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Philippines 'normal' by 2023

He previously declined to relax quarantine restrictions but Duterte lamented that not opening the economy may lead to more problems for many Filipinos.

MANILA - 'Early first or second quarter of 2023, maybe, with God's help,' says President Rodrigo Duterte

said he sees the Philippines going back to normal by 2023, after the country on Sunday, February 28, received its first batch of coronavirus

vaccines from China. "In about maybe early 2023, not 2022, ito ngay-on hanggang katapusan ng buwan, paspasan tayo

(we'll expedite starting now until the end of the month)," Duterte said when asked when he expects the country to go back to normal after the

first vaccines arrived. "Early first or second

NORMAL 2023
continued on page 18



THE GODFATHER CULTURE

So: I lacked connections to succeed in Phl 'culture'

Super Grandmaster Wesley So tried to sugarcoat it, but his statement following his officially becoming a United States citizen was a punch to the gut for Philippine sports, and for the "godfather" culture prevalent in Filipino society.

Saying he still "loved the Philippines," So expressed elation over receiving his citizenship papers last Feb. 26, about seven years after first defecting to the US Chess Federation (USCF).

"I love that anyone can strive to succeed [here]," So told the USCF. "You are not held back by your color, lack of connections or the amount of

money you have. If you work hard, you have a better chance of making it here than anywhere else in the world. I came here ready to work hard, and it turned out just as I dreamed."

So bolted the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) and joined USCF in 2014, saying he saw no path to his goal as a Philippine national athlete.

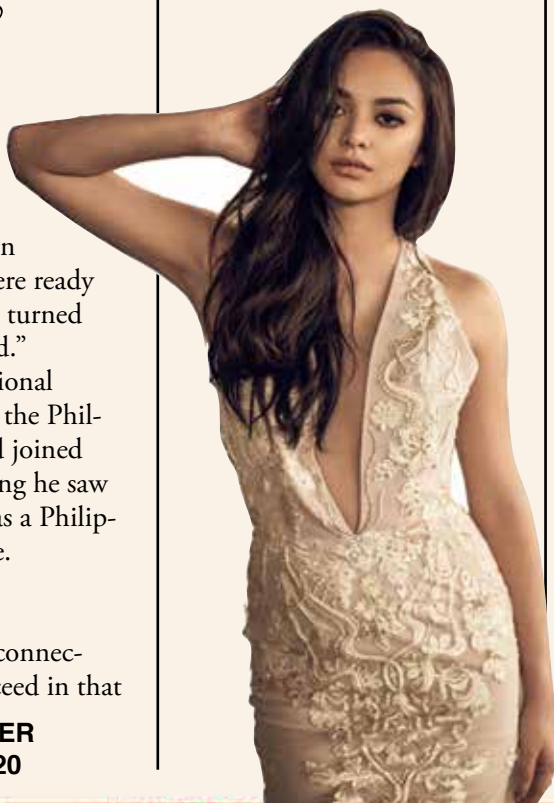
'Not a city boy'

"I did not have the connections needed to succeed in that

GODFATHER
on page 20

Fame or Fortune

Kylie Verzosa answers questions from fans in first vlog



Look Back

Quiapo Church 1957



Philippines, Moderna reach 13 million vaccine doses supply deal

Moderna Inc said it has agreed to supply the Philippines government 13 million doses of its COVID-19 vaccine, with deliveries set to begin in mid-2021.

The company will work with regulators to pursue necessary approvals prior to

the distribution.

Moderna said it expected to reach a separate deal with the Philippines government and private sector to supply an additional 7 million doses.

In January, the Philip-

MODERNA
continued on page 20

Angel Locsin is jobseekers’ new ‘angel’

MANILA, Philippines — Looking for a job? Let an “Angel” be your guide. Angel Locsin will both be your job search engine and tour guide in the latest episode of her weekly advocacy show “Iba Yan.” Baguio has always been a favorite destination of Filipinos. Angel will take viewers to the beautiful sights of the “Summer Capital” aboard the Baguio Soligmay Creative Jeepney. Known for her altruism, Angel tours beautiful Baguio with the help of Grail Lomas-E, a tour guide who was affected by the pandemic but found a way to continue her job by doing “virtual

guiding.” Viewers will get to hear heart-warming stories of hope and resilience among Baguio citizens who struggled as the pandemic greatly reduced their sources of income like Wright Park pony boy Licoy, the strawberry taho vendor Arnel, and working student JM. The show has also started a partnership with Trabahanap last month. The segment sees Angel announcing job vacancies on the Trabahanap website.

Angel Locsin in the Baguio episode of her show ‘Iba Yan.’



Anne Curtis ships husband’s new recipe hoping it would go viral

Anne Curtis was the first to taste Erwan Heussaff’s new recipe, an amalgam of a banana cake and leche flan. Called Leche Nana, Anne described it as a “very good combination of sweet and sweet.” She added, she could probably eat four slices of it given how fluffy it is. “It’s like a burst of like fluffiness in your mouth,” she added.



Note the recipe is the result of Erwan’s effort to create something that would go viral. “What does it take for food or recipe to go viral? On TikTok, it seems pretty straightforward. It’s something that obviously has to be delicious but more importantly, has to be convenient and easy to do. That’s how trends like the One Pan Egg Toast, Dalgona Coffee, Tortilla Fold, or even the Feta Pasta all got started,” he said on the video. “The other type of dishes that get quite popular online are mashups of much love treats think Ice Cream Cake, Ube Cheese Pandesal, Leche Donuts, Chai Latte, or Pancake Cereal. This is the direction I want to take. So let’s try and make the next trending dish.” Will it work?

Honey Shot

Aiesha Janelle Cunanan is a very talented young performer, actress, and model. She loves dancing, singing, acting, pageantry, and modeling! She has been dancing since she was 3 yrs old and is still continuing to dance in many different styles. Her favorite styles are Jazz, Acro, and Lyrical! She is in Grade 6 and studies at an International Baccalaureate (IB) World school. She wants to be a dancing doctor. She wants to have her own dance studio to inspire kids to express themselves and build their confidence! She wants to be a doctor to find a cure for cancer. Her proud, loving parents are Airene and Ivan Cunanan. She appeared in several shows like on TVO Kids’ “It’s My Party”, “How Do You Feel?” and many more! She won the best dancer and the best actress awards at Premiere Global Talent Showcase at Disneyworld, Florida. She represented Team Canada at the International Dance Organization (IDO) in Prague, Czech Republic, and won a Silver medal. She also has won several awards in speech and dance competitions in Ontario. We wish Aiesha Janelle more luck and happiness She Junior Miss Canada’s Top Choice 2019.



Aiesha Janelle Cunanan

Former actress and Miss PH Josephine Estrada passes away

KINGMAN, Arizona — Josephine Estrada Brown, a former Sampaguita Pictures contract star and Miss Philippines entry in the Miss Universe 1962 pageant passed away at 75 in Kingman, Arizona on April 13 just days after her April 9 birthday. Estrada reportedly had been undergoing dialysis treat-



ments and was slated for surgery. She was a favorite leading lady of top actors in the ‘60s, such as Joseph Estrada, Tony Ferrer, Vic Vargas and Dolphy. She starred in about 70 films 1960 until 1983, choosing a movie career instead of finishing her medicine course. Her first movie was “Mother Dearest.” She also starred in “Sa Linggo ang Bola,” “Octavia,” “Tanzan the Mighty,” “Tansan vs Tarsan,” “Prinsipeng Tulisan,” and “Apat Na Kagandahan.”

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Coney Reyes shares impression of ‘Love of My Life’ cast

Television icon Coney Reyes has it all when it comes to acting. Despite her stature, she is more than ready to acknowledge the effort of fellow actors, even those working behind the scenes.

In a recent online interview, the showbiz veteran said about the cast of “Love of My Life:” “It’s really a blessing and I enjoyed working with these talented cast. Alam nila kung ‘it’s playtime’ or serious; malayo marating nila.”

She’s pertaining to actors Mikael Daez, Tom Rodriguez, Carla Abellana and Rhian Ramos who according



to Coney are “doing their best and loving their work.” Coney didn’t forget to acknowledge their director,

Don Michael Perez, as she recalled “Ang damping nagawa ni direk (Don Michael Perez) pero ang cool niya lang. Kapag ganun yung direktor mo, madali mo siya rerespetuhin eh, I think he is a genius in his craft.”

Asked if she’s hoping for another season of “Love of My Life,” Coney suggests that the primetime drama should be a remade as a film due to its unique storyline.

‘DON’T STOP BELIEVIN’” WAS NOT ARNEL PINEDA’S FAVORITE SONG OF JOURNEY

Arnel Pineda said he wasn’t a fan of Journey’s signature song “Don’t Stop Believin’” until he joined the band and realized it had been “waiting” for him throughout his career.

The singer endured what he called a “tough and cruel path” to success before Journey signed him up in 2007. He said he had preferred other songs from the band’s catalog until that point. “Honestly, I was not a big fan of the song at first,” he admitted.

“‘Open Arms’ ... was the very first song I heard from them. ... When I became a professional singer, a cover singer at the age of 16 years old, ‘Open Arms’ was the first song that I sang. ... I think my three most favorite songs are ‘Faithfully,’ ‘Winds of March’ and ‘Why Can’t This Night Go on Forever.’ Mr. Steve Perry’s voice there is absolutely perfect. It just gets me going. When I’m sad or I’m happy, they just make me think about the good things in life.”

Pineda reflected on his more negative moments, saying he was the victim of bullying as a boy and that he had struggled with the death of his mother just before his singing career began. In 2005, he remembered, “I had to resign from my band because I lost my voice. ... It was a tough and cruel path until I met Journey.”

Things began turning around for



him in 2007, when guitarist Neal Schon made contact. “We had a good talk first, and he invited me over to San Francisco and I met [Journey],” he said. That’s when he changed his mind about “Don’t Stop Believin’.” “I finally realized, this song has been waiting for me to realize that it was the soundtrack of my life. It really means so much to me now, and now every time that I go for something, it suddenly rings in my head. It’s those three words: Don’t stop believin’.”

Pineda added: “To be in this band – because some people still consider me a karaoke singer, blah, blah, blah, whatever – I’m just proud and so grateful. I feel so blessed because I was given a chance to be part of such an iconic American band known around the world. What more could you ask for?”



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Life’s brighter under the sun



Bea Alonzo says she only wants ‘a boring family life’

MANILA – Bea Alonzo confessed all she actually wants is to have a “boring family life.”

Alonzo admitted this in a conversation with Ian Veneracion for her most recent vlog post.

“I want to have a partner for life. I want to have someone to be there to raise a family and build a life with. Sana makahanap ako ng kasing buti mo bilang tatay. I just want a boring family life,” she said.

Among her group of friends, Alonzo said she never thought she would be the last one who would settle down.

“Dati ang pangarap ko lang naman, at 28 to get married and have children. Tapos ngayon lahat ng fears ko, halos lahat sila about to get married or they are already married and they have their kids. Kapag inisip ko, like I wouldn’t have guessed nung time na yun 15 years ago na ako yung huling mababakante,” she said. Nonetheless, the actress said she’s

always thought that she is the marrying type.

Currently is rumored to be in a relationship with actor Dominic Roque. They have been seen together since last year, prompting speculations of a brewing romance.

In one of her most recent vlogs, Alonzo also did the “jojowain o totropahin” challenge with her mom, where she said that she would rather date Roque than just befriend him.

In another vlog, Enchong Dee revealed that Alonzo’s last caller was a certain “Nic,” which the actress confirmed was Roque.

Alonzo was last known to be in a relationship with actor Gerald Anderson. They separated in mid-2019 after three years together.





Entertainment, Culture, Santacruznan Food, ...and many more!

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Basta, we are deeply in love 🤪🤪🤪



Hollywood stars and Machine Gun Kelly are deeply in love. Well, they show it by posting a photo of Kelly licking Fox’s face. Ewww. This is one of those movie stars in love so hard that you can already predict it will crash and burn.

Now, mapunta tayo sa Pilipinas. Gerald and Bea dated. They broke up. Julia Barreto and Gerald denied they are dating. Julia denied she is the third party. Gerald denied there is a third party. Bea played the victim card. One year later, Julia and Gerald are happily dating. Galit na galit lahat ng involved.

Teka, sinong involved? Lahat ng involved who are following all of these stars sa newspaper, sa magazines, sa TV, sa movies, sa internet. In short, lahat ng

followers ng bawa’t isa. Panay naman ang posting ng mga artista para dumami followers. Sus Guinooy ni Roxanne naman talaga.

Who signs?

Is the reason the Philippine was late in signing any vaccine contract is because no one wants to sign it. We all know what happens. One year from now, anyone who wants to make a name in politics makes an issue of the price that was paid. Whether right or not, they make an issue of this vaccine. Remember Dengvaxia? The Philippines is the only country where this became an issue. Even those whose children did not get the vaccine started claiming their children got sick from the vaccine just to get money. So, is it any wonder nobody wants to sign a contract?

Whoever signs the purchase contract better move abroad afterwards.

Are they Crazy?

From time to time, I read the news of

someone starting a restaurant during these pandemic. And what comes to my mind is “are they crazy?” Well, you have to be crazy to open and run a business. Let’s look at some of the multinationals that were started during hard times like the depression, recessions, or down stock market.

3M, Adobe Systems, Amgen, Apple, Bath and Body Works, BET, Broadcom, Buffalo Wild Wings, CNN, Chevron, Dave and Buster’s, Disney, Electronic Arts, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Exxon, Mobil, FedEx, Gallup, Genentech, General Electric, Genzyme, Guess, Hyatt, IBM, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, The Learning Company, Lotus Software, Merck, Microsoft, O’Reilly Auto Parts, Pizza Hut, Princeton Review, QuikTrip, Quiznos, Scotttrade, Southwest Airlines, United Technologies, Urban Outfitters, Valero, Whole Foods

May there be more crazy business people succeed. We need more crazy, audacious business-people nowadays.

The story behind Richard Juan’s podcast

Richard Juan has just launched his podcast called “Your dose of inspirASIAN,” with Lea Salonga as first guest.

He talked about how his latest project aims to put a spotlight on Asians from various industries around the globe, highlighting their fascinating works, admirable accomplishments, and contributions to their communities and to the world.

He hopes that through their stories, they’ll be able to inspire the new generation of Asians to pursue their dreams and fulfill their visions.

Richard said, “It is something I am passionate about. I always believe Asians are always downplayed in mainstream media...despite any accomplishments/success. Growing up, and to a certain extent until now, Hollywood have always ‘forgotten’ about Asians. We’re always the ‘best friend’ or the



sidekick. It’s only recently with the success of Korean content globally (K-pop, K-Drama), ‘Crazy Rich Asian’ on the big screen, and ‘Parasite’ winning the Oscars, where us Asians are finally in the spotlight again. So I feel like I want to be part of that movement to further push Asians into the spotlight, and hindi lang lagi ‘sidekicks’ or ‘afterthoughts.’”

Asked why he picked Lea as first guest, he said, “Syempre

we gotta feature our own Asian icon.”

In terms of upcoming episodes, he teased they already taped a feature on a Vietnamese-Canadian TikToker with over 9.3 million followers and a model-entrepreneur based in Seoul.

Among his future “dream” guests are Alibaba founder Jack Ma, Ken Jeong, Awkwafina, Constance Wu.

“He is full of experience and wisdom. I’m sure my viewers and listeners will have a lot to learn from him,” he said about Ma.

Empoy Marquez reveals upcoming project with Maja Salvador

Empoy Marquez answered some of the “most searched questions” about him on his latest vlog.

There, he revealed he has a new, upcoming teleserye with Maja Salvador.

“Meron po ako ngayon —mag-la-lock in shoot kami ngayon

nila Maja Salvador, at marami ‘pang iba. Working pa yung title under TV5, Teleserye siya.

“Sana po abangan niyo po ‘yan, makapag-pasaya po sana sa inyo yung teleserye na gagawin namin,” he shared.

He didn’t offer other details.



Angelina Cruz bares biggest challenge at start of 1st acting project

Growing up, Angelina Cruz usually spent her after-school hours with her parents, Sunshine Cruz and Cesar Montano, in their respective tapings, inevitably piquing her interest in acting.

“I have always been curious about how things worked,” she said.

Now, at 19, she’s no longer a mere spectator, as she finally stars in her first television show, the TV5 Sunday night sitcom “John En Ellen.”

“My mom’s reaction when I told her I wanted to pursue a show biz career, after receiving opportunities, was priceless. I could tell that she was excited and proud of me,” she said.

“She told me not to let such opportunities slip away and to value them. And I did,” Angelina said of accepting the offer to play the role of Camille, the daughter of John Estrada and Ellen Adarna’s namesake characters in the show.

“The advice she gave me was to always work hard and stay humble, and, as much as possible, practice and work on my craft,” she added.

Angelina admitted that

working with a cast of established actors, which also include Ronaldo Valdez, made her feel nervous at first. “It’s a breath of fresh air being able to work with them,” she said. “I’m glad my first television project is with these wonderful people because we all treat each other like family ... We have grown closer.”

Angelina can already see herself taking the craft seriously in the future. “As a beginner, I find acting to be challenging but fulfilling,” she said. “I can see it being my passion.”

The biggest challenge for Angelina at the moment is her Tagalog, which she vowed to work on. “I grew up with English as my first language at home and my school environment. I plan to overcome it by learning or mastering it by watching Filipino films, by speaking it, and continually asking for advice from my mom,” she said.

Prior to her foray into acting, Angelina first tried her hand at singing which, she feels, “comes more naturally” to her. But she’s optimistic that she will be able to juggle both music and acting.

Gerald Anderson finally reveals real score between him and Julia Barretto

Is this the admission everyone has been waiting for? Well, maybe. In a talk with Boy Abunda, Gerald Anderson revealed he is very happy nowadays. When Boy asked, “Are you happy because of Julia (Barretto)?” He answered, “Very happy.” Boy asked again, “Is it a yes?” Gerald smiled and said, “Very happy. It’s a yes.” Boy added, “You know, I wanted to call you. I wanted to call Julia...ano ba talaga ang nangyari? But the thing is, you guys are happy.” Gerald said, “Sobra, Tito Boy!” So, again, is it the admission everyone has been waiting for? Your guess is as good as ours.



Marian Rivera on rumors: ‘Lahat ng artista may tsismis...’

Fans of both Marian Rivera and Dingdong Dantes can now rest their mind with the former assuring all is well in their family.

Note that Dingdong was recently rumored to have gotten pregnant actress Lindsay de Vera.

Was Marian worried about it being true?

Marian simply laughed about it.

She maintained: “Lahat naman ng artista may chismis.



‘Di naman nawawala yung chismis sa pagiging artista...”

She added: “Hayaan mo na lang ang mahalaga naman alam niyo kung ano yung meron kayo.”

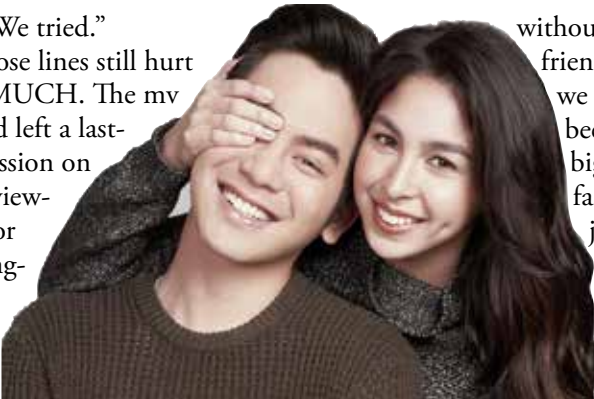
Moira dela Torre, talks why she picked JoshLia for ‘Paubaya’ music video

It's been a month since Moira Dela Torre dropped her "Paubaya" music video on Valentine's Day, no less, and simultaneously crushed the hearts of millions of Pinoys. The song itself—which is about accepting that a former lover has found happiness in someone else—was already immensely heartbreaking, but the mv was a whole other story. It starred former love team partners Joshua Garcia and Julia Barretto whose real-life relationship ended in 2019. And six minutes out of the 11-minute-long video was dedicated to a raw and gutting ~closure~ scene, whose dialogue was co-written by the two actors.

"Sinubukan naman natin 'di ba? Nilaban naman natin 'di ba?"



"Yeah. We tried." Yup, those lines still hurt SO, SO MUCH. The mv has indeed left a lasting impression on so many viewers, and for singer-song-writer Moira, she knew that there really was ~no one else~ who could star in "Paubaya" than JoshLia. In an interview with ABS-CBN, Moira shared how she and her husband Jason Hernandez (who is a collaborator in most of her music) only had the actors in mind for "Paubaya": "JoshLia and Jason and I, we've been friends for quite a while now. But even



without the friendship, we have been their biggest fans. We just couldn't think of anyone else who could be as raw and as natural in conveying a message about forgiveness." Although JoshLia's scenes in the mv can be interpreted as closure for the former lovers, for Moira, "Paubaya" is actually the final chapter of her Patawad era, her 2020 album of the same name. "I think that this was the closure that we

all needed," she said. "The message of my entire album and the entire season that I wrote with my husband is about forgiveness, letting go, and letting God." "Paubaya" has over 16 million views on YouTube as of writing and Moira and her team are still in "disbelief" over the public's reception. "Sobrang grateful ko po. I know that my team and I are still in disbelief with how everything happened, but it definitely was a team effort. Direk Niq Ablao, Jason, Josh, and Julia, we're all so, so grateful for how everyone's receiving this." She also added, "To know that a lot of people related to this, and to know that a lot of people were encouraged by this to forgive, to, you know, do the right thing, to choose to love, it's such a great achievement for me."

Ryza Cenon on bashers: 'Kung ayaw n'yo di wag'

Ryza Cenon made herself clear that she's not forcing anyone to support her in one way or another. Cenon made this clear on her recent Instagram story as she pointed out that she's not pleasing anybody. "Reaction ko kapag may issue sila sa boses ko! Kung ayaw nyo di wag. Di ako mag-a-adjust para sa

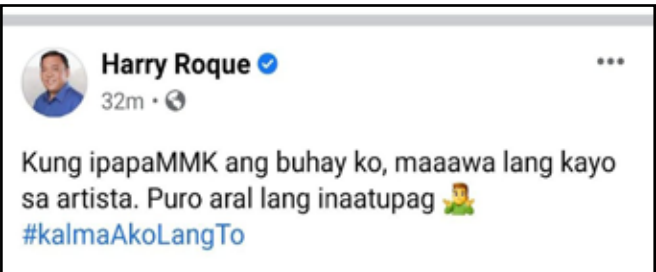
inyo," Cenon wrote along with the photo of her with a sharp stare. For the past few days, Cenon has been receiving negative comments where she was accused of being "OA" and "pa-cute" on her vlogs. According to some netizens, Cenon changed when she gave birth to her first child with freelance cinematographer boyfriend Miguel Antonio Cruz.

Harry Roque criticized for suggesting 'MMK' retelling of life

Controversy continues to follow presidential spokesperson Harry Roque. Netizens were not amused. Some of their comments:

This time, he earned brickbats for hinting on the possibility of his life story being featured on "Maalala Mo Kaya," ABS-CBN's long-running drama anthology. He tweeted: "Kung ipapa-MMK ang buhay ko, maaawa lang kayo sa artista. Puro aral lang ang inaatupag."

"Puro aral wala ka naman natutunan!" "Sa SOCO dapat i-feature!" "Kapamilya pala ang brucha!" "Born To Be Wild ayaw mo?" Harry didn't bother to react to the comments.



Chai Fonacier to star in film opposite Eva Green

Those missing actress Chai Fonacier should be happy to know she is soon to be seen in a film meant for global release alongside Hollywood star Eva Green. A Variety report said the film, titled "Nocebo," will have Chai playing the role of a Filipino

caregiver who uses folk medicine to help heal Eva's character, a fashion designer suffering from a baffling illness. It is set between London and Manila, as directed by Lorcan Finnegan.





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National govt debt hits P10.3 trillion



MANILA – The Philippine government's total debt hit P10.3 trillion at the end of January this year, up 5.4 percent increment compared to the end of December last year, the Bureau of Treasury said.

The month-on-month increase in the debt stock was predominantly due to the reavilment of the P540 billion short-term loan facility from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Treasury said.

Of the total debt stock, 29 percent were foreign borrowings while 71 percent are domestic borrowings.

Domestic debt amounted to P7.3

trillion while foreign debt reached P3 trillion.

The Philippines has been borrowing heavily to finance its infrastructure push, and its COVID-19 response.

Despite this, the country has the second highest tally of infections and deaths due to the disease in Southeast Asia. It was also the last in the region to secure supplies of COVID-19 vaccines.

The Philippine economy, which suffered its worst contraction since the Second World War, is also seen to recover more slowly than its neighbors.

'No strings attached' on China Covid-19 vaccine donation

MANILA— China's donation of Sinovac Covid-19 vaccines arrived in the country with no "strings attached," President Rodrigo Duterte assured.

He said the Chinese government did not ask for anything in return for its donation of 600,000 doses of the Sinovac Covid-19 vaccines.

"China never asked for anything. China has been giving us everything but never asked anything from us actually," he said in a press conference after the turnover ceremony of the Sinovac vaccines at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

He, however, assured China that he will not allow the United States (U.S.) to store and maintain nuclear weapons in the Philippines.

"That's the guarantee that I ano — na hindi ako papayag. Not because it will antagonize China but it is in the Philippine Constitution, which prohibits the presence of nuclear armaments in the country," the President said.

Duterte accused the U.S. of asking for a military base in the Philippines, which he said, will put the Philippines in the line of fire.

"Kung magka-giyera and it will surely start maybe in the theater of war would be the Spratly and China Sea. Katabi lang tayo. Pangasinan, it's just — naka-harap. Maraming probinsiya nandiyan. Alam mo kung may armaments sila dito ang unang tatamaan 'yon. Saan? Sa Pilipinas," he said.

Raymond Gutierrez shares inspiring story on body transformation

Once upon a time, Raymond Gutierrez used to be overweight.

With persistence, the twin brother of Richard is now a Greek sculpture come to life.

He made clear there are no shortcuts. Raymond maintained nothing beats consistent hard work.

"Find a program that works for you and do something you enjoy," he said.



He also focused on his diet.

"What you see here isn't an overnight success story; it's the product of many hours in the gym, changing my eating habits, and finding

the support group to help me achieve my goals. It's never too late to change your life. If I can do it, so can you," he ended.

Amid rumored TV5 jump, Viva says Sarah Geronimo still 'exclusive' talent of ABS-CBN

Viva Entertainment's Vic del Rosario Jr. has come out to belie speculations that Sarah Geronimo is well on her way transferring to TV5, maintaining the 32-year-old singer-actress remains an "exclusive" talent of ABS-CBN. He also denied the latter will be working as a host on TV5's talent search show "PoPinoy."

"Sarah appears only as an endorser in the show and she is not the host."

"She just complied to her commitment as an endorser of Talk and Txt. She is still exclusive with ABS-CBN and the only time she appears on TV5 is when she comes out on 'ASAP Natin 'To.'"

Recall that only a few days ago when fans expressed excitement when they found out that Sarah will be performing on stage once again in the upcoming virtual concert dubbed "Tala: The Film Concert."



Kris Bernal and the necessity of food



With her toned abs, she might not look it, but Kris Bernal is a huge foodie.

In a vlog, she related why she believes food should always be available.

"Hindi kasi ako pwedeng nagugutom, nag-iinit yung ulo ko. Kaya dapat maya't-maya may mag-aabot sa akin ng pagkain. "Tapos 'pag bago matulog kailangan ku-makain ako kasi hindi ako nakakatulog ng gutom. Before sleeping, kakain ako then pahinga tapos tulog," she added.

And who prepares her food?

Well, none other than her own personal chef, her fiancé, Perry Choi.

Kris shared, "Actually, binaunan pa ako ni Perry ng pork ribs, beef stew, tinapay..."

Kris Aquino shares agreement with son Josh



Though it wasn't an easy decision, Kris Aquino recently shared why she is letting his eldest son Josh, live away from her in Tarlac.

According to her, their deal is for his son with Phillip Salvador to continue doing his exercises at least one hour, every day.

"And I can see he's keeping his end of the bargain... nagulat talaga ako, tumanggi to join us sa beach, FOREVER na raw sya in Tarlac. Kay Kuya Josh, may forever..." she quipped.

Kris was reunited with Josh recently after not seeing each other for two months.

"Wala na talagang balak umalis si kuya sa 'Alto' (that's the compound of my mom's family) and for me, kung saan sya pinaka HAPPY, then full support ako..." Kris shared.



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Jose "Joey" Baking



Ate Gay says uncollected talent fees from GMA7 already settled

Comedian Ate Gay is happy that his problem concerning uncollected fees from a major broadcast network has been settled.

“Nabayaran na lahat. Last April ko pa kasi yun kinokolekta, eh 2021 na ngayon,” said Ate Gay in reference to the uncollected fees from three television shows during an interview at the presscon of his comedy film “Ayuda Babes” in Quezon City recently.

“Noong nag-ingay ako sa Twitter, ayun, pinadala agad sa GCash. Nainis na rin kasi ako noon.”

“Wala akong intensyon na siran sila at saka karapatan ko naman maningil. Dapat pa nga matuwa ang network para malaman nila na may mga mababagal silang empleyado,” he added. When told he may not be invited again to the network because of his tweets, Ate Gay said: “Ganun talaga. Wala na akong magagawa roon.”



Ate Gay said that the movie “Ayuda Babes” looks at various situations during the pandemic in a comic way. At the height of lockdown in 2020, Ate Gay said that he got busy with his food business called “Siomai Himala.”

“Wala kasi akong magawa noon at saka hindi rin makalabas ang mga tao kaya nagtayo ako ng business sa Tondo. Noong natapos na ang ECQ (enhanced community quarantine), hindi ko na rin tinuloy yung siomai business.”

“Aside from its entertainment value and making people feel good and laugh, this movie is my modest tribute to the courage, tenacity, never say die and the survivor that is in every Filipino who

by the grace of God, always faces every crisis head on and manages to rise above it, even laugh about it,” said Director Joven Tan.

“We take things seriously but we still manage to enjoy our lives, our family, and this is what the movie highlights and presents in the funniest of situations,” Joven added. Asked who among the comedians stood out in the film, Joven laughed and said: “Si Gar-do Verzosa siyempre. Pero lahat naman sila magaling!”

With an assembly whose composition is made up of standup comedians, comedy bar hosts, concert performers, singers, vloggers, a best actress winner and a seasoned character actor who are all in this Filipino comedic film, parodies are surely an expected ingredient from the talented cast.

Gretchen Barretto to focus on Business

According to Claudine Barretto, her sister Gretchen Barretto is no longer keen on returning to showbiz.

“She just wants to concentrate on being a businesswoman. She’s very busy at this point. Especially now that her daughter Dominique has come back, there are several projects she is currently planning on,” Claudine revealed.

“My sister reports to the office from 1:00-8:00 p.m.. She really works there. That’s where her focus is. So right now, it’s impossible for her to squeeze in time in making a movie. But if ever I’ll have a YouTube channel, she’s willing to appear as guest.”

The younger Barretto is set to do a potboiler under Borracho Films, something that Gretchen is happy about.

“Oh, yes! The moment I broke the good news to her, she was teary-eyed and said, ‘Oh my God! I’m so happy!’ She even suggested that I would need her bus. Who knows, she might give it to me eventually? She really has no interest in doing showbiz anymore.”

Bea Alonzo marks YouTube milestone



Bea Alonzo now officially has over a million subscribers on YouTube.

And to mark this new milestone, she shared a portrait of herself with a “1M” sign that appears to be made of numerous flowers. The caption reads: “Happy 1 MILLION!!! There’s so much to be grateful for.”

According to Social Blade, Bea joined YouTube on June 5, 2018.

Her self-titled channel is currently ranked 216th in the Philippines.

Aicelle Santos, Mark Zambrano and their ‘one-minute date’

For all busy, hard-working lovers out there: there is no such thing as having no time for love.

Singer Aicelle Santos attested to this in a recent post showing her and husband Mark Zambrano enjoying what she described in the caption as their, “1 Minute Date.”

Fellow celebrity Sheena Halili was amused. She commented, “Ang saya! congratulations sa date hahaha.”

The caption may not be so far from the truth as both the singer and the broadcaster are too busy with their respective careers.

Aicelle is part of “All-Out Sundays” while Mark is busy with his work, and being an endorser.

Both of them are full-time, loving parents to their first baby daughter, Zandrine.



Ellen Adarna chides Solenn Heussaff for commenting on her photo with Derek Ramsay

Ellen Adarna is quite protective of her relationship with Derek Ramsay, so it seems.

In fact, she is wary of every comment anyone writes on their posts.

Even if it comes from a friend.

Solenn Heussaff learned this the hard way, recently.

She received a haughty laugh from Ellen posting a comment on a photo of her and Derek.

She wrote: “Cute naman.”

Now, Ellen could have simply said thanks or whatever, but she replied: “Charaught! hahaha...”

Is she smarting due to Solenn being among Derek’s many exes?

Whatever the case maybe, Solenn got her point. She didn’t bother to respond.

Fans, meanwhile, didn’t appreciate Ellen’s move. Some of the comments:

“Lumalabas ang ka Cheapan ni Adarna.

Charaught ka teh, wala ka ng career.”

“Ito naman si Solenn kasi comment comment pa.”

“Baka nag-iging because of her exhibit?”

“Sincere naman si Solenn, si Ellen lang talaga – crass!”



Leave the Filipinx Kids Alone

The irrelevance of Filipinx, at least in the Philippines.

“Filipinx” has reared its head again, pissing off the Twitterverse. The word “Filipinx” has been hovering in cyberspace for years with interspersed waves of enraged online criticism. But everything came to a head when the gender-neutral words “Filipinx” and “Pinxy” were inaugurated into dictionary.com, recognized as legitimate ways to refer to Filipinos alongside Filipino, Filipina, Pinoy, and Pinay.

As expected, while Filipinx was welcome by the Filipino (or Filipinx?) diaspora, it was almost unanimously condemned by Filipinos living in the Philippines. And it’s easy to see why.

Aside from tainting the language with a letter that doesn’t even appear in the Pilipino alphabet, Filipinx wrongly implies the Filipino language is not gender-neutral. In Filipino, there is no “he” or “she” or “his” or “her.” The beauty of “siya” is that it’s the great equalizer. We say “lintik siya” and “hayop siya” with equal passion to whoever it’s directed at.

The birth of Filipinx comes on the coattails



of Latinx, considered a progressive movement in the Latin community, some of whom speak Spanish, a non-gender-neutral language. But Filipino is not Spanish, and the idea that it needs to be gender-neutralized is unnecessary. What’s next after Filipinx? Cavitenx? Ilocanx? Titx?

It’s easy to assume that the Filipino diaspora in charge of championing Filipinx all the way to the dictionary is clueless and disconnected from the realities of Filipinos in the Philippines, especially when some have the audacity to call Filipinos in the Philippines living on “the mainland.” (To those who tweeted that, this is not China).

The disconnect from (not of) the diaspora is clear and only perpetuated with the assumptions that they are the privileged ones. And these “Fil-Ams” (as we love to call them) are only trying to push their westernized, colonized ideals onto the greater Filipino community. It seems like such an easy argument if you enter the conversation with the preconceived notion that the Filipino diaspora is ignorant of their own heritage.

And that in itself proves the debate isn’t black and white. As a globalized kid who’s lived abroad and returned home, I don’t see “Filipinx” as an attempt to “erase and change our culture.” I just see third culture kids trying to establish some sort of community with a common ideal they can all cling to: an open and accepting Filipino diaspora. The word “Filipinx” may

not be relevant to Filipinos in the Philippines, but it is relevant to the members of the diaspora living in countries like the U.S.A. where racial issues and gender labels are hotly contested. Context is everything. Maybe it’s because I know the challenges of living as a third culture kid that I can empathize with those who support Filipinx. Many of them are second or

“Filipinx” may not be relevant in the Philippines, but it is relevant to the diaspora in the US.

third generation immigrants who were raised to know English as their mother tongue instead of Filipino, Bisaya, Ilocano, etc. Life is a perpetual balancing act of the many cultures of their birth, with

FILIPINX
continued on page 19

Heart Evangelista on her hardest role

Heart Evangelista’s role in the 2007’s TV series “Hiram na Mukha” is the hardest she ever did. She never enjoyed it at all.

Heart shared that her biggest problem about it was the prosthetics she had to put on.

“Because I have to keep the prosthetics until 3 a.m. and the hole of my nose is on top. I called her manager to take the burden off.”

She accepted the project for money ‘coz she tried living on her own for the first time.

“I have to start from scratch. I had to do this because I had no money that time.”

That time of her life was “super torture.”

Heart intimated that her minder, Ate Resty, treated her to a Japanese restaurant at some point because she didn’t have enough money to buy herself a decent meal.

“30 pesos lang laman ng ATM ko,” said she.

“Even worse because my mom really wanted me to suffer so I go back to her.”



Jose Sarasola spills the tea on relationship with Maria Ozawa

Some might think him lucky having hottie Maria Ozawa as girlfriend but Jose Sarasola admitted it isn’t always a bed of roses.

Apparently, there are people who look down on them, zeroing in on Maria’s past life as among more popular porn stars of her era.

Worse, these people actually make great effort to bash them on social media.

“It was really hard. Name it, lahat ng mga bashing, crude, negative comments nakuha ko,” Jose said in a “Tunay Na Buhay” episode on Thursday.

He added, “Sometimes I would answer back sa mga negative comments, sa mga nagba-bash sa amin, but then my friends were saying, ‘alam mo the more you answer back to this people, you’re making them win and be happy e.”

Thankfully, Jose and Maria are made of sterner stuff. They happily celebrated their fourth anniversary recently.



You look like a Filipino Maid

‘Make My Heart Smile’ now kaput following rude ‘Filipino maids’ remark

Beijing-based streaming platform iQIYI has apologized concerning the controversial slur on Filipino maids as uttered by a character in “Make My Heart Smile,” one of the many drama series it is carrying.

“It has come to our attention that there is an offending scene in the show ‘Make

my Heart Smile.’ This is not OK and we have edited the scene out. We are sorry,” it tweeted.

iQIYI have since decided to pull the program from its library. “Make My Heart Smile” debuted on Feb. 6.



It immediately garnered notice from many Pinoys, with a character denigrating another saying she looks “like a Filipino maid.”

Some thought it “inappropriate,” while others deemed it an “insult.”

Joshua Garcia issues disclaimer with fan account congratulating Gerald Anderson, Julia Barretto

It seems that Joshua Garcia doesn’t want anything to do with Gerald Anderson and Julia Barretto.

The actor was quick to issue a disclaimer with a fan site bearing his name congratulating Gerald Anderson and Julia Barretto.

He wrote, “FYI po, this one is not mine and I don’t have any active Facebook account. Kindly spread the info. Thank you.”

Maybe he didn’t like it that the same

fan page posted a photo of him eating, going on to write as caption: “Maging masaya tayo sa ikaliligaya ng iba...”

In any case, many are puzzled as to why the actor deemed it necessary to issue a disclaimer, particularly as he didn’t bother with whatever the account would post prior.

Some of the comments: “Still hurting?” “Ayaw lang niya madamay sa kuda ng dalawa!” “Naku ang drama naman kasi...ang haba nang prusisyon aamin din pala!” “Poor Joshua, poor Bea...”



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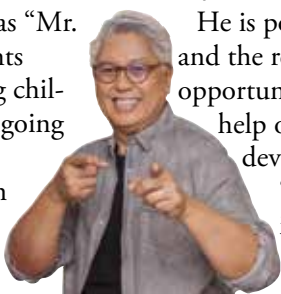


Ryan Cayabyab: ‘Parental support is crucial for child’s creativity’

The music genius known as “Mr. C” shared some of his insights when it comes to developing children’s creativity amid the ongoing pandemic.

In a published report from the National Center for Biotechnology Information website, The National Artist for Music related: “Children have emotionally pent up feelings of distress which may turn inwards into emotional fear or outwards towards acting out behavior.

“They might feel separated or alone as they have limited knowledge and level of maturity to understand the implications of the current pandemic situation in their limited world.”



He is positive that this pandemic and the resulting lockdown offers an opportunity for youngsters, with the help of their parents to learn and develop their creative skills.

“What we found to be a positive result of the quarantine during this pandemic is that parents and children had more time together physically.

“However I would still encourage parents to organize a schedule, or some kind of learning regimen that their children will have to adhere to, like a regular time for school, for play, for specific bonding while doing something creative or practicing on their instruments or doing art, or dance or performance.” he said.

Sophie Albert looks up to two ‘superhero moms’

Soon-to-be mom Sophie Albert is beyond excited to become a mother.

In a recent interview, she shared some of her inspiration when it comes to her biggest role yet.

They are none-other than Jennylyn Mercado and Hollywood A-lister Gal Gadot.

Sophie admired how Gal finished taping one of her “Wonder Woman” films while she was pregnant.

“Sana ganun rin yung maging path ko,” she said.

On the other hand, she also admire how Jennylyn retained her star status after all these years all while being a hands-



on mom to son Alex.

By the way, for those who are still babies or too young when it came out, Jennylyn portrayed “Super S” on the now classic, 2007 GMA Super-hero fantasy series “Super Twins.”

Sophie, 30, is now engaged to long-time partner Vin Abrenica.

They are expecting a baby girl.



Darren Espanto shows some muscle; is Cassy Legaspi interested?

Darren Espanto doing his late night workouts is just half the story.



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Life’s brighter under the sun



His caption, which read, “Twitter saw it first,” is now earning a bit of buzz, following the reaction of some friends.

Mavy Legaspi commented: “Sa alam ko bro, parang it wasn’t twitter that saw it first... parang may kilala ako.”



Edward Barber joined in the fun as he wrote: “oo nga.”

Note that Darren is being romantically linked to Mavy’s sister Cassy.

The brother has spoken.

Was he alluding to Cassy?



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The Comfort of Home

Well, there's nothing happening right now. Parties are still on hold. Birthdays are still celebrated by the celebrant and only with the family. Friends do a drive-by honk greeting.

Whether your area is on stay-at-home order or under the colour-coded opening, the advice is still the same—stay at home as much as possible. People are still making a big issue of videos of crowded stores such as the one at HomeSense. People were quick

to judge that there was no social-distancing being observed. Upon inspection, it's no more crowded than a line-up at a grocery store. But people were quick to judge because it was not a grocery. Let's all take a deep breathe. We just have to get through this.

Kris Aquino defends sons Josh, Bimby from nasty online talk

'That yellow brick road is starting to look very inviting now,' says actress Kris Aquino, whose two sons had been the target of gossip on social media

Kris Aquino "warned" her detractors that they were "pushing [her] in the direction [they] are so obviously afraid [she] will take" by dragging her two sons into controversies and subjecting them to harassment.

"I am not blind, and I am not stupid.... In a span of a week, my children have been used to trigger me. Kuya Josh, with zero factual basis, was said to have impregnated a girl. Bimby has been repeatedly targeted with bullying because people are insisting he is gay," said Kris in an Instagram post on Sunday, March 7.

The "Queen of All Media" urged rumormongers to "name and show" the girl whom Josh, her eldest son, supposedly impregnated.

Addressing the bullying that 13-year-old Bimby has been subjected to, Kris said: "I know my son doesn't

identify as being gay, but in the event he ever does, he will still be my son. The bullying you are doing is a reflection of your homophobic attitudes that are no longer welcome in 2021."

Recently people on social media had been poking fun at Bimby—going as far as assuming his sexual orientation and gender identity—based on a short video that Kris had posted.

"What is very clear to me is that some people cannot stand the fact that despite all their efforts to bury me, I am still standing," said Kris, pointing out that she has been doing "[her] part with [her] hard-earned money" to help people who've been struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kris then added that she was the wrong person to mess with. "This isn't a threat. I am merely stating a fact."

"Leave my children alone and I will remain a private citizen. Continue

messing with them, then you are pushing me in the direction you are so obviously afraid I will take. That yellow brick road is starting to look very inviting now," she added, making a reference to "yellow"—the color associated with her late father's Liberal Party.

Kris is the daughter of two democracy icons in the Philippines. Her father is the slain senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr and her mother is Corazon Aquino, who rose to the presidency after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Her only brother, Benigno Aquino III, was president from 2010 to 2016.

Kris herself has, so far, avoided politics herself. But she's campaigned for her brother and his chosen candidates in the past.

Despite being away from TV or the movies for several years, Kris has maintained a huge presence on social media.



Ellen Adarna, Derek Ramsay confirm relationship

After weeks of stirring romance rumors, Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay have finally confirmed that they are indeed dating.

The two admitted to being a couple. "It's not a normal relationship. Hindi siya yung

may parang ligawan (It is not like we went through courtship)," Ramsay was quoted as saying.

The actor, who is neighbors with Adarna, added that they just got closer as they often have dinner with each other every day, as well as work out together.

He also clarified that he was the one who always



asked Adarna out to join him for such activities, not the other way around.

Ramsay also admitted that there really was a "spark" when he met Adarna, noting that "we just really are enjoying each other's company. Sobra (So much)."

The confirmation comes just around a month after the two first drew dating speculations when they posted photos of them together via Instagram.

JC de Vera reveals he and non-showbiz partner wed in 2018

JC de Vera, known to be private about his personal life, revealed that he and his non-showbiz partner got married back in 2018.

"Hindi talaga ako iyong ma-announcement. [Pero] hindi secret (I am not the type of person who makes announcements. But it was not a secret)," he said.

"I will always tell everyone [if they ask if I am married]," he added.

He said the civil wedding with Rikkah Cruz took place before their daughter Lana Athena was born in



April 2018.

The actor also took fans by surprise as he announced he had a baby only months after she was born. He also did not immediately reveal who

Cruz was, and finally did so during Lana's christening.

A church wedding, he said, was going to happen "anytime this year."

De Vera said he and Cruz were schoolmates and that she is seven years his junior. He also admitted that she gave him a hard time wooing her—it

took him a year and a half to convince her to be with him.

When Gonzales asked about having more kids, De Vera said the plan always was to have a second child after the church wedding.

And what about a third child? It is something that they are carefully considering; De Vera said this is because he would probably be in his 60s and the child would not have finished college yet.

"Pag bumalik iyong industry siguro (When the [entertainment] industry makes a comeback, perhaps)," he said.

Nora looks forward to working with Vilma

Nora looks forward to working with VilmaAt the story conference of Kontrabida, the first big-screen project where superstar Nora Aunor is playing antagonist admitted that she looks forward to working with Star for All Seasons Vilma Santos if the opportunity presented itself.

"If meron offer, I'd be glad to do it," the superstar said.

Many are still hopeful until now that she and perennial arch-rival would co-star in one movie once again. Their last big-screen project T-Bird at Ako in 1982.

"It's no problem with me. If it's okay with my kumare, then go. I believe this will be good for the showbiz industry," Nora added.

Meanwhile, Nora Aunor is elated over her first protagonist role.

La Aunor admitted that she feels so elated when the movie Kontrabida to be directed by Adolf Alix, Jr. and produced by Godfather Productions was offered to her.

"I am so happy and I can't explain how I feel. For one, I'll be working with some fellow actors who I wasn't able to collaborate with for a long time now. I'm also excited with the fact that I'll be handled once again by Direk Adolf and that our producer, Joed Serrano gave me a chance to do a movie under his film outfit," she avers.

Considering her stellar stature in which she's always the female lead in every project she appears in, many think if she had reservations in accepting the role.

"Nope, I didn't have second thoughts in committing to the project considering that I'll share the screen with other veteran acting stalwarts. Actually, I'm nervous because some of them I already got the chance to work with him in films and teleseryes. They're award-winning actors," she avered alluding to her co-stars Jaclyn Jose, Bembol Roco, and Rosanna Roces.

As the title of the movie suggests, the one and only superstar will breathe life to a villain.

"Yes, and this is the first and last time that I will portray something like this. This won't happen again," she asserted.

Since she'll be a villain in the movie, it's interesting to know if she would allow being slapped by a younger actress in some of the scenes.

"For me, that's nothing. I'll just follow what the director wants. It's okay if I get slapped. I've also slapped many of my fellow actors before, right?"

Ate Guy pointed out that in order to come up with a good movie the value of the contravida is the same as that of the lead.

"If there's no villain, the lead star will be useless. The viewers might get tired along the way if it's the lead star they just get to see all the time. The contravida provides conflict which makes the story more interesting. This also holds true in real life, right? There should be an opposition," she ended.



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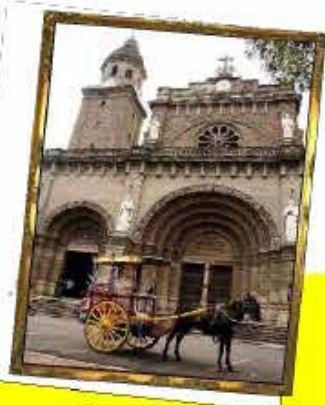
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Manila



“You hope it will be forever” - Nathalie Hart

It was a relationship calculated to last forever but fate intervened.

In 2017, she happily confirmed that she had met Mayank Sharam, a London-educated Indian businessman whom she met during an Indian wedding where they were introduced by a mutual friend. They clicked right away.

In a follow-up interview in 2018, Nathalie announced that she was giving birth in December that year, that she and her boyfriend had a civil wedding and were planning two weddings, a Catholic one in Sydney (where Nathalie, who is half-Australian, hails from) and a big Hindi wedding (with more than 1,000 guests invited) in New Delhi. But well-laid plans often go awry, don't they?

“It wasn't like I was broken and I plunged into depression,” assured Nathalie whose daughter Penelope Gayaptry Snell (Nathalie's real name is Princess Snell) is now two years old. “In fact, I feel empowered. It's hard being a single parent, pero masaya naman ako at kinakaya ko. I'm doing it all,” adding, “but my (ex) is really nice. Mabait siya. He's always there when Penelope needs him, especially during an emergency. To survive, especially during this pandemic, you have to be smart, dapat maabilidad ka. Kelangan hindi lang isa ang trabaho mo, you have to diversify.”

Aside from showbiz, Nathalie has other sources of income, one of them Gayatree Organics which manufactures and distributes plant-based products for skin care and body wash effective for both men and women. That's aside from her being busy with showbiz projects. That MMK episode was a breeze compared to her love scenes with



Xian Lim in Sin Island. At the moment, Nathalie is putting men on hold, with a “No vacancy” sign over her heart.

“There were personal and cultural differences between me and (Mayank),” admitted Nathalie.

The fight is usually triggered by disagreement over where they would live.

“I would stay in India for six months and work in the Philippines for six months. It didn't work.

“When you go into a relationship, especially marriage, you really hope it will be forever. Life plays tricks on people. If things don't work out, you have to move on, move forward.”

Is she hard to love, mahirap mahalin, hard to live with?

“I don't think so,” Nathalie said with a little laugh.

“Marunong ako magluto, magaling ako maglinis ng bahay, mahusay ako mag-hanapbuhay. Feeling ko naman, matutuwa sila sa akin, hahaha!!!”

Lovi Poe returns to singing

Music has always been Lovi Poe's first love.

But somewhere along the way, she found herself getting drawn more and more into acting. Now, with a new single out, the actress feels it's high time to revisit her roots and rediscover the joys of singing.

Her latest song, “Under,” was recorded and released and will be part of her upcoming EP in May.

“It's like going back to your first love, to someone you loved before and then rekindling the relationship, it's the kind of feeling.”

“Acting did become my priority and I really devoted my time to it. Lovi was especially proud because she was closely involved in the creative process.

“I wrote a lot of songs and it was a nice and good experience. I was asked to freestyle over it,” she recalled.

“Austin asked me to do it. Then I just started talking about how I was feeling, what was in my heart. Eventually, we were able to make a song out of that session,” added the Kapuso star, who also shot an

accompanying music video with director Jessica Fee.

Aside from recording new music, Lovi also hopes to return onstage and do concerts—once it's normal, of course.

“Why not? It's something I have always loved doing,” she said.

That doesn't mean she will be lying low from acting, though. Lovi is set to star in two upcoming movies.

“I can't really talk about it much or reveal the genres. But they're very different. And I'm hands-on, I'm having discussions with the director and writers,” she said.

Lovi is also one of the leads of a drama series “Owe My Love,” which pairs her with Benjamin Alves.

The show teaches financial literacy.

“Know your priorities. I won't think twice if I have to buy something for my friends for loved ones. But if it's something for myself, I get second thoughts.”

“Of course, you also want to enjoy what you earn, what you're working hard for. After all we don't live just to pay the bills. It's about knowing the right balance,” Lovi added.



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John Estrada admits having pursued his leading lady Ellen Adarna, ‘asking around for her number’



John Estrada (second from left) with Angelina Cruz, Ellen Adarna and Yogo Singh

For John Estrada, who is the lead actor as well as line producer of the TV5 sitcom “John en Ellen,” no one else best fits the job of playing his leading lady than the controversial Ellen Adarna.

“I follow Ellen on Instagram, and I’m very fond of her for some reason. I told her this when I finally saw her in person. I find her really hilarious, especially when she would blurt out Bisayan words as ad-lib during our tapings,” John told Inquirer Entertainment during a recent exclusive Zoom chat.

John admitted to having encountered a stumbling block at the beginning. “I

asked around for her number and I was told initially that she no longer wanted to go back to show biz. But I never lost hope; that, I think, is one of my best traits. I’m very persistent,” the actor recalled.

John said he had to explain to Ellen the program’s storyline and what her role would be. “I also promised her that I’d take care of her as much as I could, that I’d shield her

from intrigues and would not allow people to pry into her personal life,” he pointed out. “It’s good that I got her to say ‘yes.’ I really couldn’t think of anyone else to be Mrs. Kulantong other than Ellen.”

John would eventually have to defend Ellen, when online bashers attacked her after being romantically linked to actor Derek Ramsay, who also happens to be John’s good friend.

He said “J&E” was his first project with Ellen so he was pleased to have discovered that “she’s more fun in person, mas kalog. The sitcom, John added, is “almost similar” to the iconic 1970s show “John en Marsha” in terms of plot and storyline.

When asked if his work as line producer has ever affected his performance as lead actor, John replied: “I hope not. I also hope you’d get to watch our show and see for yourself how I’m doing. I’m confident because my team is comprised

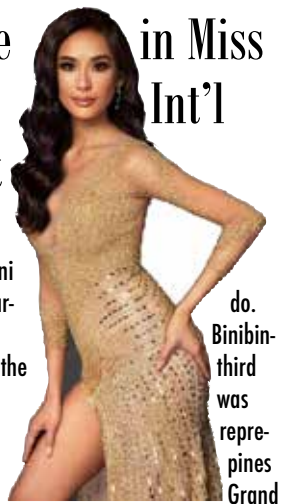
of talented and efficient people. I totally understand where your question is coming from because there was a time when I admitted to myself that, boy, this is really difficult. After several takes, I would sit down to sign a lot of checks. I’m glad that most of the people in my team are happy with me as their line producer.”

Given the chance, John said he’d venture into something like this again, never mind that it’s more challenging to be working under the “new normal.”

“My butt hurt after sitting through over a hundred Zoom meetings during the show’s preproduction stage,” he said, laughing. “My record was seven Zoom meetings in a day. It gave me a really nasty headache, too.”

John further said: “I really worked hard on this project because I had missed doing comedy, which is my first love. Everyone knows that I started in ‘Palibhasa Lalake.’ I’m thankful to God because He gave me another chance to do comedy with this one.”

Samantha Bernardo to compete in Miss Grand Int’l pageant



Third time’s a charm for Binibini Samantha Bernar-

After joining Binibini Pilipinas for the time, Bernardo handpicked to sent the Philip-at the Miss International pageant in Thailand on March 27.

Bernardo is the first Filipino to compete in an international competition this year. The new Filipino beauty queen is also fighting malaria as part of her advocacy.

She has joined the worldwide campaign of football superstar David Beckham in the campaign to stop the mosquito-related disease.

“I thank God for this opportunity and pledge to continue doing this until we achieve Malaria Free Philippines by 2030 together with the Department of Health and Kilusan Ligas Malaria. We salute all our leaders, volunteers and spokesperson internationally. You too, can make a difference. We need your support. Join and follow us to spread awareness for our future generation and #BeatMalaria,” she also said.

“John Lloyd Cruz” chooses to be happy amid Ellen Adarna-Derek Ramsay confirmed relationship



Nag-post sa kanyang official Facebook fan page March 1 si John Lloyd. Caption sa post: “Choose to be happy.”

September 2017, naging viral sa social media ang posts ng dalawa tungkol sa Bantayan Island escapade nila sa Cebu. Pero hindi nakaganda sa imahe ni John Lloyd noon ang viral photos and videos kung saan makikitang lasing na lasing siya, naglalaro ng kutsilyo, at nagpa-picture katabi ng tangke ng gasol. Pagkatapos ng ilang linggo ay nag-indefinite leave ang aktor sa showbiz.

June 2018, isinilang ni Ellen ang panganay nila ni John Lloyd na si Elias Modesto. August 2019, pumutok ang balitang naghiwalay na ang dalawa.

Pagkalipas ng halos dalawang taon, nananatiling single si John Lloyd.

Viral Tiktok artist Angela Ken joins ABS-CBN Music

Singer-songwriter Angela Ken, who made waves on TikTok by posting a snippet of her unfinished original song “Ako Naman Muna,” has been added to ABS-CBN Music’s rich roster of artists and is poised to debut the full studio version

of the track on March 5.

ABS-CBN Music creative director Jonathan Manalo discovered the folk-pop artist after her “Ako Naman Muna” video went viral on TikTok, amassing over 1.3 million likes and 21.1K comments at present, with listeners clamoring for the complete song to be released.

“Your support and appreciation to



announcement video on Valentine’s Day for the song’s release.

the song has reached all around the country. I want to thank all of you for everything kasi ‘di ko maaabot ‘tong kinahahantungan ko kung hindi dahil sa inyo,” she said on a TikTok

Its chorus conveys a message of self-love and self-affirmation but also acknowledges hardships and confusion in its verses.

Indeed, “Ako Naman Muna” is a fitting introduction to the 18-year-old’s musical talents, as her angelic voice and her poetic songwriting combined with minimal instrumental accompaniment shine in her debut single.

Francine Diaz admits she got offers from other networks

Promising actress and one-fourth of the popular “Gold Squad” Francine Diaz admitted that she got offers from other networks.

But the pretty teenager shared that she chose to show her “loyalty” to her “family.” “May mga nag-offer pero choice ko na mag-stay pero para sa akin pamilya ko ito. Hindi lang siya company or network. Hindi porket mataas ang ABS, dito ako magste-stay. Nag-stay po ako dahil ito

po ‘yung family ko, ito po ‘yung tahanan ko,” she revealed.

Francine rose to prominence when she starred as Cassie Mondragon in the 2018 afternoon drama “Kadenang Ginto” that ran for two years and had a second book and a rerun on TV during the pandemic.

It was during this stint that she and her young co-stars in the show became wildly popular that the network and fans have started tagging them as the “Gold

Squad” named after the show’s title and the drama afternoon block of ABS-CBN called “Kapamilya Gold.” Together with her on the popular squad are Andrea Brilantes and Seth Fedelin aka SethDrea and her love team partner, Kyle Echarri. Together, they form the KyCine love team. The Gold Squad is set to return



soon on TV with their upcoming teleserye titled “Huwag Kang Mangamba.”

Now that she renewed her contract with the network that gave her the big break, Francine is excited to be working on a new show as well as looking forward to more roles that she could explore.

“Ako po open sa bagong character at kung malayo man siya kay Cassie basta nasa edad ko pa rin po. Hindi masyadong mature. Gusto ko ‘yung may challenge minsan e. Nakaka-explore ako bilang artista,” she shared.



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Toni Gonzaga talks to Vicki Belo, Hayden Kho, on how they ‘healed’ after the ‘scandal’

Vicki Belo and Hayden Kho finally open up on one of the most controversial issues they encountered as a couple.

On Toni Gonzaga’s vlog, the two shared how their romance started when she met Hayden on his 25th birthday.

Though she initially tried to play matchmaker to her daughter Cristalle Henares and Hayden, she would end up “secretly” dating the “tall, handsome, funny, and smart” doctor.

When news about them being an item came out, Hayden became the focus of people’s



attention.

Then the sex scandal issue

HAYDEN
continued on page 23

Vice Ganda now an ARMY

Vice Ganda has 13.9 million followers on Twitter but that figure may change now that the ace comedian has joined the BTS fandom.

It all started last Friday, Feb. 19, when Vice tweet-ed these tweets: “I AM SO HAPPY! I found an extra source of happiness,”

“Nahihiya ako sa mga ARMY. Bago palang akong super faney ng BTS and wala pa kong masyadong alam kaya ayokong magpakafeelingera na ARMY ako. Pero thankful ako ng severe sa mga nagwewelcome sakin. Ang saya pala talaga no! Chugug!”



Vice also tweeted about how grateful he is to BTS after his cosmetic line “Vice Cosmetics” was chosen to be a collaborator.

The surge of BTS-related tweets went on until Friday, Feb. 20 where Vice tweeted, “I PURPLE YOU!”

Following these, most of the ARMYs welcomed the “It’s Showtime!” host with open arms.

Both BTS and Vice have the charisma and charm to captivate almost all audiences, locally and internationally; BTS on the KPOP scene while Vice on his comedic hosting, roles and pop music releases.



Kathryn Bernardo takes pottery classes

A longtime dream of doing pottery became a reality for Kapamilya star Kathryn Bernardo when she finally took her first pottery class on Sunday, Feb. 21.

With her hair tied up, Bernardo can be seen bonding with her friends while enjoying pottery sessions together based on videos and snaps shared on Instagram. Bernardo embraces ceramic creativity as she is able to express herself artistically.

Through pottery, it is truly satisfying to create something out of nothing.

Angelica Panganiban finds Love

Angelica Panganiban said she initially had no plans of sharing about her new love, but she realized that she is a public figure and there were people who would also want to see her happy.

“Wala akong plano,” the actress shared during last Saturday’s virtual mediacon for her upcoming movie with Coco Martin titled “Love or Money.”

But then, she immediately said she changed her mind. “Parang gusto ko lang din maging proud and siguro para i-share lang din ‘yung happiness dahil maraming tao ang nalulungkot at nasasaktan para sa akin. Ayokong ipagdamot ‘yung happiness ko ngayon. Sa simpleng bagay na gano’n, kahit papano siguro na-share ko. Napakita ko sa mga tao na, ‘Uy si bakla masaya na.’ So magbunyi kayong lahat.”

She’s currently dating non-showbiz guy, businessman Gregg Homan who is from Subic, Zambales. Angelica greeted the New Year with a photo of hers kissing Gregg and captioned it, “Kung isa kang pelikula, sana wala kang ending.”

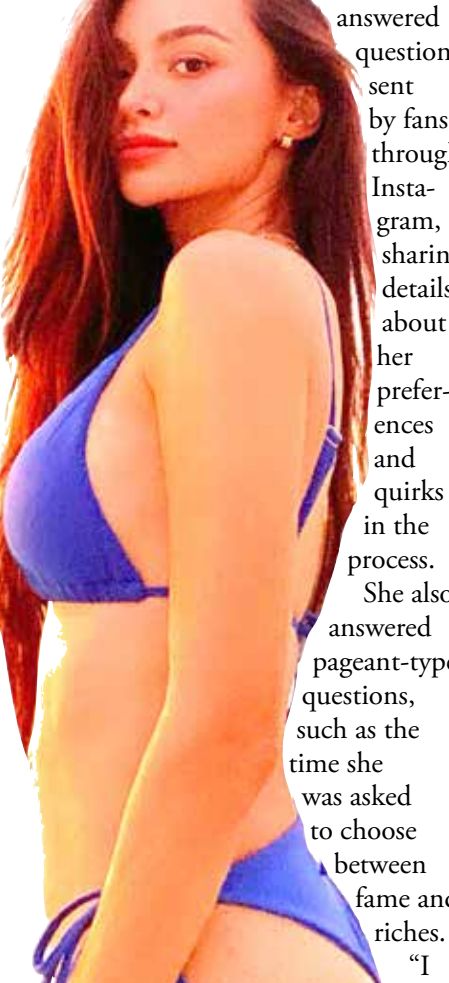


‘Fame or riches?’

Kylie Verzosa answers questions from fans in first vlog

MANILA -- Kylie Versoza has official-ly joined the Philippines’ growing list of celebrity vloggers as she released a Q&A video on her YouTube channel.

Wear- ing a colorful sweat- Miss er, the former International answered



KYLIE
continued from page 21

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What Maine Mendoza would rather do than blogging

Fans of Maine Mendoza are missing her blog!

A check on her blog "The Pessimistic Optimist Bella" showed that the last time she blogged was in December 2020.



A follower of Maine asked her if she could make a new blog.

Maine replied: "Oo ngaaa gusto ko nga din. Wala lang talagang time lately, itinutulong ko na lang ang mga libreng oras huhu."



StarStruck 7 graduates make acting debut in Legal Wives

Shayne Sava and Abdul Raman will finally get to showcase their knack for acting in the upcoming series Legal Wives. Legal Wives is Shayne

and Abdul's vehicle to jumpstart their budding careers. "I was very excited and nervous," said Shayne, the reality artist on search's Ultimate Female Survivor about learning the latest development in her and

Avenger (Top 6) Abdul's careers. "Since I would be working with the veterans, I needed to study the script and (follow) the work (ethics). I focused on how I should portray my character. I did my own research."

Having first-time jitters is inevitable any newbies. But part of the baptism of fire and learning the ropes for those who have heeded the call of show business. Shayne and Abdul seem to have handled it well.



Sef Cadayona keen on 'reconnecting' with Andrea Torres



Is there a second chance for Sef Cadayona and Andrea Torres? The two made sweet music before.

Now Sef Cadayona is more than ready to rekindle his relationship with Andrea Torres.

No, he made clear he won't be courting her anew.

"Hindi siguro ligaw. Puwedeng recon-

nect," he said recently on "The Boobay And Tekla Show" or "TBATS" in short.

In any case, he is already making his move, intimating he and Andrea are in constant communication.

Note that Andrea is single, having split from Derek Ramsay who is now canoodling with



KATHRYN'S DREAMS by Kathryn Rodricks

She asked, mommy do you think these sketches are good enough if I want to become a fashion designer ??

One day she wants to become Flight attendant, one day fashion designer, one day teacher, one day model/dancer.



Kim Chiu 'extra grateful' for life since surviving van shooting

Kim Chiu commemorated the day her life was under threat by gunmen by visiting a church March 4.

"3.4.2020 the day that I almost lost it without knowing the reason why? I am truly saved by his grace," she wrote in her Instagram post.

The actress shared photos of her praying and of the fateful day her van was hit with bullets. Seven bullet holes can be seen on her van in the black-and-white photo she posted.

"It has been a year. My faith just

grew stronger every day.

I woke up being extra grateful for this beautiful and colorful life he has given me," she said.

"Hindi [pa rin] ako makapaniwala na nang-yari yun. Pero lubos ang pasasalamat ko na andito [pa rin] ako (I still cannot believe that happened. But I



am so grateful that I am still here)."

Last year, gunmen on motorcycles shot at her van in Quezon City. Chiu was en route to a taping of a TV show when the incident took place. She and her companions in the van were unharmed.

It was supposedly a case of mistaken identity: the actress said in her vlog weeks after the shooting that the actual target apologized to her through one of her bosses.

I dream to become a housewife – Julia Barreto

In a recent podcast, Julia Barretto revealed that personally, she wants to have a family at an early age. The 23-year-old actress admitted that she's always dreamt of having a family early on in life.

"That was always my thing growing up. I always wanted to have a family at a young age because I want to have a lot of time and I want to grow together with the family that I've made," she explains.

BOSS-HOUSEWIFE. Actress Julia Barretto admits that she dreams of

becoming a housewife at an early age.

Although she intends to be a young homemaker, Julia would still want to pursue her career as an actress and be successful at it.

"Married life is not an easy task. While I dream to become a housewife, it's also nice if I become one who's independent. Like, you've got your own work going on, but your number one priority is your family."

Julia is happy with the fact that in her generation, men have high regard and respect for women and their



accomplishments.

"I'm so proud of this generation because you see more men and husbands for that matter praising their partners. Because they get to witness in their everyday lives, how challenging it is to be a homemaker, a wife, and a mom all at the same time. It's not that easy taking care of your husband, children, and home simultaneously. Then, you also have to take care of yourself," she says.

"So, I feel like we're in a time now when men and everybody else are more appreciative of the efforts given by women. They already see their true value now. They see it more and understand it more now how difficult a job being a homemaker is," she ends.



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‘Not a one-trick pony’: As Charlie Dizon gets TV lead role, ‘Fan Girl’ director beams with pride

MANILA — Charlie Dizon, whose breakout performance in “Fan Girl” earned her universal acclaim and a best actress trophy, is not a “one-trick pony,” as her next

lead role will prove. This, according to her “Fan Girl” director Antoinette Jadaone, as the filmmaker expressed excitement about Dizon’s lead-role casting in the upcoming ABS-CBN series “Viral.” “I’m very happy for her, kasi finally nakikita na ‘yung galing



niya. Sa ‘Fan Girl’ kasi, kahit relatively new siya, nakikita mo na ‘yung rawness niya, ‘yung sincerity niya as an actress,” Jadaone told ABS-CBN News. “It’s always nice to have more projects, kasi ibig sabihin, mas maraming tao ang makakakita kung gaano siya as an actress. “Hindi siya one-trick pony, kumbaga.” In “Viral,” Dizon will portray a woman who

becomes a victim of a sex scandal, according to a teaser released by producer RCD Narratives on Thursday. The teaser shows Dizon’s character addressing viewers in a recording: “Hindi niyo alam ang buong kuwento. Huwag niyong sukatin ang pagkatao dahil sa napanood niyo.” “Viral” will be directed by Dado Lumibao and Froy Allan Leonardo, who last collaborated on the hit suspense drama “The Killer Bride.”

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS



Celebrant Kathryn Rodricks is joined by her brother Aidan.



Sophie Vitug



Jaden David

OMG! Kris Aquino joining Tinder

Yes you read that right, Kris Aquino will start using Tinder. A part of her post read: “I asked Bimb’s permission & he said ‘sure mama, you have my blessings (iba na talaga ang mundo)- so on Friday when I create my Profile, jojoinain o totropahin niyo



ba ako? Ready to swipe right?” Although the announcement was great for the most part, the Queen of Multimedia is actually not feeling well of late, having missed a dinner with Derek Ramsay’s fam last January. She also cancelled a commitment with an online shopping brand.

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Why Julia Montes regrets buying biological dad not-so-expensive watch

Julia Montes recently revealed a “funny” story behind her reunion with her German father Martin Shchnittka in 2016.

Note the two were separated for 21 years.

According to her, she regretted not buying her dad an expensive gift for their reunion.

“Na te-tense kasi ako nu’ng day na ‘yun na nag-meet kami,” she shared on Dimples Romana’s vlog.

She noted how she actually moved the meeting because she’s too nervous about it.

“Sa sobrang kaba ko lang, ang feeling ko kasi – I don’t know dahil lumaki tayo sa



teleserye (having been a child actor) — parang feeling ko makikita ko ‘yung wrong na tao. Parang feeling ko may twists kasi parang super magical ‘yung feeling na makikita ko after a long time na hinahanap ko siya,” she related.

Though she prepared a reunion gift, Julia admitted she knew it wasn’t the

best.

“Hindi ko siya dapat bibilhan ng masyadong mamahalin kasi baka mamaya hindi siya ‘yung tatay ko tapos sayang ‘yung bibilhin ko,” she revealed.

“Kasi parang feeling ko, dini-divert ko ‘yung kaba na what if nga (hindi siya).”

She vividly remembered getting a mini-heart attack when her grandmother Flory didn’t recognize her father at first.

“Nu’ng sinabi na parang hindi siya, ‘yung kaba ko parang kukunin ako ng lupa na seryoso ba, baka hindi nga,” she said.

She consoled herself, saying: “Buti na lang hindi pa masyado mamahalin ‘yung binili ko na relo.”

But her mom, Gemma Hateau,

assured it is indeed her pop!

“So ni-regret ko after, kasi siya pala talaga!”

Julia, born Mara Hautea Schnittka to deaf-mute parents, explained the reason why she picked a watch as the reunion gift.

“Kasi parang feeling ko ‘yun ‘yung wala kaming time together. So parang gusto kong maging memorable na everytime na nakikita niya ‘yung watch. Na ako ‘yung nagbigay. Maalala niya na hindi ko iindahin ‘yung past na wala kami together.

“Yung time ngayon, starting now na meet ko siya onwards — ‘yun ‘yung mag ma-matter more than ‘yung post. So ‘yun ‘yung parang meaning ko nu’ng binigay ko sa kanya ‘yung relo.”

Kim Atienza calls out online shopping site for inappropriate ad featuring naked woman

Certified know-it-all and popular weatherman Kim Atienza made his disgust felt seeing something inappropriate on popular online shopping platform, Lazada, recently.

Apparently, Lazada forgot to check one of its ads, allowing for a revealing photo of a sleeping woman.

The ad was for a weed key chain, which according to Kim, is a date rape spray.

Kim didn’t waste time, actually calling out Lazada regarding the matter.

It isn’t known if it was because he is a celebrity on his own right but Lazada was quick to reply to Kim’s missive.

The ad in question hasn’t been removed from the platform as of this writing.

But we could only be proud of Kim.

He is, after all, a columnist on Tempo, Manila Bulletin’s English tabloid.

Matanglawin, indeed.

Princess Punzalan to young stars: “Pag nasa set, ‘wag nang magtelepono.”

May paalala si Princess Punzalan, 52, sa mga kabataang artista ngayon.

Payo rin niya sa mga batang artista: “Pag nasa set, wag nang magtelepono, wag nang mag-text.

“Pag nagri-reading na, wag nang gumamit ng telepono, ‘no?! “Nasa trabaho ka para magtrabaho. Hindi para maki-chika at mag-social media, my gosh!”

Sundot pa ni Princess, “At saka pag sinabi ng assistant director, sinabi ng PA [production assistant], ‘Bihis na,’ bihis na!

“Wag nang chika-chika masyado ever, ‘no?! Oh my gosh, sayang ang oras.

“Wag nang masyadong maarte sa mga kung ano-anong mga ayos diyan.

“Wag na ‘wag nang magkwentuhan dahil hindi tayo binabayaran para magkuwentuhan.”

Si Princess ay nakabase ngayon sa California, USA kasama ang kanyang pamilya.

Isa siyang registered nurse at professional actor doon.

Bagamat nasa Amerika, may mga pagkakataong napapabilang pa rin si Princess sa local teleseryes, lalo na kapag nakakauwi siya ng bansa para magbakasyon.



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Alfred Vargas: Producing good films is a mission

No doubt having won the Best Feature Film award at recently held 6th Chauri Chaura International Film Festival in India has inspired him to produce one more film, if not several others more.

Rep. Alfred Vargas, part time actor and full-time congressman says he's elated no end by the recognition earned by his film, Tagpuan, in said filmfest.

It also hopes to create awareness of an incident that happened on February 4, 1922, when a large group of political protesters clashed with police, who opened fire on them, killing many. Tagpuan earlier gained 11 nominations and two awards, including best supporting actress for Shaina Magdayao, at the 2020 Metro Manila Film Festival.

FILIPINO ARTISTRY: Alfred is both lead actor and producer of Tagpuan. He said that this recent victory is once again a testament to Filipino artistry.

Written by Ricky Lee and directed by Mac Alejandre, Tagpuan is the story of three people, played out by Alfred, Shaina Magdayao and Iza Calzado, who set out to find themselves through other people, in other places. The search takes them to far places, New York



in the case of Iza, and Hong Kong, in the case of Shaina.

BREATHING SPACE: Alfred has successfully crossed over to government service. Why does he keep going back to acting and this time, producing?

"I need to breathe," he says.

Tagpuan is the story of Filipinos around the world.

"Producing worthwhile films, and acting in some of them, is an

exercise that keeps me inspired to render good work in public service."

For Alfred, winner of not just a few awards in good governance, notably a 2013 Gintong Palad, producing good films is a mission, not a hobby.



Alessandra with her niece, Julia

Alessandra De Rossi was willing to be free surrogate for sister Assunta amid pregnancy struggles

Alessandra de Rossi recently admitted that she once offered to be sister Assunta's surrogate, seeing how the latter had difficulties bearing children of her own.

As reported on ABS-CBN, the actress, who spoke to Toni Gonzaga on her online show, "I Feel U" recently, stated that she made the offer after Assunta's IVF procedure didn't come to fruition and the latter was left with only two more eggs.

"She said, 'I don't want to go through it anymore. I don't want to go through the feeling'. So I told her, 'Do you want me to carry the baby? I have no direction in life anyway'," said Alessandra.

She continued, "I was willing to do that for her for free. I was willing but she just laughed at me. So I don't know if she considered it in her head."

It was then that Alessandra's movie, "Kita Kita" became a sleeper hit, and she finally found her direction in showbiz.

Assunta finally succeeded in getting pregnant last year. Baby Julia was born in October last year, after 18 years of her marriage with husband Jules Ledesma. The couple were married in 2002.

"I cried when I was sent the photo that she just came out of the delivery room and then held the baby. Is this true? That's right! Send to all. That's when I became emotional," Alessandra stated, adding that she has been enjoying seeing the total transformation of her sister since becoming a mother.

Barbie Imperial, Diego Loyzaga: From friends to lovers

The young couple admit their romance was something they did not expect.

On the recent vlog of Star Magic, Barbie Imperial and Diego Loyzaga revealed this and more. The



two first met in 2018 but it was sometime after that they became friends.

During the time when Diego decided to stay away from the limelight, the 25-year-old actor noted how the 22-year-old star was among those who actually asked updates about him.

"Nakita ko na tunay siyang kaibigan," Diego related.

They would go on to greet each other on their respective birthdays.

None too soon, they were playing online games together.

Barbie vividly remembers how Diego would spoil her by giving her valuable items relating to the games they play.

As their friendship deepened, the two would then join each other in different getaways.

Diego shared how Barbie even asked the permission of his mom, Teresa Loyzaga, so he could go with her to Pangasinan.

"Pero as a friend, walang malisya," Barbie noted.

"...du'n ko nakita na sincere siyang kaibigan kasi pinagpaalam mo ako sa nanay ko," told Diego to the actress.

They shared that it was after the said trip that they had a heart-to-heart talk.

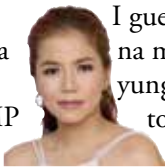
From then on they formed a "mutual understanding," until, of course, Diego finally asked Barbie to be his girl!

Singer Juris Fernandez tells why she doesn't want to judge singing contests

Juris Fernandez is more than qualified to judge a singing competition.

But the former MYMP singer doesn't see herself being a judge on some of the country's premiere talent searches.

"Ay hindi ko alam. I cannot really say because I haven't tried it. Pero feeling ko parang ang hirap. I don't know actually how to express my opinions with other singers also but



I guess it's a good thing na ma-se-share mo din yung makakatulong ka to improve someone.

May mga invitation ako dati but I think

natataon nung mga panahon na yun ang liliit pa ng mga anak ko (laughs) or I was pregnant I think at that time. Parang hindi ako makapag-commit, ganyan. Pero kung titingnan ko, pag napapanuod ko sila Jed, parang ang hirap, kasi kapwa

kayong singers eh, parang ganun," she explained.

Juris, 42, left MYMP band in 2009, and made her mark as a solo artist with numerous hit songs most notably for TV series and films such as: "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin" (Minsan Lang Kita Iibigin, 2011), "I Will Be Here" (A Second Chance, 2015) "Your Love" (Dolce Amore, 2017) among others.

Lyca Gairanod flaunts 'new baby'

Young star Lyca Gairanod is certainly not among those having a hard time despite the ongoing pandemic.

She made this obvious recently, getting herself a brand new car.

The 16-year-old singer is quite proud of the achievement.

"Thank God. I GOT NEW BABY (heart emoji)," she wrote on Instagram

along with a photo of her standing right in front of the car.

Lyca first gained notice winning the first season of "The Voice Kids Philippines" in 2014.







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New Beginnings

Be the next big thing in ‘Born to be a Star’

The search for the next big star was marked by the return of “Born To Be A Star” which premiered last Jan. 30 featuring a fresh set of talents and new judges that will make you look forward to watching the show on weekends.

Produced by VIVA Entertainment for Cignal TV and TV5, the latest reality talent search puts a spotlight on aspiring and talented individuals from across the Philippines. At stake is a P1 million cash prize and a recording and management contract under VIVA Entertainment.

The singing reality show is hosted by breakthrough singer-actress Kim Molina and multi-talented actor Matteo Guidicelli, who both worked together as judge detectives in the recent program Masked Singer Pilipinas. The show also boasts of star-studded panel of judges (“Star Judges”) who will be deliberating the contestant’s progress



Georcelle Sy

throughout the show: Philippine Rap Legend Andrew E, Asia’s Vocal Supreme Katrina Velarde, OST Princess and former Born To Be A Star finalist Janine Tenoso, G-Force founder and choreographer Teacher Georcelle Sy, and multi-talented singer Sam Concepcion.

The audition process of the talent search is a lot different from the usual, given the current limitations brought about by the pandemic. Auditionees were asked to submit videos through Tiktok. Out of the hundreds who submitted, only 40 applicants were shortlisted for the TV try-outs. Contestants slayed the stage with their song and dance numbers to get three or more stars from the Star Judges so they can make it to the next round.

The journey of each contestant to achieve the dream of becoming a star

will not be a walk in the park. From 40 auditionees, only 21 of them will move on to the training camp where the program’s Star Mentors will be working with them to bring out their full star potential.

The next two episodes of the show are a must-see as the remaining contenders will undergo a boot camp training session with Thyro, Wency Cornejo, and Daryl Ong — dynamic talents known for their expertise in singing, songwriting, and artistic performance. The mentors will be imparting their share of experiences and lessons learned to the finalists vying for the top title of being the next big thing in Philippine show business — made even more desirable with the promise of new project opportunities and a sweet 1M cash prize.

Who’s going to shine brighter and stand out from the rest?



Andrew E

After recording ‘Pangako,’ Nicole Scherzinger reveals she’s a huge Regine Velasquez fan

MANILA – A lot of people know Nicole Scherzinger from The Pussycat Dolls, but what they are not aware of is her deep love for big ballads.

Scherzinger shared how she felt when her friend, Filipino-American producer Troy Laureta, tapped her to record a version of “Pangako” for his “Kaibigan” album.

“In my heart of hearts, I just love to sing big ballads. It’s in our blood right? We love big songs. He chose this special song, a special one, it’s a classic. It’s got a lot a lot of heart and passion. I felt like it was quite a responsibility to take on when he gave it to me.”

“I always say I am not the best singer but you’re gonna get all my heart and soul out of it. They were so patient to help me to try to do it justice with singing in Tagalog which has always been a dream for me,” she said.

Although not all her fans speak Filipino, Scherzinger is optimistic that the song would convey its meaning on its own.

“Music speaks all languages. People feel music. Whether you speak Tagalog or not, when you hear that song, it moves you and your soul. Music is what connects us all and ultimately, we are all one and

the same,” she said.

Sharing how she ended up recording a cover of the OPM classic, Scherzinger said: “When Troy called me, he put on some weird spa music in the background. I don’t know if the universe was aligning or he was getting a foot rub or what was going on. I was taking a trip to the nature store and he left me this hour-long message. I was like, ‘Get to it! What’s going on back there?’ And then when he asked me, I was like, ‘Are you kidding me? It’s an honor.’”

Because this is the first time she gets to sing in Filipino, Scherzinger said she jumped on it right away knowing it will make her family so proud.

When asked if she had a difficult time recording the song because Filipino is not her mother tongue, she said: “When you want to do something to your best ability and do it justice, it’s hard because you want it to sound like it’s second nature. But I know that it’s in my blood. My family speaks Hawaiian and I grew up learning Spanish so I think that kind of helped me a lot.”



Meanwhile, Scherzinger was so delighted to know from Laureta that Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid liked her version of their original hit.

“I’m such a huge fan of [Regine]. When I listen to her music and her voice, I’m like, ‘What else is there for me to do?’

But you and your sister really helped me with making it my own. So that really means a lot coming from her because I have so much love and respect for her,” she said.

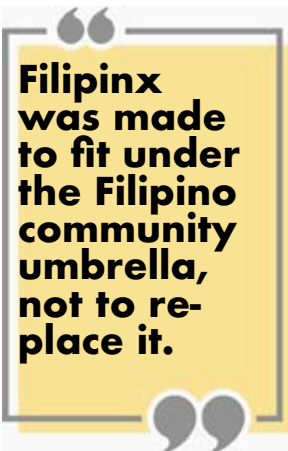
When the pandemic is over, Scherzinger said she could not wait to come to the Philippines with Laureta to sing “Pangako.”

“I can’t wait. I miss it. I’m so blessed. What I love more than anything is being on that stage and singing as Filipinos love to do. It’s like where we feel at home. As soon as the world opens up and everything is safe again, I cannot wait to go and put on the best show of my life. And I cannot wait to actually go and do more work for the children on the streets there.”

FILIPINIX continued from page 8

the promise of an identity crisis that will follow them well into adulthood. Maybe Filipinx is part of the diaspora’s identity crisis. Maybe it’s a product of a lack of cultural awareness. Maybe it’s a symptom of the country’s lack of national identity.

Whatever the underlying reasons, Filipinx is still proof that the members of the diaspora are at least holding onto their heritage instead of setting it aside entirely, as is often the case with second or third generation immigrant families. If the word helps them relate more to the country of their parents’ birth, then so be it. Filipinx speaks of a compromise between the diaspora’s roots and the realities its members face in the countries they live in.



Undoubtedly, Filipinx is a whirlwind of grammatical incorrectness and it isn’t appropriate to use in the Philippines. While it might not fit here, it clearly fits abroad, so leave “Filipinx” where its creators reside: among

the members of the diaspora who are passionate for a word they feel accurately represents them.

Filipinx was made to fit under the Filipino community umbrella, not to replace it.

The mere existence of the word might still anger some, but to say the Filipino language is wholly gender-neutral is pushing it. Remember, we say “putangina mo,” cursing the mother instead of the father. The way we use our words is just as important as the words themselves, and far too many times, we’ve heard people of power disparage women, promote misogyny, and enable the patriarchy in the Filipino language.

And if you want to discuss the supposed imperialist and colonialist themes of the word Filipinx, there are far, far more important issues to discuss, like the West Philippine Sea, economic inequality, and you know, government corruption.

Filipinx is irrelevant in the Philippines, but a safe space abroad. Let the diaspora be.

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Leave PH or leave ABS-CBN: Billy Crawford makes tough choice

MANILA, Philippines — Kapatid host Billy Crawford revealed that he and wife Coleen Garcia thought of migrating to another country when ABS-CBN’s franchise expired and was not renewed.

During the virtual press conference of his new game show “The Wall Philippines,” Billy admitted that the pandemic and the ABS-CBN shutdown really affected them but the season also gave them their son Amari.

“Marami-rami rin kaming pinagdaanan pero it also worked to our blessing kasi through the pandemic season dito pinanganak ang anak namin ni Coleen. No’ng nawalan kami ng trabaho noong ABS-CBN (shutdown), may mga times na nag-uusap kami mag-asawa na, ‘Ano gagawin natin? Benta na lang kaya natin lahat tapos lipat tayo ng ibang bansa?’,” Billy shared.

Billy and Coleen, however, trusted

God and they came back on track as he now has multiple TV shows on TV5.

“May mga decisions tayo na kailangang gawin kasi hindi madaling mag-tanaw ng positivity sa lahat ng mga negativity sa paligid mo. Pero ang number one na natutunan namin is nagtiwala kami sa Panginoon, nagdasal kami. Iniyakan naming pamilya kung ano dapat namin gawin. Slowly we’re climbing above that wall,” he said.

Billy said he’s thankful for TV5 and Brightlight Productions for giving him jobs and opportunity.

“I’m thankful na mayroon akong mga blessings, mayroon akong mga shows sa TV5, mayroon akong Brightlight Entertainment, so kumbaga dito ko tinanim ‘yung sinabi ng tatay ko sa akin na ‘There’s no such things as



problems kasi lahat ng problema may solusyon.’ Tinanim ko sa puso, sa isip ko ‘yan kaya alam kong no matter what pandemic season, ang pinakaimportante we have to look forward and do what’s right for our family,” he said.

Hosted by Billy, “The Wall” is a local adaptation of a game of chance produced by NBA star LeBron James and will provide a rollercoaster of emotions during the gameplay.

What is his difference as a host from others? “Maraming magagaling na host sa Pilipinas like Edu Manzano, Boy Abunda, Martin Nievera, Luis Manzano. Ako, very high energy ako sa hosting ko. Kung mataas ang energy ng kausap ko, dapat tapatan ko ‘yun. But I remember Tito Boy’s one advice na nagmarka sa’kin. More than anything else, you should listen sa kausap mo, kailangang makinig at humugot ka doon. Enjoy the people you are with on camera and it will translate on stage. Dito sa ‘The Wall’, I always make the contestants feel na kakampi ko sila. Hindi ko sila kakalabanin. Gusto ko, tulungan silang maiuwi nila ang P12 milyon grand prize.”

Xian Lim to host ‘1000 Heartbeats Pintig Pinoy’ on TV5

MANILA, Philippines — After numerous beauty pageants, Xian Lim will host his first show “1000 Heartbeats-Pin-Pinoy” on TV5 starting March 21.

“I feel very happy and I feel very honored na naibigay sa akin itong proyektong ito,” Xian said.

“I think it was months ago, nung nalaman ko na paghahandaan kami for “1000 Heartbeats.” And, naaalala ko pa yung reaction ko nun na parang pinanood ko talaga lahat ng episodes available na pwede kong panoorin. I was there sa screening process nila. And I’m really just expressing my gratitude and happiness na napunta sa akin tong project na to,” he added.

In the program, each of the contestants will be allotted 1000 heartbeats as its equivalent of a time limit to answer a set of questions. With the help of a monitoring equipment, the players’ heart rates will be recorded throughout the game, upon which the game is declared over once all 1000 heartbeats are registered. The way to win the cash prize is by keeping their cool under pressure in all seven rounds.



GODFATHER continued from page 1

culture,” said the 27-year-old So, who hails from Bacoor, Cavite, lamenting the prevalence of the “godfather” culture in Filipino society, where those with connections can easily make their way to the top.

“I was from the province, not a city boy. Had no money etc. I wanted to go further, and there was only one country

a nobody can make it. The USA!” added So. So, who now resides in Excelsior, Minnesota, has been representing the United States since 2014.

“That does not mean I don’t love the Philippines,” So said. “I have good memories from there.”

“I want to give back to a country that



has been so good to me. From the moment I landed here I was encouraged and enabled to become better than I was. I like this attitude and the tremendous generosity of American culture,” So said.

Filipino revered Grandmaster Eugene

Torre doesn’t begrudge Wesley So for becoming an American citizen, stressing that the heart and soul of the former chess prodigy “will always be a Filipino.”

“It’s OK with me. What is important is that Wes (So’s nickname) declares in his interviews that he still has the heart and soul of a Filipino,” Torre said Saturday, a day after the United Chess Federation announced on its website that So had acquired American citizenship last Feb. 26.

NORMAL 2023 continued from page 1

quarter of 2023 baka, sa tulong ng Diyos (maybe, with God’s help,” Duterte added.

March 15 will mark one year since the country was first placed under lockdown following the increased number of coronavirus cases. Since then, the Philippines has been tagged for being one of the worst hit countries with its sluggish response to the pandemic.

The arrival of 600,000 doses of Sinovac’s CoronaVac – the first batch of coronavirus vaccine and a donation from the Chinese government – last February 28 marked a huge development, being one of the last countries that has not rolled out a vaccination program.

At least 525,600 doses of vaccines developed by British drugmaker AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford is expected to arrive in a week, after it was postponed from March 1.

Lifting restrictions

Duterte also said he is now considering easing quarantine restrictions in the Philippines if more COVID-19 vaccine arrives in the coming months.

This includes placing Metro Manila and the rest of the country under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), the lightest quarantine classification.

MODERNA continued from page 1

piners’ Food and Drug Administration approved the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE for emergency use.

“We will have a million this month. Magkaroon lang tayo ng 2 million, bibitawan ko na (if we have 2 million, I will allow it),” he said.

The President mentioned different figures – from 2 million, to 20 to 30 million vaccines.

“Kung makita ko na marami na vaccine, open ko na lahat, tanggalin ko na iyan (If I see there are a lot of vaccine, I will open it, I will remove it all),” Duterte added.

He previously thumbed down the relaxation of quarantine restrictions down to MGCQ since he “gives higher premium to public health and safety,” according to Malacañang.

This move went against the proposal of economic managers and other officials who saw the MGCQ as a way to revive the country’s economy upended by the strict lockdown.

On February 28 however, Duterte lamented that not opening the economy may lead to more problems for many Filipinos.

“Talagang hirap tayo (we really have it hard), people have to eat, people have to work, people have to pay for their upkeep,” he said. “The only way to do it is to open the economy and for businesses to regrow.”

The Philippines now has 576,352 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 2,113 new cases as of Sunday, February 28.

The agency also granted EUA to the products of AstraZeneca and Sinovac. The Philippines launched this month its COVID-19 inoculation program using these two vaccines.

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She also has a short message for Maricar: "Miss you mare, God's will and strong friendships will never be broken. I'm happy that we are ok and please know this time no more goodbye ah. We will be there for each other no matter what. Love you."



And while she now feels more comfortable about being in the spotlight, Verzosa admitted that she still feels nervous

“Probably ‘yun na rin ‘yung most embarrassing moment ko with my parents. Actually marami, pero na-ground ako ng

“Your worth is not defined by the things you do or the likes you get. It’s what you do with your life, how you contribute to society, how you help other people, how you spend time with other people, how you love,” she ended.

pleasurelife@email.com



Leila Alcasid answers nasty comments on her photos with boyfriend Curtismith

Leila Alcasid, daughter of singer Ogie Alcasid and beauty queen Michelle van Eimeren, recently shut down bashers who are not happy of her relationship with indie artist Curtismith.

Well, she has good reason to get mad. Leila uploaded one “nasty” comment from a netizen that read: “Nakakapanghinayang bata pa pero laspag nah ng jowa tsk.”

But she didn’t take it sitting down. She replied: “Only saying this once: stop commenting on my pics with my boyfriend saying “ang bata pa” /other nosy comments. I’m turning 24 this year man!!!!,”

“I don’t want to mind comments but



this is so rude I’m in a happy loving relationship with a very respectful person and would prefer we not be referred to this way,” she added.

Note 28-year-old Curtismith, born Mito Fabie, is a singer-songwriter who was featured on various music festivals and other events, including Wanderland Music and Arts Festival in 2016.

Leila is also a singer-songwriter.

Kris Aquino appeals to stop bashing her brother former President Noynoy Aquino III

Kris Aquino has appealed to netizens to stop bashing her brother, former President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, saying he’s now a private citizen.

Aquino made the appeal on Instagram after netizens started to discuss in one of her posts. She told netizens let history judge her brother PNoy for his legacy as president. Aquino admitted that it’s difficult to practice self-control but she’s trying her best.

Her full post: “Pwedeng makiusap? if you will notice i try my very best to avoid political discussions and kaya nga nag try to lighten the situation earlier BECAUSE for my family to remain peaceful in my feed i should refrain



from mentioning Kuya Josh’s favorite uncle.

“He is now a private citizen and history shall be the best judge for his legacy... simple rule – wag kaming magsalita kagaya ng paninirang sinubukang gawin sa min, wag patulan = walang gulo. Pero oras na gumamit ako ng mga salita kagaya ng banat mo, free for all na.

“Masyadong maraming problema na ang ating bansa, hindi masama na subukan kong maging payapa ang buhay namin... napakahirap mag practice ng self control pero kinakaya dahil mahal ko ang pamilya ko.

“Sana maintindihan mo na may mga bagay na para sa min na lang pero karapatan kong protektahan ang kalusugan naming lahat.”

Josh Aquino, eldest son of Kris, is now staying with her brother Noynoy in Tarlac.

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Bea Alonzo Breaks Her Silence and Remains Unbothered: “Time Is the Ultimate Truth Teller”

Gerald was asked whether or not it was true that he “ghosted” his former girlfriend Bea Alonzo when they broke up in 2019. To which, he responded: “I don’t have the guts to put someone in a bad light because gusto ko linisin yung image ko o yung side ko.”

Adding to his lengthy answer, he further explains, “Ganito lang po ‘yon. Ano po ba ang definition ng ghosting? Kasi ang dating sa ‘kin is parang nasa gitna kami ng dinner and then nag-decide ako na mag-walk out and ‘di magpapakita kahit kailan. ‘Yon ba ang definition, or is it walking away from a very unhealthy, toxic—not saying na siya yung toxic, ako yung toxic—but being together we were very toxic, and hindi nire-respeto yung explanation na binibigay mo, hindi tinatang-

gap after months and months and months and months and months of being on the rocks and medyo away? I’m just gonna leave it at that...If ‘yon yung ghosting, I’m guilty of one of those two.”

In the face of controversy, Bea has chosen to spend the weekend unboth-



ered at their farm in Zambales, taking to Instagram to post snippets of her having quality time with her family while indirectly addressing his old flame’s now-viral statement about their previous “unhealthy and toxic” relationship.

“I love going back to our farm in Zambales; there’s always something fun to do. Kanina, lumabas kami para magtampisaw sa ilog. Simple lang, pero

ang saya,” Bea writes. “These are the moments I live for. The time that this pandemic allowed us to have to be able to spend time with the people we love is what I am most thankful for.”

Bea then adds to her caption a few more lines that seemingly allude to Gerald’s controversial interview: “So, here’s to TIME! Time that is best spent with family, time that heals all wounds, and TIME AS THE ULTIMATE TRUTH TELLER!”

Well, her cryptic caption aside, we have to say that we wholeheartedly agree—nothing beats spending precious time with family, especially when surrounded by the beauty and wonders of nature.

In a previous report, Bea talked about their 16-hectare farm in Zambales which she considers as one of her best investments. They named the land “Beati Firma,” which is Latin for “Blessed Farm.”



Kim Chiu asks Joshua Garcia on ‘Paubaya’ music video apology to Julia Barretto: ‘Bakit ka nag-sorry?’

The banter between Kim Chiu and Joshua Garcia as seen in the recent episode of “ASAP Natin ‘To,” is hot topic online. Apparently, many fans found it only too cute the two were talking

about their exes, Gerald Anderson and Julia Barretto, respectively. The discussion started with Kim asking Joshua why he agreed to appear on Moira Dela Torre’s music video for “Paubaya.” He answered, “Alam mo, simple lang naman sagot ko diyan. Ang sagot ko diyan, ‘yung friendship namin nila Moi, nila Kuya Jason, and Julia. ‘Yun ‘yung isa sa nagpa-oo talaga sa akin.” “Seryoso, totoo ‘yon. Si Moi ‘yung nag-ask sa akin. Sabi niya, ‘Okay ka ba to do this ‘Paubaya?’” E na-

pakinggan ko ‘yung kanta. Sabi ko, ‘Ang ganda nito a. Parang saktong-sakto du’n masyado sa amin!” So was the dialogue really unscripted as rumored? Joshua said, “May script siya, ‘yon ‘yung guide. Kami ang gumawa—ako si Moi, si Kuya Jason, at si Jul. Kami gumawa apat. May script siya, siyempre. May guide kung saan hanggang saan lang kayo. Pero ‘yung



sasabihin as an actor, kung saan ka kumportable, siyempre kung saan mo mararamdaman.” Kim then teased Joshua with a “phone-in question,” asking the actor: “Bakit ka daw nag-sorry?” Joshua did not reply to Kim’s query, prompting Kim to ask him again to no avail. She then acted as if she’s going to introduce Julia. “Eto na talaga. We have been waiting for this moment! Live via Zoom, please welcome... Jiji... just kidding!” Joshua replied back with: “Kala mo siya lang may surprise, meron din tayo. Please welcome, Mr. Ge... Just kidding!” “Happy ka? Basta happy ka, Joshua, okay ako du’n,” Kim said.



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HAYDEN continued from page 13

happened. According to Hayden, it all started with a couple of people he didn’t name stealing the videos. Their aim was to extort money from him. He tried to negotiate with them to no avail. The culprit ultimately released one of the videos on his birthday. This was followed by one video after the other released online almost every week. So how did he feel then? “Walang word to describe it,” Hayden

said. “It’s a mixture of, definitely, a lot of humiliation. There’s a lot of fear. Feeling of desperation na what am I gonna do to fix this?” “When your dark life is exposed to the like, medyo nakakatakot talaga,” he added. Thankfully, Vicki didn’t leave his side. Vicki, on her part, related how hard it was for her particularly after Hayden tried to kill himself. In fact, she revealed that Hayden was in a coma for three days after the attempt. She pleaded to the Lord that if Hayden would survive, she will never leave him. But why did she forgive him?

“Cause I can see, I was very sure na he’s very kind. But I also know that he was molested by a gay guy when he was like eight years old,” she divulged. So what’s the greatest lesson did they learn with it all? “The only way you could truly love a person is if you know everything about that person, everything! All the darkest secret — everything that that person doesn’t wanna share with anyone because it’s too embarrassing or too dark,” he said. “But once you’ve known that person that well and still accept that person, still love that person — that is love!” Vicki and Hayden tied the knot in

2017 after having their firstborn Scarlet Snow in 2015 through a surrogate mom. The couple also shared the reason behind their daughter’s name, which is inspired by the bible verse of Isaiah 1:18: “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” “So whenever I look at Scarlet I will always remember that my life before, my sins before was as red as scarlet, (but) because of God’s love — transforming love — it’s now white as snow,” Hayden said.

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GOD'S LITTLE PARADISE

Another gem of the Visayas, Bohol's Historical significance extends way back to the blood compact between boholano chieftain sikatuna and the Spanish Conquistador, Miguel Lopez de Legaspi, in 1565.

Scenic Bohol Casts an enigmatic charm drawn from the many archaic mementos spread throughout the oval-shaped island: from the chocolate hills and the tarsier to the 16th century watchtowers and Jesuit baroque mission churches. The Chocolate Hills that abound in Central Bohol, two have been developed into top class resorts.



One of the Rare Faunas found in the Philippine archipelago, the Tarsier is the smallest primate in the world. It is a nocturnal primate measuring from four to five inches, with a tail that is longer than body.

Those interested in tarsier watching are always welcomed by the Boholanos to see the famous primate in its natural adobe up the hills in the town of Corella

A black coral forest is among its main attractions but virtually anywhere you drop in is sure to be rewarding. another major attraction, Cabillao is renowned for the hammerhead sharks that shoal around the clear waters. Large pelagics are very common here. And if you are really lucky, you can find yourself swimming with a passing school of dolphins.



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Heart Evangelista excited about her Hollywood action film, other US gigs

While the COVID-19 pandemic put some of her international projects on hold, Heart Evangelista remains hopeful that things will eventually fall into place.

The actress starred in a still undisclosed Hollywood-produced action film in China in 2019. Unfortunately, the lockdowns and cinema closures got in the way of release plans.

"I shot a Hollywood film in China that was supposed to have premieres in Hollywood, China and Hong Kong. It was finished. But then the pandemic happened," Heart told reporters in a recent virtual event.

"They're still weighing how they want to launch the film, because they have an exciting plan for it. What's important is that it's already done. And I'm very excited for that," added Heart, who also once auditioned for a role in the blockbuster movie "Crazy Rich Asians."

Aside from the aforementioned international film, Heart revealed that she's also set to do a project in the United States this year. "I will be traveling to New York City this August to shoot for something, which will be in Times Square," she said of the gig, which she's still keeping under wraps.

But despite her successes as a celebrity and an entrepreneur, she admitted that there are still instances where she feels lost about the career direction to take.

"Every day, you think about these things. And sometimes, you simply have to trust that this is how things should be at this point. Because for some mysterious reason, all the what-ifs, maybes, the things that didn't come your way will redirect you to the path that will make sense," she said.

"If you simply look at where I am now, you wouldn't know the journey I was in or the letdowns I experienced," the 36-year-old star added.

"Trust that everything has a reason."

The same philosophy can also apply to love life and marriage, too, she said. "Take your time. Don't rush yourselves. Marriage is serious, so you have to be sure that you marry your best friend, and that you know him or her very well, because this is for life," she said. "If there's no one in your life yet, that's OK. Maybe God is saving someone for you. It will come."

Also during the launch, the Kapuso star recalled the highs of getting her own place for the very first time.

"It felt good to take the first step. It wasn't fully paid so that made me think that I really have to work hard, because I have to pay for it," she said. "But I felt proud of myself. It feels nice to see the harvest of your hard work."

Though she didn't handle her finances until later in her life, Heart is grateful that her mother instilled in her the importance of investing in properties. "I didn't really handle my money before. It didn't happen until recently—and when I did, I went a bit overboard with shopping," she said, laughing. "I was excited, because, for the longest time, I didn't

know how much I earned."

"But I'm very thankful to my mom, who was able to invest my money in properties. So now, what I earn from the properties I use when I need something extra ... for savings or for other investments," she said.

Pia Wurtzbach amused at 'mag tito' remark on her photo with Jeremy Jauncey

Pia Wurtzbach's recent Instagram update starts with the question: "Siblings or Dating?"

Out of all the comments about how cute, hot and beautiful the couple were, one comment in particular stood out.

The comment reads "Mag Tito charot," in which Pia replied with a laugh.

Pia announced her return to the Philippines with a post that read: "Philippines! I'm going back home and he's gonna follow as soon as we're ready to welcome foreigners or if he fixes his visa or permit. Whichever happens first hehe."





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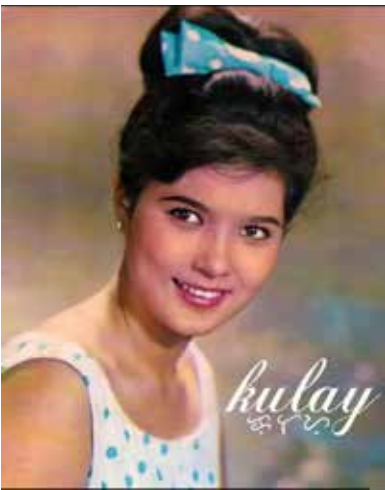
Have you met Lola Gets?

I know Gina Pareño as an award winning actress both internationally and locally.

In 2006, this talented thespian won the Best Actress Award at the Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema and at the Brussels International Independent Film Festival for her role in Kubrador (The Bet Collector). My mother remembers her as a beautiful Filipina-American-German actress with a Dolly Parton Bosom and a whistle bait waist as a Sampaguita actress back in the 1960s. According to my mother, she was even Darna in the Vera Perez production of Darna at Ang Planetman in 1969.

Surprisingly, my 17-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son also know this beautiful actress but not as Gina Pareno but as Lola Gets. This means this amazing lady has a career that spans to almost 60 years and up to now she is still riding high!

Boasting 1.6 million followers in Tiktok, Lola Gets is verified in Tiktok and has beaten millennial and Gen Z celebrities with the number of views she has per post. Her first two posts back in May 2020 has almost reached 3 million accumulated views. I was actually able to interview Lola Gets in exchange for dancing with her in TikTok which now has 187,000 views in her page! I posted the same TikTok



dance on my page and I only got 2,000 views! So what's the secret of Lola Gets? What do you have that we don't Lola Gets?

"You don't have Josh Maghirang as business manager. Josh is like a son to me. He has been working for me for several years. During the pandemic, he suggested that I open a TikTok account. As a grandma, I have no idea what TikTok was, Instagram and other social media accounts. But Josh was a PR man before he became my business manager and he knew that a jolly dancing lola doing millennial moves would appeal to the millennials and the young ones. Since I was not doing anything during the pandemic, I took his advice. Dancing to the new tunes in TikTok made me feel young again. Instead of worrying during the pandemic, Josh and I were having fun making videos. As a senior citizen who cannot go out, staying home making TikTok videos made the lockdown a happy experience for me. If not for Josh, I would have rotten in age and depression during the pandemic. I am very thankful to him. He gave me a new life and a new energy that I could channel and monetize at the same time," narrated Lola Gets with tears in her eyes. And apologies for being overly dramatic.

You can catch Lola Gets in TikTok at @yourlolagets.

She was even Darna



Sarah Geronimo a 'strict' wife to Matteo?

Netizens are entertained with Matteo Guidicelli's most recent social media post showing a glimpse of Sarah Geronimo as a wife.

In the clip, the 30-year-old actor could be seen doing some exercise routine, with the 32-year-old singer egging him on in the background. She said, "Nagmamadali ka naman kasi love eh! Bakit walang push up, love? Wala bang push up 'yan?"

Matteo said in jest: "Strict pala ang trainer ko."

In the caption, he shared that the "best workout coach is your wife."

Fans enjoyed Sarah's candid reaction.

In fact, some of their colleagues in showbiz can't help but react to the video as well, among them Karen Davila, Kim Molina, Angel Locsin, and Kakai Bautista.

Jane De Leon join Coco Martin in Ang Probinsyano'

Cardo's (Coco Martin) seemingly insurmountable trials continue to pile up. Jane thanked viewers for welcoming her character into the series. "I really like the role because Lia is a little rough. What I really look forward to is doing scenes with Coco. Viewers have a lot to look forward to. What will my role be, will I be a 'kontrabida' or an ally to Cardo Dalisay?" said Jane.

Jane, as a newcomer to "Probinsyano," also said she

attributes the long-running success of the show to Coco's storytelling ideas and the strong bond that binds all of the people involved in the show. "Coco is very smart. He is very creative and really good at creating stories not only for himself but for the other characters in the series. Another factor is the camaraderie on set, from the staff and camera men to the directors and artists. They look after one another, especially the show. That's how I found out why the show is still going strong," she shared.



ing to her past relationships. In 2019, she similarly joked about being an "unforgettable" partner, when asked by a fan whether she would be willing to befriend again a former flame.



Beth Tamayo ikinasal na sa American fiance

The pandemic didn't prevent Beth Tamayo from sealing the deal with foreign bae Adam Hutchinson. They tied the knot last March 3. She maintained getting married during a pandemic was "quite an experience."

"Ceremony is now online; very limited people to invite (even if it's already remote) and all of this is happening at the comfort of our own home. We even used a toolbox as our laptop stand! So classy," she said about their non-traditional wedding.

Beth assured that when everything is safe, they will definitely celebrate with family and friends.

The actress migrated to the US in 2008 following her split with ex-husband Johnny Wong.

US welcomes arrival of AstraZeneca vaccines in PH

THE United States has welcomed the arrival of the over 487,000 Covid-19 vaccines from AstraZeneca.

US Embassy charge d'affaires John Law said the US is proud to be the largest contributor to the Covax Commitment.

"The United States is proud to be the largest contributor to COVAX, and we welcome the arrival of the first batch of AstraZeneca vaccines in the Philippines," Law said. "The United States will continue to support the Philippines' vaccination efforts."

The US has donated \$2 billion to COVAX, which helps the Philippines and countries to get equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines.

The US Embassy stated the Philippines was among the first countries to have Covid-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility.

The US government, as of posting time, has given the Philippines P1.1 billion in Covid-19 assistance.



'Naloka ako!'

Heart says ex, who doesn't follow her on social media, 'accidentally' likes her photo

Does Heart Evangelista "stalk" any of her former boyfriends on social media?

"Sila siguro, char," the actress quipped in

response to the question from an Instagram follower, as seen in her Stories update.

Evangelista then explained why the opposite may be the case, writing, "Na-like pa nga accidentally ng isa pic ko — and he doesn't follow me."

"Medyo naloka ako. Buti na lang cutie pic ko with a dog," she said, in jest.

Here's how Heart Evangelista responded to comments about having a baby

Evangelista's known ex-boyfriends include actors John Prats, Jericho Rosales, and Daniel Matsunaga.

She did give a serious answer, as she shared a photo of her husband of six years, former senator and incumbent Sorosogon governor Chiz Escudero.

"My answer is no," she said. "If you marry someone as amazing as this guy? The others are just dust particles in outer space. Thank you Lord napakahusay mo sa turn of events."

This not the first time Evangelista, 35, has addressed questions pertain-

Candid SPOOF

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



Mel Galeon parties like it's February 2018. Well, this picture was taken in 2018. 😊😊😊

Loisa Andallo and Ronnie Alonte share interesting 'discoveries' of each other

Real and real-life partners Loisa Andallo and Ronnie Alonte, collectively known as LoiNie, have admitted to being able to spend more time together during the pandemic but denied already "living in."

Loisa is aware of talks but says, "yes, we see each other often because Ronnie's house is so close to ours. He's just one scooter ride away."

"I often go to her house so I could also visit Tito and Tita (Loisa's parents)," added Ronnie.

"We're simple folks. We really don't go out, since everyone is supposed to be practicing social distancing. Ronnie and I try to see each other if we don't have work or after we've made sure to already spend time with our respective families," Loisa added.

Ronnie recalled that his relationship with Loisa didn't start out with them being love-team partners. "I courted her not because we're part of a love team, but because I like her." "We've been in this business for 5 to six years."

Through the years, Loisa said she has made interesting "discoveries." "I know he's scared of dogs when we first decided to take care of some. Later, he has learned to be affectionate to them. Imagine a big guy playing cute with our dogs! I learned that he is actually a soft-hearted person," the actress

said. The couple takes care of an English bulldog and a great dane.

"I used to think she's a spoiled brat. She had two personal assistants! When we started spending time together, I learned that she's very hardworking and is a good cook—that's also why I gained some weight really. I also

find her very funny and fun to hang out with, but when she's just with me she's very sweet," Ronnie said of Loisa.

Loisa confessed having felt jealous of Ronnie's former onscreen-partners, "but this was before we even publicly admitted that we're already dating. The feeling of insecurity has stopped when we already got paired. I just don't know what's going to happen if we get partnered with different actors again—I guess it will depend on who that will be," she declared.

Ronnie, on the other hand, promised to support Loisa in whatever career-related decisions she will make in the future. "She was with a different love-team partner when I met her and I was OK with that. We just had problems when she'd get jealous of my partners," he pointed out.

"I'm now OK with that," Loisa interjected. "Our relationship has gone through a lot. I now understand that work is work."



Hunk Shot

AJ goes to Our Lady of Sorrow school. He wants to be a singer. He likes singing, making Tiktok videos, doing song covers, playing the piano and a little bit of dancing. He plays basketball. He was 2019 Junior champion of Pinoy Voice Canada. he was 2019 Junior Champion of CNE Rising Star. He was 2020 Grand Finalist of Long & McQuade The Singing Contest. He was the 2020 semi-finalist of World Champion of Performing Arts (WCOPA). He was a 2020 participant of Shine Like A Star.

His parents are Arthur and Jacquiline Manuel. We wish him all the luck in his endeavors.



AJ Manuel

Dawn Zulueta Isn't Afraid to Show Off Her Gray Hair and We're Here for It

She's even been dubbed the "uban legend."

Dawn Zulueta Isn't Afraid to Show Off Her Gray Hair and We're Here for It. Quarantine has limited our access to hair salons and all the primping that goes on inside—including hair coloring. But instead of letting it become



a hindrance, some have learned to take this opportunity to embrace their natural locks instead. One such celebrity is Dawn Zulueta. The 51-year-old actress and mother of two has been garnering attention on Instagram for posts that flaunt her graying mane.

Just yesterday, she posted a photo. Dawn got all dolled up and wore her hair down, the white strands framing her face. She then ended her caption with the hashtags #silverhairdontcare and #DawnsUbanLegend with an emoji of a white-haired woman.

The comments section was flooded with praises, noting how beautiful the 51-year-old actress was despite her graying hair. "#DawnsUbanLegend for the win!!! Hay, you really are the epitome of true beauty and elegance with or without uban hair po," one user said. While another commented, "Aging gracefully...love the natural grays."

In the post, she jokingly said that homeschooling her children was the reason behind her graying hair color. Well, hair color challenge or not, we're sure we can all agree that Dawn's natural hair looks stunning. Perhaps this will inspire other women to embrace their gray locks, too! What do you think of #DawnsUbanLegend?

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