patawarin, e. Pero paano mo namang patatawarin kung ikaw pa ‘yung pinalalabas na masama? Sa ngayon kasi ang hirap magpatawad dahil tipong ikaw pa ‘yung binabaligtad. Basta hindi po ako makikipag-ayos.”

Vhong is better known as a comedian but in “Buy Now Die Later”, he plays a straight dramatic role as Odie, an online blogger who wants to be like his famous photojournalist dad. He buys a magic camera from the mysterious Santi, played by TJ Trinidad. It helps him gets scoops, like the murder of a celebrity that he posts in his blog and becomes a hit. But soon, weird things start happening to him and it’s obvious that his new found popularity comes with a dangerous price.

“I enjoyed making the movie with our director, Randolph Longjas, who’s even younger than me. He’s full of fresh ideas .

Fil-Am becomes visitor Number 5m

MANILA - A Filipino-American woman from New York was welcomed by tourism officials at dawn on Monday, December 21 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 for being the five-millionth person to visit the Philippines this year. “I thought I was in trouble,” 23-year-old Gabby Grantham said after she was taken aside by Department of Tourism Asst. Secretary Alan Canizal and Undersecretary Benito Bengzon Jr. shortly after she arrived at 3:48 a.m. via Philippine Airlines flight PR103.

Grantham, the daughter of a Filipino mother and American father, has been to the Philippines only once before and that was when she was a seven-year-old in 2000.

Grantham, who will arrive tour package with hotel accommodation as her prize, said that she plans to stay in the Philippines for around two weeks to explore Palawan, after visiting her maternal grandparents in Cebu. Canizal said the DOT also plans to surprise the sixth- or

seventh-million foreign tourist to arrive in the country. Bengzon, for his part described the welcoming of the fifth-million visitor as an event that is very “significant” owing to the amount of hard work put into achieving it. “This milestone is a result of the collaborative and sustained efforts of all partners in tourism industry,” Bengzon pointed out.

However, Bengzon added that more important than the headcount is the motivation to push even harder. “The fact that we have crossed the five-million mark is that we are already in the big league,” the DOT official said. PNA

“This will allow us to compete more strongly against other destinations in the region. After the five-millionth mark the next will be tenth-million,” he added.

DOT is eyeing the country to have 5.2-million tourist arrivals by the end of the year and 10-million by 2016. Currently, USA is the second top foreign market next to South Korea.

Italy support the Philippines than China

ROME, Italy – Italian President Sergio Mattarella has expressed its full support on the Philippines’ move to bring its territorial dispute against China before an international tribunal, Malacañang said.

The Palace said that during President Benigno Aquino III’s meeting with his Italian counterpart at the Quirinal Palace, Mattarella affirmed the Philippines’ adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The Italian leader also expressed his country’s support for the upholding of the freedom of navigation in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) and acknowledged the path that the Philippines has taken for the peaceful resolution of the dispute. The Philippines has an ongoing case against China in the International Arbitral Tribunal.

Malacañang said Aquino and Mattarella also expressed solidarity in the campaign against global terrorism, giving their shared view on the need to intensify efforts to halt Islamic radicalization.

Pres. Mattarella also express that Italy is open for deeper defense related cooperation between the Philippines and Italy.

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Colombians and Filipinos are 'most outspoken, craziest fans ever'

"Their pageants, I mean, the presidents attend," she said. "It is a big, big deal in these other countries, and Colombian fans, last year when Miss Colombia won, it was in



Moakler, the executive director of the Miss Nevada USA pageant, had a public falling-out with Trump in 2009 when Miss California USA Carrie Prejean was allowed to keep her crown despite controversy over topless photos and remarks against same-sex marriage. Moakler, a gay rights proponent, resigned as co-director of the Miss California USA pageant.

Philippines becomes ISIS training ground

PHL dismisses report

Several jihadi commanders are shown urging Filipino to travel to Syria to join Syria before revealing the group have already started their own terror camp



The AFP guarantees that it is exerting all efforts together with other security forces to neutralize lawless elements in the country.

Malacañang belied reports that there are jihadist training camps in the country,

US gives over 100 military vehicles to Philippines + other news

MANILA, Philippines – A total of 114 units of M113A2 Armed Personnel Carriers (APCs) from the US arrived in Subic December 9 to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The transfer of the large number of APCs will boost the armor capabilities of the Philippine military, which continues to fight communist insurgents and terrorists. The light tracked vehicles will provide secure transport to troops who will be inserted into combat zones. “The EDA (Excess Defense Article) Program grants excess U.S. military equipment from the U.S., without cost, to qualified allied countries. The transfer is a result of a formal request made by the AFP to assist in their defense modernization efforts,” said the US embassy.

The transfer of the armored vehicles has long been approved by the US government but the Philippine defense department had to source the funds to be able to transport them to the Philippines.

The Philippine military is battling Asia’s longest-running insurgency. It has



given itself until 2016 to wipe out the guerrillas.

The Aquino government’s peace agreement with the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front is also in limbo, raising fears of continuing conflict in Muslim-dominated provinces in Mindanao.

Drugs, cellphones, tablet computer seized in 9th Bilibid raid

MANILA - More gadgets, drug paraphernalia, gambling materials and other prohibited items were seized inside the Maximum Security Compound of the

New Bilibid Prison (NBP). Authorities, in their ninth “Oplan Galugad” inspection, searched prison cells and common areas like gardens and visiting halls.

A 54-year-old inmate also admitted buying a P300 cellphone and P800 tablet computer inside the national penitentiary.

The prisoner said he uses his gadgets for leisure and to contact his family.

Last December 8, a similar raid occurred at the NBP, where several security personnel were caught keeping cellphones inside their desks and drawers.

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) director Ricardo Rainier Cruz III said the mobile phones may have been confiscated during prior raids, but were not turned over to authorities.

The six jail guards have been summoned to an investigation. The BuCor has yet to give an update on their case.

Earlier raids at the country’s largest detention facility yielded firearms, weapons, drugs, appliances and gadgets.



JAMES SAYS HE HAS NO MORE ‘ILLUSIONS’

JAMES Blanco has a new manager, Leo Dominguez, who also manages Lovi Poe, Paulo Avelino, JC de Vera and Solenn Heussaff. “I think I’m in good company,” says James, who started his showbiz career in the Regal movie, “Cool Dudes”.

His batchmates in that movie are no longer active, Cogie Domingo and Danilo Barrios, so he feels lucky that he’s able to make a comeback and is still busy with acting projects up to now.

“I left in 2005 when I got married and put up some businesses,” he says. “I made a comeback in 2005 with Tita Anabelle Rama as my manager and since then, tuluy-tuloy na. I did ‘Nagbabagang Bulaklak’ and ‘Valiente’ sa TV5, then lumipat ako sa ABS and did ‘Lorenzo’s Time’, ‘Kahit Konting Pagtingin’, Juan de la Cruz’ and ‘Mirabella’. Last year, kinuha naman ako ng GMA7 sa ‘Yagit’ opposite Yasmien Kurdi. Now, kasama ako sa ‘Marimar’. Wala ‘yung character ko sa original. Pero dinagdag ako rito as Rodolfo. Boyfriend ako ni Solenn Heussaff as Capuccina Blanchette. May kissing scene kami at nagselos ‘yung youngest daughter ko. Tapos, Megan Young as Marimar will use me para pagselosin si Tom Rodriguez as Sergio.”

So when will he play lead roles again? “At this point, wala na akong ganun ilusyon. 35 na ako noong June. Happy na ako sa character roles. Basta ang importante, maganda ang role ko. Ang dream ko, manalo naman sana ng award para magkaroon ng recognition ang pagiging artista ko.”

He feels lucky he can also do movies with Star Cinema. “Kasama ako sa ‘A Second Chance’ as the blind friend nina John Lloyd Cruz. Mas mahaba sana yung role ko kaya lang four times a week ang taping namin sa ‘Marimar’ so hindi ako makapag-shoot sa kanila kaya umikli lang yung role ko. Next year naman, I will start shooting a movie abroad, ‘Balatkayo’, na lead role naman ako. OFW kami rito ni Aiko Melendez na mag-asawa, sa Dubai and Taiwan, at pareho kaming matutukso sa iba. Ako kay Natalie Hart, siya kay Rodjun Cruz. Hopefully, by the time we start shooting, patapos na ang ‘Marimar’ para makasama ko sa location shoot sa ibang bansa.”

His wife, Tania Creighton, manages a European store in SM Aura. Their three kids are old Joaquin Inigo(10), James Sebastian(9), and Natalia Simone (4).

Romualdez upbeat on PDP-Lakas

MANILA - Senatorial candidate and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez welcomed presidential aspirant Rodrigo Duterte’s openness to the possible partnership of Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan and Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in next year’s presidential elections.

“This is a welcome development and we are thankful to Mayor Duterte for his openness to seal an alliance with us,” Romualdez, president of the Lakas-CMD, said.

Romualdez, a lawyer and president of the Philippine Constitution Association said the looming alliance between his party and PDP-Laban will be of greater advantage, especially for people advocating “malasakit” (compassion) in governance.

Duterte, who is the standard bearer of PDP-Laban, said his party is just awaiting for Lakas-CMD or the party of former president-turned Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to formalize its intention for the partnership in the May 2016 polls.

PDP-Laban president and Senator Aquilino Pimentel III earlier said he was open to the arrangement with the Lakas-CMD.

Lakas-CMD Deputy Secretary



Senatorial candidate Ferdinand Martin Romualdez (right) meets with presidential candidate Rodrigo Duterte at Enderan College campus on McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

General Raul Lambino said majority of the party’s members have expressed their intention to support Duterte’s presidential bid.

Earlier, Duterte endorsed the senatorial bid of Romualdez, citing the latter’s “malasakit” (compassion) to public service especially in his efforts to help Yolanda survivors recover from the tragedy, including those from the hardest-hit Tacloban City should be a major factor for the people to elect him to the Senate.

“[Congressman] Martin [Romualdez] is my candidate to the Senate,” Duterte responded to a query of Manila-based

journalist, referring to Romualdez, who is also a guest candidate of presidential aspirant and Vice President Jejomar Binay of the United Nationalist Alliance, as one of the most qualified senatorial candidates.

In response, Romualdez assured Duterte of his commitment to champion good governance, fight against criminality, and graft and corruption as “malasakit” (compassion) to Filipinos who are frustrated of seeking genuine reforms.

“I am one with Mayor Duterte in pushing transparency and accountability in public service that will truly cares and genuinely serves the poorest of the poor. Let us bring back compassion in governance by instilling discipline among our people. These are my commitments to him [Duterte] and Filipino people,” Romualdez said.

Romualdez thanked Duterte for the statement of endorsement to his senatorial bid and for believing on his ability and leadership as senatorial candidate who can contribute for the betterment of the country.

“I am deeply humbled and honored for the support to us by Mayor Duterte,” Romualdez, a former chairman of the House committee on ethics, said.

OLA, AFCM and PCCF Christmas Party



FIRST, Fienness Mendoza entertains the crowd. SECOND, PCCF's Rosemer Enverga poses with ANCOF President Ricky Cuenca. THIRD, PCCF Beauties take a selfie. FOURTH & FIFTH, Members of the San Lorenzo Choir, Knights of Columbus and their Ladies Choir sing at the Our Lady of Assumption Christmas party.



FAR LEFT, Arnel and Mics get married. LEFT, Kathleen John and Alvin Joy get married. ABOVE, Noli and Nena attend both weddings. RIGHT, Lenciefior Rocamora pose at ther debut.



Angeline Guzman, the youngest daughter of Drs. Solon and Josephine Guzman models the latest style from Mahistrado fashions.

OLA, AFCM and PCCF Christmas Party

The Philippine Canadian Charitable Founda- tion (PCCF) together with the Archdiocesan Filipino Catholic Mission (AFCM) and the Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) Catholic

Church had a Christmas Party attended by 300 volunteers and supporters, on Saturday, December 12th, 2015, at the OLA Hall at 2565 Bathurst Street in Toronto.

Rev. Fr. Ben Ebcas, Jr. welcomed and sung

OLA continued on page 25



LEFT, Senator Tobias Enverga celebrates his birthday at the Christmas party. RIGHT, Children receive their gifts from Santa Claus. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS



FV Foods' Mel Galeon (THIRD FROM RIGHT) poses with Juia Clarete and Glaiza de Castro at the Bathurst store with staff.

Sarah and Matteo split

There's a rumor that she and Matteo are now "hiwa- lay". What can she say about this? "Hindi na natapos 'yan. Sige, aaminin ko na. Hiwalay kami. Sa Pasko. Kasi nasa Cebu siya with his family at nandito ako sa Manila with mine.

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L. M. Confidential

13



FV Foods Christmas Party

Obviously, lots of food is a given when FV Foods holds a company Christmas party. Besides the delicious food, there were lots of entertainment among the different groups competing for a prize. I ended up as judge at the sing and dance competition. Speaking of gifts, lots were given away also. Even I got a gift. It was a wonderful time for everyone.





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Dundas Tower Dentistry & Dentistry in Milton CHRISTMAS PARTY

The power couple of Dr. Solon and Josephine Guzman held their annual Christmas party for their staff, families, friends and clients and fun broke out. As is the practice of the couple, they gave away gifts, prizes for their staff. The children always have their fun when Santa Claus comes to give away goodies for them. As always, food is always plentiful, and delicious. The performances by the Sionys Dance troupe, of which the couple's two lovely daughters Princess and Angeline are members of, does not disappoint. There are also other activities that the ever-energetic Dr. Solon comes up with keep the party lively from beginning to end.



Aquino can't help Roxas

MANILA - President Benigno Aquino III will not improve the chances of Manuel Roxas II winning the presidency even if he joins his anointed one's political sorties because of the tight presidential race, an analyst said.

"If the presidential endorsement power is already negative, there is not much that he can do," Ramon Casiple of the Institute for Political and Economic Reform.

The ruling Liberal Party expressed confidence that the numbers of Roxas and his running mate, Camarines Sur Rep. Leni Robredo, would soon surge as Aquino will be joining them in the campaign trail.

"The support of the President becomes the most crucial in a tight race like this," Roxas' spokesman Romero Quimbo said.

"It becomes even more significant when the outgoing president is a popular one, not a lame duck. P-Noy has the highest performance rating for an outgoing President in our history."

Quimbo said Roxas' numbers remained firm unlike his rivals for the presidency.

But Roxas is still trailing front runner Senator Grace Poe and Vice President Jejomar Binay in the surveys.

And Casiple said Aquino's own numbers were hurting Roxas' chances for the presidency.

In the latest survey of the opinion

polling firm Social Weather Stations this month, SWS said Aquino's endorsement was proving to be a handicap to Roxas, his preferred successor.

In that survey, Aquino received a net figure of -6 percent nationwide when

the respondents were asked how they would react to his endorsement. He scored -26 percent in Metro Manila and -10 percent in Luzon, but got a positive net effect of 4 percent in the Visayas and 3 percent in Mindanao.

The trust in Aquino also continued to fall as the Filipinos distrusted him than they did in May and September.

Across the country, the President's trust rating was at a net 25 percent in December, down from 36 percent in May and 43 percent in September. Even the Mindanao figure was lower at net 45 percent, down from 53 percent in May and 61 percent in September.

In Metro Manila, the President eked out a trust rating of only 1 percent, a precipitous drop from 31 percent in May and 16 percent in September.

But the ruling Liberal Party said its machinery would make its candidates win.

"Millions of the Filipino families who benefited from the pro-poor programs of the Aquino administration" would ensure an "easy win" for Roxas and Robredo," said LP spokesman Edgar Erice.



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2015 A MEMORABLE YEAR FOR ALBERT

ALBERT Martinez says 2015 will be one of the most memorable years in his life. His wife Liezl passed in March this



year. Then his mother-in-law, Amalia Fuentes, had a stroke while on vacation in Korea some weeks ago. Career-wise, he is currently in two soaps.

In the afternoon soap, "All of Me", he plays the lead role of Doc Manuel opposite 21-year old Yen Santos. In the primetime drama "Ang Probinsyano", he plays villain to Coco Martin.

"This is the first time something like this happened in my career," he says. "It's hard, but I welcome the challenge. When I turned 50, accepted ko nang that I'll now be playing father roles kasi I can't compete naman with the much younger leading men. But last year, I was paired with Bea Alonzo in 'Sana Bukas Pa ang Kahapon' and now, with Yen in 'All of Me', so this is a different career positioning for me dahil pwede pa pala akong ipareha with much younger leading ladies kahit 54 na ako. Yung loveteam ko with Yen now has its own following. AIYen ang tawag sa amin at kinikilig sila sa amin. Balak ko nga, later, gumawa kami ni Yen ng movie na maganda at bagay sa amin ang story. 'All

of Me' is extended until March while 'Probinsyano' will run until July, 2016."

So, how is he now after his wife left? "I'm still grieving. There are moments when the memories come and I feel so sad, like this coming Christmas, first Pasko naming wala siya. Usually, siyang nagde-decorate ng bahay namin. But now, wala na siya, we just put up the tree ng youngest daughter namin, si Alyssa. Siya na lang ang natitirang kasama ko. Alyanna has been living on her own since three years ago pa. Si Alfonso naman, administrator ng bahay ng lola niya sa New Manila while she's recovering. Having two soaps that keep me so busy six days a week definitely helps ease the pain of the grieving process kasi naaalisdun ang isip ko."

How's Amalia Fuentes now? "I'm not the best person to ask. It should be the Muhlachs. But according to my children, she's recovering well. But of course, it will be a long process as she'll undergo therapy pa."

Has he visited her? "I'm just waiting for the right time kapag okay na okay na siya. I'm praying maka-recover siya nang maayos. Whatever happened naman to us, wala na sa'kin, tapos na yun. I'll be very happy to visit her kapag sinabi nilang puwede na."

Will he still remarry? "Hindi ko masabi. I'm only 54. But right now, hindi ko iniisip 'yun. Ang gusto ko nga, magkaapo na, kasi nami-miss ko 'yung may bata sa bahay. Eh, kaso, ang mga anak ko, wala pang balak mag-asawa. Alyanna is 30, Alfonso is 29 and Alyssa is 22. May mga boyfriend, girlfriend na sila. I've met all of them and their parents, but wala pang may balak mag-asawa."

FILIPINO convenience store clerk killed

EDMONTON - Members of the Filipino community in Edmonton are still in shock after a Filipino worker was killed in a convenience store robbery.

Ricky Cenabre, 41, from Calape, Bohol was shot dead in the incident. He was a temporary foreign worker in Canada.

Authorities say that on December 18, around 3:30 a.m., three people wearing masks barged into a Mac's Store on 32nd Avenue and 82nd street and when officers answered to the emergency alarm, they found an injured clerk, 35-year old Karanpal Singh Bangu, and rushed him to the hospital. But he succumbed to his injuries.

Thereafter, the suspects reportedly went to the store along 108th street and 61st avenue, and gunned down Cenabre, who worked there as a clerk.

A delivery man walked into the store and then called the police when he saw a trail of blood on the floor leading to a storage room. It appeared as though the attackers had dragged Cenabre to the storage room.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

"He is a happy person, a responsible guy. Hardworking, that's why he always worked nightshifts. He was wishing he would get his permanent residence to bring his family. Unfortunately, it all ended," said Cenabre's friend Michael Castro. Cenabre entered Canada in February, 2012. He worked hard to be able to send money to his wife and son in the Philippines.

The Honorary Consul's office in Alberta and friends of Cenabre are still coordinating the repatriation of his remains to the Philippines. A fundraising has been initiated through GoFundMe.

"Sinabi nung asawa niya, si Edith, sabi niya gusto niyang madala ang katawan at iburul doon sa bahay nila dahil hindi pa raw nakikita ni Ricky yung bahay nila for five years. Habang nandito si Ricky ata ginagawa yung bahay sa Cavite," said another friend, Ephraim Holganza.

A memorial has been set up outside the convenience store where Cenabre worked.

Edmonton Police Service reported that this is the 28th and 29th homicides in 2015 and that charges have been filed against the three suspects, including a 13-year old.



QC: Erase stigma on the use of condoms

QUEZON CITY - The Quezon City government wants the mandatory inclusion of the reproductive health, including the management and control of sexually transmitted infections and the importance in the use of condoms in its public school curriculum for high school students in a bid to heighten their level of awareness.

The health board proposed the measure and even recommended the provision of reproductive health supplies in schools, especially condoms.

"We can have health demonstrations in schools to teach students proper condom use," city health officer Verdades Linga said.

She said it is "imperative" to promote condom use even in the workplace.

"What the health board will be doing is strengthen condom use in QC and erase the stigma that has always been associated with it," she added.

She also recommended to Mayor Herbert Bautista to put up condom vending machines in strategic sites.

"We hope to make a difference with these initiatives," she said in a statement.

"To date, there is an intensive effort from the city health department to manage and control the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections in the city. This was made evident with the increased investments made for the city's HIV programs—from less than P5 million annually prior to 2012 to P24 million in 2014."

Jennylyn Mercado is single & happy + other stories



“Iniisip ko kasi mag-isa lang ako, kailangan kong i-secure yung future ko saka ni Jazz kasi kami lang namang dalawa, eh. Ano na yon, nakatabi na yon for Jazz para sa future namin.

“Pero siyempre, maganda yung kahit anong mangyari ready ka, may nakareserba, di ba?” paliwanag ng aktres.

Eh, hindi ba siya nalungkot pag-uwi sa gabi na parang may kulang?

“Hindi ko na nga naramdaman, eh. Kasi pag hihiga ako sa kama, parang wala na akong time mag-isip. Pikit agad ako, tapos wala na, humihilik na ako,” natatawa niyang kuwento.

With regards sa character na pino-portray niya sa Walang Forever, kuwento ni Jen, ibang-iba raw ito sa

English Only Please.

“Lahat dito nasa loob lang. Sa English Only Please lahat tinatapon, eh. Lahat daldal. Eto, lahat nandito lang, sa mukha lang lahat, sa utak lang lahat. So medyo mas challenging ito,” say pa niya

Julia’s new role fits her to a T

Julia Barreto is perfectly cast in the upcoming teleserye, “And I Love You So.”

Bagay talaga sa kanya ang malditang karakter. Dahil ‘yun ang aura ng kanyang mukha. She is the new bida-kontrabida of her generation. At dito siya siguradong mapapansin.

Ilang beses na rin siyang nabigyan ng mga role na naaapi. Pero dahil nga sa tabas ng kanyang mukha na matapang, hindi nagiging kapani-kapaniwala ang kanyang pagganap. Ito marahil ang dahilan kung bakit hindi pumatok ang kanyang kauna-unahang teleserye-starrer na Mirabella. Dito sa bago niyang teleserye, siguardong tatangkilikin siya. Sa trailer pa lang nito, markado na ang kanyang pagtataray sa karakter ni Miles Ocampo.

Alex need reinvention

Alex Gonzaga is not growing.

Sa totoo lang, hindi ko ito napapansin

hanggang marinig ko lang ang ganitong comment mula sa kaibigan kong writer. Dahil dito, ilang beses ko siyang pinanood sa kanyang dalawang programa sa Kapamilya network na Dance Kids at ASAP 20. True enough, I easily agreed on such observation.

Oo nga naman. Hindi na siya teenager para magloka-lokahan. In short, hindi na cute ang kanyang mga joke. Noong nasa TV5 at bagong lipat siya sa ABS-CBN, novelty pa ang kanyang mga joke. But now, her jokes often are offensive and insulting rather than funny. Umabot na kasi siya sa punto na dapat i-tone daw na niya ang pagbibiro niya. Dahil malaking consideration ang age. She really needs to be wiser as she gets older, so to speak. Like it or not, she needs to reinvent herself to remain relevant. Sabi nga nila, hindi na siya bumabata.

Andi is not a hot copy anymore?

Andi Eigenmann is out of the race.

That is if her career is concerned. Mula nang mabuntis at magkaanak siya, hindi na muling sumigla ang kanyang career. But, at least, she is still given projects from time to time.

Gaya ngayon, may pelikula na siya ang bida. Ito ang remake ng Angela Markado, na unang ginampanan ni Hilda Koronel. Directed by Carlo J. Caparas, the movie will put Andi to new heights as the role is daring and challenging. Sa totoo lang, mahirap gampanan ang role na rape victim. Sa kanyang husay at galing, kayang-kayang niya ito. At sana, muli siyang mabigyan ng teleserye. Pero mukhang nakakalimutan na siya ng kanyang home network. Obvious na ‘di na siya mabango sa Kapamilya network. Dahil nitong nakaraang Sunday, nag-plug lang siya sa ASAP 20 na walang production number. Understandably, wala siyang programa ngayon sa ABS-CBN at hindi prinodyus ng Star Cinema ang kanyang pelikula. Kaya ganun - diretsong plug lang.

Luis and Angel leave for Las Vegas: To get married?

Is it true that Luis Manzano and Angel Locsin are leaving soon to go to Las Vegas and have a secret marriage? It’d be recalled that Luis’ parents, Gov. Vilma Santos and Edu Manzano, also had their wedding then

in Vegas. It was easier for them to obtain a divorce after their marriage turned sour, which wouldn’t have been the case had their marriage was done in Manila.

Luis quickly clarified that the rumor is not true. “Yes, we’re going to Vegas but hindi para magpakasal. Bakasyon lang. Then we’ll go to Cuba, para maiba naman,” he declares.

And any plan of theirs to have a vacation abroad will have to wait because Angel is currently in Singapore to have surgery on the disc bulge in her spine that’s causing her a lot of pain. Angel just posted on her social account her photos taken in a hospital in Singapore while she was about to be wheeled in the operating room. They were taken last Friday morning and she asked for some prayers from her fans and friends for the operation to be successful.

Later, she posted another picture with another message, saying that the first stage of her operation was successful. She wrote: “I’m still a little bit groggy and sore but happy & thankful tapos na ang first stage of the procedure :) Thank you all for the prayers! Hoping this is it na.”

When she returns home, she still has to finish her movie with Luis’ mom, Gov. Vilma Santos, “All of My Life”, which is slated to be Star Cinema’s first offering for the new year.

Fabio lives his dream

Fabio Ide really looks dashing beside the fully made up Ken Chan in “Destiny Rose” when we visited them on the set. “I am so blessed to have been chosen as the leading man of Ken,” he says. “Dati, puro comedy ang ginagawa ko and I’m the laughing stock kasi lagi akong bulol-bulol. But as Gabriel in ‘Destiny Rose’, viewers can now see how much nag-improve ang Tagalog ko at ang acting ko. I now get positive comments for my performance and I can now also say that I’m living my dream. Playing the role of Gabriel is very challenging for me but also very exciting because I learn something new everyday. And I’m proud to say na mataas ang ratings namin at number one na kami sa daytime shows ng GMA.”

So he doesn’t have any qualms about playing leading man to another man who’s only dressed as a transwoman? “No. I’m glad nga that lots of people are following our show and they say in social media na kinikilig sila sa amin ni Destiny Rose.

Iglesia ni Cristo holds sold-out Felix Manalo screenings



Felix Manalo is a 2015 Filipino historical-biographical film dramatizing the life of Felix Ysagun Manalo, the first Executive Minister of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC; English: Church of Christ), and the church he preached. Manalo is regarded by the members of the Iglesia ni Cristo as the last messenger of God and the restorer of the true Church of Christ, whom the INC gives the title Sugò (Tagalog, “messenger” or “envoy”). In photos are some of the members of INC who went to the morning screening of the film. The venue, at Global Kingdon Ministries theatre was packed up to the last showing in the evening. FV Foods provided the food. PHOTO SECOND FROM RIGHT, Joey Abrenilla and Mel galeon of FV Foods watched the screening in the evening. FAR RIGHT, Me with the Gumapac family watching the movie.

I'm proud that the show is instrumental in showing that we should accept and celebrate all kinds of love. As actors, Ken and I have a nice feeling that we make people see the beauty of love in its many possibilities. Many viewers are seriously concerned as to what will happen to our characters and this inspires us to work harder para mas gumanda ang acting namin at ang buong show."

What was his reaction when he first saw Ken dressed and made up as Destiny Rose? "I was so amazed. Sabi ko, Grabe! Ang ganda mo! He reminded of the beautiful lady boys in Thailand na hindi ka magdududa kung babae nga o hindi."

Big stars support Mar

Korina Sanchez surprised the writers who attended her and presidentiable Mar Roxas' thanksgiving party at the Novotel in Cubao when she gamely sang "Kahit Maputi na ang Buhok Ko" for her hubby. As she ended her song, she changed the lyrics of the final line into "Kahit wala na ang buhok mo", referring to Mar losing all his hair when they grow older.

Their special guest that night is Mother Lily Monteverde, who says Mar has a special place in her heart because he visited her at the hospital when she had lung surgery a couple of years ago. She was also there when Mar was proclaimed as the standard bearer of the Liberal Party. But her daughter, Roselle, appeared at the proclamation of Sen. Grace Poe, so it seems they have their own choice as to who they'll support in the coming elections.

Actor-politicians Alfred Vargas and Dan Fernandez also appeared in the said affair and even sang "To Love Somebody" with Mar Roxas. In the music video for Mar, stars who showed their support by appearing on the video include KathNiel, Maricel Soriano, Carla Abellana (which is understandable since her manager Arnold

Vegafria is supporting Mar), Karylle Yuzon, James Yap, Rufa Mae Quinto, Melai Cantiveros and husband Jason Francisco. Singing the song for Mar's campaign are Billy Crawford, Kris Lawrence and Jay R, who, come to think of it, are all Fil-Am balikbayans from the States.

Slapping scene of sisters Megan and Lauren hurts

The sampalan scene between sisters Megan and Lauren Young in "Marimar" last week is still being talked about up to now. It's because Lauren was obviously shocked and visibly shaken by the vehemence of Megan's slap on her left cheek. It was Lauren who first hit Megan but when Megan struck back, the force and impact was so hard that Lauren nearly lost her balance.

"It's true, nagkasakitan kami," says Lauren. "But we really agreed before the take to make it as realistic as possible. Pero siyempre, nagulat pa rin ako sa tindi ng sampal niya kasi mas malakas talaga sa sampal ko at tinamaan ako sa may bandang tainga kaya nasaktan talaga ako. Napaiyak nga ako after the take but it's not true na pinersonal ko like what someone said. My sister naman said sorry to me right away. Pero okay lang, it's part of the job. Nakakatuwa lang kasi it was a good take, wala ng take 2, at pinag-usapan naman talaga ang eksena."

Janine reacts to Elmo's new loveteam with Janella

Janine Gutierrez is not fazed by predictions of various writers that her relationship with Elmo Magalona will not last very long now that he has transferred to ABS-CBN.

They say the best example is LJ Reyes, whose relationship with Paulo Avelino also ended soon after he became a Kapamilya. "Grabe nga po, parang gusto nila talaga kaming paghiwalayin," she says at the solo presscon hosted by GMA Artist Center for



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her in support of her first movie, "Buy Now Die Later".

"Natatawa na lang kami kasi, as of now, wala namang nabago sa amin.

Nagkikita pa rin kami. Nakaka-miss din kasi two years kami laging magkasama sa taping ng 'Villa Quintana' and 'More than Words', but supportive naman ako sa paglipat niya kasi he has new opportunities for growth as an artist. Pinanood ko nga when he was introduced sa ASAP and I'm really happy for him. So, we just don't want to dwell on the negative predictions na maghihiwalay kami."

Some writers point out that her love-team with Elmo is known as JanElmo. Now, it's still JanElmo, but it's for Janella Salvador. "Ay, ano raw sila, ElmElla raw sila. Kasi nga, ginamit na sa'min ang JanElmo. I'm really hoping suportahan din ng tao ang show nila."

The passing year 2015 will be very mem-

orable for her. "Ang dami kong dreams na natupad this year. Unang-una, at the start of the year, I prayed gusto kong magka-movie. God gave me not just one but three movies.

Aside from 'Buy Now Die Later' for Direk Randolph Longjas sa Quantum Films, I also did 'Lila' for Direk Gino Santos and 'Dagsin' for Direk Ato Magadia. At lahat sila, entries sa local filmfests. 'Buy Now Die Later' is in the Metro Manila Filmfest this Christmas, 'Lila' is in Sinag Maynila Filmfest in March and 'Dagsin' is in CineMalaya in July. I also prayed to have a primetime soap at binigay rin 'yun in 'More than Words'.

Then I got another show, 'Dangwa', now being shown in the mornings. This year, I was also able to buy my own condo unit and hopefully, maayos na ang interiors at makalipat ako roon this January."

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JANUARY 2016

L. M. Confidential

19

Gabbi Garcia and Ruru Madrid

Missing Each other



Sa kabila ng pagpapareha sa kanila sa ibang artista, umaasa pa rin sina Gabbi Garcia at Ruru Madrid na muling magkakatrabaho para sa isang proyekto.

Aminado sina Ruru Madrid at Gabbi Garcia (na kilala rin bilang GabRu) na nami-miss nila ang makatrabaho ang isa't isa.

Anim na buwan na kasi ang nakalilipas mula nang huli silang magkatrabaho.

Na-launch ang team-up nina Gabbi at Ruru sa primetime teleseryeng *Let The Love Begin* early last year, at nagkaroon agad sila ng following.

Sa kasalukuyan, napapanood si Gabbi bilang isa sa co-hosts sa *Wowowin* tuwing Linggo, habang kasama naman si Ruru sa afternoon teleseryeng *The Half Sisters*, at ipinapareha kay Barbie Forteza.

Hindi pa raw alam ng dalawa kung kailan sila muling magkakapareha.

Ani Gabbi, halos isang taon silang nagsama ni Ruru sa mga proyekto bilang magka-love team.

Sa tanong kung ano ang pakiramdam na maipareha sila sa iba, sagot ng 17-year-old na aktres, "It's a different thing, it's a different career move.

"Ako, I support him na may *The Half Sisters* siya kasi it's a career move for him.

"Being an artist, he's strong as an individual and gusto ko rin ma-reach yung point na maging strong as an individual.

"For our fans, I think they understand, pero syempre hindi pa rin maiiwasan yung hurt feelings.

"Pero yun nga, as I've said, it's showbiz, it's work, it's something different na hindi talaga siya permanent. Nothing is permanent in showbiz."

Aminado rin si Gabbi na ikinagulat niya noong una ang paghihiwalay sa kanila ni Ruru bilang love team.

"Honestly, I was surprised at first kasi I had no idea it was coming. Pero ako kasi I support Ruru in any project.

"So kumbaga, sa personal life, we're really close. So I don't mind, actually.

"We're just being professional as an artist."

Samantala, naipapareha rin si Gabbi sa ibang aktor kagaya ni Kiko Estrada.

Hindi rin daw ito inasahan ni Ruru, lalo pa't ang pagkakaalam niya, ang susunod niyang soap matapos ang *Let The Love Begin* ay sa 2016 pa.

"Actually, after *Let The Love*... nagpapalano ako na magpaganda ng katawan. Everyday gym kasi, yun ang plano ko, 'tapos hindi na ako kakain ng junk food, ganyan. "Kumbaga, ang sabi sa akin, ang next soap ko daw next year pa.

"And then biglang tinext ako ng manager ko na in-offer-an ako ng *The Half Sisters* na ipasok ako do'n and then matagal na raw akong ino-offer-an do'n, before *Let The Love*... pa daw, before *My Destiny* pa nga raw."

Dahil daw libre na siya, ipinasok daw siya sa nasa-bing teleserye.

Third wheel si Ruru sa love team nina Barbie Forteza at Andre Paras sa *The Half Sisters*.

Kampante naman si Ruru na hindi masyadong ipu-push ang pagpareha sa kanya kay Barbie lalo pa't may following din daw ang love team nina Barbie at Andre.

Pero paglilinaw ni Ruru, masaya siya na makapareha si Barbie, lalo pa't ang nabanggit na aktres ang una

niyang naging leading lady.

"Masaya naman ako na maka-pair si Barbie dahil si Barbie ang agad na naka-pair ko sa first soap ko, *Paroa* (2012) tapos andami naming guesting sa Maynila na kami rin ang pareha.

"Parang magaan na rin ang loob ko sa kanya, tapos kaibigan ko rin siya sa totoong buhay."

Sa kabila nito, kampante si Ruru na muli silang magkakapareha ni Gabbi sa isang proyekto.

"Maraming nagre-react sa mga fans na nakasanayan ang GabRu, pero I'm sure naman naaintindihan naman nila yun, kumbaga work lang naman 'yan.

"I'm sure naman na magkaka-work pa rin kami ulit ni Gab."

Rafael drops jealous Girlfriend

Rafael Rosell just renewed his contract with GMA-7 for another three years and he's happy that his new show, "Because of You", is rating very well from its first episode when it started last Monday.

Rafael feels honored to renew his ties with GMA and he's looking forward to more productive years of working with them. "I'm not just honored but also grateful because they keep trusting me with different projects. Alagang-alaga ako rito and I don't doubt the brightness of my future dito sa GMA," he says.

About his lovelife, Rafael confesses that he's unattached at the moment. He and his model GF named Olivia broke up because the girl is the "selosa" type who resents it when he does kissing scenes on screen. They also have different political views. "But we parted as friends naman," he says. "Focus muna ako sa career ko ngayon."

In "Because of You", he plays Carla Abellana's groom who changes his mind about marrying her when they're already in front of the altar and about to exchange I do's.

We're all rejoicing kasi ang ganda ng feedback sa show. Viewers like it for being a light, feel good story na maraming hilarious comic touches."

Marlo follows Alden's footsteps

Aside from Alden Richards, Marlo Mortel is one of the rejects of *Starstruck 5* in 2009, and yet now, he's even more popular than some of its winners. He then used the name Marlowe Pamintuan but his real name is John Miguel Pamintuan. He became a regular performer in "Walang Tulugan" of Kuya Germs and he played a supporting role in "Tween Hearts" in 2010.

In 2012, he auditioned for "X Factor Philippines" on ABS and again, he didn't make it. But he was later cast as the love interest of Janella Salvador in "Be Careful with My Heart" and their love team became quite popular. They were together again in the morning soap, "OMG", and were even paired last year in an episode of "Maalaala Mo Kaya".

Now, they're paired anew and it's on the big screen this time, in Regal's Metro Manila Filmfest entry, "Haunted Mansion", that opens on Christmas Day.

"I'm so happy na may movie na kami," he says.

"Nakaka-pressure lang dahil kami raw ang ipinalit sa 'Shake Rattle & Roll' series na laging entry ng Regal sa festival, so we're praying maging successful rin ito sa takilya. Hindi naman kami mapapahiya dahil as a horror movie, successful talaga ito sa pananakot sa viewers. Kami mismo, natatakot sa mga eksena while we're shooting the film. I really want to thank our director, Jun Lana, kasi he's very patient. Inalalayan niya kaming lahat to make sure maka-acting kami ng tama sa lahat ng aming eksena."

How does he feel now that Janella is paired with another actor, Elmo Magalona, in her soap for 2016? "I respect the decision of management na paghiwalayin muna kami, even if the fans of our love team are protesting. Suportahan na lang nila muna itong 'Haunted Mansion' namin."

TIDBITS



Miles Ocampo on starring in her first major show:

'Sobrang thankful'

Miles Ocampo is thankful now that she has been given the opportunity to star in the teleserye *And I Love You So*. The actress plays the role of Joanna in the series. "Siyempre po sobrang happy and sobrang thankful sa Dreamscape for the opportunity po na ibingay nila sa akin na napanood na ng mga tao 'yung matagal na naming ginagawa," she said in an interview with Push.com.ph.

Miles is teaming up with young Kapamilya actor Inigo Pascual in the series. She admitted that she is very comfortable working with the young actor since they have been friends for a long time. "Sobrang komportable kasi kami po ni Inigo magkasama po kami and magkakilala na kami mga bata pa kami kasi first ko pong nakasama si Piolo (Pascual) so ayun nakakatuwa." What is her biggest learning so far from doing this soap? "Doing this project siguro 'yung pagkapa po sa character namin, 'yung kailangan na nandon 'yung puso mo sa character mo," she said.

According to Miles, she did not experience any major challenges from having a ka-love team. "Wala naman po siguro dahil di ba po galing na ako sa ibang love team siguro lang po now nakakatuwa lang dahil childhood friend ko 'yung ka-love team ko," she stated.

The young actress is also thankful that her co-stars on the show guide her. "Yun po isa po 'yung pinagpapasalamat sa project na 'to dahil nabigyan ako ng opportunity na makasama 'yung mga sobrang tinitingala dito sa industriya. 'Yung habang nagta-taping kami parang lagi kaming may workshop na nangyayari, lagi ka nilang binibigyan ng lessons, ng advice," she said.

Is there any pressure on her part for her team-up with Inigo to succeed? "Siyempre... pero parang ano naman po kami ini-enjoy lang namin kasi ang isang love team naman hindi siya kailangan 'yung kailangan mo siya i-work out talaga kasi mas natural lang, mas 'yun po 'yung gusto ng tao, hindi po 'yung mas pilit."

School re-named after Fil-Am leaders

UNION CITY, California - Fifty years ago, Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz and countless other Filipino Americans joined Cesar Chavez and fellow Mexican American farm workers in the great strike over civil and labor rights.

Chavez received most of the recognition to the labor movement, until last Friday (DEC 22, 2015).

Because for the first time in U.S. history, Filipino Americans and their contributions were honored through the renaming of Alvarado Middle School to the Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in Union City, CA.

Political figures, school officials, and family members of Itliong and Vera Cruz were there to commemorate the historic event.

Assembly member Rob Bonta, the first Filipino American elected to the state legislature, said, "Who we name places after represent our community's values as a broad diverse community. It creates role models for our young people to aspire to and it uplifts what those who we name those sites after stood for."

Bonta also helped establish Larry Itliong Day and that the study of Filipino American contributions to the farm worker movement be required to be taught in California public schools.

Johnny Itliong, son of Larry, said, "Our history has been suppressed, has been denied. And these are our heroes. These are not only just our heroes of California, of the West Coast but all of America."

Fil-Am students welcomed the name change and say that this can help them with cultural identity.

"I think it's a motivation for other schools to have their students more involved with their ethnic background so they can appreciate who has worked hard for them to get recognition and why they are here," said Jashene Tongco, an alumni of the former Alvarado Middle School.

"I think it's a great honor for this school with a great percentage of Filipinos to be recognized," added alumnus Marvin Aceveros.

In 2013, various buildings that housed Filipino businesses and organizations were vandalized with racist graffiti after news broke of the renaming of the school. However, there were no reports of protests or hate crimes in the lead up to the re-dedication of the school.

"The fight for the renaming was hard and difficult but I'm happy it happened," said Aceveros.

Ian luckier than Jodi’s former leading man

As for Ian Veneracion, he’s luckier than Richard Yap who was paired with Jodi for two years in “ Be Careful with my Heart” but they never got to do a movie. “Pangako Sa’Yo” is not even on the air for one year yet, but here’s



Ian doing a movie with Jodi and their love team have its followers who call their tandem Jodian. Their supporters say they can give their co-stars Kathniel, a run for their money.

How can Ian explain this?

“I don’t know,” he says. “When I was younger, never akong nagka-loveteam. Who’d have thought na kung kailan ako married with three kids, doon pa ako magkaka-love team? Tinutukso nga ako ng mga anak ko, masyado raw akong pa-cute.

But I think viewers like our team up ni Jodi kasi alam nilang may forbidden love between us, so may sexual tension and that makes it more interesting.”

TJ challenged by devil role

TJ Trinidad plays a very challenging role in the Metro Filmfest entry, “Buy Now Die Later”, as Santi, a mysterious antique shop owner who entices all the characters in the movie to buy something in return. Vhong Navarro, Rayver Cruz, Lotlot de Leon, John Sweet Lapus and Alex Gonzaga all get something from him to be more successful in their respective life and career, without knowing that they will have to pay a price for this.

“Parang equivalent ng demonyo ang role ko dahil tinutukso ko silang magkasala and, in return, may kukunin ako sa kanila,” he says. “Our director, Randolph Longjas, used prosthetic make up on me para maging mas convincing ako sa role. And not only that, iba-iba ang atake ng acting ko while trying to convince each of the characters to get an item from me.”

Direk Randolph says the role was first offered to another actor who begged off. “We’re glad si TJ ang nakuha namin kasi he turned out to be perfect for the role, which is very important in the story kasi he’s the one who links all the characters. Kuha-kuha niya lahat ng requirement sa role ni Santi. Pam-best supporting actor siya as Santi in ‘Buy Now Die Later.’”

TJ is also in the rom-com starring Glaiza de Castro, “Sleepless”. On TV, he’s never without an assignment on GMA7, doing one soap after another like “Borrowed Wife”, “Strawberry Lane”, “The Rich Man’s Daughter” and “Princess in the Palace.” “Suking-suki rin ako sa ‘Magpakailanman’,” he says. “I just appeared in the episode last Saturday, ‘Binihag na Kasambahay’, with Kim Rodriguez.”

Jericho on Jennylyn: She’s the Best

Jericho Rosales was praised to high heavens by his leading lady in “Walang Forever”, Jennylyn Mercado, during their presscon. When asked about him, Jen declared: “Siya na ‘yung pinakamabait sa mga nakasama ko. Ang galing niya, kasi makikita mo kahit sa staff kung paano niya tinatrato ang mga tao, mula sa maliliit hanggang sa malalaki. Maalaga siya sa lahat.”

What can Jericho say about this? “Ano pa kundi, maraming salamat,” he says. “Eh, ganun din naman si Jennylyn. Napakagaan niyang kasama.

Nag-click nga kami agad sa shooting. Actually, bago pa kami nagkapareha rito, nakikita ko pa lang siya noon sa mga billboard niya, naisip ko nang sana, mabigyan kami ng chance na magkatrabaho rin. Heto nga, nagkatotoo na.”

What can he say about Jen’s acting?

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Kathryn Bernardo has some advice for Diego Loyzaga and Sofia Andres



Kathryn Bernardo admitted that she enjoyed the transition of her character Yna in the primetime serye Pangako Sa’yo. According to the actress, she can somehow relate now to Yna’s new personality in book 2. “Actually na-enjoy ko ‘yung transition niya because ‘yung book 1 kilala natin si Yna bilang ano simple siya, doon galing sa probinsya na masunurin, well ganon pa rin naman sa book 2 pero mas nag-grow and mas naging modern woman ‘yung Yna ngayon which na-enjoy ko siyang gawin kasi mas may Kathryn ng kaunti and mas fun,” she said.

The actress said that she has learned a lot from doing the soap. “Siguro ‘yung pagbigay ng different attack sa mga scenes na hindi dapat lahat pare-pareho and dapat may ino-offer ka na iba or na interesting gabi-gabi sa napapanood nila.”

On her team-up with Daniel Padilla, Kathryn remarked that they have grown as actors because of Pangako Sa’yo.

“Kasi ito ‘yung pinaka-mature na nagawa namin eh kailangan hindi siya dapat kilig-kilig lang, kailangan din siya ng lalim. ‘Yung great love story, ‘yun din naman ‘yung story ng Pangako Sa’yo na kailangan namin bigyan ng justice.”

Kathryn also talked about working with Diego Loyzaga who plays as the third wheel in Yna and Angelo’s (Daniel Padilla) love story in the soap.

She shared that it was easy working with Diego since she has already worked with him before. “Actually hindi naman ‘to ‘yung first time to work with Diego. Actually I worked with him during Growing Up a few years ago and actually nakatulong ‘yung nakatrabaho ko siya before kasi mas komportable na ako sa kanya ngayon and super close na sila ni DJ kaya naging madala katrabaho lahat.”

Diego will be having his own ka-love team next year in the person of Sofia Andres and Kathryn has her piece of advice for them. “Good luck with Diego and Sofia, they looked together, may spark naman talaga and kung may advice ako na mabibigay sa kanila siguro magpakatotoo, very natural as possible and dapat maganda sana ‘yung friendship before anything. Kayang-kaya nila ‘yan.”

“She’s the best. Puwede siyang tawaging rom-com queen, bagay talaga sa kanya after the success of her movies (‘English Only, Please’, ‘The PreNup’), but in fairness to her, she’s also good in doing drama scenes. Ito kasing ‘Walang Forever’, hindi lang ito basta rom-com, marami rin itong dramatic scenes and she’s also good in all of them.”

Did he have second thoughts about accepting the project that was originally meant for JM de Guzman? “No, it was never an issue. Noon ko pa gusto gumawa ng ganitong light drama with touches of comedy na matagal ko nang hindi nagagawa, so I consider this an answered prayer and I want to thank the Lord for granting my request. Kahit na third choice pa ako, I won’t let go of the opportunity to do this project na Metro filmfest entry pa.”

Gabby’s career soaring again

Gabby Concepcion is understandably on cloud nine after being officially informed that their primetime show, “Because of You”, is getting very high ratings and topping its rival show. Looks like viewers are really tired of watching heavy dramas about vengeance and misfortunes and now prefer light romance like “Because of You”. “Nakakatuwa naman kasi after playing father roles, heto’t nabigyan ako ng chance to do another male lead role at napakaganda ng reception ng viewers,” he says. “Everywhere I go, they tell me they like my role as Jaime, the Boss Yummy na pinagtaksilan ng asawang si Valerie Concepcion so I’m now using my assistant, si Carla nga, to pretend that she’s my girlfriend para pagselosin ang misis ko.”

GMA shows on winning streak

GMA shows are on a winning streak. It used to be that only their afternoon shows reign supreme, especially “Destiny Rose”, which trounced its new rival show in the ratings. “Buena Familia” and “The Half Sisters” also continue to garner high ratings. Now, the primetime shows are also rating very well. Aside from “Because of You”, “Marimar” and “Little Nanay” are both also getting nationwide audience support. No wonder that at the GMA Christmas Party last Wednesday night, GMA president and chairman Felipe Gozon happily and proudly proclaimed that their shows in both afternoon and primetime slots are now the top raters in NUTAM ratings and, not only that, the revenues they give the company for 2015 are very profitable. He ended his welcome remarks saying that they hope GMA will experience better ratings and more support from advertisers in 2016.

Anne to make up for lost time, denies she’s engaged

Anne Curtis was not that visible in 2015. She didn’t have a new movie (her last was “The Gifted” last year) and her last TV show was “Dyesebel” that ran from March to July of 2014 yet. It’s good she still has regular exposure on “It’s Showtime”, but we don’t think that’s enough. As we all know, in showbiz, out of sight, out of mind. But Anne says she’ll make up for lost time in 2016. She’s all set to shoot a new movie with Direk Ruel Bayani. Still untitled, this co-production between Viva and Star Cinema will be a sexy love triangle drama with Angel Locsin and Paulo Avelino. Anne will also have a new TV show. Managed by Viva, the rumor is that Boss Vic will be moving her to TV5 to join her sister Jasmine Curtis Smith, but she says she’s still under contract with ABS-CBN. What she is sure to have with Viva is a new album, “Forever Young”, which features her much improved voice that’s now better suited for singing after years and years of training.

About her love life, she denies she’s now officially engaged to her BF of five years, Erwan Heussaff. “Kundi nagkahiwalay na kami, ang rumor is engaged na kami, both not true,” she says. “What’s true is that we’re going to South America for the Christmas holidays. Ang magiging rumor naman diyan, we had a secret marriage na roon. But we’ll travel with some of our good friends and barkada. We’ll be visiting Chile and Patagonia at the most southern end of Argentina. My sister naman will be going home to Melbourne, so hiwalay kami.”

Benjamin Alves excited over envoy duties



Kapuso actor Benjamin Alves has been chosen as ambassador of GMA Network Excellence Award, which recognizes students with impressive academic background and social responsibility. Benjamin, himself, boasts of outstanding academic performance when he was still in school. His goal as ambassador is to inspire and influence students to aim for the same.

“I’ve always wanted to do, aside from acting, (na) magamit ‘yung mga credentials ko at makausap ‘yung mga estudyante,” he said in an interview.

The “Beautiful Strangers” actor graduated Summa Cum Laude in the University of Guam with a degree in English Literature. He prioritized studies over acting so he temporarily left showbiz to finish his degree back then.

“I just tried to make it a point to really do well and excel,” he humbly said.

While most students finish college in four years, Benjamin took just 2 ½ years to get a degree. Benjamin loves reading books and, in fact, co-owns Books and Borders Cafe on Tomas Morato in Quezon City.

Though enjoying his profession as actor, Benjamin still wants to pursue a master’s degree in the near future in order to achieve his goal of becoming a professor.

“I know in my lifetime that I have to take masters because that will make me possible to teach in a university level as a professor or an associate professor. That’s what I really want (to do) kapag nag-retire na ako sa pag-aartista.”

Benjamin is currently looking for schools where he can take further studies.

“I love acting but there’s always part of me na masarap talagang maging estudyante. I always like going to universities, na-fi-feel ko na estudyante ulit ako,” he said. “Studies keep me young because of the influx of new ideas. Magiging hip ako when I get older kasi magiging in tune ako with what students talk about.”

Part of his responsibility as ambassador is to tour schools and talk to students qualified for the GMA Network Excellence Award.

“It’s always nice when your hard work is being recognized and awarded. That’s what we’re doing now. We’re recognizing and awarding students. It’s really hard to focus, especially may social media. When you get to talk to them on a personal level, that’s what I’m really excited about. Like why are they doing this, is it just to be excellent or for family? I want to be able to be part of that,” he said.

For Benjamin, learning never stops. Education has been and will always be his passion.

“It’s nice to learn. Maganda kasi ‘yung environment na there

are always new ideas. Every time I get involved with a project like that, we can’t say no,” he said.

Patricia still close to ex-BF, but husband doesn’t mind

Patricia Javier was launched by Viva in 1999 in “Ang Kabit ni Mrs. Montero”, which was a hit so she did more movies like “Unfaithful Wife 2,” “Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya”, “Basta Ikaw Nanginig Pa”, “Marital Rape” and others. Because she sings, she was tagged then as the Sexy Diva. While doing a show in the States, she met chiropractor Dr. Rob Walcher who wooed her even when she returned to Manila. It was a long distance relationship for a while but she eventually settled down with him and they now have two sons. After 12 years, she decided to return home with their whole family. Was it a difficult decision to make? It’s Dr. Rob who replies.

“We discussed it for several years,” he says. “I had to sell my business to relocate here. Now, I get homesick and miss San Diego, a city I love. It’s hard, I also miss my parents, but it’s okay, no regrets. It’s a new adventure for us. I know Patricia loves it here and she wants to continue her singing and acting career.”

“He’s very supportive,” says Patricia. “But we both know na kahit saan kami naroroon, ang importante, magkakasama kami as a whole family.”

Patricia has just recorded a single, “Ngayong Paskong Ito” by Larry Hermoso, and she’s releasing it in time for this Christmas season. It’s about yearning for lost love during the holidays and in its music video now out on Youtube, her leading man is ex-BF Marc Nelson. It’s good Dr. Rob didn’t get jealous.

“No, I actually thought it was a good idea,” says Dr. Rob. “Marc was at our wedding and he’s the ninong of our son. He’s a good friend and being in the video will make people more curious about the song.”

“Rob feels secure about me,” says Patricia. “I make him feel he’s the only man in my life right now and he knows Marc is just part of my past.”

In January, Patricia will release an extended play album, “Patricia Javier: Reinvented”, with six originals songs, mostly written by Larry Hermoso and one by Cristine Bendebel, which are all sentimental love songs. “This is for Pinoy listeners who love listening to senti songs.”

It’s good she can balance her career and mommy duties. “Mahirap pagsabayin kasi we don’t even have a maid. May soap pa ako ngayon sa ABS-CBN, ‘Doble Kara’, so palitan kami ni Rob in taking care of our two sons. But he knows family pa rin ang first priority ko.”

Patricia is also busy with their health and wellness mission. She’s marketing her own brand of virgin coconut oil and, soon, Dr. Rob will open his own clinic as a chiropractor in Makati.

Ai-Ai believes Alden and Maine are close

‘My Bebe Love’ had its last shooting day last Monday and everyone is predicting that they will be the topgrosser in the coming Metro Manila Filmfest, what with Vic Sotto and Ai- Ai de las Alas in the cast, plus the formidable AiDub love team. What can Ai-Ai say about this?

“Naku, si Lord na ang bahala kung magna-number one kami talaga sa takilya,” she says. “Basta ginawa naming lahat, along with Direk Joey Reyes, na maging maganda ang buong movie at tiyak naming mapapasaya namin ang viewers when it opens on Christmas Day.”

What about winning awards? “Hindi namin iniisip ‘yan. Ang mas mahalaga, maging blockbuster ito sa box office. Feel-good movie ito na hindi ka lang tatawa kundi kikiligin ka pa at mai-in love ka dahil sa AiDub”.

What would she say is the real score now between her younger co-stars? “Pareho silang sweet sa isa’t isa sa set. Kitang-kita mo naman ‘yung chemistry nilang dalawa, hindi lang sa screen kundi maging off cam.”

So, nagkaka-developan na ba silang dalawa? “Kung minsan, nakikita ko, nag-uusap sila na parang sila lang ang tao sa mundo, so sa tingin ko, malapit na nga silang ma-develop sa isa’t isa.”



DIVISORIA INSPECTION — Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada takes a walk yesterday around Divisoria, where ‘Discipline Zones’ have been implemented to keep sidewalk vendors off major roads.

Erap walks ‘round wider, cleaner Divisoria area

A surprisingly wider and cleaner Divisoria greeted Christmas shoppers yesterday as Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada conducted a late morning inspection of the so-called “Discipline Zone” in the city, where sidewalk vendors are barred from occupying main roads.

The Discipline Zone is a 1.5-kilometer stretch of tent-stalls erected on Recto Avenue going to Divisoria that house sidewalk vendors, keeping them from occupying space meant for pedestrians and vehicles.

Officials formed the Task Force on Organized Vending (TFOV) to create order among sidewalk vendors.

Two years ago, orange tents lined the streets in an attempt to create a uniform line of commercial spaces outside the malls. But officials have since dissolved the idea and replaced the orange tents with a line of gray tents with vendors paying P110 daily to the TFOV which, in turn, remits the money to the city treasurer.

The TFOV is a part of the Discipline Zones Team, whose main task is to ensure that the roads are passable without sacrificing the livelihood of vendors.

“The vendors should stay within the limit. There are a lot of people here. We know that there are vendors who are from Baclaran but we are allowing them to sell their wares here in the spirit of Christmas season. However, they must abide by the rules,” Ver Eustaquio, head of the Manila Barangay Bureau (MBB) said.

The discipline zones team will be composed of members of the MPD, Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau (MTPB), TFOV, MBB and SWAT.

The group’s main task is to ensure smooth traffic flow among the 10 priority areas for the project: the streets of Blumentritt, Reina Regente, Soler, Abad Santos, Antonio Rivera,

By opening a wider space, the discipline zones was also meant to deter crimes common in narrow shopping spaces such as snatching and pickpocket cases.

Meisic Station 11 Commander Superintendent Romeo Macapaz said there are minimal cases of such crimes since the discipline zones were put into place.

Last November, three pickpocket cases were reported while five more were recorded in the last two weeks.

Estrada walked through the stretch of tents in front of 168 mall along Solder street and advised vendors to follow the rules for everybody’s good.

“You can sell your wares here but do not go beyond the space allowed for you. Also, do not give in to extortion. Let me know if there are extortion cases here,” Estrada told a smiling vendor who did not hide her excitement upon seeing the mayor.

Scenes in the City



LEFT, Senator Tobias Enverga (RIGHT) joins the El Shaddai at their Christmas party. MIDDLE, Senator Enverga and wife Rosemer joins the Philippine Press Club Ontario Christmas party. RIGHT, Pastor teck Uy of the Friends of Jesus Christ and Senator Enverga pose for a picture at the dinner. PHOTOS BY ARIEL RAMOS

Pollwatch:
Tagle laments
‘seasonal’ love
for the poor

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle lamented how people show love for the poor only when its election season.

The cardinal gave this observation at the closing of Manila archdiocese’s observance of the “Year of the Poor” at the La Concordia College Sunday.

“The election is near. Many people are again showing ‘love for the poor’. I hope that this is real love,” he said in a CBCP News post.

In the Church, Tagle said caring for and serving the poor is not seasonal.

Serving the needy is not a matter of ideology, Cardinal Tagle said but a moral and spiritual imperative.

“It’s not because we have a political party to follow. No! This is what our faith calls us to do,” said Tagle.

The prelate also echoed Pope Francis’ statement that when a part of the Church becomes worldly, it becomes just another non-governmental organization.

“Being a Church of the Poor is not just a socio-economic project... the Church is not only a social work body,” he added. “This is the big challenge that is stated in the PCP-2 — being the Church of the Poor.”

Spotlight



The Aristocrat circa 1950, Malate

Syrian boy in Dubai
donates Dh75,000 to
PH typhoon victims

A teenage Syrian boy based in Dubai let his chance to buy a luxury car slip for the opportunity to help others in need.

The 15-year-old Marwan Masri

decided to give eight years worth of savings DH75,000 (around P965,683) to the people affected by typhoon Nona in the Philippines. He had been saving the money to purchase a Porsche in the future.

“How could I not be affected? Sometimes the most important decisions in your life are made in a split second,” a report by Khaleej Times quoted him as saying.

The boy needed no further push to spring into action after finding out that many of the families of Filipino workers working for his father’s clinic were affected by the typhoon.

Masri dreams of becoming a doctor someday, like his father, Dr. Gehad Al Masri.

The report said Masri saved money by not spending cash incentives given by his father. It said Masri gets

Dh20,000 under his name every time he gets good grades.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that the death toll from typhoon Nona has climbed to 41, at least 24 others were injured while six people remain missing.

Nona’s damage cost is estimated to be around P6 billion while several areas are still flooded.



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Max tries to follow Meryl Streep, deserves a bigger role

Max Collins was supposed to leave for Qatar this month to do a movie but her departure was postponed. “Sa January na raw namin isu-shoot ang movie instead of this month,” she says.

The movie, titled “Footprints on the Moon”, is written and directed by a Filipino filmmaker based in the Middle East, Jan Xavier Pacle. When the film was conceived early this year, they got Alden Richards as Max’s leading man. But as we all know, Alden has since soared to fame through the AIDub love team and is now neck deep in various assignments. He is replaced by a new actor named Jess Mendoza who has done supporting roles in indie films like “Brod”, “Alamat ni China Doll”, “Mauban”, “Mga Kuwentong Barbero” and “Violator”.

Max plays the role of Adeline, a violinist, and she has taken up violin lessons to prepare for the role. “I got a private music teacher to train me how to play the violin. Pinanood ko rin si Meryl Streep sa ‘Music of the Heart’ where she also played a violinist. Ang galing niya. You’d really think mahusay siyang tumugtog ng violin. So sana, ma-achieve ko rin yun in ‘Footprints on the Moon’.”

We’re happy for Max as she really deserves bigger and better breaks. She has done soaps like “Pahiram ng Sandali”, “Inamorata” and the historical series “Ilustrado”, but she has yet to do a material that will help boost her career and popularity. She now appears as Marie Guiginto, the leading lady of Sef Cadayona in the comedy, “Juan Tamad”. We hope GMA-7 will give her a meatier lead role in the coming new year.

Janine-Elmo’s active lovelife slows down

Is Janine Gutierrez’ relationship with Elmo Magalona adversely affected by his moving over to ABS-CBN?

“No, we’re okay, doing great,” she says at the presscon of her very first movie, “Buy Now Die Later”.

When we have time, we go out of town, very spontaneous lang, hindi pinaplano. But right now, bihira kami maka-get away kasi nga pareho kaming busy. He has his soap and I’m taping my morning series for GMA, ‘Dangwa’, where I get to work with different stars kasi we have a new story each week. I’m also doing several movies.

Aside from ‘Buy Now Die Later’, I’m shooting two other movies, ‘Lila’ with Enchong Dee for Director Gino Santos sa Sinag Maynila Filmfest in March and ‘Dagsin’ with Ben Alves for Director Tato Magadia sa Cinemalaya in June, 2016.”

Doing “Buy Now Die Later” is a special treat for her since she’s in it with her own mom, Lotlot de Leon. “I’m glad that this is my first movie kasi nga kasama ko si Mommy. But we don’t have any scenes together kasi we play the same character. She as herself in the present at ako, sa scenes na bumabata siya. It’s also great to work with a young and talented director like Randolph Longjas with very fresh ideas. Ang ganda ng concept niya for the movie where our five senses are involved in a story that is both funny and scary.

Janine has declared her independence from dad Ramon Christopher and has bought her own condo unit. “Inaayos pa and hopefully, makalipat ako in June. I know na importanteng matuto kang mamuhay on your own for you to grow up, be more mature, be more responsible in making your own decisions.”

Jessa supports daughter Jayda’s career

Jessa Zaragoza is happy that husband Dingdong Avanzado is no longer running for re-

election as Vice Governor in their home province, Siquijor. “Mahirap din kasi, lagi siyang wala sa bahay namin dito sa Manila,” she says. “Our daughter Jayda is fast growing up. She’s 12 na and is joining showbiz next year as a singer. So mas mabuti kung nandito siya to help guide ang anak namin. Lalo na nga’t magiging very busy talaga kaming lahat sa sunud-sunod na projects next year.”

Jessa, was tagged the Phenomenal Diva after her song “Bakit Pa”, became a monster hit in 1998 and was turned into a full length movie. This was followed by other hit songs like “Di Ba’t Ikaw” (which was turned into a TV series), “Ibigay Mo Na”, “Siya Ba ang Dahilan” and “Kung Kailan Pa”. She and Dingdong lived in the States for a while but they decided to comeback here and Jessa has been part of the hit and acclaimed GMA sitcom, “Pepito Manaloto”, for three years now.

“But deep within me, kahit I love acting, I know na I’m a singer first,” she says. “So now, heto I will stage a major solo concert on January 15 at Music Museum, ‘I Am Me’, in time for my birthday on January 31. Noon pa ko pinu-push ni Dingdong na mag-concert but I felt I wasn’t ready kasi nagbago ang boses ko due to acid reflux. Naging raspy. May concert din ako noon pero hindi natuloy due to esophagitis. Nagkaroon ng sugat ang esophagus ko dahil sa acid at kailangang i-heal muna. Iyak ako nang iyak noon, pray ng pray kay Lord kasi my voice is a gift from Him at sabi ko, I don’t want to lose this gift. Paano kundi na ko makakanta uli? Pero sa awa ng Diyos, gumaling naman. Pareho kami ng doctor ni Regine Velasquez.

Now, I have a voice coach to prepare for my concert. I will be singing all my hit songs, plus songs from my past albums sa OctoArts at Star Music na hindi nag-hit but are really worth listening to again. Also songs of other artists that helped mold into what I am today, like Whitney Houston and Toni Braxton.”

The special guest in her concert is her daughter Jayda, with Elmer Blancaflor as musical director and her own husband Dingdong as overall stage director. “Meron ding surprise guests,” Jessa adds.

Next year, Jessa is also releasing a new album. Daughter Jayda will also open the concert of the Vamps on January 30 at the MOA while Dingdong will re-stage his own “Hitback” concert and take it on tour. They’ve been married for 15 years now. What’s the secret of the their durable marital relationship? “Dahil he’s older than me, mas matiisin at pasensiyoso ang mister ko,” says Jessa.

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Robin Padilla returns as Kapamilya



PHOTO SHOWS ROBIN WITH ABS CEO CARLO KATIGBAK.

Robin Padilla returns as a Kapamilya after signing a two-year contract with ABS-CBN yesterday, December 09. One of his upcoming projects is a father-and-child themed teleserye. “I am always excited. ABS-CBN has always been progressive for it consistently offers new taste of shows,” Binoe shared.

Iglesia ni Cristo holds sold-out Felix Manalo screenings



Felix Manalo is a 2015 Filipino historical-biographical film dramatizing the life of Felix Ysagun Manalo, the first Executive Minister of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC; English: Church of Christ), and the church he preached. Manalo is regarded by the members of the Iglesia ni Cristo as the last messenger of God and the restorer of the true Church of Christ, whom the INC gives the title Sugò (Tagalog, “messenger” or “envoy”). In photos are some of the members of INC who went to the morning screening of the film. The venue, at Global Kingdom Ministries theatre was packed up to the last showing in the evening.



Miss USA’s family gets threats after Miss Universe gaffe

Miss USA Olivia Jordan cried foul over the threats her family has been getting following the controversial mix-up during the Miss Universe 2015 pageant.

Second runner-up Jordan has been seen on camera with the real Miss Universe, Pia Wurtzbach of the Philippines, even way after the pageant ended.

Host Steve Harvey mistakenly declared Wurtzbach as first runner-up and Colombia’s Ariadna Gutierrez as Miss Universe, only to return on stage to apologize for the mix-up.

In an Instagram post, Jordan said she is “saddened at how many people choose to be negative and hateful on social media.”

“I am used to having people throw shade my way, but now people are threatening my family who are literally the most kind-hearted people on the planet,” she said. “They have nothing to do with any of this and deserve to be left alone.”

Jordan stressed that while she was seen supporting Wurtzbach, she also made an effort to comfort the devastated Miss Colombia, denying rumors that she was laughing at anyone in the pageant.

“For the record – I didn’t laugh at anyone in the pageant. I reacted to an uncomfortable and bizarre situation by seeing the positive. If I had been standing next to Miss Colombia I would have grabbed her and cried for her and the injustice that occurred. Instead, I was standing next to the winner and had the bizarre opportunity to tell her that she was the new Miss Universe.

“I wasn’t going to cry as I congratulated Pia. She deserved happiness and celebration for her victory. I hugged [Gutierrez] immediately after I exited the stage and told her what I truly believe – she has bigger things in store! The Universe has a bigger plan for that beauty!”

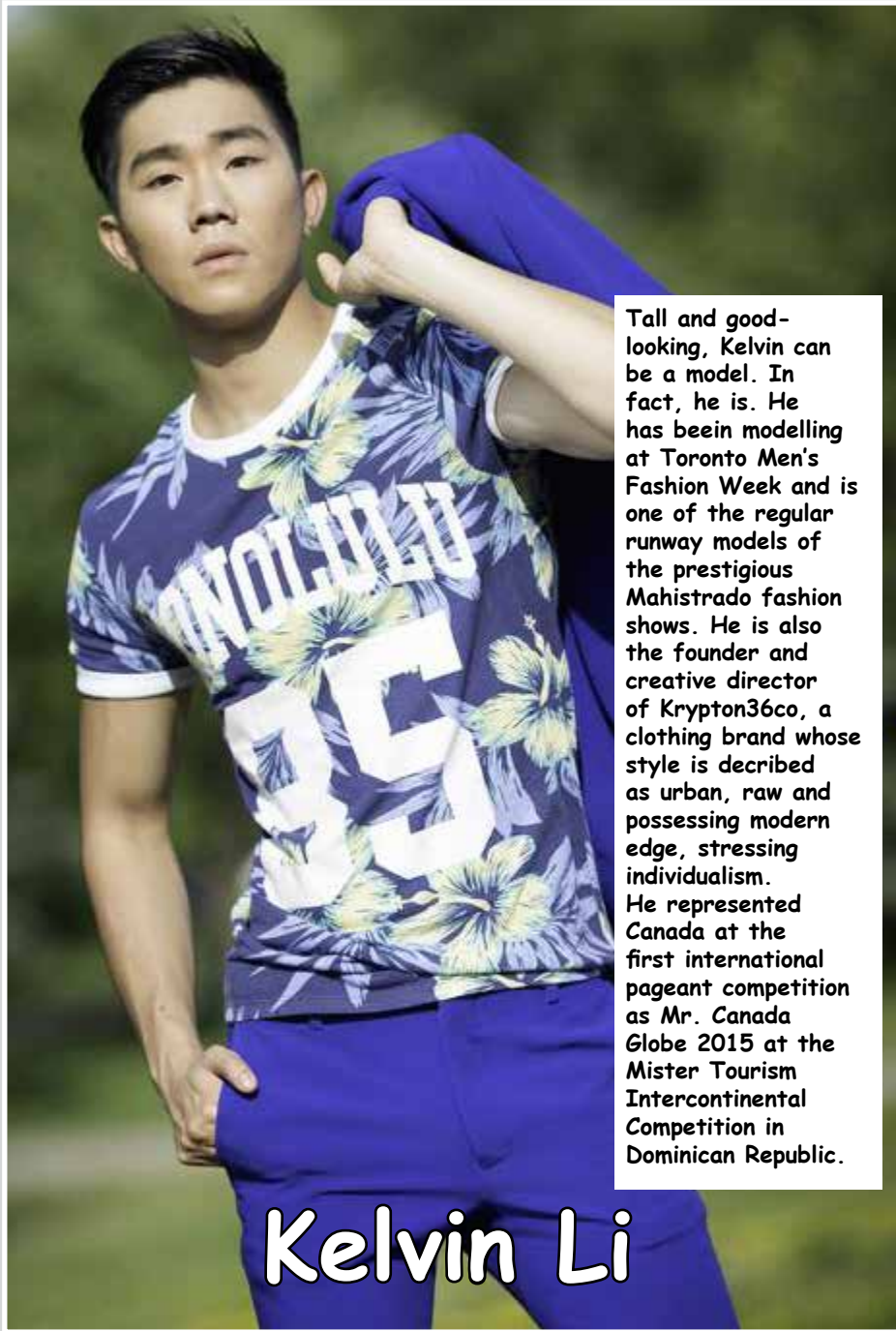
Jordan went on to ask her critics to stop threatening her family.

“Please just stop threatening my family. And as many times as you tell me, I’m not going to kill myself and the fact that you can even write that to another person makes me very sad for you,” she said. “And to all the incredible supporters throughout this situation – please simply report the hateful comments, don’t give them the satisfaction of responding and getting sucked into their hatred. Let’s stay positive.”

On Tuesday, Jordan said both Wurtzbach and Gutierrez “were worthy of the crown,” adding that she felt devastated for each of them after the gaffe.

She also defended Harvey, saying that he made “an honest mistake.”

Hunk Shot



Tall and good-looking, Kelvin can be a model. In fact, he is. He has been modelling at Toronto Men’s Fashion Week and is one of the regular runway models of the prestigious Mahistrado fashion shows. He is also the founder and creative director of Krypton36co, a clothing brand whose style is described as urban, raw and possessing modern edge, stressing individualism. He represented Canada at the first international pageant competition as Mr. Canada Globe 2015 at the Mister Tourism Intercontinental Competition in Dominican Republic.

Kelvin Li

NO MASS continued from page 1

In his circular, Tagle also reminded priests of a standing policy that lay ministers running for public office “must take a leave from the exercise of their ministry upon filing for candidacy.” The cardinal continued, “You may organize a recollection and covenant-signing to which candidates from all parties are invited to come.”

He urged priests as well “to be more discerning in seeking assistance or favors from politicians so as not to endanger the integrity of the Church’s teaching and moral stance.”

Not endorsing candidates

“It is best to avoid appearing in public political sorties and campaigns, while not discouraging politicians and candidates from seeking genuine spiritual counsel,” Tagle said. In September, the cardinal himself led a prayer meeting with 3 of the Philippines’

top presidential bets – Vice President Jejomar Binay, Senator Grace Poe, and administration standard-bearer Manuel Roxas II. Back then, Tagle said there was “no political discussion” in the prayer meeting convened by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting. “As pastors and spiritual guides we are called upon to be ministers of unity and harmony. Thus we call attention to certain practices that are best avoided so as not to bring about discord and misunderstandings in the community and society,” the Manila archbishop said.

The Catholic Church has said it is not supposed to endorse specific candidates during elections. Individual bishops, however, campaigned against certain candidates in the past. In the 2013 elections, for instance, at least 6 bishops joined a campaign against so-called “Team Patay” (Team Death) senatorial bets.

“Team Patay” candidates supported the reproductive health law, a measure opposed by the Catholic Church because it legalized state funding for contraceptives.

OLA continued from page 13

Christmas carols with those present in the event composed of OLA parishioners, AFCM members, PCCF officers and members, and their friends. Special Guests were led by Senator Jun Enverga, ANCOP President Ricky Cuenca, Toronto Catholic District School Director Angela Kennedy, TCDSB Ward 8 Trustee Gary Tanuan, and Knights of Columbus.

Everyone enjoyed the program emceed by Alex Saroca, Miss Philippines Canada 2105 Nathalie Ramos, and Miss Teen Philippines Canada 2015

Ansha Joy Hipolito, the sumptuous spread of food, raffle prizes, line dancing and Santa’s gift giving for the children and adults. Amongst the entertainment numbers featured: upcoming singer Fienness Mendoza, Edward & Quency Jones, the Little Miss Philippines Canada & Mrs Philippines dance numbers.

AFCM and ANCOP are beneficiaries of PCCF’s yearly summer event, the Pinoy Fiesta and Trade Show sa Toronto. Major sponsors for the Christmas event were: GMA TV, iREMIT Global Remittance (Canada), and PNB Global Remit.

(***Fe Taduran***)



Janella shrugs off embarrassment

Janella Salvador admits she was turned off when she attended the Christmas party of one of her endorsements and the host forgot her name when she was being introduced. “Nagulat ako as I wasn’t expecting something like that to happen,” she says. “Kasi it was for my endorsement, ‘di ba? So, nakakabastos lang. Na-off lang ako. Alam mo ‘yung feeling na ganu’n na parang napahiya ka sa sarili mong event? Hindi ako kumibo but it was my mom who aired her disappointment on social media. But let’s not dwell on that anymore kasi ang dami namang positive na nangyayari sa buhay at career ko right now.”

She’s so happy that the feedback from those who saw the trailer of her Metro filmfest entry, “Haunted Mansion”, is very positive. “Lahat sila, nagsasabing it’s scary raw, marami raw nakakagulat na scenes. Sabi nung iba, mas maganda pa raw ito kaysa sa ‘Shake Rattle & Roll’ movies ng Regal before. So siyempre, natutuwa naman kami ng co-stars kong sina Marlo Mortel and Jerome Ponce as it’s a good sign that those who enjoy watching scary movies will love it. Sana kami ang unahin nilang panoorin sa Pasko.”

Won’t the fact that ABS-CBN is pairing her with Elmo Magalona in her next soap adversely affect her team up with Marlo Mortel and Jerome Ponce in “Haunted Mansion”? “I don’t think so. Kasi next year pa ‘yung amin ni Elmo. Eh itong movie, ipalalabas na sa December 25. At saka, marami talagang nag-aabang na makagawa kami nina Marlo and Jerome ng movie. O, heto na nga ‘yun.”

Mother Lily Monteverde sees a lot of potential in Janella. “She not only registers well on the big screen but also acts so well,” says the Regal matriarch. “Nagulat kami ng daughter kong si Roselle when we watched the movie. Magaling siya as the lead actress who got possessed by evil spirits kasi may third eye siya. We’re thankful we gave her the big break in this movie. After ‘Haunted Mansion’ is shown, I’m sure she’ll be a bigger star.”

Maine on falling in love with Alden: ‘Walang imposible’



Maine Mendoza quickly confessed at the grand presscon of “My Bebe Love #Kilig Pa More” that she’s so nervous as it’s the first time for her to attend such a big event. “Talagang kinakabahan po ako at hindi ako sanay humarap sa ganito karaming tao,” she says.

But she was eventually able to answer all the questions thrown her way with much confidence. “Nawala ang kaba ko kasi kasama ko rito si Alden at sina Bossing Vic at Tita Ai Ai,” she adds. “I’m really so happy na silang mga kasama ko dahil alam nilang first movie ko itong ‘My Bebe Love’ at tinulungan nila ako nang husto.”

So how different is this from the Kalyeserye they do in “Eat Bulaga”? “Ibang-iba po ang story at pati characters namin ni Alden dito, iba rin sa Kalyeserye. Anak po ako ni Bossing dito at pamangkin naman ni Ate Ai si Alden. Eh, magkaaway sina Bossing at Ate Ai kaya sobrang naapektuhan kami ni Alden. Noong una, intimidated nga ako kay Bossing kasi I know how big a star he is, but he’s so nice and kind kaya naging kom-portable agad ako sa kanya. Sa kabuuan, feel-good movie po ito na punumpuno ng good vibes. Bagay sa Christmas kasi lalabas kayo sa sinehan nang nakatawa.”

People mob her wherever she goes. Is she aware of how popular she is now? “Honestly, hindi pa rin po ako makapaniwala sa lahat ng nangyayari ngayon. Hindi pa nagsi-sink in sa’kin at hindi ko rin naman siya nilalagay sa isip ko. What happened sa AIDub, no one expected. Last July lang po ‘yun and now, ang dami na naming endorsements, may movie pa kami. Napakabilis ng lahat. Sobrang surreal ang mga nangyayari. But I’m just so thankful to God for all the blessings na ibi-nibigay niya sa amin ni Alden.”

So she’s not a swellhead who snubs fans, like what some writers loyal to another network insinuate? “Ay hindi po totoo.

Ayokong mangyari sa’kin ‘yun, ang lumaki ang ulo.”

At this point, how close is she and Alden? “Sa ngayon po, good friends kami. We’re still getting to know each other.”

Is it possible for them to fall in love with each other even off cam? “Wala naman pong imposible, so tingnan na lang po natin. Huwag na lang pangunahan. Basta nagpapasalamat ako kay Alden kasi siya ang nakasama ko sa journey kong ito at tinanggap kami ng tao.”

Lovi Poe sad with break up with Rocco Nacino

LOVI Poe is very sad at this moment. Not because she’s confirming her breakup with Rocco Nacino, but because they just had their last At first, the church was supporting it but it spread to other provinces, so the Spaniards got threatened that it’s becoming very powerful so they invented stories that it’s a cult where orgies are performed and women get pregnant. This triggers a religious revolt led by Hermano Puli, until he was arrested, had a mock trial and was executed. His body was cut into four. His head was displayed in front of the church while the other pieces were placed on the entrances to Lucban.”

There’s a movie before titled “Hermano Pule” written and directed by FV Alfon in 1979 with Tommy Abuel (a native Lucbanon) but Gil says his version will be very different, written by Eric Ramos who did thorough research with the help of a UP professor, Rina Boncalan. Aljur Abrenica has always been his only choice for the title role of “Hermano Puli”. “I was surprised when I went to Lucban as I learned nandun na si Aljur for three days, personally researching on Hermano Puli. Humanga ako sa dedication niya sa role at sa movie.”



Filipinos slams Bayan Muna as a “useless communist partylist”

MANILA, Philippines – Newly crowned Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach is getting mixed reactions from her own countrymen in the Philippines but majority of Filipinos supports Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach statement in regards to the United States and the Philippines’ newly created Defense Treaty that will pave the way for the United States to station troops and war materiel in the Philippines.

In the Ms. Universe Question-and-Answer, Pia Wurtzbach was asked: Earlier this year, there was a controversy in the Philippines about the United States reopening of military base in your country. Do you think the United States should have a military presence in your country?

Pia Wurtzbach answered with: I think that the United States and the Philippines have always had a good relationship with each other. We were colonized by the Americans and we have their culture and our traditions even up to this day and I think that we’re very welcoming with the Americans. And I don’t see any problem with that at all.

The statement of Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach caught the attention of the Makabayan Bloc (Bayan Muna, Gabriela, Anakbayan, Kabataan and ACT-Teachers), a group of left-leaning political partylist that represents the marginalized sectors in the Philippines and has been publicly vocal against the United States.

In one statement, Gabriela Representative Emilio De Jesus suggested that newly crowned Ms. Universe Pia Wurtzbach should study the real U.S.-Philippines history so that she might have a more intelligent answer next time.

As the statement came out in the leading news agency in the Philippines, Filipinos around the world who came from all walks of life swiftly defended Pia Wurtzbach saying she is just merely stating her opinion and does not represent the Philippine Government, pageants and politics are not related, there is a right forum for the Makabayan bloc to state their grievances towards the U.S.

One feisty commentator responded with, “The Makabayan Bloc are useless communist partylist, they are using our Democratic institutions to advance their Communist interest, there is no good coming out from these groups”.

Vice Ganda on Coco’s lovelife

It was laglagan time for Vice Ganda and Coco Martin at the presscon of “Beauty and the Bestie”. Vice was asked if Coco is currently in a relationship with

someone. Coco quickly warned Vice: “Huwag!” But Vice had a way of making a revealing answer: “Ayoko na lang magsalita kasi ayoko namang manggaling sa akin na oo, he’s in a relationship.”

Writers quickly presumed that Vice is referring to Coco’s long rumored relationship with Julia Montes, which he has yet to admit. In turn, Coco hinted that Vice is indeed in a relationship with a basketball player. Vice is currently very close to the UAAP winning team from FEU, but Coco wouldn’t reveal who among its varsity players is Vice’s special someone.

Their friendship started even before they joined showbiz. “Sing-along master ako noon at kinuha akong host sa Christmas party ng Max’s,” Vice recalls. “Waiter siya noon sa Max’s and when I asked for an employee na guwapo para makasama ko on stage, siya ang itinuro ng mga kasamahan niya and, in fairness, ang gwapo nga. Kaso, ang suplado, ayaw sumama sa’kin, so nainis ako sa kanya. But it turned out friends ko ‘yung mga pinsan niya at naging magkaibigan din kami. Nag-abroad siya. Nag-janitor sa Canada. Then noong bumalik siya, nag-artista na at nagkita kami uli sa showbiz na. Sobrang personal ang friendship namin. May things na hindi namin mase-share sa iba, pero kaya naming i-share sa isa’t isa. Mahal namin ang isa’t isa, pero walang malisya, ha.”

Will Kris Aquino be working less in 2016?

In Tonight With Boy Abunda last December 25, host Boy Abunda recalled that in one of Kris Aquino’s Instagram posts, she said that she wanted to have more time with her sons and so he asked if Kris will lessen her workload in 2016.

Kris’s son Bimby Aquino-Yap answered, “I gave ninang Cory (Vidanes, Channel Head of ABS-CBN)

permission to let mama work.” Kris further explained and said, “Hindi Boy aalis naman kami, they have 15 days of me and it’s just us. It’s him, me, kuya and then one kaya.”

On the other hand, when the King of Talk asked Bimby if he’ll allow his mother to have a boyfriend, he said, “When I’m ready, [when I’m] 13? I don’t know. But if mama has a boyfriend I’ll test him. Like paper stuff yeah like quiz and action stuff.”

When asked about the test, Bimby shared the questions he’ll ask from the future pursuer of her mom’s love.

“What do you look forward to a girl? And then would you love someone that your parents love but you don’t actually love?”

In the end, Bimby gave some advice to the future man of Kris’s life.

“Be the same as my mom, if you don’t you’re disqualified, expelled!” Kris asked her son, “Why what am I?” to which he replied, “You’re the smartest person that I know.” And then he added, “Make my mama happy and give her a lot of love and love her like me.”



Candid SPOOF

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



Nate Macapagal counts his money given by Dr. Solon Guzman.

Charo Santos-Concio’s’s Congratulatory Message for Miss Universe 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach

I am delighted to join my fellow Filipinos in congratulating Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach on winning the Miss Universe 2015 pageant and making all our kababayans proud around the world.

Pia’s success is one of dedication and determination -- she held on to her dreams, worked hard, and along the way inspired people to keep believing in themselves.

A Star Magic alumna, Pia is a true example of a Filipina who is “confidently beautiful with a heart.”



FCT Children's Christmas Party

Filipino Centre Toronto held their Christmas party last December 12. The children enjoyed playing games and receiving gifts at the annual party held by FCT. It is an annual tradition

where the centre invited families and children from the community enjoy the Christmas party. Lunch was delicious spaghetti, hot dogs and other weets. U of T students played piano

and guitar and sang Christmas songs to lend a festive air to the celebration. A family from Somalia and Eritrea was welcomed by the centre.



Scenes in the City



- 1-3 Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation shows support for Kol Hope Foundation.
4. FV FOODS Mel Galeon poses with on of the models of the Renee Salud Fashion show.
5. FV FOOD'S Mel Galeon poses with Fashion designer Renee Salud.
6. Keesha Cerezo (RIGHT) models Renee Salud fashions for Kol Hope.

Kris Aquino on Pia Wurtzbach:
"Kaming mga sisters we like Pia from before pa. But I don't think she liked Noy."

Maine Mendoza, niyakap si Julie Anne San Jose at humingi ng dispensa dahil sa mga pambabatikos na natanggap ng huli mula sa AIDub fans. Naganap ang pag-aayos ng dalawa sa dressing room ng Sunday, Dec. 13.

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