

‘WE WILL NOT YIELD’

Marcos Vows Not To Cede ‘One Square Inch’ Of Philippine Territory

MANILA - President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sought the support of Australia and other allies in its maritime

disputes with China, saying the Philippines is on the frontline against actions that undermine peace and stability

in the region. However, he vowed that the country will not yield.

In his address before the

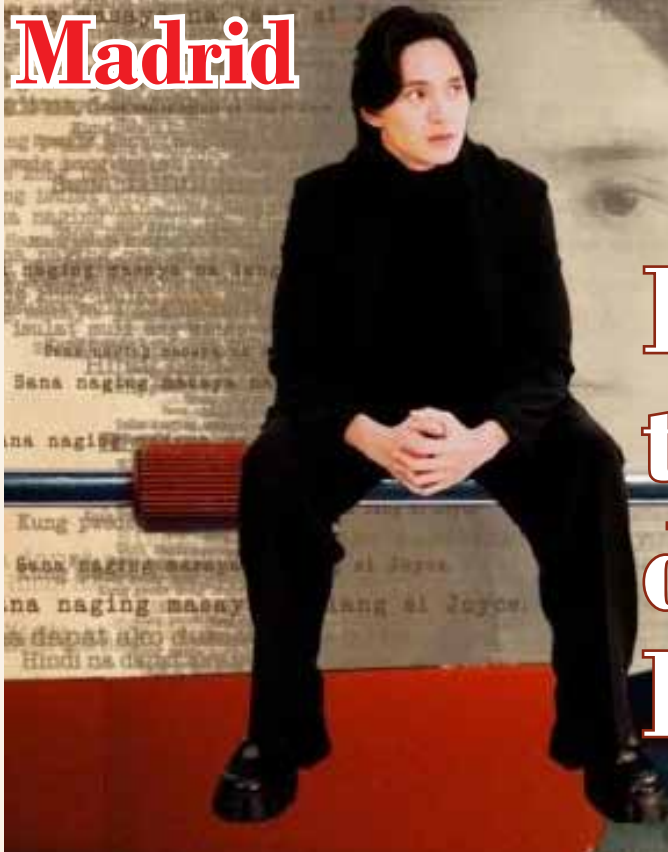
Australian Parliament in Canberra, Marcos said he would not allow any foreign power to take “even one square inch”

of the country’s territory, and that the Philippines remained firm in defending its sovereignty

MARCOS page 16

RURU & BIANCA

Madrid



BIANCA

Umali



Expressing their Love despite Differences



Postcard
Plaza Goiti to Avenida 1953

Not Your Business

Philippines can do anything within its territory

MANILA, Phl — China the Philippines’ actions has no business dictating **BUSINESS** page 17

BITTERSWEET

Sugar Refinery Central Azucarera Don Pedro Incorporated (CADPI) closes

MANILA, Phl – Even Blue Eagle Manny V. Pangilinan’s (MVP) business acumen couldn’t save this 97-year-old Philippine company.

Sugar refining firm Central Azucarera Don Pedro Incorporated (CADPI), established in 1927, closed down on Wednesday, February 28, citing “serious business losses.”

CADPI, a subsidiary of publicly listed Roxas Holdings Incorporated (RHI) where Pangilinan sits as vice-chairman.

“In compliance with Article 298 of the Labor Code, CADPI has given notice both to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the affected employees at least thirty (30) days before the effective date of termination. The effectivity date of the termination of all affected employees is on 29 March 2024,” RHI said.

At one point, CADPI was the Philippines’ second largest raw sugar manufacturer and its biggest producer of refined sugar, said a 2002 paper

on labor issues in the Central Azucarera Don Pedro.

From exporter to importer
CADPI’s closure is indicative of the sad state of the Philippines’ sugar industry.

The Philippines used to be one of the world’s major exporters of sugar, and sugar was among the country’s leading export products. When the Philippines was still an American colony, US companies put up sugar mills that produced sugar for export.

SUGAR page 15

Phl lawmaker slams Singapore over Taylor Swift Concert

ONLINE PAGE 26

Sarah Lahbati is all set for her full-time showbiz comeback



things surrounding her personal affairs have simmered down quite a bit.

We were careful to ask Sarah about the issues given the possible legal concerns of what she can or cannot divulge, especially with children getting involved. But she was generous enough to give us an update about how her two beautiful sons are doing.

"You know, they're growing up so fast. It's not easy on any child, but I'm here for them and they're better," she shared.

When Sarah said this, I quickly picked up for a follow-up as I alluded that it related to her and allegedly estranged husband Richard Gutierrez's situation.

So I asked, "You're saying this because you're co-parenting, right now?" To which Sarah quickly confirmed, "Yeah, yeah."

"We're good at parenting and we are there for the kids. That's all I'm going to say."

Last January, as Sarah rang in the new year, she shared a snap of her new house, though she did not directly confirm if they're not together anymore. Just do the math.

Besides Sarah's parents, she has built a great friendship with Kylene Alcantara and Sofia Andres. We see them there for one another at events and on their social media feeds. Her support system now is what gets her going in the right direction as well.

We also asked Sarah about the constant online bullying she has been getting.

She even knew what title the Internet had given her.

"So, natutuwa ako sa lahat ng tumatawag sa'kin ng patron saint ng waldas! As in natatawa ako every day may comment about it. So, sinakyan ko ng konti!"

The reality is Sarah is good with money and keeps her investments in the down low. "In

reality, I am very proud to say that I'm good at saving. I am good at finances. I'm working hard to provide for my children and for myself and my parents."

Shuvee Etrata clarifies Joshua Garcia did not court her

GMA Sparkle artist Shuvee Etrata revealed Joshua Garcia did not try to court her but did send her an Instagram direct message in the past.

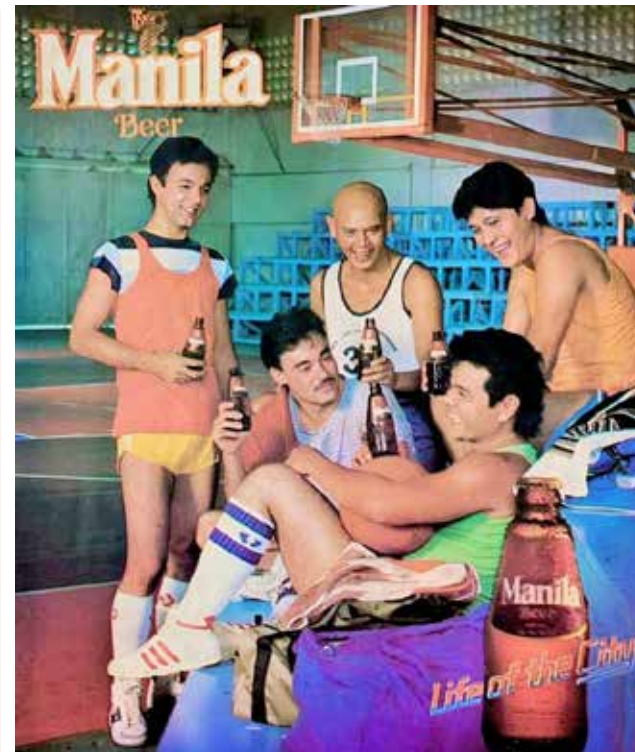
On Monday, March 4, Etrata sat down on "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda" and addressed the rumors that the Kapamilya actor tried to pursue her.

"I just wanted to clarify, hindi po nanligaw si Joshua sa akin. Ang ganda ko naman para ligawan ako ng isang Joshua Garcia!" she answered when Boy Abunda asked if Garcia ever tried to woo her.

Despite being a fan of the actor, the Sparkle talent disclosed that Garcia only sent her a direct message (DM) on Instagram, which she never responded to, so their interaction did not go further than that.

"Noong nag-DM po siya, parang kinain talaga ako ng lupa. Pero it was not just the right time," she shared.

Although she was flattered by the "Good Son" actor's initiative to reach out to her, Etrata admitted the reason she did not reply was because she got "overwhelmed" and stressed that her simple response may turn out to be something else in the future.



Michael de Mesa, Mark Gil, Bembol Roco, Rez Cortez, Tiorso Cruz 1987



"Siguro kasi I was so overwhelmed with the fact na, 'Ay kaya pala ni Joshua Garcia mag-chat sa akin.' So overwhelming," she remarked.

"Sinabi ko nga po sa lahat na, 'Hala! Chinat ako ni Joshua Garcia!' Pero parang hanggang doon lang po iyon, hindi na po iyon nag-ano kasi I know my priorities now... Madali lang po ako ma-inlove. Kung itutuloy ko iyon, nako!" added the Kapuso artist.

In her past interview with GMA, Etrata underscored that she does not believe in "summer flings," as she is a person who tends to date to marry their love interest in the end.

Meanwhile, Garcia was previously in a relationship with former love teammate Julia Barretto and is now rumored to be dating Filipino-French athlete Emilienne Vigier.

UMAC
Forwarder Express Inc.

LOYALTY Rewards

SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622
WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA

UMAC
Forwarder Express Inc.

LOYALTY Rewards

SEND 9 BALIKBAYAN BOXES AND THE 10TH BOX IS FREE

416-298-8622
WWW.UMACTORONTO.CA

Filipino Swifties are Sad

Some Filipino Swifties who were saddened by Manila's exclusion from American pop star Taylor Swift's Eras Tour have been taking out their frustrations on social media over the past months.

STORY ONLINE
PAGE 26



How Xyriel Manabat reacts to comments on her looks

Hearing comments from people that she was not pretty enough to be an actress while growing up, Xyriel Manabat doubted herself. But as time went by, the 20-year-old realized what it meant to be truly beautiful in her own ways.

"Actually, when I started entering showbiz when I was younger, even though I had plenty of shows, I never gave (myself) that confidence or appreciation that I deserve," the former child actress recalled.

Xyriel began her showbiz career in 2009 after finishing third runner-up in "Star Circle Kid Quest: Search for the Kiddie Idol."

"As a child, I would always hear this from my co-workers or from my family, is that, 'You are a good actress but you are not beautiful.' Kahit gaano ka kagaling kung hindi ka naman maganda (it doesn't matter). I would always hear this comment ever since," she continued.

As those words got stuck in her head at such an early age, that became one of the reasons why she wanted to focus on her personal life when she took a hiatus from showbiz.

"Because when I was a child, I was not that strong, magaling akong makinig to the point that I became empathetic. I felt what they felt so I doubted myself. Baka magaling nga lang talaga ako (na actress), hindi talaga ako maganda," she said.

As she matured, she realized that the perception of beauty varies from one person to another. "I mean there are people who would appreciate my beauty, what's inside, talent or appearance-wise."

"So, I embraced it," stated the Kapamilya actress. "And I'd look at myself and tell myself kahit dugyot-dugyot ako when I wake up or oily: 'You are beautiful.' I would convince myself na mali sila, maganda ka at magaling ka."

Having a boyfriend also added to her glowing aura these days, admitted Xyriel. She is in a two-year relationship with her boyfriend, who was then her best friend.

"People say that when you are treated right, you glow. And when you are with the right person, you don't forget to take care of yourself," maintained Xyriel. "You don't forget to improve yourself and it's an added confidence 'pag every day someone gives you a compliment."

"Kahit kagigising mo lang, he wants to take a picture of you. It really boosts my confidence. And once you are confident, kahit anong beauty standard, hindi na lalapas sa'yo. Hindi na papasok sa tenga mo. But once in a while, I still (have) insecurities," she added.

In explaining how she's able to maintain a stable career and relationship, she pointed out that it really helped that her partner understood her profession.

"Before I went back to showbiz, me and my boyfriend were just friends. He and Kuya Zaijian (Jaranilla) were my best friends at the time na down ako. I didn't know if I should accept (acting) offers and go back (to) showbiz kasi medyo maingay na ulit yung

name ko.

"But they're the ones who push me, saying, 'You can do it.' And if ever there's a challenging role or whenever there's that feeling like you can't do it, as long as you're ready, you can do it. But they're the ones who tell me that."

Xyriel and her beau put a label on their relationship while she was filming the revenge drama series Dirty Linen.

"I made it clear to him things that he should understand. I don't want him to think that just because I got into acting first before we became a couple, wala siyang voice in our relationship," she shared.

"So, I would always tell him that if you are not comfortable sa nangyayari, sa nakikita mo, sa naririnig mo, just let me know. So, I think assurance and communication (are what make our relationship work). And the way I reason out, I don't invalidate his feelings. Sobrang dali and sobrang smooth (referring to the relationship). He is also a very understanding boyfriend."

Xyriel was likewise firm in saying that she doesn't want her boyfriend to be also from showbiz. "I want peace, ayoko ng mga nakikisawsaw."

Kim Chiu draws laughs after sulking at couple during Taylor Swift concert

Kim Chiu is enjoying her life as a single woman, but she couldn't help but sulk at a couple getting affectionate with one another while falling in line for Taylor Swift's "Eras" tour in Singapore.

Chiu took to her X (formerly Twitter) page on Monday, Mar. 4 to share her amusing experience while lining up for Swift's Singapore concert, where she witnessed a couple kissing in front of her.

"That feeling na may nag hahalikan sa harap mo habang naka pila ka ng halos 1 hour na. Gusto ko lang naman umorder ng tubig! Bat ganun," she wrote.

(That feeling when there's a couple kissing in front of you while you've been lining up for almost an hour. I just want to buy water! Why?)

Chiu's supporters found her post amusing, with some noting that the couple reminded her that she's now single. Others hoped that she would have fun in Swift's show.

The actress' post comes three months after confirming her split with longtime boyfriend Xian Lim on December 2023 after being together for nearly 12 years. As of this writing, Lim is rumored to be in a relationship with film producer Iris Lee, even before their split was made public.

Chiu is one of the many celebrities who flew to different countries to witness Swift's record-breaking "Eras" tour apart from Anne Curtis, Alexa Ilacad, Andrea Brillantes, Alex Gonzaga, and Toni Gonzaga.

To recall, Singapore is the sole Southeast Asian stop of the singer-songwriter's tour, while Japan is the other Asian country that made it on her tour map.



PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER?

I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE.

You do what's best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything?

Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you're never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you've paid in premiums if you don't ever make a claim. It's insurance that can pay you if you get sick – or if you stay healthy.

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



Basil Rodricks

Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240
basil.rodricks@sunlife.com
www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodricks
5775 Yonge Street
Suite 1900
North York ON M2M 4J1

*Mutual Funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies. © Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2020.

Life's brighter under the sun



Cristine Reyes and Marco Gumabao:

'We've been talking about our future together'

When it comes to love, you don't really know who you're going to fall for!

That's what exactly happened to Cristine Reyes who drew flak when she and Marco Gumabao went public with their romance last year.

Cristine was criticized after the portion of my interview with her in 2019 resurfaced on the Internet. The question had something to do with Marco. I asked Cristine whether Marco should be "jojowain (become a lover) o totropahin (become a friend)."

Her response was "Totropahin. Sobrang bata pa ni Marco. Ano ako, cougar?"

Fast-forward to the present. Cristine no longer considers Marco a "tropa" but a "jowa."

"Kasi noong time na 'yun, talaga namang way younger sa akin si Marco. Parang feeling ko kung tatanungin mo ko noong time na 'yun, I think same answer pa rin pero ngayon kasi," said Cristine whom Marco teased by adding, "kasi s'yempre tumanda na ako."

Marco is five years younger than Cristine. Should it really matter? No!

The couple's respective families are equally happy for them. In fact, Cristine is very close to the actor's family.

"We also hang out with her family," Marco shared. "One time, we brought her mom to church and that was a very memorable experience for us because it was the first time for my mom to meet her mom."

"Sobrang click 'yung mom ko and mom niya, nag-uusap sila na parang they had their own bubble. We were so happy just watching them. It was a very touching sight to see," he added.

Marco also gets along fine with Cristine's daughter Amarah. He narrated, "We're also close and the funny thing was the first time I and Cristine met and worked with each other was in a teleserye and that time, Amarah was still a baby and she would always bring Amarah to work."

"So, technically, I saw Amarah grow up. I always have a sweet spot for her kahit noong bata pa lang s'ya at 'yun pala ito pala 'yung reason," he added.

With Cristine's sister Ara Mina, Marco said they are friends since they got to work together several times in the past.

Cristine knows that maintaining a strong relationship requires constant communication because "it's important and also, building trust. It can't be built in a day (but) it should be every day."

Trust, in any relationship, is truly important and the lack of it can lead to conflict.

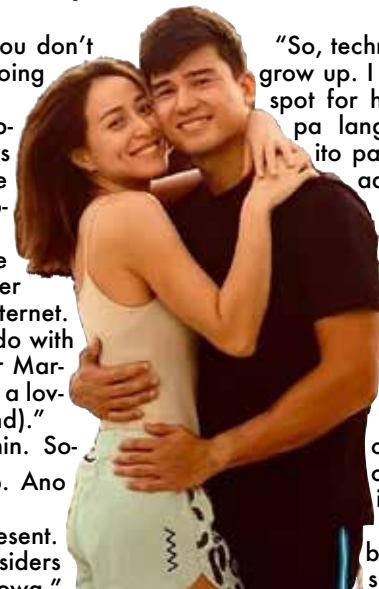
Marco said that they stay loyal to each other "because we always talk about God. It's always important to have God at the center of your relationship."

Are Cristine and Marco already talking about marriage?

"Of course, we've been talking about our future together. The details, konti-konti lang, pero 'yung mas longer (view), 'yun 'yung napag-uusapan namin," replied Marco.

By the way, Cristine's marriage to Amarah's dad and mixed martial artist Ali Khatibi has been annulled for more than a year already. The two got married in 2016 but rumors about their separation began to circulate two years after.

"I didn't announce it. It's not something I should celebrate," the actress said.



Marco is five years younger than Cristine. Should it really matter? No!



2024 is the Year of the Breakups

Sinimulan ito nila Kathniel. Although to be fair, Kathniel broke up in 2023. Iyon nga lang, after them, sunod sunod na hiwalayan. Sumunod sa kanila ay ang KimXi. Hindi po Kimchi. Vegetable po iyan. Kim Chiu at Xian Lim po naghiwalay. Last month ay sina Jericho Rosales at Kim Jones. Si Sam Milby at Catriona Gray naman are working through their issues daw. Ano pa ba ang iwo-work? Nagkasawaan na. Natikman na po nila isa't isa. Eventually, sasabihin ng managers o friends nila, "they split up, but they remain friends." Parang kailan lang, they had a concert dito sa Toronto. Sweetie-sweetie pa sila. Selling their kilig sila sa mga Torontonians who still believe in fairy tales come true. Hindi pala. Wala na ngang forever kundi si Enrile. Now, dahil walang naririnig kina Gerald Anderson at Julia Barretto, sila na raw ang susnod na maghihiwalay. I believe this. Kasi, ni hindi na ginawan ng name ang love team nila. Iyon ngang Kathniel, Jadine, KimXi, naghiwalay, iyon pa kayang walang combination ang names. Ibig sabihin, hindi expected na magtatagal. Si Jericho at Kim, no need to make a name. Married naman kasi sila. Si Sam at Catriona, hindi rin yata nagkaroon ng loveteam name.

Kathniel is like the Saddam Hussein of loveteams. When Saddam fell, sunod-sunod na gulo sa mundo. When Kathniel broke up, sunod-sunod na rin ang paghihiwalay ng mga ibang loveteams.

Sus Guinoo ni Roxanne.

May sasabog daw

Ito ang favorite expression ng mga naghahanap ng malaking issue sa community. Usually, they are writing about people they do not like. It works like this. Person A has a complaint against person B. Person A meets person C. So, person C starts spreading everything bad against person B to anyone who will care to listen. Usually, it's just in their imagination na malaking sasabog. More likely, nobody pays attention and nothing happens dahil wala naman nakakakilala sa taong sinisisraan nila. Sila-sila lang ang magkakakilala. Sila sila lang ang nae-excite.

Sa mga listeners sa kanila, indulge in gossip. That's all. But don't spread it anymore.

Jollibee represents Filipino culture?

We are desperate to be liked. It is in our character. If somebody does not like us, our food, our shows, our music, our clothes, our artistas,

singers, athletes, etc..., we get offended. To us, being liked is our validation that we are equal to others, or that feeling natin we're finally first world-class, and not some second class citizen who came from a third world country. The latest kerfuffle is Benny Blanco, boyfriend of Selena Gomez for not liking Jollibee. Netizens called it "disrespectful, insensitive to Filipino culture." Some demand an apology. Why are we addicted to "demanding" an apology? Susunod nito, may politicians makiki-epal and will declare him "persona non-Grata (PNG)." I dare any politician to declare Taylor Swift PNG for not holding a concert in the Philippines. Anyway, Justin Bieber got PNG because he made fun of our boxer Manny Pacquiao after losing to Mexican Juan Marquez. Mas offended pa tayo kesa kay Manny.

Then, for some strange logic, we have this feeling that if politicians eat balut, they really like us. Para tayong si Sally Field after winning an Oscar excitedly saying, "you like me, you really like me."

I don't think Filipino culture can be represented by the chicken, burger and spaghetti offered by Jollibee.

Intsik news marathon para magsawa tayo

One day, there's a lot of bangka nila West Philippine Sea. Next day, wala. Susunod, they hinaharang nila mangingisda natin.fishermen. Next, they leave them alone. Then, maglalagay sila ng floating cordon to block our mangingisda from reaching iyong lugar na maraming isda. Then, they try to stop our Coast Guard from bringing supplies to the Sierra Madre, our marooned transport ship that Philippine marines have been using as a military outpost on disputed isles in the West Philippine Sea. Next time, pinabayaan nila. Tapos, sasabihin nila, binigyan nila tayo ng permiso. Bakit tayo hihingi ng permiso sa sarili anting territory?

They keep changing tactics daily, they sometimes change locations just to confuse us, and also to make Filipinos following the news to grow tired and confused following the news. By doing so, people will come to the point where they feel, "is there no other news?"

Let us not get tired of following the news sa issue na ito. If we get tired of following itong balita, it is the same as giving up on our men and women soldiers who are risking their lives to defend our kababayans at ng bansa natin.

Pasensiya na at Tagalog ng kaunti. May Intsik na kasi na trabahador sa printer ng newspaper na ito.

Benny Blanco dissed online for dissing Jollibee

American record producer Benny Blanco found himself facing negative feedback after sharing his thoughts on Jollibee, a popular Filipino fast-food chain, in a recent TikTok video.



of Filipino food," he said.

Blanco's subsequent expressions of disappointment with the taste, combined with actions like dipping chicken in pineapple juice and spitting out spaghetti, sparked controversy.

In a three-minute clip, Blanco tried some of Jollibee's food products, including adobo rice, chicken joy, spaghetti, pineapple juice, and peach mango pie.

"It's nighttime, work is over, it's time to try Jollibee, I never had in my life. My stepmom is from the Philippines so I grow up to a sh*t load

Pinoy netizens criticized these actions as "disrespectful" and "insensitive" to Filipino culture. Many social media users expressed disappointment, with some calling for an apology.

Blanco, currently dating actress and singer Selena Gomez, has not yet addressed the controversy publicly.

Sarah Lahbati officially confirms split with Richard Gutierrez

After months of speculations, celebrity couple Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati have indeed broken up.

Sarah herself confirmed the rumors in public in an interview with entertainment reporter MJ Felipe, who asked her directly if she was now single.

"Yeah, I mean, there's nothing to hide," Sarah answered. "I think it's pretty clear to the public that both of us are [single], I think."

The actress laughed her response off and later continued, "Life is short, we can't be serious all the time, we have to take things lightly, enjoy life, count our blessings. Wala akong time ma-offend."

Earlier this week Sarah mentioned that she and Richard were no longer on speaking terms, even as they share two sons together Zion and Kai.

Related: Sarah Lahbati on relationship with Richard Gutierrez: 'We're okay'

Rumors of Sarah and Richard, who have been married since 2020, calling it quits began when fans noticed the couple had not been posting about each other on social media as often as before. Richard and Sarah further stoked rumors about their breakup



after unfollowing each other on Instagram.

Last December Richard's mother Annabelle Rama revealed that Richard and the kids were staying with her, but admitted she didn't want the couple to separate out of concern for her grandchildren.

Meanwhile Sarah's mother Esther previously mentioned that Sarah and Richard have parted ways and are now co-parenting their children, but it was only until Sarah's confirmation was the break-up made official to the public.

Celebrating 75 Years Of Philippines and Canada Diplomatic Relations

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

This year, 2024, will mark a significant milestone regarding the 75 years of diplomatic and friendly relations between the Philippines and Canada. As Filipino Canadians and productive participants of the Filipino diaspora, definitely, we are honored and proud to meaningfully commemorate this platinum historic event.



Canada and the Philippines certainly enjoy long-standing and positive bilateral relations based on "shared democratic values and mutual interests."

Historically, the formal relations between the Philippines and Canada began on December 4, 1949 when the Philippines started a trade mission to the country.

Philippines is represented in Canada by an embassy in Ottawa, Ontario and six consulates in Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, Regina, and Halifax. Canada has two diplomatic representations in Manila, Philippines with an embassy in Makati City and a consulate in Cebu City, Cebu province.

During the 43rd ASEAN Summit in Indonesia in September 2023, Justin Trudeau extended an invitation for Marcos, Jr. to come to Canada for a state visit. Marcos, Jr. was reported to have formally accepted Trudeau's invitation to visit Canada in 2024. According to Canada's Ambassa-

dor to the Philippines, David Hartman, Marcos, Jr.'s trip is "likely to happen in the latter part of 2024." A final date is

now being worked out.

State visits observe official protocol. After the formal protocols, Marcos may visit Canadian cities with the largest Filipino communities including Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg and Calgary.

The friendship between the 2 countries remains strong after 75 years of diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations. This historic development calls for a celebration and fittingly, a long-awaited state visit to Canada by a Philippine President will highlight this jubilee event. Moreover, the Filipino Canadian community, true and faithful to its well-recognized positive cultural tradition, should warmly welcome the Pang Labing Pito at kasalukuyang Pangulo ng Republika ng Filipinas (17th and current President of the Republic of the Philippines) and in cooperation with the people of Canada, should rightfully celebrate this established friendship. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

Sharon Cuneta reminds fans:

Money amounts to nothing if we're unhealthy

Sharon Cuneta recalled how she shifted to a healthier lifestyle when she turned 50, saying this decision "changed" her life and improved her well-being.

The Megastar, who has been vocal about her health ordeals, underscored the importance of prioritizing one's health, through a vlog on her YouTube channel on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

"I lost weight when I decided I really wanted to change my life and my outlook on health, and improve the way I live every day," she said.

The veteran actress-singer then spoke about how the COVID-19 pandemic served as a "wake-up call" not just for her but for the public as well.

"It showed us the reality of the old saying na gamit na gamit na pero totoo, 'yung 'health is wealth,' she stated. "Because kahit nga naman ano ang pag-aari mo, kahit gaano ka kayaman o kaligaya sa buhay mo, kung hindi okay ang health mo or you don't make it a priority, it amounts to nothing—everything na meron tayo—if we're

unhealthy."

Opening up more on her realizations during the pandemic, she continued, "Sabi nila, most health conditions are caused by stress so you have to be careful about that."



"Finding this out really made me appreciate that I thought of shifting to a healthier lifestyle. I was 50 when I made that decision," she looked back. "I wanted to create a better version of myself and that was exactly eight years ago."

Cuneta earlier appealed for prayers as she disclosed that some aspects of her body's condition had worsened, and that she had to undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

In her most recent health update, she revealed she has been undergoing physical therapy because her leg has been in pain and that she has been limping for more than a month.

Celebrities offer prayers for Kris Aquino

In a heartfelt Instagram post following her exclusive interview with "King of Talk" Boy Abunda on her birthday, Kris Aquino opened up about her health struggles and reiterated her request for prayers as she continues her treatments in the United States.

In the post, the 53-year-old expressed gratitude to Abunda and GMA Network for allowing her to celebrate her birthday with the Filipino people.

Aquino bravely disclosed her battle with Churg Strauss, a rare autoimmune disease and shared her fear of heart failure and cardiac arrest.

"Yes, because of Churg Strauss I now have cardiomyopathy. This means my heart muscles are having trouble pumping blood due to inflammation, and because of that inflammation, it's exhausting my heart and causing it to begin to fail and ultimately, please pray with me - sana hindi tuluyang sumuko or mag cardiac arrest (I hope it won't give up or have a cardiac arrest)," she wrote.

Known for her transparency, Aquino emphasized the importance of sharing her truth with her supporters and encouraged everyone to hold onto faith.

"Please help me pray for my doctors and my nurses so that God will continue to guide them as they try to heal me. I have always believed in sharing the TRUTH no matter how painful [it is] with all of you. Why? Because sinamahan nyo ako sa laban (you accompanied me in my fight). Sana wag tayong sumuko sa ating pananampalataya na nakikinig ang Diyos sa mga Dasal ng buo ang tiwala sa kanya (Let us keep on believing that God is listening to our prayers that



are full of faith)," she continued.

Aquino then expressed her gratitude for her family, particularly her sons Josh and Bimby, as well as her sisters and friends "just in case this is [her] last birthday on earth."

"Thank you Kuya and Bimb for the most precious privilege of being chosen to be your mom. Thank you to my sisters for their love and generosity. Thank you to my small but very close circle of cousins and friends who have shared my life and their lives with me. Thank you to all of you for making all my childhood dreams come true," she said.

"Pa birthday niyo na please (Please let this be your birthday gift to me). I have a few loved ones and dear friends battling very difficult illnesses as well. Please pray for them, too. I still want to live, I know the odds are against me dahil ang puso hindi pwedeng diktahan pero sana sa tulong ng dasal nyo mabigyan pa ko ng konting extension (because we cannot dictate on the heart but I hope with your prayers, I will be given a little extension). You have my love and eternal gratitude. Happy Valentine's Day. (Year of the pig's lucky and healing colors for 2024)," Aquino finally ended.

Her post then received numerous support and messages of prayers for the erstwhile "Queen of All Media."

"Happiest birthday Mare! God is merciful. He is our ultimate healer. Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. 'By His stripes you will be healed' In Jesus Name," Jinkee Pacquiao commented.

"To a dear friend Kris. A blessed birthday! Nothing is impossible with God! Look at Gary. He just had two stents inserted into his left main artery last Feb 3. Ituloy ang laban (Continue the fight)," Angeli Valenciano said.

"Hi Kris. Claiming God's promises of healing for you. Here's one of them. Psalm 118:17 New International Version I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done," shared Dyan Castillejo.

Lorna Tolentino said, "Happy Birthday Kris! Healing

Nothing is impossible with God!



ADMISSION OPEN

Performing Arts benefit children by providing them to think creatively, explore emotions, build confidence & self expression



Branches at:

- Mississauga
- Scarborough
- Bathurst & Wilson

For More Information Call Now

+647-9967755

www.jdlperformingarts.com

Prayers."

"Happy Birthday, Ate Kris! I pray that the Lord grant you full healing. God bless you always," Chesca Garcia Kramer added.

"Love and prayers to you Kris," said Vina Morales.

Finding love offline: Three couples' face-to-face journey to forever

"Happiest bday dear Mare! The Lord bless you and heal you," Ogie Alcasid mentioned.

"Happy birthday, Kris!," Aga Muhlach simply said.

In her interview with Abunda, Aquino confirmed she was diagnosed with a fifth autoimmune disease although the doctors did not disclose any direct classification.

Aquino said the next months would be crucial so she once again asks for prayers so she could still be with her two sons Bimby, who is still 16 years old, and Josh who has autism.



ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan.

MABUHAY! raphael@myactionhonda.com



Rafael Nebres
General Manager



Gani Gregorio
Asst. Sales Manager



Jose Sarte
Service Manager



Ronaldo Aquino
Assistant Service Manager



Joseph Redoblado
Service Advisor



Roland 'Regi' Geraldez
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Ramon Bayani
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Pio Regio
Senior Lot Attendant



Don Luche
Accountant



Ramon Miranda
Lot Attendant



Marie Miranda
Service Appointment
Coordinator



Cherie Viernes
Accounting Assistant



Terry Aquino
Cleanup Associate



Honda CR-V 2024



Honda Pilot 2024



Honda Accord 2024



Honda Civic 2024



Honda Passport 2024



Honda Odyssey 2024

NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS • BODY SHOP • CAR SERVICE

4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234

South Korea's foreign worker plan put on hold as Philippines suspends labour deployment

SEOUL – A moratorium set by the Philippine government on sending the country's workers to South Korea has put the Seoul Metropolitan Government's plan to bring in foreign domestic workers on hold, while also leaving some local farms with a shortage of workers as they will have fewer seasonal workers from the Philippines than in previous years.

The Seoul city government said in 2023 that it would bring in around 100 Filipinas to work as domestic helpers during the second half of 2023 in a pilot programme to tackle the shortage of people willing to work as maids in South Korea. However, the plan has been delayed as permission has been withheld by the Philippine government.

Instead, the city government has said it now aims to bring in 100 Filipinas in the first half of 2024.

"To be honest, we don't know yet whether we will be able to bring them in the first half of the year. This is because the Philippine government must grant permission, and further discussions must take place on specific issues such as wages," an official from the Seoul city government told The Korea Herald on Feb 7 on condition of anonymity.

Manila cited the growing number of human rights violations that Filipinos



The South Korean and local governments are trying to convince the Philippine government to resume sending workers.

have faced in South Korea as the reason it suspended the deployment of the workers.

According to local reports, the Philippines' Department of Migrant Workers has been receiving a number of complaints from overseas Filipino workers in South Korea. The complaints range from unsafe labour conditions and underpayment of wages to overwork and even worker deaths.

For instance, on Jan 9, two seasonal farm workers from the Philippines who worked in Haenam, South Jeolla province, filed a complaint against a Korean broker surnamed Hong with the South Jeolla Province Police Agency for human trafficking.

It is known that the broker managed the Filipino workers' bank accounts and withdrew millions of won from them on the pretext of broker-

age fees, along with accommodation fees, and took away their passports.

The South Korean government provides work visas to foreign seasonal workers from 11 countries for five to eight months at a time due to labour shortages in the country's agricultural and fisheries sectors.

According to the Justice Ministry, there were 3,612 foreign seasonal workers in 2019, with the figure multiplying more than fivefold to 19,718 in 2022. The ministry brought in 26,788 seasonal farm and fishery workers through such visas in the first half of 2023.

According to local governments, seasonal workers from the Philippines account for more than 20 per cent of all seasonal workers in South Korea. Between 2018 and 2022, among the 11 countries of origin for such workers, the Philippines sent 4,973 people, the most.

The South Korean and local governments are thus trying to convince the

Manila cited the growing number of human rights violations that Filipinos have faced in South Korea as the reason it suspended the deployment of the workers.

Philippine government to resume sending workers. But it is unclear when that will happen, according to officials with knowledge of the matter. Some local governments have responded by bringing in seasonal workers from other countries. For example, Wanjju, North Jeolla province, brought in seasonal workers from Mongolia, Thailand and Cambodia in 2024.

Shaira and EA reveal celibacy in their 11-year relationship

Celebrity couple Shaira Diaz and EA Guzman opened up about practicing celibacy during the course of their decade-long relationship.



The couple celebrated their 11th anniversary last February 17 where they publicly revealed they've been engaged since Christmas of 2021.

Shaira and EA appeared on "Fast Talk With Boy Abunda."

Boy brought up his admiration for the couple being celibate since they began dating and asked how the conversa-

tion about it went about.

"Two years namin [in the relationship] umiyak ako sa kanya, kasi ang hirap. Noong time na 'yun parang 'di ko na kaya, kasi siyempre diba..." said EA, which had he, Shaira, and the studio audience laughing.

But EA pointed out something Shaira told him, "Kung mahal mo talaga ako, hihintayin mo ako," which is what reminded throughout the years whenever he had conflicting thoughts.

Boy again praised the couple for being able to talk about their celibacy in public with respect and maturity, and for not imposing the practice on others.

"Ino-honor ko talaga family ko, especially my mom and dad. 'Yan 'yung promise ko sa kanila talaga na kahit iiwan ako kahit saan, ito ako buong-buo pa rin," Shaira shared. "Sabi nila 'yun 'yung best gift na mabibigay mo sa magiging asawa mo."

The episode ended with EA asking Boy to be a godfather at their wedding, which Boy happily accepted.

Shaira and EA began dating shortly after the former finished her stint on "Artista Academy" in 2012, her batch including another celebrity couple Vin Abrenica and Sophie Albert.

Why singer Garth Garcia chose to move to the U.S.

Ang singer na si Garth Garcia ay producer na rin ng mga concert sa U.S.



Paano ba siya nag-start sa showbiz? Lahad ni Garth, "Singing competition, pero hindi ako actually dun nag-reach sa finals, but after tha, sa Star in a Million."

Hanggang monthly finals raw siya umabot at ang winner sa batch nila ay si Frenchie Dy.

Pero ano ang maituturing ni Garth na breakthrough niya noon sa Pilipinas?

"Breakthrough was, I don't know if it's considered a breakthrough, pero sa MOR 101.9, nag-submit ako ng song na original, then pine-play nila palagi, yung 'Masaya Na Akong Iniwan Mo.'

"Then pine-play na din sa ibang radio stations and after that nanalo ako sa MOR na Best New Artist of the Year 2014, and after that nag-sign ako with Ivory Music.

"I was supposed to release my second album kaya lang lumipad na ako."

Bakit iniwan niya ang nagsisimula na sanang singing career niya sa Pilipinas at nagdesisyon na mamalagi sa Amerika?

"Kasi nandun na lahat ng family ko, I was supposed to sign with a bigger label after Ivory, tapos patapos na rin yung second album, so nag-pause muna," pahayag ni Garth.

"Aside from the fact na kasama ko na buong family ko dun, looking back, sa lahat ng na-achieve ko lately, parang modesty aside, I did the right decision na lumipad ako dun."

Dahil?

"I will never be able to work with these icons or nakatapos ako ng pag-aaral na prestigious university."

Nagtapos sa Harvard Business School si Grath ng kursong Program for Leadership Development.

Sam Milby, Catriona Gray 'facing some challenges'

Sam Milby and Catriona Gray's Cornerstone Entertainment talent agency set the record straight over the split rumors surrounding the celebrity couple.

"While it is true that Sam and Catriona are currently facing some challenges in their relationship, they



are actively working on resolving these issues together," it added.

"We kindly request that everyone respect their privacy during this time as they navigate through this situation. We appreciate the concern and well-wishes from all those who have shown support for the couple,"

it said.

Breakup rumors between Sam and Catriona began when eagle-eyed social media users noticed that Catriona was no longer wearing her engagement ring in some events.

The two, however, were still always seen together with their friends on social media.

Tom Rodriguez back, to headline 'Ibarra: Isang Dulang Pangkonsierto'

MANILA, Philippines – Kapuso actor Tom Rodriguez is now back to showbiz after two years of hiatus in the US because of his breakup with ex-wife Carla Abellana.

"Two weeks lang dapat ako nandoon. Nawili rin ako. Long story short, I really had to take time to really recover and now, I do feel na buo na ako ulit," Tom said in his interview with "24 Oras."

"Nawili din ako na when I started taking on responsibilities for myself, maintaining the household, learning to cook, learning to do laundry, 'yung washing machine tsaka dryer doon, mag-grocery, couponing, all that stuff. Na-enjoy ko," he added.

Tom is set to do Tanghalang Una Obra's "Ibarra:

Isang Dulang Pangkonsierto."

He is no foreign to stage productions as he did "Aladdin" via Atlantis Theatrical Entertainment Group in 2012 and had a guest appearance as Teen Angel in 9 Works Theatrical's "Grease" in 2013. He also starred with Kayla Rivera in an intimate play with Anton Juan, commissioned by Philippine Prudential Life Insurance Co. Inc., for its 50th anniversary in 2013.

Last February 27, Tom, together with his manager Popoy Caritativo, signed the contract with Tanghalang Una Obra's artistic director Frannie Zamora and company manager Mary Anne Gomez in Quezon City.

"I'm glad they offered me this role. I've been yearn-

ing to go back into theater at napagbigyan uli," he said.

Zamorra, also the director of the show, revealed their decision to have the Kapuso actor-singer as the new Ibarra

in this concert edition, "He's one of the best actors we have in this industry. Si Tom kasi may experience na sa theater."

Previously, the musical production, which starred Kapamilya actor Piolo Pascual, earned several awards at 36th Aliw Awards: Best Musical, Best Ensemble in a Musical, Myramae Meneses as Best Lead Actress in a Musical, Piolo Pascual as Best Lead Actor in a Musical, Jon Joven Uy as Best Featured Actor in a Musical, Joed Balsamo as Best Musical Director and Best Composer, Frannie Zamora as Best Director in a Musical, and JD Tena as Best Child Actor in a Musical.

"Ibarra: Isang Dulang Pangkonsierto" will open in June and will be toured in various parts of the country.



Little Manila CONFIDENTIAL

LMC

Jose "Joey" Baking

Delivering Filipino stories - SINCE 1999

WWW.LMCONI

EMAIL: josebaking@

PUBLISHED BY: Matcf

Janella Salvador says giving 'a good life' to son Jude is her priority

Janella Salvador is all mama mode, saying her main priority now is to give her three-year-old son Jude "a good life," while admitting that leaving him behind for work can be tough for her.

Salvador admitted that her priorities have changed as a mother, and she's focused on "saving enough" for her son's life.

"I honestly get so sad when I have to leave him when I have to leave the country and leave him at home. I actually cry sometimes," she said. "Iniisip ko na lang, it's true. I do everything for him now because I want

to give him a good life. I want us to have a good life. I want to save enough."

The actress-singer also shared that she understands some of her mother Jenine Desiderio's concerns now that she has a child of her own, although she noted that she might see things differently when Jude "becomes a teenager."

"I will never stop worrying about Jude, about what he's doing. But at the same time, it's the most fulfilling thing. It warms my heart so much to see him happy, to see him thriving. It's the best thing," she said.

Salvador also said she'll support her son if he wants to get into showbiz as he's a "super friendly" child who's "not afraid to express himself" but pointed out that she would only allow it if he truly wants to.

"Hindi ako bibong bata [when I was young]. [But] si Jude is super friendly. I see that he's not afraid to express himself and talk to strangers. So



if he's interested, then why not," she said. "Papayagan ko siya kung nakikita ko that he wants it. But I won't put him in that situation."

(I was not a vivacious child when I was young.

But Jude is super friendly. I see that he's not afraid to express himself and talk to strangers. So if he's interested, then why not? But I will only let him if I can see that he wants it. But I won't put him in that situation.)

Co-parenting

When asked how her co-parenting setup with ex-boyfriend Markus Paterson is doing, Salvador said they're "doing great" but puts her foot down about

their son staying with her.

"We're doing great. We're okay. He makes an effort to see Jude. But of course, Jude stays with me," she said while sharing that the actor went to his home in the UK for "temporary work" matters.

"Right now kasi, [Markus] went to the UK. Naghanap muna siya ng temporary work d'un. I think he's coming back eventually. And every time he's here in the Philippines, he makes it a point to borrow Jude every weekend," he said.

Salvador and Paterson welcomed their son in October 2020 but went public with his arrival three months later.

The "Viral Scandal" actor then confirmed in September 2022 that he and Salvador had already parted ways "almost a year ago," but they remained mum on the cause of their split.

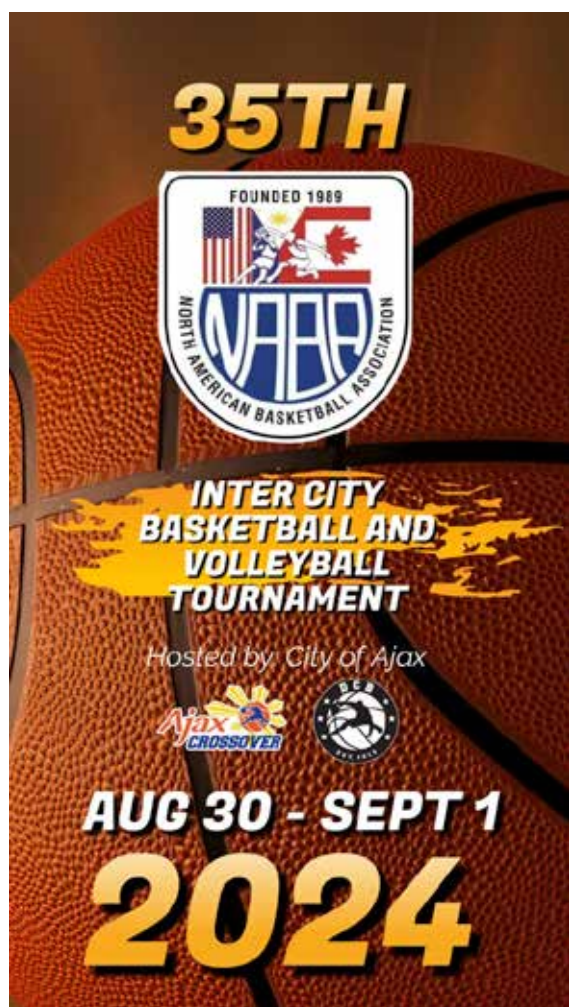
35th NABA Intercity Basketball and Volleyball Tournament Returns to Canada

By Emar sy

The most prestigious basketball and volleyball inter-city tournament returns to Canada after a 5-year hiatus. City of Ajax headed by NABA City Director Michael Cruz in cooperation with Durham Crossover Basketball led by its president Abe Oligane will host the event on August 30 to Sept. 1 2024 in the Durham Region.

NABA Commissioner Gani Gregorio along with his executives are excited to see the event return to Canada and hosted by city of Ajax. Ajax City has been a regular member since 2017 and was supposed to host the event in 2020 if not for the pandemic.

Expected to participate in this big event are legions of basketball and volleyball players, families and supporter from all over North America. This year's inter city is looking to match if not surpass last year's record



of team participation and attendees.

Aside from the basketball and volleyball games, host city intends to hold a NABA Hall of Fame

Dinner Night to honor and commemorate important personalities in its 35 years of existence.

This year's event is themed as "One NABA.

'Batang Krung Krung': Sandara Park says Coco Martin is her dream leading man

K-pop star Sandara Park revealed that action star Coco Martin is her dream leading man.

In a report by ABS-CBN, Sandara said she really loves Coco's movies.

"I have a wish. Sana magka-project kami ni Coco Martin in the future," she said.

"I really love his movies, napanood ko lahat ng movies niya! Lalo na 'yung mga romantic comedies, so sana maging leading



man ko siya in the future!" she added.

The 2NE1 member said that she and Coco already talked

about the upcoming project.

"Sabi niya, 'yes, let's do something together' so sana maging totoo 'yon," she said.

Sandara was in Manila for a quick project for a local beer brand.

In her Instagram account, she posted photos of her with Coco Martin, Shanti Dope and Maris Racal.

"With my San Miguel Family," she captioned the post.

Marco Mendicino on Instagram:

"In the Philippines for productive bilateral meetings with the Speakers of the House of Representatives & Senate. As Chair of the Parliamentary Friendship Group, I'm focused on strengthening ties between our elected gov't bodies, expanding trade & our shared democratic values. Mabuhay!



Maris Racal recalls how she, Rico Blanco kept their relationship 'secret'

Actress Maris Racal shared that she and Blanco used to go abroad just to date each other, which went on for two years as they tried to shy away from the spotlight.

"Yung quiet nung two years na 'yon it was one of the happiest years na na-experience ko kasi totoo lang siya. No pretensions. Masaya kami. We never dated here in the Philippines."

During the pandemic, she went Instagram official with the Rivermaya band member for a reason.

"Ako na nagdecide. Nagkapandemic, ang daming nangyayari sa mundo. It was very sad. Doon ko narealize ang nagmamatter ay 'yung mga taong mahal mo talaga. It's not your career or whatever worldly possessions, it is the people. So sabi ko, 'I don't want to keep on hiding. I don't want to leave this Earth

na tinatago ko 'yung mahal ko," explained the actress.

The 26-year-old Kapamilya star affirmed that Blanco understood the time that they had to hide their relationship.

"He didn't force me. He agreed sa conditions ko na I love my career. Hindi pwedeng sa ganitong state ng career ko tapos magjowa tayo," she shared.

Racal looked back on how their relationship started by admitting she has always had a crush on the OPM singer and said she tweeted on X (formerly Twitter) about wanting to collaborate with a musician, hoping Blanco would notice, which he did eventually because the fans tagged him, knowing that the actress is a fangirl. And the rest, as they said, became history.

Recently, Blanco held a reunion concert with his Rivermaya band members and Racal showed her full support for the singer-songwriter.

'Tag ko si Kuya Ogie': Mariel Rodriguez reacts to Robin Padilla, Regine Velasquez kissing video

TV host Mariel Rodriguez reacted to her husband Robin Padilla and Regine Velasquez's viral kissing video on social media.

In the old video re-circulated on social media, Regine and Robin were seen kissing on stage in front of their fans.

Mariel said that she shared the video because a lot of social media users tagged her in the

post. "Ang daming nag tag sakin. Mas madami pa nag-tag sakin dito kesa sa IV drip. Oh ayaw masaya na kayo? Ako na nag share... happy? Happy na ba lahat?" Mariel wrote.



"Tag ko na din si kuya Ogie Alcasid kasi dalawa kami tag niyo. YEHEY!!!!" she added, with laughing emojis.

Mariel's post now has over 100,000 laughing emojis as reactions.

Rice sufficiency possible in 2028 – NIA official

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines can achieve rice sufficiency in 2028 as palay production is expected to go up this year despite the El Niño weather phenomenon, according to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA).

“It is true that we cannot provide irrigation for all agricultural lands as 20 percent are considered vulnerable (to El Niño). But if we could implement the alternate wetting and drying technology, not all the 20 percent will be affected,” acting NIA administrator Eduardo Guillen said.

The state agency is implementing short-term, medium-term and long-term projects to provide irrigation nationwide, he added.

“Included in the short-term plan is the establishment of reservoir-type dams and diversion dams,” he noted.

Rice deficit

Meanwhile, the country’s local rice deficit has increased despite the historic 20.6 million metric tons of palay harvested in 2023, according to a farmers’ group.

“The record-high harvest in 2023 is only 1.5 percent higher than in 2022 and only 0.5 percent higher than in 2021. The increase in demand due to population growth between 2021 and 2023 is higher than the increase in output, which means our local deficit increased despite the record high output,” said Federation of Free Farmers national manager Raul Montemayor.

Citing Philippine Statistics Authority data, the Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier said that last year’s palay out-

put was 1.5 percent higher than the 19.76 million MT recorded in 2022.

“While the record high output is good news, there is so much more to be done and an in-depth study is needed to find out why the DA interventions and massive funding allocated to them are not producing the desired cost-effective results for the past several years,” Montemayor added.

In 2023, the country imported at least 3.6 million MT of rice.

Jericho Rosales wants to work with Kristine Hermosa in ‘Pangako Sa ‘Yo’ movie

MANILA, Philippines — Jericho Rosales revealed that he wants to work again with ex-love team partner Kristine Hermosa for the movie version of the hit ABS-CBN teleserye “Pangako Sa ‘Yo.’”

In his interview with Cosmopolitan Philippines, Jericho said that the show was the game-changer in television during that time.

“I was so proud to be a part of that. It reached so many countries and penetrated different cultures,” Jericho said.

“I think a lot of people still love it. There was really magic in the story. I think it marks a special time in the industry, in our culture, in Philippine television,” he said.

The actor has talked to his manager about the movie version of the hit series with Kristine.

“I’ve always said it: I want to work with Kristine because I feel like [it’s] some sort of unfinished business when it comes to our run,” he said.

“It was the 25th anniversary [of Pangako Sa ‘Yo’] just recently and I told my manager — because Kristine and I had the same manager before — I was like, ‘Hey, how is she? Do you think she’s going to be open to working with me?’”

Jericho said he wanted the film to take off from the last episode of the series.

“I don’t want us to be parents — it’s just like, rock and roll lang kasi, you know, last na,” he laughed.

“Pangako Sa ‘Yo’ was a hit teleserye that was also shown in other countries, such as Malaysia, Singapore, Tanzania and Kenya. It was also adapted into a Cambodian drama titled “The Promise,” which ran from 2013 to 2014.

ABS-CBN also remade its own drama with the 2015



Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa in an episode of the popular 2000 teleserye ‘Pangako Sa ‘Yo.’

version starring former love team partners, Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla.

Dave Lamar defends wife Morissette against lackluster performance accusation

Dinepensahan ng singer na si Dave Lamar ang asawang si Morissette laban sa akusasyong wala itong ganang mag-perform sa isang private event kamakailan.

Read: Morissette airs side on alleged lackluster event performance

Ayon kay Dave, ginawa ng asawa ang lahat ng makakaya kahit may dinaramdam ito nung araw mismo ng event.

Kalakip nito ang video ng bahagi ng performance ni Morissette kung saan bumibirit pa rin ito sa kabila ng masamang pakiramdam.

Pagmamalaki pa ni Dave sa asawa, “Man, I wish I sound this good when I’m sick. But then again, don’t we all? HAHA

“But real talk, I took this clip of Mori during this event because I couldn’t believe she still sounded this good despite being sick this day. Whatta trooper!”

Komento ng isang netizen, mahirap talagang i-please ang lahat ng netizens kahit ginawa mo lahat ang makakaya mo.

Saad nito, “So this is the said event. You can’t really please everyone. Damned if you don’t and damned if you do. But still mori slayed as usual.”

Sagot ni Dave, “you really can’t. It’s just really sad how people will go out of their way to bring someone down without even knowing the other side of the situation.”

Isang Vic Sevilla, events director sa



private events, ang nag-rant sa Facebook dahil sa ipinakita umanong performance ng hindi pinanaglanang singer sa event nila.

Saad ni Sevilla, “In one of the corporate events I directed recently, we had a guest singer perform

four songs in the finale number. She is known for belting extremely difficult songs and her ability to ‘whistle’ à la Mariah Carey has been well documented. Because of this, she has been labelled as the ‘phoenix.’”

‘Gusto ko rin magpabebe’: Why Beauty Gonzalez doesn’t want to have kids anymore

Kapuso actress Beauty Gonzalez revealed that she doesn’t want to have a baby anymore.

During the press conference of her upcoming movie “After All,” Beauty said that she’s now okay with her daughter Olivia.

“Ako mismo... I mean, at the end of the day, I want to show Olivia that I’ve been working hard, that I take care of myself, that I am a boss lady, and I want to be complete,” she said.

“So, para sa akin, okay na ako sa isa. Baby din ako e. Gusto ko rin magpabebe,” she added.

Beauty’s film “After All” with Kelvin Miranda will finally be shown in local cinemas starting February 28.

Produced by ALV Films, the movie puts a novel twist on the concept of eternal love, exploring the

possibilities of reincarnation, soulmates and everything else that seals relationships with the “forever” stamp, amid the complexities of a May-December affair and an unlikely third wheel.

The Beauty and Kelvin loveteam first gained traction when they first paired up in “Loving Ms. Bridgette” as part of GMA-7’s romance anthology series, “Stories from the Heart.”

Directed by Adolf Alix, Jr., “After All” also boasts of a formidable cast including Teejay Marquez, Devon Seron, comedienne Tart Carlos, hunky actor Juan Carlos Galano, former Miss World Philippines queens Dindi Pajares, Katrina Llegado and Riana Pangindian, GMA-7 Sparkle artists Bella Thompson and Kiko Ipapo, former “PBB Otso” housemate and content creator Lienel Navidad, and veteran stars Bembol Roco and Elizabeth Oropesa.

‘Hindi tita, ate lang’: Leren Bautista, Ricci Rivero dismiss age gap criticisms

Leren Bautista, Ricci Rivero dismiss age gap criticisms



Beauty queen-politician Leren Bautista and basketball player Ricci Rivero just laughed at comments about the age gap in their relationship.

Ricci and Leren appeared on the February 16 episode of “Fast Talk with Boy Abunda.”

Leren shared that there was no overlap between her and Ricci and him with ex-girlfriend Andrea Brillantes.

Ricci and Andrea confirmed their split last June. Ricci and Leren announced they were in a relationship four months later.

After exchanging Valentine’s messages to finish the “Fast Talk” segment, the couple talked about the possibility of being engaged and the love lessons they’ve learned from each another.

“Hindi niyo kailangan madaliin, hindi kailangan intentionally i-delay. Go with the flow pero andoon ang intent of getting to know each other more,” Ricci said.

In response, Leren added, “It’s more on how you communicate with each other kasi magkaibang tao [kayo]... and, of course, the choice to stick with your partner kahit anong mangyari.”

Boy brought up the public discourse of their five-year age difference, which Ricci dismissed while Leren laughed it off.

“Natatawa lang ako minsan kasi ‘pag sinasabi nila tita daw ako ni Ricci. Sinasabi ko, ‘Hindi naman tita, ate lang,’” Leren chuckled, which Boy admired.

Ending on a serious note, Leren praised Ricci’s maturity. Boy acknowledged that some people are quick to criticize any aspect of any relationship, especially between people in the public eye.

How Issa Pressman draws support from James Reid in 'tough times'



Issa Pressman, who confessed to having had a rough 2023, said she is able "to breathe better now."

This was because the 26-year-old celebrity is now a lot more comfortable talking publicly about her romantic relationship with singer-actor James Reid. "I'm able to relax now, and I feel relief. Last year was quite tough," she said at the special advance screening of the horror-romance Hollywood film "Lisa Frankenstein."

James, under his company Careless, handles the career of Liza Soberano, who is a major cast member of this film by Zelda Williams.

More love

"Because there's more love in me, I get to express more love around" Issa declared. Her relationship with James is "doing great... Our bonding moments are all about music, art, fashion and work, as well as workouts and morning walks. We have so many things in common."

"As for the rumor about James and Liza, I only knew of it after it died down. I was never into the latest 'chismis. In show biz, everyone gets linked to everyone, anyway."

She added that she was grateful to James, who supported her in the middle of all the negativity. "I don't think I'd be able to go through all of this if

it weren't for him and the support, the security that he is able to give.

It also helped that she doesn't have accounts on Facebook and Twitter. "On Instagram, all direct messages are blocked. I'm protected. Fortunately, I'm not into reading comments," she explained.

Unlike her big sister Yassi, Issa said she prefers to work behind the camera.

In fact, Issa said negotiations are ongoing for her to have an executive position in James' company, Careless.

She was present at the "Lisa Frankenstein" screening to support fellow Careless artist Liza.

Just like me, every Filipino is so proud of her," Issa said.

Sheena Halili pregnant with second baby

Kapuso actress Sheena Halili announced that she is expecting her second child as she posed for a self-maternity shoot.

"My body, a miraculous vessel of life, blooms again. Hello, baby number two!" she wrote in isntagram.

Her husband, Jeron Manzanero, left a comment that affirms the excitement of the soon-to-be parents of two, saying, "Let's do this! I love you!"

Halili and Manzanero tied the knot in 2020 and welcomed their first born, Martina, in December of the same year.

In January, the 37-year-old opened up that she struggles being a first-time mom, stressing that even though it's difficult for her, she aims to give her kids gentle parenting.

"Nahhirapan pa ako bilang first time mom, i-balance. I-balance ang pagiging nanay,

ang pagiging Sheena, at pagiging wife. Medyo naguguluhan pa ako. Nasa punto pa ako na kailangan ko pa aralin. Kailangan ko pa ng oras para mabalanse," she remarked.

"Pero gusto kong puntahan 'yung gentle parenting. Yung ine-explain ko lahat sa anak ko. Yung, i-acknowledge ko yung nararamdaman niya. Yung, ipapaintindi ko sa kanya, kung bakit mali, bakit tama. Na importante yung nararamdaman niya, yung opinion niya," added the actress.

Halili underscored that it's normal



PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER? I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE.

You do what's best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything?

Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you're never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you've paid in premiums if you don't ever make a claim. It's insurance that can pay you if you get sick – or if you stay healthy.

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



Basil Rodricks

Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240
basil.rodricks@sunlife.com
www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodricks
5775 Yonge Street
Suite 1900
North York ON M2M 4J1

*Mutual funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies. © Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 2020

Life's brighter under the sun



HONDA

When we can go out again, it will be on a Honda!

Action Honda
416-281-1234

Roadsport Honda
416-578-7351



Joey Baking The Socialist

Kay Ganda Ng Ating Musika

Winter continued its unseasonably snow-less, warmer than usual temperature this February. While spring might be in our steps, let's remember that it's still winter.

Springing into action are three Toronto MP's from Western Canada who are on a road trip explaining their "blue seal" program to the Filipino community. The program would actually benefit Philippine-born professional immigrants.

Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation is the leading organization helping them spread the news, led by President Rosemer Enverga, the wife of the late conservative Senator Tobias "Jun" Enverga.

MP Dan Mazier from Saskatchewan, MP Dr. Stephen Ellis from Nova Scotia, and MP Blake Richards from Alberta met with the officers and members of the PCCF at FV Foods.

They are asking for support for their "Blue Seal" National



Professional Testing Standard program which will quickly license professionals, like doctors and nurses, who prove they are qualified. The goal is to make sure that anyone who has passed the common national test for their profession would get a "Blue Seal" certificate allowing them to work in any province or territory that chooses to join the Blue Seal Standard. The Blue Seal for professions is based on the Red Seal standard that has existed in most regulated trades for over 50 years. All the provinces and territories have chosen to join the Red Seal because it gets them more skilled workers. They would have the same incentive to join the Blue Seal for the professions: more doctors, nurses and other high paid professionals who will fill gaps in the economy and pay a lot of provincial tax. If implemented, it would benefit our kababayans to practice

Parokya Ni Edgar packed the Toronto Pavilion to capacity.

their professions here instead of ending up in low-paying, low-skilled jobs. Some end up going to the United States where they are able to practice their professions after undergoing simple steps unlike here in Canada where they encounter never-ending hurdles.

The MP's attended different events in the Filipino community.

Just last November, Parokya ni Edgar (PNE) already entertained Toronto.

Now, almost two months later, they are back and still with a sold out show at Toronto Pavilion.

How sold out? The seating arrangement for the capacity crowd is so tight that there is only a one-person aisle space. In front of the stage, only a two-person space exists between

SOCIALIST page 20

Repeat Performance for JDL Performing Arts' Disney Moana Show

The maiden show of the Disney Moana Jr. musical concert in Canada was a great success! It was held to a full capacity crowd on January 20, 2024 at the Maja Prentice Theatre in Mississauga, Ontario.

This is the first Disney-licensed musical play which the USA entertainment giant authorized under a Filipino Canadian production to present the highly-acclaimed 2016 Disney-animated movie on stage. Kudos to the young performers, producers, production staff, and parents of the community's trail blazing event.

Concert goers and critics alike highly praised the performances of the participants composed of students, artists and volunteers of the JDL Performing Arts schools and some local talents in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario.

Those who enjoyed the show readily recommended a repeat performance especially for those who were unable to watch. Meeting the general clamor, the producers and production staff decided to hold another show during March Break. The amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International-New York, USA.



national-New York, USA.

The JDL Performing Arts scheduled the date on March 13, 2024 (Wednesday) with a Matinee show at 5:00 PM and an Evening show at 7:30 PM with the box office opening one hour before showtimes. The concert will be held at the City Playhouse Theatre, 1000 Westminister Drive, # 101, Thornhill, Ontario. For information and tickets, call Josie De Leon, Tel. 647-996-7755 or email josie.deleon@yahoo.ca. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

ENCHANTED LIGHTS CULTURAL SATURDAY

The JDL students performed at the festival celebrating Philippines-Canada 75th year of friendship On March 2 at Mel Lastman Square.

JDL
Disney
MOANA JR.
CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
MATINEE SHOW : 5PM
EVENING SHOW : 7:30PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
1000 NEW WESTMINSTER DR #101, THORNHILL
BOX OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY: 2PM-7PM
WEDNESDAY: 10AM-4PM
FRIDAY: 10AM-4PM
BOX OFFICE OPENS 1 HOUR PRIOR TO SHOW TIME.
TICKETS: \$25
HTTPS://TICKETS.CITYPLAYHOUSE.CA/EVENT/455-284
BOOK ADAPTED BY SUSAN SOON HE STANTON
MUSIC AND ORCHESTRATIONS ADAPTED AND ARRANGED BY IAN WEINBERGER
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA, OPETAIA FOAI & MARK MANCINA
BASED ON THE 2016 DISNEY FILM MOANA
THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (NEW YORK)
ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI
THE CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE IS FULLY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE WHEN BOOKING YOUR TICKETS. PLEASE INFORM THE BOX OFFICE IF YOU REQUIRE WHEELCHAIR SEATING OR ANY OTHER SPECIAL SEATING ARRANGEMENTS.
MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

FIL-CAN BUSINESS LEADER AGNES P. MIRANDA RECEIVES ASIAN AWARD

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

She did it again! Another feather on her cap! Prominent Filipino-Canadian business executive and community leader Agnes Pasaporte Miranda was a recipient of the "Asian Influential Leader Award". The recognition was bestowed in honour of Miranda's enviable contribution to the world of Financial Literacy and Education under the Business Category. The said award aims to give recognition and appreciation to outstanding individuals and business entities for their significant impacts, achievements, and contributions to society. Miranda received the prestigious award from Asia's Golden Icon Awards and



Events, Inc. in the Philippines on February 16, 2024.

Ms. Agnes P. Miranda is the Senior Executive Vice Chairman of World Financial Group (WFG), a leading financial institution in Canada. Since 2001, WFG has helped more than 4.6 million families prepare for their financial futures.

A well-respected community leader, Agnes served in various capacities on the Executive Board of the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) and as its President from 2022

to 2023. For over 30 years, being a financial industry leader, Agnes has been promoting the value and significance of financial literacy among youth and adults alike.

A recipient of numerous awards, among others, she was one of the "Top 25 Canada Immigrants" in 2017, a national awards program celebrating immigrant success. Sponsored by Royal Bank of Canada and Canadian Immigrant magazine, it "recognizes outstanding work by immigrants who have come to Canada and have made a positive difference living in the country." The year 2017 marked also the 20th anniversary of her co-founding the World Financial Group in Canada. Also in 2018, the US-based Foundation for Filipino Women's Network presented Miranda as one of the "100 Most Influential Filipino Women in the World Award" for her outstanding work in her respective field. Considered a "Filipina trailblazer",

at 20 years old, she came to Canada in 1966, after completing her university studies in banking and finance.

In 2009, she was a recipient of the "WFG Pioneer Award" for her substantial contribution to the growth of WFG

"The most important qualities that helped me as an immigrant were courage, ambition, and perseverance."

Canada, and, in 2012, she was awarded "Outstanding Filipino Canadian" in the field of business by PIDC.

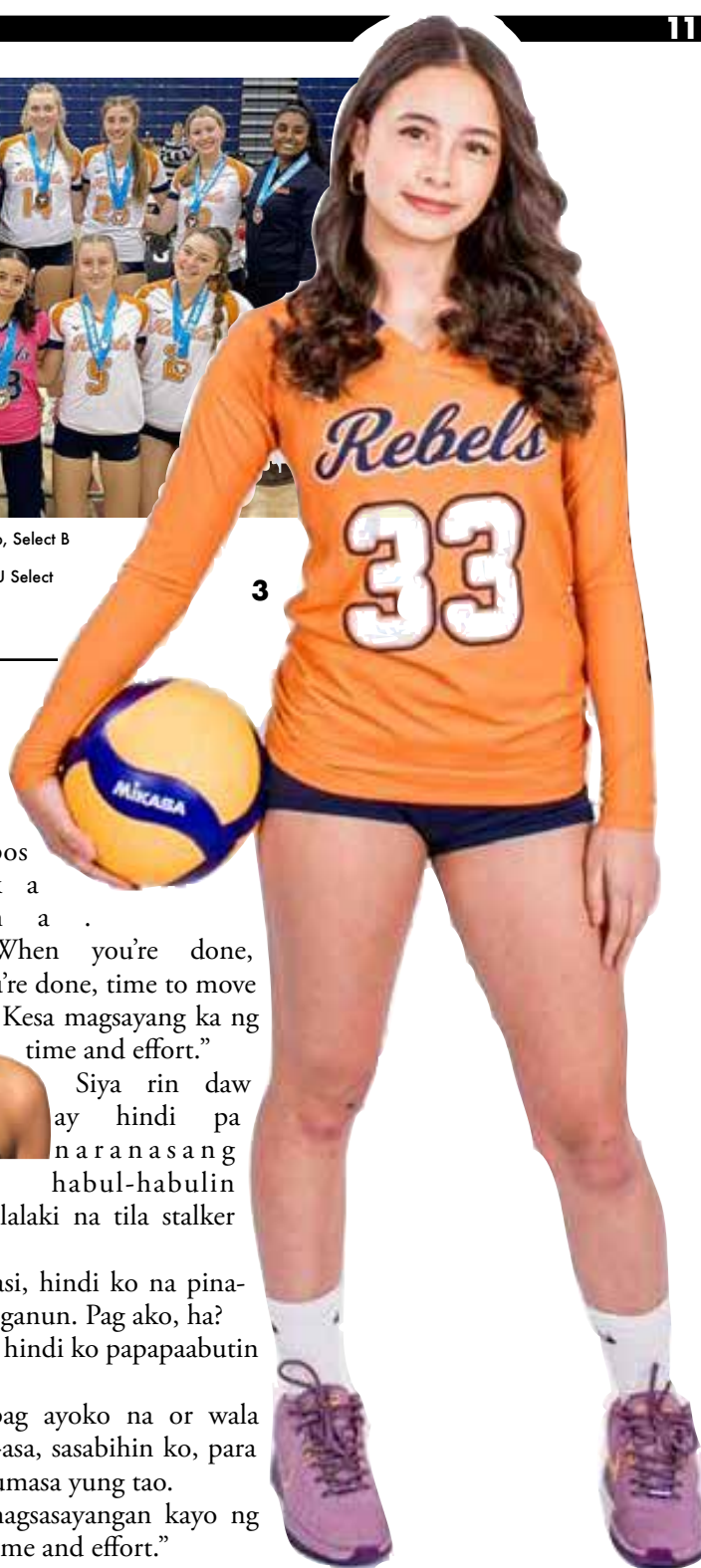
A highly recognized financial expert, Miranda is also passionate about

being involved in her community. She gives a lot of her time to mentor other Filipino Canadian women in business and is also a proud promoter of community events, particularly those related to culture and beauty. Some of the events she has produced include fashion shows, pageants, and other cultural events in Toronto. For her great service, she received a "Lifetime Award of Excellence" for her contribution to Canadian Asian Fashion Week in Toronto, Ontario.

Proud and humbled by her many achievements, Agnes Pasaporte Miranda said "My commitment to giving back to the community, especially with a focus towards helping youth succeed in worthy ventures such as finance, arts, and sports, has grown more over the years." A big congratulations to Ms. Agnes P. Miranda, a business thinker and community leader par excellence. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)



1. 17G Rebels Smash wins gold at the 18U Furlani Cup, Select B Division at TMU in Toronto.
 2. 17 Rebels Smash brings home the bronze at the 18U Select McGregor Cup in Kingston.
 3. Lizzy Trovato of the Rebels Smash volleyball team



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Kathryn Rodricks

Lianne Valentin says she would never chase after an ex-boyfriend

Hindi raw all-out kontrabida ang role ni Lianne Valentin sa pelikulang Apo Hapon (A Love Story).

Saad ni Lianne, “Hindi, saktong lang. Babaeng in love tapos nagseselos, ganun lang naman yung character ko dito.”

Si Lianne ang third party kay JC de Vera at Japanese model-turned-actress na si Sakura Akiyoshi sa naturang pelikula ni Joel Lamangan.

Sa Apo Hapon ay hinabul-habul ng karakter ni Lianne ang karakter ni JC. Sa tunay na buhay ba ay naranasan na ni Lianne magmahal ng isang lalaki to the point na hinabul-habul niya ito? Tugon ng Kapuso actress, “Naku, hindi, hindi. Ako kasi, naniniwala ako na pag tapos ka na, ta-



pos ka na. “When you’re done, you’re done, time to move on. Kesa magsayang ka ng time and effort.”

Siya rin daw ay hindi panaranasang habul-habulin ng isang lalaki na tila stalker na.

“Ako kasi, hindi ko na pina-paabot sa ganun. Pag ako, ha?”

“Siguro hindi ko papapaabutin sa ganun.”

“Kasi pag ayoko na or wala nang pag-asa, sasabihin ko, para hindi na umasa yung tao.”

“Kesa nagsasayangan kayo ng oras, ng time and effort.”

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



HAROLD GUARIN
 Fleet & Leasing Manager
 New & Used Sales
 haroldg@roadsport.com

ROADSPORT LTD.
 940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8
416-291-9501
 www.roadsport.com

Bad Credit? New Credit? Bankruptcy? Divorced? Credit Counseling?

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More Choices Of Vehicles



**2014 Infiniti QX60 Base FROM \$ 16,990



**2013 Toyota Sienna SE FROM \$ 17,950



**2018 Honda Civic LX FROM \$ 20,990



**2020 Toyota Corolla LE FROM \$ 22,990

Call Harold for Appointment 416-578-7351



HONDA

See Harold for details **All vehicles are plus \$10.00 omvic fee and HST, Licensing and \$40.00 gas extra. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Donny Pangilinan reacts to other love teams breaking up

Actor Donny Pangilinan seemed to be unfazed by other love teams' recent breakups. At a recent Valentine's event organized by Donny's endorsed brand QuickFX, the "Can't Buy Me Love" star shared his reaction to claims that his and Belle



Mariano's DonBelle love team is among the country's last-surviving love teams as of the moment following the splits of KathNiel (Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla) and KimXi (Kim Chiu and Xian Lim).

"Basta kami, focused lang kami sa trabaho namin.

'Yun lang. Very supportive lang kami sa isa't isa," he said as his and Belle's secret to staying strong as a love team.

"We're all there as teammates," added the athlete.

At the event, Donny bonded with his fans in time for his 26th birthday, and introduced new QuickFX products such as Pimple Eraser Powder Mud, a fast-acting acne treatment

that dries pimples in as fast as three hours, controls oil production, and fades marks from previous breakouts. It comes in a convenient 10g sachet and retails at P109, has kaolin clay (which has antibacterial and exfoliating properties), zinc oxide (which prevents bacteria while accelerating skin healing), and calamine (which

DONNY page 18

'It's a splurge for me': Barbie Forteza explains why she skipped Taylor Swift's concert

As much as she is a Swiftie, Barbie Forteza did not watch Taylor Swift's concert either in Melbourne, Japan, or Singapore because she felt that she would be splurging right after recently finishing building her dream house.

The actress answered most people's question after her video crying over Taylor Swift's merchandise went viral. In the said video, she thanked actress and "Maria Clara at Ibarra" co-star Rain Matienzo for buying her the merchandise when the latter watched the American singer's Melbourne leg of the ongoing "Eras Tour."

"Kasi para sa akin, ito po ay sa akin lamang, I just feel like it is a splurge for me. Sabi ko sa sarili ko, if magpe-perform siya sa dito sa Pilipinas, I will definitely watch it," Barbie said.

Nelson Canlas interviewed the star



National Art Month and Art Exhibit



Photo taken during the Opening Rites of the "National Art Month and Art Exhibit" at the Philippine Consulate in Toronto, Canada in celebration of 75th year Anniversary of Philippines and Canada Diplomatic Relations. Front: Consul Marie Grace Villamayor, Romi Mananquil, Deputy Consul General Kerwin Tate, Chermaine Ramos, & Tony A. San Juan. Back: Mogi Mogado, Marita Lee, Guest, Guest, Artist, Antonio Afable, Tess Lumanlan, Fred Cruzet, Gerry Lopus, Consul Rodney Sumague, Steve Pagao, Marlene Mogado

for his showbiz segment on the nightly newscast "24 Oras."

Barbie added during the interview aired last Friday that she felt that Taylor will be performing again soon.

"But to have to spend for a flight,

accommodation, and siyempre to maximize your time to wherever she's performing, parang it's too much of a splurge, especially I'm coming from just finishing a house. So, parang kasi if it's just for that, I'd rather spend it for something else. Feeling ko naman magpe-perform siya ulit soon," Barbie

added.

The actress revealed that she was building their family's dream house in 2022. In June last year, she posted the photo of her three-storey house on Instagram.

'I made a really big mistake': Diego Loyzaga says Sofia Andres is his TOTGA

MANILA, Philippines — Diego Loyzaga revealed that Sofia Andres is his TOTGA, or "the one that got away."

The actor, who currently makes his comeback after years of showbiz hiatus, was game in answering questions from Aiko Melendez in the latter's YouTube vlog.

The earlier part of their conversation saw the actress complimenting Diego about his maturity and the way he answers her questions.

Towards the latter part of the interview, Aiko challenged Diego to a game

called Truth or Dare.

"Sabi ko magtre-trending tayo nito kasi I will answer talaga," Diego said.

One of the questions asked in the segment was for Diego to pick among the four ladies who were linked to him as his TOTGA. They include actresses Barbie Imperial, Frankie Russell, Julia Montes and Sofia Andres.

Diego picked Sofia, his onscreen partner on the 2017 drama "Pusong Ligaw."

Diego revealed that he committed a big mistake when he was with the actress.



"Ang laki ng pagkakamali ko kay Sofia. I wish it didn't happen... I made a really big mistake. I was a kid. I was 20, 21 years old," said the actor.

He did not share what particular mistake he did,

but he said he is happy now for Sofia.

"I'm so proud. I'm so happy for her. I remember when we were together pa, the things that she has now, 'yun 'yung mga binabanggit niya noon na sana magkaroon siya. She has everything now," Diego added.

Sofia is currently with non-showbiz boyfriend, racecar driver Daniel Miranda, with whom she has a daughter named Zoe.

He and Sofia have not seen each other again since parting ways, and admitted that he tried to seek closure with her in 2018.

Diego himself is now also a father to a baby girl with a non-showbiz girl.

The FCT homely Arts Club Gang



The Filipino Centre Toronto Wednesday painting class continue to meet at different houses. 1. We welcome Roy Berlin (STANDING 3RD FROM RIGHT) back from the Philippines; 2. The group takes a selfie at Frank and Theresa's place; 3. Art Maestro Frank Cruzet and his wife Theresa pose as our king and queen an Valentine's Day.

Parokya ni Edgar

1. Full house
2. Marky Hugh poses with special guest Raynn who scored a huge hit with STORM, a collab song with her brother EzMil, now with over 1M streams on Spotify.
3. Yana Alvaro (2ND FROM LEFT) poses with PNE lead singer Chito Miranda and his wife Neri and daughter.



Members of Parliament MP Dan Mazier from Saskatchewan, MP Blake Richards from Alberta and MP Dr. Stephen Ellis from Nova Scotia had a roundtable discussion with officers of Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation and other community representatives. The MPs were presenting their Canada-wide Blue Seal program where immigrant qualified professionals would be approved to practice their professions in Canada.

Why Daniela Stranner enjoys playing mean girl

Daniela Stranner admitted feeling pressure when she essayed the role of Z in ABS-CBN's teen drama series "Senior High." But she enjoyed playing the show's resident mean girl as she got to display different kinds of emotions through her character.

"I was actually surprised kasi wala lang, I was just doing my job and stuff like that. Yun pala maganda na pala yung nalalabas ko. People are inspired sa akin like that, so natutuwa po ako. And it's kind of (being) pressured but it's a good kind of pressure," said Daniela in a mediacon for Star Magic.

While noting that a protagonist role can be "more comfortable" and "predictable," she prefers to do an antagonist role because it challenges her more.

But what she likes most about playing kontrabida is that she gets to explore her emotional range like what she did in "Senior High."

"Nakapag-explore ako na baliw ako. Nakapag-explore ako na nagwawala, na galit ako, na to the point yung pinaka galit-galit ko (I got to explore being crazy. I got to explore going wild, being angry, reaching the height of my anger)."

"So, maybe it's exploring different kinds of things because being a kontrabida, it's like the worst eh. And once you've experienced the worst, you can do a lot of things. So, that's what I enjoyed the most about it."

Meanwhile, the Filipino-German rising star has been likened by some as the young Claudine Barretto because of her looks and



Birthday celebrant Lorna Sigua sets the love from husband Ediel.

acting performance.

"I'm flattered po, honestly," Daniela said in reaction to the comparisons to Claudine. "I've been reading comments like that as well and I haven't watched any of her movies yet but I saw some clips on TikTok, sa mga shows niya and stuff like that. And I heard that she was one of the popular actors in her days and one of prettiest so I'm really flattered to be compared to her."

The Kapamilya actress also remarked that she doesn't want to be in a love team just yet. She explained, "Honestly, I don't wanna be stuck to one person because I like to explore more. I wanna be the type of actress who can work with anyone because you will learn a lot from every actor you work with. So I wanna try muna ng iba and maybe in the future, when I'm satisfied already, (I will). But right now, I wanna explore more."

The 21-year-old likewise doesn't mind accepting daring roles. "Whatever it is that will be offered, if it's a good story and a

Julia Montes' non-overnight success story

JULIA Montes is never ashamed she wasn't born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth. In fact, the Kapamilya actress knew what the face of squalor was like.

At a very tender age — whether she liked it or not — she along with her grandmother Flory was the breadwinner in the family.

Nothing much is known about her mother except that she's deaf-mute, Julia had to learn to communicate with her through sign language.

To make both ends meet, Julia's family subsisted on borrowing money through "five-six" (a popular lending scheme where the lender charges 20 percent on the loaned principal). There were times when she and lola would scamper elsewhere to hide from the lender who showed up to collect on due dates.

If unable to pay their daily "hulog" on time, it was the poor Julia who her granny would shield to plead with the lender for "palugit" or extension.

To be able to eat three square meals a day meant a feast for Julia's family.

She recalls having bought one packet of instant noodles from a nearby store which she and her siblings partook on a single plate: "I think that's the reason why I'm kind of generous with food to my co-workers."

On the set, Julia would order food for her co-stars, "I'd feel shy if I'd order just for myself. If I had extra money, I would include the crew. For me, food is life since I grew up deprived of it."

Not only was Julia denied the luxury of eating what

she wanted, her sleeping conditions back then weren't also conducive.

At one point, Julia says she and her Lola Flory used to live at the salon where the latter worked.

It was when the shop was closed would they retire to — not bed but to a bamboo couch minus the comfort of a cushioned bed.

It came to a point where Julia's granny had enough of the kind of life they all lived.

"You should audition, we need money," Julia recalls her Lola Flory having told her in the vernacular.

Armed with good looks that could pass for a celebrity, Julia did just that.

"We even borrowed money for the fare to get to the set and back home, only to find out I was replaced because of my height," Julia shares, however no mention which taping of show she had gone there for.

A single failure didn't dampen Julia's spirit though. She showed up auditions after auditions.

Her first major break came when she starred along with Kathryn Bernardo in ABS-CBN's remake of "Mara Clara."

TV as well as film projects for Julia have since poured like torrents.

No, it wasn't an overnight success. Maybe — just maybe — it's the bamboo couch on

where Julia slept and dreamt.

Or it could also be their "five-six" means of survival with Julia this time collecting much higher interest rates for her perseverance, hard work and good heart.

good character, I'm open to it," she said.

Daniela was discovered by a talent scout in a mall in 2017. She was launched in 2018 as part of the Star Magic Circle in 2018 and later on as part of Rise Artist Studios.

She appeared in Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano-led series "Make It With You" and was paired with Anthony Jennings in the 2021 film "Love At First Stream."

The newbie thespian shared that joining showbiz was, initially, never part of her plan.

"I was spotted walking in the mall by a Star Magic (talent) scout," she recalled of how she got into show business. "At first I didn't believe (that person), honestly. I didn't believe na taga-Star Magic siya or taga-ABS-CBN siya because I never experienced anyone talking to me like that."

"I was just a normal athlete-student doing my own thing. I've never done anything except school and then a month later, I was invited to go here to do a VTR audition."

During the audition, she got to meet Johnny Mana-



han (Mr. M, former head of ABS-CBN Star Magic) in his office. "We were like 30-plus (auditionees) I think. After that, they told me to stay. Pinawwi na yung iba."

She was lucky enough to be given a two-year contract in her first audition. "I took it (opportunity) because it was out of the blue and parang sabi sa akin ni Tita Monch (head of recruitment), I remember that day, it's like it's rare for an artista to experience

this kind of thing na parang sobrang, it's weird na ganun. And then I attended workshops after that."

Daniela was part of her school's football team. She took a break from her schooling because she hasn't decided yet on what course to take up in college. "I don't know what I want yet... I'm done with high school already. College na lang po. And it's just waiting there."

"But I still want to go back, like, I really wanna go back. Of course, we always need a plan B no matter what happens. But right now, I'm just taking my time especially right now tuloy-tuloy po yung projects."

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

UMAC
FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.

A Company with a History... And a Track Record!!!

Padalahan ng kahon sa Pilipinas

416-298-8622



416-298-8622

umactoronto@yahoo.ca

www.umactoronto.com

515 Milner Avenue, Unit-9
Scarborough, Ontario M1B 2K4

Tom Rodriguez reveals dating a new girl

Tom Rodriguez said he is ready to love again as he revealed he is courting a new girl, two years after his highly publicized breakup with former wife Carla Abellana.

During his interview on "24 Oras" on Thursday, Feb. 29, Rodriguez shared that he is currently dating someone and affirmed his readiness for love the second time around.

"Yeah, I am now. In fact, I am seeing someone," he said. "Once I was ready, it came at the right time. At that point, I thought it would never happen again."

The "My Husband's Lover" actor underscored that he wants to keep the identity of the girl he's seeing private for now.

"Magdadamot ako yata. Like what I said, I really want to keep it to myself. But like I said, I'll live my life like how it is. So, eventually siguro everyone would—what they see is what they get. But for now, it's my own now," he remarked.

Rodriguez said that he is not keen on seeing his ex-wife again even if Abellana said in a past interview that it would be okay for her if ever their paths cross

again.

"For me, honestly, I don't think it matters to me much. We have our own paths and our own lives now and I wish her well," said the actor.

The Kapuso actor said that during his two-year stay in the US following his split from Abellana, he developed greater faith in the Lord and discovered the importance of living a simple life.

"Mas simple lahat ng bagay. Relish the simple things, kung ano ang para sa'yo, mapupunta sa'yo na hindi mo kailangan 'kailangan ganito, kailangan 'yan,' trying to control life. Learn to just resign yourself, resign yourself to the Lord and He always provides and every step of the way na parang magkaka-anxiety ka. Kasi tinatakot mo 'yung sarili mo. You're living out of



of living out of love, joy, hope. Kapag dun ka pala, everything just falls into place," he explained.

Rodriguez recently returned to show biz via a guest appearance in "All Out Sundays." He also created a new Instagram account after taking a hiatus from social media due to his split from the actress.

fear, out of anxiety. Instead

JDL Best Summer Ever



JDL Students before the show entertained the crowd with their musical presentation best Summer Ever.

Francine Diaz on joining Miss U, working with Kathryn Bernardo

Francine Diaz confidently answered the questions thrown to her by the host at the recently concluded Watsons Health Expo 2024, which prompted the host to remark that she could join Miss Universe.

Francine, however, politely declined joining the prestigious beauty tilt that has produced four Miss Universe queens from the Philippines, namely, Gloria Diaz, Margie Moran, Pia Wurtzbach and Catriona Gray.

"No, I have no plans at all. Alam ko naman po na hindi ako para doon. And I think meron naman tayong Miss Universe in the making. Tingnan natin kung sino 'yun," she said to reporters at the huddle held inside the Goli booth.

Francine graced the panel in the three-day festival as the brand ambassador for health supplement Goli.

What Francine is excited for this year is the chance to work with Kath-

ryn Bernardo, who recently renewed her contract with ABS-CBN and Star Magic.

They have only worked on a commercial for a popular hair brand, but Francine hopes that she could work with one of ABS-CBN's most in-demand actresses.

"We only worked in the Sunsilk TV commercial shoot before, but siyempre isa po sa mga pangarap ko ang maka-trabaho ang isang Kathryn Bernardo," she said.

Apart from this, she is looking forward to the release of her collaboration single and music video for "My Love" with Korean star Seo In-guk sometime this month or next month.

The two recently announced that they are collaborating on a single last January, during Francine's 20th birthday.





#5 N.S. Amoranto Ave.
(Formerly Retiro St.) La Loma Q.C.
Landline: 028-283-9401 • Mobile: (0916) 237-2800
FACEBOOK PAGE: Macky's Lechon House - ISLAW

Frozen Lechon Good for:
Paksiw na Lechon, Pritong Lechon, Adobong Lechon, Crispy Sisig, Sinigang na Lechon, Nilagang Lechon

We deliver! Right To Your Doorstep.
Order now..call us at
09162372800
or
02 8-2839401
Ask for Macky or Monica..



When in Metro Manila, this is the lechon to get!



In love with Old-fashioned love songs

I met Denise O'Hara, the director and writer of the movie, "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Pipiliin Ko," which she first titled "Forgetting Canseco," after one of the greatest Filipino composers, George Canseco. Maybe she felt that forgetting Canseco and his songs should be the rule at the end of a love affair.

"Why Canseco?" "Why not Willy Cruz or Ryan Cayabyab or Louie Ocampo?" She replied, "I fell in love with the songs of Canseco. I felt his passion in his songs and the intensity of feeling and I wanted to have them in a movie."

So, despite that title, which comes from a song by the hot young band, Cup of Joe, O'Hara did get a few Canseco songs for use in the soundtrack of the romantic drama starring Aga Muhlach and Julia Barretto. Classics all, those were Kapantay ay Langit, Ngayon at Kailanman, Gaano Kadalang ang Minsan, Paano Bang Mangarap and Ikaw.

Kapantay ay Langit is very early Canseco. The song started out in English. Then Canseco turned it into Tagalog and it was later recorded by Pilita Corrales for her landmark album Philippine Love Songs in 1973. Ngayon at Kailanman launched Circus singer Basil Valdez to solo stardom in 1977 and has since then become a teleserye theme song favorite, at least four of them as of this writing.

Gaano Kadalang ang Minsan and Paano Bang Mangarap were also first recorded by Basil. Both were composed by Canseco for movies of the same title that starred Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon in 1982 and 1984. Ikaw by Sharon Cuneta was one of Canseco's rare collabs. The melody is by Louie Ocampo while Canseco wrote the lyrics.

O'Hara wanted the passion, the inten-



Denise O'Hara got a few George Canseco songs for use in the soundtrack of the romantic drama starring Aga Muhlach and Julia Barretto.

sity of feeling found in Canseco's compositions and she found them in those songs. Those are love songs to fall in love with. They are also love songs to be broken-hearted

with.

Truth to tell, there is song for every situation, every incident, every emotion you can think of and us Filipinos are among the most devoted users of music in relation to our personal experiences.

As a composer who provides theme music for his listeners, Canseco was the master of over-the-top feelings as in truly high as heaven, kapantay ay langit. But there are others who approach emotions in their own way. Maybe not as melodramatic but just as effective for personal soundtracks.

Jose Mari Chan, acknowledged master of the love song, can be casual about his encounters like Beautiful Girl, Can We Just Stop and Talk a While, among others. He also had something to say about

“

Canseco was the master of over-the-top feelings as in truly high as heaven, kapantay ay langit.

past loves. "I remember the boy, but I don't remember the feeling anymore," he wrote in "I

Remember the Boy," a song for Joey Albert in 1995.

Cayabyab is often joyful, you can almost feel the smile in his lyrics, Araw Gabi, Tuwing Umuulan at Kapiling Ka, Kahit Ika'y Panaginip Lang; Cruz is almost spiritual, Mahawi Man ang Ulap,

Sana'y Wala ng Wakas, Never, Ever Say Goodbye.

Ocampo though younger is the one who comes close to Canseco in intensity, So Many Questions, Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin, Kahit Isang Saglit. Vehnee Saturno is the one who goes to extremes like Sana Kahit Minsan, Forever's Not Enough, Only Me and You. The Filipino love song of today is more conversational in tone but definitely still expresses the same love forever after sentiments and are no less intense. *Tadhana* by Up Dharma

Down; Sa Susunod Na Habang Buhay by Ben&Ben; Sa Kabilang Buhay by Bandang Lapis; Isa Lang by Arthur Nery; Alam Mo Ba Girl by Hev Abi; Ikaw Lang by Nobita; Give Me Your Forever by Zack Tabudlo and many others.

It is so easy to find your own song to match your feelings these days. And old or new, these can express the same passion and intensity. So take your pick, a threatening Canseco in Kung Ako'y Iwan Mo or a raging broken heart in ERE by Juan Karlos.

MAGNATE Entertainment **MH MarkyHugh** Productions **Mr. MO** Productions **IN COOPERATION WITH** **JSMZ** **JE**

ADIE
UNIQUE SALONGA
THE JUANS
KEAN CIPRIANO

Global Kingdom Ministries
1250 Markham Rd Scarborough ON M1H 2Y9 Canada
Friday | March 8, 2024 | 6:00pm
VIP with Photo Op Group of 10: \$188 | Gold: \$158 | Silver: \$128

For tickets & sponsorships: Melvin 647 864 3298

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **HAPPY BOX** **AMOR.YU** **radio**

SB19's Justin goes solo, wants to pursue acting

After Ken (using his real name FELIP), Pablo, and Josh Cullen, another member of the leading P-pop boy band SB19 has embarked on a solo project.

Justin de Dios or just Justin has released his solo single called Surreal (stylized as surreal), a laid-back, relaxing melody which croons about "a collection of scenarios that are unlikely to happen in the real world as you find someone who imagines things the same way you do."

The track, which is in collaboration with Radkidz's Pablo and Josue, is a "love letter to those who dare to dream beyond the surface of reality."

"Basically, surreal means having someone who imagines things the same way you do. So if you have a special someone who has the same vision as you, nagkakaintindihan kayo. That's the feeling that I want to express in surreal," offered Justin on the meaning of the song.

Justin's surreal, which was penned two years ago,



is now out on all digital music platforms worldwide via Sony Music Entertainment. It also features Gelou of P-pop girl group YARA.

A visual artist himself, Justin directed the visually captivating music video, along with his college batchmate and now-creative manager of SB19's company, 1Z, Xi-Anne Avanceña.

As a solo artist, Justin is keen on releasing a more "dreamy," "fantasy-like" style of music. His musical influences include the acoustic-pop genre and the likes of Ed Sheeran and Stephen Speaks.

The youngest member of SB19 admitted having apprehensions in debuting as a soloist, saying, "I had struggles before to officially debut as a (solo) artist, thinking that the spotlight would be on me. All eyes were on me so I was afraid of committing mistakes."

He was also overthinking everything and lacked self-confidence.

Justin did a brief acting stint as the character Jared in ABS-CBN's teen drama "Senior High" and enjoyed it.

"It was just a cameo. I didn't expect that it (performance) would go viral all over social media," he said of his acting experience and expressed his gratitude to ABS-CBN for the opportunity.

"I was very overwhelmed and thankful. I hope I will have more projects."

Director Lem Lorca mesmerized by Paquil star Beauty Gonzalez: "Parang siyang Cate Blanchett."

Na-flatter si Direk Lem Lorca sa pagdidirek kay Beauty Gonzalez sa pelikulang Paquil, na syinusyuting nila sa Pakil, Laguna.

"She is a movie star!" bulalas ni Direk Lem.

"Parang sabi ko, pag pinapanood ko siya, para siyang Cate Blanchett. Yung hugis niya, yung katawan niya, yung mukha niya. And the talent talaga!"

Si Cate Blanchett ay ang Australian actress na dalawang beses nang nanalo sa Oscars: noong 2004 bilang Best Supporting Actress para sa The Aviator at noong 2013 bilang Best Actress para sa Blue Jasmine.

Pagpapatuloy ng direktor tungkol kay Beauty, "Hindi mo matatawaran yung binibigay niya sa pelikula, na we are so grateful sa binibigay ni Beauty sa pelikula namin, na parang inangkin na niyang sa kanya.

"And there's nothing more flattering to a filmmaker na yung artista mo would have the same passion and love for the project.

"Kay Beauty, ibinigay niya sa amin. And she even gave us the greatest gift of having her daughter act in our film as the young Cristina, which is the character na ginampanan ni Beauty."

First time umarte ng eight-year-old daughter ni Beauty na si Olivia Crisologo.

"First movie niya, first acting niya, at intense yung eksena talaga! Si Beauty, nagulat din.



"Si Beauty, stage mom! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Nakatutok! And even the father, niloloko namin kunwari, mga stage parents itong mga ito pag

naging artista ang anak nila.

Pananalig ni Direk Lem, perfect choice si Beauty para magbida sa pelikulang Paquil.

Naka-enshrine kasi ang milagrosang Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de Turumba (Our Lady of Sorrows of Turumba) sa parokya ni San Pedro de Alcantara (St. Peter of Alcantara), o Pakil Church.

Salaysay ni Direk Lem, "When we first met Beauty, pinatawag niya kami sa condo niya sa Maynila.

"We're surprised dun sa collection ni Beauty sa Turumba. Kasi yung condo niya, punung-puno ng image ng Our Lady of Sorrows.

"Tapos ang pangalan ng karakter ni Beauty ay Cristina, ang tunay niyang pangalan ay Christine.

"Tapos nung tinanong namin, 'Bakit ganun ka ka-connected sa Our Lady of Sorrows?' — sabi niya, si Olivia, yung anak niya, meron daw tears just like Our Lady of Sorrows, na birthmark dito sa ano.

"Sobrang special nung connection na iyon na nakita namin between Beauty and the Virgin Mary, at saka sa pamilya nila.

"Kasi collector sila ng art, ng mga paintings. So ayun."

Pepe Herrera has a real-life 'Sassy Girl'

Being a family man, Pepe Herrera is always eager to come home after taping days to spend more time with his wife, Sarah Mallari, and their kids — three-year-old daughter Payapa and newly-born son Pepito.

"(I'm) always looking forward every day, every night, always looking forward to going home to my wife and my two kids. My love language is the sense of smell. Feeling ko nga aso ako before. Every time I kiss my wife and my children, may kasamang singhot. It's home, it's warm," the actor-comedian said at a presscon.

Besides making people laugh on stage and on screen, the Tolits of "Rak of Aegis" is also a funny guy at home.

As a dad, he is a little bit of everything — serious type, joker and disciplinarian. "But mas ako yung good gab. My wife is more disciplinarian."

The star of the Philippine adaptation of South Korea's hit film "My Sassy Girl," opposite Toni Gonzaga, shared that his daughter is his "my real-life sassy girl."

"She's very loving but cariño brutal sometimes, just like her mom. They both like offensive humor," he said.

If his children will show interest in showbiz just like him in the future, Pepe said he will support their chosen career paths. "Of course, (but) we will still establish boundaries... But if they want to perform in theater, TV or films, I will not stop them, definitely.

"As early as now, nakikitaan ko na si Pay eh. She likes to perform. There are a lot of videos of

her singing, doing interpretative dance, in front of the mirror also, she's happy making different facial expressions. Actually, people say that she is like my junior, so hindi malayo (it's not far fetched)."

As a husband, Pepe is still on "a learning process" of being one. He considered his other half his "greatest teacher."

"I can confidently say that I am a better person and becoming a 'betterer' person because of her," he stated.

"My wife is very grounded. I love trying new things and my wife also likes comedy. She likes to laugh. But she is more serious than me. It's a very grounding experience when we are together."

Pepe will appear in the Philippine version of South Korea's "What's Wrong with Secretary Kim" series and Ang Parokya ni Edgar's musical "Burguduystunstugudunstuy."

Does he consider this time as the peak of his

career? "No," remarked Pepe. "We are just starting. The best is yet to come. That's why I idolized the likes of Meryl Streep because they don't stop learning. There's something new to learn every day even if you are 99 years old already."

Pepe earlier revealed that he battled with depression in 2017 and took a break from showbiz shortly after. "I have that kind of insecurity (apprehensions if he still will have a showbiz career af-

My love language is the sense of smell.

ter taking a break). But when I gained clarity again after going dun sa isang holistic center, in New Life, wala ng ganung insecurity. I just want to reconnect with people. That's what's on my mind, I miss people, my friends and my colleagues."

Meanwhile, Pepe had worked with Enrique Gil in the raunchy comedy film "I Am Not Big Bird."

"For me, of course," Pepe said when asked if he believes the LizQuen is still together.

"Whatever it is that he (Enrique) tells us, we believe him."



The actor-comedian with wife Sarah Mallari.

'First time to travel alone!': Kathryn Bernardo enjoys 1st solo trip

MANILA, Philippines — Kathryn Bernardo's latest Instagram post shows she is having a good time on her first-ever solo trip abroad.

The actress posted a gallery with 10 photos that provides a sneak peek of her recent travel to Australia.

One of the photos shows her simply clad in a long-sleeved white-and-green striped top while pushing her



with her luggage. Her other photos show her grocery shopping and working out with friends. She also posted a photo of her-

self having dinner with her friends and enjoying the meal prepared by a "Tito Alex."

Kathryn appreciated receiving a single rose for Valentine's Day from Tito Alex.

The actress recently flew to Australia to catch the Melbourne leg of Taylor Swift's "The Eras Tour," where she had a great time singing along to the American pop star's hits.

We Will Not Yield

MARCOS from page 1

eignty.

"As in 1942, the Philippines now finds itself on the frontline against actions that undermine regional peace, erode regional stability, and threaten regional success. Then as now, we remain firm in defending our sovereignty, our sovereign rights, our



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (left) walks with President Marcos.

jurisdiction," Marcos said.

"I shall never tire of repeating the declaration that I made from the first day that I took office: I will not allow any attempt by any foreign power to take even one square inch of our sovereign territory. The challenges that we face may be formidable, but equally formidable is our resolve. We will not yield," he added.

The Philippine leader emphasized that peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region has come "under threat."

"Today, we add a further dimension to that relationship as we address concerns on our security and defense. Once again, we must come as partners to face the common challenges confronting the region. Not one single country can do this by itself. No single force can counter them by themselves," he added.

Marcos said the Philippines and Australia "must reinforce each other's strength" and "protect the peace we have fought for in the war and have jealously guarded in the decades since."

Marcos noted that the strategic partnership between the Philippines and Australia has become vital to countering and resolving geopolitical polarities and strategic competitions

that threaten peace in the region.

The partnership was elevated from comprehensive to strategic during the state visit of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to the Philippines in September last year.

Marcos thanked Albanese for his personal commitment to the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons as he thanked Australia for standing for the Philippines as he emphasized that the governments cannot allow geopolitics to paralyze global governance.

"Looking ahead, I am confident that Filipinos and Australians will remain steadfast partners, unyielding and uncompromising in our shared values, and energized as we gird ourselves to work together in the spirit of bayanihan and of mateship," he said.

Agreements signed Following his address to the Australian parliament, Marcos witnessed the signing of three agreements covering maritime domain, cyber and critical technology, and effective implementation of anti-trust laws and policies of the two countries.

About 30 protesters from the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) in Australia and several other groups had converged outside parliament to protest the visit of President Marcos.

Four Australian senators, Janet Rice, David Shoebridge, Jordon Steele-John and Barbara Pocock, all from the Greens party, joined the Filipino protesters outside parliament.

Rice was the first to openly protest Marcos' presence at the Australian parliament, holding out a sign saying, "Stop human rights abuses." She was later censured for "unparliamentary conduct."

Produced by Jennifer Sy
Presented by Josie de Leon Performing Arts

POP EXPLOSION

With Mika & Friends

March 30th, 2024, 7pm

Xinflux Auditorium
421 Bentley Street Unit B
Markham Ontario

Special Guest... *Princess*

POP EXPLOSION

March 30

7 PM

Xinflux Auditorium
421 Bentley St.
Markham

Produced by Jennifer Sy
Presented by Josie de Leon Performing Arts

POP EXPLOSION

With Mika & Friends

March 30th, 2024, 7pm

Xinflux Auditorium
421 Bentley Street Unit B
Markham Ontario

Special Guest... *Princess*



Marky Hugh Productions performed at Seafood City Scarborough to promote their The Juans, Adie, Unique & Kean concert on March 8 at Global Kingdom Ministries.

The business side of being a fashionista, according to Heart

Everything about me, I worked hard for. even when nobody was looking," said actress Heart Evangelista when asked whether or not being a fashion influencer can be considered a good and stable career.

"I love it so much and I know it will take me places—I just know it," Heart said of her obsession for fashion during the launch of her latest endorsement.

The wife of Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero is now featured in fashion-lifestyle magazines Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Forbes France, among others. She is referred to as a "style maven," a "stylista" and a "Filipino style darling." She has 11 million followers on Instagram and 2.84 million on YouTube, and known brands even share photos of Heart all dolled up and wearing some of their collections.

Heart added that while she believes in investing her hard-earned money in order for it to grow, she also believes "in perfect opportunities." She explained: "We all work hard to earn money, but impatient people invest in something they didn't think much about, like a kiosk for fried chicken, for example. What you should do is keep saving. When the right opportunity presents itself, even if that's 10 years from now, at least you're prepared."

Another thing to invest in is insurance, advised Heart. "It's true. You work hard and invest in the things you want to have. You just don't pick them up on the floor randomly. As for me, I make sure I have insurance, especially for health problems or if ever I lose my bags," she pointed out.

'Conversation piece'

Speaking of bags, Heart, who is also a visual artist, revealed that the news of her painting over her Hermes bags was what actually got her into Fashion Week. "[An acquaintance] from Hermes messaged me to ask if I would be in Paris and if I'd like to meet him. I booked a flight to Paris even though I didn't have any plans. I was eating at a restaurant when someone affiliated to Fashion Week approached me and said, 'I love your bag. Are you going to this party?' I'm glad I did," she recalled. "It was a little crazy, but it's self-expression, and I love it. I'm also thankful that I did it because it opened a lot of new opportunities. The Hermes bag is really a conversation piece that I love taking it with me anywhere."

Heart has sold quite a few bags, she revealed. "While

I sometimes buy brand new ones, most of the Hermes bags were preloved. I paint on them and sell them for more. You have to be smart, especially if you want to do this forever," she pointed out.

Heart said that, depending on the shows you attend, you can also earn from participating in Fashion Week. "You get paid to attend shows. As to how much, it depends on who you are. When it comes to the bigger brands, you just feel lucky that you got invited," she explained.

'Be yourself'

Heart said the work she does is not always fun—possibly referring to the rumored rift between her and her former glam team. "When you experience sad moments, you just want true friends to be there with you because people misunderstand you. At the end of the day, you go back to your family, and that should be enough. My advice is to just be yourself. If people love you, then that's good; if they don't then, they don't."

"Chiz does all the responsible stuff. He pays all the



ills. When it comes to the things he knows I will get my money back for—ang mga luho ko—he makes me pay for them," she began. "Everything is very strategic. As for the division of work in the house, Heart said, "I keep it beautiful. I deal

with aesthetics—that's where I shine. If I wasn't there, the house would look cluttered. We'd all be surprised to see a sauna bed in the middle of it," she said. "Chiz does the 'other work,' like buying from the market or making sure food is served on time. He loves doing this. When he gets tilapia, I don't bother with how many grams he gets anymore."

Heart said she and Chiz don't have to share the same interest. What's important is that they treat each other with respect. "My gift for him whenever he accompanies me to Fashion Week is a set of suits. Recently, he got to wear something from YSL for the first time and liked it. As a gift to me, he would prepare food and store them in glass jars, so I already have food to eat in the next couple of days."

Love Teams Breaking Up

DONNY from page 1

helps dry acne and minimize excessive oiliness) and is made in Thailand.

This complements the Pimple Eraser

line, which includes the "OG" (original) best-selling Pimple Eraser Cream, Pimple Eraser Recovery Concentrate, Pimple Eraser Spot Patch engineered with micro-needle technology to flatten big pimples fast, and Donny's favorite, the Pimple

Eraser Body Spray. All these are available in Watsons stores nationwide, Watsons Online and Watsons App, Watsons Official Store in Lazada, and Watsons Official Store in Shopee.

Donny currently stars opposite Belle

Mariano in the hit romantic drama and comedy series "Can't Buy Me Love" available on Kapamilya Channel, Kapamilya Online Live, A2Z, Jeepney TV, Cinema, TFC IPTV, and TV5. You can also stream it in advance on Netflix and iWantTFC.

For Carlo Aquino, Charlie Dizon is 'The One'

But no, they're not engaged. Not yet. That's what Carlo Aquino clarified when we chatted with him at the Beautederm headquarters' first anniversary event, where many A-list endorsers graced the event.

Sam Milby was also there but he was not in a chatty mood to update us about him and fiancée Carriona Gray. But at least, Carlo was really in such a chatty mood that our conversation with him lasted for about 20 minutes. He credited himself with being more open as a person to his girlfriend and confidante, Charlie Dizon.

We pried about the rumored engagement because it got out that Charlie was spotted sporting an engagement ring. Carlo replied, "Lagi naman iyan, tingnan niyo ngayon may suot din siya!" He was pointing to Charlie who went with him to the event. And then, I asked, "Galing sa'yo iyon (the ring)?" Carlo answered, "Hindi, hindi! Hindi galing sa akin (yung) suot niya."

He even added to ask today's bonafide Patron of Showbiz Chika, Ogie Diaz, who spoke about it in one of his content videos.

Carlo joked, "Hindi ko alam. Tanong niyo si Ogie. Siya yung nananaginip, eh! Si Mama O!"

Carlo opened up and said that if he's emotionally and financially ready to settle, "to get married? Yes!"

He also answered positively when inquired if Charlie is "The One," "Yes!" As to when he will settle down, he shared, "Wala pa. Hindi ko pa alam yan kasi sana oo kasi ilan taon na ako. Ilan taon na rin si Charlie. Wala pa, wala pa, hopefully soon."



There is a different energy when you see Carlo right now. He seems more at peace, definitely more relaxed than the press is used to seeing him. He said that things are pretty unprob-

lematic and serene with Charlie around. He even shared the qualities that make Charlie "The One." "Siguro, day by day, hindi ko i-nexpect na ganoon, pero iba lang outlook ko ngayon sa buhay. Nagbago," he said.

He also admired how outspoken of a woman Charlie is. Yes, they have fights like any normal couple would, but Charlie will see to it that they do not go unresolved, according to Carlo.

"Si Charlie kasi palaban kasi sa tamang paraan. Kapag kasama ko siya, ang gaan, ang sarap tuma-wa. Tsaka kapag may problema, uupuan. Pag-uusapan ng maayos," he said.

In other news, his love life is not the only one that is going well. Carlo is now enjoying more time with his three-year-old daughter, Enola Mithi. He told us how they would bond.

"Bonding with lolo and lola. Laro! Walang screen time! Sa bahay lang kami kasi hindi siya nakakapag-overnight sa bahay. Morning sunduin ko na siya and kailangan sa gabi hahatid ko na siya pauwi. Bahay lang kami at kapag andoon siya, nakakalimutan niya iyong ipad. Wala siyang device na hinahawakan kasi all day, sa kanya lang kami lahat. Ako, si lola, my mom and dad ko."

Mithi has yet to meet Charlie, though.

Not Your Business

BUSINESS from page 1

within its territory, the Department of National Defense (DND) said after Beijing warned against boosting Manila's military presence in Batanes.

The DND responded to Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin's statement last month, in which he warned the Philippines to "tread carefully and don't play with fire" after Secretary Gilberto Teodoro said he wanted in-

creased military presence in the country's northernmost province

"The defense department stresses that Batanes is Philippine territory and China has no business warning the Philippines about what it does within its territory," the DND said.

The DND stressed that it is mandated to secure the sovereignty of the Philippines' sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Last month, Secretary Teodoro called for an increased military presence and infrastructure development in Batanes, calling the province the "spearhead of the



Defense chief Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and military officials visit Mavulis Island in Batanes on Feb. 6, 2024.

Philippines."

This prompted Wang's response that

"the Taiwan question is at the heart of China's core interests and is a red line and bottom line that must not be crossed."

Beijing claims Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to take the democratic island one day—by force, if necessary.

Batanes province lies less than 200 kilometers from Taiwan.

"China should refrain from engaging in provocative rhetoric and activities if it truly wants to earn the widespread trust and respect that it is trying so hard to gain but has, so far, been unable to," the DND said.

EDCILLE PRODUCTION

JUNE 21 2024
Door Open 5PM
Show Start 6pm

Global Kingdom Ministries
1250 Markham Road
Scarborough
Ontario M1H 2Yg

Ticket Prices
VIP: \$148
GEN: \$108

America's Got Talent
3rd Runner Up
The Champion Season 2

Marcelito POMOY
the Ultimate
COMEBACK
LIVE in **TORONTO**

For Ticket/Sponsorship. Cécile Araneta : 437.2272888

LM confidential
NEWSPAPER

Separation is not an option: John Prats on marriage with Isabel Oli

“Separation is not an option” for John Prats and Isabel Oli when ever the going gets tough in their marriage.

That’s what the celebrity couple learned from the time they got married in May 2015.

“When we entered the married life, we knew there’s no way out,” John recently shared.

The 40-year-old actor (coincidentally celebrating his birthday this Valentine’s Day) said that he and Isabel share the belief that going their separate ways is not an option. They are committed to staying together despite whatever challenges they may face. “Alam namin yung paghihiwalay hindi option and pareho naming gusto yun,” he said.

John expressed his appreciation for his wife, who was even willing to sacrifice her showbiz career to focus on their family.

“Kung yun na lang ang isipin mo, ang hirap na rin maghanap ng babae na makikita mo, lalo na sa industriya natin, na willing magsakripisyo ng kanilang career.

“Because our world is very career-oriented, sobrang blessed na ako to have this wonderful person in my life.

“I don’t know on her side why she puts up with me, hahaha, we complement each other. We do fight, we have arguments, but never serious.”

What he also loves about Isabel is that she’s not the jealous and the matampuhin or sulky type.

According to John, she shows support by keeping him from being complacent, especially as he pursues a directing career.



The Prats family during their recent trip to Japan.

“Like whenever I work... because my work as a concert director, it’s not easy. But when I do concerts, this is how supportive she is: She won’t text and won’t call me that it’s me who ends up calling her.

“It’s because gusto niya yung araw na yun i-focus mo yung sarili mo diyan.”

“So, ako yung, ‘Oo nga no, oo nga no!’ So, she’s able to push me in some other ways. And sometimes, when I’m relaxed, she’ll say, ‘Masyado kang relax ah. Hindi ka ba kinakabahan sa ano?’ So oo nga, kabahan na nga ako, sige na nga, hahaha.”

What’s also helping the marriage remain strong is their three kids.

“That’s one big factor, you know, you just have to always think about your kids, not about yourself. And we pray that God will always guide us in our whole journey until we grow old.”

Joh was asked on how they deal with temptations.

“Dapat siguro ‘pag dumating yung time na yun, alamin mo na rin siguro kung

ano yung consequences. ‘Pag pinasok mo yan, masarap. Pero ano yung mawawala sayo pagka-nalulong ka. Is it worth it?’ he reflected.

It has also been a conscious effort for both to make each other feel secure in their relationship.

“But with Liv (Isabel) kasi parang kahit nasaan siya, kahit hindi mo makasama, I know that I’m the only one.”

Meanwhile, John teased that Isabel will return to showbiz work. The Cebuana actress decided to take a hiatus from tapings and filming to focus on their children.

When asked how he assured Isabel that it was okay, John said, “Well, kasi sa family namin ganun. Like my mom is a full-time homemaker, my dad is the provider so growing up, it’s always been like that na parang that’s also my mentality na ako ng bahala maghanap ng kakainin natin. Yun ako.

“And I assured her on that part. Parang gusto naman niya. (I tell her) it’s not because kailangan mong mag-provide ng ano, I mean that’s why I’m allowing you to do show business is para ma-feed mo yung hunger mo sa pagiging artista mo, but you know it’s not the main objective.”

When it comes to running the household finances, John entrusts the budgeting to his wife.

“Si Liv talaga,” John said.

“Kung hindi rin siguro siya baka hindi ko alam saan na napunta yung pera namin.”

“**Kahit di mo kasama, I know that I’m the only one.**”

FOUR MARRIED GUYS GO FISHING

Four married friends got together for a fishing trip, and just as they started fishing, they started a discussion about the sacrifices they were forced to make in order to be there.

The first guy started the conversation by saying, “You have no idea what I had to do to be able to come out fishing this weekend. I had to promise my wife that I will paint every room in the house next weekend.” The other guys smiled as sign of understanding his sacrifice.

The second guy topped his friend’s story. “That’s nothing!” he exclaimed. “I had to promise my wife that I’d build her a new deck for the pool. She’s been wanting it for ages, and this fishing trip was the only way to make it happen.”

Listening with care, the third guy chimed in with his own tale. “You both have it easy!” he said. “I had to promise my wife that I’ll remodel the entire kitchen for her. It’s going to be a big project, but I couldn’t pass up the chance to join you guys on this fishing adventure.”

As they continued to fish, they looked over

at the fourth guy who had remained silent. Curiosity got the better of them, and they finally asked him, “You haven’t said anything about what you had to do to be able to come fishing this weekend. What’s the deal?”

“Well, I just set my alarm for 5:30 am. When it went off, I shut off the clock, gave my wife a gentle nudge and said, ‘Fishing, or Sex?’ And you know what she said? ‘Wear a sweater.’”

The other guys burst into laughter. It seems like a little creativity in getting what you want doesn’t harm anyone.

‘Drip, drip!’: Mariel Rodriguez pokes fun at controversial IV drip session in Senate

Host-actress Mariel Rodriguez-Padilla touched on her controversial intravenous infusion or IV drip session last week in the Senate, reiterating she had no ill intentions at the time.

Last month, Mariel witnessed the Senate passing on third reading the Eddie Garcia Bill, co-authored by her husband Robin Padilla.

“My intent was just to inspire others that even amid various activities or wherever they are, they can still prioritize their health by taking vitamins,” Mariel said in a released statement. “I want to extend my sincerest apologies... We uphold the Senate’s dignity and integrity. Thank you for your understanding.”

In a recent live selling on her Instagram, Mariel again addressed the controversial IV drip session and the reasons why she conducted it in the Senate.

Mariel explained that as a full-time mom and online seller, she rarely frequents going to the Senate but only did so last week to support Robin and the passage of the Eddie Garcia Bill.

She then said that for weeks now, she



has been taking a Vitamin C drip, not glutathione, which according to Mariel was mistakenly circulated when the issue went viral.

In the original deleted post, Mariel did not mention glutathione or Vitamin C, only that the drip helps in collagen production, whitening, energy, metabolism, and immunity.

“Never kong intention na mambastos or whatever, my intention was to show that no matter how busy we are dapat pina-prioritize pa rin natin ang paglalagay ng bitamina sa ating katawan,” Mariel reiterated.

The host-actress admitted she did not think there was any wrongdoing because she was in her husband’s office which she viewed as a safe space.

Out of respect for the negative reactions, Mariel quickly took down her posts. The company that Mariel organized the session with also took down a video of her it posted on Instagram.

Mariel repeated she never mentioned she was taking glutathione, and the only reason she did the IV drip session at the Senate was because she already scheduled an appointment at home but could not leave the government building yet so she opted to do it in Robin’s office.

Following the clarifications, Mariel went back to her live selling, “Yung mga gusto mag-hate pa diyan, okay go!”

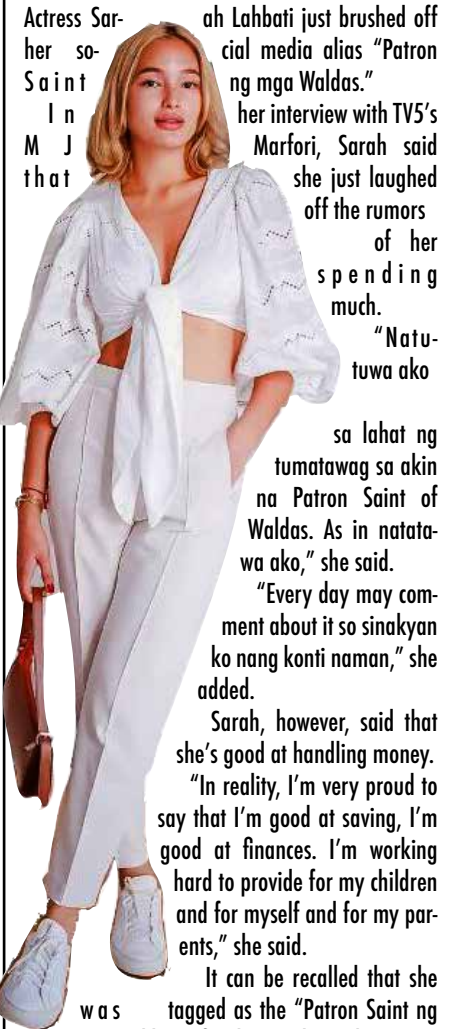
She continued reading comments fans and noticed one complimenting her necklace, “Hinuhulugan pa, hindi pa fully paid. Drops drops... or other words, dripping! Drip drip!”

Senate Ethics Committee chairperson Senator Nancy Binay previously mentioned being bothered by Mariel’s action in the Senate, saying that the incident involves the issues of “conduct, integrity, and reputation of the Institution and matters that concern health and safety.”

‘Very proud to say I’m good at finances’: Sarah Lahbati reacts to ‘Patron Saint ng mga Waldas’ alias

Actress Sarah Lahbati just brushed off her social media alias “Patron Saint ng mga Waldas.”

In her interview with TV5’s M J Marfori, Sarah said that she just laughed off the rumors of her spending much. “Natu-tuwa ako



sa lahat ng tumatawag sa akin na Patron Saint of Waldas. As in natatawag ako,” she said.

“Every day may comment about it so sinakyan ko nang konti naman,” she added.

Sarah, however, said that she’s good at handling money.

“In reality, I’m very proud to say that I’m good at saving, I’m good at finances. I’m working hard to provide for my children and for myself and for my parents,” she said.

It can be recalled that she was tagged as the “Patron Saint ng mga Waldas” after her mother-in-law Annabelle Rama’s interview.

“Nakikita mo naman ‘di ba? Nakikita mo naman, hindi mo na kailangang magsalita pa. Nakikita mo na ‘yan,” Annabelle said.

“Si Richard trabaho nang trabaho, ‘yung isa nagwawaldas ng pera. ‘Yun lang ang masasabi ko diyan.”

‘Eddie Garcia’ bill gets Senate final reading

The Senate approved on third and final reading a bill seeking to protect movie and television workers from unfair treatment and poor working conditions.



Senate Bill No. 2505, otherwise known as the Eddie Garcia bill, received 22 affirmative, zero negative votes,

and zero abstentions.

Senator Jinggoy Estrada, chairperson of the chamber’s committee on labor and sponsor of the measure, said the bill would guarantee industry workers opportunities for gainful employment and decent incomes, as well as protection from abuse, extended working hours, harassment, hazardous conditions, and economic exploitation.

“A product of your Senate’s commitment to put forward the welfare of workers, this is our meaningful acknowledgment to them whose work [is] often overshadowed by the main content and star power of the main cast. We simply owe it to them,” Estrada said.

“This measure is the Senate’s recognition of the immense talent, dedication, and contribution not just of Filipino artists, but also those behind the camera who put their heart and soul to come up with material for the movie and television industry,” he added. Estrada explained that the bill specifically seeks to push for the strict implementation of working hours, wages and other wage-related benefits, and social security to industry workers. Once signed into law, the government will also be mandated to establish a Movie and Television Tripartite Council composed of representatives from the government, employers, and workers in the movie and TV industry.

Garcia died in 2019. The veteran actor suffered a neck injury after tripping and falling while shooting for an upcoming “teleserye.”



FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic
(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)
600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307
Toronto
dr.vslu@bellnet.ca

We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

- Dr. Victoria Santiago
- Dr. Joy Y. Ho
- Dr. Amy Fan
- Dr. Jennifer Chen
- Dr. Damian Yung
- Dr. Myra Caballero

Registered Dental Hygienist:

- Raymond Echavez
- Gayle Baylon

Specialty Dentistry:

- Dr. Ali Adibfar
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon
- Dr. Abbasali Hassanali
Periodontist

Dominic Roque 'waiting' for Bea Alonzo — Ogie Diaz

Talent manager Ogie Diaz said actor Dominic Roque is still hoping to get back on good terms with his former fiancée Bea Alonzo.

In a video on Ogie's "Showbiz Update" YouTube channel, the talent manager discussed the possible future between Dominic and Bea since ending their engagement earlier last month.

"Feeling ko talaga magkakasundo, magkakaayos, baka sakaling magkabalikan," admitted Ogie.

A source told Ogie that Dominic has been waiting outside Bea's house in his car for several nights now, "Nakasindi ang kanyang makina, andoon lang siya waiting."

Ogie said he believed his source, and recalled a time when Dominic was courting fellow actor Michelle Vito. The actor would wait for Michelle early in the morning despite the actress' mother not favoring Dominic.



The talent manager reiterated that what he shared was according to a source, so it would be up to Dominic to deny the claim if it were untrue.

"Kaya nu'ng nakarating sa'kin... it's either nasa loob si Dominic or nasa sasakyan lang siya," Ogie said, adding Dominic was really showing how much he loves Bea. "Sana magka-ayos sila. Laman ng panaginip ko, kinikilig ako sa kanila."

Ogie ended by saying there would be a big chance of Domi-

nic and Bea getting back together if everyone in their circle would approve of the reunion.

The talent manager-vlogger also brought up the rumors of Dominic being linked to politicians Bullet Jalosjos and Bong Suntay. He noted how these rumors did not tarnish Dominic's image; in fact, they only made the public more aware of the actor.

Dominic's talent agency previously told Philstar.com that the actor was still sad and does not like discussing the engagement being called off. This also confirms that he really does love Bea.

Ogie was the first person to publicly announce that Dominic and Bea had broken up, followed by television host Boy Abunda. Bea and Dominic eventually issued a joint statement confirming the end of their engagement.

Liesel Lopez, single ngayon

Aminado ang aktres na si Liesel Lopez na single siya ngayon at naka-focus umano siya sa kanyang career.

Pero nagagawa pa rin naman daw niyang maki-pag-date paminsan-minsan.

"I'm single but I am dating," sabi ng aktres. "Hanggang dating lang muna."

Inamin rin ng dalaga na ang dine-date daw niya ay older sa kanya at hiniling umano niya rito na maging magkaibigan muna sila.

"Older po siya sa akin. Gusto ko po 'yung maging magkaibigan muna kami before we get into a relationship. Let's get to know each other before everything else. 'Yun ang preferred kong set-up," sabi ni Liesel. "Secret po muna siya. Gusto ko po munang i-keep sa sarili ko. Kapag sure na sure na, ako na mismo ang magsasabi. Parang... surprise!"

Aminadorin si Liesel na mabilis siyang ma-in love noon.

"Totoo po! Bi-

hira po kasi sa lalake 'yung mag-show ng feelings nila, 'di ba? Kapag may gano'n, sobra kong naa-appreciate," sabi ng dalaga.

"Pero alam ko naman po kapag binobola na ako. Kapag gano'n, kina-cut off ko na. Malakas dapat ang self-control mo para di ka ma-take advantage of. Natuto na po ako!" dagdag niya.

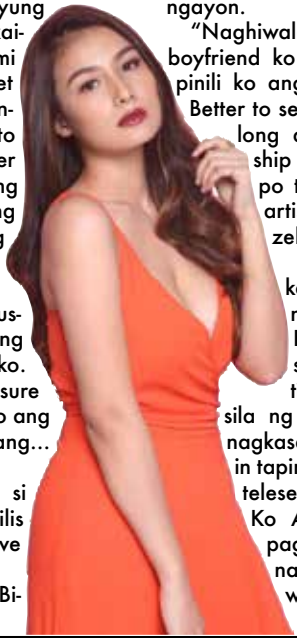
Naka-tatlong boyfriends na raw si Liesel at lahat daw ng mga iyon ay naging supportive sa kanyang mga ginagawa ngayon.

"Naghiwalay kami ng first boyfriend ko is because mas pinili ko ang show business.

Better to separate ways kasi long distance relationship iyon at gusto ko po talagang maging artista," sabi ni Liesel.

Kabilang sa na-karelasyon noon ni Liesel ay ang Kapuso actor na si Kristoffer Martin. Nagkaroon

sila ng relasyon noong nagkasama sila sa lock-in taping ng 2021 GMA teleserye na Babawiin Ko Ang Lahat. Pero pagkaraan ng anim na buwan ay naghiwalay din sila.



Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.
www.joyathomerealty.com

Joy S. D'Aoust

REALTOR®

647-500-5397
(KEYS)

416-254-1001 / 416-391-3232

joy@joyathomerealty.com

joyathomerealty

Right At Home Realty Brokerage Inc.
www.joyathomerealty.com

HERE, THERE and EVERYWHERE

UMAC

FORWARDERS EXPRESS INC.

A Company with a History... And a Track Record!!!

Padalahan ng kahon sa Pilipinas

416-298-8622



☎ 416-298-8622

✉ umactoronto@yahoo.ca

🌐 www.umactoronto.com

515 Milner Avenue, Unit-9
Scarborough, Ontario M1B 2K4

Ruru Madrid & Bianca Umali express love despite differences

Kapuso real-life couple Ruru Madrid and Bianca Umali really expressed their love for each other on an online video of GMA's Kapuso Profiles.

The celebrity couple shared their off-screen romance, emphasizing the harmony in their relationship despite their differences. Ruru, as an extrovert, brings vibrant energy, while Bianca, an introvert, is in charge of toning it down.

"I think iyon 'yung magic ng relationship namin ni Ruru, is that we're both are the exact opposite of each other - like one hundred percent. 'Pag may problema kami, mga solusyon sa problema talagang magkasalungat so we really have to find a way kung paano kami mag-co-compromise na aayon o kakayanin mga sarili naming values. Pero iyon nga, parang that's what strengthened us kasi it makes us adjust for each other endlessly," Bianca said.

The primetime action hero also



Ruru Madrid on Bianca Umali: "We're really meant to be together."

mentioned they'll stay strong together regardless the hates they received about their relationship. He noted it was inevitable to encounter criticism, but their love for each other will remain strong. "Hindi lamang patunayan namin 'yung relationship namin sa kanila kung hindi para patunayan din namin sa isa't-isa na talagang we're meant to be together."

Toward the end of the interview, both Ruru and Bianca expressed their love for each other through

heartfelt messages.

Bianca said, "Mahal na mahal kita, alam mo iyon at alam lahat ng tao iyon, na ipinagmamalaki kita at hindi ako magsasawang gawin iyon." She also added that she'll be there for her boyfriend to support him in a long time.

As things got sweeter, Ruru expressed his appreciation to Bianca: "Ikaw 'yung nagpabago sa akin. Hindi ko makakamit lahat ng mga pinangarap ko sa buhay kung hindi dahil sa iyo. Simula nung dumating ka sa buhay ko nagkaroon ng direksyon 'yung buhay ko."

He concluded the interview by saying, "Ikaw lang ang minahal ko ng ganito at mahal na mahal kita."

we're both are the exact opposite of each other

'Tahanang Pinakamasaya' bids farewell, 130 employees displaced — reports

Television and Production Exponents (TAPE) Inc.'s "Tahanang Pinakamasaya" has bid farewell, according to reports.

While there is still no official announcement from TAPE as of press time, the hosts hinted at the possibility of shutting down during the show's episode last Saturday.

At the end of the show, main host Isko Moreno thanked all the supporters and advertisers of the show.

"Ano man ang gawin mo at ano mang problemang kakaharapin, do everything for love. Ganyan ang pagmamahal namin sa inyo mga Kapuso. Araw-araw kami ni Paolo (Contis) at ang TP family at Tape Inc. maghatid ng 'Tahanang Pinakamasaya' sa bawat pamilya Pilipino. Siyempre, thank you din sa ating advertisers at supporters at mga Kapuso natin," Isko said.

"Maraming maraming salamat po. At ito po ang grand na Sabado. Isa na namang Sabadong hindi natin malilimutan at lahat ng ito ay alay namin para sa inyo mula sa pamilya ng TAPE Inc. — ang tagahatid ng tulong-saya at unli sorpresa mula pa noong 1979 sa pamamagitan ng 'Eat Bulaga,' hanggang ngayon dito sa 'Tahanang Pinakamasaya,'" Paolo Contis added.

The show's Facebook and YouTube accounts were also deleted after the show's airing.

The show reportedly employs 97 production staff and 33 TAPE Inc. employees.

Last January 6, TAPE Inc. rebranded the show from "Eat Bulaga" to "Tahanang Pinakamasaya" after Tito Sotto, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon won their trademark case.

Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika

SOCIALLIST from page 10

the stage and the front seats.

As the band members entered the stage one by one, and the crowd grew louder with excitement.

I overheard some women behind me talk how old the band was.

One noticed the presence of paunch of one of the guitarists.

"Ay, parang matanda na," said one.

"Ano ka? Thirty years na nating kilala iyan," said one to the other.

I can relate to their surprise. While we acknowledge aging in ourselves, we expect our idols to be ageless.



Hey, in my mind, Tatum O'Neal is still the 14-year old girl in the movie International Velvet. 😊

Anyway, then lead singer Chito Miranda entered with a beer in his hand and the theatre suddenly became more alive.

JDL Students before the show

"Usually, we have a 45 minute set," said Chito. "Pero, this time, it's a surprise, we will have a 5-minute set," he added to the laughter of the crowd.

It was a very enjoyable show. Unlike other concerts where the

front acts are used to prolong the concert, PNE set alone actually lasted at the 2-hour mark.

It was well worth it.

Josie de Leon (JDL) School of Performing Arts staged a musical Best Summer Ever.

It's about 4 girls who are on their last day of summer vacation. They want to have more time and wish to go back at the start of the summer. Incidentally, one of them invents a time machine and they use it to go back at the beginning of summer. Well, they went back farther and farther and they met different historical figures.

It was a lively entertaining show. The story reminds me of

Back to the Future where Marty meets her mother in her teens.

Congratulations to JDL School of Performing Arts.

Kalayaan Cultural Community centre (KCCC) presented Kay Ganda Ng Ating Musika, a an amazing night of listening to Original Pilipino Music (OPM) at the Grand Hall of KCCC. It was indeed a night to take a trip down memory lane of music that we grew up on. With performers Maria Panaligan, Maria Salac, Bob Lesaca, Bayani Llagas and Bong Palarca, it was like having your own playlists of OPM, except live and in the company of

SOCIALLIST on page 23



VIP \$175
GENERAL ADMISSION \$110

SPARKLE
GMA Party TV




berce

SPARKLE TOUR

goes to **TORONTO**

BIANCA UMALI
RURU MADRID

JULIE ANNE SAN JOSE
RAYVER CRUZ

BARBIE FORTEZA
DAVID LICAUCO

plus **BOOBAY!**



FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

APRIL 07, 2024 SUNDAY

TORONTO PAVILION

190 RAILSIDE RD, NORTH YORK, ON M3A 1A3

DIRECTED BY JOHNNY MANAHAN

A stand for family and respect amid Ivana Alawi rumors

All eyes were on sultry YouTube sensation-turned-TV star Ivana Alawi's Facebook page Saturday night when she categorically denied any romantic involvement with Bacolod City Mayor Albee Benitez amid rumors that the pair have been spotted together in Japan and the politician's Visayan bailiwick.

Rapidly gaining thousands of views, Alawi, 27, wrote, "There are posts and issues involving my name. I tried to stay quiet

at dumedma na lang dahil sa paniniwala ko na hindi ako dapat magsalita lalo kapag alam ko na wala akong ginagawang masama.

"But because of the false accusations and hurtful words that are being thrown to (sic) my Mom and Mona, kinailangan ko nang linawin ang mga bagay," she continued.

"This will be the first and last time na magsasalita ako dito. Hindi po ako ang nasasabing girlfriend ni May-



or Albee Benitez," she stressed. "I met him when I had work in Bacolod. He was very accommodating and friendly. At hindi lang siya ang politikong nakilala ko at naging kaibigan."

To prove her claim, Alawi consequently announced in the same Facebook post that she is even dating someone else.

"I am currently seeing someone who makes me happy. All I can say is that he is a respectable businessman and not a politician," the ac-

tress adamantly wrote, adding, "Sana [I hope] this helps clear my name and clarify all rumors. Maraming salamat. [Thank you very much]."

Twenty-four hours later, it was Mayor Benitez's turn to release his own denial on social media. The politician, who is also popular in showbiz circles as the owner of Brightlight Productions, Inc., was forced to do so in deference to Alawi's family, given how a "malicious" video continues to go viral

despite the latter's Facebook post. Uploaded by a netizen, it shows the ABS-CBN talent waiting in line with a masked man who looks just like Benitez at an airport in Japan.

Writing on both his official Facebook and Instagram accounts, the mayor acknowledged, "I am fully aware of the video footage that has been circulating, which unfortunately does not accurately explain why I was in

"All I can say is that he is a respectable businessman and not a politician,"

Tokyo. I went there on a business trip, as stated in my official travel order.

"Speculations involving Ms. Ivana Alawi are untrue and only serve to put malice into what was clearly a chance encounter," he continued.

"I apologize to Ms. Alawi and her family, who have been unfairly dragged into issues concerning my private life. There is no truth to any and all the rumors spread-



ing, and I am setting the record straight to avoid further hurt and damage to them.

"Maraming salamat po," he ended.

Alawi is one of the most successful Filipino YouTubers with over 17 million followers. As an actress, she is currently making a name as one of the main characters in the hit TV series, "FPJ's Batang Quiapo."

Benitez, meanwhile, was former congressman of the 3rd district of Negros Occidental before he was elected Bacolod City Mayor in 2022.

Now 57 years old, he became a business magnate at an early age

following his return from the US where he went to university. Primarily involved in leisure and gaming, he founded Brightlight Productions, Inc. in 2020, which has since produced TV shows and movies such as "Magikland." The company likewise co-produced the 2023 Metro Manila Summer Film Festival entry, "Here Comes the Groom," and last December's MMFF entry, "Kampon," starring Derek Ramsay.

'Especially Echo':

Kathryn Bernardo admits bonding with Jericho Rosales 'for several days'

Kapamilya star Kathryn Bernardo revealed that she wanted to work with ABS-CBN A-listers in the future.



Kathryn said that she wanted to work with Vilma Santos, Piolo Pascual and Jericho Rosales.

"He's Papa P., sino'ng ayaw na maka-trabaho si Papa P? Safe to say na lumaki ako na kasama sila kasi we have the same handler... Ta's nagkita kami nu'ng kay Mr. M (Johnny Manahan) na lunch and then nakapag-usap. Of course I'm

willing to work with Papa P. Who can say no to that?" Kathryn said.

"I respect him so much as an actor but then nu'ng nakilala ko siya bilang tao and feeling ko makaka-at-test dito lahat ng nandito sa ABS-CBN na he's so loved by many because of his personality. And 'yan 'yung isa sa mga traits na nai-inspire ako. He's so loved," she added.

Kathryn said she's looking forward to working with Jericho, who has also been vocal about wanting to work with her.

"I'm open to work with everybody now, especially Echo. He's been very vocal. Nakasama ko siya ng ilang days dahil sa magkakasunod na events," she said.

"And he's such a nice guy, sobrang bait niya. So ayaw mo bang makatrabaho 'yung ganoon? Let's just see. I just wish that maybe the universe will do something about it," she added.

The "A Very Good Girl" actress also said that she's flattered that Vilma approved that she and Nadine Lustre will remake the classic film "Ang T-Bird at Ako."

"Sobrang Vilmanian 'yung mom ko. Napanood ko 'yung 'Anak' and I just respect her so much. Thank you so much po for that compliment po," she said.

Filipino Centre Toronto Sets 19th Outstanding Fil-Can Student Awards

By: Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

The Filipino Centre Toronto (FCT) will hold its "FCT-Rosalinda C. Javier Outstanding Students Awards" (RCJOSA) event on April 7, 2024, Sunday, 2:00 PM, at the FCT Social Hall, 4395 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto.

The RCJOSA Awards is an annual award project of the Filipino Centre Toronto, a 25-year-old community-based, service-focused, and

volunteer-run organization in Toronto. For the past 19 years, since 2005, the established initiative has been in pursuance of the FCT's established mission and mandate which is to develop and offer programs and initiatives impacting the community. Specifically, the yearly competition is to encourage and challenge Filipino Canadian students to perform and achieve academic excellence and exemplary performance in their respective educational pursuits in Ontario.

The yearly event is being held to celebrate and recognize deserving student graduates in the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. During the one-hour afternoon program, the seven selected honorees will receive plaques of recognition, congratulatory certificates, and cash prizes.

Besides the Guest of Honour and Speaker, other special guests invited are some Federal Members of Parliaments and Members of the Provincial Parliament of Ontario

who will present their Congratulatory Scrolls, as well as members, supporters, and volunteers of the community centre.

The FCT-RCJOSA Awards Committee is composed of Jodelyn Huang-TCDSB Community Relations Officer, Steve Pagao-Professional Accountant, Nitz Redjik-Sandbanks Resort & Campsites Proprietor, Mary Ann S. San Juan-FCT President & CEO, Ferner Santos-TDSB Vice-Principal, and Tony A. San Juan-Filipino Heritage Council of

Canada Founder (Chairman).

To date, FCT-RCJOSA has chosen and honoured 146 Filipino-Canadian outstanding student graduates in Ontario. RCJOSA is named after the late Rosalinda Cerrudo Javier, the first FCT President, and a former Ontario schoolteacher. Awardees, parents, and community members alike continue to support this highly engaging and challenging province-wide project. (Tony A. San Juan, OCT)

BITTERSWEET

SUGAR from page 1

The US and the Philippines had free trade relations, and the latter supplied a large part of America's sugar requirements, but this special relations ended in 1974.

In 1960, the Philippines' sugar exports still accounted for 11% of world trade, but fell to 1% in 1990.

For many years now, Philippine sugar production has not been able to keep up with population growth, prompting the government to regularly import sugar and keep prices stable. The breakup of large sugar farms due to the land reform program further hurt the Philippine sugar industry. Sugar farming needs economies of scale to produce efficiently, according to agricultural experts, citing Thailand's success.

The Philippines has also not been able to produce sugar competitively in the world market.

According to former economic planning secretary Cielito Habito, Philippine raw sugar prices were 1.3 to 2.4 times higher than both world prices and Thailand's price from 2011 to 2019. Yields of Philippine sugar farms were 60 to 65 tons per hectare compared to an average of 70 to 75 tons for Thailand, India, and Brazil, he said.

"Thailand has managed to keep up with world productivity levels, whereas the Philippines has consistently suffered much lower productivity, hence much higher costs," Habito wrote in a column on August 23, 2022.

CADPI modernized its facilities through the years as the Philippines opened up its economy as mandated by the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organiza-

tion and the ASEAN Free Trade agreements.

RHI had hoped "more potential for sustainable operations" if CADPI focused purely on sugar refinery in Batangas, along with RHI's ethanol plant in Negros Occidental.

In a statement in February 2023, the farmers group Sugarfolks' Unity for Genuine Agriculture Reform-Batangas warned that the closure of CADPI's milling operations would hurt 4,584 sugarcane planters in Batangas and mean less work for more than 10,000 sugarcane field workers. It urged the government to take over CADPI, provide subsidies for sugarcane planters, stop sugar importation, and extend aid to sugarcane farmers affected by CADPI's closure.

CADPI sourced its sugar cane from planters and traders in Batangas.

In May 2023, RHI chair Roxas said CADPI's sugar refinery operations were dealt "heavy blows" by the government's move in February to import 440,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar on top of the 150,000 MT imported in crop year 2022-2023.

"It has been difficult for local sugar refineries to compete given the high prices of raw sugar feedstock and of outside fuel costs, which have increased significantly in recent years," RHI said in 2023. "These costs eroded the white premium margin to entice local refineries to process and refine raw sugar."

RHI said CADPI was informed by the Sugar Regulatory Authority (SRA) that the current inventory of refined sugar in the market "must first be depleted before CADPI can offer refined sugar to the public."

RHI said this was projected

to take around 8 to 12 months, adding that this was "too long a period of non-generation of income by CADPI from its sugar refinery operations."

It said that RHI's other productive activities, such as its ethanol plant San Carlos Bioenergy Incorporated, could not support the parent's recurrent costs.

"Thus, maintaining CADPI's sugar refinery business proves to be extremely difficult and no longer viable," RHI said.

RHI said it would be disposing of idle assets to prospective buyers to pay its obligations.

SRA chief Pablo Luis Azcona said CADPI's closure meant one less Philippine company refining premium sugar. With the loss of the refining capacity in Luzon, he said premium refined sugar would come from four companies in Negros island and one in Bukidnon.

Tell me 40 years later

TYou can never put a good song down, more so when listeners through the ages find themselves identifying with its message in whatever time or place, they are in. Just like they do with Tell Me.

The first line of the refrain of Tell Me is one that has been asked and will still be asked by jilted lovers for years and years to come. "Tell me, where did I go wrong, what did I do to make you change your mind completely?"

That was how the then hot young composer and arranger Louie Ocampo was feeling when he discussed with lyricist Alan Ayque the theme of the song they were working on. Ocampo was broken-hearted. For reasons that are said to remain unknown to this day, he was dumped by his young girlfriend and he got no answer to his question of, tell me why?.

The new song was shaping up nicely but Ocampo and Ayque were stumped by the last line. For some reason, they just could not find the words that fit.

That was when Joey Albert came in. The pretty newcomer was assigned the song by her label OctoArts



Tell Me is Joey Albert's first big seller that made her into a star. The pretty newcomer was assigned the song by her label OctoArts International and to the delight of everybody, she came up with the perfect words for that last line: 'But if this love's not ours to have, I'll let it go with your goodbye.'

International and to the delight of everybody, she came up with the perfect words for that last line.

"But if this love's not ours to have, I'll let it go with your goodbye."

That line not only turned the song into Albert's first big seller and made her into a star. It also marked the beginning of a romantic relationship between Albert and Ocampo. The pairing resulted in many successful shows and in hit songs like Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin and Minsan Pa Yakapin Mo Ako with Albert writing the lyrics.

The pairing did not last and Albert and Ocampo came to the point where they themselves thought and maybe said, "But if this love's not

ours to have, I'll let it go with your goodbye."

But the song Tell Me stayed on. Now, four decades later here comes Martin Nievera singing his own version. Nievera is the best male interpreter of Ocampo's music. Think You are My Song, Forever, Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin, Ikaw and others. But, despite its popularity, he has never recorded Tell Me. So why not now.

Why not indeed. And so, Nievera, who I believe has asked that frustrating first line question of the song, several times in his life, did. The single dropped online, Feb. 16. It sure makes the right epilogue to those whose Valentine's Day celebration was not as happy as they thought it should be.

Tell Me was part of the English-language powered blitz of Original Pilipino Music (OPM) during the '80s. After going Tagalog or that mix of English and Tagalog during the '70s that came to be known as the Manila Sound, the younger singers and songwriters gravitated to creating hit songs in English.



Tell Me, composed by Louie Ocampo, was part of the English-language powered blitz of Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

The phenomenal Bagets movie soundtrack birthed Growing Up by Gary Valenciano and Farewell by Raymond Lauchengco. Sharon Cuneta after a few hits in Filipino

opted for To Love Again as her next movie theme song.

Nievera himself had Each Day with You. Kuh Ledesma sang Till I Met You. Jam Morales had Even If. There were also Hang On for Valenciano and So It's You for Lauchengco and Albert followed up Tell Me with A Million Miles Away.

Great songs all and certain-

Tell Me was part of the English-language blitz of Original Pilipino Music (OPM) during the '80s.

ly deserving of cover versions. We seem to have given up on enjoying new recordings of hits from the past these past few years. The current preference is for singer/songwriters to do their own new originals. But there is nothing new with liking the oldies, more so when it is somebody like Nievera doing the new version.

Daniel Padilla teases projects with Ely Buendia, Maricel Soriano

Actor-singer Daniel Padilla signed a new contract with ABS-CBN.

Daniel expressed his gratitude to studio executives, his mentors in the industry, brand partners, work colleagues, family, friends, and fans.

"Gusto ko pong magpasalamat sa aking bosses sa tiwala po na binibigay ninyo at tootong pagmamahal po na binibigay ninyo. Maraming, maraming salamat," Daniel said.

ABS-CBN President Carlo Katigbak was among those present at the contract signing, and he recounted a message he received from Daniel back in 2020 when the company lost its franchise.

"Deej, ibabalik ko sa'yo ang message mo sa akin. Masipag kang tao, isang artistang magaling, at isang anak na nagmamahal sa kanyang pamilya," said the executive. "Gawin mo lahat to be the best version of you and then Diyos na ang bahala."

Another executive, Cory Vidanes, also thanked Daniel for



his loyal 15 years with the network."

Among the first things lined up for Daniel are new music projects, including one with Ely Buendia. "I'll make music first. May mga gagawin. Secret pa. Secret muna," Daniel teased.

The actor also confirmed the continuation of other film projects, including Jerrold Tarog's "The Guest" opposite John Arcilla, and Dan Villegas' "Nang Mapagod si Kamatayan" with Zanjoe Marudo.

One project that now appears to be in limbo is Daniel's reunion movie with Kathryn, which would have been directed by Cathy Garcia, who helmed

the pair's last film together, "The Hows of Us" from 2018.

Daniel also teased a possible project with the "Diamond Star" herself Maricel Soriano, though discussions are still in the pipeline.

The actor-singer's last film appearance was the award-winning movie "Kun Maupay Man It Panahon" from 2021 with Charo Santos-Concio and Rans Riful.

'Naging third party ako' Rita Daniela

Rita Daniela has come out to admit that she was the "third party" responsible for the breakup of a "celebrity couple."

She revealed this during a recent appearance on "Sarap 'Diba?"

"Na-experience ko maging third party sa isang relasyon. Naghiwalay sila dahil sa akin," the singer-actress said.

She made clear she didn't mean for it to happen - only that the guy made her believe that he had al-

ready broken up with the girl.

"Tapos meron pa rin pala so nung nalaman ko syempre tinigil (ko)," she shared.

"Pero syempre nung nalaman ni girl naghiwalay sila," she added. Rita is mum on the identity of the couple but she dropped a clue, hinting the whole affair happened in 2017.

In any case, there's a happy ending to the whole story: She is friends with the couple who are now married.

Rita is still single, having broken up with the dad of her baby Uno.



'TIME TO SHUT UP': Boy Abunda on Bea Alonzo, Dominic Roque's on confirming breakup without consent

Kapuso host Boy Abunda refused to comment on ex-couple Bea Alonzo and Dominic Roque's statement about their breakup.

Boy first confirmed that the couple have broken up until Bea and Dominic released a statement on Instagram.

In their statement, Bea and Dominic expressed disappointment in other people for reporting the news without their consent.

Boy was asked about the issue. "There's a time to speak and a time to shut up," Boy said. "Right at this moment, I'm choosing to shut up - but not for long," he added.

Bea and Dominic confirmed that they have "mutually decided to amicably end" their engagement in their Instagram posts.

The former couple posted one of their photos together in one of their past travels that came with a quote post that included their statement.

Published as is, they wrote: "After much thought, consideration, and care, we have mutually decided to amicably end our engagement. It was not an easy decision. We wanted to have more time to carefully deliberate and pray about it, but there have been many speculations, questions, and insults."

"Unfortunately, some even confirmed our break-up without our consent, and some created ridiculous stories that had no basis and were utterly false so we felt the need to share this announcement with great sadness, for our peace of mind and our families."



Candid SPOOF



Parokya ni Edgar concert producer Yana Alvaro (SEATED CENTRE) is busy counting the tickets as the others take care of the customers arriving.

DANIEL STRANNER, Actress on the Rise

Daniela Stranner is quickly emerging as one of the prominent stars in Philippine entertainment what with her remarkable talent and versatility.

"I fell in love with acting after my first project," Stranner said.

She demonstrated her acting prowess early in her career, starring in her first project on the small screen, the primetime soap "Make It With You" with Liza Soberano and Enrique Gil. She was also part of the miniseries "Fractured," with Francine Diaz and Seth Fedelin, and "Tara, GI," alongside Kaori Oinuma and Anthony Jennings.

Stranner's silver screen debut with "Love at First Stream," opposite Anthony Jennings, directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina, solidified her standing as a promising talent. Her performance in the movie earned her a nomination for Best Actress at the Metro Manila Film Festival in 2021.

"I like to do my own thing, study my own character, and build my own character," Stranner said. Asked if she's open to having a love team, her response was: "I don't really want to be stuck with one person because I want to explore. I want to be the type of actress who wants to work with everyone."

Most recently, Stranner took on the challenging role of Zyra Aguerro in the television drama "Senior High." Her portrayal garnered widespread

acclaim, as her ability to breathe depth into her character captured attention and resonated with audiences. She expressed that she liked antagonist roles because she "gets to explore different emotions."

However, she shared her desire to return to romantic comedy and play a character reminiscent of Toni Gonzaga in her favorite Filipino movie, "Starting Over Again."



Continuing her streak of compelling performances, Stranner is set to star in "Pamilya Sagrado" alongside Piolo Pascual, Kyle Echarri and Grae Fernandez.

Beyond her acting endeavors, Stranner is a soccer varsity player. "Growing up, I was boyish. That's why I got into soccer. I used to compete in regional tournaments for soccer," she shared. This insight into her personal life offers a glimpse into the array of interests and experiences that define her, hinting at even more to discover.

With her undeniable talent and impressive track record — from notable roles in television series to acclaimed performances in films — Stranner's journey in the industry is gaining momentum.

BABY SHOWER

Congratulations to Dominique & John Montalbo



ABOVE: Congratulations to parents Dominique & John Montalbo (STANDING)
BELOW: Dominique is surrounded by family at her baby's shower.



Kay Ganda ng ating Musika

SOCIALIST from page 20



FROM LEFT, Bob Lesaca, Maria Panaligan, Bong Palarca, Maria Salac, and Bayani Ulagas

friends.

Maria Salac opened with the Sharon Cuneta song Bituing Walang Ningning, which is now the theme song of dinner guests packing take home foods because of the lyric "balutin mo ako."

"I'm dedicating the next song to my mom, says Salac. "It's her favourite song." The song was another popular OPM song "Ikaw."

"It's not just romantic love but also communal love, which I see here tonight," says Ma-

ria Panaligan before singing Yeng Constantino's Hawak Kamay, a song about helping hands.

They sang more songs like "ikaw lang ang mamahalin, Kahit maputi na ang buhok ko, dadalhin, kahit ayaw mo na, ipagpatawad mo, ikaw ang lahat sa akin, binibini" among others.

Bong Palarca sang "Bakit ngayon ka lang" in a duet with Maria Salac Maria Panaligan had a duet with Maria Salac for "Bukas na lang kita mamahalin."

They finished with the title of the evening "Kay Ganda ng Ating Musika."

♥ "Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply." STEPHEN COVEY

BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

- 1. Happy Birthday to Roy Berlin and Mercedes Pamulaya
- 2. Happy Birthday to Lally Dividina Tidor



Save the dates May 17,18,19, 2024

2024 VICTORIA INVITATIONAL Basketball TOURNAMENT (18th YEAR)



DIVISION

2014	2008
2013	2007
2012	2006
2011	2005
2010	2005
2009	OPEN

VENUE:

Toronto Pan-Am Sports Centre, Scarborough

CALL: Philip 647-267-9649

EMAIL: pmbeloso@icloud.com





FAMILY DENTISTRY
DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care
& are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

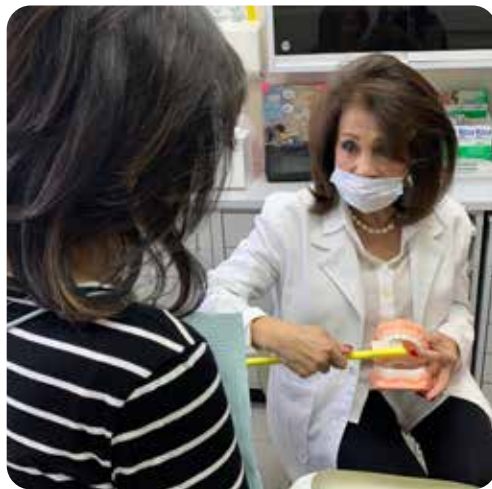
Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero



Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon

Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vslu@bellnet.ca



Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca





ACTION Honda

"WHERE CAR OWNERSHIP IS MADE EASY"

Your Filipino friends, ready at your Service!

To all my kababayans, Feel free to contact me "bibili ka man o hindi." It is always a pleasure to talk to a kababayan. **MABUHAY!** raphael@myactionhonda.com



Rafael Nebres
General Manager



Gani Gregorio
Asst. Sales Manager



Jose Sarte
Service Manager



Ronaldo Aquino
Assistant Service Manager



Joseph Redoblado
Service Advisor



Roland "Regi" Germaldez
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Ramon Bayani
Sales and Leasing Consultant



Pio Regio
Senior Lot Attendant



Don Luche
Accountant



Ramon Miranda
Lot Attendant



Marie Miranda
Service Appointment Coordinator



Cherie Viernes
Accounting Assistant



Terry Aquino
Cleanup Associate



Honda CR-V 2024



Honda Pilot 2024



Honda Accord 2024



Honda Civic 2024



Honda Passport 2024



Honda Odyssey 2024

NEW & USED CAR SALES • CAR PARTS • BODY SHOP • CAR SERVICE

4334 Kingston Rd., Scarborough ON (south of Lawrence Ave. East) Tel. (416) 281-1234

Lovi Poe's own production outfit to champion Filipino stories abroad

Lovi Poe is the latest Philippine born, bred or based actress to land a Hollywood project, joining the likes of Dolly de Leon, Liza Soberano, Inigo Pascual, and Ruby Ruiz.

According to the US entertainment media outlet Deadline, Lovi is part of the cast of the Hollywood indie feature "Bad Man," starring Seann William Scott ("American Pie"), Simmons ("The Perks of Being a Wallflower"), Rob Riggle ("21 Jump Street"), Chance Perdomo ("After We Fell") and Andre Hyland ("Barry"). The action-comedy is the feature-length directorial debut of Michael Diliberti. He previously wrote the Sony film "30 Minutes or Less" starring Danny McBride, Jesse Eisenberg, Michael Pena, and Aziz Ansari, with Ben Stiller producing.

When Lovi came home last week from the US and squeezed in an intimate media gathering in between fulfilling endorsement commitments, she talked about what it was like to be part of "Bad Man," which is now in post-production.

Lovi, who has also gotten herself an agent in the US, said, "I had the best time. First of all, when I got this script and when I read it, I was laughing. It was such a beautiful script and just to be part of this, talagang sobrang I can't believe it. I'm just so grateful."

"Until now, I'm still on a high. I really enjoyed it," she added.

Looking back on some of the filming challenges initially, Lovi revealed feeling intimidated by the main cast.

"Because these are the people that I used to watch and to be in this kind of environment, it was intimidating," she shared.

She also noted that they made her "feel so comfortable" and "everyone was so professional."

"Of course, nahihiya ako, na-intimidate. But when I got to the set, I had to rewire my brain and, you know, totally be in character and hopefully deliver.

"And I'm very happy with what I did naman. Hopefully, happy sila," Lovi added.

When asked to spell out the differences between Filipino and foreign productions, Lovi refused to compare.

"You can't really compare because there's only one

way to shoot a movie. Of course, every production is different more than anything.



Lovi says she had the best time filming with American co-stars, including Seann William Scott.

"And it's not just because you want to compare how it is here and how it is there to shoot, but it's more of like a production thing. Every director is different. Everyone has their own style, so you can't really compare it."

She plays the love interest of the "good guy of the film."

Speaking about how she landed the part, she said a casting director saw her in one audition tape she made in the past. "(The casting director) saw me and put me forward to this and then we had

a meeting... Met the director. We got on. But I auditioned for another thing and then na-put forward ako for this."

Lovi admitted taking on auditions for international productions. Her IMDb profile has indicated her future international projects, but "Bad Man" is the only one she can confirm after Deadline broke the story.

How does Lovi feel with having to audition again for projects. We couldn't help but point out that in the Philippines, she has reached that stage in her career where lead roles were offered and handed to her, and she just has to pick.

"Of course, you always have to start somewhere. It's also... To be honest, you're an actor, you have to be humble enough to enter a new room and have these kinds of experiences. Of course, I did all these things when I was starting.

"You always have to start somewhere. Fifteen... I don't even know how many years ago but I had to do all these things here."

After back-to-back TV dramas for ABS-CBN's Dreamscape Productions – "Flower of Evil" and "FPJ's Batang Quiapo" – she said that finishing her shooting for movies is her main focus at the moment.

"Right now, I'm focused on the movies first and let's see what's gonna be next. I just want to focus on the movies lined up for me."

These include movies for Regal Films, one of which is the action-horror "Untamed" under Richard Somes. Meanwhile, the other exciting thing happening to

Lovi nowadays is how she's finally setting things in motion at her new production company C'est La Vie with her British film producer-husband Monty.

Their opening salvo is a movie, to be directed by Jerrold Tarog ("Heneral Luna," "Bliss," etc.), in collaboration with international producing partners.

"Since we want to showcase Filipino stories, it's a story about Filipino mythology," said Lovi.

They're currently completing the cast that will "merge Filipino and international actors."

"It's a super exciting time. We wanted someone that would work well for the project and you know, Jerrold is very meticulous, and very specific.

"(As for the cast), siempre, there are a lot of amazing, really, really great actors, but of course, there's always someone that works well for the production." The film will be shot in the Philippines "to really showcase the beauty of our country" as well as local talents and narrative.

With the intention of becoming more involved in the creative process of film projects, Lovi decided to establish her own production outfit.

According to her, the primary objective of C'est La Vie is to champion Filipino creatives internationally and globally.

"I've been in the industry for quite some time and marami tayong magagaling na actors and directors and writers. And I think it would be nice to see everyone – the best of the best – excel globally."

She's proud of the fact that several colleagues in the local entertainment business have scored Hollywood breaks.

"It's really great. You always have to commend people who pursue their dreams. It takes a lot of courage, and it takes a lot of hard work. So, it's always nice.

"That's basically why C'est La Vie Productions is my main thing, which is to support Filipino talent. And what we want really is to showcase Filipino talent and see more people shine abroad.

"And it's so nice seeing so many people make it abroad – there's Dolly de Leon, Liza (Soberano), Inigo Pascual – and we want to see more."

In her experiences so far, she relishes every chance to represent the country. For one, she said that everyone in "Bad Man" knew that she's "Lovi from the Philippines."

"It feels good to be there and to be proud to say that you're Filipino," she added.



Sarah Geronimo wants to collaborate with BTS' Jungkook

One artist that Filipino pop singer Sarah Geronimo hopes to have a chance working with is Jungkook from the Korean boy band BTS.

Sarah is currently in Los Angeles, United States to receive the Global Force award from Billboard's Women In Music, a first for a Filipino artist.

Italian artist Annalisa and Brazilian singer-songwriter Luisa Sonza are also set to receive the said award.

Other award recipients include Karol G (Woman of the Year), NewJeans (Group of the Year), Charli XCX (Powerhouse), Ice Spice (Hitmaker), Tems (Breakthrough) and Victoria Monét (Rising Star).

The Filipino singer-actress conducted a question-and-answer segment on her X, formerly Twitter, account where she responded to queries, such as her trip to Los Angeles and the feeling of being recognized by Billboard.

I love JUNGKOOK. I think he is an amazing artist. Ang galing niya sobra :) <https://t.co/VFXfKNhxm>

– Sarah Geronimo (@JustSarahG) March 5, 2024

The last question Sarah answered was if there was any K-pop group she wished to meet and maybe want to collaborate with.

"I love JUNGKOOK. I think he is an amazing artist. Ang galing niya sobra," Sarah responded.

Theater legend Lea Salonga, herself a BTS fan, replied to Sarah's answer with similar sentiments, "Gabe siyaaaaaaa! Strong agree!!!"

Such a collaboration would have to wait though as Jungkook and the rest of BTS are currently serving in the military as required for all able-bodied men in South Korea.

Thinking about real estate? Buying... Selling... Investing...
USAP TAYO! Call for a free and confidential discussion.

Joy S. D'Aoust
 REALTOR®

647-500-5397
 (500 - K•E•Y•S)

www.joyathomerealty.com

MLS
 MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE™

JOY AT HOME
 Real Estate Group

R
 REALTOR®

Right At Home
 Realty Brokerage, Inc.

'Not what good neighbours do': Philippine lawmaker hits out at Singapore over Taylor Swift deal

MANILA – A Philippine lawmaker has criticised Singapore over its exclusivity deal with American pop star Taylor Swift that made the Republic her only stop in South-east Asia on her Eras Tour.

Representative Joey Salceda on Feb 28 asked the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to formally protest against the grant that the Singapore Government authorised in exchange for Swift agreeing not to perform elsewhere in South-east Asia during her sold-out world tour.

"(This) isn't what good neighbours do," said Mr Salceda in a media statement, adding that the city-state's move is detrimental to its diplomatic relations with Manila.

Mr Salceda, an economist who represents the province of Albay in Congress, chairs the House committee tasked to oversee Bills that generate government revenue.

The legislator, who has earned a reputation in the Philippines for frequently shifting his political allegiances, is also known for latching on to political controversies and other trending issues.

"Our countries are good friends. That's why actions like that hurt," Mr Salceda

said.

Reporters have asked the DFA for comment on the lawmaker's request, but it has yet to respond.

Some Swifties, as the singer-songwriter's fans are called, were upset after Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin disclosed on Feb 16 that concert promoter Anschutz Entertainment Group told him the Singapore Government allegedly offered subsidies of up to US\$3 million (S\$4 million) for each concert. The subsidies were contingent on Swift not performing in other South-east Asian nations.

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth later confirmed that the upcoming concerts had the support of the authorities, but stopped short of disclosing how much money had been pumped in for the pop star.

Kallang Alive Sport Management – which runs the National Stadium – had courted Swift's team in early 2023 before any international tour venues had been confirmed for her world tour, and was later able to secure the Singapore-only dates.

The ministry and STB said the tourism sector was likely to benefit from Swift's six-day concert in Singapore, for which

more than 300,000 tickets had been sold. Swifties from all over the country and its South-east Asian neighbours are trooping to the National Stadium to watch the singer-songwriter perform her greatest hits.

While Mr Salceda said the Philippines should oppose Singapore's deal with Swift, he acknowledged that the "policy worked" for the city-state as it boosted hotel sales in Singapore, as well as air travel to the Republic.

He said this challenges Manila to improve its infrastructure to host concerts for world-class acts like Swift. "In the long run, though, we need to step up our game," Mr Salceda said.

Some Filipino Swifties who were saddened by Manila's exclusion from The Eras Tour have been taking out their frustrations on social media over the past months.

Some lamented the Philippines' lack of concert infrastructure that would have met the requirements needed to stage Swift's concerts.

The largest concert venue in the country is the Philippine Arena, located about 25km to the north of the capital Manila. It has the same 55,000-seat capacity as Singapore's National Stadium, but does not have the football field-size staging area needed for The Eras Tour.

Filipino Swifties have scrambled to buy tickets for Swift's concerts in neighbouring countries like Singapore, Japan and even Australia.

Ms Alexandra Balane, a 26-year-old Filipino Swiftie, said she was not surprised that her idol had skipped Manila for the tour, owing to what the technical support specialist felt was the lack of facilities.

Yet she was still surprised to learn that Singapore was the only South-east Asian stop, as other nations in the region have large stadiums too. However, this did not stop Ms Balane from buying tickets for Swift's Singapore concerts on March 2 and 3.

While Ms Balane does not agree with the proposal for the Philippines to dispute the Eras Tour issue on the diplomatic stage, she hopes the controversy will push her country to learn from Singapore's strategy.

"Singapore is probably the only one with the infrastructure to deal with the amount of fans coming in and watching



Some Filipino Swifties who were saddened by Manila's exclusion from American pop star Taylor Swift's Eras Tour have been taking out their frustrations on social media over the past months.

the show from basically everywhere in the world," she said. "The Philippines would never have been able to host that."

Fashion brand manager Leah Reyes, 29, was also disappointed that Swift would not be performing in Manila, but said she would rather watch her idol in Singapore anyway. She has tickets to the Singapore concert on March 7.

She often watches her favourite performers' concerts when they are held in the Philippines, but is aware of how issues like venue size, severe traffic jams and the lack of decent

public transport have made it difficult for world-famous artists like Swift to stage performances here.

She added that Singapore's deal with Swift was "business as usual" for a country that possesses the money and infrastructure to host the Eras Tour.

Feeling the sting of missing out on the benefits of "Swiftonomics", leaders of some territories in the region have promised to step up to

clinch world-class acts in the future.

Mr Srettha said Thailand would offer visa-free travel and change its rules on drinking alcohol at concerts. Hong Kong leader John Lee said the city

must be "relentless" in its efforts to lure mega events to its shores.

Mr Salceda's remarks about Singapore also came days after about 100 Filipino Swifties complained on social media that they had been scammed by someone purportedly selling Eras Tour tickets for Singapore.

In various social media posts, the victims said they met the seller, Mr Patrick Steven Nanud Agoroto, through a Facebook group and booked not just their concert tickets, but also their flights and hotel accommodations through him. They said they thought he was legitimate as he had agreed to meet up with the buyers to sign contracts.

But they later figured out it was a scam when Mr Agoroto claimed that all the concert tickets he had purchased were voided.

The victims have filed a case against the seller with the Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation, which is looking into the matter.

PROTECT YOUR LOVED ONES

WHAT IF YOU NEEDED TO TAKE TIME OFF WORK TO CARE FOR YOURSELF OR A SICK FAMILY MEMBER? I CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE.

You do what's best to protect your family. But have you thought of everything?

Protect your family and your income with Sun critical illness insurance. And if you're never diagnosed with a critical illness, you can include an option to get back the money you've paid in premiums if you don't ever make a claim. It's insurance that can pay you if you get sick – or if you stay healthy.

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



Basil Rodricks
 Tel: 416-696-0083 ext 2240
 basil.rodricks@sunlife.com
 www.sunlife.ca/basil.rodricks
 Suite 1500, 150 Ferrand Drive
 Toronto, ON M3C 3E5

*Mutual Funds offered by Sun Life Financial Investment Services (Canada) Inc.
 Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada is a member of the Sun Life group of companies.
 © Sun Life Insurance Company of Canada, 2020

Life's brighter under the sun



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



HAROLD GUARIN
Fleet & Leasing Manager
New & Used Sales
haroldg@roadsport.com

ROADSPORT LTD.
940 Ellesmere Rd. (NE Kennedy) Toronto Ontario M1P 2W8
416-291-9501
www.roadsport.com

Bad Credit? New Credit? Bankruptcy?
Divorced? Credit Counseling?

NO PROBLEM!!!

Come In And See More
Choices Of Vehicles



Call Harold for Appointment
416-578-7351

CarProof
VEHICLE HISTORY REPORTS

HONDA
Certified
Used Vehicles

HONDA
BEST PRICED DEALER
AWARD WINNER 2020
BEST PRICED DEALER
AWARD WINNER 2021



HONDA

See Harold for details **All vehicles are plus \$10.00 omvic fee and HST, Licensing and \$40.00 gas extra. WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.



**2014 Infiniti QX60 Base
FROM \$ 16,990



**2013 Toyota Sienna SE
FROM \$ 17,950



**2018 Honda Civic LX
FROM \$ 20,990



**2020 Toyota Corolla LE
FROM \$ 22,990

Kat Agarrado realize purpose as an artist

SinosiKat singing group, led by its frontwoman Kat Agarrado, honestly considered to leave the music scene for good. She was simply contented to concentrate on her kid and her family.

She thought of having another baby while being away from the music scene for more than a decade. However, she eventually realized she still has a purpose to fulfill that's why she's back to the local music scene performing live onstage and creating original music.

"I just simply couldn't stop," Kat attested. "So even if I'm not onstage, I continued writing songs about love. Ballads, slow tunes, since I was alone. I listen to a lot of music, different genres. Sometimes, I would pick a standard song, then I would Tagalize it. Just to keep my energy flowing."

Obviously, that was not God's plan for someone whom He has blessed with immense talent.

"There was a lot of Divine Intervention that happened that made me continue what I'm doing," Kat granted at the launch of SinosiKat's latest single, Heart Calling, recently at 12 Monkeys Pub.

"There were also a lot of opportunities, too big to say 'no' to," added Kat. "In a way, that became a way for me to really go back to singing professionally. We'll see from here. This is really the beginning. I told God, 'Lord, I don't want to make an effort anymore.'"

"If You have a plan for me. Please just open the door.' My heart still has a calling. I have to know my purpose in this world. That's why I'm here tonight. And my friends are here to support me. It's really exciting," said she.

Kat wants to continue the 20-year-music legacy of SinosiKat. The band was formed in 2004 and has since carved its own niche in the OPM (Original Pilipino Music) landscape.

Kat started singing professionally since she was 16.

She has performed with several local bands, but maintained musical traction with SinosiKat for more than a decade.

The first album that we released was 2007. "After that, some members stayed and some left, because they couldn't make a long-time commitment to stay with the band," Kat shared.

"I formed SinosiKat. I wrote all the songs and produced with some help from my friends. Basically, the idea, the concept, I'm very hands-on. I'm happy with the band than being a solo artist. I like the camaraderie and the friendship that was formed."

The group disappeared from the local entertainment scene for quite some time, but SinosiKat is back to live performing today.

Since 2022, Kat has released solo singles — Sa Iyong mga Mata and Beautiful Kind — under Warner Music Philippines.

With a new album, regular performance schedules and a new single, Heart Calling, to be proud of, SinosiKat is visible anew in the local music scene.

"That's my goal and intention to listen to this kind of music," Kat said. "Music today is very trendy, but I want my music to be timeless. Even if we're already old, it still feels fresh. You can still relate to it. I'm hoping to write songs that really inspire, especially now that we have a studio."

"We all knew that in the pandemic, everything was stopped. Some of my bandmates moved to other countries. Some prioritized their families. We had different priorities. I also have a kid," she added.

Since SinosiKat has a lot of followers, Kat decided to mobilize her supporters with her much-awaited comeback.

So how has Kat's artistry evolved through the years. How is her music different now compared to when she was younger?

"Before, the rock element in my songs is very strong," admitted Kat. "I was really a rocker before.

Now, it's a bit more sophisticated compared to before. There's still a rock n' roll element, but more polished and mature. In terms of music, I have a brass section now and I also have a musical director."

Kat expressed her desire for the music of SinosiKat to reach a wider audience. "I want to bring my music to festivals abroad," she said. "To reach a wider audience, a younger audience. I have high hopes and dreams."

"I got to know people in joining music festivals and create my network. They are so amazed with the musicality of Filipinos. Sometimes, we just lack exposure, especially to reach audiences abroad," she continued.

"I want to introduce homegrown, Filipino music to a world-class audience. I performed in Vietnam before and they knew a lot of Filipino talents. They know Sarah Geronimo and Rachele Ann Go."

Kat wants to reach more international music festivals abroad and a wider, younger audience and build her network to include artists in other countries and get more exposure.

She also wants to collaborate with other artists like Lola Amour and their song, Raining in Manila. I love reggae artist Isla (Riddim). I love her voice. I really like her. There are a lot of other artists I want to work with. They have fresh input and ideas to contribute. There are really a lot (of artists)."

'Masaya': Korean star Seo In Guk, Francine Diaz release collab single, MV

Actress Francine Diaz said that she had fun shooting the music video (MV) for her and Korean star Seo In-guk's collaboration single "My Love."

It was announced for her 20th birthday last January 27, it was announced that she and the Korean star are collaborating on a song. It was also announced that it will come with a music video.

Francine shared a little bit trivia about their newly released MV to the press at last February's Watsons Health Expo 2024, where she was a panelist as the brand ambassador for health supplement brand Goli.

"Masaya po," the actress replied when asked regarding their shoot.

"Maaga kami natapos kasi, fun fact sa MV namin, it's one-shot, one-take type of MV. Magaling siya. Nakakatuwa although nakaka-pressure kasi ibang feeling maka-trabaho si Seo In-guk, but masaya po kami," she shared.

Their collaboration single was released last March 2 under Universal Records.

It was made possible during a casual dinner meeting between In-guk and Francine's manager, John Ling.

It was said that the Korean actor liked Francine's rendition of "Pag-Ibig."



Liza Soberano praises Enrique Gil for 'I Am Not Big Bird' performance

Liza Soberano was finally able to watch her actor boyfriend Enrique Gil's comeback film "I Am Not Big Bird," and the actress has nothing but compliments for his performance in the adult comedy movie.

After her absence on the film's premiere night, Soberano extended her support to Gil by organizing what appears to be a special screening of the movie.

"Went straight to the theaters from the airport last night to watch 'I Am Not Big Bird.' Congratulations, [Enrique]!



The movie had me crying from laughing so much," she captioned her post.

In succeeding posts, Soberano reposted photos from her companions who thanked her for setting up the "movie night."

"I Am Not Big Bird" had its premiere night last Feb. 13, which coincided with Soberano's event for a brand. The

"Lisa Frankenstein" actress also had to fly back to Los Angeles shortly after the event.

Despite this, Gil said he totally understood her absence and her busy schedule. The actor also underscored that they are currently focusing on their careers.

"I'm just really happy that we're both focused on ourselves first. Because we were so caught up on the two of us so much," he said.

"We talked na nga, this is also really good for us to go on our own path in our career, just to be able to grow. It's really exciting for me right now, what we're going to be doing, and giving to the industry," he added.

Soberano and Gil, who have been together since 2014, worked together on several projects including "Alone Together," "Forevermore," "My Ex and Whys" and "Dolce Amore."

Donita Rose reveals she wished her second partner to be 'celibate'



Having been broken-hearted in the past, Donita Rose earnestly wished that her next partner, among others, would be a virgin; surprisingly, she said, God listened to her prayer and gave her the man of her desire.

Sitting down on "Fast Talk with Boy Abunda," the former "That's Entertainment" host shared that she had a long list of the traits she was looking for in a guy, and God gave him one who fitted all the boxes, even the "celibate" standard.

"I have a prayer list, very specific. Sabi ko puwedeng pastor, puwedeng worship leader, dapat Pinoy or at least half. Dapat guwapo siyempre. Dapat matangkad pa sa akin, dapat siya 'yung magiging breadwinner, kasi marami akong pinagdaanan. Dapat nakakatawa," she said.

(I have a prayer list, very specific. I said he should be a pastor, a worship leader, a Pinoy or at least half. Must be handsome of course. He should be taller than me, he should be the breadwinner, because I've been through a lot. He should be funny.)

"Nag-joke pa ako kay Lord na hindi ko talaga akalain, sabi ko, 'Lord sana maging virgin ang asawa ko.' Natupad!" added the actress.

(I even joked with the Lord which I didn't really think I would, I said, 'Lord I wish my husband would be a virgin.' It came true!)

Donita revealed that her now-partner, Felson Palad, had confessed to her that he was a virgin when they started going out, making her realize that God listened to even the smallest of her prayers.

"When I met him and we started talking as friends, eventually we started dating. He said, 'May confession ako sa 'yo. Virgin pa ako,'" recalled the actress.

(When I met him and we started talking as friends, eventually we started dating. He said, 'I have a confession to make. I'm still a virgin.)

"Tapos hindi ko siya sinagot. Sabi niya, 'Bakit, na-turn off ka na ba?' Sabi ko, 'Alam mo ba na 'yan ang prayer ko kay Lord, na hindi ko akalaing nakakatawa pala si Lord. Na kaya niyang sagutin pati 'yung small things,'" she remarked.

(Then I didn't answer him. He said, 'Why, are you turned off?' I said, 'Do you know that's my prayer to the Lord, that I don't think He would fulfill. That He can answer even the small things.)

Donita affirmed that it feels like she's dreaming, knowing that she's in a relationship with someone who adores God.

"Before Felson came around I was already complete. But the fact that I met a guy who loves God as much as I do, that's where the dream is. Hindi ako makapaniwala na... Hindi ito panaginip kasi [I can't believe it. This is not a dream because] we're serving God together and we're loving God together. There's nothing better," she said.

FAMILY DENTISTRY DR. V. SANTIAGO & ASSOCIATES



We offer complete dental care & are accepting new patients.

General Dentistry:

Dr. Victoria Santiago

Dr. Joy Y. Ho

Dr. Amy Fan

Dr. Jennifer Chen

Dr. Damian Yung

Dr. Myra Caballero

Specialty Dentistry:

Dr. Ali Adibfar

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon

Dr. Abbasali Hassanali

Periodontist

Registered Dental Hygienist:

Raymond Echavez

Gayle Baylon



Call us to book your appointment

416-967-9272

Rosedale Medical Clinic

(Across Sherbourne TTC Station)

600 Sherbourne St. - Suite 307

Toronto

dr.vslu@bellnet.ca

Website now live
thefamilydentistry.ca

