

Have a Little Backbone

Gordon tells gov't in dealing with China. The Philippines must have a backbone.



Filipino ranks 3rd sexiest nationality in the world

Former Miss Universe titleholder
Pia Wurtzbach among the
country's most distinguished
beauty icons.

MANILA - Sen. Richard Gordon on urged the Philippine government to "have a little backbone" in the face of Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

Gordon made this call as Manila and Beijing issue statements on a Chinese vessel's June 9 ramming of a Filipino fishing boat in Reed Bank (Recto Bank), located within the Philippines 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

The senator said he does not agree with President Rodrigo Duterte's thinking that standing up to China would only result in a war that the Philippines could not win.

"Ang sinasabi lang ni Presidente na ayaw ko, 'We cannot go to war with China.' That's obvious,

BACKBONE
continued on page 25



Spotlight

Philippine Vilalge Hotel, 1970'S

UPHOLD HUMAN DECENCY

PH saves Jewish refugees

Ogie Diaz laments more malls, condos
Starstruck is back

Cheri Pie forgives her mother's murderer
Sarah Geronimo Marriage in 2020
Action Series, nauuso sa TV

Golden Canedo, bago na ang buhay

RESIST, BE BETTER THAN US

"Do not allow yourselves to be silenced ... Do not temper principle with pragmatism ... In the face of threats from those who abuse power, always resist injustice"

- Supreme Court Associate Justice Marvic Leonen

Supreme Court (SC) Associate Justice Marvic Leonen reprised the battle cry of activists during the martial law regime of authoritarian President Ferdinand Marcos, as he urged young people to speak up in these "troubled times."

BAGUIO CITY, Benguet, Philippines — "Makibaka. Huwag matakot." (Resist. Have no

fear.)

"Our silence maintains the status quo. Our silence ensures that others will also be victimized ... Silence about corruption and abuse of power is not only unjust. Our silence — when we have the ability to speak — is also injustice," said

RESIST
continued on page 24

WHY DUTERTE'S RATING IS HIGHER IN MIDTERM P/6



Andres at Juliana posibleng lumalim ang relasyon

Ang ex-PBB housemate-turned actor, ang Fil-Italian na si Marco Gallo ang naging escort ni Juliana Torres Gomez sa kanyang Junior and Senior Prom nung isang taon at inamin ng young actor na naging sila sandali ng kaaisa-isang anak ng mag-asawang Richard Gomez at Lucy Torres-Gomez.

Nito lamang May 30, si Juliana naman ang naging prom date ng teen-age son ng mag-asawang Aga Muhlach at Charlene Gonzalez na si Andres Muhlach at si Aga ang tumawag kay Goma (Richard) upang ipagpaalam ang kanyang unica hija (Juliana) na maging prom date ng twin brother ni Atasha. Agad namang pumayag ang 2nd term-mayor ng Ormoc na si Richard but he asked Aga kung puwedeng patawagin si Andres kay Juliana para siya (Andres) mismo ang magpapaalam sa kanyang anak na ginawa naman ni Andres.

Mukhang nag-enjoy sina Andres at Juliana sa prom night na ginanap sa ballroom ng Bellevue Hotel in Alabang dahil pagkatapos nito ay nagkaroon pa sila ng post prom date along with Andres' other friends.

Si Juliana ay personal na sinundo at inihatid ni Andres sa kanilang bahay sa Forbes Park, Makati at natutuwa naman ang mag-asawang Richard at Lucy na magkaibigan na ang kanilang mga anak ng mag-asawang Aga at Charlene na matagal nang kaibigan ni Goma.

Hindi ring malayong ma-develop nang husto ang pagkakaibigan nina Andres at Juliana lalupa't close na magkakaibigan ang kanilang respective parents.

Samantala, proud parents ang actor politicians parents ni Juliana na sina Goma at Lucy nang magtapos ng high school last Saturday, June 1 ang kanilang unica hija sa Everest Academy Manila in Taguig City.



FV Foods' Mel Galeon is a subject of LARAWAN a portrait exhibit of inspiring individuals of Filipino Heritage presented by Philippine Advancement through art and culture by photographer Christian Ryan. Paulina Corpuz and Ben Corpuz organized the exhibit.



Si Juliana ay nakatakdang mag-aral ng Political Science sa University of the Philippines ngayong pasukan kaya hindi kataka-taka kung papasukin din nito ang pulitika balang araw tulad ng kanyang mga magulang. Si Richard ay muling na-elect (for the second time) as mayor ng Ormoc habang si Lucy ay muling nahalal sa ikatlong pagkakataon bilang kinatawan ng ika-4 ng distrito ng Leyte.



ABOVE, Rene Sevilla (far left) poses with other co-officers of the Kalayaan. LEFT, Fe Tabago (standing at right) poses at the Kalayaan dinner. RIGHT, Felino Javier attends the kalayaan dinner with Dr. Vicky Santiago. Both represented The Filipino Centre Toronto.

LEFT BELOW, Samantha Esporas models for designer John Ablaza at the Canadian Asian fashion Week.



ABOVE, & RIGHT Sisters Madison and Alyssa Torreno performed at the Dance Corps Dance Starz 2019, Year End Showcase



Anpee Panaligan poses with her family at her graduation in nursing from Centennial College.

Glaiza nahahirapan sa long distance affair

HINDI madali para sa Kapuso singer-actress na si Glaiza de Castro ang mini-maintain na long distance relationship (LDR) with her Irish boyfriend of more than a year na si David Rainey na may apat na beses na ring nakabisita sa Pilipinas at na-na ng kanyang pamilya at friends including her best friend na si Angelica Panganiban.

May trabaho sa Ireland si David habang sa Pilipinas naman ang trabaho ni Glaiza na planong aral sa London music crash course tatagal ng tatlong buwan.

Kung may lovelife ngayon si Glaiza, single at loveless naman ngayon ang kanyang BFF na si Angelica Panganiban matapos na-diskaril ang inaasahang balikan sana nila ng kanyang ex-boyfriend (during her teens) na si Carlo Aquino.

Huling nakarelasyon ni Angelica ang on indefinite leave sa showbiz na si John Lloyd Cruz na may isa nang anak sa karelasyon nito ngayon na si Ellen Adarna, ang almost one-year-old son nilang si Elias Modesto.



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Young singer steps up the pop music ladder

She is a big Sarah Geronimo and Nadine Lustre fan. And even if she's just 13, Via Ortega is determined to make her own name. Just like her idols, she wants to be known as a multitalented artist.

Last May, the Gen Z singer had her first event with the entertainment press. It didn't seem to be a baptism of fire as she answered all the questions of showbiz reporters with ease. She was polite and punctuated her statements with a big smile.

"Did you know that you look like your idol Sarah G? Don't you think it's going to be a disadvantage?" asked one senior reporter.

"A lot of people tell me that I look like her. I use it as an inspiration to pursue dream," she replied, "I'm not trying to be like my idols but they inspire me to work and to be the best. My idols are already big names. While I'm just beginning with my journey, I know that big dreams can be achieved by doing small things. That's what I'm doing right now."

Young singer steps up the pop music ladder - Via Ortega

During the event, before being "grilled" by the writers, the teen singer performed two songs—"Tala" by her idol Sarah G and "Paghanga," her debut single written for her by fellow Viva Artist Ruth Anna Mendoza.

According to Via, it's a song that a lot of people her age could definitely relate to.

"It's about a girl who couldn't admit her real feelings for her crush. I think a lot of young people can relate to that," the singer said adding that she doesn't have any crushes yet.

A Viva Records discovery, the label believes that Via is an artist to look out for. A label executive first saw Via perform and was convinced that the teen had a real knack for performing.

Via owes that to her training. She has been taking up voice lessons since she was 3 years old under veteran songwriter Vehnee Saturno. The same time during her training, she was cast as the lead character in a school musical (Fina And The Vitas).

Eventually, she achieved much at such a young age, yet she remains humble and recognizes that she's still starting out on her journey as a singer in the local music industry.

Since she has signed with Viva last October 2018, the entertainment company has been helping her out to further hone her talent through workshops.

The teen talent is very eager to learn more about the ins and outs of the industry. For that, she has Viva Records to help her out. But the drive to get there is all hers.

"I think I just need to go with the flow and step by step lang," she said.

Ogie Diaz laments building more malls, condominiums

Ogie Diaz lamented the building of more shopping malls in the country and cited the cost of such infrastructure on the environment and mall tenants.

Diaz made his sentiments known when he shared a recent ABS-CBN report about SM Supermalls' plans to open an average of five to seven malls per year in the next five years.

"Bongga ito kaso ang malungkot, nauubos na ang farmland natin. Kung hindi malls, condo buildings ang itinatayo. O subdivision," Diaz said via Facebook on Wednesday, June 26. "Kumokonti na ang sisipsip ng tubig baha pagdating ng panahon. Umaaray na din ang ibang tenants sa mga malls, sa sobrang strict." (*This is great, but what is sad is we are running out of farmland. If not malls, they build condominiums or subdivisions. When the time comes, we will have less soil to absorb flood water. Other tenants in malls are also having a hard time due to strict policies.*)

— Diaz also said that the rent for mall tenants were high and that what they paid also depended on whether they had high gross sales for a month.

"Kahit saan mo daanin, panalo ang mall. Annually pa tumataas ang upa," he said. "Pag kumikita ang isang tindahan, kukurutan pa ng admin ng percentage yon bilang marketing support daw nila ek-ek nila sa mga bagong bubuksang mall branches." (*Whichever way you look at it, it is the mall that wins. The rent increases annually. When a store earns, the mall administration would get a percentage of their earnings in the name of marketing support for their new mall branches.*)

Diaz added someone told him there is also a bond worth P500,000 in the mall administration's treasury, which does not earn money. The tenant will only get the money after they vacate their spot, he claimed.

"Pero ganyan ang negosyo eh. Kaya siguro successful sila, kasi mahigpit sila sa patakaran nila. Kung wa mo feel, wag ka umupa sa kanila. Ayaw mo? Wag mo," said Diaz. "Susugal ka na lang talaga at pikit-matang tatanggapin ang katotohanang ganun talaga eh. You choose na lang." (*But that's how business is. Maybe that's why they are successful, because they are strict with their policies. If you do not feel it, then don't rent from them. If you don't want to, then don't. You'll just gamble and accept, with one eye closed, the truth that this is how things are. So choose.*)

Expansion is what's in store for SM Prime Holdings Inc. this 2019 as it seeks to widen its reach in the Philippines and abroad. As per a report last April, the company planned to open four new malls this year to add to its existing 72 shopping malls. They will also be launching an additional 15,000 to 20,000 residential units.

Meanwhile, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has partnered with SM Supermalls to build up "shopping tourism." DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said during the "Malling Is More Fun in the Philippines" campaign last May that the shopping experience is a vital component in the Philippines' tourism industry.

"It's no small feat that SM Supermalls have somewhat defined our cities and helped shape our collective memory," Puyat said then. "And now that tourist numbers have continued to climb, shopping centers such as SM will hold great influence on the experience that tourists will take away, and on how our visitors from around the globe will perceive us."



Honey Shot

Ericka Santiaguel

Ericka is 19 years old. Her favourite food is mac n cheese. She plays track and field. Someday, she wants to be a heart surgeon, We wish her all the luck in her future.



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Filipino ranks 3rd sexiest nationality in the world

Filipino ranks 3rd sexiest nationality in the world, with former Miss Universe titleholders Catriona Gray and Pia Wurtzbach among the country's most distinguished beauty icons.

Whether its artistry or beauty or sheer talent, Filipinos have always ranked world-class. There's no doubt about that, with Catriona Gray and Pia Wurtzbach reigning the Miss Universe runway in 2018 and 2015, and with Manny Pacquiao smashing the title of greatest Asian fighter of all time.

The country continues to gain acclaim for its beautiful people, especially now that Filipino ranks 3rd sexiest nationality in the world, through a poll conducted by content marketing company, Big Media 7.

The list, consisting of 50 nationalities all over the world, was published on its website, bigseventravel.com, on June 28, 2019.

Data was gathered from their 1.5 million social audiences.

According to the content marketing

company, their respondents were not given criteria for evaluation.

"So, interpretation of the word [sexy] was up to them," the site explained.

They associated Pinoys' high ranking with the successes of globally acclaimed personalities such as Manny Pacquiao, Bruno Mars, and "the many Miss Universe participants."

Filipino ranked 3rd, Danish came in 2nd spot, while Ukrainian topped the poll.

Other Asian races followed after Filipino Japanese, ranking 19th Malaysian 25th. The least sexy to 50th spots are Croatian, and Irish.

FILIPINOS ALWAYS AMONG THE BEAUTIFUL

Earlier this year, Big 7 Media also conducted a poll on the sexiest accents in the world.

The results quickly escalated online, revealing the Filipino accent as the 1st in Asia and 21st globally.

Big 7 described the accent as: "Gentle and soft, the accents you'll hear when in the Philippines are simply lovely."

In 2018, the Philippines ranked

as the third happiest country in the world through a survey done by US-based firm Gallup International.

"Malacañang welcomed the result of the survey, saying it shows Filipino resiliency despite adversities," ABS-CBN News reports.

Adding to these milestones, Filipinas were also voted 8th sexiest in the world in a poll conducted by the dating site MissTravel.com back in 2015.

The respondents were the website's 44,873 male subscribers.



Arthur Garcia, a fan, remembers Eddie Garcia

Eduardo Verchez Garcia (May 2, 1929-June 20, 2019). Acclaimed film actor and director. And a gentleman. Spanning almost 50 years of my life, his was the face I often see on TV and the movies. Whether it be during the 3pm TV showing of Tagalog movies (mostly Sampaguita Pictures) or the movie reruns shown on "Piling-Piling Pelikula" of my youth.

I first saw him in movies portraying villain roles: a cruel "Conde", a scheming con man, or a salivating rapist of the virginal Gloria Romero. In later years, his comedic talent came to the fore as he portrayed different roles which all made a mark in Philippine movies. But the most successful of all was his portrayal of a cuckolded but loving husband of Gloria Diaz, the quintessential "Manoy".

Eddie Garcia was also a respected multi-awarded director. The films he directed under Viva Films were blockbusters.

His last movie that I saw sealed his fate as "every actor's actor". "Rainbow's Sunset" can be considered as his acting opus for which he has received a Special Jury Award.

Sad to say, Eddie has left us. The "contravida" actor of my youth, the very professional and well-respected director, my idol, fought till the very end.

The passing of Eddie Garcia is also a passing of an era. His presence in Philippine showbusiness was worthy of emulating. A private person, with no scandals attached to his name, he will be forever etched in the minds of moviegoers. Definitely he has endeared himself to that little boy glued on TV, waiting for the 3 o'clock reruns featuring the dashing Conde or the leering and scheming bad guy.

Rest in peace, Eddie Garcia. And thanks for the memories.

Arthur Garcia does not know if they are related. But Arthur and the actor both hail from Sorsogon.



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Why Duterte's ratings are still high

MANILA - The approval ratings of President Rodrigo Duterte and his administration have progressed from "very good" to "excellent." This is unusual, especially midway in a presidential term.

This yielded a +72 net approval rating, 6 points higher than the +66 it achieved in the previous quarter.

What is interesting is that the upsurge in public approval for the whole country.

It will be recalled that the survey was conducted during the height of the "Bikoy" exposé where President Duterte and his family were implicated in the narcotics trade and in the midst of public outrage over Chinese immigrant workers at the expense of Filipino jobs.

We agreed on two factors — first, a mix of many minor accomplishments, taken together, gives the impression that this government has its act together. The second is the government's infrastructure program.

On the minor accomplishments, such include the resolution of the tanim-bala (bullet planting) scam at NAIA; addressing once and for all the frequent breakdowns of MRT 3; making available 1.7 million license plates; releasing 10.3 million drivers licenses and extension of passports and drivers license validities were seen as practical decisions too.

The government also did well by resolving long pending legal cases including the row with Philippine Airlines over its P6 billion past due account; clamping down on big time tax evaders like Mighty Tobacco; settling the PIATCO legal fracas (thereby saving government P2 million in interest payments a day); and settling the Northrail-Sinomach case.

It tamed inflation and break down the rice cartel through rice tariffication. Add to this the fact that unemployment has dropped to 5.2%, the lowest unemployment rate since 2009.

Populist policies like the universal healthcare program, free public education up to college level and the extension of maternity leaves helped.

The infrastructure program is the second and more notable reason for President Duterte's popularity.

On the part of the DPWH, more than 328 kilometers of bypass and diversion roads were built, widened, and missing gaps in national roads filled. It also built, widened, replaced, strengthened bridges.

Interestingly, most of these projects were done in far flung regions — regions hardly touched by development in past administrations.

The Department of Transportation

(DOTr) has also delivered.

After decades of neglect, Sec. Tugade committed to build and/or rehabilitate 15 international airports and 25 domestic airports across the country.

In railways, the DOTr plans to expand the country's inventory from 77 kilometers of rails today to a whopping 1,900 kilometers by 2022. It has also reopened closed lines.

In the maritime sector, 191 ports have been modernized and some are still in the process of modernization.

With the promise of an infrastructure renaissance slowly becoming a reality, it could be said that Secretaries Mark Villar of the DPWH and Art Tugade of the DOTr contributed the most towards the President's high ratings. Credit too must be given to Secretary Mon Lopez for taming inflation and generating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Political noise may make the news. One thing we can't deny, however, is that perennial problems are being solved, badly needed infrastructure are being built and the economy is soaring. The numbers prove it and the numbers don't lie.

Peter and I agree that this is why the government's approval ratings are at +72%.



Robredo thanks Vietnamese ambassador for support to Filipino fishermen

Why We Shouldn't Turn a Blind Eye When Human Decency is at Stake

A Chinese vessel rammed into a Filipino fishing boat, and then abandoned its 22 fishermen in their sinking boat at sea.

We've been following the news of the incident in the West Philippine Sea off Recto Bank. This is what's been reported in the news: A Chinese vessel rammed into a Filipino fishing boat, and then abandoned its 22 fishermen in their sinking boat at sea.

We have seen the photos of the men, snapshots of 22 living, breathing human beings. Whether it was an accident, or whether it was done on purpose, it is mind boggling how the passengers on the Chinese vessel could just leave their fellowmen clinging to flotsam and jetsam kilometers away from land.

Where is the compassion? What has happened to basic decency and kindness for a fellow human being? How can some of our own fellow Filipinos, the armchair internet warriors and trolls, now question the integrity of those fishermen and give them the brush off as political pawns?

These questions have nothing to do with politics. We expressed the same outrage when 44 of our Filipino Special Action Force commandos were left to die in the Mamasapano clash in 2015, and our then leaders claimed miscommunication and ignorance. Where was the humanity?

According to Rappler news reports, the fishermen fortunately saw the lights of another boat in the distance, and two of them managed to use a waterlogged boat to reach the larger vessel, a Vietnamese boat. At first the Vietnamese crew was hesitant, fearing the men were pirates, but then thought otherwise, pulled the wet, shivering men on board, and fed them warm noodles and biscuits.

The Vietnamese news website VnExpress reports the Vietnamese boat then traveled about an hour to rescue the other 20 Filipino fishermen from the sea. "I believe that anyone who heads out to sea would've done the same thing, not just us," the boat's captain Nguyen Thanh Tam, said in the news report. Meanwhile, the Philippine Daily Inquirer reported the largest organization of Filipino-Chinese businesses will fund the repair of the Filipino fishing boat so the fishermen can "resume their livelihood."

We are grateful for the kindness of the Vietnamese crew members in helping save the lives of our fellow Filipinos. We are thankful for the generosity of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry who stepped up to the plate to help the fishermen get back out to sea as soon as possible. They need to make up for the five tons of fish and livelihood they lost so they can feed their families. In this increasingly ugly upside down world, may we continue to celebrate what is good and what is right, especially when others will not.

Philippines overflows with millions of man- goes as El Niño takes effect

Agriculture department sets up stalls around Manila in bid to get rid of fruit before it rots

The Philippines is struggling under the weight of a sweet but troublesome burden: a glut of 2m mangoes.

The agriculture secretary, Emmanuel Piñol, said mango farmers had reported an "unusual increase" in the harvest, which they had attributed to El Niño, the climate phenomenon that has led to unusually hot, dry weather this year.

One the Philippine island of Luzon alone there is a surplus of about 2m kg of mangoes, according to Piñol, an oversup-



ply that has led the price to drop from 58 pesos (88p) to as low as 25 pesos (38p) per kilogram.

Piñol stressed the urgency of dealing with the glut before the fruit went to waste and sent the price of mangoes crashing further, hurting farmers. "We need to do something about this in the next two weeks," he added.

In a bid to make sure that the excess mangoes do not rot, the agriculture department has launched a marketing campaign, dubbed "Metro Mango", to try to shift a million kilograms of the fruit in

Metro Manila, with stalls selling man- goes to be put up all around the capital throughout June. The fresh mangoes will be sold at 25 pesos (38p) to 50 pesos (75p) a kilogram to entice buyers, who will get the low prices only if they buy in bulk.

The department has also launched cooking classes to teach people how to cook with mangoes and will be holding a mango festival in mid-June in a bid to drum up excitement and demand for the fruit.

Some farmers in Luzon, where the oversupply is concentrated, have taken to giving away their mangoes free, hanging bountiful bags of the fruit outside the gates of their farms.

Foreign interest in the cheap mangoes is helping ease the burden. A Japanese fruit importer has pledged to purchase 100,000kg of the mangoes, though this still leaves 1.9m kg to shift. Piñol said it were also hoping to increase daily mango imports to Hong Kong and Dubai.

LITTLE MANILA

LM

confidential!

Philippines

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Rosang Agimat (temporarily?) shelved

Confirmed: The GMA TV series Rosang Agimat has been shelved. The series was only into its first few days of shoot when tragedy struck.

It will forever be known as the "last unfinished" project of Eddie Garcia who was mortally hurt on the Tondo set.

"Rosang Agimat was only a working title," GMA SVP for Entertainment Lilybeth Rasonable said. In short, it is postponed." Toto Natividad, director of the abortive series, may not be tapped to handle Rosang Agimat's replacement.

(Natividad has been intriguingly quiet, not making any comment about what happened to Eddie whom he directed in the Kapamilya TV series FPJ's Ang Probinsyano.) "The genre of a new series may be different," clarified Lilybeth.

Rosang Agimat would have been the biggest break for Gabbi Garcia (in the titular role) and Jeric Gonzales who have undergone intensive training for it. Sadly, it wasn't meant to be. For sure, something better is waiting for them.



2019 ANCOP WALK

This year's ANCOP Walk in Toronto is set for August 18, 2019, Sunday, starting at 8:00 A.M. at the David Pecaut Square located at 215 King Street West, Toronto, ON. This year's theme is 'Be an equalizer in a world gripped by poverty!'

The annual Walk is ANCOP Canada's signature event for fundraising. It is their opportunity to tell the story about the work that ANCOP does – their vision and mission, their successes and to celebrate the contributions of their partners to their cause.

Apart from the Walk itself, the event program includes speakers who share about their experiences as program administrators, champions, sponsors, fundraisers, volunteers, and beneficiaries – all of which attest to the global impact of ANCOP's work. In recent years, ANCOP Walk has been covered in social media and the local mainstream news networks.

Why a Walk not a Run?

ANCOP chose to a Walk instead of a Run because almost everybody can walk, but not everybody can run. Walking also takes longer allowing participants more time to raise awareness in the communities where the Walk is held. The event is participated in by anybody who shares the belief that they have the collective responsibility of helping improve the quality of life of the poor.

ANCOP Walk is currently held in 20 locations in Canada. The venues vary from public squares, streets, and parks. It is typically held in August each year and participation is steadily increasing. This year, Walks are scheduled in the following locations:

August 3	-	Ponoka, Alberta
August 4	-	Montreal, Quebec
August 10	-	Winnipeg, Manitoba; Ottawa, Ontario
August 11	-	Victoria, British Columbia
August 17	-	Brandon, Manitoba; Calgary, Alberta; Lloydminster, Alberta; Lethbridge, Alberta; St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador; Truro, Nova Scotia
August 18	-	Toronto, Ontario; Vancouver, British Columbia; Windsor, Ontario
August 24	-	Edmonton, Alberta
August 25	-	Hamilton, Ontario; Regina, Saskatchewan; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

When you sponsor and/or donate to ANCOP Canada, you help fund materials to build low cost modest houses, common facilities for poor families, and provide financial support for the education, afterschool and values formation programs for children in the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Uganda, Jamaica, and Canada.

ANCOP has the vision of bringing Christ's transforming love to the poor. They are dedicated to uplifting the lives of poor families in developing countries through shelter, child education, and humanitarian relief. They aim to restore the poor's hope and dignity by organizing them into sustainable and self-reliant communities through livelihood assistance, values formation, and community empowerment.

The ANCOP program delivery team is composed of a small number of full-time employees who mobilize generous and talented volunteers across Canada. They develop partnerships with organizations who share their vision of and are enthusiastic about sharing their resources for their work.

Registration fee for the Walk is \$25. Visit www.ancopcanada.org for details. (Fe P. Taduran)

Ian Veneracion finds singing more thrilling than skydiving



'I'm the type who won't initially sing in videokes but once I hold the mic, I won't let go of it.'

Ian Veneracion wears hats of actor, visual artist, and athlete. These days, he has also fully embraced being a concert performer.

It was last year when Ian ventured into doing live shows, following his hit and viral performance at Megastar Sharon Cuneta's concert. Then came solo concerts in Los Angeles and San Francisco, USA; Canada, and Manila.

Ian will once again charm fans in his intimate concert "Ian: In Color" at the Music Museum on July 11 and 12.

"It shows the different moods when we play music. This concert will showcase the music I enjoy listening to and enjoy playing. There are certain songs I associate with different colors. That's where we based the format and setlist of the songs," Ian said at a press conference.

Joining his concert are power couple and singers Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez. The size and ambience of the venue allows it to be intimate and interactive.

"I was shocked that they agreed. Of course, they're the ones we look up to in the music industry," he said of Regine and Ogie's guest performance.

It was just recently when Ian became more confident of his singing voice, though he has always been interested in listening to music and playing instruments, such as guitar and piano. He recently released his compositions "We're All Alone" and "I'll Miss You the Most."

"I'm the type who won't initially sing in videokes but once I hold the mic, I won't let go of it. I realized lately I'm like that. I have always enjoyed music

before but only when I'm alone," he said. His music influences include Eric Clapton, Peter Dinklage, U2, and The Eagles. Among local bands, he likes Wolfgang and Razorback.

After his major concert in another venue last year, Ian felt great that he had a successful run. What he liked the most about performing is the spontaneity.

"I was even more afraid singing in front of people than doing skydiving. So after that concert, it was a good feeling because I survived it. I'm still alive and didn't get a heart attack. Of course, it's not going to be perfect but that's the beauty of live performance. It's being in the moment. You get to experience that moment with everyone and you can never go back to that moment again. There is instant gratification because you see the reaction of the audiences" he said.

Of course, there are challenges in doing concerts. Last May, Ian went solo in his concert in Canada after Patti Austin reportedly left before the show.

"We practiced the day before and the next day, I woke up and they informed me that Patti Austin left already. So, the producers were worried. I was with my band and talked to them that we should inform the people that Patti cannot perform anymore and they can get a refund," he said.

Despite of what happened, Ian was surprised that the audiences didn't feel shortchanged as only few asked for a refund. Ian almost doubled the number of his performances as his way of thanking the audiences.

"It turned out only three asked for a refund. I told them that it was not the show we intended, so we should just enjoy the night. They seemed to be happy about it. It was terrifying at first but it also gave me confidence that we can actually do it. I also got my confidence from them," he said.

Ian considers performing a form of expression, just like when he paints or acts on TV.

"Lyrics is just an expression, it doesn't have to be biographical. It can be about anything. It's like creating a scene, as an actor, I portray a role and it doesn't mean that it's me. Your interpretation of my art tells more about you, more than me. It tells how your mind works. It's very subjective," he said.

Aked if he likes acting more than performing, he said, "One is not better than the other, when you're an entertainer, you're the master of giving what people want. But when you're an artist, you spend your time entertaining yourself and it just so happened that it's entertaining also to someone."

Golden nabago na ang buhay

MAY pagka-Cinderella ang kuwento ng buhay ng kauna-unahang grand champion ng singing reality show ng GMA, ang "The Clash," ang 17-year-old na si Golden Canedo from Cebu na na-feature nung isang taon sa "Magpakailanman" ni

Mel Tiangco at acting debut naman ni Golden who acted herself sa nasabing weekly drama anthology. Roma Mae Apa-

Canedo in real life, Golden started joining amateur singing competitions in Cebu at age 12 hanggang makarat-ing siya sa audition in Cebu for "The Clash," ang original reality singing competition ng Kapuso network hosted by Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez before her transfer to Kapamilya network.

Meant-to-be talaga ang pagka-kapanalo ni Golden as the first-ever grand champion ng "The Clash" dahil kamuntik siya noon hindi umabot sa audition ng nasabing singing competition na ginanap sa isang mall in Cebu. Pinakiusapan lamang ng mama ni Golden na si Maricel ang mga nama-mahala ng audition para siya'y i-accommodate for audition not knowing na siya ang tatanghaling kauna-unahang kampeon ng "The Clash" last October 7, 2018 at age 16.

Golden bested 61 other singing hopefuls ng "The Clash" kung saan tumayong judges and mentors sina Lani Misalucha, Christian Bautista at Ai-Ai de las Alas.

Biglang nabago ang buhay ni Golden at ng kanyang pamilya nang maiuwi niya ang premyong P1-M cash, isang brand new car, house and lot and an exclusive management contract with GMA Artists Center at sa GMA Music for her recording. Dito na rin sa Maynila naka-base ang kanyang pamilya from Cebu kung saan ipinag-papatuloy niya ang kanyang pag-aaral. Mainstay na rin siya sa "Studio 7" musical variety show ng GMA and welcomes acting to add to her singing talent.

Golden could be another Regine Velasquez or Sarah Geronimo kung ito'y maalagaan lamang nang husto. She has the talent and the looks ng isang star material.

Don't let Marcoses buy back jewelry

MANILA, Philippines – Martial law survivor and former Commission on Human Rights (CHR) chair Etta Rosales has asked the government to see to it that the jewelry collection seized from the Marcoses, which are now up for auction, do not fall back into their hands.

“Now you are going to allow them to buy again and guess what? They will probably buy it with the same ill-gotten wealth that they have not yet given up,” Rosales said on Joseph Morong’s report



for 24 Oras.

For the human rights defender who had endured torture and rape as a political prisoner during the Marcos dictatorship, it would be a good idea to put the jewels on display at a museum as a “permanent reminder of the plunder of the Marcoses and never again.”

The collection, valued at P704.8-million, was only part of more than P1 billion worth of assets seized from the Marcoses and their cronies that had yet to be disposed by the Presidential Commission on

Good Government (PCGG).

President Rodrigo Duterte has given the go signal to auction off the jewelry, saying the proceeds should go to the Filipino people who are in urgent need of government aid.

His spokesman, however, said members of the Marcos family may not be prevented from submitting their own bids for the ill-gotten jewelry.

“I do not know of any law prohibiting any person from bidding, if you are qualified,” Presidential spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in a briefing.

CHINESE SINKING OF FILIPINO FISHING BOAT IS INTENTIONAL

Ejercito asks: Is China really a friend?

MANILA, Philippines – After a Chinese vessel abandoned 22 fishermen aboard a sinking Filipino ship in the West Philippine Sea, Senator JV Ejercito has one question – is China really a friend?

Ejercito said this after a Filipino vessel sunk in Recto Bank last June 9 after being “intentionally” hit by a Chinese vessel. The Chinese vessel left the Filipino fishermen onboard the sinking ship. They were later rescued by a Vietnamese fishing vessel.

“Kung titingnan ninyo po sa incident report, may intentionality eh, kasi hindi tumigil [ang vessel],” acting Western Command spokesperson Lt. Col. Stephen Penetrante told reporters.

“It’s far from accidental kasi kung accidental po ito

the SOP should be, they should stop ‘di po ba? And then they should rescue these fishermen natin ano po. E nung tinamaan nila ‘yung FB Gimver 1 ay ano po sila dire-direkto sila. Hindi nila tinigilan, hindi sila tumigil,” he said. “Pinalubog na ang barko, iniwan pa ang crew members sa dagat. Kaibigan ba talaga ang China (they sunk our boat and left the crew. Is China really a friend?” Ejercito said in a tweet.

“Kaya gusto ko sila sikuhin kapag sumisingit sa mga linyal!” the senator added in jest.

Ejercito also expressed his disappointment over the incident and called it a form of “bullying.”

“Bullying. This is just too much!” Ejercito said in another tweet.

Defense secretary Delfin Lorenzana has called for the investigation of the incident and asked for diplomatic steps to be taken.

“We condemn in the strongest terms the cowardly action of the Chinese fishing vessel and its crew for abandoning the Filipino crew. This is not the expected action from a responsible and friendly people,” Lorenzana said.

“It was a “cowardly action” of the Chinese to leave behind the Filipino crew after hitting the anchored vessel.

Recto Bank is within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone and one of the areas considered for the Philippines’ joint exploration with China.

DOLE to ‘slow down’ deployment of nurses abroad — labor chief

MANILA, Philippines – Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said it will limit the deployment of nurses abroad due to the declining number of people with the said profession working in the country.



Bello said he earlier met with officials of the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA) who appealed that the deployment of nurses overseas be limited.

“Kahapon ka-meeting ko yung Philippine Nurses Association, may shortage na rin pala tayo ng mga nurses. Meron na pala. All the while akala ko may

oversupply tayo, yun pala, yung madalas na naka-graduate ng nursing course at nakakuha ng board, nagte-training sila ng two years and then they leave,” he said.

“So ang pakiusap sa akin ng ating mga PNA officers eh i-slowdown ang deployment ng mga nurses natin dahil kailangang-kailangan din natin ng mga nurses dito lalong-lalo na nung mga kagaya ng mga senior citizens,” he added.

Nevertheless, Bello acknowledged that this move would be disadvantageous for nurses who are seeking high-paying jobs abroad.

“Kaya nga dito naman para hindi sila magnanais pang mag-abroad eh medyo pag-aralan yung pagtaas ng sweldo. Mukha namang itataas ng ating Pangulo yan,” he said.

“Instruction ni President na bigyan yan ng increase, hindi lamang nurses, hindi lamang mga teacher, kundi lahat ng mga nasa gobyerno...We have to recommend with the help of DBM [Department of Budget Management] siyempre, siya nagtatansya kung anong kaya nating pagtaas,” he added.

The labor secretary, meanwhile, appealed to hospital managements not to take advantage of nurses.

“I would like to take this occasion na makiusap ako sa mga ospital na wag niyo namang pagsamantalahan yung ating mga nurses. Dahil ang ginagawa ninyo, yung nurse nakatapos na, nag-graduate na, board passer na, gusto magtrabaho para magkaroon ng enough experience, para makapunta sa abroad,” he said.

“Ang ginagawa ninyo, sila pa nagbabayad ng training fees instead of giving them their rightful salaries. ‘Yan ang panawagan ko sa mga ospital, ang yaman-yaman niyo na, makibahagi naman kayo sa kayamanan ninyo,” he added.

Filipino Centre-Toronto Accepting Candidates to its 2019 Outstanding Students Awards

Purposefully committed of encouraging and challenging Filipino Canadian students in Ontario to achieve student success and to excel in school performance, the Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) is now accepting candidates to its annual competition for “2019 Outstanding Students Awards.”

This year’s FCT Outstanding Students Awards event, started in 2005, now called “Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Student Awards”, is an annual program of selecting and recognizing outstanding and exemplary elementary, high school, and post-secondary graduates from public, Catholic and other educational institutions in Ontario.

Through its Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA), the Centre will present awards to chosen outstanding student graduates who have completed their elementary or high school or post-secondary studies(baccalaureate, master’s or doctorate). The selection criteria for top elementary and high school graduates includes: scholastic achievement/academic marks – 50%, community involvement and extra-curricular activities – 25% and interview performance – 25%.

All applicants, who have been screened and approved by the Outstanding Student Awards Committee, will be recognized and honoured appropriately in a ceremony.. Monetary awards, trophies, plaques and certificates will be presented to the winners and/or nominees of each category. The Awards Rites will take place on October 27, 2019, Sunday at 2:00 p.m.

The overall requirements for the 2019 FCT “Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Student Awards” Competition are as follow:

A. General Requirements for All Categories: Any applicant or candidate for an FCT Award must be a 1) Natural-born Filipino or of Filipino descent (either parent is Filipino); 2) Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada; 3) Of good moral and exemplary character.

B. Specific Requirements for Elementary and High School Graduates. To qualify: 1) The applicant should be currently registered in the elementary or secondary school in Ontario, under one of the following categories: The elementary school applicant should have completed the last year of elementary school and be going into high school (Grade 9); The high school applicant should be accepted and going into university or community college or apprenticeship program. 2) The student should have a

minimum academic average of 85% (or equivalent) during the last two (2) school years, and must be involved in extra-curricular and community activities. 3) The applicant must submit the following documents: For the elementary school graduate – Original copies of final report cards for the last two years. For the high school graduate – A current and original transcript bearing the school’s official seal. Also, two (2) original letters of character reference (one from the school, excluding immediate family); two (2) passport-size photos and a completed FCT-OSA application form.

C. Qualification Requirements for Post- Secondary Honour Candidates: 1) For Undergraduate or Baccalaureate Degree candidates: Must have achieved Academic Honours, with Notation printed in the candidate’s degree diploma, such as any of the following: “Summa Cum Laude” or “Magna Cum Laude” or “Cum Laude” or “With Highest Distinction” (GPA 3.8 or higher) or “With Distinction” (3.5 to 3.79); or university / college equivalent academic honours distinctive awards. 2) For Graduate Masteral or Doctoral Degree candidates: Must have achieved Graduate Average Grade of: Letter Grades of A+, A, A- only; or Numerical Marks of: 90-100%, 85-89%, 80 -84% only; or High Pass-Clear Excellence or acceptable equivalent marking scale.3) Documents (Photocopies only) to be submitted: a) Undergraduate program: Bachelor’s Diploma with Academic Honours Notation; b) Graduate program: Transcript of Academic Record and Thesis or Dissertation Paper, and 4) Passport-size Photo; 5) Completed FCT-OSA Application Form. Academic awards received must not be more than 5 years old, from date of application.

The members of the FCT Outstanding Students Awards Committee (OSA) include notable Filipino Canadian professionals and educators. OSA is composed of Tony A. San Juan, as Chairman, and the members are Jodelyn Huang, Steve Pagao, Mary Ann San Juan, and Fermer Santos.

Application forms for the FCT’s Outstanding Students Awards are now available from the Centre. Deadline for submission of forms and documents is: September 13, 2019, Friday. Personal interviews will begin on September 28, 2018, Saturday. Completed forms and requirements are to be submitted or mailed to: The Filipino Centre Toronto -FCT, , c/o Tony A. San Juan, OSA Chairman, # 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario M1S 1T9 (Tony San Juan).

Bea Patricia Magtanong admits eyeing Miss Universe PH crown

MANILA, Philippines — Miss International Philippines 2019 Bea Patricia Magtanong has admitted aiming to bag the Miss Universe crown at the recent Binibining Pilipinas pageant.

“To be completely honest, I did want the Miss Universe crown,” Magtanong said in

an interview with “Tonight With Boy Abunda” aired Thursday night.

“It’s what I worked for, it’s what I had my eyes on. It’s what I prayed for.

But you know, everything happens for a reason. It’s so cliché, but it’s true po,” she added.

Magtanong was crowned Miss International Philippines 2019 at the Binibining Pilipinas coronation night last June 9. It was Gazini Ganados who bagged the Miss Universe Philippines 2019 title.

Nonetheless, Magtanong expressed joy to have been crowned as the country’s representative for Miss International this year.

“International, it’s a great crown. It’s a great pageant and we’ve produced so many amazing winners from the Miss International pageant. I’m very very happy with my crown and I’m so excited,” she said.

In fact, the 24-year-old beauty queen and lawyer said she has already started researching about Japan where the pageant will be held.

“Each day, I just get more and more excited to go to Tokyo, Japan. I’ve been researching on Japanese culture. I’ve been playing with my looks, as you can see, for the pageant,” she said.

Miss International 2019 will be held at the Tokyo Dome City Hall in Japan on November 12, 2019. Magtanong’s predecessor

sor Ahtisa Manalo was named first runner-up in the said pageant last year.

Kris Aquino confirmed principal sponsor in Angel-Neil wedding

Queen of All Media Kris Aquino is the first publicly confirmed ‘ninang’ in the highly anticipated wedding of Angel Locsin and film producer Neil Arce.

Kris Aquino will stand as principal sponsor in the highly anticipated wedding of Angel Locsin and film producer Neil Arce.

This was publicly confirmed in an exchange between Kris and Angel on Instagram as news of the latter’s surprise engagement with Neil took social media by storm over the weekend.

“Ninang pa rin ba ‘ko?,” asked the Queen of All Media in one of the now-viral engagement photos shared by Angel on her page, to which the younger actress replied, “Yes please ate! Please be our ninang!”

As early as April of last year, Kris has been forthcoming about her wish to stand as principal sponsor in the couple’s future wedding, citing in a previous comment that she approves of Neil for Angel.

“I already love Neil Arce. Handang-handa na ang gown kong pang ninang,” she exclaimed.

Angel revealed her engagement to Neil in a series of Instagram posts on Saturday. Through her Instagram Stories, she said that she and her fiancé have yet decide on a date, a venue, and a wedding planner for the big day.

The two have been dating for more than a year but have known each other for seven years.

Toronto Plays on Filipino Culture

TITA JOKES

The Tita Collective are the Spice Girls of Comedy with a Filipina twist. We sing, we dance, and we'll make you snort-laugh halo-halo through your nose!

TITA JOKES is a musical sketch comedy spectacle to remember. The show revolves around the Filipinx people in their lives such as aunts, moms, daughters, and partners. Tita Jokes reveals their struggles and heartaches, but also how they cope through comedy and songs.

Show dates:

Thursday July 4 - 8:30PM

Saturday July 6 - 4:45PM

Sunday July 7 - 1:15PM

Tuesday July 9 - 9:45PM

Wednesday July 10 - 8:00PM

Friday July 12 - 4:00PM

Sunday July 14 - 6:00PM

At the TARRAGON THEATRE MAINSPACE
30 Bridgman Avenue

Directed by Tricia Hagoriles

Tita Jokes is created and performed by Belinda Corpuz, Isabel Kanaan, Ellie Posadas, Alia Rasul, and Maricris Rivera.

Music Director: Ayaka Kinugawa

Stage Manager: Justine Cargo

Accessibility

Tarragon's Mainspace and Extraspace theatres are wheelchair accessible, and we have an accessible washroom located on the second floor of the building with elevator access. We offer assistive listening devices for all performances in the Mainspace and the Extraspace.

About the Tita Collective

As recently featured on CBC, Tita Collective are an all Filipina collective of multidisciplinary artists based in Toronto composed of award-winning playwrights, comedians, musicians, dancers, theatre makers and actors. Individually they are: Ann Paula Bautista (Disenchanted US Tour), Belinda Corpuz - Artist (Prairie Nurse), Isabel Kanaan (CBC's Air Farce), Alia Rasul (Generally Hospital), and Maricris Rivera (Short Dances). They recently won the 2019 Steamwhistle Producers' Pick at Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival, Best Newcomer at Montréal Sketchfest and were named some of the "19 Asian Millennial Women You

Should Know" by Cold Tea Collective.

THROUGH THE BAMBOO

When Philly's Lola (grandma) dies, she finds herself in the fantastical land of Uwi. Will she be able to end the reign of the Three Sisters, find her Lola and bring her back home?

Inspired by Philippine mythology, THROUGH THE BAMBOO is an action-packed adventure about the value of storytelling, and how families deal with loss. A Filipinx-Canadian tale you've never heard before, told in the tradition of The Wizard of Oz, The Chronicles of Narnia and Alice in Wonderland.

Through the Bamboo is written by Andrea Mapili & Byron Abalos, directed by Nina Lee Aquino, and features an all-Filipinx cast of some of the city's best theatre artists.

Suitable for kids 7+, grandparents and families.

Factory Theatre Mainspace (125 Bathurst Street)
Tickets \$13

Toronto Region Featineans Hold Elections and Annual Picnic

by: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Summer is upon us! In celebration of the season, The Featineans Association of Toronto (TFAT), a socio-professional organization of alumni and former students, faculty members and staff from FEATI University in Santa Cruz, Manila holds its annual get-together on June 23, 2019, at the Thomson Memorial Park, Scarborough, Toronto, Canada.

The day-long gathering was attended by special guests, supporters, friends and family members of the officers and members of the 3-decade old Greater Toronto Area-based association. As usual, lots of home-cooked & catered foods, desserts & drinks, and kakanins were shared and served to the diet-busting delight of the more than 90 park picnickers.

In meeting its organizational operation and obligation, TFAT also conducted the election of new officers for its 2019-2021 governance term. Elected to serve, effective June 23, 2019, as members of the Executive Board are the following officers:

President - Edgar Baruela, 1st Vice President- Har Tawatao, 2nd Vice President- Max Recaido, Treasurer- Nenita Recaido, Asst. Treasurer- Greg Gravador, Secretary- Rudy Ortiz, Asst. Secretary- Rose Flores, Auditor - Joy Acuna San Juan, Business Manager- Tony Gatongay and Public Relations Officer- Tony A. San Juan. To serve in co-terminus as Directors are Rolly Balangue, Tirso Balitian, Tom Flores, Moises Ga, Fanny Gravador, Dolly de Leon, Rudy Olay, Bert Pabustan and Eric Serapio. Oliver Rey, as immediate past president, will serve as an ex-officio member of the new Executive Board.

Special guest, Honourable Bernadette Therese Fernandez, Deputy Consul General of the Philippine Consulate-Toronto officially congratulated and conducted the swearing of oath office to the 19 duly-elected members of the TFAT Executive Board. Ed Birondo, the former president of the association, volunteered and acted as Chairman of the election proceedings.

TFAT new head honcho Ed Baruela, in his brief acceptance speech, promised: "to pursue and uphold the mission and mandate of the Association, to continue the established projects and programs of his predecessors, and to encourage more engagement and support from the membership" for an enviable, progressive and productive "samahan ng mga dating kaklase at kaeskuela sa ating pinagmulang kolegio." (Tony A. San Juan).



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FELISTON
SPORTS

UPPER CANADA MALL



Why President Manuel Quezon Sheltered Jewish Refugees in the Philippines in 1939

When every other country was closing their doors to the Holocaust refugees, Filipinos proudly opened theirs, saving the lives of 1,200 Jewish refugees in the Philippines.

At a time when Jews were the most desperate of desperates, when they were being subjected to unimaginable horrors, when they were being hunted, exterminated, and treated like pestilence, every other nation closed their doors to Jewish refugees in their darkest hour, but the Filipinos opened theirs, sheltering 1,200 Jewish refugees in the Philippines.

The Holocaust was a genocide committed by Nazi Germany during World War II that saw the murder of six million Jews in Europe. During the late 1930s to the early 1940s, the Jews in Europe were desperate for escape, but every other country shut their doors. In 1936, when reports of the Jewish persecution reached President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines, he vowed to take them in.

Philippines Helped Jewish Refugees

"Quezon, like most Filipinos, was Catholic and yet he developed an affinity for Jews because he felt that there was a sense of symbolic brotherhood between Filipinos and Jews," said Commonwealth historian Sharon Delmendo in a documentary called "Open Doors: Jewish Rescue in the Philippines" by Noel Izon.

From the 1920s to the 1930s, Manila was Asia's premier trading hub and finest destination. Its genteel image attracted various nationalities. Some of these nationalities were French, Germans, Russians – some of whom were Jews.

When the American transport ship USS Thomas arrived in the Philippines in 1901, it brought a number of Jewish teachers who comprised the "Thomasites".

By 1925, there was already a small but significant Jewish presence in Manila, composed mostly of Americans. They were wealthy and prosperous. One of these Jews, a trader named Alex Frieder, had a direct



line to the President's ear. He also happened to be one of the president's poker buddies, along with future US President Dwight Eisenhower, and High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul McNutt.

President Manuel Quezon faced tough opposition in bringing Jewish refugees in the Philippines

The year 1938 was the time when Nazis burned down hundreds of synagogues, arrested 30,000 Jews, whose homes they also ransacked. This news reached President Quezon, who empathized with the Jews.

In the same year, the Jewish population in Shanghai became vulnerable, especially since the Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937.

Meanwhile, the Jewish Community in Manila led by the Frieder brothers Alex and Philip, immediately set up the Jewish Refugee Committee. Some 30 German Jews from Shanghai made it to Manila. Quezon was heavily criticized by his enemies for allegedly allowing communist Jews into the country. Some opponents maliciously twisted the issue, saying President Quezon failed to provide land to farmers, but was willing to give land to Jewish refugees in the Philippines.

Despite all these, Quezon stood his ground. Alex Frieder said in 1939. "He made them ashamed of themselves for being a victim of propaganda intended to further victimize an already persecuted people."



President Manuel Quezon signing documents in 1937

Jews' arrival stopped because the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941. Out of 10,000 visas President Quezon issued to German and Austrian Jews, some 1,200 made it to the Philippines.

Survivors among the Jewish refugees in the Philippines

In the documentary "Open Doors" by Noel Izon, several Holocaust survivors tell the same story: Filipinos were very warm and hospitable.

In a 2017, Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Effie Ben Matityau praised the Philippines for opening their doors to Jewish refugees. "Nations who call themselves enlightened closed their doors. And here you have the little Philippines, without any connection to the Jewish people, without any obligation to the Jewish people because they are not Filipino citizens, out of pure moral conviction, having one of its biggest moral victories," the ambassador said.

After the War, most of the Holocaust survivors who came to the Philippines moved to Israel, where they permanently settled. Today, there are more than 8,000 people who are descendants of the 1,200 refugee Jews who escaped to the Philippines. In honor of the Philippines' heroic act, Israel erected a monument in 2009 titled "Open Doors". It honors the Filipinos' opening of their door to Jews at a time when everybody else deliberately closed theirs.

"Quezon's Game" tells the story of how Manuel Quezon wanted Jewish refugees in the Philippines as the Filipinos' Legacy to the World

It is a story that is well known among Jewish communities in the Philippines and abroad, but one that most Filipinos are not familiar with.

"Quezon's Game" has won 23 international awards and recognition.

Kapuso stars support Kapamilya network amid Jimmy Bondoc controversy

MANILA, Philippines – In the middle of the controversy involving singer Jimmy Bondoc's Facebook post that said he is excited to see "the biggest TV network close down," even celebrities working outside of the Kapamilya network gave their support to ABS-CBN for celebrating 65 years in the industry.

Freelance actor Marvin Agustin posted on his Instagram account his gratitude to ABS-CBN for changing his life.

"Lagi ko tong sinasabi at patuloy akong magpapasalamat. @abscbn changed my life. Sinuportahan nila ang pangarap ng isang batang gustong makatulong sa pamilya, nakita nila ang potential ng isang mascot sa Shakeys at waiter ng Tia Marias. Maraming salamat sa masarap na pagmamahal kapamilya!" he wrote.

Former Kapamilya actor and now GMA contract star Derek Ramsay showed his "complete respect" for his former network.

Former "TV Patrol" reporter Atom Araullo also sent his love and support for the Kapamilya network.

"Sending love and support to my family for over a decade. Your media colleagues have got your back," Atom wrote.

New Kapuso Aiko Melendez, who was with ABS-CBN for nine years, also showed gratitude.

Another freelance actress, Sunshine Cruz, recalled how the network helped her in her trying days.

"Year 2013. Nung panahong lugmok ako, walang pera, walang matirahan, ABS-CBN ang nagbigay ng tsansa na makabalik ang isang katulad kong bagsak na bagsak ang moral. I will always be GRATEFUL to them. Naitaguyod ko ang aking tatlong maliliit na anak, nakapundar ako ng maayos na tahanan na aming tinitirahan ngayon. At nakakakain kami ng nasa oras dahil sa pagtitiwala ng ABS-CBN sa isang katulad ko," she wrote.

"Hindi ako kailanman magagalak na mawalan ng trabaho o pangkabuhayan ang nakararaming tao na nagtatrabaho ng maayos para matulongan ang kanilang pamilya dahil kailanman ay hindi ito tama.

"Guys, freelance artist po ako. I have worked with both networks. Grateful sa parehong networks for the work and chance. Marunong lang po tayong tumanaw ng utang na loob sa mga tao na naging bahagi ng ating growth at success. Hindi dapat ipagbunyi ang pagkawala o pagsasara ng isang company na nakakatulong sa maraming tao at pamilya," she said.

Former GMA 7 reporter and now UNTV host Michael Fajatin posted on his social media account his greetings for ABS-CBN.

"Mula Kapuso GMA7 hanggang sa Kasangbahay UNTV. Nakikiisa ako sa selebrasyon ng bawat Kapamilya sa isang malaya at progresibong Pilipinas!" he wrote.

Former Kapuso reporter and now licensed pilot Steve Dailisan recalled he first started as campus correspondent in then Studio 23's "Wazzup Wazzup."

"Bago pa man ako magsimula bilang reporter sa GMA News and Public affairs, sa mga programang 'Wazzup Wazzup' (Tadjock campus correspondent) at 'Y Speak' ako unang sumalang sa telebisyon sa pamamagitan ng ABS-CBN," he narrated.

"Malaki ang aking respeto at pagkilala sa mga naging kasamahan sa industriya mula sa Kapamilya network. Hindi lang sila mga katrabaho kundi mga mabubuting kaibigan na naniniwala sa katotohanan. Happy 65th year ABS CBN! Mabuhay ang lahat ng mga Kapamilya! :)" he wrote.

GMA News anchor Raffy Tima salutes the rival network for its service to the Filipino.

"Saludo at pagpupugay sa mga kaibigan kong Kapamilya. While we see you as competition, out in the field, we are one. Pagbati sa inyong anibersaryo at sa marami pang taon nang paglilingkod para sa bayan," he said.

Kapamilya actress Julia Montes broke her social media hiatus recently to greet ABS-CBN on its 65th anniversary.

"Maraming Salamat po sa istasyong patuloy na tapat nagseserbisyo at nagpapasaya sa ating mga Kapamilya saan ma'ng sulok ng mundo," Julia said.

"Salamat din po na sa 65 years ay isa po ako sa binuo nyo ang mga pangarap. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng oportunidad na ibinigay ninyo sa akin para mapakita ang konting pong kakayahan kong binigay ng Diyos... Salamat pong muli KAPAMILYA," she added.

Joshua Garcia gets new leading lady; Maja Salvador gets new show

Maja Salvador will make her teleserye comeback after the success of her 2017 drama series, Wildflower.

She is set to top-bill the upcoming Kapamilya series titled The Killer Bride. Maja attended the story conference.

However, Joshua will not be working with perennial love-team partner, Julia Barretto, in The Killer Bride.

According to other posts of netizens, Joshua will be paired

with Janella Salvador in this teleserye.

The Killer Bride will fulfill ABS-CBN's previous attempts of pairing Joshua and Janella in one project.

The two were supposed to work in three projects in the past: the teleseryes Born For You and The Good Son, and the movie Vince, Kath, and James.

Janella and Elmo were replaced by Loisa Andalio and Jerome Ponce, respectively.

On May 30, Twitter users posted photos of Maja and Joshua who were at Pampanga for the upcoming TV show. It was not clear when the photos were taken.

The series will also serve as a reunion for Maja Salvador and Geoff Eigenmann, who were paired in the movie Villa Estrella in 2009 and in an episode of Maalaala Mo Kaya in

2008.

They were supposed to do a teleserye called Moon River, but the project was shelved. Geoff then decided to transfer to GMA-7 in 2009.

Prior to the look test, it seemed like Maja and Geoff were already taping for a project.

On May 8, a netizen reposted an Instagram story uploaded by Prince Stefan while they were taping for the project.

Also seen in the picture were Pamu Pamorada, Pepe Herrera, and Hannah Ledesma.

The Killer Bride will be helmed by the drama unit headed by Roda C. Dela Cerna, the former business unit head of Maalaala Mo Kaya.

More details about the new series are yet to be revealed.



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Melizza Jimenez, From rejection to motivation

Melizza Jimenez knows all about rejection at her age. Still, she hasn't allowed those to dampen her spirit, but instead serve as motivation.

In an interview, the budding actress recalled auditioning for a glee club in school when she was 11 years old.

"I was the only one who didn't get in," she said. "The person who was auditioning us was laughing while I was doing my audition. It broke my heart."

Eventually, Melizza brightened up and took voice lessons.

As to why she was rejected, Melizza is clueless.

"I don't know. Maybe I didn't have a good voice. I really don't know."

Another rejection was when she auditioned for "Pinoy Big Brother."

"The call time they gave me was wrong," she claimed.

"There were two auditions, one at Araneta and one for the managers. I had a final audition at the Araneta but I was given the wrong call time so I had to do the process all over again.

"We were asked who was the most deserving. The most deserving will get in. We gave it to someone else. After that, I went out and cried to my dad. I waited for so long then that happened."

Later, Melizza was told to audition before Mr. M (Johnny Manahan) of Star Magic. She did some workshops and training and a year later, 2016, she was cast in the Kathryn Bernardo-Daniel Padilla blockbuster movie "Barcelona: A Love Untold."

She has since done TV shows "Wan-sapanataym: Tikboyong" and "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" where she plays the sister of Sam Pinto.

Quite talented, Melizza has written two



heartbreak songs, "Kiss Me" and "Kung Maibabalik."

Why are her songs always about pain?

"I guess that's just my way of releasing everything is inside me. It is an outlet for all the rejections and failures."

As an artist, she likes to pattern her career after singer-actress Maja Salvador's. She also likes Kathryn, Sarah Geronimo, and Moira.

Her ultimate idol is Charo Santos-Concio.

"She has been my inspiration because from an actress she worked hard to become a CEO, one of the pillars of ABS-CBN."

Aside from acting, singing, composing, Melizza is into painting.

"My medium is acrylic. It's called pouring. What I do

is, whatever emotion I am feeling is a color and then I put it in one cup and pour it into a canvass.

"Actually, my dad taught me to draw when I was a kid. He's an architect. I was into shading then and I watched painting lessons on YouTube."

Why David Licauco is loveless these days

Former pageant winner-turned-actor David Licauco has said he is loveless these days because he is focusing on his showbiz career and business.

"Wala po akong girlfriend ngayon. Career muna po ang focus ko," said Licauco during a bloggers conference for his upcoming movie

"Because I Love You" held in Timog, Quezon City recently. The romantic-comedy, stars Kapuso actress Shai-ara Diaz. Asked about the qualities of a girl-should be, Licauco said: "I should be, Li-said: "I a simple Siyempre mabait pinag-



Licauco, 24, former Mr. Chinatown first runner-up in 2013, said that he still wants to settle down with a Chinese woman in the future although his family is relax on tradition of fixed marriage.

"May nababalitan pa rin akong arranged marriage among Chinese family kasi nga

ganun ang nakagawian na tradition. Pero in the case of my family, hindi naman ganun," Licauco said.

No doubt Licauco has one of the hunkiest bodies among our local male stars right now and he really works hard to keep fit. Just check on his social media posts and you will see how confident he is with his body as he strikes a pose.

At the blog con, Licauco has a healthy appetite, but he avoids rice.

Licauco revealed that he was buff when he was still in college.

"I bulked up because I wanted to be a wrestler that time and I was preparing to compete. I was big," the chinito actor said.

Times have changed and Licauco decided to shift to a new body mode.

"Ayoko na ng sobrang malaki na parang macho dancer or bouncer. Gusto ko slim pero fit," he said.

Ultimate search for the next TV and movie stars is back

Ultimate search for the next TV and movie stars is back. A few reality TV icons have become some of the biggest celebrities in Philippine showbiz today. While others have faded into obscurity, those who dreamt for the stars and believed in their talents have survived.

Sounds familiar? Well, that's the tagline of StarStruck, "dream, believe, survive."

The talent reality search that started it all is back. GMA Network brings forth

a brand new season of its original reality-based artista search, which still hosted by Dingdong Dantes and Jennylyn Mercado, who was a product of the program's first season.



'StarStruck' host Dingdong Dantes (2nd from left), with council members Cherie Gil (center), Heart Evangelista, and Jose Manalo, and 'Inside StarStruck' host Kyline Alcantara (leftmost) pose for the cameras during the reality search's rescon.

For the new season, StarStruck introduc-

es a tougher, more exciting competition that promises diverse and entertaining challenges, a thrilling judging system, real-life drama, and interesting reality-based stories as hopefuls compete to become the next Ultimate Female and Male Survivors.

No less than three of the entertainment industry's most respected personalities – Heart Evangelista, Cherie Gil, and Jose Manalo – will take their seats as this season's StarStruck Council. As judges, they will be mentoring the finalists and be involved in the story-telling of the program.

Young actress Kyline Alcantara joins the program as the StarStruck Insider, the host of Starstruck's online show, Inside StarStruck. It premieres on June 10 on the show's official Youtube channel every Monday to Friday at 6:00 p.m.



Out of thousands of auditionees across the country, 11 boys and 11 girls were chosen through a series of demanding tests dubbed as the 'StarStruck Experience'. After the grueling process, these 22 hopefuls will face their final audition on the pilot episode as they compete for a rightful spot in the Final 14.

Viewers will be able to vote and take part in the judging process as they watch the finalists physically transform on-air through workshops and challenges to help them look and perform better as the reality search unfolds every week.

Dream, believe, and survive anew with StarStruck Season 7 beginning June 15, every Saturday after Daddy's Gurl and every Sunday after Daig Kayo Ng Lola Ko, on GMA-7.

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Making a new love team

Banking on a new love teamLocal showbiz is so obsessed with love teams. And we are constantly on the lookout for a new pair of stars who can somehow satisfy our cravings for the kind of onscreen "kilig" that they can bring.

Case in point, ALV Films President Arnold Vegafria is banking on the initial pairing of Kapuso talents David Licaucó and Shaira Diaz. They are the main stars in *Because I Love You*, AVL's follow-up offering for 2019.

"For this project, I wanted to launch new artists, new faces, a new love team. I know it's a big risk, but I strongly believe in the movie's potential. It's fresh content and a very aspirational story, and I

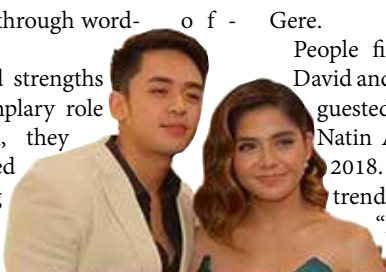
hope the movie spreads through word-of-mouth," says Vegafria.

"With their combined strengths as influencers and exemplary role models for the youth, they can rightfully be hailed as today's fast-rising millennial icons. I have always believed in David and Shaira's acting potential, and it's high time that they get their first big breakthrough this launching movie," he adds.

AVL's head honcho has always been excited about producing movies because it's his way of giving back to the industry.

"We hope to create more jobs and make the industry flourish, and make our films competitive in foreign film festivals," Vegafria states.

For some of the movie's pivotal scenes, the producers spared no expense in recreating the lavish and opulent cinematic backdrops reminiscent of the acclaimed 1990 romcom *Pretty Woman*, which starred Julia Roberts and Richard



Gere. People first noticed the chemistry between David and Shaira as early as last year, when they guested for Magpakailanman's 'Nakawin Natin Ang Bawat Sandali' episode last July 2018. The couple became one of the top trending topics on social media. Their "kilig-worthy" tandem was heightened all the more during their guesting for *One Hugot Away*, GMA-7's web/TV project last March.

The two Kapuso artists have figured prominently in GMA-7's top-rating TV series. Some of Shaira's more recent projects include *Contessa* (2017), *Pamilya Roces* (2018) and *Love You Two* (2019). David's recent outings include *Mulawin vs. Ravena* (2017), *Kapag Nahati Ang Puso* (2018) and *TODA One I Love* (2019).

The feel-good romcom, written by Charlotte Dianco, a popular Wattpad writer and TV director, also marks the second offering of ALV Films for this year.



GRANDMA TESTIFIES

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked: "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded: "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked: "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?"

She again replied: "Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him".

The defense attorney nearly died. The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench, and, in a very quiet voice, said:

"If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair."



Fe Paca-Taduran, Lenlay Mamita, and Beth Daliva enjoy the Filipino Heritage month kick-off festival at Albert Campbell Square.

Alfred Vargas: Actor-politico grateful for third term in congress

Actor-politician Alfred Vargas will take his oath as congressman of the 5th District of Quezon City on June 30 and is grateful for the opportunity to fulfill his third and final term as lawmaker.

Despite the crowded race for his post last elections, Alfred bagged a convincing win, garnering the highest number of votes among multiple opposition.

He is very thankful for this new mandate from his constituents and credits his good track record in earning their trust all over again. "Nothing beats a good performance. If the people see that you are doing your job well, they will return the favor by voting you back into office," said the actor.

Alfred went through a grueling campaign period and is currently taking time to rest before plunging back to work come July 1. He is also making up for time he lost with his wife and kids in the run up to elections.



Alfred Vargas was last seen on television for 'Kambal Karibal,' and is now ready to begin work as Congressman for the 5th District of Quezon City.

Meanwhile, in this same interview, Alfred expressed sadness over the death of veteran actor Eddie Garcia. He revealed they became very close after working on a project together. He remembers Manoy Eddie as very professional and helpful in giving him valuable advice regarding acting, professionalism and loving one's work.

"I truly admire and respect him. I can only wish to last as long as he did in the industry.

For Alfred, what happened to Manoy Eddie

was an accident and hopes it will never happen again whether to a star or a member of the production.

"We should take the necessary precautions always," he said. "We should always be careful in the work area and ensure its safety, not only for the stars but for the production people as well."

According to Alfred, he's had offers from both ABS-CBN and GMA Network to do teleseryes but has begged off from them to concentrate in Congress and spend his free time with family. His fans should see him soon in a couple of movie projects, one of which has Iza Calzado in the cast and directed by Mac Alejandre from the script of Ricky Lee.

"I normally do just one movie a year but if a good script comes along, we might reconsider our decision," said Alfred.



Philip beloso, Gizele Mirasol, Maria and mom Genelie Panaligan enjoy the PistahanTO-Flavours festival. RIGHT, IPEN model Naomi Cabrera walks the Santacruzian. (photo by Noli Gumapac)



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Sam Pinto pinabulaanan ang tsismis

KUNG ang twin brother cager ng basketbolista ring si Anthony Semerad na si David Semerad ay engaged na sa fiancée nitong si Gwen Zamora and expecting their baby boy soon, marami ang nagsasabi na engaged na rin umano si Anthony sa kasintahan nitong si Sam Pinto pero agad itong pinabulaanan ng actress, commercial model and



entrepreneur.

It was only October of last year nang aminin ni Sam ang relasyon nila ng PBA professional player na si Anthony.

Samantala, eagerly waiting naman ang engaged couple na sina David at Gwen sa kanilang magiging first baby ganundin ang kanilang respective parents sa kanilang magiging unang apo gayundin si Anthony sa kanyang magiging unang pamangkin.

6



1. Filipino Heritage Month Kick-Off Festival organizers receive a certificate from MP Salma Zahid.
2. Beth Daliva, Mon Torralba and Fe Paca-Taduran pose with Florante.
3. Divine Bergundo and nene Panganiban of WorldRemit join the festival.
4. Rafael Nebres of Action Honda sponsors the festival.
5. Maria Panaligan performs at the festival.
6. Dr. Vicky Santiago (LEFT END) presents one of the special awards at the Miss Q&A pageant at PistahanTO-Flavours festival.

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Action series nauuso sa TV'

MUKHANG nauuso ngayon ang mga action TV series na sinimulan ni Coco Martin sa "Juan de la Cruz" at sinundan ng kanyang long-running action-drama TV series na "FPJ's Ang

Probinsyano" na magpu-four years na sa ere sa darating na September.
Nariyan pa ang isa pang top-rating action-drama series na "The General's Daughter" na pinagbibidahan naman ni Angel Locsin kasama sina JC de Vera at Paulo Avelino.
Over at GMA, nagkaroon na rin sila ng sarili nilang

action-drama series tulad ng "Alyas Robin Hood 1 & 2," at ang "Cain at Abel". Pinaghahandaan na rin ng Kapuso Network ang kanilang upcoming action-drama series na "Rosang Agimat" na pagbibidahan ng 20-year-old Kapuso young star na si Gabbi Garcia kasama sina Thea Tolentino, Jeric Gonzalez,

Kristoffer Martin, Gil Cuerva, Eddie Garcia, Tonton Gutierrez, Victor Neri, Luz Valdez at Betong Sumaya mula sa direksiyon ng action director na si Toto Natividad.
Bago sumabak sa taping sina Gabbi at Thea ay sumailalim sila ng outdoor target shooting under



PistahanTO-Flavours Entertains crowd

The Filipino Centre Toronto's PistahanTO festival joined forces with Flavours and the festival is better for it.
What used to be a one-day festival became a two-day celebration of Filipino culture, dance, food, entertainment and camaraderie among
PistahanTO-FLAVOURS
page 22

iibigan nila, tatal mahaba na rin ang iprinisasyon ng kanilang relasyon. Honestly, they deserve each other.
Marahil ito ang dahilan kung bakit tinatapos na ang projects na naka-line up ngayon para sa singer-actress. She's now filming Unforgettable under the directorial tandem of Perci Intalan and Jun Lana. Katatapos rin niyang i-launch ang

kanyang beauty brand na Pop Studio. Kakapanalo rin niya bilang Best Actress sa 35th PMPC Star Awards for Movies kamakailan. Plus, her singing engagements here and abroad. At bukod sa kanyang regular hosting sa ASAP Natin 'To!, kumpirmado na rin ang kanyang pagbabalik bilang coach sa The Voice Kids Season 3.

Base sa kanyang work load, hindi pinababayaan ni Sarah ang regular bonding nila ni Matteo. Kaya naman kitang-kita ang genuine happiness sa mukha ng dalaga. At kahit super busy, ganadong-ganado naman siya sa kanyang ginagawa. Relaxed na siya ngayon.

Kung tuloy na nga ang kasalan, magpu-propose na rin kaya si Matteo kay Sarah bago magtapos ang taong 2019? Just asking...

Bagong TV series ni Juday

world shooting champ na si Jethro Dionisio bukod pa sa iba't ibang fight scenes training plus regular visit sa gym. Super excited pareho sina Gabbi at Thea sa kanilang bagong series dahil hindi na ito katulad ng mga nauna nilang serye na pawang drama ang kanilang ipinamamalas. Sa kanilang bagong action-drama series ay kasama rito ang iba't ibang action

fight scenes, stunts at routines kailangan nilang mabigyan ng hustisya. Samantala, kilala si Direk Toto Natividad sa pagiging veteran director sa mga action movies at naidirek niya halos lahat ng mga action stars in the past. Sandali rin siyang naging co-director ng "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" ni Coco Martin under

ABS-CBN bago siya lumipat ng GMA para idirek ang "Cain at Abel" nina Dingdong Dantes at Dennis Padilla.

Sarah G. bride in 2020

MAGPAPAKASAL na raw si Sarah Geronimo next year.

Ayon sa aming reliable source na malapit sa Popstar Royalty, tuloy na raw ang kasalang Sarah at Matteo Guidicelli. Sa totoo lang, hindi na bago ito dahil matagal na itong usap-usapan sa apat na sulok ng showbiz. Pero, coming from our "source," itataya namin ang aming kredibilidad sa tsikang ito. Dahil hangad din namin na matuloy na sa altar ang pag-

Camilineos Raise Funds for Projects

Camilineos held their fiesta dinner. As always, the dinner was well-attended. Proceeds from the dinner goes towards projects back home.



naghihintay pa

ANG dating Kapuso actor na si Raymart Santiago ang kapareha ni Judy Ann Santos sa kanyang comeback teleserye na pinamagatang "Starla" sa ABS-CBN na hanggang ngayon ay

naghihintay pa ng airing. Si Raymart ay napapanood ngayon sa long-running and top-rating action-drama TV series na "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" na pinagbibidahan ni Coco Martin. Samantala, si Juday ay huling napanood sa



teleseryeng "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala" in 2013 kung saan niya nakabituin sina Sam Milby, KC Concepcion at John Estrada kung saan din kasama sa cast sina Tirso Cruz III, Coney Reyes, Mylene Dizon, Susan Africa at iba pa. Ito'y magkatulong na dinirek nina Malu Sevilla at Jerry Lopez Sineneng.

Ang "Starla" ay produksyon ng Dreamscape Entertainment na pinamumunan ni Deo Endrinal na siya ring nasa likod ng mga top-rating shows tulad ng "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano," "The General's Daughter" at ang afternoon TV series na "Kadenang Ginto". "Starla" is intended for a primetime slot.



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Sarah in, Sharon out: Inspired

SARAH Geronimo is in while Sharon Cuneta is out.

Nagsimula na ang taping ng The Voice Kids Philippines Season 4 nitong nakaraang Huwebes. Kumpirmado na sina Sarah, Bamboo at Lea Salonga ang mga judge sa nasabing talent search. Matatandaan na hindi umupo bilang judge si Sarah sa nakaraan season nito. Kaya naman si Sharon muna ang pumalit sa kanya. Mukhang ito’yung mga panahon na may pinagdadaanan siya sa kanyang personal life.

Ngayon, buong-buo siyang haharap sa kids na nangangarap at susunod sa yapak nina Lyca Gairanod, Darren Espanto, JK Labajo, Elha Nympha at Esang de Torres. Dahil punumpuno ng

pagmamahal ang kanyang puso ngayon. Kaya tiyak na mas inspired siya sa pagku-coach sa mga kids na papasok sa Team Sarah. At ngayon pa lang, inaasahan na ng kanyang mga fans na manggagaling sa team niya ang susunod na grand winner. Remember that she coached Lyca, the first-ever The Voice Kids Philippines grand winner.

Samantala, pang-apat na season na ito ng reality singing competition. Pero hanggang ngayon, wala pa ring nangyayari sa career ng Season 3 grand winner na si Joshua Oliveros. Marami rin ang umasa na tutulungan ni Sharon ang career ng kanyang Voice Kid na si Antonette Tismo na naging first runner-up. Ngunit wala na tayong nabalitaan kina Joshua at Antonette. Dahil dito, maki-claim ba ng The Voice Kids Philippines na naging successful ang huling season nito? Just asking...

Mark Herras shares advice for StarStruck 2019 aspirants + other stories

Sina Mark Herras at Jennylyn Mercado ang pinakaunang male and female Ultimate Survivors ng StarStruck ng GMA-7.

At dahil muling magbabalik ang naturang artista search sa telebisyon ngayong taon, may maipapayo ba si Mark sa mga bagong sasali dito?

Panimulang bulalas ni Mark, “Good luck!

“Hindi, siyempre same advise na binibigay ko sa lahat ng batches ng StarStruck, di ba?

“Kumbaga, hindi lahat ng mga kabataan or lahat ng sumasali sa StarStruck ay nabibigyan ng opportunity para makapasok sa StarStruck, di ba?

“So lalo ngayon, sa panahon ngayon, ang dami nilang puwedeng paraan para mag-promote.

“Andiyan ang social media. Kami noon, wala!”

Wala pang FaceBook at Instagram noong batch nila ng StarStruck noong 2003.

Lahad pa niya, “Iba na yung mundo na iikutan nila ngayon.

“Madaling makapasok and at the same time, yung madaling makapasok na yun hindi rin madaling makalabas.

“So dapat, kapag kunyari napabalik sila para makasama sa final fourteen, huwag nilang sayangin yung opportunity na naibigay sa kanila.

“Kasi ang dami, ang dami sa mga kabatan ngayon na pag nakapasok, or alam mo yun, feeling nila iyon na yun, feeling nila okay na sila, na puwede na silang magkikilos ng kung anu-ano, di ba?

“Pero siyempre dapat nilang isiping mabuti kung ano talaga yung pinasok nila.

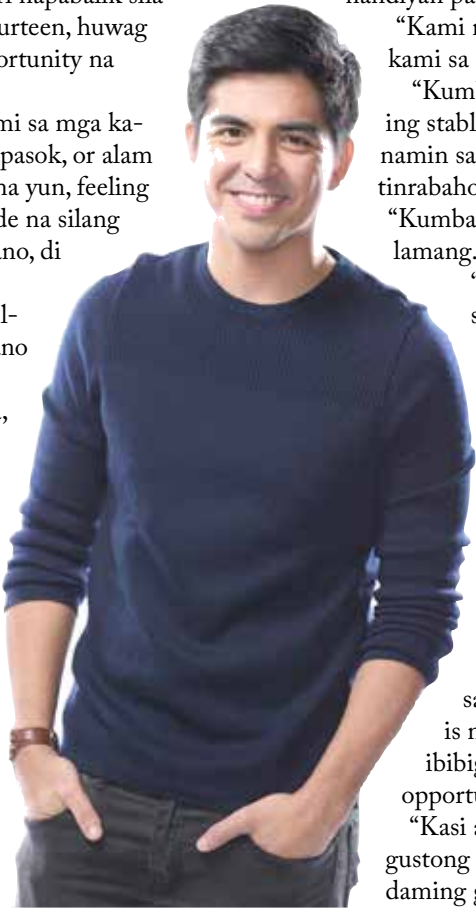
“Na hindi lang ito basta, ‘O, porke artista ka na feeling mo artista ka na agad!’

“Ang daming proseso niyan.

“I mean, di ba? Feeling natin kapag nakapasok tayo hawak mo na ang mundo.

“Hindi! Kahit naman kami nahirapan kami, di ba?

“Okay, siguro and-un kami sa part na sasabihin nila, ‘O kayo,



nandiyan pa rin kayo.’

“Kami nila Jen galing kami sa ibaba, e.

“Kumbaga para mag-ing stable yung posisyon namin sa showbiz, talagang tinrabaho talaga namin.

“Kumbaga dun lang kami lamang.

“Lamang sila like sa social media, etc.—whatever.

“Dun lang kami nakalamang, na maganda na yung posiyon namin, na talagang kailangang gawin naming stable.

“So siguro, isa pang puwedeng sabihin sa kanila is mahalin nila yung ibibigay sa kanilang opportunity ng GMA.

“Kasi ang daming gustong mag-artista, ang daming gustong pumalit sa

puwesto nila, ang daming gustong kumuha ng opportunity na nakuha nila...

“Na kumbaga, ako parang may mga sinayang akong oras, di ba?

“So huwag na silang... kumbaga, sila, kung kaya nilang huwag magsayang ng oras, mas mabuti.”

Nakausap si Mark sa taping ng Bihag. Gumaganap si Mark bilang si SPO1 Larry Pineda sa Bihag na napapanood sa GMA Afternoon Prime.

Anim na batches o season na ang StarStruck.

MOST SUCCESSFUL BATCH?

Ano ang masasabi ni Mark na ang batch pa rin nila ang sinasabing pinakasikat na batch ng StarStruck?

Pagpapasalamat niya, “Siyempre, I’m proud and happy!”

Ang ilan sa mga produkto ng season 1 ng StarStruck bukod kina Mark at Jennylyn ay sina Yasmien Kurdi, Rainier Castillo, Katrina Halili, Dion Ignacio, Cristine Reyes, Nadine Samonte, Jade Lopez (na co-star ni Mark ngayon sa Bihag) at Sheena Halili.

Poll launched for Kisses Delavin’s new loveteam partner

After announcing the onscreen breakup of DonKiss, it seems Kisses Delavin is on the lookout for new loveteam partner.

Regal Entertainment, Inc., a Philippine filmmaking and entertainment firm founded by Lily Monteverde, recently launched a Twitter poll to determine the public’s

choice.

On the list are Jameson Blake, Grae Fernandez, Tanner Mata and Teejay Marquez.

As of press time, Jameson has got 56% of the votes, Tanner has 19%, Teejay has 13% while Grae has 11%.

Donny wishes ex loveteam partner Kisses ‘the best’

“I’ll be honest it was a surprise.”

This is what Donny Pangilinan admitted concerning Kisses Delavin’s recent state-

ment claiming that their onscreen partnership has “long been over.”

In an Instagram story, the young actor issued his own version of the story seemingly in conflict with what she said.

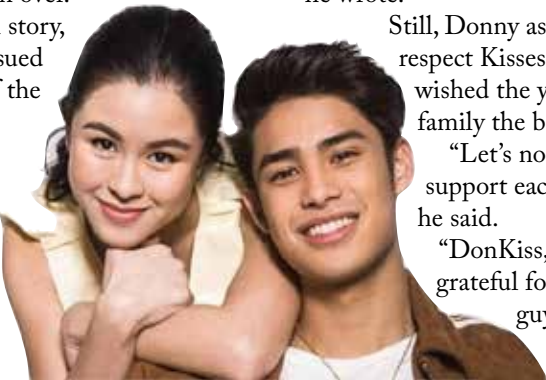
“To my understanding, the partnership was still under review because of differ-

ent expectations, with no final decision yet,” he wrote.

Still, Donny asked the public to respect Kisses statement. He also wished the young actress and her family the best.

“Let’s not fault find. Let’s all support each other at this time,” he said.

“DonKiss, we will be forever grateful for you all, love you guys...”



Loisa Andalio & Shaina Magdayao Dealing with heartache, broken dreams

A WRITER who is facing a major roadblock in her career and life looks back to her past – including her first love and heartbreak – to move forward in her present in the new iWant original series “Past, Present, Perfect?,” which is now streaming for free on iWant.

The digital series, which stars Loisa Andalio and Shaina Magdayao as the young and old Shantal, takes viewers back to their high school days, post-college ambitions, and puppy love conquests.

A student with a gift for words, Shantal uses her talent to woo her crush, her high school professor Daniel (Vin Abrenica), by secretly writing him poems and declarations



of love. As they become close because of their love for literature, Daniel, recognizing her potential, urges her to pursue her dream of becoming an award-winning writer.

Shantal's world is turned upside down when she confesses her feelings for Daniel and gets rejected at their graduation ball.

In the present, Shantal navigates adulthood and struggles to pay for her bills by translating text books and subtitling porn – a far cry from her dream to write poetry and novels.

Things go awry for Shantal when she

experiences writer's block, unable to come up with a solid follow-up to her first successful romance pocket book.

Co-produced by Epic Media, “Past, Present, Perfect?” is directed by Dwein Baltazar, who wrote the blockbuster movie “Exes Baggage” and recently won Best Director and Best Screenplay for her movie “Gusto Kita With All My Hypothalamus” – also named Best Picture – at the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS) Awards 2019.

The romance-drama series also stars Awra Briguela, Amy Nobleza, Angelie Sanoy, Elijah Canlas, VJ Mendoza, Alorah Sasam, Eda Nolan, Anthony Falcon, Iana Bernardez, Peewee O'hara, Romnick Sarmenta, and Allan Paule.

The series' debut on iWant last week trended on Twitter, and has since earned praises and been recommended by netizens because of its nostalgia-inducing and relatable story and the performances of its cast.



Bianca weighs choice between Miguel and Migo

BIANCA Umali is getting the sympathy of lots of viewers in her dilemma as to who she'd choose between Miguel Tanfelix as Ahmad and Migo Adecer as Jordan in “Sahaya”. Netizens themselves are torn as to who they would choose for Bianca as Sahaya.

Some folks root for Miguel as he and Bianca are childhood sweethearts in the story and are both Badjaws. But some quarters are voting for Migo as he is showing unselfish love for Bianca ever since he was seen rescuing her from drowning in the middle of the ocean. He even defends her and her family against his own selfish and greedy dad, Eric Quizon as Hubert.

“Nakakatuwa nga ang reaction ng regular viewers ng ‘Sahaya’ dahil may kanya-kanya silang kampo,” says Bianca. “Ako man, if it were in real life, mahihirapan din akong pumili kung sino kina Ahmad at Jordan ang pipiliin ko kasi may kanya-kanya silang katangian.”

Miguel's edge over Migo is that he and Bianca are also together again in the new GMA Pictures' movie, “Family History”, where Miguel plays the son of Michael V and Dawn Zulueta, with Bianca as his girlfriend. “It's great working with Tito Michael and Tita Dawn in the movie,” adds Bianca. “Pare-ho kaming nag-enjoy ni Miguel. Malapit na rin pong ipalabas in July, so abangan n'yong kasi family drama siya with touches of comedy na very entertaining from start to finish.”

Bianca says doing a show like “Sahaya” is an eye-opener for her. “I got to know more about the culture and lifestyle of the Badjaws and I really admire the simplicity with which they lead their lives. The give importance to protecting the environment, treasure the little things they have and do not turn their back on their cultural background,” she says.

Bianca graduated from high school last March and she intends to go back to school soon to pursue a college degree. “But I'm still weighing my options kung ano ang course na kukunin ko at kung saan ako mage-enrol where they will allow me to be a working student,” she adds.

Regine calls out basher: ‘If you do not like us, unfollow’

Regine Velasquez wouldn't let a basher ruin her and husband Ogie Alcasid's happy vacation.

The couple is in Boracay enjoying white sands and clear waters as seen on their Instagram photos.

However, one basher kept posting mean comments, even insulting their appearance.

“@ogiealcasid talaga naman nakakasawa na yung pangit mo pagmumukha sa IG magsama kayo ng balyena mo sa asawa na walang ginawa kundi magtitili sa TV masakit na sa tenga yung boses pweweeeee nasaktan ka kasi totoo magsama kayo chaka unano at balyenang laos,” the comment read.

Regine didn't let its slide. She posted a screenshot of the comment and expressed sadness that there are people “who wish ill on anyone.”

“This is so sad now I understand why there are celebrities who deactivate their social media accounts. There are so many ‘mean’ people out there who wish ill on anyone who experience the simple joys in life,” the 49-year-old wrote.

The Asia's Songbird then encouraged bashers in general to unfollow her and Ogie on their respective social media accounts so they can no longer see their posts and stop the negativity online.

“I feel sad for you. Again if you do not like us unfollow and daling gawin hindi hindi mo na kami makikita sa feed mo. God bless,” she said.

What's stopping Mikael from marrying Megan + other stories

FORMER Miss World Megan Young denies speculations that she and BF Mikael Daez have tied the knot while they were vacationing abroad recently. “We're not even engaged yet,” she says. “He has not even officially proposed yet. But if he does, then I will definitely say yes. But we don't have a definitely timeline for our kahit 8 years na kami, we're still enjoying our lives individually.”

And then, they also prioritize their respective careers. “Yes, kasi right now, we're both currently busy. He has his morning comedy show, ‘Alex and Amie’, and ako naman, I've just started taping for a new horror-drama, ‘Hanggang sa Dulo ng Buhay Ko’, which was formerly titled ‘The Haunted Wife’.

Makakasama ko rito sina Rayver Cruz, Kris Bernal and Kim Domingo.” Aside from this, Megan is also working as a teacher in personality development and public speaking at the workshop series offered recently by Empire Studios at Uptown Mall in BGC. This will be a monthly thing that happens until November. Megan asked her younger sister Lauren to also give her own inputs in the workshop. “Personality development is very important as it helps you to communicate better with other people,” she says. “But it starts from knowing who you are and knowing your own goals and aspirations in life from which you can then chart your own future.”

Kayla Rivera on discovering Carole King's music

Musical actress Kayla Rivera was only 11 years old when she “instantly” fell in love with the classic rendition of “(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman,” recorded by legendary soul singer Aretha Franklin.

“It became my go-to song whenever I had singing performances,” Kayla fondly recalled in a recent interview with this

writer.

While identifying the song with the original artist who recorded it, Kayla said it wasn't until many years later when she would find out that it was only one of many timeless tunes written by the equally legendary songwriting tandem of Carole King and Gerry Goffin.

Fast forward to 2019, Kayla is set to portray King, an iconic artist in her own right, in Atlantis Theatrical's production of Beautiful: The Carole King Musical.

Kayla admits that while she has done several musicals for Atlantis including Aladdin, Carrie and most recently Side Show where she and fellow cast member Gab Pangilinan got rave reviews, she could not believe she would get this particular gig.

“My initial reaction to Direk Bobby Garcia while squealing with excitement was, ‘Really? Are you sure?’ I am, of course, so grateful and excited for another opportunity to work with Atlantis Theatricals, as this show and role specifically, as Carole King, is without a doubt my biggest role to date,” she enthused. “It's rare for an actor/actress to find themselves in a role that allows them to fill the shoes of a legend, never mind a living legend. So as soon as I was offered the role, I immersed myself in all things Carole King. Her Natural Woman biography, all interviews and documentaries I could find online and, of course, her record-breaking music.”

After several rehearsals, Kayla admits that she's now an even bigger fan of both the person and her music. “The musical is basically the story of the creation of her hits interweaved with her life story from when she was a young girl and the experiences that took her all the way to her classic album, Tapestry,” she revealed. “She was the epitome of optimism and resilience and you will really see that in this Beautiful story.”

“She was the epitome of optimism and resilience and you will really see that in this Beautiful story.”

Iya denies ‘stealing’ hosting job from friend Suzi

IYA Villania is flattered that she's been

tapped to be the new co-host of Camille Prats in GMA-7's new morning show, “Mars Pa More”.

The show used to be known as “Mars” (for Mare), a lifestyle talk show scheduled in the early evening slot on GMA News TV, with Suzi Entrata as co-host. It's been on for seven years now. But Suzi is already in another morning show, “Unang Hirit”, so she's being replaced by Iya. It will start airing on July 8.

Iya says it's really been her dream to host a lifestyle show like “Mars Pa More”. “Actually, I have mixed feelings.

Siyempre, I'm happy they chose me to be the new co-host of Camille, but nalungkot din ako at kinakabahan kasi ‘Mars’ is so identified with Camille and Suzi. Nag-usap kami ni Suzi about this even before I learned akong ipapalit sa kanya.

She said, ililipat nga sa morning ang ‘Mars’ but hindi na siya puwede because she's also in ‘Unang Hirit’. She even told me, Baka ikaw ang ipapalit sa akin. I think she's joking pero nagkatotoo nga.

Two weeks after we've talked, management had a meeting with me and said ako nga ang napili nila. I never really thought na mapipili akong co-host ni Camille.

I talked to Suzi again after that and she said she's happy for me na ako ‘yung nakuhang kapalit niya. She even wished me good luck on my first taping day with Camille. So I felt peaceful after that. At least, walang masama ang loob sa'kin and no one can accuse me na inagaw ko ‘yung show sa kanya.”

“Mars Pa More” will have fun-filled segments like family-friendly games, interesting crafts, musical numbers, trends in social media, all sure to bring mothers and their kids closer to each other. It will introduce new kid stars who can sing, dance and even cook, to help spread good vibes with Camille and Iya. Don't miss the new and exciting “Mars Pa More” as it starts airing on July 8, Monday to Friday, from 8:50 to 9:20 a.m.



Barbie declines work with JM



After working with JM de Guzman in the hit afternoon soap Araw-Gabi, Barbie Imperial says she doesn't want to work with him again anytime soon because of their personal problem. In fact, she turned down an offer which will pair her again with the actor.

In a recent interview, the 23-year-old actress said that she feels it's not yet time for her to work opposite her former leading man.

"I believe it's better to wait for the right time. I don't want to hurry on things. We are not okay to begin with," she states.

Prior to the interview, Barbie posted a cryptic message on her social media account which read, "Once a liar, always a liar!"

This came out after JM appeared in the top-rating showbiz-oriented talk show Tonight with Boy Abunda in which he revealed that he tried to pursue Barbie after they did Araw-Gabi.

"I got hurt when he said that we dated for just one month. As far as I'm concerned, it's more than that. But for him, it was just one month," Barbie points out and further says that she and JM had lots of problems in the past and these do not only concern their career.

"It has something to do with our past relationships which still needed to be fixed. Actually, it's not simple. It's possible that he pursued you seriously. It's also possible that he pursued you while he still has involvement with another person. Then it's possible too that he pursued you as if he wants to hurt you again. What's definite is that he pursued me," she carries on.

"So from there, you can see that both of us are like two shattered or broken individuals who are trying to make each other whole again. But I realized it's not that easy. It's hard. Ideally, one should be whole to fix another person who is shattered. How can you fix the other individual when you yourself isn't fixed in the first place? How can you restore order in yourself given that scenario, right?"

This is the reason why Barbie maintains that at this point, she can't be friends with JM.

In another development, the search for the next "Darna" is heating up. It was learned that she's one of those who were advised to audition for the plum role.

"It's simply flattering to be considered for the part. If it will be given to me, then I'll grab it. Although personally, I prefer to play Darna's main nemesis, Valentina. I think it's equally challenging," Barbie avers.

Aiko Melendez stars in Prima Donnas

From ABS-CBN, Aiko Melendez moves to rival network GMA via the upcoming series Prima Donnas.

"I consider it a new blessing. Being a single mother, this is really a very encouraging development. I thank the Kapuso management for their trust," she says.

Although she's now a Kapuso, the actress still expresses her gratitude to the Kapamilya.

"I've been with ABS-CBN for nine years and I will forever be thankful to my big bosses there who believed in my talent and casted me in many of their soaps. I grew as an actress with all the opportunities they've given me. I wouldn't reach my present stature without their help. Anyway, this is a small world and I'm certain that in the future, there's still the possibility

that I'll work with them again." As of now, Aiko is excited with this new phase in her career. "I'm really looking forward to be playing a big part in GMA's latest afternoon soap," she exclaims. The soap is directed by Gina Alajar and will also reunite the seasoned actress with Wendell Ramos. "There's also Ms. Chanda Romero and of course, Kapuso tween stars Jillian Ward, Althea Ablan, and Sofia Pablo. By the way, the name of my character is Kendra so watch out for me!" ends Aiko.

Amid transfer rumors, Richard Yap to appear on ABS-CBN series

It seems there is no truth behind the rumors that Richard Yap is transferring to another network after being with ABS-CBN for eight years.

inRead invented by Teads The actor will soon appear in the third season of "Kadenang Ginto" as seen on a teaser released

yesterday. The Kapamilya afternoon drama series stars Beauty Gonzales and Dimples Romana, to name a few.

Based on the teaser, Richard's character will be involved in the rivalry between the two female lead characters.

Rumors of the actors' network transfer began the time he was running for congressman in the first district of Cebu. Several blind items surfaced claiming he will leave ABS-CBN after the elections.

Usap-usapan na break na sina Julia Barreto at Joshua Garcia

Bilang concerned father ni Julia, gumagawa raw ng paraan si Dennis Padilla na kausapin si Joshua. Pero tila iniwasan daw ang veteran comedian ng young actor.

Matatandaang sa umpisa ng relasyon ng dalawang young stars, kinausap ni Dennis ang binata at nagbilin ditong huwag pababayaang o lolokohin ang anak at baka maging action star siya. Pero eto nga., tila ayaw kausapin ni Joshua si Dennis.

Kung tutuusin, bata pa nga naman ang dalawa para sabihing seryosohan na talaga ang kanilang relasyon.

Julia can take it from her own mom, or her titas for that matter.

Well, they can still be loveteam, lalo pa kung gusto pa rin sila ng fans.

Or baka naman tampusang lang ito?

Enchong Dee says he broke world record for teaching most number of kids to swim

Enchong Dee is in high spirits over his recent achievement.

On Instagram, the actor revealed he and his team have broken the Guinness World Record for the most number of children

being taught basic swimming skills and water safety in one day.

Approximately 1,800 Filipino kids took part in the event in line with the advocacy "#Drown-

FreePhilippines."

Enchong, 30, was part of the Philippine national swimming team and has participated in the SEA Games and 2006 Asian Games.



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Don't Call Me Tita

Cherie seriously warns and explains her reasons

CHERIE Gil was presented to the press as one of the judges of the Starstruck Season 7 council, along with Heart Evangelista and Jose Manalo. The hosts on primetime are Dingdong Dantes and Jennylyn Mercado, to start airing Saturday and Sunday. Kyline Alcantara is the host on the online version on YouTube.



Cherie Gil (center) with Kyline Alcantara, Dingdong Dantes, Heart Evangelista and Jose Manalo.

ba kita? I wrote about it in social media and many women were able to identify with it kaya it went viral. 'Yun lang mga nephews and nieces ko, family friends, at 'yung talagang mga nakakakilala sa'kin ang puwedeng tumawag sa'kin ng tita."

Her two kids with Roni Rogoff, Bianca and Rafael, are both very good looking. Would she encourage them to join an artista search like Starstruck? "Well, it's up to them. Right now, Bianca has just graduated from NYU in theater arts while Rafael is taking up liberal arts in ethics and law. I think he wants to be a lawyer."

She was a hit as Helena in "Onanay". Does she have a new soap? "I really enjoyed 'Onanay' kasi it's one show na I was there from start to end. Doon sa iba, pinapatay agad ako, e. They offered me a new one, also to be directed by Gina Alajar,

but I was going to the US so I wasn't able to accept it. I heard they also offered it to my mom (Rosemarie Gil) but she's also in the US. Then I'm also doing Starstruck Season 7 so dito muna ako. Besides, I've just finished two new movies. First is 'Kaputo!' with Alfred Vargas, written by Ricky Lee and directed by Mac Alejandre. It's a movie within a movie and I play the director and also one of the characters in the movie. Then I did 'Mirador' with Loy Arcenas where I play a balikbayan from the US. Very European ang treatment, puro visuals lang at kakaunti ang dialogue."

Cherie just won the Star Award for best supporting actress for her role as a high class pimp in "Citizen Jake", but she was not there to personally accept her trophy. "I didn't expect I'd win. Kasi one scene lang ako sa movie, but I guess they must have found me effective. Nakakatuwa nga, kasi may movies akong ang haba ng role ko at pinaghirapan ko talaga, pero hindi naman ako napansin. I wasn't able to go sa awards night kasi I just returned from the US then and I had to go sa last night ng play ni Floy Quintos na 'Kundiman Party', so I watched it. I love Floy's work, especially his play on Atang de la Rama. I told him to write me a similar material about Miss Rita Gomez. Alam mo naman, I also love doing theater."

Pops single, but happy

"I'm happy because of my family, my friends and the things I do," diin niya.

Although she's open with the idea of having a new partner in life, naniniwala siyang bu-darating ito sa kanyang hay kung talagang ukol pero hindi umano siya naghahanap.



Her separation from her ex-husband Martin Nievera has taught her a great lesson. Pero ang nakakatuwa, the two remain good friends dahil na rin siguro sa kanilang two grown up sons na sina Robin at Ram.

Matagal nang tanggap ni Pops ang kanilang sitwasyon ng dati niyang mister, ang bagong nobya nito (not from showbiz) at ang isa pang anak ni Martin sa dati nitong girlfriend na si Katrina Ojeda na si Santino. Si Katrina ang naging dahilan ng paghihiwalay bilang mag-asawa nina Pops at Martin but that too, is now water under the bridge.

"Matagal na tayong nakapag-move on," she smiles.

Despite the separation bilang couple, nananatiling loveteam on stage ang dating mag-asawa. Katunayan, inaabangan ng marami ang kanilang much-awaited concert tour sa Amerika at Canada ngayong August and September na siyang pagkakaabalahan ni Pops pagkatapos ng showing ng pelikulang "Felelennial (Feeling Millennial)" na magbubukas sa mga sinehan nationwide simula ngayong Miyerkules, June 19.

When the concert tour is over ay doon lamang siguro haharapin ni Pops ang kanyang next project bilang concert and movie producer.

"Sobrang nakakatawa, entertaining at magi-enjoy kayo sa "Felelennial....," pagmamalaki ni Pops who looks forward to her next project as a producer.

Lovi, Rhian return from US, share experiences

LOVI Poe and Rhian Ramos both just took a sabbatical and stayed in the U.S. for more than six months. Both of them were also last seen together in the GMA romcom, "The One That Got Away", which was shown last year. The two Kapuso stars said they had a grand vacation to re-inspire themselves. They were together briefly in the Big Apple, but Rhian didn't just had a good time there but also took the opportunity to take up short courses in film and acting in New York.



new movie she did for the Filipino-British filmmaker Andrea Walker.

It's titled "Empty by Design" and is the closing film in the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Filmfest. She played Samantha in the movie, a Filipino millennial experiencing loneliness living in the U.S. who goes back home to the Philippines in a journey that leads to self discovery. She co-starred with U.S. based Fil-American actors Dante Basco and Osric Chau.

As for Lovi, she also visited both New York and California. She arrived in New York in January and visited its famous places, including the apartment building of the hit sitcom, "Friends", and watched the musical "Waitress" on Broadway. But it was in California that she celebrated her 30th birthday on February 11 in the famous

home of Hollywood stars, Malibu.

It's also there that she took some acting classes to improve on her craft. She likewise plans to later write her own screenplays and maybe, a book. In Napa Valley, she met up with Maja Salvador who's traveling with her boyfriend named Rambo. Obviously, she has broken up with her Paris-based boyfriend, Chris Johnson, whose shadow was not even seen while she was staying in the U.S. for almost six months.

Both Rhian and Lovi are happy to be back home. Maybe now, the Kapuso network can give them new projects so they can go on with their local acting career. Someone told us both Rhian and Lovi tried to audition in some U.S. shows while they were there, but it's really difficult to get in because they have to really stay there and enrol first in language classes for them to have a more acceptable American accent.

"Kung si Sam Milby nga, lumaki roon at American accent na kung magsalita, hindi pa rin makapasok," says our source. "Mahirap talaga makapasok sa Hollywood man o sa New York."

Katrina quiet about new lovelife

KATRINA Halili is back in full contravida mode in her latest soap, "Prima Donnas", which stars three tween stars in the title roles. These are Jillian Ward as Donna Marie, Althea Ablan as Donna Belle, and Sofia Pablo as Donna Lynn.



"Siyempre, kasali ako para may mang-aapi sa kanila," says Katrina, who's used to oppressing children in previous soaps like "Munting Heredera" and "Sa Piling ni Nanay". "Exciting ang show kasi it's directed by Gina Alajar, fresh from her successful direction of 'Onanay'. Nakakatuwa rin kasi si Jillian, nakita nating bata pa through the years, but now level up na siya as dalaginding in her most mature role as the Ate of the Donnas. Excited din ako kasi kasama namin dito sina Aiko Melendez, Wendell Ramos and Chanda Romero. Malapit na kaming umere kaya abangan nyo."

About her romantic life, the rumor is that she has found a new boyfriend who's not from showbiz. She has been seen attending the culinary classes of well-known chef, Heny Sison, because she believes that the best way to a man's heart is through her stomach. How true?

"Ay naku, 'wag na nating pag-usapan 'yan," she says. "Nag-aaral akong magluto for my daughter, Katie, not for anyone else. She's turning 7 years old in a couple of months at nagiging pihikan na sa pagkain so gusto kong matutong magluto ng iba't ibang klaseng dishes."

Derek-Andrea on-screen chemistry on new series has people talking

It's their first time working together yet the onscreen chemistry between Derek Ramsay and Andrea Torres is nothing less than scorching on "The Better Woman."

The two were first seen together in the station's summer ID and, right away, many noticed there's something there. In an interview, Andrea

confirmed they instantly and effortlessly hit it.

"Surprisingly, I didn't feel awkward with him. We have the same humor and values, so we just jived," she said.

Derek also has a good impression of Andrea.

"I researched about her and followed her on social media," he confessed. "She has strong features, so many think she's mataray but she's the complete opposite. Andrea is very friendly and she loves her family so much," he said.



Andrea finds many good qualities in Derek, who is now single following his breakup with Joanne Villalanza. She said it's easy to get along with Derek as he "talks to everyone."

However, the actress wants to keep things professional between them.

"I see that he is a respectful person, loving to his family, and professional, handsome. But we are working together and we are friends so that's how it will stay," she said.

Nothing to do with it

Many were surprised with Derek's recent breakup as they were together for six years. Thus, some speculate Andrea was involved with the breakup.

"I already expected it (the rumor) because we're working together, but it's nothing. I don't know what they have (in their relationship). I also don't want to talk because I don't know any information and I don't have the right to talk about it. I don't want to talk about it because I want to focus on our working relationship, on our friendship," she said.

Eugene Domingo wants to Make them Laught



Sometimes we just have to explore other ideas and not take comedians literally especially when words instantaneously come out of their mouth after being asked series of questions.

Eugene Domingo means no drama

Case in point, when top comedienne Eugene Domingo said that she doesn't like "drama," we had to ask her one more time because we thought she meant something else.

"I mean I don't like to do drama anymore because I have already done a serious role in Barber's Tale. I prefer doing comedy because it doesn't involve too much emotion yet the effect on the viewers is the same. You even make them happy," Eugene told showbiz writers in a recent pocket press conference for the weekly comedy anthology, Dear Uge.

"It's always better to make people laugh. Sabi nga nila, laughter is the best medicine. And you know, every time I do drama, I don't eat. Doon galing ang mag hugot ko... sa gutom," she said in jest.

Meanwhile, the 47-year-old actress is glad that through her show, Dear Uge, people tend to recognize her contribution as a comedian. She is also proud that in three years that the show is on air on GMA, it has already won numerous accolades. Most recent of which were the best comedy program trophies given by Gawad Tanglaw and Catholic Mass Media Awards, and when Eugene was named Comedy Actress of the Year by the Box-Office

Entertainment Awards.

"Initially, Dear Uge was just an experiment, but people liked it so we continue doing the show featuring actors showing their comic side. And the actors we feature in the show are the ones that people normally see doing heavy drama," she said.

The show, which marked its third year in February, is celebrating its anniversary for the whole year.

"That's how we do it. We treat every episode special as if every episode is an anniversary episode. We have funny scripts, heart-warming stories. The viewers laugh but they also learn lessons and get advice on finding solutions to everyday concerns," Eugene beamed with pride.

As part of making each episode special, the comedian was excited to reveal that Michael V. will appear as a guest on the show.

It's always better to make people laugh.

"It's his way of returning the favor because I did a cameo on his directorial movie debut. I really appreciate his effort. I know he has a busy schedule," she said.

For her parting words, Eugene said that apart from the comedy genius, she also wanted her "BFF" Ai-Ai delas Alas to guest in one of Dear Uge's episodes.

"Hopefully she'll be able to accommodate us on my birthday month, July. But we would have to save up. We need big money to afford her talent fee," she ended with a loud laugh.

Sweet Sue goes 'Rock Chic'

Wide-eyed young actress Sue Ramirez always brings a rainbow of colors to the screen. Be it as the little sister of Liza Soberano in drama series "Dolce Amore" (2016, ABS-CBN), or her big movie breaks as one of "The Debutantes" (2017, Regal Entertainment) and eventually the lead in "Ang Babeng Alergic sa Wifi" (2018, Idea First), she proved her acting mettle all while exuding a sunshiny personality and a bright and often kooky fashion sense.

Come July 19 though, the fast-rising star will unleash a secret side she's long had as a singer — make that rock singer. Now more mature in looks and confidence, she feels ready to reveal her unwavering love for music and performing live in a debut solo concert titled "Rock Chic" at the Music Museum.

Now more mature in looks and confidence, Sue Ramirez reveals her unwavering love for music in a debut solo concert.

While she admits she is pressured to give her best to ticket buyers, she is all the more thrilled to be finally ticking off this goal from her bucket list.

The one-night-only show directed and produced by Frank Lloyd Mamaril is a set to be a spectacle of all things Ramirez — her well known edgy yet carefree persona, but this time, highlighting her undeniable



passion for music.

Making the concert even more special is the presence of Ramirez's good friends Kristel Fulgar and Maris Racal with whom she first shared the stage via 2017's "4 of a Kind: The Un4gettable Concert."

Also joining her onstage for a first-time collaboration is crooner Michael Pangilinan.

With the solo concert a first for Ramirez, she candidly said at a press conference on Wednesday that her hashtag while prepping for Rock Chic is #TiwalaLang. She explained the choice as pertaining to the guidance she soaks up from her director and the entire team of concert and music experts behind her. "Right now, I'm binge-listening to songs while thinking of my own unique way of interpreting them instead of just trying to sound like the originals," Ramirez related.

Her director, Mamaril, on the other hand assured everyone that Ramirez is on the right track and in fact all praises for the 22-year-old talent.

With her concert director and producer Frank Lloyd Mamaril (left).

"I know she's meant to do this because I know that she actually auditioned for Star Magic as a singer. Now that she's proven her spot in acting, she just needs an avenue to showcase her singing talent and this is it," he declared.

Samantha Mae Bernardo to bashers: 'Thank you for making me popular'



Bb. Pilipinas 2019 2nd runner-up Samantha Mae Bernardo is back!

Following a "short vacation" from the current media tour of Bb. Pilipinas, Bernardo is out to prove to her detractors that she is ready to fulfill her responsibilities with the national pageant even if she did not win any of the major titles.

Bernardo, who represented Palawan in the prestigious national contest, said that she is still eligible to try the national pageant for the third time in 2020.

"Yes am still eligible (to join next year)," said Bernardo after the Pride Month press conference.

But the beauty queen said that for now, she is not thinking about her pageant plans for next year.

"For now, I want to rest and chill and do the things that I want to do," she said.

Moments after the grand

coronation of Bb Pilipinas 2019, Bernardo admitted she was really devastated when she won 2nd runner-up second time around. She was crying backstage.

"I really worked hard during the competition. The first person I called after the coronation was my boyfriend. He watched the show. Then I also received text messages, words of encouragement from Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach, Miss Universe Philippines 2014 MJ Lastimosa and other queens," Bernardo said.

Bernardo went to Singapore for 10 days after the pageant. She came back to Manila in time for the Pride Month activities at the Araneta Center in Quezon City.

For the first time after the June 9 coronation, the eight winners of the 2019 Bb Pilipinas are finally complete again in one photo.

Now she has moved on from pageant heartache. Asked about her message to bashers, Bernardo said: "God bless you guys! Thank you for making me popular."

She added: "I respect their opinions. But let's just stop the hate. Konting respect lang."

Isko's son Joaquin is stepping into showbiz

At 17, Joaquin Domogoso — Manila Mayor-elect Isko Moreno's son — has finally decided to join show business. By pure coincidence, his dad was also the same age when the actor-turned-politician first ventured into the biz.

But of course, there's no denying that Joaquin is eager to follow his father's footsteps and is grateful Isko has practically paved the way for him to get into TV and the movies, just like the offspring of other stars.

Joaquin or JD as his friends call him is very familiar with his dad's success story in showbiz. Both Isko and his manager, "Daddie Wowie," who is also handling JD's new career, have told him about it repeatedly.

Then 17-year-old Isko forced himself to audition for "That's Entertainment."

"I didn't know how to sing. I didn't know to dance," Isko told Joaquin. "Dinaan ko sa kapal ng mukha. Ganu'n yata talaga pag laki ka sa hirap, pag laman ka ng kalye, you get to be street smart."

"When I auditioned, hindi ako natanggap nu'ng una. Those who passed were told to occupy a portion of the studio bleachers and akala ko naman kasama ako so I sat down with them."

"So si Kuya Germs [the late German Moreno] lumakad then tinuturo kung sino yung mga pasok. He passed in front of me, nilagpasan ako, but I did something to catch his attention so napalingon siya. Pagtingin niya sa akin, he said, 'O sumama ka na.' That started it all."

According to Joaquin, recalling his dad's story makes him feel so blessed since he doesn't have to go through the struggles of a showbiz upstart.

"My dad told me he was with the Monday group of That's Entertainment and every week, he and Daddie Wowie would mix-match Daddie's clothes. Everything he wore was borrowed. The belt was from Daddie's friend, the shoes from another friend, the clothes and so on," Joaquin shared.

"When it was his turn for a production number, he wore clothes that Daddie used when he was a dancer on TV."

Now on GMA Network himself, wardrobe requirements in his show "Studio 7" is not a problem for Joaquin. He can either buy what he needs or the production provides for him.

"But don't get the impression that I can have any clothes that I want at the snap of a finger. We were not brought up that way. Our parents, specially my dad, taught us to value money at a very young age. Whenever we buy something, especially if they're expensive, we have to ask their permission, lalo na kay Papa."

There are times when Isko can be very strict when it comes to spending money, according to Joaquin.

"It's part of the discipline and I understand him. His experience early in life taught him to really value money. I know how he had to sort out garbage just to earn a few pesos. Papa made sure that we know his struggles in the past so that we'll understand where he's coming from sa pag-discipline sa amin."

Now that he is officially in showbiz, Joaquin is excited to earn his own money. But he clarified that it doesn't mean that he would splurge on luxurious stuff.

"Kuripot ako," he said in jest. But more than the money, Joaquin is more excited over the projects lined up for him.

"It's a career, a profession, my dad told me when I said I wanted to enter showbiz. That's why I'm so serious about making it and happy I get to show my talent. I'm very open and eager to learn more."

In Studio 7, Joaquin gets to show his talent in dancing, and had an awesome partner in Kylene Alcantara on the show's latest episode.

Soon, Joaquin will be able to prove he can also act as he is slated to start his first movie next week. He is also scheduled to be paired with Kylene in a GMA weekly series.

Asked what acting tips Isko has given him, the proud son replied, "I've seen a lot of his work and he's a great actor. He told me I have to be truthful in what I do. Pag hindi, the viewers will see through it. He said there should be honesty and sincerity in the emotions I deliver."

PistahanTO-FLAVOURS from page 14

Filipinos.

Blessed with warm weather for both days, the festival went without a hitch. People had more time to walk around, savour the different delicacies of the vendors and bask in the sun while enjoying the entertainment.

Instead of closing the event with an a showbiz star from the Philippines, Mel Galeon of FV Foods produced a Miss Q & A gay pageant. It stands for Queena and Ambassador. It is a fitting closing because the festival also coincides with Toronto pride week.

It was a wonderful weekend for PistahanTO-Flavours.

Academic discussion on Filipino Heritage Month at the FCT



LEFT, Shaun Chen, Member of Parliament for Scarborough North spearheads the discussion on Filipino Heritage Month at the Filipino Centre, Toronto. He also promised to try and get more funding for the art lessons that FCT officer Frank Cruzet conducts at the centre. RIGHT, Toronto Catholic District School Board Ward 8 Trustee Garry Tanuan (centre) also joins the discussion.



Sephy Francisco joins Boobay on October 12 in Toronto

X-Factor UK Dual-Threat singer will help entertain Toronto fans on October 12

Sephy Francisco was born in the Phillippines in 1991. She al-ways



money, you make more money!' Other performers are Angel Tagadtad, Angelica Ladouceur, Leriza Paulino, Charms, and Audrey Bushel.



dreamed of becoming a singer citing her inspirations as Beyonce and Mariah Carey. The star chose to perform the smooth tones of opera song The Prayer by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli. Starting off as Celine, it was clear that Louis, Simon, Ayda and Robbie were being won over – but then Sephy drops several octaves, turning into Bocelli with no effort. Simon Cowell saw the immediate financial gain of such a vocal treasure and said 'I've never judged a duo who's one person! This is incredible. I save



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Fast Walkers Live Average Of 20 Years Longer Than Slow Walkers

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — It can be relaxing to take a leisurely stroll, but the next time you go for a walk, you might want to pick up the pace. Everyone marches to the beat of their own drum but that tempo seems to be divided in two.

We’ve all been there, you’re walking around with a group, half is lagging behind while the other half is racing forward. Fast and slow walkers have been at odds since the dawn of man, but now there may be a good reason to catch up.

On a busy city street, the speed freaks and slowpokes are forced to confront the opposition.

After researching a pool of almost 500,000 people, the study found that fast walkers lived an average of 20 years longer than their slow-paced counterparts.

“They do? They don’t get hit by cars?” one man said.

“I suppose they do. The faster you walk, the fitter you are,” said another.

That’s precisely it. Regardless of body mass, researchers attest that fast walkers proved more physically fit, which served as a better indicator of mortality rates than weight.

Any walking is better than no walking, so fast or slow, a good stroll is a step in the right direction.

Experts say it boils down to fast walking is an indication of better physical fitness, regardless of weight or even height for that matter.

This week’s top show biz news in the Inquirer tabloid Bandera (and why we are moved, if we are moved):

- Sunshine Cruz ‘di pa handa magpakasal kay Macky Mathay: Trabaho muna para makaipon... (Good idea!)
- Jano Gibbs napamura, gobyerno binanatn: one week na walang tubig; konting ulan, baha... (He has a point, you know?)
- Derek Ramsay at Andrea Torres parehong palaban sa hubaran, churvahan! (Must be the weather...)
- Tito Sotto, Lito Lapid, Manny Pacquiao isusulong agad ang paghirang kay Manoy Eddie Garcia bilang National Artist. (Aprub?)
- Willie Revillame ibinenta na ang luxury cars: Wala nang excitement. (It’s never easy to sustain one’s excitement.)
- Enzo Pineda nag-audition para sa Cinemalaya: Bakit ako mahihihiya? (Oo nga naman.)
- Lovi Poe in-love sa British movie producer? (Nothing wrong with that.)
- Ruffa Gutierrez ayaw pang bumalik sa Turkey: Natatakot pa rin kasi ako sa ex ko! (Good decision.)
- Star Cinema, ABS-CBN wala pa ring napipiling bagong Darna? Karakter ni Ding babaguhin na rin! (After all that waiting, Ding is probably a teenager by now.)
- Hugot ni Maymay Entrata: Lumaban nang patas, magpakatotoo pero sa tamang paraan! (Follow your own advice, gurl.)
- Pia Wurtzbach balik-socmed matapos magkasakit; nag-ala BlackPink sa sexy photo! (Go. Work it, Pia.)
- “Pagbabanta” ni Jake Cuenca kay “PBB Otso” housemate Fumiya Sankai sineryoso ng netizens! (Whatta smart bunch.)
- Claudine Barretto sa basher: Ampon? Bakit, siya ba ang pumili sakin para maging ina niya? (PQ–Patola Queen.)
- “Mindanaw” ni Judy Ann Santos balak isali ni Brillante Mendoza sa MMFF 2019. (Will it suffer the same fate as “Alpha”? Your guess is as good as mine. Right, MMFF?)
- Payo ni KC Concepcion sa kapwa Pinay: Mahalin n’yo ang inyong sarili, just be yourself. (Good advice.)

Direk Ricky compares Sanya with Vilma

Being compared to Vilma Santos inspires Sanya Lopez to give her best

SANYA Lopez won as best new actress in the Star Awards and she truly deserves it. She was really good in her very first movie, “Wild and Free”, playing the role of an independent-minded lady Grab driver who had a relationship with two guys she didn’t know are actually half brothers, played by Derrick Monasterio and Juancho Trivino. She even had daring torrid love scenes with both of them.

Now, Sanya displays once again her dramatic prowess in the hit afternoon soap, “Dahil sa Pag-ibig”, as the wife of Benjamin Alves who had a one-night stand with her former boyfriend, Pancho Magno. The latest twist in the show is that Sanya as Mariel is pregnant. Benjamin as Eldon has returned from Saudi only a month ago, but the baby she’s carrying in her womb



is already five weeks old. This means that the real dad can be Pancho as Gary, whose ex-girlfriend, Kelley Day, is trying her very best to win him back.

Sanya shines in all her dramatic confrontation scenes, especially after her husband becomes unreasonably jealous and stalks her all the time. No less than

the show’s director, Ricky Davao, praises her to high heavens for her impressive performance in the lead role.

“Nagulat ako kasi first time ko to work with her and she’s really good,” says Ricky. “She reminds me of the young Vilma Santos kasi, gaya ni Ate Vi noong araw, she doesn’t mind doing sexy scenes at magaling talaga sa drama.”

This compliment from their director should inspire Sanya and encourage her all the more to give her best in “Dahil sa Pag-ibig”.

Joshua Garcia, Julia Barretto admit going through rough patch; deny involvement of Gerald Anderson

Joshua Garcia and Julia Barretto: “For now, babalik muna kami sa pinagsimulan namin... which is pagiging best friend.”

Inamin nina Joshua Garcia at Julia Barretto na dumaan sa isang pagsubok ang kanilang relasyon. Kasabay nito, sinabi rin ng Kapamilya stars na balik muna sa pagiging “best friends” ang kanilang samahan.

Ito ay kasunod ng lumabas na balitang break na ang magkasintahan. Tinanong sina Joshua at Julia kung tootong hiwalay na sila. “Hindi totoo yun. May pinagdaanan lang kami,” tanggi ni Joshua. “Pero okay kami ngayon. Masaya kami ngayon, and napagdesisyanan namin na for now...” sabay tingin ni Joshua kay Julia. Matagal na nagtinginan ang dalawa na tila hinihintay kung sino ang dapat sumagot sa kanila. Hanggang sa si Julia na ang nagsabing, “For now, babalik muna kami sa pinagsimulan namin...”

Pagpapatuloy ni Joshua, “...which is pagiging best friend.” Saad pa ni Julia, “Right now, we’re the bestest of friends. We have managed to remain the bestest of friends...”

Na-interview ang dalawa sa ToyCon 2019. Naroon sina Joshua at Julia bilang bahagi ng cast ng upcoming movie na Block Z.

JULIA BARRETTO DENIES GERALD ANDERSON INVOLVEMENT
Diretso ring tinanong ang dalawa kung may third party in-

volved sa kanilang relasyon, partikular si Gerald Anderson na na-link kay Julia.

Noong Mayo, ipinalabas ang pelikulang pinagtambalan nina Julia at Gerald, ang Between Maybes.

Pagtatanggol ni Joshua sa dalawa, “Parang di naman totoo yun. “Parang di naman magagawa sa akin ni Julia yun, tsaka magagawa kay Gerald. Kuya ko na yun, e...”

Umiwas naman si Joshua nang tanungin kung ano ang pinag-ugatan ng pinag-awayan nila ni Julia.

“Bigay niya na lang sa amin yun. Kumbaga, para na lang sa aming dalawa yun kung ano yung nangyari.”

Sabi naman ni Julia, “I think, like a normal couple, you’ll go through phases at some seasons in that relationship. “But I’m glad kami ni Josh... there was constant communication...”

June 5 nang nasulat ang matalinhagang posts at pahayag nina Joshua at Julia dahilan upang magsuspetsa ang mga netizen na hiwalay na sila.

Sa vlog na ipinost ni Erich Gonzales noong June 1, tinanong niya si Julia kung in love ba ito.

Mahaba ang naging sagot ni Julia, pero hindi niya binanggit kahit minsan ang pangalan ni Joshua.

Sa sagot ni Julia, may sinabi siya tungkol sa mga taong toxic sa buhay na nagpapakumpika rito at kailangang magdesisyon kung ano ang makabubuti sa sarili.

Naging matalinhaga rin ang tweet ni Joshua noong June 3: “i’m a thinker, not a talker.”

Sabi naman ng ilang netizens, parinig ito kay Julia na mas piniling magsalita kesa sa manahimik.

Angelica Panganiban turns down fan’s photo request: ‘I wasn’t working that time’

MANILA, Philippines — Actress Angelica Panganiban apologized after turning down a fan’s request to take a photo with her, explaining she was not working at the time.

A certain @ijo_rudin commented on Panganiban’s Instagram post and expressed dismay after she turned down his photo request at the airport.

“Sana ate angge pinagbigyan mo ‘ko magpactic sa airport @iamangelicap,” the netizen wrote.

Panganiban was quick to apologize to the fan and asked for understanding since she was not working during that time.

“Sorry, I wasn’t working that time. I hope you understand and respect my privacy. I love hugs tho,” the actress said.

Another netizen chimed in and said it was understandable why Panganiban refused to take a photo with the fan.

“Naiintindihan ko kung ayaw ng mga artista magpa photo op sa public places kase nga hindi nila oras ng trabaho,” a certain @alonzochrid commented.

“Kaw ba payag ka off mo tatawagan at utusan ka ng boss mo? Ganun din yun para sa kanila,” the netizen added. (Editor: Mike U. Friald

RESIST continued from page 1

Leonen, a University of the Philippines (UP) alumnus and former UP law dean. Addressing this year’s graduates of the UP Baguio, the SC associate justice also lamented the rise of dictators and tyrants “or simply fascists,” who cast themselves as messiahs during “times of disorder.”

“I sense a reckless kind of impatience” in the country to explain the desire for strong-

men, Leonen said, “particularly those with access to media [who] demand order at any cost.” He added: “Authoritarian regimes have learned to present themselves in a more sophisticated manner... Normally they present [a] false choice. Either maintain democracy the way they have experienced it, or taste the nirvana of an authoritarian regime that is willing to do away with many human rights values in exchange for order and prosperity.” The solution a strongman offers is “not the rule of law, but the rule of insen-

sitivity which would leave many of invisible Filipinos suffering needlessly,” Leonen said.

Many people today “do not question the state of emergency or martial law simply because they are not affected, or because there is nothing happening,” he added.

The rise of information technology which has connected the world, he said, has not helped improve democracy because “information is not illumination.”

“Many have disempowered themselves willingly in order to get the thousand likes,

the hundreds of retweets and the hundreds of reposts, said Leonen, an avid Twitter user.

Quoting UP activist Lean Alejandro, who was murdered during Marcos’ martial rule, Leonen said: “In times of crisis, the line of fire is always a place of honor.”

“Be better than us,” he told the new graduates. “Do not allow yourselves to be silenced ... Do not temper principle with pragmatism ... In the face of threats from those who abuse power, always resist injustice.”



LEFT & ABOVE, Star Entertainment talents perform at Introvoys concert. RIGHT, FV Foods staff happily pose with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau when he dropped by FV Foods on Lawrence branch during Filipino Heritage month.



How Cherry Pie and Tirso Cruz cope with loss, heal and even ‘live with the pain’

Losing a loved one is indeed painful. And while there are no shortcuts to moving on, two Filipino celebrities show it could happen at the right time.



‘Pagpapatawad’

If God can forgive, then so with Cherry Pie Picache.

Five years after the brutal murder of her mother Zenaida Sison, the actress has forgiven the killer, saying “God really took over.” Recall that a day after her mother’s dead, Picache was adamant if she would ever be capable of forgiveness, even calling for the return of death penalty. Weeks after, the suspect who had been a helper of Sison for six months was found guilty of robbery with homicide. He was sentenced to reclusion perpetua or imprisonment of up to 40 years by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court. In a recent episode of “Tonight With Boy Abunda,” Picache talked about her journey of healing.

“Ngayon ko napatunayan — God really took over. It’s really by his grace that I was able to do it. It wasn’t an easy journey, she admitted, but it helped that she was tapped as speakers in different parishes and organizations, wherein she talked about forgiveness.

The actress also came to face to face with the killer. The meeting will be shown on the documentary “Radical Love” airing on ABS-CBN on July 7.

“Dinalhan ko siya ng pasalubong pa. Hindi ko akalain na magagawa ko pa na bigyan ko pa ng tinapay ‘yung taong pumatay sa mama ko. Buong-buo. Buong puso ko siyang pinapatawad,” she said.

Picache revealed she plans to regularly visit him in order to “restore both ‘yung healing namin, magtuloy-tuloy.”

Memories forever



Tirso Cruz III has “accepted” the death of his son TJ, but his memories will forever stay in his heart.

TJ passed away last November after his battle with cancer.

If you’ve been following Cruz on social media, chances are you’ve seen his post as if talking to his late son.

In an episode of “Magandang Buhay,” the actor explained it is his way of remembering him and wishing he’s still alive.

“Usually as a parent, ang feeling mo na kagaya ko, medyo maagang nawala ‘yung anak ko... Ang feeling mo you could have done some more, ‘yung marami ka pang puwedeng magawa para sa kanya. But unfortunately, fate came into the picture and took him away,” he said.

Cruz went on: “Parang sabi nga nila, ‘you have to let go of your son.’ Sabi ko, ‘I have let him go because I know that the love that God the Father can give him, I can never outdo.’ Hindi ko mako-compare ‘yung pagmamahal ko. Mas matindi ang pagmamahal noon and he is in a better place, alam ko.”

Cruz stressed that he will never let go of TJ’s memory.

“Yun lang pog-post ko ng ganun, it’s my way of not letting go of his memory, of not letting go of his essence. Sabi ko nga, his spirit is in heaven but ‘yung essence niya is something that I want to hold on to. Parang every day, may contact ako sa anak ko even if he is gone,” he explained.

“Ako napatunayan ko na totoo ‘yung sinasabi ng mga naka-experience ng death sa family. Na ganun, the pain never goes away, you just learn to live with it. Masa-sanay ka na lang na nandoon ‘yung pain, wala ka na lang magagawa,” he added.

Hunk Shot

Aaron Hernandez

Aaron is 19 years old. His favourite food is lumpia and Osmow's, a Mediterranean dish. He plays basketball and he sings. Someday, he wants to be an engineer. We wish him all the luck in his future.



Have a Little Backbone, Gordon tells President Duterte

BACKBONE continued from page 1

Mr. President, but have a little backbone — the Philippines must have a backbone — I’m not talking about the President, I’m talking about the Philippines,” Gordon said.

The senator highlighted the importance of improving the Philippine economy and military in order to face China. “We are all at fault here. Congress is at fault. We must make sure, if we have claims, to prioritize our Navy,” he said.

“We as a country must decide to become strong,” he added.

Twenty-two Filipino fishermen were left at sea by the Chinese crew after sinking their boat. They were later rescued by a Vietnamese vessel. An investigation is underway to determine whether the ramming was intentional.

Duterte has downplayed the incident as he sought to avoid ruffling the feathers of the Chinese, prompting outrage from critics who want Manila to stand up to Chinese aggression.

Gordon said while Duterte values Filipino-Chinese ties, “the foreign policy of this country and the defense of this country, cannot

depend on the personal friendship of the President. That is most welcome to be friends, but there are other issues to be considered.”

“I tell the President this: We will have less respect from these people if we keep bending backwards and they will think we don’t have spine. I’m sorry i have to be very frank.”

Gordon also recommended to the President to convene the National Security Council to better deal with Chinese activities on the Philippines’ own backyard. He also lashed out at the Chinese government for not being forthright about the Reed Bank incident.

“I’m saying to the [Chinese] ambassador,

‘tell your countrymen to start treating our country with respect,’” he said.

Recto Bank is within the Philippines’ 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone, which guarantees the country’s exclusive rights to the natural resources in the area.

Duterte said China would not allow itself to be prevented to fish even inside the Philippines’ EEZ.

When asked whether the Philippines should prevent China from fishing in the Philippine EEZ, Duterte said the two countries are “friends” and that there should not be any “bloody conclusion.”

Regine, Sharon tease fans on doing project together

How would you like to see the Megastar and the Asia’s Songbird in one project?

Whatever the case, fans are sure it’s going to be a blast.

A few days ago, Regine Velasquez-Alcasid and Sharon Cuneta took to social media and teased their followers about a possible project featuring themselves.

Without giving a clue whether it’s a con-

cert or a movie, the two uploaded a similar photo accompanied with a caption “Soon!!” and a hashtag “#seeyouinOctober.”

The post quickly received positive reactions from their fans, even from other celebrities.

“OMG!” Iza Calzado wrote.

“Finally!” Anton Diva said.

Sharon was one of Regine’s guests at her concept concert “Regine at the Movies” last November.

It was then that the Megastar declared she and the Asia’s Songbird “will do some things together.”



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Filipino Good Life

Madyn Mendoza, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, FV Foods owner Mel Galeon, MP Salma Zahid and Nick Galeon enjoy the start to Filipino Heritage month.

Enjoying Filipino Heritage Month

Filipino Heritage month started off with a timely visit by the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau at FV Foods, the Filipino-owned bakery-restaurant business owned and started by Mel Galeon and his wife, the late Flor Vendiola.

It was not a well-announced drop-by. Mel called me and and said that the Prime Ministed would be dropping by the next day at around 1PM.

“Would you like to cover it,” Mel asked. I am not really thrilled covering politicians but Prime Minister Trudeau is different. He is popular, well-liked and has an ever-engaging smile. He connects to people. He is a natural. And as they say, he can sell ice to the Eskimos and sand to the Saudis.

I went there and waited. There were some more FV employees that came from their production location. When he came,



Judith Gonzales and John Alix, actors of “Temptations of a Hero”, a all-Filipino Canadian produced and starred upcoming feature movie pose with Talakayan Radyo Filipino staff on June 22, 2019, at MCBN TV- Pinoy Radio Studio. Shown, L-R are: Bobby Achacon, Nelson Galvez, J. Gonzales, J. Alix and Tony A. San Juan. (Photo by: Bobby Achacon)

pandemomium broke out. Everybody swarmed him and wanted to take selfies with him. Of course, he engaged everyone who was there.

Then, he ordered some food. I thohght he is like one of those TV chefs where they take one bite and taht’s it. Well, he wasn’t a TV chef. He actually finished his plate. It’s actually a full plate. He didn’t jsut order a small serving on a saucer plate.



He msut be very disciplined if he is going to eat at every Filipino pit stop he is going to make.

Apparently, he did not make a lot of other stops. At least, based on postings on facebook, FV Foods in warden seems to be the only Filipino restaurant he stopped by. That was the most glamorous thing that happened during Filipino Heritage month that I covered.

I went to the Filipino Heritage month kick-off festival at Albert Campbell Square. At the same time, there was a PIDC festival at Earl Bales Park. I did not go to

that anymore.

Then, there was the Filipino Centre Toronto festival called the PistahannTO-Flavours. itis actually a merged version of 2 festivals from last year. Flavours was a festival by Julian Baricuatro. They decided to join their festivals this year into one. The closing program for the PistahanTO-Flavours is the Miss Q&A pageant, a gay pageant. It means Queen & Ambassador. It was a fitting program to end the festival as it also coincides with the Pride week at the end of June.

No network hopping for Shaina Magdayao + other stories

No network hopping for Shaina MagdayaoKapamilya star Shaina Magdayao wants to correct the hot rumor that she is switching home networks from ABS-CBN to GMA.

The 29-year-old Shaina affirmed her being a solid Kapamilya and even promoted her latest web series, Past, Present, Perfect, which now streams on ABS-CBN’s iWant.

“I’m still in the Kapamilya grounds. Proof is my finished work for iWant. For now, that’s the situation,” she points out.

The rumor came out at a time when the actress was still overwhelmed with her recent attendance to the Cannes Film Festival in France.

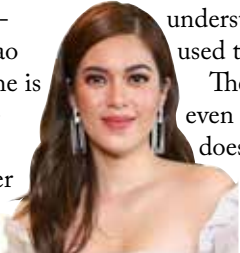
“I was part of the Philippine delegation for the movie Ang Hupa helmed by Lav Diaz which made its premiere at Cannes,” she says.

“It has never crossed my mind that one day, I would be attending this. I thank the Lord for giving me such blessing in my career,” she adds.

“Actually, according to ABS-CBN, they have lined-up a project for me. I’m still unaware of the details though since I just arrived from Cannes. I just don’t know if it’s still going to push through,” she shares.

It’s been a decade when Pops Fernandez last figured in a romantic relationship. After her break-up with Jomari Yllana in 2009, she remained single until now.

“And I’m not complaining!” she says. “I’m okay with my status even if some say no one’s making my heart happy. Maybe some people don’t understand it. But for women whose long been single, it’s quite easy. They would



understand that after a while, they get used to be by themselves.”

The 52-year-old Pops explains that even if she has no love life as of now, it doesn’t mean she’s lonely.

“I may be single but definitely, I’m not lonely! For one, my children are with me. I have lots of friends, too. I can do whatever

I want to do at my time. It’s better. There’s no pressure.”

Does she still wait for the right guy to come along?

“If he does, I don’t mind. But for sure, it’s not my priority. I’m a strong fairy-tale believer that if it will happen, I will just meet Mr. Right without me going out of my way to look for him,” states Pops.

Going strong: Ronnie Alonte, Loisa Andadio celebrate 31st month together

Ronnie Alonte and Loisa Andadio have been in a relationship for almost three years now and they’ve not stopped being cheesy with each other.

The Kapamilya couple, better known as “LoiNie,” recently celebrated their 31st month anniversary and fans are swooning over their sweet photos online.

Loisa shared a photo of them enjoying ice cream while roaming the beautiful city of Belgium. They are currently in Europe for the Kapamilya Fiesta World 2019 with other ABS-CBN celebrities.

“Partner foreverrr I love you!” she wrote



in the caption.

In a previous interview with Bulletin Entertainment, the 20-year-old actress revealed seeing a future with him.

“I just want to be honest. I mean, if you’re in love, it’s a normal thing that you wish he’s the one. I want us to have a future, let’s hope and work on that,” she said.

To bashers that continue to harp on their relationship, Loisa has this to say.

“Truth is, I pity them. Because it seems they don’t know anything else to do apart from bashing. They are just wasting their time on me.”

Candid SPOOF

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



Jose Rizal statue Sculptor Magi Mogado talks to Councillor Alex Chiu at the unveiling reception.



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1. Relaxing at Glo Lounge Dr. Victoria Santiago and Mel Galeon of FV Foods presents FCT Filipino Centre Toronto's Pistahan & Flavours of the Philippines Festival at Nathan Philips Square-City of Toronto June 22-23 during Toronto Pride Week with final Ms Q&A after the Sunday Pride Parade 6pm City Hall.

2. MP Salma Zahid, PM Justin Trudeau and Fe Paca-Taduran pose at FV Foods.

3. Madyn Mendoza and Nick Galeon serve MP Salma Zahid, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as FV Foods owner Mel Galeon welcomes them to his store during Filipino Heritage month.

4. Forex Toronto representatives pose with the winner of Kwarto o Kahon game at the PistahanTO-Flavours festival. Forex has been part of Pistahan since it started.

5. Maria Panaligan and Philip Beloso try to help the contestant pick the box with the biggest prize at Forex kwarta o kahon contest at PistahanTO-Flavours festival.

6. Star Circle talents pose before performing at the Introvoys concert.

Nikki Gil to graduate soon with second degree

Amid raising a family, Nikki Gil finds time for other pursuits.

The former MYX VJ is finishing her second course, Interior Design at The Philippine School of Interior Design or PSID. In 2009, she graduated with English Literature degree at the Ateneo de Manila University. Nikki said going back to school lives up to her concept of "Me Time."

"I'm on my last year... That, for me, is Me Time because during the hours that I'm in school, my mind is kind of there, and I'm a student," she said.

Thing is, Nikki doesn't stop being a mom when she's in school. "My full attention is never there," she admitted. "I'm still preoccupied with how my baby is at home. I'm still checking my phone to see if there's emergency calls or whatever." Nikki and husband BJ Albert have one-year-old son named Finn.

"Obviously, it's more difficult to do homework with him around. Stuff like that," she said.





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