



confidential

PHL SUDDENLY CONFRONTS CHINA

China was probably surprised when the Philippines unleashed a barrage of diplomatic protests from March to April when the former occupied Julian Felipe Reef. Imagine its surprise when the Philippines sent its most advanced warships to challenge its presence in the West Philippine Sea.

China might have been a little impressed, too.

In recent weeks, top Philippine officials have released strong statements on the West Philippine Sea, the latest being the Department of National Defense (DND) practically telling China to, well, get the eff outta there.

When China told the Philippines to stop holding exercises in the West Philippine Sea, the DND fired back and told China they will continue to hold exercises and that China should leave.

So, what changed? Why is the Philippines suddenly standing up to

China very vigorously when it comes to the West Philippine Sea?

Dennis C. Coronacion, chair of UST's Political Science Department and an expert on geopolitics, weighs in on the subject.

STANDING UP
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YAM CONCEPTION THANKFUL FOR CAREER & LOVELIFE

Covid cases see Gradual Decline

MANILA - The government expects a "gradual decline" in daily cases of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) in the days to come.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said the current seven-day average of cases was 9,936, lower than the previous week's average of more than 10,000 cases.

"Nakikita natin na may

konting pagbaba, pero hopefully, sa susunod po na linggo ay magkakaroon po tayo ng pagbaba or decline nito (We are seeing a slight drop in cases, but hopefully by next week, we expect a bigger decline)," Vergeire said.

Vergeire's optimism was shared by private Covid tracking group OCTA Research.

The virus' reproduction

number in the National Capital Region (NCR or Metro Manila) dropped to 0.98 from 1.17 reported on April 9 to 15, Prof. Guido David, OCTA senior research fellow.

"[This means] that we have made significant gains over the past three weeks," David said.

GRADUAL DECLINE
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Look Back

Motorco buses, Manila Motor Coach, 1970's



'Bakit parang pinabayaan na lang tayo?' REGINE

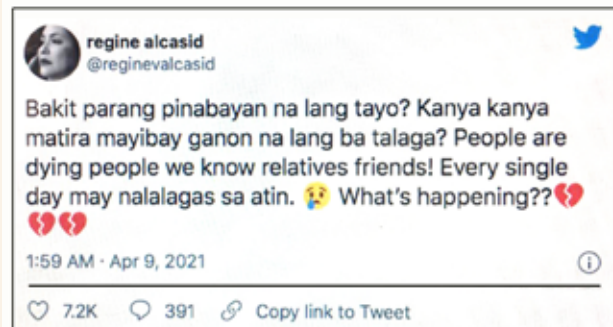
Mula sa Instagram ni Regine Velasquez-Alcasid

Maging si Regine Velasquez ay dismayado na rin sa nangyayari sa bansa.

Sa kanyang tweet April 9, inilahad niya ang kanyang saloobin sa araw-araw na balita ng mga taong namamatay.

"Bakit parang pinabayan na lang tayo?" ani Regine sa kanyang tweet na umani ng mahigit 7,100 na likes. "Kanya kanya matira matibay ganon na lang ba talaga?"

"People are dying people we know relatives friends! Every single day may nalalagas sa atin. What's happen-



ing??"

Ngayong Sabado, iniulat ng Department of Health ang 2,674 na karagdagang kaso ngayong araw ng COVID-19 sa bansa, at umaabot sa 853,209 ang kabuuang kaso, 190,245 nito ay aktibo. Umabot naman sa 225 ang namatay ngayong araw na sa kabuuan ay may bilang nang 14,744.

Michelle Aldana returns to PH, to pursue acting

Former beauty queen-actress Michelle Aldana, considered among hottest of her generation, is back. She is set to appear in the upcoming GMA series “Love You Stranger” as lead star Gabbi Garcia’s mother. The actress is excited to act again after several years. She actually auditioned for the role. Michelle explained in an interview on “24 Oras,” “Iba rin kasi yung pagka yung sarili mong salita or wika yung ginagamit mo, iba ta-aga yung dating. Kasi minsan kapag English, kapag umaarte ka sa ibang ban-iba yung dating katawan mo nung pananalita. Parang hindi totoo...” Michelle was hailed Miss Asia Pacific in 1993. She left the country in the late ’90s.



Will Julia Montes start her cooking show?

“Doble Kara” star Julia Montes shared a photo of her seafood dish. But unlike other celebrities who are flexing their dishes, the actress asked everyone, including herself in the caption: “Are you ready guys? Or am I ready?” Julia even put the hashtag #JMKitchen at the end of her post. Her full post read: “I’m wondering if somebody wants to try my recipes? I’m thinking of starting my passion project this 2021 are you ready guys? Or am I ready? #JMKitchen” This was confirmed by her management agency, announcing the actress will have a cooking vlog “soon.”





Honey Shot

Multi-talented, Kathryn can dance, sing and draw. She is a student of Star Circle Entertainment. She has performed in numerous community events and concerts. She has also walked the runway for Fashion Designer John Ablaza. What does she want to? Well, one time she showed her mom her fashion illustrations and asked if they are good enough to be a fashion designer. So, at this point she either wants to be a fashion designer or an artist. Who knows? But whatever she wants to be, we wish her all the luck in her future. She is the daughter of proud parents Basil and Josie Rodricks.

Kathryn Rodricks

Julia Barretto surpasses one million followers on YouTube

Actress Julia Barretto has achieved a milestone in social media when she reached one million subscribers on YouTube!



Julia made the announcement on Instagram, April 28, as she thanked her supporters for this latest achievement. Her full post: “We hit a milestone reaching

1 MILLION subscribers on YouTube! “It has been quite the journey. I am very grateful today for a lot of reasons, and one of them is being given the chance to let you get to know me better. “From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!”



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New international pageants are like ‘COVID-19 variants’

Aurora Pijuan, the country’s second Miss International, has compared other new international pageants to COVID-19 variants saying she was surprised there were many international beauty contests.

“I didn’t know there are so many new international beauty pageants! Parang Covid variants,” said Aurora on Twitter.

Now 71, Aurora is currently an active member of the Gawad Kalinga movement in the rural areas of the country.

On May 16, 1970, Aurora won Miss



International in Osaka, Japan. In 2019, Aurora planned to auction her Mikimoto tiara for a good cause. The crown had an initial bid of P60,000.

The former beauty queen said that she hoped to use the money in helping the Filipino fishermen who figured in an incident with China in disputed waters.

But later, Aurora decided to withdraw the crown from the auction citing personal reasons.

Alessandra De Rossi thinks she needs to find a new job

Alessandra De Rossi is not happy with the way things are going. And so much so she’s already thinking of venturing into another profession altogether.

Taking to Twitter, she said, “Last year, di ako tumanggap ng work noong 1k cases pa lang. Sabi ko next year na ako babawi, for sure things will get better. Ayun. Mas malala ngayon. I think I need a new job....” She already has something in mind.



“Gusto kong maging manghuhula, para alam ko sinasabi ko! Chot!” Fans thought her post hilarious. Some suggested other means for her to earn a living. Said one, “Vlogging, ayaw mo?” Said another, “Use your gift of gab, Alex!”

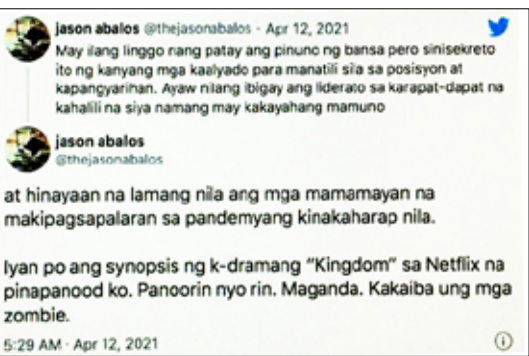
Joanna Jason Abalos creates noise with disturbing tweet: ‘Ilang linggo nang patay ang pinuno ng bansa...’



President Duterte already made a public appearance but fans were jolted with Jason Abalos posting a worrying tweet.

He wrote, “May ilang linggo nang patay ang pinuno ng bansa pero sinisekreto ito ng kanyang mga kaalyado para manatili sila sa posisyon at kapangyarihan. Ayaw nilang ibigay ang liderato sa karapat-dapat na kahalili na siya namang may kakayahang mamuno...”

The actor didn’t stop there. He added: “At hinayaan na lamang nila ang mga mamamayan na makipagsapalaran sa pandemyang kinakaharap



nila...” Many thought he was alluding to President Duterte as with the current situation in the country.

That is, until he shared, “Iyan po ang synopsis ng k-dramang ‘Kingdom’ sa Netflix na pinapanood ko. Panoorin nyo rin. Maganda. Kakaiba ung mga zombie...”

Some of the comments: “Kaw talaga... Lulundag na sana ako sa tuwa... Hahahaha...” “Kala ko totoo na...dami ko tawa...” “Akala ko totoong buhay na...”



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Life’s brighter under the sun



China Rich Girlfriend?

MANILA, Philippines — Kapuso actress Heart Evangelista shared details about her upcoming Hollywood movie shot in China.

In an exclusive interview with Philstar.com, Heart said she did not shoot “China Rich Girlfriend” but did another Hollywood movie.

“I did not shoot ‘China Rich Girlfriend’ in China but I did another movie. It’s a Hollywood movie but honestly I don’t know what’s happening because of the pandemic but tina-pos namin ‘yung movie,” Heart said.

Heart, however, clarified that she’s still waiting when it will be premiered because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m not really sure. The premiere is supposed to be in China and LA but because of what happened, na-ka-wait pa kami,” she said.



The socialite also revealed that it was her first time to do a fight scene in the upcoming movie.

“It was an experience. I never did anything like it. It was action, bloody. It was first time na nakipag-fight scene ako, suntukan. It was a good experience,” she said.

When asked how she ended up getting the movie, Heart said she made an online audition.

“A friend of mine was talking to the agent and they were curious about me. They asked for my name. They made me audition online and I was surprised I got it the next day. I received a call that I needed to fly to China. So it was an experience that I’ll never forget.”



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Why grandparents spoil their grandchildren

“Puwedeng iwanan,” is how the borhter in law succintly put it. Think about it. When they were bringing you up, they ahd to be strict becasue if you grow up to be a pain in the behind, they are stuck with you. They cannot spoil you because if you ask for anything and they give it, they have to spend money. However, iba ang apo. If the apo misbehaves, puwede na nilang iwanan sa iyo. This was found out by actress Anne Curtis when her mother adores her daughter Dahlia to the point of spoiling her, she says. Well, I think it’s just that they miss

taking care of someone. Remember, we are only young for a short period of time. We grow up, we become adult for the rest of our life. Youth is just a short period of time in everyone’s life. Everyone is in a hurry to grow up. Sigh, what were we thinking. A

Military within the Military

There must be a group inside the Philippine military that is getting restive about Duterte’s response to China’s repeated trespassing in Philippine territory.

The response of the Philippine to intrusion in the the Julian Felipe reef is the

strongest the country has ever done. They are now undergoing drilling in the South China Sea withing the 200 mile Exclusive Eco-noic Zone, ignoring China’s protest.

The group might remind some of the Reformed Armed Forces Movement within the military during the time of Marcos. It wanted to make the Armed Forces professional instead of relying on the padrino system. However, after marcos fell, it was used to try to overthrow the government.

We’ll see how this turns out.

Star Magic’s online acting classes go full blast in May

“There’s no pandemic lockdown that can hinder our development in the performing arts.”

Thus said Rahyan Carlos, head of Star Magic artist training and workshop, who recently announced that the Kapamilya network will go full blast in its online classes in acting, voice, dance and conversational Tagalog starting in May.

Even while a lot of businesses were folding up as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020, Carlos and his team of instructors still found themselves immersed in work. This was also despite the eventual shutdown of Star Magic’s mother company, ABS-CBN, in July 2020.

More students

Carlos, who is also a professor of film production management

at the De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, Cavite, added: “A staff member there tried to tease me by saying, ‘Direk, you have more enrollees than us!’ This is considering the fact that we’re not essential, but we still got so many students. This time, from different countries in the world.”

According to Star Magic, participants were from England, New Zealand, Australia, France, Italy, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Canada, as well as from the states of Virginia, New York, Los Angeles and Guam in the United States.

In 2011, Carlos met a male student in his scriptwriting class whom he thought was too shy and insecure. To help the boy “loosen up,” Carlos asked the latter to attend and observe

his one-on-one workshop with actress Kathryn Bernardo.

Then one day, I received messages from people saying he thanked me after winning an award for ‘Die Beautiful.’ I’m talking about Christian Bables,” Carlos said.

Carlos is the only Filipino-certified Chubbuck Technique acting teacher. He is behind the training of some of the most sought-after and award-winning actors today, such as Coco Martin, Julia Barretto, Jake Cuenca, EJ Falcon, Arjo Atayde, Paulo Avelino, Joshua Garcia and Charlie Dizon.

To register, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Starmagicworkshops>. Or email starmagicworkshops@abs-cbn.com or call 0949-3975417.

Sunshine Dizon, 37, says network switch ‘a new season’ of her life

Sunshine Dizon (center) with friends and fellow Kapamilya artists Iza Calzado (left) and Karylle



A new season of my life; a new chapter in my career.”

This was how actress Sunshine Dizon, a longtime talent of GMA 7, described her recent transfer to rival network ABS-CBN.

While Sunshine refused to discuss what transpired during the negotiations between her ABS-CBN bosses and talent management, PPL Entertainment, the actress let on that she will be part of the cast of the series “Marry Me, Marry You,” alongside Cherry Pie Picache, Paulo Avelino, Vina Morales and Janine Gutierrez, who also recently transferred from the Kapuso network.

Asked why she decided to push

through with the transfer even though the Kapamilya network has remained without its broadcasting franchise since 2020, Sunshine said: “To be honest, I only have a simple prayer regarding my career. I always ask the Lord to plant me where I will bloom.”

Sunshine was also among the Kapuso talents who publicly spoke against the ABS-CBN shutdown.

“I’ve heard of a lot of good things about Dreamscape. At a time like today when we’re battling a pandemic, we should be thankful that we have work. My transfer to ABS-CBN shouldn’t be an issue anymore.”

Sunshine said she was aware of the public’s negative comments about her decision. “I’ve also been in this industry long enough to

know that we can’t please everyone.”

“I’ve met a lot of Kapamilya talents who I never imagined before that I’d get to talk to,” she pointed out. If I get lucky, I also want to do a project with my dear friend, Iza (Calzado, who was originally from GMA 7, too).”

Sunshine, Iza, as well as Karylle and Diana Zubiri, were the original Sang’gres (female warriors) in GMA 7’s iconic fantasy-adventure series “Encantadia.”

As to what she still hopes to accomplish as an actor, Sunshine said: “I always want to push myself further. I look forward to doing more meaningful scripts. If the time comes when Dreamscape gives me an opportunity to be a director then that would be the day!”

STANDING UP continued from page 1

Why the Philippines’ Stance on the West Philippine Sea Shifted

“My view is that the recent actions by the Philippines is the response of the government to the critical public opinion.”

“Secondly, I think the rumored loss of trust of the military to the government also played a role. To my view, there might be some truth in it.”

A few weeks ago, there were reports of the existence of Viber group among some military generals who were supposedly feeling restless about inaction on the West Philippine Sea and wanted to withdraw support from the government.

The U.S. Played a Crucial Role The United States played a crucial role, too.

“In terms of external or international factors, the United States is now more serious about asserting its presence in the West Philippine Sea. The Biden administration is more serious, more determined, about making its presence felt in the West Philippine Sea than the past two administrations, Trump and Obama.

“The moment Biden took office, his Defense Secretary immediately issued a statement regarding issues in the West Philippine Sea. That, to me, was an early indication of how serious the Biden administration is.”

The political science expert added that the Biden administration is different from the Trump and Obama administrations, which seemed to have played it safe on issues concerning the West Philippine Sea.

“Biden is bolder,” said Coronacion. “They are saying any

attack on Philippine vessels, even if it occurs in disputed waters, will trigger their obligations under the Mutual Defense Treaty. This is more proactive than reactionary. I really think that motivated the Philippine government in stepping up against China. Without a clear support from the U.S., hindi naman maglalakas ng loob ang Pilipinas na magpadala ng military naval ships to challenge China.”

What’s Special About Julian Felipe Reef

“Actually, it has nothing to do with Julian Felipe Reef. What’s actually the case is the Duterte administration is not willing to give away any island,” said Coronacion.

“So even if that’s not Julian Felipe Reef, the president wouldn’t allow it to be militarized by China. I think he does not want to be likened to the past administration, which is being blamed for allegedly giving away some of our islands. That’s the rhetoric of the president now: at least they didn’t give away any of the islands, unlike the past administration, which supposedly lost so many.

“What’s ironic about that is how the president saw the need to check the actions of China in Julian Felipe Reef, and at the same time, he would like to placate China with kind words.”

E.U.’s Support for the Philippines is Very Valuable

The European Union (E.U.) recently voiced its support for the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea when it called on all countries to respect the 2016 arbitral tribunal ruling in favor of the Philippines.

“The European Union’s support is very valuable in the

STANDING UP continued on page 18

Dennis Padilla to Dani Barretto: ‘You are a great mother too...’

All mothers are great and Dennis Padilla made sure Dani Barretto knows about it.

It all started with Dani paying tribute to her mom, Marjorie.

She posted, “I celebrate you not only on Mother’s Day but everyday, @marjbarretto. Thank you for everything that you do for us, Mom...”

Never mind that her greeting was followed by an advert.

What moved netizens was her father Dennis Padilla’s comment directed towards her.

The actor wrote, “You are a great mother

too... Miss you anak.”

This surprised Dani

who replied, “Thank you Pa!!!!!! Hope you’re well! Stay safe always please...”

Note that Dennis is a COVID-19 survivor.

Dani is Marjorie’s daughter with former actor Kier Legaspi.

But she grew up mainly under the care and tutelage of Dennis.





STILL TOGETHER: Jennylyn Mercado, Dennis Trillo on a road trip



Lovers Dennis Trillo and Jennylyn Mercado are seemingly only too eager to belie notions their relationship is on the rocks. They are making the most of the pandemic going out together for a bit of on-the-road fun. Jennylyn shared this with fans via

Facebook. She captioned a photo of them together with a short and simple, "Sunny day!" She didn't divulge exactly where they are headed but by the looks of it, both are more than thrilled to begin another adventure. Note that fans have been worried about the two after Jennylyn debuted on social media her new short 'do. Many thought she cut her hair having broken up with Dennis.

King of Talk enjoys 'being quiet'

For Boy Abunda, known not only as a TV host working for the beleaguered broadcast network ABS-CBN but also as a talent manager and celebrity endorser, one must do what he can in order to survive in this difficult time of the pandemic. Boy admitted that he was one of the Kapamilya artists whose talent contract with the network had been suspended, presumably to enable him to find work elsewhere after the ABS-CBN shutdown in July 2020. **Need to survive** He said one's loyalty to the network should not be judged

based on whether or not he chose to accept work outside the company. "It really depends on the negotiations. Ang lahat ay nakukuha sa mabuting pag-uusap. I have nothing against those who decided to find jobs in other studios. We all need to survive this pandemic," explained Boy, who is currently hosting the Kapamilya online show biz oriented program "Best Talk." "To go for something decently in order to survive should not be taken against a person," Boy pointed out. "I will be lying to you if I say I didn't get



offers to do talk shows [for other production outfits], but it was my decision to simply rest. For almost 30 years, I've been doing 'Talk.' Wala na akong ginawa kundi dumaldal." As to what the King of Talk does when he wants a little quiet time, Boy said: "I usually go to my rest house in Tagaytay. In fact, I was there recently for seven days. I had no one to talk with, believe it or not. I actually enjoy being quiet. Just give me a good book, leave me in a corner, and I'll be fine."



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The British Are Coming

U.K. to send largest contingent of warships to the South China Sea.

For the first time since the Falklands War of 1982, the United Kingdom's largest carrier strike group is expected to depart May 18 and arrive in the South China Sea the following month. The Ministry of Defence described the deployment as the "largest concentration of maritime and air power to leave the U.K. in a generation."

The Queen's forces from the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force will be join some of the world's nuclear powers who are also sailing to the South China Sea for military exercises: the U.S., France, and Canada. Japan will also take part in the exercises with the U.K.

Meanwhile, the warships from the Royal Navy will also take advantage of the mission to conduct exercises with the members of the Five Powers Defense Agreements—Australia, U.K., Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore.

The deployment will last 28 weeks and will cover visits to 40 countries.

On April 28, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace released a press statement about why the U.K. is deploying to the



Pacific the largest contingent of warships it has ever sent anywhere.

"When our carrier strike group sets sail next month, it will be flying the flag for Global Britain—projecting our influence, signaling our power, engaging with our friends and reaffirming our commitment to addressing the security challenges of today and tomorrow.

Commodore Steve Moorhouse, the Royal Navy's commander of the carrier strike group, also released a statement underscoring the U.K.'s role in addressing global security.

"As our nation redefines its place in the world post-Brexit, it is the natural embodiment of the government's 'Global Britain' agenda," he said. "And against a backdrop of growing instability and competition, it reflects the United Kingdom's continued commitment to global security."



From left Jerald Napoles, Sunshine Guimara and Ion Perez

Jerald Napoles shares how to control his body on sexy scenes

I was able to ask award-winning actress Angel Aquino who among the young stars in today's generation would she want to team up with given the chance after her hit movie "Glorious" with young star Tony Labrusca. In the movie "Glorious," Angel plays a 50-year-old woman who falls in love with a man half her age (Labrusca).

"Jerald Napoles would be a good candidate given I get a project with a May-December plot again. I have watched his plays and I must say that his methodology and approach when it comes to his scenes are impressive. He is really an intense thespian, and he knows how to balance his energy with his fellow actors," Angel tells Gossip Girl.

Before Jerald's presscon for his new movie "KAKA" with sexy actress Sunshine Guimara, I told Jerald what Angel told me, and he was very flattered, "Angel is one of the most beautiful award-winning actresses that I admire. Words like that coming from her make me want to be a better actor."

His leading lady, Sunshine Guimara, shares the same sentiment with Angel especially after their steamy love scenes because she really felt the intensity in their scenes but the gentleness and professionalism of Napoles as an actor. "Sobrang galing ni Jerald. Dahil intense siya, hindi ako nahihiya to let go. Pero alam mo na nasa eksena ka kasi nakasunod siya sa treatment at flow ni direk GB San Pedro. Disiplinado siya." (Jerald is very good. Because he is intense. I

BRITISH
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Ogie Diaz reveals missed opportunity to become Daniel Padilla's talent manager

Inamin ni Ogie Diaz na unang inilapit sa kanya ni Karla Estrada ang anak na si Daniel Padilla para gawing talent noong hindi pa ito sumasabak sa showbiz.

Pero hindi raw niya nakilatis nang maigi si Daniel dahil nasa loob sila ng madilim na bar noong una niya itong nakilala.

Si Daniel, 25, ay anak ni Karla sa ex-partner na si Rommel Padilla.

Si Ogie, 51, ay kilalang comedian/talent manager/radio host/entertainment news reporter.

Nang ikuwento ni Ogie ang tungkol dito, hindi pa agad pinangalanan ni Ogie kung sinong mag-ina ang lumapit sa kanya para magpakonsulta tungkol sa talent management.

Pa-blind item na lahad ni Ogie: "Yung isang nanay ng artista pinakilala niya sa akin yung anak niya sa isang bar na maliit, kasi um-attend kami pareho sa isang birthday celebration.

"Nung nandun yung bagets, pinakilala sa akin. Sabi ng nanay sa akin, 'I-manage mo naman itong anak ko. Puwede ito, Og.'"

"E, siyempre, sa dilim hindi ko makita. Sabi ko, 'O, siges, pag may pagkakataon, ganyan, ganyan.'"

DANIEL BECOMES A BIG STAR

Sa madaling salita, wala raw ginawang hakbang si Ogie para gawing talent si Daniel.

"So, later on, pak! Lumaki siya. Pero wala ako kinalaman sa paglaki niya, sa pagsikat niya.

"Kaya laging sinasabi sa akin, 'Sayang, sana sa 'yo na yun noon. Meron ka nang sikat na actor na nasa poder mo.'"

Ang nakadiskubre kay Daniel ay ang yumaong talent manager ni Richard Gomez na si Douglas Quijano.

Ipinakilala raw ni Douglas si Daniel kay Johnny Manahan, o Mr. M, na dating chairman emeritus/co-founder ng Star Magic, ang talent management arm ng ABS-CBN.

Kuwento ni Mr. M. sa Summit Sandwich Session noong January 2021, "When I saw Daniel, instantly I knew he was it... Douglas brought Daniel maybe three or four weeks before he passed.

"So, when I saw Daniel, I said, 'Oh, you have a good thing there. He's gonna be a star.' And he did." Sumabak si Daniel sa showbiz noong 2010.

Pumatok ang tambalan nila ni Kathryn Bernardo sa prime-time series na Princess and I (2012-2013), at mula noon ay nakagawa sila ng apat na full-length teleserye at higit pitong pelikula.

Ilang beses ding pinuno ni Daniel ang Araneta Coliseum sa kanyang concerts.

OGIE DIAZ NO REGRETS OVER LOSING DANIEL PADILLA

Pero hindi raw nakaramdam ng panghihinayang si Ogie kahit napakawalan niya ang oportunidad na mag-manage ng isang big star sa showbiz.

"Sinasabi ko naman, 'Hindi ako nanghihinayang, kasi unang-una, hindi ako nag-invest ng emotion. Hindi ako nag-invest ng panahon. Hindi ako nag-invest ng pera para lumaki siya. Kasi ako, naniniwala na kung hindi ukol, hindi bubukol. Ipinagmalaki rin ni Ogie na nananatiling mababa ang loob ng aktor sa kabila ng tinamasang kasikatan.

"Yung batang yun, tuwang-tuwa ako, kasi hanggang ngayon sobrang marespeto. Basta marespeto siya kaya tuwang-tuwa ako sa batang ito. Kaya mahal na mahal ko rin ito."

Patuloy ni Ogie: "Kaya kahit hindi napunta sa akin, hindi ako nanghihinayang. Mas naramdaman ko yung saya para sa kanya. Dahil sabi ko nga, kung sa akin napunta, baka hindi rin ganun kalaki ito. Baka di kami mag-gel, di ba?"

Sa puntong ito sinabi ni Ogie na ang tinutukoy niya ay walang iba kundi si Daniel.

Aniya, "So, kaya ako tuwang tuwa-kay Daniel Padilla."



Dr. Guillermo de Villa
MEMORIAL CUP

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Little Manila **LM confidential**

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Jose "Joey" Baking



Ayra Mariano wishes StarStruck 6 batchmate Migo Adecer “to enjoy his life na hindi na showbiz”



Isa si Ayra Mariano sa unang nakaalam na may plano si Migo Adecer na magpaalam sa showbiz.

Batchmates sina Ayra at Migo sa StarStruck Batch 6, kung saan itinanghal si Ayra bilang First Princess at si Migo naman ang Ultimate Male Survivor noong 2015.

Kuwento ni Ayra, “Well, si Migo, ma-ko-consider ko siya as one of my closest and trusted friends in showbiz, ever since noong StarStruck pa.

“Ano ang masasabi ko? Kasi, napag-usapan namin dito sa Heartful Café, makakasama namin siya dito kaya abangan niyo iyan. Napagkuwentuhan namin ang isang bagay na sini-secret pa nga niya noong una.

“Tapos, sabi niya sa akin, ‘Abangan mo na lang. Merong isang news about me, after isang buwan, abangan mo iyon.’”

Nang makita ni Ayra ang balita na nagdesisyon si Migo na umalis ng showbiz at bumalik sa Sydney, Australia para

makasama ang kanyang pamilya, tinext niya si Migo.

Ayon kay Ayra, “Nang makita ko nga, sabi ko, ‘Ah, aalis na pala siya ng showbiz.’ Minessage ko siya. Sabi ko, ‘Ah, ito pala iyong sinasabi mo sa akin.’”

Ano ang reaksiyon ng Kapuso actress sa pag-alis ng kaibigan?

Aniya, “Well, ako, masaya naman ako for him.

“Kasi siyempre, desisyon niya rin iyon at saka, baka mas kailangan niya rin ng time sa family niya or to take a break kung ano man ang kailangan niyang gawin sa life niya. To enjoy his life na hindi na showbiz. Ako, masaya ko sa kung ano rin ang desisyon ng tao.”

Nakangiting sabi rin niya, “Good luck to what lies ahead for him.”

Gabbi Garcia lashes back at basher of her community pantry

Dahil sa pagsulpot ng mga community pantry, nakipagbayanihan na rin ang maraming Pilipinong nakakaangat sa buhay.

Layunin nila ang makapagbigay ng kaunting tulong, sa pamamagitan ng libreng pagkain, sa mga kababayan nating labis nahihirapan sa buhay sa gitna ng kinakaharap nating pandemya.

Nagsimula ang ganitong klaseng bayanihan sa Maginhawa, Quezon City, na pinangunahan ni Ana Patricia Non.

Ngayon, maraming bahagi na ng bansa ang may kanya-kanyang community pantry.

Isa sa mga nakiisa sa bayanihang ito ang Kapuso actress na si Gabbi Garcia.

Kahapon, April 21, pinangunahan ni Gabbi ang pagtatayo ng sarili nilang community pantry sa BF Northwest, Parañaque City.

Makikita sa itinayo niyang inisyatibo ang groceries, bigas, gulay, at iba pa.

Sabi niya sa caption, ito ang paraan niya upang umengganyo sa iba pang may mabubuting puso na tumulong din sa kapwa.

Saad ni Gabbi, “Posting this with nothing but pure and good intentions [heart emoji] this is to inspire everyone that despite of the situation, we can all help each other in our own little way. [praying hands emoji]

“thank you to our small community for making this possible! [two hearts emoji] thank you also to everyone who stopped by to drop their donations. May God Bless you more! [sparkles emoji]



“to all the community pantries, SALAMAT SAIN-YO!!! Keep going! God bless your pure hearts! Tayo tayo ang magtutungan [praying hands, heart emojis]”

GABBI REPLIES TO A BASHER’S COMMENT

Sa comments section, daan-daang komento ang bumuhos upang papurihan ang magandang gawaing ito ng Kapuso star.

Pero may isang nakalusot na tila pinulaan pa ang naging hakbang ni Gabbi.

Komento ng netizen, “Kailangan gawin muna ng mga walang kaya sa buhay to bago gawin ng mga may kaya? Hayssss.

“Kung hindi pa gagawin to ng mga salat sa buhay hindi din gagawin ng mga mayayaman!”

Hindi naman siya inurungan ni Gabbi.

Ayon sa aktres, hindi niya kailangan ang negatibong opinyon sa magandang layunin nila sa pagtatayo ng community pantry.

Tugon ni Gabbi, “hindi ko po kailangan ang iyong negative na opinion sa IG ko, ____ Kung gusto niyo nga po palang mag donate o tumulong, pwede niyo po ako imessage. Salamat!”



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Chinese vessels are spotted at the Julian Felipe Reef on March 27, 2021. The Julian Felipe Reef, approximately 175 nautical miles west of Bataraza, Palawan, is located within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone. (Courtesy of the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea)

Verbal deals between PH, China ‘invalid’

A verbal agreement between the Philippines and China concerning the West Philippines Sea (WPS) would be invalid, Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said on April 24.

Drilon, a former justice secretary, weighed in on the issue after Malacañang denied on Friday that President Duterte forged a verbal fishing deal with Chinese President Xi Jinping as claimed by retired Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

“Sa akin po, hindi pwede ito, hindi pwede na may ganoo- ng klaseng verbal agreement. Kung mayroon man, ano po ang sakop nito? Hindi pwedeng verbal (For me, such a verbal agreement is not allowed. If there is any, what are the terms? Treaties cannot be verbal),” Drilon said when asked to comment on the matter over DWIZ radio.

He said he agrees with Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque, echoing that under existing laws, a fishing agreement must be in writing and can only be done through a treaty that is ratified by the Senate.

“There is no valid, binding verbal agreement,” Drilon said.

“Kahit siya ay chief architect, kailangan anumang agreement ay sang-ayon sa ating Saligang Batas, sang-ayon sa ating sovereignty at sang-ayon sa international tribunal decision (Even if the President is the chief architect of the Philippines’ foreign policy, any agreement he makes should be

in compliance with the Constitution, our sovereignty, and the international tribunal’s decision),” he pointed out, recalling the UN tribunal’s 2016 ruling that scrapped China’s sweeping claims over the South China Sea.

“Kung meron man, hindi po valid iyan (If there is any verbal fishing agreement, that is not valid),” Drilon maintained.

Carpio, in his newspaper column, said Chinese vessels were refusing to leave the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone (EEZ) due to Duterte and Xi’s verbal agreement in 2016.

Duterte previously mentioned the fishing deal as the reason he could not prevent the Chinese vessels from fishing in the WPS.

Roque, on the hand, called Carpio’s statement “without basis and is quite simply, a conjecture”. But he said that that non-commercial fishing may be permitted in the local waters as part of traditional fishing rights.



Liza Soberano clarifies ‘you don’t need to say sorry’ defense for Angel Locsin

MANILA, Philippines – Kapamilya actress Liza Soberano clarified her comment on Angel Locsin’s post about saying sorry to the senior citizen who died after lining up at Angel’s controversial birthday community pantry last week.

Liza recently commented that Angel should not say sorry because she never wanted what happened. Social media users, however, fired back at Liza, saying her comment was insensitive.

In her Twitter account, Liza said lots of people misunderstood her comment.



“Many people misunderstood my comment. I meant don’t say sorry to the people demanding a sorry from her that have nothing to do with the situation. Of course it’s only right and natural for ate Angel to be sorry about the life that was lost,” Liza wrote.

Liza said she found it unfair that people are blaming Angel for the death of the balut vendor.

“It’s just unfair to me that her intentions were twisted and she’s being blamed for the death that she never intended to happen. Sorry if the family affected by this (is) offended by my comment but this was not for you but the people blaming her,” she said.

Angel recently confirmed that a senior citizen died while lining up at her community pantry and she promised to help the family of the elderly.

“Bago po ang lahat, humihingi po ako ng tawad sa pamilya. Kanina po pinuntahan at nakapag-usap po kami ng personal ng mga anak nya sa ospital. At habang buhay po ako hihingi ng patawad sa kanila,” she said.

Last April 25, ABS-CBN said in a press statement that it believes in the goodness of Locsin’s heart, “who in her personal capacity has tirelessly helped our countrymen in times of crisis.”

“We admire her commitment to continue serving the Filipino people with selfless dedication and love,” the media network said.

“We stand by her and thank her for being a shining example of generosity, accountability, and compassion.”

Joshua Garcia posts throwback photos to mark 7 years in showbiz; fans notice Julia Barretto not included

Kapamilya actor Joshua Garcia celebrated his 7th year in the showbiz industry by posting throwback photos of him in social media.

In his Instagram account, Joshua said he misses acting so much as he wished everyone their safety.

“Celebrating my 7th year in showbiz... I miss acting so much, and I hope everything goes back to the way it used to be. Stay safe everyone, and I love you all,” Joshua wrote.

Joshua’s fans congratulated their idol for the newest milestone of his career.

“Your achievements speaks itself about your capabilities. Slow and steady makes it to the top. Happy Anniversary Josh. we love you.. More graces to come and projects for you. This is our prayers..Stay humble as you are. God bless,” @sisteran-tipolo wrote.

Some fans, however, noticed that Joshua’s former on- and off-screen partner Julia Barretto was not included in a single photo.

Joshua and Julia teamed up in numerous blockbuster films such as “Block Z,” “Love You To The Stars And Back,” “Unexpectedly Yours,” “I Love You Hater” and “Vince and Kath and James.”

“Hindi part si Julia ng 7 years niya sa



showbiz wala siya sa picture ehehe buti pa sila ni Janella mayroon,” @iamfelsiecaliguiran commented.

“Hay salamat di mo ininclude yung pinagbabawalan kang mag-jowa kahit di mo naman siya nanay,” @iamfelsiecaliguiran wrote.

Recently, Boy Abunda revealed that she talked to Julia saying she and Joshua are good friends.

“Sabi niya, ‘Alam mo Tito Boy, yung pagiging magkaibigan namin ni Joshua is at its best. We’re very, very good friends.’” Boy said.

“Ang nakakatawa daw, siya na ang nagbibigay ng payo ngayon kay Joshua: ‘Joshua, ‘wag ka muna mag-girlfriend. Mag-concentrate ka sa trabaho mo.’ Because she sees how passionate and how driven Joshua Garcia is as an actor,” he added.

Pia Wurtzbach on community pantries: ‘Everyone’s just trying to survive’

Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach, taking note that it has been a year since the pan-

demic hit the country, spoke up that people should demand for a “better system,” while also acknowledging the rise of community pantries and what they reflect.

“For me, the community pantry is a really good initiative,” she said when a fan asked her about the matter on her Twitter page yesterday, April 27. She added that the effort is “proof of the undying spirit of Bayanihan.”

The beauty queen said she understands if people are hesitant to support the effort, but she believes that it is a “call” for people to help in every way they can.

“It’s been a year since the pandemic hit and everyone is just trying their best to survive,” she said. “We can and we should demand a better system.”

Wurtzbach urged her fans to extend help and to stay home if they can.

She also encouraged them to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as possible.

Community pantries started as a project by Quezon City resident Ana Patricia Non. The initiative began as a small bamboo cart in Maginhawa Street, Teacher’s Village East and has since been replicated in different parts of the country.



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Toni Gonzaga looks back at her career highs & lows

The 20-minute interview was filled with interesting anecdotes about Toni who reminisced her newbie days in showbiz as well as the highest and lowest points of her life. This year marks her 20th year in the entertainment scene.

My first interview with Toni happened 20 years ago right after she officially became a Kapamilya. Her recollection of that one-on-one interview in 2001 revealed the one lesson she learned and she’s been keeping to her heart to this day.

“What I learned from that interview is to never let your emotions talk for you,” she declared. “You will learn along the way that when you’re being interviewed, you have to separate your emotions as much as possible because you will truly get overwhelmed.”

Before she became one of the popular names in showbiz, Toni had been through the grinder that would easily drag people down. Obviously, she succeeded in overcoming them with an optimistic view and an attitude of recognizing setbacks as inevitable.

“The year 2000 was the lowest point of our family because that was the time when I was laid off from my one and only show (Bubble Gang was reformatted) when I was still in GMA that was helping our family’s income. Then, my grandmother on my father’s side died August and then, September, my maternal grandmother also died.”

Toni considered it as one tough year of her life. “My mom resigned from work because that time she thought, ‘Sisikat na ‘yung anak ko, artista na,’ and then suddenly, I had no work. My dad, on the other hand, ran in politics for the first time but he lost. So, that was the year of loss.”

But 2001 was the year of breakthrough for Toni



and according to her, “dahil ‘yan kay Piolo (Pascual).” To recall, she starred in a softdrink commercial with Piolo that became her launching pad to fame. Toni revealed she was originally cast as “background girl” and never the original lead who was supposed to deliver the popular “I love you Piolo” line.

“I never got the lead part. Never did I get lead parts in commercials. That ‘I love you Piolo’ was just an accident. I vividly remember how it happened. It was the day before the shooting of the commercial, a whole day of workshop for different leads that they were trying. Hanggang mag-alas-singko na ng hapon, they got tired magpa-go see ng mga bagong leads,” she narrated.

She continued, “While waiting, they just tested me. Sabi, ‘Alam mo habang naghihintay i-try itong dalawang nasa likod. I-try mo itong isang nakaupo na ito.’ I didn’t have a name then, si ‘ito’ lang ako, this girl (laughs). I told myself that I have to give my all. Then, you know, after I shouted the line, I only heard a chuckle so I just returned to my seat.”

It turned out that Toni got the lead part. “I ran to the CR and locked myself up in a cubicle. Napaupo



Toni as the title character in the upcoming Philippine remake of My Sassy Girl with Pepe Herrera

ako sa isang side and started crying because it was my first time to experience a ‘Yes.’ It was my first time to be accepted (as lead).”

Life for Toni is a lot different now, especially in showbiz. “Before, hindi s’ya ganun ka-competitive. When I was just



The TV host-actress interviews Ivana Alawi for her You-Tube series ToniTalks

starting, I would be happy if I had guests but towards my 10th, 15th year, the competition was getting stiffer,

grabeng competitive ang mga nakakasama ko to the point of feeling the pressure or having the thought of losing a job.”

Now that she is marking her 20th year in showbiz, does Toni still feel insecure sometimes?

“Am I still good enough to do this? Am I still capable of doing this? Should I still be doing this? There are always questions (in my head). I think you will never get to the point of, ‘I’m so secure of myself,’ because the moment you feel you know you have it all, is the moment when you stop learning,” she replied.



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Light at the End still Far

It is easy to believe that once all of us - here in Canada - are vaccinated, the road to normalcy is at hand. Well, there is vaccination here and then, there's the rest of the world. It cannot be called normal if the borders are closed. A world where we cannot go out and nobody can get in is not normal. The book, "No Man is an Island" by John Donne is 1624 is more appropriate now than when it was published.

In India, which is now the latest hotspot as of this writing is nearing collapse of it's

"Self-belief, optimism, and hard work, these things don't guarantee to get any of us to the top, but they at least give us a fighting chance." - Jason Ayres.

health system. Patients are dying outside, in their hosues in ambulances. Crematoriums are running non-stop that some of the metal parts itself are melting. I mean, one of the things that is always worth remembering is, this is a global pandemic. And things that happen in one place spread quickly.

And this is the reality of a globalized world. So, there are many,

many key reasons to help India, certainly a moral one, certainly a geopolitical one, but also the simple fact that you have got a lot of opportunities for infections in India, a lot of potential for more mutations, more variants.

And that makes the world less safe. So, whatever your reason for engaging, I think the key here is, we all have to engage and bring the infection numbers way down.

Performing without an audience in front

MISSING THE APPLAUSE: It's a different feeling, says high-strung singer Jed Madela, "when one performs in a virtual concert."

You sing your heart out, but there's one thing, one important element that's missing. It's the

bond between singer and audience that creates instant rapport.

Jed makes no bones about it. "I miss the palakapan."

The veteran singer may well be referring to the spontaneous, ecstatic outpouring of emotion, approval, of the joy that a song can bring to one's audience.

Jed recently mounted a Valentine concert, beamed online, last February. He's just one of many singers who are trying to reach out to their followers, and make ends meet, in this time of pandemic.

HARDEST HIT BY LOCKDOWN: Singers and other performers are among the hardest hit by lockdown slapped against bars and similar entertainment outlets.

These enclosed places are presumed among the most vulnerable to the spread of Covid-19.

They gather crowds that are simply not allowed these days.

So, how are our singers coping the time

of pandemic? Unlike actors who can continue to work under locked-in

shoots, singers don't have the same privilege.

Rachel Alejandro says she misses performing immensely. She has been using this downtime to travel with her New York-based husband, Carlos.

She also reverted to recording and making new music, such as her latest offering, Takipsilim.

Celeste Legaspi has been home-based for a whole year. She has been cooking, gardening, dressing up her plants with her now-seldom used costume jewelry.

Celeste recently posted on Facebook her own new version (more laid back, truly heartfelt) of that Willy Cruz classic, Never Ever Say Goodbye, arranged by Ryan Cayabyab.

OTHER BUSINESSES: Marco Sison has put on hold a thriving food

business in his hometown, Binan, Laguna to focus on his farm in nearby Carmona, where he breeds and raises game cocks numbering 500 as of last count.

Marco misses the stage, but not as much as he misses the rest of his family left behind in Los Angeles, California.

Anthony Castelo released a new digital album, via Spotify and other streamers. Pangarap Mo'y Makakamit, featuring "Minamahal Kita, Pilipinas," is a collection of inspiring, scintil-

lating songs that speak of love in a broader, uplifting sense.

Celebrated through the 10 songs in the album rendered in that signature baritone of his are love of self, love of others, love of God, love of country.

BOYS IN THE BAND: Easily the most affected by lockdown and pandemic are the bands, whose work places are bars, hotels, restaurants, concert

halls.

At the rate we're going, it doesn't seem like these outlets are going to open anytime soon.

Arnel Pineda, lead singer of American band Journey, has been using the downtime in Manila for creative endeavors. He writes new material, and attends to his recording.

"Lockdown, when people don't have much to do and can't go out, is the best opportunity to create music," he says.

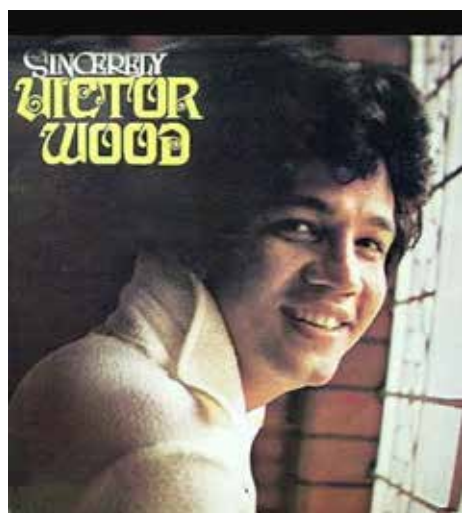
He urges other creatives to seize this opportunity to create, write, express themselves.

Arnel is the voice behind FPJ Ang Probin-syano's new theme song, Cardo Dalisay.

SIMPLE WISH: My wish is simple.

I hope these singers, gifted all, never get to sing, prematurely, that Matt Monro classic, If I Never Sing Another Song.

A touching ode to singers, its refrain echoes: "If I never sing another song, It shouldn't bother me, I've had my share of fame, you know my name."



Iconic Pinoy pop singer Victor Wood passes away at 75

Victor Wood was one of the original stars of Pinoy pop.

The iconic singer passed away April 23, 2021. He was 75.

Victor Wood was born in Buhi, Camarines Sur on February 1, 1946. Wood was one of, if not the biggest music artist under Vicor Records when the label was establishing itself in the late 60's and in the early 70's.

The singer was eventually dubbed the "Jukebox King," a title reserved only for the biggest and most popular singers in the country. Wood released a total of 26 albums during his reign as one of the most recognizable singers in local pop. He also released almost 2 dozen singles during the course of his career.

Vicor released his debut album "I'm Sorry My Love" in 1970. The album contained his versions of the popular hits of the day.

Some of the hits he sung included ballads such as "Mr. Lonely," "Release Me," "Crying Time," and "Where Is Your Heart." But Wood could just about sing anything and he did so through his interpretation of diverse music styles. From the folk sounds of "Tom Dooley," country flavored "A Tear Fell," waltz and Latin in "Tennessee Waltz" and "Teenage Senorita," and "Malaguena," to a more localized flavor with Tagalog ("Kalyehon 29") and regional songs like the Visayan "Ihilak."

Veteran music scribe Poch Concepcion wrote of Victor Wood: "His place in the rich, colorful history of Vicor's local music catalogue is at the crossroads in the development of Original music." The writer also posited that "Victor Wood bridged the gap between artists who gained fame by singing foreign covers and the succeeding batch who broke wide open the doors that led to Pinoy rock, folk, jazz, and the Manila Sound."

Victor Wood also ventured into politics in the 80s, was an actor and a painter.



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What Charlie Dizon is looking for in a guy

Sa ‘Magandang Buhay’ nitong Martes, Abril 27, kinumusta ang aktres na si Charlie Dizon tungkol sa estado ng kanyang love life.

Inamin ng aktres na si Charlie Dizon na single siya ngayon.

Sa Magandang Buhay nitong Martes, Abril 27, kinumusta si Charlie tungkol sa estado ng kanyang love life.

“Wala pa rin po,” ang naging sagot ng aktres.

Nang tanungin naman kung may nanliligaw ba sa kanya ngayon, sagot ni Charlie: “Wala talaga, tita. Hindi ko rin alam bakit.” Paliwanag ni Charlie, hindi rin siya naghahanap ng bagong pag-ibig, dahil gusto niyang mag-focus muna sa kanyang career sa ngayon.

Gayunpaman, masayang ibinahagi ni Charlie ang mga katangian na hinahanap niya sa isang lalaki.

“Mestizo po. Mas naa-attract ako sa mestizo talaga. Matangkad. Gusto ko siyempre ‘yung mabait po sa akin talaga and sa family ko, and ‘yung may goal din, may pangarap din. Ganun po,” aniya.

Si Charlie, 25, ay kilala bilang bida ng sikat na mga pelikulang Fan Girl at Four Sisters Before the Wedding

Muling mapapanood ang aktres sa My Sunset Girl, ang bagong proyekto ng iWant TFC na ipo-produce ng Dreamscape Entertainment.

Nakatakda rin siyang bumida sa bagong ABS-CBN teleserye na Viral, kung saan gaganap siya bilang babae na magiging biktima ng sex scandal.

Makakasama niya sa serye sina



Dimples Romana at si Jake Cuenca. Mapapanood ang palabas sa A2Z Channel 11, Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, at iWant TFC.

OMG! KC Concepcion just made mom Sharon Cuneta cry

She meant well, making sure to greet her mom Sharon Cuneta who is celebrating a very important milestone in her life, but KC Concepcion’s effort ultimately moved the Megastar to tears.

It was caught on cam, too.

Note that prior, some fans have been reaching out to Sharon expressing worry about her and KC seemingly not being chummy of late.

Well, the post should help end further speculation relating to their alleged estrangement.

In the video call, KC could be heard clearly telling her mom how much she loves her.

Judging from Sharon’s reaction, it is obvious the feeling is mutual.

Note the call was prompted with KC not being able to make it to Sharon and husband Senator Kiko Pangilinan 25th wedding anniversary celebration.

But she sent food, though.

Angel Locsin giving cash to the poor

A video clip of Kapamilya star Angel

Locsin giving money to the needy has started to go viral on Twitter.

No other details were given, as to what transpired or when it really happened, but Angel could be seen donating money to an unidentified man in a hospital.

After she handed the money, Angel left with an assistant.

For quite some time now, Angel has been helping Filipinos affected by disasters. Lately, her efforts were diverted to helping the needy during the pandemic.

Recently, Angel mounted a community pantry where a man died while waiting in line in Quezon City.

Angel and the Quezon City government vowed assistance to the family of the 67-year-old man.

Despite the controversy, Angel still reaped praises for feeding the needy.



Samantha Bernardo

stays in Thailand after Miss Grand International win to train beauty queens

MANILA, Philippines — Miss Eco International 2020 first runner-up Kelley Day is back in Manila after competing in Sharm el-Sheikh.

In an Instagram post, she told friends and followers that she is now in quarantine in her hotel for the next



seven days. Kelley took the first available flight home after testing negative to a routine swab test in Egypt.

SAMANTHA continued on page 22

Dancer Katharine Reyes (RIGHT) and singer Alyssa Datu (BELOW) celebrated their birthdays last month.



Kung good deal ang hinahanap ninyo, Harold Guarin ang tawagan n'yo...



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'Rabiya Mateo: "Pangako ko, ilalaban ko talaga itong Miss Universe"

Philippine bet Rabiya Mateo was emotional as she expressed her gratitude toward her fans for their overwhelming support for her bid on winning the country's fifth Miss Universe crown.

"I don't want to be emotional right. I feel like this is parang my send-off party," Rabiya said on Wednesday, April 28, 2021, during her mini virtual meet-and-greet session with Miss Universe 2019 Zozibini Tunzi.

Since Rabiya wasn't able to have a send-off party before she flew to the U.S. last April 9, 2021, the virtual event hosted by shopping app Lazada seemed like her very own send-off party.

Teary-eyed, she continued, "Maraming salamat po talaga sa init ng suportang binigay niyo sa akin. It's hard to be far away from home, you know."

"But every time I see a Filipino, you know,

would send me a message of love, it meant a lot. It gives me the energy to do well in the competition."

Rabiya also sent her message of hope and resilience as the country still experiences surge in COVID-19 cases.

"And alam ko, maraming pinagdadaanan iyong bansa natin ngayon, maraming problema na kailangan ng solusyon."

"Kailangan natin magtulong-tulong. Kailangan natin mahalin muna iyong sariling atin at hindi tayo dapat magpaapi sa problema kasi Pilipino tayo."

"Babangon at babangon tayo."

Rabiya also promised to give her best performance at the pageant and bring home the Miss Universe title.

"At iyong pangako ko, ilalaban ko talaga itong Miss Universe. Gagawin ko ang lahat lahat para maging proud naman kayo sa akin."

"Mahal ko kayo. Palangga akong tanan."



Richard Gomez says he's a faithful husband to Lucy Torres; quips, "Hindi ako aaswangin, Honey."

Pinaglutan ni Richard Gomez ng grilled tuna at pasta ang asawa niyang si Lucy Torres para sa pagdiriwang nila ng kanilang 23rd wedding anniversary. Si Richard, 55, ay kasalukuyang alkalde sa Ormoc City; habang si Lucy, 46, ay fourth district representative ng Leyte.

Nagkomento si Richard na mas luminamnam ang pasta dahil sa pagdagdag niya ng bawang.

Nagbiruan silang hindi makakalapit ang aswang dahil sinasabing bawang ang isang pangontra rito.

Sabay biro ni Richard, "Hindi ako aaswangin, Honey."



Mabining tanong ni Lucy, "Anong ibig sabihin nun?" Paliwanag ni Richard, "In street lingó, hindi ako lalapitan ng mga babae." Mabilis na tugon ni Lucy, "Ay, hindi talaga, Honey! Hahaha!"

Ipinunto ni Lucy na malakas ang intuition ng babae pagdating sa mga nais umaligid sa kanilang asawa.

Sabi ni Lucy: "Binabalak pa lang nila, alam ko na. "Alam mo, kaming mga asawa nakakaamoy ng mga aswang. Gi plano palang ninyo, abort mission na."

Sa puntong ito direktang sinabi ni Richard na hindi kailanman magiging isyu ang third party sa kanilang mag-asawa.

"Pero never kong ginawa yun," ani Richard.

Halatang kilig na kilig pa rin ang dalawa sa isa't isa kahit na lampas dalawang dekada na silang mag-asawa.



New actress Analain Salvador says she idolizes Kathryn Bernardo and Angel Locsin

Now that she has been launched as part of Squad Plus along with her younger brother Ashton, Alain Salvador admitted that it's hard to deny that they come from a showbiz family (being cousins of Daniel Padilla and niece and nephew to Karla Estrada) when they carry the same traits.

"Napapansin ko sa mga lalake dito sa bahay namin lalo na sa kapatid ko. Of course lagi niyang nakakasama si kuya DJ, nakakausap niya, binibigyan siya ng advice. So napapansin ko lalo na yung pagiging gentleman ng mga lalake ng bahay namin, sa mga pinsan ko napapansin ko yun. Lalo na sa kapatid ko napaka-gentleman niya. Yung pagiging gentleman nila, pagiging matulungin nila sa lahat lalo na sa mga babae dito sa bahay sobrang protective nila. Talagang tinuturing nila kaming mga prinsesa kaya ayun nararamdaman namin yung dugong (Padilla)," Analain explained during the Squad Plus media launch last April 26.

The volleyball player-turned-actress, who is excited about an upcoming teleserye project, said she hopes to get the chance to work with her relatives onscreen someday if given the chance.

"Since I was young I've been playing volleyball so isa na yun sa ginagawa ko outside of showbiz. I go biking as well. Hindi lang halata pero nag-wo-workout ako (laughs). Of course we want to work with Kathaniel and our tita gusto namin sila makatrabaho. Sana soon pero hindi naman yung third party role (laughs)," she said.

Currently an incoming grade 12 student, Analain hopes to take Mass Communications when she goes to college. Now, she plans to balance her studies, sports, and showbiz. When it comes to acting, Analain said she idolizes two of the country's most talented actresses.

"Si ate Angel Locsin because unang una the way she uses her platform at sa pag-arte din just like ate Kath (Bernardo), talagang na-iinspire ako gumaling sa pag-arte dahil sa kanilang dalawa," she added.



LEFT, Hermie Esguerra celebrates his birthday with wife Luth. ABOVE, Birthday celebrant Leonard Ojha celebrates his special day with wife Marie.



Bernadette Sembrano conquers COVID-19

"TV Patrol" anchor Bernadette Sembrano was only too happy to share with social media followers her triumph against the deadly virus.

She uploaded a photo of a medical certificate confirming the same on Instagram.

It read in part:

"This certifies that this patient had mild COVID-19 and has completed the recommended isolation period plus 3 days of no symptoms. Therefore, she has recovered, no longer contagious, and no longer needs further isolation."

Bernadette wrote, "Today, May 1 we officially survived Covid. Resting the stool outside my door. Thanks for all the love that you sent over..."

In the same post, she urged, "Please continue to pray for each and every person afraid, afflicted, by FEAR illness and those in a black hole because of losing of a loved one."



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'I don't want to be a hypocrite,'
Vice Ganda says amid viral remarks on
China, West Philippine Sea

His easy way of talking to his viewers almost always became trending topics, like his recent comebacks on the territorial disputes on the West Philippine Sea, which also made him a YouTube star with five million subscribers and counting.

During the noontime show "It's Showtime," a contestant shared that his favorite subject is history. This opened the conversation between Vice and his co-host Vhong Navarro.

Among the questions asked was who discovered China.

"Si Chiara Zambrano ang naka-discover na ang China pala ay malapit na sa Palawan! Na sa Juan Felipe Reef na pala! Sila ang nakakita," Vice Ganda quipped.

The show referred to an April 9 incident where ABS-CBN News team led by reporter Chiara Zambrano were chased by two Chinese vessels, allegedly deployed by the Chinese Navy. Zambrano and her team were within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of the Philippines when the chase happened.

Vice Ganda also joked about the number of rays in the Philippine flag.

"Baka kinuha na naman ng China 'yung isa, pito na lang ngayon. Dati kasi walo, pero hindi natin alam, baka nahiram na naman ng China," he said.

In the end, Vice stressed the need for Filipinos to learn their history so that past mistakes would not be repeated.

His popularity on TV has extended on YouTube where he is

happy to note that he was given a special gift on his birthday last March 31 by hitting the five-million subscribers club.

More than his being happy in his recent feat as a celebrity, Vice Ganda shared that knowing people follow him on his YouTube channel is a validation that he is still effective in serving his purpose.

"I was told by the ABS-CBN management that it is our obligation to reach out to your audience whatever happens. Since walang TV, among paraan?"

So, the only way na putok ng panahon na 'yun ay online shows so kailangan ko siyang pasukin. So pinasok ko 'yung YouTube. 'Yung lumalaki 'yung following, subscription, nakakatuwa kasi doon ko na-realize na marami pa ring may interes sa akin. Doon ko nase-serve 'yung purpose ko na kailangan kong i-serve kasi the pandemic cannot stop me from serving my purpose. Kasi kung ganoon lang din naman, ano pa 'yung siste ng buhay kung wala kang sine-serve na purpose, 'di ba?" he said.

Apart from serving his purpose, Vice was frank in saying that he does not want to be a hypocrite.

He's also in the popular streaming platform to earn money.

"Aside from that, I don't want to be a hypocrite. Mas maraming subscription, mas kikita 'yung channel ko. Kahit may ipon naman ako, kailangan kong kumita kasi mauubos 'yung ipon ko. Ayoko nang bumalik sa paghihirap. Hello. Nanggaling na ako doon at nagbabad na ako doon nang bongga, 'di ba? So ngayon na nasa ganito akong posisyon, hindi ko pwedeng papayaan kung anong meron



BIRTHDAYS



1. Els Mariquit celebrated her birthday last month. 2. Kim Mahistrado (left) celebrated his birthday at FV Foods with Joy D'Aoust and FV owner Mel Galeon. 3. Christine Villa poses with her mom mom Joy on her 18th birthday.

Donnalyn Bartolome's reply to those who insist she should marry

Donnalyn Bartolome stood up to netizens who have been telling her she should get married and have children because she is "getting old."

She recently showed a photo of herself as a teenager on her Facebook page last Tuesday, April 27. This decade-old photo prompted some to point out that she should start thinking of having a family.

"Nagpost ako ng photo ko [noong 17 years old ako], dami niyo na sinabi," Bartolome said as she showed screenshots of her responses to netizens also on her Facebook page yesterday. (I just posted a photo of myself when I was 17, you already said a lot of things.)

One male netizen told her, "Mag-anak ka na. Mahirap tumanda nang walang anak." (Have kids. It's hard to grow old without kids.)

"Mas mahirap tumanda na gagawing retirement [plan] ang mga anak (It's harder to grow old and make your children your retirement plan,)" she answered.

"Have children because you want to experience the joys of being a parent. Not with the intention of obligating them of responsibility that isn't theirs."

"Bakit may pag-utos? Reproductive organs ko 'to and 'mahirap' and 'malungkot' [mean] two different things," she added. (Why are you telling me what to do? These are my reproductive organs and "difficult" and "sad"

mean two different things.) "Tumatanda ka na wala ka pang pinapakilalang jowa (You're getting old but you have not introduced a boyfriend yet,)" another netizen said to her, to which she quipped "Bakit? Magulang ba kita?" (Why? Are you my parent?)

As to being told that she should get married because it is "difficult to grow old alone," the YouTube star said getting married to the "wrong" person would be harder.

While Bartolome does not agree with all of her fans' sentiments, she said she is just speaking her mind. She also assured them that she has "no hard feelings" on being pushed into marriage.



ako. Kailangan kong pangalagaan ang estado ng buhay ko, kailangan kong kumita," he explained.

He ended that he wishes for the pandemic to end and is "claiming" and is "most excited" for it to happen this year.

"Kine-claim ko na this year, matatapos na itong pandemic na ito. Sayang naman 'yung kagandahan ko na nabubulok lang sa bahay ko. Hindi ito pwedeng mabulok sa bahay ko. Kaya kine-claim ko na matatapos na itong pandemic na ito.

I've been praying for this, every day, every night, pinagdadasal ko ito na magamot ang lahat ng may karamdaman at eventually matapos na itong pandemic and that will happen this year and that is the one thing that I am so excited about."



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Sharon Cuneta would 'love to play' Doctor Foster in PH adaptation

Megastar Sharon Cuneta is down to take on the titular role of Dr. Gemma Foster in the upcoming Philippine adaptation of the hit British drama "Doctor Foster."

"OMG! Thank you so much! Would absolutely love to play her!!!" Cuneta shared on Instagram yesterday, April 27, after fans made her trend on local Twitter as they called for her casting in the said role.

In the said post, Cuneta also tagged the Instagram accounts of director Lauren Dyogi, ABS-CBN, NY Entourage Productions and the said production company's Angel Syang.

Cuneta also shared a screenshot of the said trending list on Twitter yesterday, which showed "SHARONCUNETA DRFOSTERPH" on the 26th spot.



"I just know The Megastar will act the @#St out of this adaptation if given the chance @ABSCBN SHARONCUNETA DRFOSTERPH," Twitter user @megatitas, for one, said under the said topic.

"Ma @sharon_cuneta12 I pray that they'll consider you on this role! Gaaaaahd. You perfectly fit [for] this role!," Twitter user @gens_idubai meanwhile said.

A fan with the Twitter handle @ShagabF meanwhile posted Cuneta's photos along with a quote from the British drama saying, "B*tch is right. I'm a wolf tonight!"

The post came with an edited poster of the South Korean hit drama "The World of the Married" - which is also an adaptation of BBC Studios' "Doctor Foster" - showing Cuneta side by side with South Korean star Kim Hee-Ae.

ABS-CBN last month announced going into an agreement with BBC Studios that allows the former to remake the BAFTA award-winning psycholog-

ical drama.

"Doctor Foster" follows the story of "a trusted doctor whose life implodes when she suspects her husband of having an affair," ABS-CBN said in a release.

Showrunners have yet to announce the official casting for the said show, although fans have also previously called for Judy Ann Santos to play Dr. Gemma Foster. Their clamor for Santos to be cast immediately went viral on Twitter after announcement of the adaptation was made.



ABOVE, Arielle Perez gets her confirmation last month. BELOW, Arielle celebrates her confirmation with her family.



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NETIZENS ASK: Is Tekla back to his old habits?

Many are worried with comedian Tekla looking seemingly exhausted if altogether unwell in recent TV appearances.

Some also noticed that he has seemingly lost a lot of weight.

Malicious fans were quick to assume he is back on drugs.

Note Tekla admitted to drug dependency problems prior, relating how it came about as triggered by depression.

In any case, he has since come out to belie he is using drugs anew.

In a video he shared though YouTube, he clarified that he has simply been remiss focusing on his appearance due to mere laziness.

"Lately kasi pag nagba-vlog tayo, tinatamad akong mag-make-up. Minsan kasi nagkakaroon tayo ng petiks eh. Ako, especially sa akin, medyo may slight tamad factor din ako, eh."



"So kapag tinopak, sige 'te, okay na 'yan. Mema lang. May ma-video lang or may mai-content lang na hindi isinaalang-alang kung ano magiging looks ko, kung ano magiging dating sa tao." He also maintained his seeming weight loss is intentional, the result of dieting.

"Tinitingnan ko rin 'yung itsura ko kasi required din sa TV, sa amin sa TBATS. Sa TBATS, kapag tinitingnan 'yung frame mo, hindi na magandang tingnan, so kailangan mong magdiyeta."

He apologized to fans for being careless with his appearance of late.

"Sorry I forgot that 'Ay, performer pala ako.' Tinitingnan pala ako ng tao so kailangan 'yung itsura ko presentable, maayos," Tekla said.



AJ Le Chazz passes away

Stand-up comedian and former "Wowowin" co-host Le Chazz Nightingale has passed away.

According to some reports, the 43-year-old artist, whose real name is Richard Yuzon, was found dead at his home in Kamuning, Quezon City. Police did not give other details.

Le Chazz is set to celebrate his birthday on May 10. His friend, Aj Tami-za, penned an appreciation post about his demise.

"I love you much salamat sa lahat lahat.. please guide us.. no more pain.. bes ILOVEYOU.. PAHINGA KANA.. #RIP #CHAZZ #ILOVEYOU."

It was a few years ago when Le Chazz's life story was featured in "Tunay Na Buhay."

NADINE LUSTRE'S REACTION TO SEEING HERSELF IN TIMES SQUARE



This is what happens when you keep on manifesting.

ICYMI, Nadine Lustre leads an army of

and even appeared on a huge LED billboard in Times Square, NYC.

So, naturally, we had to ask Nadine her thoughts about this. "This is some Bella Hadid sh*t," she says via a Telegram exchange, alluding to the supermodel being a constant all over the famed spot in the Big Apple. Apart from an obvious

excitement and overflowing of gratitude, Nadine Lustre also expresses that now, she feels pressured more than ever. A pleasant surprise for the Wildest Dreams singer, her image figuring in Times Square and her song being featured on the Spotify playlist is a testament to her reach and success since she focused on music. Despite some people not taking her music seriously, she couldn't care less, especially since this really is her pursuit of passion. In fact, it just fueled Nadine Lustre even more to strive in creating and making sure that her work as an artist is uncompromised and recognized. And look where the persistence got her? The city where dreams are made of. Who knows, the next time we see her there, she will find herself in New York for real sharing her music and her truth to that side of the world.

ferce Filipinas in Spotify's EQUAL Playlist and yes, she's definitely surprised that she saw herself at Times Square's enormous LED.

Nadine Lustre's always been in a lane of her own. You know, stuff like making a visual album, being an award-winning actress, and of course, championing fellow Filipinas. A month ago, Spotify unveiled their EQUAL hub—an avenue where you can "listen to women from all over the world, at full volume." Fierce females such as Moira dela Torre, Kiana V, Jess Connelly, and Sarah G were some of the names you'll be seeing on the head-bopping playlist. Classified as a actual genre on the platform, Nadine Lustre is the chosen face of the Philippines

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DJ Loonyo to dip into singing, acting, songwriting

Controversial content creator DJ Loonyo is aiming to conquer the entertainment scene.

The 25-year-old who rose to fame through dance videos that quickly garnered millions of views across all digital platforms, revealed he is planning to establish a career in singing and acting.

He's currently working on six songs, which he plans to present to his record label, Universal Records.

He's also working on a book, as well as a virtual show. DJ Loonyo is also aiming to produce a dance movie starring himself.

He reasoned, "Ayokong nag-aantay na sana kunin ako ni ganito, sana kunin ako ni ganyan. So what if ako 'yung magluto? Yun yung na pi-picture ko."

As of the moment, he is appearing on several shows on TV5 and GMA. DJ Loonyo just released his latest single "Dance Under The Sun," hoping it could be this year's "summer anthem."

He shared the song's goal is to draw positivity and uplift spirits amid the challenging times.

DJ Loonyo choreographed a dance routine for the song. If you want to learn it, a tutorial is available on his TikTok account.

He aims to release an album soon.

Jake Ejercito joins ABS-CBN

Social media star Jake Ejercito is now a certified Kapamilya!

Ejercito, 31, son of former President Joseph Estrada and former actress Laarni Enriquez, was formally introduced as an official member of ABS-CBN during a Zoom conference today, April 30.

The social media personality dated actress Andi Eigenman for several years. They have a nine-year-old daughter Ellie.

Ejercito is known for his blog unoemilio where he writes about his trips around the world.

It took a year before Ejercito finally signed for ABS-CBN. He was supposed to sign a contract with the network in March 2020, but it was delayed due to the pandemic.

On ABS-CBN, Ejercito's first project will be the TV series "Marry Me, Marry You" with the newest Kapamilya star Sunshine Dizon.

"Marry Me" will be Ejercito's first teleserye. "I was a reluctant actor pero this time, talagang full-time na."



Kathryn Bernardo's mother pens touching birthday message for Daniel Padilla

Min Bernardo, the mother of Kathryn Bernardo, recently wrote a sweet and warm birthday greeting to her daughter's longtime reel and real partner Daniel Padilla.

"Happy 26th birthday @supremo_dp. Mahigit na 10 taon ka na naming nakilala, mula nung nagsisimula ka pa lang magbinata, nakita ko ang kalokohan at kapilyuhan mo sa lahat ng bagay pero napagdaanan nating lahat ang mga yan. Nakita din naming lahat ang tunay na Daniel John Ford, maalaga, mapagmahal at mabait na anak at

kapatid. Ngayon, muling nadagdagan na naman ng isang taon ang iyong edad, we always pray that God bless you more, gives you strength and teach you more additional knowledge to face the



future," she wrote on Instagram.

Meanwhile, Daniel's mom, Karla Estrada, happily announced on social media the efforts of her friends to organize a community pantry in her hometown of Tacloban coinciding with her son's 26th birthday today.

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Heaven Peralejo on surviving COVID-19, ‘Life is short talaga’

‘Bagong Umaga’ actress Heaven Peralejo shares her realizations after surviving COVID-19.

After coming out with a vlog earlier this month revealing she had contracted COVID-19 while on the set of her soap Bagong Umaga, Heaven Peralejo said that unlike her other co-stars who also tested positive, she ended up with more severe symptoms.

“Naging critical kasi umabot sa point na kailangan ko ma-confine for seven days. So with the help of ABS-CBN and yung DEO productions natulungan ako with everything that



I needed at that time. Hindi naman nila ako pina-bayaan,” she shared during the Bagong Umaga finale presscon last April 27.

The 21-year-old actress shared her realizations after recovering from the virus which she hopes that people will take seriously.

“Dapat i-take ng lahat na it’s a serious case and ang natutunan ko dun is life is short nga talaga and we should be more present. Kasi masyado tayong nag-iisip for the future eh. Iniisip ko ano ang next kong work? Ano ang gagawin ko para kumayod? Ganyan ganyan. Pero hindi natin na-appreciate kung anong meron tayo ngayon. So yun yung isa sa mga nakuha kong lessons nung nagkaroon ako ng COVID. Mas naging appreciative ako and mas naging super close talaga ako sa family to the point na mas gusto ko ipakita sa kanila every second of the day na mahal na mahal ko sila. Kasi hindi ko alam baka biglang may mangyari na naman, hindi man ako pero ayoko na i-take yung risk, ayoko na rin

mag-regret,” she explained.

With her te-leserye Bagong Umaga now on its finale week, Heaven said she was happy to be healthy again in time to shoot their last remaining scenes.

“Ngayon okay na ako. Naka-re-cover na ako and nakapag-taping na ako for the finale. Masaya ang puso kasi kasi nakatapos ng show. Ito ang first show ko at mahal na mahal ko itong show na ‘to. Kaya talagang all positivity and nahanap ko din yung peace,” she said.

B-DAY BLOWOUT: KC Concepcion is giving away bikes

KC Concepcion is celebrating her birth month in a special way. No, she is not joining the community pantry craze. That has been done already.

Taking to social media, the Megadaughter announced she is giving away bikes.

Not one, not two, not three, but six bikes! Talk about “limited edition.”

Well, they’re not just your regular bikes. These are from KC.

But why is KC giving these babies away?

She said, “For my birthday, I decided I would continue to do my part in helping out fellow Filipinos in these trying items, in all the ways I can...”

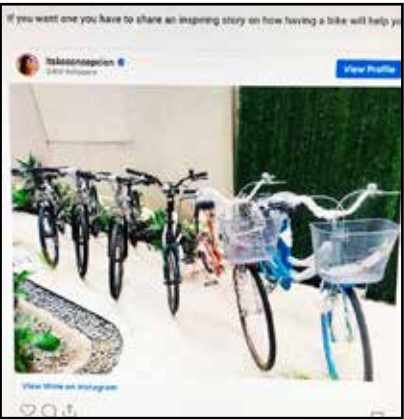
KC added, “In life I’ve learned, more often than not... GIVING is CAR-ING...”

No, don’t rush out there yet Pedro. She is not giving it away willy-nilly.

If you want one you have to share an inspiring story on how having a bike will help you in work or school.

If the powers that be liked your story, it is only then that you get one.

Well, do you feel lucky, punk?



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CONTROL
continued from page 6

am not embarrassed to let go. But I am still aware I am in a scene because of him – he follows the treatment and flow of our director Gb San Pedro.)

I was very curious on how Jerald can “control” himself especially in terms of arousal given that he is with a very beautiful woman like Guimary, “This is not new to me. I had a lot of practice in theater. When I was younger, and it was my first time I could not control my body and I was so embarrassed with my partner. She was an experienced theater actress, and she told me I will get the hang of it. On the following theater runs, I was able to control my body part’s with my mind, it’s all about mind-setting. And that is what I did during our scenes with Sunshine.”

Jayda warms up for first major concert in June

Young singer-songwriter Jayda is holding her first-ever major concert titled Jayda in Concert on June 26.

Happening on digital via KTX.ph, iWanTFC, and TFC IPTV, the event will showcase the multi-talented artist’s music and her awaited rendition of a variety of hits in a grand musical show.

A joint production of ABS-CBN Events and Phenomenal Entertainment, Jayda in Concert will be directed by Frank Mamaril together with lean Inigo as the musical director.

Last February, the showbiz royalty launched her self-penned single “Paano Kung Naging Tayo.” Its music video also



served as her directorial debut.

The ABS-CBN Music artist is also part of the all-female multinational collaboration “HEAL” released in 2020.

Her other hits include “Perfectly Imperfect,” which is a collaboration with Jeremy G, her duet with Darren Espanto entitled “Sana Tayo Na,” and her solo single “Happy For You,” which earned her the Awit Award for Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist in 2019.

STANDING UP
continued from page 4

sense that it legitimizes our claims on the West Philippine Sea and the other disputed islands. It refutes the claims of China, especially its Nine-Dash Line. The E.U.’s statement of support is a political advantage for us because now, we earn the support of the international community. In a way, it discredits China’s claim on the West Philippine Sea.

“Whenever there’s a Chinese incursion in the West Philippine Sea, we can immediately expect the support of these countries, the Western coun-

tries, particularly the E.U.,” Coronacion explains.

West Philippine Sea: A Battle of Perception

“The battle over the West Philippine Sea is a battle of perception,” said Coronacion. “Which one has a legitimate claim, which one is playing equally in accordance with the rule of law? European countries have a set of norms that puts primacy on international law. Ang gusto nilang masunod, international law and rule of law. I think pogi points yan for us which we should capitalize on.”



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Anne Curtis on her mom doting on Dahlia Amélie: 'Totoo pala mas spoiled ang apo'

Anne Curtis shares her mom totally adores her baby with husband Erwan Heussaff.

She revealed her mom is so fond of her daughter to the point of spoiling her.

"Totoo pala mas spoiled ang apo," she quipped in a get-together organized by Jollibee.

The company tapped Anne as campaign ambassador for its Family Thanksgiving Month celebration.

In any case, Anne appreciates the love her family showers on Baby Dahlia.

She shared how her parents and siblings really helped particularly during the first few months of her motherhood.

Having a baby changed Anne's perspective on family.

"Na parang as a mom you realize how precious they are," she said.

The actress-TV host also learned the importance of spending "precious time" with family.

That's why she can't help but feel emotional when Jollibee recently surprised her with a video of her family in Australia.

Note that in there, her father expressed how "proud" he is of her.

While her mom said: "I just want to say I'm so thankful for you para sa laging pagbibigay saya, pagmamahal sa akin bilang my daughter. Ngayon I'm happy



to see you and your family share that too as a mom and wife, and I love you and I miss you."

His brother also extended a sweet message.

"Hi ate, I hope you're all safe and sound over there in the Philippines. I'm just here to say that I'm thankful for you

because you are an amazing part of the family - always will, and always have been. You're always taking care of us no matter what situation, and that's something we can always be grateful for. And I'm also thankful because you're a mother to Dahlia now as well. You are an amazing mother and that's something you will just continue to get throughout. Love you and miss you so much!"

How about sister Jasmine?

Well, according to Anne, Jasmine has been volunteering as yaya to Baby Dahlia whenever she has errands.

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Behind the Music: 'Init sa Magdamag' by Sharon Cuneta and Nonoy Zuniga



(L to R): Songwriters Willy Cruz and Baby Gil, with Sharon Cuneta, Nonoy Zuñiga and vocal arranger Babsie Molina (seated).

When Carmencita “Baby” Gil and Willy Cruz collaborated the theme song to the movie “Init sa Magdamag,” directed by Laurice Guillen in 1983, they were not thinking about creating a hit song. They were mainly concerned about how it would best fit the film.

“Willy and I were assigned to come up with the theme for the movie,” Gil told ABS-CBN News. “We’ve worked together before, but ‘Init sa Magdamag’ was our first theme song for Viva. The song was composed with the plot of the picture in mind.”

Yet “Init sa Magdamag,” recorded by Sharon Cuneta and Nonoy Zuñiga, became an instant hit, as did the film which starred Lorna Tolentino, Dindo Fernando and Joel Torre.

The stirring ballad became a much-requested and popular song on the radio. “Just like what we had done several times before, Willy came up with the melody and then I did the lyrics based on the script written by

Raquel Villavicencio," Gil said.

"It was a job," Gil maintained. "I did not really need inspiration, just the right words to fit the notes."

“Init sa Magdamag” emained popular even after the film had long been shown.

“Both Sharon and Nonoy were making one hit after another during that time, so it was almost a sure thing that ‘Init sa Magdamag’ would become a hit,” said Gil. “The great thing is that the song acquired a life of its own over the years, independent of the movie.”

“Init sa Magdamag” had other versions by other local artists. Ariel Rivera and Jun Polistico recorded their respective versions. The more recent one was recorded by Jona, as the theme of the ABS-CBN teleserye of the same title that premiered April 19.

“Being performed live and recorded by various artists is the best way for a song to stay alive,” Gil said. “Init sa Magdamag’ is almost 40 years old, but it is still around

and the main reason is it is still being heard and still sounds new because of the new versions.”

But did you know that the song
was born out of girl talk?

“Laurice, Raquel and the late Bibsy Carballo spent a lot of time at my office at Viva, while working on the film,” Gil recalled. “We had a lot of fun dissecting those lyrics for the song.”

Apart from Cuneta and Zuñiga, who were the first ones to record “Init sa Magdamag,” there were other versions that came up through the years.

“Aside from the duet, Sharon and Nonoy both recorded solo versions of ‘Init sa Magdamag,’” said Gil. “There is also one by Eva Eugenio, which is a very different take. Likewise, the one by Joanna Ampil.

"All of them are my favorites. It is most flattering that they chose to record our song. I get very excited with every new version."

To date, “Init sa Magdamag” has undoubtedly become such an iconic hit. Whoever croons the song anew will give new flavor to the ballad that Gil collaborated with Cruz nearly four decades ago.

And the songwriter will nonetheless be proud again with every new version of her composition.

Whoever
sings the song
will give new
flavor to the
ballad.

GRADUAL DECLINE
continued from page 1

But he warned that the reproduction number was “unstable” and could still rise.

Vergeire noted that the positivity rate for the NCR went down from a high of 20.4 percent to the current 18 percent.

There were 64 Covid-related deaths daily in April, lower than March's daily toll of 67.

Based on OCTA's monitoring, almost

all of the 17 local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila had a negative growth rate except Taguig, Valenzuela and Marikina but they were single-digit increases. “This is important, as two weeks ago, many LGUs were having an increase of 60 or 70 percent every week,” David said.

But ICU bed capacity in Taguig, Makati, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, San Juan and Pateros were at 100 percent.

Another OCTA fellow, Fr. Nicanor

Austriaco, said a much lower reproduction number would allow hospital occupancy in Metro Manila to fall even faster. For this to happen, the group proposed keeping NCR and the four adjoining provinces in modified enhanced community quarantine or MECQ until at least the reproduction number gets lower than the current 0.9.

OCTA founder Prof. Ranjit Rye said the national government and the LGUs must do more tests at the barangay level

and set up an effective tracing app that would allow case finding.

Rye also said regional-level genomic biosurveillance must be intensified, more hospital beds must be freed up and more health care workers must be hired.

The Department of Health reported 13,812 new recoveries from Covid-19 and 8,719 new cases, pushing the total caseload to 979,740.

Active cases were down to 102,799.

The Covid-19 death toll was 16,529.



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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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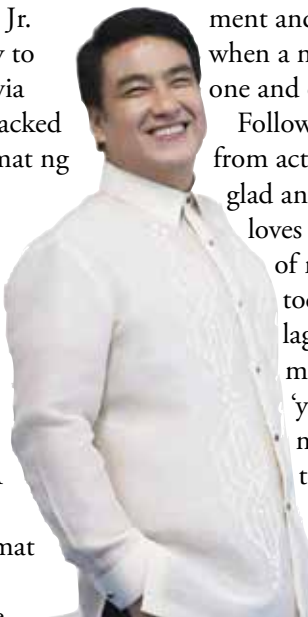
Ramon 'Bong' Revilla Jr. makes showbiz comeback on 'Agimat ng Agila'

Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. takes viewers on a journey to protect the environment via GMA Network's action-packed fantasy drama series "Agimat ng Agila".

This May, exciting adventures await Kapuso viewers as the bearer of the powers of an enchanted eagle sets off on a journey to protect the environment and to battle evil forces on GMA Network's action-packed fantasy drama series, 'Agimat ng Agila.'

The original series is the television comeback of well-loved and versatile actor Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. as Major Gabriel Labrador, the valiant head of Task Force Kalikasan who is wrongfully accused of his family's death and is chosen as the bearer of the Agimat ng Agila.

With the recent celebration of Earth Day, Agimat ng Agila heralds on every Filipino's guardianship of the environ-



ment and promotes how pivotal it is when a man embraces his love for his one and only planet.

Following his five-year-long hiatus from acting, Bong shares that he is both glad and blessed to be doing what he loves again, "Acting is an integral part of my life, and I owe who I am today to the industry. Hindi ko talaga maiwan ang industriya. Namiss ko rin 'yung camaraderie and 'yung collective creativity with my co-workers – from co-actors to the writers, the directors, the crew, and the staff. All in all, namiss ko 'yung buong experience, and I am blessed to be doing it again."

In addition, Bong also wishes to instill environmental awareness to the viewers and encourage them to be proactive stewards of nature, "Napakaganda ng Pilipinas at punong-puno ito ng likas na yaman. Agimat ng Agila shows this – the rich ecosystem and biodiversity in the country. Ipinakita rin namin dito ang epekto nito sa mga tao – the good and bad. Kung maipapaalala lang namin

sa mga tao ang kagandahan ng ating kalikasan at ang mga simpleng pwedeng gawin para huwag nang lalo pa masira ito, then we have imparted a meaningful message."

King Badger vlogs drug test to refute wife Jelai Andres' claim

Singer-actor Jon "King Badger" Gutierrez was eager to prove his wife, sexy actress-model Jelai Andres, wrong on her claim that he's addicted to illegal drugs.

On his recent vlog, the Kapuso artist shared a recent drug test he took to "prove" he's "clean."

"So yun on the way na kami sa Crame para sa aking drug test. Hindi ko alam kung ilang oras ang result pero sana on the day din. I know I'm gonna be negative anyway so I'm only doing this to prove myself that I'm clean," he said.

The member of Ex Battalion also showed the test result.

"So ayun guys, nakita niyo naman ang result - negative ako sa shabu and negative din ako sa marijuana! I only did it to clear myself. Gusto ko lang i-clear yung sarili ko sa mga tao kasi sobrang



lala na sabihin na adik ako," he said.

"Hindi ako adik. Magkaiba ang adik sa dating nag try," he noted. "I'm not gonna lie to you guys, nag try ako mag smoke, half of the time nasa US ako kasi legal ang mag smoke sa US."

According to him, though he did try to smoke, he can't be labeled as an addict.

"Hindi ako adik. Hindi ako naging adik kasi ang adik hindi nakaka stop sa ginagawa nila kasi nga sila ay addicted to doing that thing – which is yun nga yung smoke. Pero ako I was never addicted to that sh*t. I am clean. Both negative," he reiterated.

King Badger also tackled the issue on his Twitter account.

He wrote, "Nung sinabihan ako ng ADIK halos lahat ng batikos is about me being addicted to drugs? Ngayong napatunayan kong hindi ako ADIK sa drugs babaliktarin ako na hindi yun ang issue? Kesyo '2019 pa daw! Eh sa ngayon binibitaw sa madla? Mali ba na i-clear sarili ko sa pagiging ADIK?"

"Ang di nyo gets kasi is yung masabihan ka na 'ADIK.' Ang lala kasi nyan dahil sa panahon ngayon pinapatay ang mga adik. Wala akong nililihis na issue, alam ko ang mali ko at matagal na ako humingi ng tawad privately."

Last March, both Jelai and Jon were hot topic on social media after the former "exposed" the latter's alleged cheating.

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Gabby still a hit with leading ladies younger than daughter KC



Gabby is now the only remaining actor in his generation of Regal Babies who continue to play lead roles. William Martinez appears occasionally while his brother Albert now plays only father and villain roles.

GABBY Concepcion has reason to be proud of his current GMA Telebabad show, “First Yaya”, as it’s his biggest hit so far. His previous shows with younger leading ladies like “Because of You” with Carla Abellana, “Love You Two” with Jennylyn Mercado and “Ika-5 Utos” with Sunshine Dizon and Ryza Cenon, also rated well, but still not as successful as “First Yaya” that is consistently rating 20 percent plus on primetime.

“Nagpapasalamat kami ni Sanya Lopez sa lahat ng regular followers ng

‘First Yaya’ at sa lakas ng suporta nyo sa amin,” he says.

Why does his shows paired with younger actress all click with the viewing public? “I really can’t tell, but I always make an effort na makapa ko muna kung ano ang magki-click sa amin to help our chemistry. Siguro it’s a brew, a combination of various elements. Lahat naman sila, magagaling. Lahat, na-enjoy kong katrabaho. Si Sanya, nagtiktok kami. Sayaw-sayaw. Natural

““ Maricel Soriano now play mother roles, Gabby still gets paired with much younger stars.

talaga si Sanya. Wala siyang front to just put her best foot forward. Kaya maganda ang working relationship namin.”

Gabby is now the only remaining actor in his generation of Regal Babies who continue to play lead roles. Their female co-stars, Dina Bonnevie, Maricel Soriano and Snooky Serna, now play mother roles, unlike Gabby who still gets paired with much younger stars. To think there was a time Gabby was absent for so long when he stayed in the United States.

Gabby’s latest leading lady, Sanya Lopez, is only 24 years old, more than double his age as he’s 56. Sanya is even much younger than his eldest daughter, KC Concepcion, who is now 35 years old and still very much negotiable.

Speaking of KC, Gabby posted a picture of him with his daughter last Holy Week. It seems like they spent it together as his caption says: “Spend quality time with the people who matter the most to you, specially those close to your heart.”



Kris Bernal on why her wedding took so long: ‘Fear ko kasi mawawalan ako ng work’

Following their engagement last year, actress Kris Bernal and her fiance Perry Choi revealed they are now preparing for their wedding. In fact, Bernal even documented their first day of planning through their vlog .

In there, she was spotted having a meeting with wedding suppliers, including Nice Print Photography’s Charisse Tinio, florist Gideon Hermosa, and their event planner Kim Torres.

According to Kris, up until now, her upcoming wedding hasn’t sunk in her yet.

“Hindi ko alam. Hindi ko akalain na kakasal na ako. Di ko alam na pupunat na ako sa age na ikakasal na ako,” the 31-year-old actress said.

“Feel ko wala akong alam. I’m starting from scratch kasi never pa naman ako na ka-experience na magplano ako ng wedding or anything or na-involve ako sa wedding ng ibang tao. Di ko alam saan ako magsisimula.”

Kris also admitted that she has this fear of losing her job if she decided to proceed to the next chapter of her life.

“I love my job! Natatakot ako.”



Chynna Ortaleza refutes rumors she and her family are all COVID-19 positive

Chynna Ortaleza assured fans that all is well and good with her and her family, contrary to gossip that they all tested positive for COVID-19.

“Sa mga nagsasabi po na may COVID kaming buong pamilya. Hindi po totoo.. Praise God! At huwag po kayo magalala kung meron man e ako pa ang nagsasabi dahil ang pinaka ayaw ko po e magtago ng importanteng impormasyon sa mga tao sa paligid dahil ang ayaw ko sa lahat e makahawa,” she wrote on Twitter.

SAMANTHA from page 11

The first available flight back to Manila is what Miss Grand International 2020 first runner-up Samantha Bernardo also booked when it opened. Her flight schedule is for May 12.

In the meantime, Sam was tapped to be the special mentor and trainer to Miss Grand Phrae 2021 and Miss Grand Nam 2021 for the forthcoming Miss Grand Thailand 2021. The next Miss Grand International pageant will unfold towards the end of the year.

Lovi Poe breaks silence on rumored transfer to ABS-CBN

Actress Lovi Poe broke her silence on rumors that she is set to transfer to ABS-CBN after her contract with GMA-7 expired.

“I think its only fair to keep things even at this stage and all negotiations are confidential,” said Lovi when asked about her transfer to the Kapamilya network during the launch of Imono Jewelry collection.



There are reports that Lovi will star in the Philippine version of the drama series “Doctor Forster” on ABS-CBN. Entertainment columnist Jun Lalin said that LVD Management, the talent management firm of Leo Dominguez and handler of Lovi, remains silent about this issue.

Lovi is currently seen in the Kapuso drama series “Owe My Love” opposite Benjamin Alves which started airing in February.

Herd immunity seen by October - Galvez

Vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said the government would focus its vaccination drive in high-risk areas such as the NCR Plus to achieve herd immunity from the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) by October.



Galvez said the strategy is to allocate 100,000 doses of Sinovac’s CoronaVac vaccine to NCR Plus where the number of Covid-19 cases is highest.

The next shipment of vaccines that will arrive will be distributed to other high-risk areas in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Western Visayas, Central Visayas and Davao.

“We aim to achieve herd immunity in areas with a high attack rate, specifically in Metro Manila, by October or November. This is also our commitment with the Nitag (National Immunization Technical Advisory Group),” he said.

The government aims to inoculate 70 million people to achieve herd immunity.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said on Saturday the members of the subtechnical working group on data analytics of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases met on Friday to look at projections on the number of cases and the hospital bed capacity in NCR Plus.

Despite the gradual decrease in cases, there is still no room for complacency, Vergeire said.

Compliance to minimum health protocols and vaccination are the two strategies to reduce transmission, she said.

Several mayors in Metro Manila have complained their vaccine stocks were almost depleted.

Dr. Lulu Bravo, executive director of the Philippine Foundation For Vaccination and chairman of the independent National Adverse Events Following Immunization Committee, said it was too early to say if the vaccinations have a “real world” effect in curbing infections.

Bravo hopes more people will be convinced to get jabbed as the world

commemorates World Immunization Week in the last week of April.

In a subsequent statement during World Immunization Week, Health Secretary Francisco Duque 3rd emphasized the crucial role of immunization in saving lives.

“This year’s, theme, ‘Vaccines bring us closer’ takes on additional importance

as Covid-19 vaccines join the arsenal of prevention measures to control the pandemic... With the way this pandemic changed our relationships, now there is hope — through the continuous rollout of Covid-19 vaccines — that vaccines will bring us closer once more,” Duque said.

Candid SPOOF

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



Lizzy Trovato plays the drums at the February 2020 Star Circle Valentine’s party. 😊😊😊

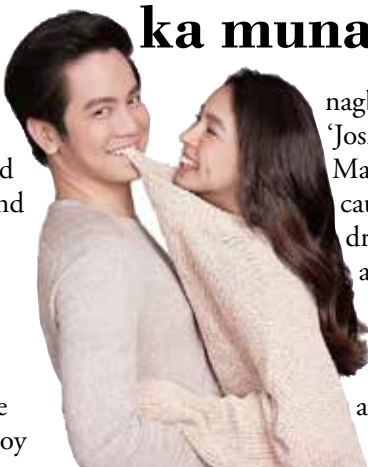
'Wag ka muna mag-girlfriend'

Kapamilya actress Julia Barretto advised former boyfriend Joshua Garcia to stay single because of his career passion.

In the recent episode of "The Best Talk" of Boy Abunda, the host revealed that he talked to Julia and asked her about her friendship with Joshua.

"Sabi niya, 'Alam mo Tito Boy, yung pagiging magkaibigan namin ni Joshua is at its best. We're very, very good friends.'" Boy said.

"Ang nakakatawa daw, siya na ang



nagbibigay ng payo ngayon kay Joshua: 'Joshua, 'wag ka muna mag-girlfriend. Mag-concentrate ka sa trabaho mo.' Because she sees how passionate and how driven Joshua Garcia is as an actor," he added.

Joshua and Julia broke up in June 2019. At that time, Julia was linked to the split of celebrity couple Gerald Anderson and Bea Alonzo.

Boy also asked Julia about her relationship with Gerald and their fishing adventure at the West Philippine Sea.

"The best thing about Gerald daw, sabi niya, is he guides her, aside from the fact of course that they make each other happy... She's very happy, obviously very happy," Boy said.

Ryan Bang, regular magbigay ng cash sa ina sa South Korea

Masayahin at palabiro ang Korean actor na si Ryan Bang.

Pero nababahiran din ng lungkot ang kuwento ng buhay niya dahil nag-iisang anak lamang siya na walang nakagisnang ama.

Si Ryan ang love interest ni Pokwang sa Mommy Issues at ang mga isyu nila ng kanyang ina ang ikinuwento ng Korean actor.

Ayon kay Ryan, "Yung tunay na mommy ko sa Korea, single din siya, single mom.

"Nung meron na siyang boyfriend, nahirapan ako magtanggap. Kasi parang, 'Mommy, may boyfriend ka na, tapos paano yung daddy?'

"Pero at the end of the day, naintindihan ko siya kasi mabait pa rin yung nanay ko.

"Nung panahon na natanggap ko na yung boyfriend ng nanay ko, naghiwalay sila. Ganoon yung istorya."

Ipagdiriwang at gugunitain sa May 9 ang Araw ng



mga Ina.

Isang malapit kay Ryan ang nagsabing hindi ito pumapalya sa pagpapadala ng cash allowance sa kanyang ina na naninirahan sa South Korea.

Ang sagot ng It's Showtime co-host ang kumpirmasyong totoo ang kuwento na nakarat-ing sa amin.

"Deposit po... deposit!" sabi ni Ryan.

"Hindi na mahalaga yung amount, alam din naman ng nanay ko sa Korea na siyempre, lahat naman tayo may pinagdadaanan.

"Kaya yung mommy ko minsan, kung kailangan niya ng pera, hindi naman humihingi sa akin.

"Kaya lang tumatawag sa akin, 'Anak, nade-depress ako. Mag-isa lang ako dito. Nalulungkot ako. Parang wala na akong pang-ulam.'

"Ibig sabihin, alam na. Alam na ng anak. Ibig sabihin, kailangan ng gamot ng nanay. Ang gamot ng

Hunk Shot

Jeb's hobbies are playing drums and cooking. He plays basketball, soccer and football. he goes to St. Rose of Lima. Someday, he wants to be either Scientist or a and Drummer. Or both. He is the son of proud parents Maki and Raine Makinano. His interest are in all in the field of arts, like Music, Science, Graphic Arts and Culinary. Whatever he wants to pursue, we wish him all the luck in his endeavours.

PHOTO BY RAYMOND SANTOS

Jeb Makinano



nanay ko ay deposit."

POKWANG, LAPITIN NG MGA KOREANO

Nang mapag-usapan naman ang role niya sa Mommy Issues bilang Korean na matindi ang pagmamahal sa karakter ni Pokwang, sinabi ni Ryan na nakaka-relate siya sa kanyang papel dahil sa nasaksihan niya nang magpunta sila noon sa South Korea.

"Kasi noong nag-Korea kami ni Mamang [Pokwang], yung beauty ni Mamang, nagulat ako!

"Maraming Korean ang tumitingin kay Mamang. Yung isang Koreano, nakita ko lumalapit kay Mamang, humihingi ng cellphone number.

"So, yung beauty ni Mamang, hindi ko alam kung bakit hindi masyadong ma-appreciate dito [sa Pilipinas] pero sa Korea... gandang-ganda sila kay Mamang," walang preno at kamali-malisyang salaysay ni Ryan.



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Service Advisor



Ramon Bayani
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Let's talk about how I can help protect your family, your income and your retirement.



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Life's brighter under the sun



PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Who is Basil Rodricks?

Hi my name is Basil Rodricks and I want to help you achieve lifetime financial security. I want to provide you with innovative, insightful and simple solutions backed by one of the most reliable financial companies in the world.

I am here for you to enjoy the protection and guarantees that you need to live healthy, vibrant and financially secure life.

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ARE YOU ON TRACK TO REACH YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS FOR RETIREMENT, AND HOW WILL YOU TURN YOUR SAVINGS INTO INCOME?

OR

WHETHER YOU'RE TRAVELING, RELAXING OR TRYING SOMETHING NEW, LET'S MAKE SURE YOUR MONEY LASTS SO YOU CAN ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULLEST AND EVEN LEAVE A LEGACY.

OR

HOW ARE YOU PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE PROTECTED ALONG THE WAY?

"SUN LIFE HELPS ME GROW MY MONEY."





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