

MARCH 2016

CONFIDENTIAL

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MUNOZ**
2016 OFF TO
A GOOD START

**Peace Pact
with MILF
dead**

**MILF
disappointed**

MANILA - President Aquino has practically raised the white flag on his bid for Congress to enact his supposed legacy bill which is the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) as he ordered the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) to undertake special efforts to ensure a peace agreement with Muslim rebels is implemented even after his term ends this year.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma said Aquino had ordered "consultation and meetings with the stakeholders as well as meaningful action so we can continue the peace process."

Leaders of both the House and the Senate have conceded both chambers are unlikely to pass the peace bill before the president's term ends in June.

Aquino had hoped to pass the bill to seal a peace accord with the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

But opposition from some legislators had delayed its passage despite his lobbying.

Also at the House where the bill should emanate has been plagued with absenteeism from members due to the incoming campaign period for the national and local elections set on May 9.

Presidential Peace Adviser Teresita Deles had told Aquino that her office would be meeting concerned parties especially the MILF to firm up the mechanisms and the transition when the peace deal is implemented, Coloma said.

"We need to do all that is possible to ensure the full implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement... beyond this administration," Coloma quoted Deles as saying.

BBL DEAD
continued on page 24

Friends



FIRST, Dr. Vicky Santiago (3RD FROM LEFT) poses with friends at a birthday party. RIGHT, Dr. Vicky poses with Suzy Llanera.



Induction



Senator Tobias Enverga talks during the induction of officers and members at the Culture Philippine Ontario while Luz del Rosario listens.

Helping



Dr Solon Guzman, proud Gold Sponsor of Durham's FBANA Hosting 2016 poses with Durham's Girlie Padillo (LEFT) and his cousin Maling Guzman Uy.

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US vows to help PH versus China Ambassador declares support



US Ambassador Philip Goldberg

MANILA - While the Philippines' dispute with China in the West Philippine Sea is not covered by the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, the US will abide by its treaty with the Philippines if it turns into a shooting war, US Ambassador Philip Goldberg said.

"Edca isn't directly related to the South China Sea [West Philippine Sea] issues. It's about the United States helping its ally, the Philippines, as it goes about building a minimum credible defense," Goldberg said.

"It's not aimed at any country or the disagreements in the South China Sea," Goldberg said, but in case of a "shooting war," the US will be ready to abide by the Mutual Defense Treaty it signed with the Philippines in 1951.

"The Philippines is a treaty ally of the United States. President Obama, when he was here, said that the treaty is ironclad. We take seriously our responsibilities, our obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty," Goldberg said.

He, however, said that the US is not anticipating a "shooting war" due to the sea disputes.

"That is a hypothetical situation. You have to know what the circumstances are," he said.

Goldberg made the remark as he lauded the decision of the Supreme Court, in its first en banc session for the year, to uphold the constitutionality of the Edca, which allows increased rotational presence of US troops in the country.

The high court voted 10 in favor, four against and one taking no part. Those who dissented to the majority ruling were Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-De Castro, Arturo Brion, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, and Marvic Leonen.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio wrote a concurring opinion while De Castro, Brion, and Leonen wrote their respective dissenting opinions.

Under the agreement, the US will be allowed to build structures, store as well as pre-position weapons, defense supplies and materiel, station troops, civilian personnel and defense contractors, transit and station vehicles, vessels, and aircraft for a period of 10 years.

The US envoy also made the remark amid growing fears in Southeast Asia that China's activities in disputed waters is adding to tensions in the region, Malacañang said.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. stressed that the Philippines is determined to "assert the importance of freedom of navigation and over flight" in the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea, which China claims almost entirely.

The building of additional runways contributes to heightened tensions in the region, Coloma said.

"We reiterate that these actions by China violate not only pertinent international laws but also the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea of which China is a signatory, along with the member countries of [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]," he added.

Vice Ganda says Ethel Booba, MC and Lassy are not fair- weather friends

On Gandang Gabi Vice, host Vice Ganda celebrated the



presence of his closest friends Ethel Booba, MC and Lassy in his life.

Vice Ganda revealed Ethel, Lassy and MC

were among his few friends who stayed when he was going through rough times. "Lalo kong narealize ang worth ninyong tatlo sa akin. Kasi di ba nung pumasok ako sa showbiz, nung nagkaroon ako ng maraming blessings, nung umayos ang alagwa ng karera ko, ang dami kong kaibigan, tapos nung nagkaroon ng konting aberya, ang daming nawala, na akala nila mawawala na rin ako.

Dun ko nalaman kung sino ang mga totoo. Nung mga panahong yun hindi ko kailangang ipagtanggol ang sarili ko, dahil may mga taong totoong nagtatanggol sa akin, yun yung mga nakakakilala sa akim, nakakaalam ng mga totoong-totoo, eto sila yun at kayo (pointing to the audience)..."

Ethel shared how she became close to Vice Ganda. "Pareho kami ng mga bet ganun, dun kami nagkakasundo," she said with a laugh.



Maggie Wilson has quit show- biz for good, she tells why

Actress, MTV VJ, model, and Binibining Pilipinas World 2007 titlist.

That was the life Maggie Wilson left behind when she married and became a mother.

Maggie said that her own family is now her top priority.

She said, "I think family is really important.

"I've been in it [prioritizing family] for like six years."

It naturally came to that when she married to real-estate magnate Victor Consunji, who is not in show business.

She explained, "It's very difficult for him to understand the working hours, why I am never home, right?"

"We wanted to start a family right away.

"I choose my hours now, I spend more time with my son and husband."

She added, "And my son, he's still very young, he is three years old.

"I want to be around when he has soccer practice, when he has like Christmas presentation at school.

"That for me is really important, that's a good priority."

Signs of a Filipino Teleserye

I don't usually watch them but sometimes, kapag beauty ang heroine, you get glued sa TV. One of these teleseryes is "On The Wings of Love." However, datapwa't, kung minsan you get bummed from some of the scenes. it is like watching a Canadian TV production. What are the signs of a teleserye that makes it similar to a Canadian production?

1. *They move very slowly.* As if they are counting the steps and the seconds. Which, of course, they are. The post-production does not even have to create the slo-mo in editing. The performers already move too slow.
2. *The scriptwriters are too lazy* or have run out of things to say for the performers to say. In a teleserye, these involves too many scenes of staring at one another. Here's probably a sample of a script. Girl: "I love you." Boy: "I love you too." STARE
During the shooting, the director probably said, "We are still short of 5 minutes. Let's reshoot the last scene. This time, stare at each other after every 2 lines."
What do you think?
3. *In a rom-com teleserye, there are too many near-kisses.* Really? What guy - I assume the character Clark of James Reid in OTWOL is straight - would get a millimeter close to Nadine Lustre's lips and then pull back and not kiss her and find a reason not to. "I can't. I forgot to turn off the stove," is a line that does not come to mind in this situation. "You have a boyfriend," does not count also if she already let you get that close. Who writes these scenes?
4. *Too many contrived meetings or "meet-cute" scenes* It's how the leads meet each other, split, then meet again. In OTWOL, she works in a marketing agency and he is an artist in need of marketing.

More dangerous than ISIS

Advisory from Camp Aguinaldo (confidential findngs): Joint assessment of the NICA,ISAFP,ISG,CIA & Homeland confirmed the presence of terrorist individuals here in the Phil., who existed longer than the JI & AL Qaeda and are considered more brutal than ISIS. Therefore, you must stay home on Valentines. They are well known to many as a group known as...MISIS *(report by Froilan Baking)*

Foodies in Rich Countries

They make it a big deal that they do no waste any part of an animal. A British chef even wrote a book "The Whole beast, nose to tail eating." Since it was published in 2004, I would assume that the movement started around that time. Chefs and foodies now brag about the latest trend, or the latest restaurant that applies this principle.
Kalokohan!
Sa Pilipinas and in other poor countries, they have been doing this long before 2004. And nobody in those countries writes a book about it as if he has just discovered the hottest thing since sliced bread. They have on name for it.

Survival.
Which brings me to a TV show called Survivor.
Unlike the TV show, the people in poor countries are not in some exotic island playing some contest so the winner can eat hamburger, or food they have not eaten since, well, since they joined the contest. Unlike poor people, the contestants in Survivor TV will go

back to their comfortable life and eat as much as they want whatever they want whenever they want.

Poor people have no choice of what to eat or when to eat. They eat what they can get and eat when there is food.

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Who comes up with these fines? Bakit may butal? Are the fines set by the Retail Council of Canada? You do to a store and they price an item at \$49.99. Subconsciously, they say that your mind thinks it is cheaper becasue it is not \$50.00. But you know it is already \$50.00. As I was driving on the 401, I saw this on the electronic sign of the \$490 fine for texting and driving. Why not put \$500. Are they trying to convince you to commit the violation the way retailers try to convince you to buy becasue it is below a certain number? "Oh, the fine is not high, so I might as well text and drive," is not what comes to any driver with a common sense. But with technology - specially the ironically named smartphones - some idotic driver will probably think that. And there's a lot of them.

And that is why Apple named it an iphone

Because when you own it, that technology will only make you think of yourself. You are driving, you are crossing an intersection, your phone rings and you stop right at there to answer it and chat.

What do you think?

2.2M Filipinos fell below poverty line under 'daang matuwid' – Binay



More Pinoys grew poor in Aquino years

MANILA - Simply put, more Filipino families became "poor" under the administration of President Benigno Aquino III.

This was the contention of opposition leader Vice President Jejomar Binay's camp as it cited figures from the Social Weather Stations (SWS) as evidence.

"There are more Filipinos now who describe themselves as poor compared to the beginning of the Aquino administration," said Joey Salgado, a spokesman of Binay's.

Salgado said that based on SWS data, the number of Filipinos who described themselves as poor in 2010, particularly within the first three months of the Aquino administration, was at 48 percent.

The latest self-rated poverty figure now stands at 50 percent, or half of the population. Conducted from December 5 to 8, 2015, the SWS survey pegged the number of poor Filipino families at a staggering 11.2 million.

In a similar survey conducted from September 24 to 27, 2010, 48 percent or an estimated nine million families considered themselves "mahirap" or poor.

"Where are we at right now? Despite the economic growth the administration keeps crowing about, 10 million Filipinos are still unemployed. More and more Filipinos are forced to leave the country to find work overseas because there no job opportunities here.

The cost of healthcare has risen and it is getting harder for people to get treatment in hospitals," Salgado said.

Aquino will step down on June 30, 2016.

Why You Should Never Use the Term "the Mentally Ill"

The phrases "the mentally ill" and "people with mental illness" sound very similar, but new research found we have very different reactions when we hear them. In the study, people who read passages with the term "the mentally ill" were more likely to believe that individuals with such a diagnosis should be controlled and isolated than those who read the same scenarios with the term "people with mental illness." The results were the same when researchers tested college students, older adults, and even counselors (yes, the ones who regularly treat people for mental health issues!).

Making the small linguistic change—from what a person is to what a person struggles with—can impact our reactions and how people with mental illness feel. After all, if you broke your leg you wouldn't want to be called a broken-leg person, right?

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Couples Who Have More Sex Also...

Science has spoken!

It's healthy for two people in a relationship to have copious amounts of sex, but did you know that regularly sleeping together may also make you and your man look younger? According to a Bristish study, sex instigates the release of endorphins, your body's feel-good chemicals, while improving your for circulation, benefitting your heart.

Dr. David Weeks, former head of old age psychology at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, also adds that "sex can help burn fat and release substances which bolster the immune system, while simple stress relief can improve the quality of sleep." Human growth hormone is also released during this time, which keeps skin elastic.

All this contributes to your youthful glow, and for older men and women, this could mean looking up to five to seven years younger than their actual age.

Honey Shot

14-yearo old Rozelle goes to Martingrove Collegiate Institute and plays volleyball . In the future, she wants to be a nurse. She is the daughter of Elmer Rigos

Rozelle Rigos

Carla de-fends herself from bashers

Just because Carla Abellana posted on her social media account that she acquired insomnia as she is required to do 40 sequences on the set of "Because of You", complete with long lines of script and plenty of crying scenes, her bashers quickly lambasted her for being someone who complains a lot.



"They just misunderstood me," she says. "Hindi naman ako nagreklamo."

Naikuwento ko lang na ang dami naming trabaho sa set. I don't mean it to sound like I'm complaining kasi, sa totoo lang, I enjoy so much doing 'Because of You'. Okay na okay ang samahan naming lahat ng buong cast, pati ng staff and crew, at laging mata-as ang ratings ng aming show, so I have no reason to complain."

The story of "Because of You" gets even more engaging when Valerie Concepcion as Veronica makes it appear that Carla as Andrea is hurting her so her four kids get more alienated from Carla and won't approve of her as their dad's new girl. Gabby as Jaime has no choice but to let get of his children and give them to their cheating mom who wants to get hold of them just so she can extort more money from their dad.

liño, the eldest boy, contracts dengue fever and is hospitalized.

Valerie blames Carla for taking their dad away from the kids. She tries to convince Gabby for them to reconcile but he rejects her.

Feeling guilty, Carla breaks up with Gabby but he refuses to let go of her and gets drunk. The kids return back to Gabby but he is surprised that Valerie is also with them. Meantime, Carla figures in an accident and it's her ex-BF Rafael Rosell as Oliver who rescues her.

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Don't bribe teachers, candidates warned



MANILA - The Department of Education (DepEd) warned politicians not to bribe teachers who will render poll duties in the elections in May.

DepEd Assistant Secretary for Legal and Legislative Affairs Tonisito Umali said teachers serving in the elections should not accept gifts or even food from the candidates to erase suspicion that they are being used by politicians.

"That should not be allowed. They [teachers serving as Board of Elections Inspectors (BEIs)] are prohibited by the law to accept gifts, incentives, or allowances during the election period and campaign period," Umali told reporters.

The teachers, he said, are also prohibited from accepting food or snacks. In past

elections, it had been a common practice for candidates, particularly local politicians, to provide meals to teachers.

Umali said the education department will provide food to the teachers serving as BEIs.

"We have a budget for that," he noted.

For this year's elections, public school teachers serving as BEIs will receive an honorarium of P4,500.

For the mid-term polls in 2013, teachers were given P3,000 and an additional P500 for testing and sealing and P500 for transportation if they are members of the Board of Election Inspectors.

The education department said public school teachers tapped for poll duty are ready.

"We will be submitting the list of our teachers who may serve as Board of Elections Inspector members. In the next couple of weeks or months they will be trained," Umali said.

The Senate early approved on third and final reading the proposed Election Service Reform Act (ESRA) which seeks to make election service for public school teachers optional.

Paper Trail for votes?

MANILA - A senatorial candidate asked the Supreme Court to compel the Commission on Elections to activate a paper audit for the vote-counting machines that will be used in the May elections, as a new survey showed that 39 percent of Filipinos expect cheating to take place at the polls.

In his petition, former senator Richard Gordon, who is seeking a Senate seat this year, said the Comelec's decision to scrap the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail disregarded the required security features set out under the Automated Elections System Law, which he wrote.

Fewer respondents mentioned physical threats or the stealing of PCOS machines.

The Pulse Asia survey also asked respondents if they would vote for politicians who already have relatives in office.

About a third (32 percent) said they would and a third (34 percent) said they wouldn't. The rest were undecided.



Breakfast Mistakes That Cause Weight Gain

You drink orange juice all the time.

Having a glass of orange juice daily may be the reason you're packing up on the pounds. According to health expert Lisa Davis M.D. and Vice President of Scientific and Clinical Affairs at Medifast, some orange juices are loaded with sugar. "A healthy serving of orange juice is about as much as you could squeeze out of one orange." She suggests you stick to drinking water and eating an orange separately.

You choose to have breakfast on the go.

Prefer to eat your meals on the road? Then you're more likely to choose less healthy food options compared to when you plan and actually sit down for a proper meal. Also, since you're prone to eat in a hurry, you might not be able to digest your food well.

You skip it completely.

Another big no-no! Due to people's hectic schedules, they opt to skip breakfast so they could leave the house in no time, but according to Fox News, doing this lures you to a fat trap instead of saving you calories. Researchers from Imperial College London found that "when people went without a morning meal, their brain reward centres lit up when they were shown images of high-calorie foods"-that means it will be harder for you to turn down treats plus you'll be gaining the calories you lost in the morning and so much more.

You don't eat enough protein.

According to a 2013 University of Missouri-Columbia study, eating a protein-rich breakfast helps curb your appetite throughout the entire morning. Kevin C. Maki, principal investigator of the study and a research scientist with Biofortis Clinical Research, a Mérieux NutriSciences company says, "Eating a breakfast rich in protein significantly improves appetite control and may help women to avoid overeating later in the day."

You drink your breakfast.

Although smoothies and shakes are easy to chug down while on the go, it gives little satisfaction to the stomach. Richard Mattes, PhD, professor of foods and nutrition at Purdue University says, "Because they are a beverage, smoothies may have weaker satiety value than a solid food of similar energy."

Deep frying is good for you

Cheers for those who love to fry their food! New Beauty reports that a study published in the Journal Food Chemistry discovered that deep-frying vegetables in extra virgin olive oil (EVOO) provides health benefits.

The results certainly debunk some food myths that are anti-oil frying. According to the study, frying in EVOO produces antioxidant phenol compounds in the veggies, making the body stronger in fighting diseases like cancer, diabetes, and macular degeneration.

Poe does not need PNoy's popularity – PGP

CABANATUAN CITY - Team Partido Galing at Puso (PGP) senatorial candidates lashed out yesterday at the administration coalition for claiming that their standard-bearer Senator Grace Poe is riding on President Aquino's popularity when she expressed openness to tap the Chief Executive as her anti-corruption adviser if she wins in the May presidential poll. The PGP claims this is impossible since it is anticipating a double-digit rise in the popularity ratings of their standard bearer once the Supreme Court hands down a favorable ruling on the disqualification cases filed against the independent presidential candidate.

PGP campaign manager Cebu Rep. Joseph Ace Durano said they are bracing for a 10-percentage point increase in the popularity ratings of Poe once the SC favorably decides on her disqualification cases.

Bayan Muna partylist Rep. Neri Colmenares and Atty. Lorna Kapunan rushed in defense of Poe who recognized Mr. Aquino as an effective anti-corruption adviser.

Colmenares branded the statement of Akbayan party-list Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez, spokesperson for the Daang Matuwid coalition, as "palusot (excuse)."

"More than 80 percent of the voters do not support the candidates endorsed by President Aquino, Mar Roxas. Baket naman sasakay si Grace Poe sa isang Presidente na hindi nya kinikilala, ineendorso nya?Kaya ang term ko dyan palusot lang yan. They want to create intrigues within the ranks," he said in a press conference at the Harvest Hotel in this city.

The opposition House leader said if President Aquino is really popular, Liberal Party Mar Roxas should rank first in poll surveys. "Ang tao ayaw nang ituloy ang Daang matuwid. President Aquino is espousing Daang Matuwid and Secretary Mar Roxas is espousing the Daang Matuwid, but more than 80 percent of the people do not want Mar Roxas. If people do not want to continue the Aquino legacy, so why would somebody ride on the popularity of that unwanted legacy? (That's) false premise. I think Malacañang is just trying to create confusion but in reality, hindi totoo yan. Otherwise kung popular si President Aquino sa botante, their endorsed candidate should be Number 1, instead of Number 4," Colmenares said. In Iloilo City, Poe has pledged to develop Sicogon and Gigantes islands, two of the most beautiful islands in Iloilo as the next top tourist destination like the famed the Boracay Island.

She made the promise during a campaign sortie in Carles, Iloilo where she told voters in her hometown that part of her agenda is to support tourism-related industries and creating income opportunities for the locals.

OK Pay hike for state workers

Aquino signs EO to implement first tranche of salary increase

MANILA - President Aquino signed Executive Order (EO) No. 201 granting the implementation of the first tranche of the pay increase for some 1.53 million government employees as provided for in the proposed Salary Standardization Law (SSL) 4.

Presidential Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said President Aquino signed the EO.

"President Aquino has signed an Executive Order (EO) 'Modifying the Salary Schedule for Civilian Government Personnel and Authorizing the Grant of Additional Benefits for Both Civilian and Military and Uniformed Personnel,'" Coloma disclosed.

The P57.9-billion appropriation will fully cover the first tranche.

Under the EO, the existing Compensation and Position Classification System (CPCS) was revised.

Coloma said this was "to ensure that the compensation structure of government personnel is comparable with the prevailing rates in the private sector, thereby attracting and retaining competent and committed civil servants."

The revisions include raising the minimum salary for Salary Grade I from the current rate of P9,000 to P11,068; and bringing the compensation of government personnel closer to their private counterparts to at least 70 percent of the median of the market for all salary grades.

The EO likewise eliminated overlaps in between salary grade allocations of government personnel to recognize differences in duties and responsibilities of the position.

It also maximized the net take home pay of government personnel through the inclusion of additional benefits; and strengthened the performance-based incentive system in recognition of government personnel who play a greater role and carry a heavier responsibility in attaining performance targets and delivering results.

The EO also includes adjustment in the compensation for the military and uniformed personnel (MUP), including an increased hazard pay from the current rate of P240 per month to the following rates: a) starting January 1, 2016, P390 per month; b) by January 1, 2017, P540 per month; c) by January 1, 2018, P690 per month; and d) by January 1, 2019, P840 per month.

Coloma, however, said the government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) are not included in the salary pay hike under the EO.

Science Says You Should Love Your Round Face

We're always on the lookout for tricks that will slim down our face, but science advises otherwise. Daily Mail UK shared an interesting study published in the Journal of Neuroscience. It says people with rounder faces are perceived to be more trustworthy. Faces with prominent cheeks and high brows can be trusted, while those with sunken cheeks and furrowed brows appear shady to others.

In a world where first impressions are everything—the same study explains that it only takes 33 milliseconds for our brains to decide whether a person is trustworthy or not—it helps to look instantly likeable.



Arnel Pineda, still with Journey

Hindi pala totoong 'di na part ng international group na The Journey ang Pilipino singer na si Arnel Pineda.

He still is, he told Boy Abunda, in an interview he had with Boy in his late night program na Tonight With Boy Abunda.

But it's true, too, Arnel stressed, na pumirma siya ng recording contract with the international recording firm, Imagen, and will soon do an album for them.

He made sure he had the permission of the pamunuan ng The Journey before he joined Imagen, he said. In fact daw, sa darating na concert tour ng grupo in April, he will be with them.

Meanwhile, dito muna siya sa Pilipinas with his family. From time to time, he holds concert, obviously to be in touch with his local followers.

'US warship sailed in waters off island claimed by China – Pentagon



The Pentagon says the 'freedom of navigation operation' was carried out 'to challenge excessive maritime claims of parties that claim the Paracel Islands'

WASHINGTON DC, USA – A US warship sailed within 12 nautical miles of an island claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea, in an operation intended to underscore America's right to access the disputed waters, the Pentagon said.

"We conducted a freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea earlier tonight," Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis said in statement issued late Friday, January 29, US time.

He said the operation was carried out near Triton Island in the Paracel Islands, "to challenge excessive maritime claims of parties that claim the Paracel Islands."

Davis said that the USS Wilbur was the guided missile destroyer used in the operation, and that no Chinese ships were in the vicinity at the time.

The waters of the South China Sea have been the subject of tense territorial disputes in the region, the Pentagon spokesman noted.

He added that Washington did not notify any of the countries laying claim to the islands that it intended to enter the territorial waters before embarking on the mission.

"This operation challenged attempts by the three claimants – China, Taiwan and Vietnam – to restrict navigation rights and freedoms around the features they claim by policies that require prior permission or notification of transit within territorial seas," Davis said.

"The excessive claims regarding Triton Island are inconsistent with international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. This operation was about challenging excessive maritime claims that restrict the rights and freedoms of the United States and others, not about territorial claims to land features," he said.

Davis added: "The United States takes no position on competing sovereignty claims between the parties to naturally-formed land features in the South China Sea. We do take a strong position on protecting the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all countries. All maritime claims must comply with international law."

Julia pregnant, Off the hook in Ciara-Jojo split

Julia Clarete is one of those accused of causing the breakup of the marriage of Ciara Sotto and TAPE exec Jojo Oconer after she suddenly left as host of "Eat Bulaga" and moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. But Ciara herself acquitted Julia when the latter came home briefly to do a show in 12 Monkeys and they saw each other. She posted pictures of her and her son Crixus with Julia and her own son Seb. She even wrote: "Thanks for visiting us. I love you and I really missed you and Seb."

Julia now lives in Kuala Lumpur with her foreign BF named Gareth, who used to be with Coke Manila but has since been transferred to Coke Malaysia. She feels sad she won't be around for the wedding of Vic Sotto and Pauleen Luna with whom she worked in "Eat Bulaga" for so many years.

Julia married businessman Stephen Uy in 2006 and they separated four years later. She was later linked to former actor Ilac Diaz and newsman Mark Zambrano. The grapevine says she's now pregnant with her and Gareth's baby and they're just waiting for the annulment of her first marriage before she and Gareth have their own wedding. It's really about time for her to have another baby and not later since she's already 36-years-old and her son Seb is turning 9 soon. Here's praying that her relationship with Gareth will last for a lifetime.



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House gives up on economic Charter change, FOI bill

MANILA - The House leadership raised the white flag as it sees no chance to amend the antiquated and restrictive economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution and to approve the proposed Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.

Speaker Feliciano “Sonny” Belmonte Jr. declared yesterday the death of the Resolution of both Houses No. 1 or the economic Charter change (Cha-cha) and House Bill 5801 or the proposed People’s Freedom of Information Act.

“Yes, but I expect the next Congress to pick it up,” he said.

“We laid a lot of groundwork for it. The proposal is so simple but with maximum effect on job creating foreign direct investments,” Belmonte said, referring to the bid to amend the economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution.

The House of Representatives has yet to approve on third and final reading the Cha-cha resolution, which seeks to lift the 40 percent limit on foreign ownership of public utilities, land, and media.

Belmonte expressed doubt that the Senate could approve the measure given the lack of time.

“I doubt Senate has time for the passage of economic Cha-cha,” he said.

AKO Bicol party-list Rep. Rodel Batocabe, who defended the Cha-cha resolution in the plenary, lamented that Belmonte’s pet measure “is unfortunately good as dead.”

“Even assuming that we in the House can muster the requisite vote, it has to be approved by the Senate. And considering that we only have three session days left, it will just remain a pipe dream,” he said.

Despite the House leadership’s explanation that amendments under the resolution are purely economic in nature, the Makabayan bloc claimed that the Cha-cha resolution is a “desperate attempt” of President Aquino’s ruling Liberal Party to stay in power.

Batocabe said they are leaving up to the next 17th Congress the passage of the economic Cha-cha.

“Nonetheless, it would be better that it should be put in the agenda of the next congress right from the start. If it passes, well and good. If not, it just goes to show that we are not yet ready to amend the restrictive economic provisions of our

Constitution,” Batocabe said.

Belmonte had earlier hinted that his measure faces a rough sailing in Congress, saying that it has to muster the two-thirds vote of the members of Congress. The proposed amendments can be done if two thirds of the 290-man Lower Chamber or 193 House members vote and side with Belmonte’s resolution.

Belmonte said aside from the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and Cha-cha, the FOI bill is dead this 16th Congress.

In an earlier interview, he said the enactment of FOI measure into law in February this year is doable.

The controversial pro-transparency measure has been pending since the 12th Congress. The Senate was able to approve its FOI version, while the House has yet to endorse the measure for plenary discussions.

On March 4, 2015, the House Committee on Appropriations, chaired by Davao City Rep. Isidro Ungab unanimously approved the funding provision of the FOI bill despite attempts to delay its passage.

The House version of the FOI bill provides that all government agencies are required to publish and regularly update its own Freedom of Information Manual in full containing the necessary information regarding the contact information of key offices and personnel, the type of information it holds and the procedures on how they shall be accessed.

Public interests records concerning the particular agencies are also required to be published regularly on their websites.

The proposed People’s Freedom of Information Act of 2013 also mandates all agencies’ websites to maintain a “cyber office” wherein all the necessary information about the agency, the types and forms of services it offers and the standard procedures of access are provided and readily available to the public online.

All government agencies are required to set up a compliant website within two years from the approval of this bill.

A total of 103 countries worldwide with combined population of 5.8 billion have adopted FOI and access to information laws, starting with Sweden in 1776 and ending with Mozambique in 2014.

Sulu princess tagged ‘terrorist’ in Malaysia

MANILA - Sulu Princess Jacel Kiram said Malaysia is one of her favorite countries to visit. But if she does, her safety is not sure. Jacel Kiram recently hit the headlines in Kuala Lumpur for having a “selfie” photo with Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Vice President Narul Izzah Anwar, daughter of former Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim.

Malaysian newspapers castigated Anwar for mingling with a “terrorist.”

Jacel Kiram is the daughter of Jamalul Kiram III, a former self-proclaimed Sultan of the Sulu Sultanate who reportedly ordered the sending of about 200 armed men to take over Lahad Datu, Sabah, in March 2013.

Prime Minister Najib Razak said Anwar “has relations with the recent Sulu terrorist” and hurt the feelings of Malaysians.

“Nakakalungkot lang kasi mukhang hindi na ako makakapunta doon. ‘Pag terorista doon, ‘di ba pinapatay na agad? Wala nang due process.” Jacel Kiram noted that the Filipino community in Malaysia did not even defend her.

Jacel Kiram is now running for senator in the May 2016 elections to push for the Philippines’ claim to Sabah.

She said the government has seemingly lost its interest in the resource-rich island and makes a priority the fight for the sovereignty in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

There has been no Moro voice in the Senate for two decades now after Mamintal A.J. Tamano and Santanina Rasul.



Contestants in new show get no prize

Michael V is so happy that GMA7 chose him to be the host of “Lip Sync Battle Philippines”. “Nang una ko pa lang mapanood ang U.S. version nito hosted by LL Cool J, sabi ko, sana gawin din dito sa atin at ako ang host,” he says. “Heto nga nangyari na. Salamat talaga sa GMA at sa kin nila ipinagkatiwala ang pagho-host ng local version.”

The show starts airing tonight after “Magpakailanman” as replacement of “Celebrity Bluff”. Each week, two celebrities who are close to each other will compete with musical numbers where they will lipsynch the hits of top performers. In the U.S., Channing Tatum impersonated Beyonce while competing with his own wife Jenna, and he won, with the show being a big hit.

In the show’s pilot, the TomDen love team of “My Husband’s Lover” is back, with Tom Rodriguez and Dennis Trillo trying to outshine each other. After they perform, the audience itself will determine who should win.

“I will also be acting as a judge here kung hindi makakapag-decide ang viewers,” says Michael. “Wala kaming cash prize dito but only a lip sync champion belt. Kasama ko si Iya Villania as the color commentator asking viewers how they feel about the performances they saw.”

Later on, he wants Alden Richards and Maine Mendoza to compete, since they’re already very good in doing dubs mash on “Eat Bulaga”. He’s also aiming to invite Joey de Leon and Vic Sotto, Lovi Poe and Solenn Heussaff, Rhian Ramos and Glaiza de Castro, Ryan Agoncillo and Drew Arellano to be future contestants. “Mas maganda kasi kung magkabarkada or close friends or magka-love team ang maglalaban,” adds Michael. “Sina Dennis at Tom, talagang kinarer nila ang pagiging guests sa show. Gugulatin nila kayo sa husay ng performances nila.”

Aside from “Lip Sync Battle”, Michael V is also in two other hit shows: “Bubble Gang” on Friday and “Pepito Manaloto” on Sunday. With “Lip Sync Battle” shown on Saturday, Michael V can now rightfully be called the Weekend King.

Cnristopher crosses between networks

AFTER guesting in “Little Nanay” playing the role of a lawyer on GMA7, Christopher de Leon is now on ABS-CBN’s “Ang Probinsiyano.” He plays the role of Anne Curtis’ uncle. Anne plays the role of a kidnap victim who’ll be rescued by Coco Martin.

On February 29, the latest reincarnation of “Ang Panday” starts on TV5, with Brother Boyet in the role of the arch villain, Lizardo. He takes over from Phillip Salvador who played Lizardo in the film versions made by Sen. Bong Revilla. We ask Bro. Bo why he accepted a contravida role?

“Mas malaki ang role ni Lizardo dito. Mas marami at mas malupit ang powers niya. Also, gaya ni Richard Gutierrez as Flavio, makakatawid siya from the past to the modern world through a magic portal. It’s a new challenge for me kaya tinanggap ko,” says the only actor who is criss-crossing liberally from one top network to another.

PH-US joint patrols in South China Sea possible - Del Rosario

MANILA - The Philippines and the United States may “possibly” conduct joint patrols in the disputed South China Sea this year, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Secretary Albert del Rosario said. Possibly. Depending on discussions that are being undertaken now at lower levels,” Del Rosario told reporters, adding that it may also involve other countries.

“It could be multilateral depending on how the discussions go,” he said.

China claims nearly all of the resource-rich South China Sea. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have rival claims to parts of the sea.

In October last year, the US Navy sent a guided-missile destroyer close to China’s man-made islands in the disputed sea.

US defense officials said the USS Lassen sailed within 12 nautical miles of Subi Reef. The patrol, which lasted a few hours, also included Mischief Reef.

PNoy claims credit for unopposed bets

MANILA - President Aquino on claimed credit for the big number of unopposed candidates in the May 9, 2016 polls.

In his speech before the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, the Chief Executive said: “Sa darating nga pong halalan, May 9, tingnan naman po ninyo, nakakagulat nga raw pong sa dami ng mga tumatakbo sa halalang kasalukuyan na walang kalaban. Talagang tama yung sinabi kanina, kontento ang taumbayan. Masaya ang taumbayan. Baka walang mahanap na isyu na ibabato sa mga kasalukuyang nakaupo.”

“Marami ho sigurong dahilan. Sa madaling salita, maraming hindi nangahas. Hindi sa tinatakot silang wag tumakbo. Bawal po sa atin iyan. Pero sinasabing, ‘Sige, tapatan ninyo ang nagawa. Higitan ninyo ang nagawa. Kung hindi ninyo kayang ipangako man lang yon, siguro wag ka nang mangahas.’ Baka ganoon ho ang punto niyan.”

Commission on Elections records obtained and analyzed by ABS-CBN Investigative Research show 40 congressmen are running unopposed, including detained former President, now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, stalwarts in the Roxas campaign-Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo, and Duterte campaign, Davao City Rep. Karlo Nograles, as well as the mother of vice-presidential candidate Senator Francis Escudero, Sorsogon Rep. Evelina Escudero.

Half of all the candidates for district representative and vice governor who are running unopposed in 2016 are Liberal Party members.

Nearly half of all unopposed candidates for mayor likewise belong to the Liberal Party.



PHILIPPINE CANADIAN CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DELIVERS OVER HALF A MILLION PESOS TO CHARITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

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PCCF delegation led by Rosemer Enverga and organization ambassadors, Miss Philippines Canada 2015 Nathalie Ramos, Miss Teen Phils. Canada 2015 Ansha Joy Hipolito, Little Miss Phils 2015 Angeli Lachica, Mrs. Phils. Canada 2015 Ning Talandato, Little Miss Phils. Canada 2014 Arielle Perez & Little Miss Phils. Canada 2015 runners-up Alyssa Ong and Kaila Ventura went to the Philippines to celebrate their successes and to share their generosity. Over 500,000 pesos in cash and in kind were delivered to the Missionary Sisters of Charity of Mother Theresa in Manila and Aklan, Bahay na Walang Hagdanan, Elsie Gatches Village for the abandoned and disabled, Don Bosco Program for the youths and poor, Answering the Cry of the Poor Village for the victims of Leprosy & Kapuso Foundation. Seven computers were given to Marciana P. Catolos Elementary School in Tanay, Rizal. It was indeed an experience of a lifetime for the beautiful ladies who represented PCCF in such a noble manner.

If you want to join or you know someone who wants to join the **PAGEANTS WITH A CAUSE**, please contact any of the officers or call PCCF 416 284 9299 or email pageantsphilippines@gmail.com. Prizes include FREE TRIP to the Philippines and CORONATION will be at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Pinoy Fiesta & Trade Show Toronto on June 18, 2016.

For more information visit philippinecanadianfoundation.com
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FilCan Michele Serrano Seeks Nomination to Canadian Senate



By : Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The normally reticent Filipino Canadian community in Ontario is fully agog recently on the latest political development in the parliamentary landscape in Ottawa. Michele Serrano, a notable community leader , experienced corporate manager & entrepreneur and practicing certified professional, is reported to be pursuing and have applied for nomination to the Senate of Canada .

Michele Serrano wishes to represent us-- our interest and aspiration and make us proud to have a highly credible Filipino professional and deserving political leader from the community with true professional and personal credentials in going to the so-called "chamber of sober second thought ".

Ontario is one of 3 Canadian provinces where two vacancies in the Senate are to be filled this winter 2016, through " non-binding merit- based recommendations by a 5- person Independent Advisory Body on Senate nominations to the Prime Minister and for eventual appointment by the Governor General.

Many kababayans have continuously expressed the need for someone in the Senate like Michele Serrano to be not only as "our hope but a rightful voice hope but a rightful voice and inspiration for us in our Filipino Canadian community", including our families,

women, elderly, youth & students , new immigrants and fellow Canadians as well. As a woman with distinguished career and experience, Michele according to her pronouncement "intends to serve and share with fervor & fairness her personal and professional skills, capabilities and talents when afforded the opportunity".

Michele has a distinguished career as a practicing professional accountant, former government executive and corporate business manager & comptroller . She is greatly proud of having achieved Canadian professional designations in 5 industry sectors, such as : Certified Professional Accountant (CPA), Certified General Accountant(CGA), Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant(RCIC), certified Human Resources Professional(CHRP) and Licensed Financial Advisor.

A multi licensed professional, she is a member of several accredited professional organizations and a recognized community advocate & political organizer as well. Michele is an officer or member of : Philippine Cultural Community Centre, Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto, Filipino Canadians Political Affairs Council, Council of Filipino Canadian Professionals in Ontario, Filipino Canadian Parents Association in Catholic Education and Federation of Filipino Canadians-Ontario. She is focused and fully engaged in civic and community activities especially in charitable and social fundraisers.

The Nomination process, according to requirements, is by organization . To date , supporting M.Serrano's Senate quest include a cross section of active community- based and mainstream groups, such as : professional, business, alumni, faith-focused , sports, specific- interest and other province-based organizations.

Michele is encouraging those who wish to learn more about her and /or her rationale , she may be contacted by phone at: 416-988-9613 or michele.serrano@hotmail.com

Let us then join hands and our hearts & minds by supporting and nominating Michele Serrano to the Canadian Senate for a stronger, unified, and progressive Filipino community in our adopted homeland .(T. San Juan).

Senator Enverga thanks Cardinal Collins for his testimony



Ottawa, February 3, 2016 – Today, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, testified before the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying, which is empowered to make recommendations on the framework of a federal response on physician-assisted dying after the Supreme Court of Canada ruling stating that the Criminal Code is a breach of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"I wish to thank His Eminence for a powerful testimony before the Committee this evening," said Senator Enverga in a statement after the committee had adjourned. "As members of the Catholic church, we have a duty to defend life, and to proclaim the culture of life for the common good of society. I also wish to congratulate His Eminence on taking on his role as the chief shepherd of all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto,

and on standing up to what the late Pope John Paul II called a culture of death leading to the creation of structures of sin that go against life."

"Our worth as a society will be measured by the support we give to the vulnerable. People facing illness may choose to end their lives for reasons of isolation, discouragement, loneliness, or poverty even though they may have many years yet to live. What does it say about us as a society when the ill and the vulnerable in our midst feel like burdens? Often, a plea for suicide is a cry for help. Society should respond with care and a compassionate response to these vulnerable people, and not with death," said Cardinal Collins as part of his testimony, urging parliamentarians to focus on palliative care rather than allowing physician-assisted suicide when our healthcare system fails the weakest in our society.

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Agriculture will lick poverty–Binay

Economic growth without jobs is useless



MANILA - A Binay administration will focus on improving the agricultural sector in order to provide jobs and ad-dress widespread poverty, especially in rural areas.

Toward that end, Vice President Jejomar Binay on Friday said his administration will concentrate on generating jobs in the 15 provinces with the most number of poor families, especially those with pov-erty incidence greater than 50 percent: Lanao del Sur (67.3 percent), Eastern Samar (55.4 percent), Apayao 54.7 (percent) and Maguindanao (54.5 percent).

The figures are from the National Anti-Poverty Commission's 2012 Poverty Estimates.

The Vice President reiterated his emphasis on agriculture after the release of a National

Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) report that shows the agricultural sector only grew by 1.6 percent from 2011 to 2015.

“Economic growth is meaningless unless it provides jobs for our people, especially in the rural areas,” he said.

The agriculture sector’s growth during the Aquino administration is second to the last in ranking among past five Presidents.

“The agricultural sector had a very imperceptible growth last year at 0.2 percent. Agriculture, despite being the dominant sector, is the least productive under the administration,” Binay said.

He noted the need to revitalize agriculture and said his administration will strive to create a business environment that will attract

investors in agriculture to generate more jobs.

According to Binay, his administration will create economic zones in key agricultural provinces, and train farmers to shift from subsistence farming to agribusiness.

He noted that the October 2015 Labor Force Survey released by the Philippine Statistics Authority showed the Ilocos Region and Calabarzon with unemployment rates higher than the national average of 5.6 percent, at 8.5 percent and 7.8 percent, respectively.

Binay reiterated that competence and compassion in a leader are keys to fighting poverty and achiev-ing inclusive growth.

“My experience [as a former mayor of] Makati [City] has strengthened my conviction that poverty can be reduced, and real inclusive growth is attainable under a capable and experienced manager and ad-ministrator who understands the poor and can craft the right social and economic policies and can im-plement these policies,” he said.

“The stagnation of the agriculture sector and the Aquino administration’s continued neglect of this vi-tal sector is a serious cause for concern,” the Vice President added.



Marian Rivera’s ad-vice to Maine Men-doza:

‘Enjoy it’

MARIAN Rivera was feted by GMA7 in a solo presscon for her comeback in showbiz after giving birth to Baby Zia. “Parang naninibago ako,” she says as she sits down on the presidential table. “Hindi na ako sanay.”

So how is it to be a mom? “Sobrang saya, hindi mo maikukumpara to anything else. Naging kumpleto ang pagkatao ko, ang pagkababae ko.

“Hands on ako, eh. Wala kaming yaya. Breast-fed siya sa’kin. ‘Pag umaalis ako, nagpa-pump ako at iniliwan ko para may madede siya. Nailiwan siya sa mommy ko at sa lola ko, o kaya sa mommy ni Dong. Mas kampante kasi ako kung kamag-anak ang napag-iwanan ko.”

And how’s Dong as a husband? “Wala akong mairereklamo.

Napaka-supportive niya sa akin. Tinutulungan niya akong magpaligo.

Kung may trabaho siya, kapag break time, kahit malayo, uuiwi ‘yan para lang makita ang baby namin. Kung minsan, mas matagal pa ‘yung travel time niya dahil sa traffic kaysa sa time na ini-stay niya with Baby Zia. Very responsible dad.”

She’ll be back in “Sunday Pinasaya” this Sunday. She’s ready to do dance numbers again. “Pero gusto ko, paghandaan munang mabuti at hindi ‘yung masabi lang nagsayaw ako ng one-two step.”

A talk show about her experiences as wife and homemaker is also being prepared for her. “I look forward to that. Meron ding inihahandang show for us ni Dong but later pa siguro. Meantime, I agreed to do the role of Inang Reyna in the remake of ‘Enchantadia’ (originally played by Dawn Zulueta), basta half-day lang ako magte-taping. May cut off ako, kasi ayokong malayo ako nang matagal sa baby ko.”

What can she say that her leading man in “Car-mela”, Alden Richards, is now so hot? “I’m so happy for him kasi he really deserves it dahil mabait naman talaga si Alden. Nagtiyaga siya, nagsikap, ayon, nagbunga ang puno at kinakain na niya ang prutas. Hindi siya nagmadali at nag-shine siya sa tamang panahon.”

She has met Maine Mendoza at the GMA trade show. “Nakakatuwa kasi, nang dumating ako, wala na siya, pero bumalik siya at ayun, ang dami nam-ing napag-usapan. Hindi pa siya sanay sa showbiz at nasa-shock pa pag sobrang dami ng tao. Sabi ko sa kanya, just enjoy it. Basta good vibes lang. Maging masaya tayo sa nagiging achievements nila ni Alden.”

Xian Lim wants to play the role of a super hero

Xian Lim shared that he always wanted to por-tray a super hero on TV or in the movies.

“Isang napakalaking opo. Isa po ‘yan sa mga pangarap ko, na maging superhero. Pangarap ko pong maging isang superhero din. I’m sure lahat ng artista ay pangarap po maging isang superhero para sa mga kabataan, to be a role model. Kahit sino pong superhero, kahit sino po,” he said.

Xian recently starred in the movie Everything About Her opposite Angel Locsin and the Star For All Seasons Vilma Santos. Both stars are known for portraying Komiks heroine Darna.

In 2014, Xian was one of the actors rumored to play “Captain Barbell,” another famous superhero created by Mars Ravelo. He said that he would gladly accept the role if it is offered him.

Xian, with on screen partner Kim Chiu, will be back on primetime this via the ABS-CBN TV series The Story of

What peace deal?

Govt peace panel chief slams NDF for ‘half-truths’

MANILA - The government’s chief negotiator with the communist rebels chided the chairman of the National Democratic Front panel for telling “half-truths” and denied that President Benigno Aquino III had rebuffed a peace deal between the two sides.

“He’s not telling the whole story,” said government peace panel chair Alexander Padilla, in response to NDF peace panel chairman Luis Jalandoni’s claims that a signed peace pact was snubbed by the government in 2014.

“There was no peace deal,” Padilla said. “What Mr. Jalandoni is referring to was not an agreement.” Padilla said in December 2014, there were reports of peace talks resuming between the government and the NDF. “We clarified then that what was happening was, a group of private individuals we consider ‘friends of the process’ was shuttling between the two parties to explore possible parameters for restarting the talks at the earliest possible time. It was this private group that initialed a proposed agreement subject to approval by the two panels,” he said.

The government chief negotiator confirmed that the “government was studying that proposal and was prepared to discuss it with the NDF panel in January 2015” until the Mamasapano massacre.

Padilla said in February 2015, the private group again went to Utrecht and returned with another proposal from the NDF to resume the talks, this time with a stronger demand for the release of hundreds of its leaders and followers in detention, the withdrawal or dismissal of cases against their detained alleged consultants, and other pre-conditions. With the NDF asserting even more than its usual demands, the initiative did not pan out, he said. “The NDF’s usual strategy is to use the negotiations to get as many concessions as it can from government

without giving anything in return. In spite of this, [the government] continued to pursue all possibilities for the resumption of talks, Padilla added.

“We tried two more times in 2015, based on proposals offered by our Norwegian facilitator to the parties, but to no avail. On the first one, the NDF said they needed more time to consult the ground while the RNG [Royal Norwegian Government] and the government waited. On the second one, the NDF expressed its reservation on the RNG’s facilitation process for generating goodwill measures that would benefit the people,” he said.

Padilla recalled that in an interview in July 2015, Jalandoni reiterated the NDF’s demand. “The group’s return to the negotiating table still depended on the release of political prisoners and peace consultants... and returned to the protracted and immoveable regular track,” he said.

Padilla challenged the NDF to go beyond its usual practice of making unreasonable demands then putting the blame on the government for the failure to resume talks.

“It is high time for the CPP/NPA/NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines, New People’s Army and the NDF) to change its tactic of making impossible demands and blaming the government for the failure to resume peace talks. They have used this tired old rhetoric to cover up for their continuing violence on the ground and their strategy to use the peace process to get as many concessions as they can from government without giving anything in return,” the chief negotiator said.

“Instead of continuing to wage armed conflict against our democracy, the CPP/ NPA/NDF must seek ways to deliver peace, especially to the communities on the ground that have been sorely affected by their armed struggle,” Padilla said.

Binay camp blasts DA’s ‘self-suffi-ciency’ claim

MANILA - The camp of Vice President Jejomar Binay chewed up Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso Alcala for his claim that the Philip-pines reached “96 percent rice self-sufficiency” under President Benigno Aquino III.

According to Binay spokesman Joey Salgado, the country is actually importing more rice than ever under the current administration.

“Secretary Alcala claims the Philippines has been 96 percent rice self-sufficient starting in 2010. What he fails to mention is that the Philippines imported 1.787 MMT (million metric tons) of rice last year, the largest in the last five years. In 2014, we also imported 1.7 MMT,” Salgado said in a statement on Wednesday, February 3.

Self-sufficiency is achieved when production exceeds consumption.

Salgado noted data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, which showed that the country’s total palay (rice grain) production for 2015 only reached around 18.86 MMT.

This is 1.22 MMT short of the national target of 20.08 MMT and 0.6 percent lower than the 2014 output of 18.97 MMT.

“Where is the self-sufficiency Secretary Alcala is bragging about? It appears that the good Secretary is oblivious to the truth.

“The sad truth is that while more than 40 percent of Filipinos are in agriculture, the sector has barely grown in the past six years. From 2011 to 2015, the agricultural sector only grew by 1.6 percent,” Salgado pointed out.

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VERONICA PROTACIO

50th Birthday

Veronica celebrated her birthday last month. Besides her family, she was joined by friends and co-workers in the fun-filled happy day. Here's to Veronica.
May her blessings last long after the day is over!



Dr. Annette Simbulan poses with our biirthday girl Veronica Protacio.



John Lloyd 7 Bea are friends

John Lloyd Cruz allowed himself to be interviewed on TV Patrol and he was asked if he's really now into a relationship with his perennial ka-loveteam, Bea Alonzo. "Hindi po," he says. "Magkaibigan lang po kami."

So, he really does not have a romantic relationship with Bea?

"Wala po," he insists.

What the interviewer forgot to ask him if it's true that he has called it quits with Angelica Panganiban. This is something he cannot deny as Angelica herself has posted some messages in her social media account clearly indicating that they've indeed parted ways.

Lloydie also temporarily said goodbye to Jennylyn Mercado, with whom he's currently shooting a rom com under the direction of Cathy Garcia-Molina. "I've long been wanting to do a movie with her," he says. "Noon pa dapat kami merong gagawin pero hindi natuloy. Finally, ito pala 'yung kapalit, so I'm very happy. I'm really excited to experience her talent."

Lloydie plays an airline pilot in the story while Jen plays a ground crew attendant who wants to be a flight attendant. The story about airline personnel is something new and different in local cinema romances.



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Angel, Luis split up

Just when everybody thought na sa kasalan mauuwi ang relasyong Luis Manzano at Angel Locsin, muling nauwi sa hiwalayan ang relasyon ng dalawa matapos nilang magkabalikan in February 2014 after their almost five years break-up.

Walang nakakaalam na may problema na palang namamagitan sa (dating) magkasintahan nang humarap si Angel sa presson ng pelikulang “Everything About Her,” ang hit movie na pinagsamahan nila ng ina ni Luis na si Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos at Xian Lim na dinirek ni Joyce Bernal under Star Cinema. Maging si Gov. Vi ay clueless na may problema na pala sa dalawa. Dumalo si Luis sa premiere night ng movie pero nakaupo ito sa malayo at agad din itong umalis.

Sadya nga yatang hindi ukol para sa isa’t isa sina Luis at Angel when everybody thought that they were perfect for each other.



Ai Ai wants an International award

AI AI De Las Alas made a successful comeback last year, on TV via such hit shows as “Sunday PinaSaya” and “CelebriTV”, and on the big screen in the topgrossing Metro Manila Filmfest entry, “My Bebe Love”.

This year, it seems that her goal is to win an international acting award. She tried that before in the 2014 Cinemalaya entry, “Ronda”, where she played a policewoman having problems with her personal life. She herself produced it but failed to impress no one and she didn’t win any trophy.

This time, she has agreed to work with Director Louie Lagdameo Ignacio who has won two best actress awards from international film festivals for Aiko Melendez in his movie “Asintado” and whose “Child Haus” just won best children film at the recently-concluded Dhaka International Filmfest.

The movie’s supervising producer is Dennis Evangelista, who produced “Magkakabaung” that gave Allen Dizon so many local and international best actor awards. The movies she will do with Louie, Dennis and BG Productions is a serious drama with touches of comedy, titled “Area (Higanna Magkano)”. It’s about a place in Pampanga known as Area where men in heat can let their steam off with cheap prostitutes then pay them in kind, with items like used appliances.

Ai Ai will play a laundry woman who moonlights as a prosti at night and the story will revolve on her. Higanna Magkano is the screen name of a sexpot who was introduced in the bomba films of the 70s and 80s and it’s now being used in “Area”. The script is written by Robbie Tandingan, who just won the Metro Manila Filmfest New Wave best screenplay award for “Ari, My Life with A King”, which was also named best picture. Supporting Ai Ai in the movie is Allen Dizon who will play the role of the sex den owner where Ai Ai works. Allen has a very shady job and to atone for his sins, every Holy Week, he joins the annual penitencia then gets himself nailed on the cross. Here’s hoping this movie will finally give Ai Ai the international honors she’s hoping to achieve.

Angelica a No Show at ‘Psy’ Thanksgiving presscon

‘Pangako Sa ’Yo’ ended and ABS-CBN hosted a thanksgiving presscon. Angelica Panganiban, who plays Madame Claudia, was conspicuously absent at the affair. The official reason is that she’s taping for

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“Banana Sundae” but everyone concludes that she is just avoiding to be asked about her breakup with John Lloyd Cruz. But she’s part of the video presentation where the cast members are asked what is the most memorable scene she did in “Pangako Sa’Yo” during its entire run since it started in May of last year?“Napansin ko, ang mga tao, natatakot lumapit in public sa’kin kasi nga mataray si Madame Claudia,” says Angelica.



“Yung ibang tao nga, ang tawag na sa akin, Madame. Feel ko naman ‘yun. My most memorable scene was noong mahulog ang paa ko sa kanal during the pilot week. Hindi part of the plan ‘yun, pero nangyari.” What about Jodi Sta. Maria? “Malaki ang naging epekto sa’kin ng pagganap ko ng Amor Powers kasi kakaiba ang naging journey ng character ko at tumatak talaga sa tao. Ang most memorable scene for me was nang gumuho yung bundok at sumigaw ako ng ‘Matitikman nyo ang batas ng mga api!’ Naging very challenging din ang scenes namin ni Angelica as Madame Claudia kasi laging mataas, very tense. It’s good Angelica is one very good actress.”

“The show was definitely a big boost to my career,” says Ian Veneracion as Eduardo. “Nag-click ang loveteam namin ni Jodi at nakilala kami as Amor Ado. Memorable sa’kin ang pilot week, yung ilog scenes namin ni Jodi. Nakaka-inspire ang ganda ng mga lugar pero napakahirap puntahan.” “Ako naman, most memorable sa’kin ang takbo-takbo kilig scenes namin ni Kathryn sa bukid,” says Daniel Padilla who plays Angelo. “I really love my character kasi ang lalim at ang dami ng pinagdaanan niya. We invite you not to miss ang nalalapit na pagtatapos ng show dahil marami pang pasabog.” “Dahil sa show na ito,” says Kathryn Bernardo who plays Yna, “mas natanggap kami ng viewers in playing mature roles. I

enjoyed working with Tita Amy Austria kasi siya talaga ang naging ina ko sa set.”

Stars whose launch movies flopped

We feel sad for the young stars whose launching vehicles didn’t get the expected public support and flopped. First is the love team of Andre Paras and Yassi Pressman whose “Girlfriend for Hire” failed to make waves at the box office. We already wrote then that it’s premature for Viva Entertainment to launch them as they don’t have a solid fan base yet. Prior to this, their other movie, “Wang Fam”, was also a big flop. And let’s face it, the biggest obstacle to this loveteam is the fact that Andre’s also current loveteam with Barbie Forteza on TV is definitely much more successful with the public, what with them having two hit shows like “The Half Sisters” and “That’s My Amboy”.

We’re also sad for Julia Barretto, daughter of Dennis Padilla and Marjorie Barretto, and Inigo Pascual, son of Piolo Pascual. Their afternoon TV drama, “And I Love You So”, didn’t succeed at the ratings and will soon be terminated. It started airing only last December and, after two months of dismal ratings and consistent failure to attract the interest of viewers, it’s now given its walking papers. We’ve said it before and we’ll say it again. We personally really like Julia Barretto. She’s not only good looking but can also act, but obviously she started on the wrong foot when she had that controversial rift with her father. She never recovered from that.

As for Inigo, we also said it before and we’ll say it again, he’s not endowed with incandescent star quality like what his dad has. ABS has given him all the support to help forward his showbiz career but he simply fails in comparison to the current crop of teen idols on ABS like James Reid, Daniel Padilla and Enrique Gil. This is unsolicited advice, but it will really be better for him to just focus on getting a good education. Also,

the other young star with whom he and Julia form a love triangle in the show, Miles Ocampo, is a good actress but sadly, she doesn’t have the charisma of a lead star. We sympathize with all of them.

Arci is very attractive

Gerald Anderson plays Jake, a photographer who is afraid of commitment, in “Always Be My Maybe”, and he says he can relate to it. “I can relate to his stupid way of decision-making, sa immaturity niya in handling commitment issues, and doon sa he won’t own up to his mistakes,” he adds. “May isang scene nga sa movie na ako mismo ang sumulat. I won’t say which scene. Basta panoorin nyo ang movie and let’s see if you’d recognize that scene.”

As Jake he is the type na “paasa”. “Mahilig siyang magpaasa ng girl. Si Arci Muñoz naman as Tintin is the type na ‘pa-fall’, madaling ma-fall in love sa mga paasa types and often ends up a victim in failed relationships.”



As we all know, Gerald is one bonafide hot chick boy. Unlike other actors who are seldom linked to other actresses, Gerald has had relationships with Kim Chiu, Bea Alonzo and Maja Salvador. He no longer wants to get back to what happened to them. “Basta, aaminin ko na lang, kasalan ko lagi,” he says. “My realization is don’t get into a serious relationship kung hindi ka pa naman talaga ready kasi may masasaktan ka lang. If, for you, love is a maybe, then it’s not really love. Maraming makaka-relate dito sa movie namin. But right now, loveless ako. Wala nga akong date nung Valentine kasi busy pa rin kami sa shooting, e may playdate na kami on Wednesday, February 24.”

How is it working with Arci Muñoz? “It’s our first time at nagulat ako, sobrang professional siya. We have many love scenes at mahirap ‘yung ginawa niya. May isang love scene, one whole day ang shooting namin. May pagka-daring. She’s so sexy. Sa eksena kasi, she will tease me at napakagaling niya. She’s really oozing with sexiness. This is the most intense love scene I’ve done so far and siya rin ‘yung pinakamatagal kinunan. Our director, Dan Villegas, says matindi ang chemistry namin ni Arci on screen so, please watch it po.” Supporting them in “Always Be My Maybe” are Carlo Aquino, Ahron Villena, Cacai Bautista, Matt Evans and Jane Oineza.

Marian and Dingdong wants more children

Marian Rivera returns to “Sunday Pina-saya” today after giving her to Baby Letizia. She has also shot for a new TV ad. She admits her and Dingdong’s first born already got offers for endorsements. “But we begged off kasi sobrang liit pa ng baby namin,” she says. “Pero open naman kami to such offers, kaya lang, later na siguro. Gusto muna naming lumaki siya. Hindi naman sa we’re trying to hide her from the public. Maski nga sa binyag niya, kakaunti lang talaga ang inimbita namin kasi hindi naman artista yung anak namin. At siguro nga may pagka-stage mother ako kaya protective ako sa kanya. Kung puede sana, maging endorser siya sa edad na pwede na siyang tanungin: Anak, gusto mo ba? At siya na ang sasagot kung gusto niya, ‘Yes, mommy.’”

So do they intend to give her a baby brother or baby sister soon? “Siguro in two more years. Dream namin to have a big family but we want to enjoy her muna. Pero kung ipagkakaloob kaagad sa amin ng Panginoon, okay rin lang po.”

Ella Cruz reveals real score between her and Bret Jackson

Teen Dance Princess Ella Cruz admitted that she and actor Bret Jackson are just friends. “Hindi kami, hindi kami, We’re still friends po... Sa ngayon, ganun pa rin, friends pa rin. Ayoko pa talaga.”



She also denied the rumors that they broke up. She stressed that her focus as of the moment is on her career. “Hindi... well, nag-decide lang kami parehas na better na friends. Ngayon kasi, hindi na rin kami masyadong nagkikita. Masyado kaming busy, pero friends po kami, katulad dati. Mabait si Bret, sobrang caring, sobrang sweet. Pero kailangan muna na career muna po talaga.”

Ella shared with some reporters that she idolizes Toni Gonzaga when it comes to doing Romantic-Comedy films and that multimedia star is her peg when it comes to the genre. She also revealed that the director of her series wants her to have a little bit of “maldita” in her role.

“Idol ko si Toni Gonzaga sa mga Rom-Com niya. Hindi naman masyado nag ma-maldita si Toni Gonzaga sa mga movie niya eh, so more on sa sarili ko nang ano kung pa’no ko mag ma-maldita.”

Antoinette Taus opens self to possibility of not finding love

Asked about the status of her love life, Antionette Taus giggled first.

“Ang ganyan naman po, dumadating lang yan ‘pag dadating eh. I’ve never really [obsessed over it] ‘cause it’s never really been the number one priority in my life,” she told Aster Amoyo and John Nite in Walang Tulugan with the Master Showman.

The actress-host revealed that she surrenders her love life to God.

“I believe that if something is supposed to happen in your life, and someone is supposed to be there, ang Diyos ang bahala dyan. ‘Pag [dumat-ing], malalaman mo,” she added.

She also expressed contentment with her life, and will gladly embrace single-hood if that’s what’s meant for her.

“And if it doesn’t happen, I’m also okay with that... Kung anuman ang plano ni God. Basta, I’m able to do his mission, kung ano man ‘yung gusto [niyang] gawin [ko] here on earth. [I’ll be fulfilled kung] magawa ko man lang ‘yun and make people happy, and make my family happy and proud,” she concluded.



Renz Fernandez promise to be careful with Kris Bernal’s love

Mayroong balita na nililigawan ni Renz Fernandez ang kanyang Little Nanay co-star na si Kris Bernal. Tinanong namin sa Kapuso actress kung mayroon itong katotohanan at agad naman niyang ibinahagi ang kan-yang sagot.



Ayaw mang mag-assume ni Kris na nililigawan siya ni Renz, mayroong isang video ang Kapuso actor na mag-papatunay na seryoso siya sa aktres.

“Malay ba natin kung loyal o hindi [‘yung iba niyang manliligaw], kung talagang aalagaan ‘yung puso ni Kris. Ako alam ko sa puso ko na aalagaan ko talaga [siya],” ani Renz.

Nang tanungin ni Kris kung paano ba siya aalagaan ni Kris, agad namang sumagot ang Little Nanay star. “Kung ano’ng gusto mo,” saad niya.

Gwen Zamora works with Quark Henares on a short film

What is Gwen Zamora up to these days other than being a mainstay of the longest-running gag show Bubble Gang? Recently, she posted on Instagram a photo of herself holding a script with the caption that says, “fun day ahead today.”

Based on her hashtags, it would appear that she is working with Director Quark Henares on a project dubbed “How to find love.” In her next post, she added the hashtag ‘#ShortFilm.’



Jericho Rosales says his son Santino doesn’t want to be an actor + other stories

Ang guwapo ng anak ni Jericho Rosales na si Santino who is already 15 years old at may height na 6 feet tall. Anak ni Echo si Santino or Saint (tawag ni Echo sa binatilyo) sa commercial model na si Kai Palomares.

May balak din bang mag-artista si Santino at sundan ang footsteps ng dad niya?

“Ayaw niya talaga!” diret-song sagot ni Jericho.

“He’s not built for that. Ang gusto niya talaga ay sports. He plays with two teams now and he never showed interest na maging actor.



“But commercials, okay lang sa kanya... ‘okay ako dyan.’ Pero anong klaseng commercials ang gusto niya, sabi niya, yung sa Nike, Adidas, Gatorade or sports drinks, yung mga ganyan. Anything na sports-related, yung ang trip niya talaga,” patuloy ni Echo.

Naikumpara rin si Santino kay Inigo na anak ni Piolo Pascual na pinasok na rin ang pag-arte.

“Di niya (Piolo) mapipigilan si Inigo kasi gusto niya talaga. Bata pa lang, driven na yon, gusto niya talagang mag-focus katulad ng ginagawa ng tatay niya,” sey pa ni Jericho.

Hindi naman kaagad masagot ni Jericho ang tanong sa kanya kung bakit kahit marami nang mga baguhang actor like Daniel Padilla, James Reid, Enrique Gil, etcetera, ay nananatili pa rin siya at the peak of his career.

“I think... siguro kasi I go with the flow and I believe in seasons. Hindi ako puwedeng mag-James Reid or mag-Daniel Padilla, alam mo yon... I mean puwede, pero alam ko kung nasaang stage na ako ng buhay ko, eh. I understand kong nasaan ako.

Dagdag niya, “Kailangan mo ring ingatan yung katawan mo, yung skills mo na binigay sa yo. Keep on practicing, keep on enhancing the talent. Hindi ko rin idi-deny na may competitive spirits ako kahit papaano, but I respect their talents and abilities.”

Liza keeps Enrique waiting as she enjoys Matteo’s company

Liza Soberano says she’s flattered that current Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach said that she herself has the makings of a future Miss Universe, but she’d rather just focus on showbiz. “Wala akong balak sumali sa beauty pageants,” she said at the presscon of her new soap, “Dolce Amore”, that replaces “Pangako Sa’Yo” starting next week. “I don’t see myself taking that path. Mas contented na talaga ako sa pagiging artista kasi I love acting a lot. But I’m not closing my doors.

I’m only 17, who knows, baka magbago pa ang isip ko when I grow more mature.”

In “Dolce Amore”, she plays Serena, a girl who grew up in Italy and returns to Manila to look for the roots of her identity. She’s reunited with Enrique Gil as Tenten, a poor boy who she meets and falls in love with. Their loveteam has proven its drawing power in their previous soap, “Forevermore”, and in two hit films, “Just the Way You Are” and “Everyday I Love”. “I think viewers will love us more in ‘Dolce Amore’ as we were given the chance to experiment with our characters. Hindi lang ito pampakilig but tackles serious things about love and family relationships. Many scenes in the show were shot on location in Italy. We stayed there for almost two weeks at marami sa lines ko are in Italian so I have to prepare for them. Mother ko rito si Ms. Cherie Gil and I was surprised kasi she speaks fluent Italian.

Yun pala, natira siya sa Venice with her family for many years so she learned the language. Kaya naman kapag nag-uusap kami in Italian, I make sure memoryado ko all my lines para maka-level up ako sa husay niya. This show will be memorable for me kasi nakapaglibot ako sa Rome, lalo na sa Vatican.”

So what’s the status of her relationship with Enrique at this point?

“We’re very close, as friends. Hindi pa siya makaakyat ng formal na ligaw kasi nga he has to wait until I’m of the right age.”

She also enjoyed working with Matteo Guidicelli who plays her Italian friend secretly in love with her. “First time namin to work together.

Siya ang nakaeksena ko sa Italy and not Enrique. Ang dami niyang naitulong sa’kin while we’re taping in Italy, lalo na in the right pronunciation of my Italian lines kasi nga half-Italian siya.”

Royal Caribbean Cruise will hire a staggering 30,000 Filipino crews w/in 5 yrs

MANILA, Philippines – Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. (RCL), the world’s largest cruising company, yesterday announced it is hiring a total of 30,000 Filipino crew members over the next five years from the current 11,000 as it expands its fleet and routes to Asia.

RCL Chairman and CEO Richard D. Fain is in town as the company entered into a joint venture with Philippine Transmarine Carriers (PTC) for the establishment of a new manning office in Manila. It is 75-25% company shares in favor of PTC.

“We have two things going on — fleet expansion and 9 ships on order and that will continue and we are building our base here we will now be doing many functions here,” Fain said. Under the partnership, PTC will be in charge primarily for the recruitment side and the streamlined processes. RCL will be providing the skills training and education upgrading to new recruits and career advancement of existing crew.

Induction Culture Philippines Ontario



Culture Philippines Ontario congratulates the new officers and members of Culture Philippines of Ontario.



NABA-Greater Toronto Area Basketball League Now Underway

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

TORONTO - The North American Basketball Association - Greater Toronto Area Basketball League started its winter competition on January 23, 2016 at the Gymnasium of Glenforest Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario. This is the 10th year that NABA is holding the tournament since February 26, 2007. The games are held every Saturday at Glenforest S.S. from January to June 2016.

NABA deputy commissioner Frank Pendon formally opened the event with his welcome address and the reading of the congratulatory message sent in by USA - based NABA commissioner Dr. Ron Damasco. Special guest Consul Shirley Banquicio of the Philippine Consulate in Toronto delivered also her special message.

In his message, Commissioner R. Damasco after profoundly thanking the NABA officials and leaders especially the "Big Three", reminded the participants that "we have come together again for a wholesome recreation entertainment.....that playing basketball is a means to develop competitive spirit, to some it could be recreational and others may view it as a form of enjoyment."

Hosted by Banj Ruiz, the program included singing of the Canada and Philippine national anthems by Keanna Cerezo of Clique and Finess Mendoza of Talent Nation-Hamilton, both of whom also rendered special vocal performances. The sound system was courtesy of Audio Spin Entertainment and the photo - video was covered by PMN TV.

Comprised of Filipino Canadian basketball players, the members of NABA -Team Canada, were introduced by Mike Cruz, city director of Ajax-Durham Crossover. NABA, for the first time, is competing at the SM National Basketball Training Centre-NBTC Championship on March 13-17, 2016 at the SM Mall of Asia in the Philippines.

The "Athlete's Prayer" & "Oath of Sportsmanship" was led by North York Bantam player Andy Sinclair while NABA - GTA host city

director Roger Tarca, declared the tournament open. Consul Shirley Banquicio, Frank Pendon, Edgar Tojino and Team Canada sponsors officially presided over the usual "Ceremonial Jumpball". The opening game, an exhibition play between NABA - Team Canada and Markham Gators OBA Rep Team was won by the former with the final score of 61 - 38.

Composing the NABA officials and league organizers are: Dr. Ron Damasco (Commissioner), Gani Gregorio (Founder & Executive Adviser), Frank Pendon (Deputy Commissioner - Canada & Chair of NABA- GTA), Bob A. San Juan (Associate Deputy Commissioner - Canada), Arnold Carating (Youth Sports Development Officer), Edgar Tojino (Liaison Officer). The City Directors are: Mike Cruz- Ajax, Ed Pe Benito & Marilyn Ramdass- Brampton, Dome Florido- Markham, Noel Buenaventura- Mis-



sisauga, Alex Dooc- Newmarket, Roger Tarca & Vilma Tahsin- North York, Hermie Guya & Nestor Leabres- Scarborough, Arnold Carating- Toronto and William Marasigan- Vaughan.





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The League's Officiating Referees are members of Peel Regional Board of Approved Basketball Officials (PRBBO). The 10 Participating basketball clubs are: Ajax(Crossover), Brampton(FAAB), Markham(Maharlika),

Mississauga(MYAA), Newmarket(Bayan), North York(NYPAA),Scarborough(Lapsley), Toronto(CKaTT),Vaughan(Bayanihan) and Knights(Guest Team). -- T. San Juan.

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Barbie Forteza is thankful for everything + other stories



Barbie Forteza and Andre Paras are jubilant that their new show, “That’s My Amboy”, rated very well on its first week of telecast.

“Nakakatuwa dahil mataas na ang rating, lagi pa kaming trending,” says Barbie. “Sa totoo lang, mas madaling gawin itong ‘That’s My Amboy’ kasi it’s lighter at hindi gaya ng ‘Half Sisters’ noon na puro iyakan ang mga eksena. Pati lahat ng co-stars namin dito, kasama namin sa kulitan at magaan ang trabaho.”

How’s working with Andre this time? “Wala akong mairereklamo kasi mabait siya, mabango, very professional. Mas confident siya ngayon, mas driven. At comfortable na kami talaga sa isa’t isa.

We’re both thankful na right after ‘Half Sisters’, nabigyan kami agad ng followup project.”

Some quarters call her GMA’s Teen Queen. What can she say to this? “Ay, wait lang, parang hindi ko deserved ‘yang ganyang titulo. Baka ma-bash ako’t sabihing ilusyonada ako. Basta full of gratitude ang puso ko sa GMA sa pagtitiwala nila sa akin, sa amin ni Andre.”

After doing so many dramas, folks say Barbie is proving herself to be equally-competent in a comedy. “Parang naging training ko sa comedy ang ‘Sunday PinaSaya’,” she says. “Puro comedians kasi ang kasama ko roon at malaki ang natututuhan ko sa kanila. Nagawa ko na lahat ng klase ng pag-iyak so doing a rom-com like ‘That’s My Amboy’ is really exciting for me. Funny naman talaga ako in real life so ‘yung totoong ako ang makikita nila rito.”

But on the big screen, she’s back doing drama in two filmfest entries.

She plays an impoverished Badjao girl in “Laut”, the opening film of the coming Singkuwento Filmfest and an official entry in the Oporto Filmfest in Portugal. In “Tuos”, an entry in the Cinemalaya filmfest, she gets to act with Nora Aunor no less. “Sobrang pasalamat ko po para sa projects na ito. Kung minsan, tinatanong ko nga sarili ko, deserving ba ako sa lahat ng projects na tinatanggap ko? Kaya nga, ang maisusukli ko na lang is to always give my best in all the projects that I do, kahit drama man o comedy.”

Eugene not turning back on movies

Eugene Domingo choose not to talk about “Celebrity Bluff” co-host Jose Manalo and why he left the show.



Writer Jun Nardo told her at the presscon of “Dear Uge”: “I hope you don’t mind, kumusta na kayo ni Jose?” Her answer was: “I mind. Presscon ito ng ‘Dear Uge’ and not ‘Celebrity Bluff’.”

Uge clarified that “Celebrity Bluff” is not bowing out of the air permanently. “Season break lang ito. Magpapahinga lang sa ere, but babalik din some months later.”

But she can’t say if Jose would also be back with her. She also clarified that she’s not turning her back on making movies after “Barber Tales” didn’t do well at the tills. “I am doing two movies this year. At plano ko ring ma-in love sa taong ito.”

“Dear Uge” is an original comedy anthology. “My full name here is Ursula Genoveva Esperanza, kaya Uge. May online web show ako at may nagpapadala ng letters asking for advice na amin namang dina-dramatize para mapanood sa TV. Bagong concept ito and it’s nice to be a pioneer.

What’s even more exciting about this is that in every episode, I get to play a cameo role na iba-iba

each Sunday. Ang maganda, hindi alam ng co-actors ko what my role will be and how I will perform it. Very light ang approach dito. Kahit madrama ang ibang stories, hindi idadrama nang husto. This will be shown right after ‘Sunday Pinasaya’ starting Valentine’s Day, so tuluy-tuloy lang ang kasiyahan for the viewers every Sunday afternoon.”

Since she gives advice in the show, what advice would she give to herself? “Bilang Uge, ang advice ko sa sarili ko, at this point in my life, is to allow myself to fall in love. Meron na actually. I should be open. I should give a chance to realize and to give in to the feeling na huwag matakot, masaktan, ma-frustrate, mag-expect. Babangon ka rin naman, at saka nandiyan ‘yung mga kaibigan mo na mabibigyan ka ng pag-asa. Ang importante, na-in love, nakaramdam ka, you care, sumaya that someone cared for you.”

But she’d rather not reveal as to who is the mystery guy she has fallen in love with. Get the latest updates about Dear Uge from the GMA Network website www.GMANetwork.com, its official facebook page www.facebook.com/GMADearUge, and Twitter account @GMADearUge.

Chiz pushes Heart on doing twin careers

Heart Evangelista now has twin careers. Aside from being an accomplished actress, she’s also a bonafide artist whose paintings got much acclaim in the sold-out exhibits she had. Despite this, she still wants to formalize her knowledge of painting by enrolling at the UP College of Fine Arts. “It’s actually my husband (Sen. Chiz Escudero) who’s number one in motivating me to take formal art classes,” she says. “Noon pa niya ako pinupukpok to enrol, kaya lang sa sobrang busy ko these days, na-delay nang na-delay ang pagbabalik eskwela ko. I’ve already talked to the Fine Arts people, pero sabi nila nage-exhibit na raw ako, so baka it will just hold me from doing my studies kasi it will take so much of my time at lalong di ako makapag-exhibit kasi kailangan mag-attend ako ng classes, mage-essay ka, mag-study ka.”

Sen. Chiz is currently very busy with his vice presidential campaign, but he always finds time to spend with his wife. “Very supportive siya sa akin at sa mga trabaho ko, sa pagpe-paint ko. Mahilig siyang bumili ng canvas tapos ipapagawa nya sa’kin. Actually, siya ‘yung mga nakakaisip ng mga ibang ideas na pwede kong gawin as an artist.”

Heart figured in a freak accident recently when a cat she was coddling bit her when it got scared of her dogs. She was brought to St. Luke’s and ended up spending P50,000. “Iyak nga ako ng iyak,” she says. “Not because of the money kundi masakit kasi ‘yung sugat and I had to have five injections no less, for anti-rabies daw at anti-tetanus.”

Huge Filipino Supermarket Opening in Mississauga

Seafood City is a Filipino supermarket with over 20 locations in the U.S. spanning cities populous with Filipino-Americans including California, Washington, Nevada, Hawaii and Chicago (soon).

The brand specializes in Filipino food and products and Mississauga will be Seafood City’s first Canadian location at the Heartland Town Centre along Mavis Rd. and Boyer Blvd. expected to open sometime in 2016.

The brand’s roots started in San Diego, California in 1989 to provide a community-centric place for homesick Filipino immigrants who missed the flavours of their home country and to introduce Americans to the Filipino culture through food.

Like many Asian supermarkets, Seafood City also offers other Asian products and North American staples.

If the Canadian location is anything like the American ones, you can expect to find a convenient hot food section called Grill City (it even has its own mouth-watering website and YouTube video :) where you can savour delicious Filipino style BBQ (Tilapia, chicken, pork, bangus, and squid).

TIDBITS



ROCHELLE PRAYS FOR JM

ROCHELLE Pangilinan plays contravida to Camille Prats in the afternoon soap “Wish I May” so she’s glad she’s not a villain in her first indie movie, “Tandem”, which opens in theaters on February 17. “I’m really so happy they got me for this movie kasi ibang klase ng experience ang natutuhan ko rito,” she says. “Sa indie film pala, mas realistic, pwede ang murahan. Eh, sa TV soaps, hindi pwede, kailangan wholesome. I play Nico Antonio’s pregnant wife na sawa na sa buhay namin kasi alam kong riding in tandem holdaper siya. Brother naman niya si JM de Guzman. Napabilib nila ako sa acting nila, sobrang galing, sobrang lalim. Pumapalakpak nga ako when I saw our movie at sobrang nagpa-pasalamat ako sa Diyos that I became a part of it dahil naka-Grade A pa ito from the Cinema Evaluation Board, na ibig sabihin, maganda talaga ito at nagustuhan nila.”

So how does she feel that JM is now in rehab? “Hindi ko nga alam ‘yan, e. I just found out about it dito sa presscon. Siyempre, masyado akong nanghihinayang. It’s so sad kasi he’s so talented. I will pray for him na makabangon siya uli at makabalik agad sa showbiz. He deserves it naman.”

What if she’s offered to do sexy scenes in her next indie movie? “Ay, sorry po, hindi ko kaya. I know naging sexy ang image ko dahil sa SexBomb Dancers, pero wala talaga akong lakas ng loob to do bold and daring scenes, lalo na love scenes. Ipaubaya na lang natin sa iba.”



I am no moron – Alma Moreno

MANILA – Still hurting from the public ridicule she got last year after a television interview, Parañaque City councilor and senatorial aspirant Alma Moreno said the country does not need too many intellectuals in Congress.

“Oo, kailangan may alam ka. Pero ‘yung sobrang talino, hindi naman siguro. Ang daming matatalino ngayon eh, tingnan mo ang dami pa ring problema ng bayan natin [Yes, you should at least know something. But having an overwhelming knowledge is not necessary. There are many intellectuals out there, but our country still have many problems],” she pointed out.

The former actress noted that she will only need a pool of good researchers and lawyers to help her in her legislative duties if she gets elected as senator.

“May alam naman ako. Hindi naman ako mamahalin sa Parañaque kung wala [I am not totally dull-witted. I won’t be loved in Parañaque if I am a moron],” Moreno stressed.

Moreno has served as Parañaque City councilor for nine years. In 2012, she became the first female national president of the Philippine Councilors League (PCL), where she previously served as national secretary-general and national executive vice-president.

In November last year, the councilor was derided on social media because of her awkward TV interview Karen Davila. The actress had difficulty answering questions on several issues such as women’s rights, same-sex marriage, and the Reproductive Health (RH) law.

Moreno admitted that she doesn’t have a full grasp of certain issues, but her sincerity to serve and concern for the people are more than enough to make her qualified to be a senator.

She said her painful TV experience has made her wary of media interviews, but that despite the ridicule that she endured, people were made aware of her candidacy.

“Nasaktan ako. Umiyak ako. Pero sa tingin ko ito ‘yung masakit na paraan ng Panginoon para maraming makaalam na tumatakbo ako. At the end, marami rin ang kumakampi sa akin kasi naramdaman nila ang sensiridad ko [I was hurt. I cried. But I think this is God’s painful way to let the people know that I am running. In the end, a lot of people supported me because they feel my sincerity],” Moreno said.



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Maine’s testament to young love

+ other stories



Phenomenal star Maine Mendoza is living her dream these days. Thrust into the spotlight mid-2015, there has been no looking back since for the young lady, “Never kong inakala na makararating ako sa lugar na ‘to. I am doing what I really want to do and I am very thankful because of that.”

The former YouTube sensation achieved superstardom when she started exchanging sweet nothings on air with Alden Richards in Eat Bulaga’s Kalyeserye as Yaya Dub.

But being in demand, she found out has its down side. “(It’s) Not as easy as I thought it was,” she confessed, “I must admit that it is physically-tiring but I am humbled and really thankful that there are fans who support me. To me, that is the best part of the job.”

One of the perks of Maine’s job these days is becoming one of the nation’s favorite celebrity endorsers in just over six months of being in showbiz. But she has set a rule when accepting and doing commercials and that is, “I should make sure that it is of quality because I know that having me as their endorser will affect people’s choices.” This is why she was elated when she was chosen to represent one of her favorites, CDO Funtastyk Young Pork Tocino.

The plus factor is that even before she was chosen to endorse it, Maine was already a big fan of CDO Funtastyk Young Pork Tocino that is made from 100% young pork and has no salitre.

Her belief in the product and her love for CDO Funtastyk Young Pork Tocino made shooting the commercial a breeze.

Maine likens her love for her newest endorsement as a testament to young love. “The beauty of young love is pure and carefree. You enjoy and be yourself without any worries. Parang fun and puro good vibes lang.”

Yassi loveless, traumatized by ex-BF

Yassi Pressman started her career with GMA7 when she was 13 as a dancer in ‘SOP’ and ‘Party Pilipinas’. She later did supporting roles in soaps like “Ilumina” and “Time of Your Life” before being included in the teen show “Tween Hearts”. She did more soaps like “Borrowed Wife”, “Rhodora X” and “Dalawang Mrs. Real” before moving to TV5 last year doing “Wattpad Presents” with Kapatid actors Mark Neumann and Vin Abrenica.

She then signed up a managerial contract with Viva Entertainment and was paired with Andre Paras as second leads in “Diary ng Panget” that successfully launched the JaDine loveteam. She was also cast in “Talk Back You’re Dead” minus Andre and later with Andre again in “Wang Fam”. Now, her loveteam with Andre called Yandre is officially launched in “Girlfriend for Hire”, directed by Vanessa de Leon.

Viva now handles the shows of TV5 and she’s cast as a co-host in their talent search, “Born to be a Star”, and in the episode “Mysterious Guy at the Coffee Shop” with Vin Abrenica of “Wattpad Presents”, which is now a weekly and no longer a nightly show. It’ll be shown for one and a half hours every Saturday night in tandem with “Tasya Fantasya”. No wonder she feels so blessed.

“Ang tagal din naman nang pinaghintay ko before I was given all these

breaks,” she says. “Kumbaga, naghirap din ako and I now thank Boss Vic of Viva for trusting in me and giving me all these good projects.”

She admits she and Andre feel pressure as the playdate of their movie on February 10 is fast approaching as a Valentine’s Day presentation. “It’s a test for our loveteam at sana nga, the viewers will support it.”

Yassi says she’s loveless now and her last love affair left her traumatized, with Kapuso actor Sef Cadayona who dumped her for Andrea Torres. Andre Paras doesn’t hide the fact that he really has a crush on her and it’s his younger brother Kobe who told Yassi about this. Maybe this will help to attract more fans to support their loveteam.

Of course, the biggest threat to their tandem is the fact that Andre has another ka-love team, Barbie Forteza, with whom his new show, “That’s My Amboy”, just started and was well-received by TV audiences. Here’s hoping that their movie will similarly be a hit, even if it’s facing tough competition with another Valentine offering, Regal’s rom-com, “Love is Blind” with Kiray Celis, Derek Ramsay and Solenn Heussaff.

Unexpectedly Popular

We visited the set of “Because of You” and its director, Mark Reyes, says he and the cast led by Gabby Concepcion, Carla Abellana and Rafael Rosell are all so happy with the huge success of the series.

“We didn’t expect that it will be this popular kasi it’s more of a romcom on primetime than the usual drama,” he says. “But obviously, sawa na ang mga tao sa sobrang drama sa gabi. They prefer to watch their drama shows in the afternoon, kaya nga tumakbo nang halos two years ang aming ‘Half Sisters’. Sa gabi, they want to watch something light naman.” After “Because of You”, he’s all set to direct the new version of “Encantadia”. He denied earlier reports that they’ve already chosen the new cast after a picture of Glaiza de Castro, Kylie Padilla and other stars came out.

Maraming stars who came to the auditions at maraming batches yun ng stars na ni-look test namin. Pero ‘yung batch na yun lang ang may nag-leak at kinalat nang yun daw ang napili. It’s not true. Up to now, we’re still auditioning kung sino ang babagay sa various roles in the show so there’s no final casting yet. Ang sure pa lang talaga, si Marian Rivera as Inang Reyna, and StarStruck 6 winners Klea Pineda and Migo Adecera who’ll do the roles originally played by Jennilyn Mercado and Mark Herras. All the rest, pinag-iisipan pa.

‘Yun namang mga gusto ko sana, may existing soaps na, like Barbie Forteza na nasa ‘That’s My Amboy’, si Andrea Torres na nasa ‘Millionaire’s Wife’ na papalit sa ‘Destiny Rose’, si Bianca Umali na nasa ‘Wish I May’. So maniwala lang kayo kapag nakita nyo na ang Kapuso stars na nagpi-pictorial suot ang costumes nila bilang mga Sangre. At any rate, we’re just happy na marami nang excited sa pagbabalik ng ‘Encantadia’. We just promise na hindi namin sila bibiguin.”

2 Pinay Miss U, parehong minalas sa napangasawa!

Other than having been both crowned Miss Universe, guess what other else Gloria Diaz (Miss U 1969) and Margie Moran (1973) have in common? They are both separated from their husbands, after nagkaroon sila ng tig- dalawang anak, na pawang mga babae. Gloria’s ex-husband, of course, is the son of the late culinary expert and restaurateur Nora Daza, Gabriel Daza. Gloria’s daughters with him are tv host-actress Isabelle Daza and Ava. Margie was once married to Tonyboy Florendo, whose family is considered one of the richest in Davao.

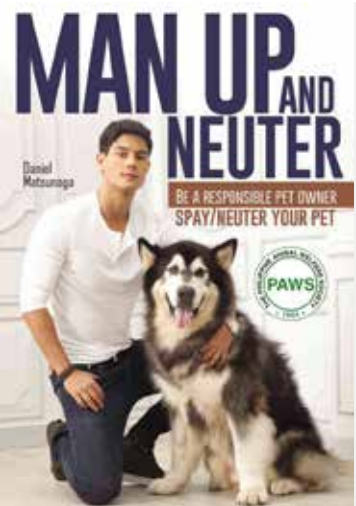
Margie’s two girls with Tonyboy are Monica Danielle at Gabrielle Antoinette, na balitang parehong nag-aaral sa ibang bansa.

Still beautiful and trim, Margie attended the Bb. Pilipinas-Universe grandiose reception, organized by the Bb. Pilipinas Charities for Pia Wurtzbach, the current Miss Universe, na ginanap, no less, sa Araneta Smart Coliseum.

In attendance, too, were all the Bb. Pilipinas-Universe winners, some of whom also won international titles for themselves, but for a different international beauty contests.

Conspicuous ang absence ni Gloria sa event, who said she was in Japan at that time.

Of Margie, did we hear it right that she is an apo of former President Manuel Roxas?



Matsunaga siblings promote neutering of pets

The Matsunaga siblings are the latest celebrity ambassadors for The Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) to promote “spay and neuter” or kapon of companion animals. The ads, shot by photographer Roy Macam, feature actor Daniel Matsunaga with neutered dog Sumo and model Vanessa Matsunaga with spayed poodle Carly.

Spay-neuter of pet dogs and cats is done by a licensed veterinarian to keep the animals from reproducing. Having pets fixed is not a popular practice among Filipino pet owners and animal lovers. However, this procedure is actually the main solution to the problem of pet overpopulation, which directly contributes to the growing number of stray animals. Cases of injured and malnourished dogs and cats on the streets can be prevented if pet owners spay or neuter their pets.

The Matsunagas are animal lovers who can attest to the benefits of spay-neuter for their pets.

PAWS executive director Anna Cabrera says they are glad to finally have celebrities speaking up on the issue of spay-neuter. “One of the reasons kapon is unpopular in the Philippines is the prevailing mindset of Filipinos that it is harmful to the animal and that it makes male pets less masculine and female pets less feminine as they can no longer reproduce.” Cabrera explained that the surgical procedure is done on the animal while it is under general anesthesia so the animal does not feel pain. A few hours after the procedure, the dog is already up and about. Fixed animals also become less aggressive and live longer, healthier lives. “We’re so happy that two of the entertainment industry’s most beautiful personalities have agreed to help debunk the myths,” Cabrera said. Appearing in the ad with Daniel is their family’s eight-year-old dog Sumo. “We had Sumo neutered because we did not want him to reproduce as he already has physical problems because of the in-breeding.”

Daniel further adds that it is a misconception that only aspin or puspín (native dogs and cats) need to be spayed or neutered. “Purebreed dogs need to be fixed, as well. It is especially important to prevent your dogs from reproducing when you know you cannot take care of the puppies or kittens.”

PAWS offers low-cost spay-neuter services at their clinic. The cost of spaying a female aspin is P1,500 while neutering a male aspin is P1,000.

Culture Philippines Ontario



Senator Tobias Enverga and wife Rosemer (2ND & 3RD FROM LEFT OF FIRST PHOTO) poses with officers and memebrs of Culture Philippines Ontario during the Induction of officers.

Will Coco find love with Anne in “FPJ’S Ang Probinsyano”?

“I Love OPM” and “It’s Showtime” host Anne Curtis adds kilig to the evening viewing habit of TV viewers as she joins the cast of the number one teleserye on primetime, “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano”.

Anne plays the role of Trina Trinidad, a rich fashion designer who has a bitter relationship with his stepfather Michael Alonzo played by veteran actor Christopher De Leon. As potential harm threatens their family, Michael taps Cardo (Coco Martin) to be their bodyguard and asks help to find out who is the person behind the threats they are receiving. As he faces his new mission, how can Cardo protect Trina and Michael from danger? Will Cardo fall in love to Trina as he does his duty as her bodyguard?

Don’t miss the action-packed scenes in “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano,” weeknights in ABS-CBN. For more information about the program, visit the official social networking site of Dreamscape Entertainment Television at Facebook.com/DreamscapePH, Twitter.com/DreamscapePH, and Instagram.com/DreamscapePH.



Spotlight

”Known for its durability, ‘Ang Tibay’ shoes definitely lived up to its famous tagline: The Wear That Lasts. From the 1900’s up to the 1950’s, ‘Ang Tibay’ was almost an indomitable brand of leather footwear, pleasing both locals and foreigners alike.

Just like any great enterprise, ‘Ang Tibay’ also had a humble origin. It’s founder, Toribio Teodoro, was born to poor parents and didn’t even complete elementary education. At a young age, he started working in a cigar factory before he switched to slipper making at the age of 20. It was during this time when the idea of starting a business came to his mind.

In 1910, he opened his first shop on Rizal Avenue with the help of his friend and business partner, Juan Katindig. The two eventually parted ways, leaving Teodoro with no choice but to start “Ang Tibay Footwear Factory” on his own. In the span of 10 years, his company gradually emerged as one of the biggest enterprises in the country, earning him the title “Manila’s Slipper King.” “



Will More Sex Improve Your Relationship?

More sex, more happiness?

Will More Sex Improve Your Relationship? Most people think that spending more time with their partner in between the sheets can guarantee a happy relationship, but experts says otherwise. In a new study from Carnegie Mellon University, researchers asked 64 sexually active couples to double the amount of sex they were having. They found out that couples who increased their steamy sessions were not necessarily happier. In fact,

they began to enjoy the sex less after three months and even had a lower sex drive. The reason? Couples may feel like they’re forcing sex rather than actually letting it happen naturally. Lead researcher George Loewenstein, Ph.D. says, “Perhaps couples changed the story they told themselves about why they were having sex, from an activity voluntarily engaged in to one that was part of a research study.” He also added that there are still benefits

when you and your man do it more often, you just have to create a comfortable environment that will stimulate and arouse you both.



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Baby-ready

News anchor Iya Villania talks about babies and how she’s all set to get pregnant this year



all into I hand She t w o t h e n is also because then to space them, the first and already 29. If give birth to According 24 Oras L i p s y n c because Drew exercises more she needs to go to the gym. or swim at F o r her husband a triathlete, is staying on the Valentine’s, Spectator lang. I to get pregnant this won’t be able to do it after. Besides, I wanted to make sure that I’d win.”

With her busy schedule, Iya Villania tries to keep her life organized. After all, there is just no time to worry over small things like the time of an appointment or a grocery list. But Iya, who recently surprised lucky shoppers who bought Switch and Save products at Watsons, Mall of Asia, has even the bigger things planned out. Having been married for two years now, she and husband Drew Arellano are now prepping for pregnancy. “We’ve decided to have kids na this year. So last year pa lang, I have already been taking folic acid and vitamins. I would like to think that the past couple of years that I had gotten fitness was also me preparing for motherhood. was already conditioning my body for what’s to come,” says Iya, who confesses to loving Watsons’ tropical berry and coconut scented soap. even has the “spacing” all mapped out. She wants years in between kids. “Originally, I wanted to have five kids. But Drew said, ‘Can we have one first?’ Now, I’m entertaining just three but then again, two okay. Medyo nakakatakot magkaroon ng tatlo you’ll have a middle child. If I have more time okay lang. I can have the second child soon after then the third one, after several years. But I am you think about it, I would be 36 by the time I the third child. That’s already too risky.” to Iya, who is currently the showbiz anchor of in GMA-7 and host of an upcoming GMA show Battle, it wasn’t really hard to live a healthy lifestyle is also active and very health-conscious. In fact, she now than she ever did when she was single, not because but because it is now more convenient. “I don’t need to I could just bike around the village or run around the area, home.” Valentine’s, the couple will go to New Zealand where will compete for a triathlon event. Although Iya is also having run the TriUnited and IronMan last year, she sidelines this year. “It’s really a three-in-one thing. anniversary, and triathlon. Am not joining though. can’t really train as hard now because we really want year. So last year, talagang tinodo ko na because I knew I

Angel Aquino shares why she’s proud of Miles Ocampo and Julia Barretto

Angel Aquino shared that she enjoys playing the role of the kontrabida mother of Julia Barretto in the afternoon soap And I Love You So. When Angel accepted the role of main antagonist Katrina Valdez, she did not have any particular peg in mind for the character. “Hindi ko alam eh. Of course you know I talk to the director and he told me what he wanted form my character and so that’s what we give, parang ganun.



The 43-year-old actress and model also stated she is very proud of the performances of the two young lead stars of the show. “Well si Miles (Ocampo) I’m glad that we are able to see that she can deliver this kind of acting requirement or these kinds of emotions. Kasi most of the time we see her as this kid who plays around tapos we see her as a comic relief or parang laging magaan lang. But this time I think I’m glad that Dreamscape and ABS-CBN was able to see and entrust her talent as an actress,” Angel said. The AILYS star also revealed she thinks Julia Barretto’s acting is very effective. “Si Julia naman it’s nice to see her in her element. Kumbaga she’s comfortable playing the role of someone who’s innately kind pero parang meron siyang facade na she’s strong and you can’t make a fool out of her. So it’s very much who Julia is. So parang she’s really in her element here,” she added.

Alden, masisingitan ni Derek kay Maine?

Kailangang kumilos nang mabilis ang tinaguriang Pambansang Bae na si Alden Richards kung ayaw nitong maagaw ng iba ang kanyang ka-loveteam na si Maine `Yaya Dub’ Mendoza. Lumalabas kasi sa mga balita ang personal na pagkagusto ng isa pang Kapuso actor na si Derrick Monasterio kay Maine ay mabalita pang nagkita umano ang dalawa sa Subic kamakailan. Kung mukhang napakatotoo ng ipinapakita nina Alden at Maine sa Kalyeserte ng “Eat Bulaga,” kakaiba ang nangyayari sa dalawa off cam. Natuwa ang AIDub nation nang makita ang dalawa na kumain sa isang tea house sa Shangri-la Plaza Mall recently na silang dalawa lamang although earlier ay naka-meeting nila sa nasabing lugar ang big boss ng TAPE, Inc. at APT Entertainment at manager ni Maine na si Tony Tuviera kasama ang creative head ng “Eat Bulaga” na si Jenny Ferre. Kung ang AIDub nation ang masusunod, mas gusto nila siyempre na sina Alden at Maine ang magkaroon ng relasyon sa tunay na buhay pero hindi naman nila saklaw ang tunay na saloobin ng dalawa. Pitong buwan pa lamang tumatakbo ang loveteam nina Alden at Maine at malayo pa ang itatakbo ng kanilang tambalan lalupa’t nakatakda ang dalawa na magbida ng sarili nilang pelikula at teleserye. Hindi naman kaya naghihintay lamang ng tamang panahon ang dalawa para aminin sa publiko ang tunay na estado ng kanilang relasyon?



Should you wash After Going To The Bathroom?

Peer pressure: It’s a bad thing among vaping teens, but can work wonders among health-conscious adults. Take a 2009 study finding that post-potty handwashing increased most when bathroom-goers were prompted to see if the people next to them were washing their hands. Perhaps you’ve been inspired (or guilt-tripped) into purportedly healthy habits too, whether it’s wiping down that mat after yoga class or choosing filtered water over tap. But do you really need to? Experts weigh in. Do you really need to wash your hands after using the bathroom?

Yes. Apparently, this answer bears repeating. A 2013 study in the Journal of Environmental Health observing 3,749 people’s post-toilet patterns found that 10 percent skipped the sink, 33 percent forewent the soap and nearly everyone else didn’t lather long enough. That’s not good, since handwashing is one of the most effective ways to avoid getting ourselves or others sick, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To make it worth it, scrub for at least 20 seconds – enough time to sing “Happy Birthday to You” twice – before reaching for a towel, the CDC suggests.

Do you really need to use hand sanitizer?

If there’s no soap, hand sanitizer is your next best bet, according to the CDC, which recommends looking for an alcohol-based option with at least 60 percent alcohol in order to quickly kill some – but not all – germs. “Washing your hands is better,” says Dr. Ranella Hirsch, a dermatologist in Boston, “but [hand sanitizer is] often the only option, and better than nothing.”

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BBL DEAD

continued from page 1

The draft law is aimed at ending a Muslim separatist revolt in Mindanao that has claimed over 100,000 lives since the 1970s. The law would create an autonomous area and grant a measure of self-rule to the Muslim minority in the south of the largely Christian nation. Aquino wanted it passed this year but the timetable was set back severely following public outrage over the death of 44 Special Action Force (SAF) commandos in an encounter with Muslim separatist guerrillas in Mamasapano, Maguindanao last year. Drilon said all hope on the BBL being approved has been dashed after Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. pronounced that the BBL is dead in the 16th Congress even when session resumes on May 23. Drilon also cited the “reality that the election campaign is already here” which makes it difficult to compel legislators to attend Congress sessions. House Majority Leader Neptali “Boyot” Gonzales II said he is recommending the exclusion of the BBL in the agenda of the House. “I am recommending to exclude BBL in our agenda in the remaining days of our session following the separate public admissions of the Speaker (Feliciano ‘Sonny’ Belmonte Jr.) and the Senate President (Franklin Drilon) that the proposal is dead,” Gonzales said yesterday. Belmonte announced that the BBL is dead.

MILF Disappointed

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) expressed dismay on the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), saying that their “sentiment is mirrored by the tangible frustration of the great majority of the Bangsamoro people, the peace-loving populace not only in Mindanao but also in the entire country” and even the other nations who have been observing the peace process between the MILF and the Government of the Philippines (GPH). “We the entire membership of the MILF express our deep disappointment and grave dismay over the non-passage of the BBL in the House of Congress in the Republic of the Philippines,” the statement said that was signed by MILF chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim.

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James Reid is relieved

Ngayong out in the open na ang relasyon nina James Reid and Nadine Lustre, ayon sa aktor ay sobrang relieved na siya.

“It’s such a relief. You have no idea how relieving it is to be able to express (my feelings for her) because for me, for the longest time, I’ve had to suppress it or hide it. Now, it’s so liberating to just be able to hold her hand in public and say I love you out loud,” sabi ni James sa panayam ng ABS-CBN.

Natanong din ang young actor kung paano niya niligawan si Nadine at aniya, kahit lumaki siya sa ibang bansa, “the Filipino way” pa rin niya sinuyo ang ka-loveteam.

“For me, I guess, because I am Australian, I



grew up in Sydney, the way that we court girls, it’s different there. But, of course, the first person to know was her father. I asked permission from him first a while back. I tried to keep that Filipino tradition,” pahayag ni James.

Naikwento niya rin kung paano niya naging girlfriend si Nadine nu’ng Feb. 11. Say ni James, nag-dinner daw sila nang

gabing iyon.

“I was like, ‘I bet you didn’t know I could be like this.’ She’s like, ‘Yeah, I didn’t really expect this from you.’ I said, ‘It’s different when I’m in love.’ And then she said, ‘Are you in love?’

“And then I thought, ‘you know what, right now is the right time.’ I told her, ‘Yes, I am.’ She knew what I was talking about.”

After the concert kung saan ay sinabi nga ni James kay Nadine ang three magical words na “I love you,” ang nasambit na lang daw ng young actress ay “kilig ako”.

“She literally sat there smiling and just said ‘kilig ako,’” kwento pa ni James.

James Reid and Nadine Lustre admit romantic relationship

Toronto fans,



kilig na kilig na para sa June 4

Kilig to the highest level ang Huling tagpo sa Jadine in Love concert na naganap kagabi sa Araneta Coliseum. Live na kinakanta ni Kyla ang “On the Wings of Love” na siyang theme ng JaDine hit kiligserye habang papasok sa magkabilang dulo ng big dome sina James at Nadine na parang ikakasal. Nang magharap ang dalawa sa stage, sinabi na ni James ang magic words na “I love you” na pinakahihintay ng lahat sabay yakap kay Nadine.

Backstage, inamin na ng dalawa na mag on na sila mula pa noong February 11. Si Nadine, nag-blush habang sumasagot sa sunod-sunod na tanong ng showbiz media.

“Pasensya na po kayo hindi lang talaga ako sanay na sinasabi sa publiko ang personal na part ng buhay ko,” sabi ng aktres.

Si James naman, cool na cool sa pagsagot kung gaano niya kamahal si Nadine.

“It is what it is, that’s how I feel about her, I love her,” paliwanag nito.

Dagdag pa ni James, wala sa original flow ng concert ang pagsabi niya ng “I love you” kay Nadine at last minute niya ipinaalam sa kanilang concert director ang kanyang gagawin.

“Matagal ko na gusto sabihin sa kanya iyon. I feel this is the right time,” sabi ni James.

Ang co-stars ng JaDine sa OTWOL na pinangungunahan ni Cherry Pie Picache, teary eyed sa naganap na pag amin ng dalawa sa publiko. Witness nga naman sila sa namuong tinginan ng dalawa habang nasa shooting ng kanilang hit



KC, babalik sa pag-arte

Guess who will soon reactivate her career in showbiz na sana, this time, hopefully with more passion and attention, kumbaga?

She is KC Concepcion who has been totally out from showbiz scene nitong nakalipas na taon. She has been busy, she reasoned, sa kanyang business, na ‘di niya in-specify kung ano. And, of course, sa kanyang advocacies para sa United Nations, which gave her the title National Ambassador Against Hunger para sa kanilang World Food Program.

She was last seen in the 2014 Christmas series special with Paulo Avelino, who was, too, the love of her life then. And vice versa.

Malamang din daw na this year, patuloy pa ni KC, bibigyan niyang muli ng pansin ang pag-ibig. For the entire year din of 2015, hanggang ngayon, loveless siya.

Regarding her desire na muling maging busy as an actress, well, may offer daw si KC, which she is considering. Maganda daw ang concept ng project na malamang na isang series. Her role excites her.

Somehow, may ideya na raw si KC who her leading man is at kung sino pa ang ibang members ng cast for her new assignment. But she’d rather wait that the “powers” concerned announce it.

Well, welcome back, KC.

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BiGuel, career over love



Miguel Tanfelix and Bianca Umali have been love team partners for about four years now and are good friends even off-cam. Many would think they'd be looking to take their friendship to a romantic level but the young stars insist they want to focus on their respective careers.

Bianca and Miguel, known to many as BiGuel, first made their mark as a love team when they were paired on the 2012 fantasy series "Paroa." The team up was so successful GMA decided to pair them again on "Niño" (2014), "Once Upon A Kiss" (2015) and now, "Wish I May."

Asked why he is not pursuing Bianca, Miguel said, "Wala naman pong pumipigil sa akin na manligaw sa kanya pero kasi sunod-sunod 'yung binibigay sa amin na shows ng GMA. So, sa amin ni Bianca blessings 'yun at dapat 'yun ang tutukan namin."

What if some other guy decides to take initiative, we asked him.

Miguel simply said, "Kung saan siya magiging masaya, okay na rin ako."

Apparently, Miguel doesn't believe in mixing work and romance. "Kasi, halimbawa, paano kung mag-a-away kayo

sa set? Eh 'di magiging apektado 'yung trabaho," he explained.

On her part, Bianca shared, "Di ko pa po iniisip 'yung mga ganyang bagay kaya 'di ko pa po alam. Sa ngayon work muna para sa family."

Apparently, Bianca is not the jealous type, even when her partner has been making hearts flutter here and abroad.

Miguel made a splash in Indonesia last year when a magazine there, Sumatera Ekspres, featured him in an article titled "Sisi Lain Raja Dubsmash Filipina." Writer M. Julheri said they choose to feature Miguel because Indonesian girls find him "cute."

Bianca maintained, "Okay lang naman sa akin 'yun. Basta work talaga ang focus ko sa ngayon."

Meanwhile, the two are enjoying their friendship more than ever. The two got even closer after a vacation in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte, and Vigan, Ilocos Sur, with their families early this year.

"Habang nandu'n kami, lagi ni Bianca hawak 'yung camera niya. Photography na po hobby niya ngayon," Miguel shared.

He has been giving Bianca gifts, among

them a pet dog named Juno, and Stephen King's book "The Bazaar of Bad Dreams."

Bianca gave Miguel a camera.

Other priorities

Aside from their respective showbiz careers, both are also busy with their studies. Miguel is a first year college student at the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas taking up Entrepreneurship, while Bianca is still in Grade 9 at the Veritas Parochial School.

Miguel admitted he sometimes skips class because of tapings. "Minsan kinakausap ko 'yung professor ko kung ano ang pwede kong gawin para makabawi or minsan online na lang," he said.

Bianca, meanwhile, is into baking pastries. "Sa ngayon for fun lang siya. Pero baka gawin ko pong business kapag nakapag-aral na ng Culinary Arts," she said. She also hopes to study Interior Design in the future.

The BiGuel magic

TV series' director Neal del Rosario only has praises for Miguel and Bianca.

"Marami na rin akong nakatrabahong love teams eh, pero sila 'yung pinakamakatatotohanan. Iba ang magic nila kasi nakikita ko din sa kanila 'yung innocence," he said. He hopes the series would last another year or more.

"Wish I May" tells the love story of childhood friends Tristan (played Miguel) and Carina (Bianca), who eventually find themselves falling in love with each other. However, conflict starts when they discover the past relationship of their parents, Olivia and Clark, played by Camille Prats and Mark Anthony Fernandez, respectively.

The series also stars Alessandra de Rossi, Glydel Mercado and Mark Herras, among others, "Wish I May" airs week-days on GMA-7.



I Love OPM judges (from left) Toni Gonzaga, Martin Nievera and Lani Misalucha

The OPM-loving foreigners

MANILA, Philippines – We are familiar with singing contests on TV, which signaled the entertainment careers of some of today's music luminaries. The latest reality singing competition is I Love OPM, the newest TV program to share the story of a foreigner who can sing a native, Filipino song.

The singing search for OPM-loving foreigners debuted on ABS-CBN on Valentine's weekend. Anne Curtis hosts I Love OPM, the first show that she banners as main host, with comedian Eric Nicolas as her co-host.

The formidable panel of judges called the Himigration Officers is composed of Concert King Martin Nievera, Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha and multi-media star Toni Gonzaga.

The foreigners who joined are obviously all familiar with singing Filipino songs. Some are either married to Filipinos or have Filipino friends who influenced them to learn Tagalog songs. Others are working here in the Philippines or are related to Filipinos. No wonder, they can sing Tagalog songs with ease.

The judges were visibly surprised at the choice of Filipino songs of the foreign singers. The judges were also often impressed and delighted by the performance of the singers. Two "stamps of approval" from the judges will make the singer advance to the next round, while anything below that will immediately eliminate the performer.

On the first week, the contestants called Touristars, were given their respective 15 minutes of fame onstage. German-Irish teenager Jeena Dimaandal from San Francisco belted out her version of Sharon Cuneta's Bituing Walang Ningning. Jeena was adopted and raised by a Filipino couple based in the US West Coast. She got a unanimous approval from all three judges.

American-born looker Ryan Gallagher crooned Kahit Isang Saglit, originally recorded respectively by Verni Varga and Martin Nievera. "That was one of the hardest songs to sing emotionally," Martin remarked after Ryan's performance. "I think you did a very good job for someone who doesn't sing Tagalog every day."

Young singer from South Korea, Soo Jin Lee, rendered Yeng Constantino's Chinito, but was not lucky enough to get approval from the judges. Harris Dio Smith from Pakistan sang Joey "Pepe" Smith's Beep, Beep and earned the nod of all three judges.

A five-member Korean group, J Morning, gave a perky, hip-hop twist to Yeng's song, Ikaw. Addy Raj from India impressed the judges with his own version of Hinahanap-hanap Kita by Daniel Padilla. Both performers advanced to the next round.

Raza Saeed, a Pakistani based in Dubai, crooned Ronnie Liang's Ngiti. He was vocal about his crush on Anne. To which Toni commented, "He doesn't only admire Filipino music, but also Filipina beauty." Raza, unfortunately, did not make the grade with the Himigration Officers.

A Russian model married to a Filipino, Anna Rabtsun, gamely rendered Gloc 9's Sirena, complete with the rap part. Her performance sent her to the next round. Anna's husband interestingly proposed to her underwater in Boracay. They've been married for eight years now.

Matteo, di sumipot sa promo para makasama lang si Sarah

Dapat sana'y kasama si Matteo Guidicelli sa big promo ng "Dolce Amore" sa isang mall (Market! Market!) noong nakaraang Valentine's Day pero hindi sinipot ni Matteo ang nasabing promo dahil mas binigyan niya ng halaga ang kanyang lady love na si Sarah Geronimo na siya niyang kasama sa araw ng mga puso.

In fairness naman kay Matteo, nagpasabi naman siya na hindi siya

makadadalo sa naturang promo tour dahil isa itong mahalagang araw sa kanila ni Sarah na hindi niya puwedeng palagpasin.

Low key ang relasyon nina Matteo at Sarah na siya namang gustong mangyari ng dalawa. As much as possible, gusto nilang maging pribado ang kanilang relasyon although mahirap itong mangyari dahil pareho silang popular personalities at public figures.



Candid SPOOF

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



FV Foods staff had so much fun last Christmas.

Because of You cast says says Thank You

Nagpasalamat sina Gabby Concepcion, Rafael Rosell at Carla Abellana sa patuloy na pagsubaybay ng viewers sa Because Of You.

Involved ang viewers sa story at nagsa-suggest ng ending at kung kanino dapat mapunta si Andrea (Carla) kina Jaime (Gabby Concepcion) at Oliver (Rafael Rosell). Pero si-yempre, writers ang masu-sunod at sabi ni Direk Mark Reyes, magugustuhan ang ending ng series.

Sabay-sabay naming nakausap sina Gabby, Rafael at Carla sa taping ng BOY. Nagbiro si Gabby na hindi siya maka-relate sa karakter niyang hiwalay sa asawa at mga anak. In-absorb na lang daw niya ang karakter niya.

Kung siya naman ang writer, gusto ni Rafael na ang karakter nila ni Carla ang mag-end. Bukod sa single siya at walang mga anak, dapat bigyan siya ng second chance ni Andrea.

As for Carla, susunod lang siya sa writers at alam niyang kung ano ang dapat at tamang ending ay tatanggapin ng viewers.





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