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# THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

Vol. XXIX, No. 4 April 2011 Montreal, Quebec, Canada <http://www.filipinostar.org>

## Carbon bags the title Miss Teen FAMAS



The Miss Teen FAMAS 2011 beauties – from left, Christine Sy, Maegan Cowling, Klaudeen Carbon (Miss Teen FAMAS 2011), Romina Gabrielle Avelino (First Runner-up), and Junora Gapuz.

By Willie Quiambao

MONTREAL, March 26, 2011 - The first Miss Teen FAMAS was held March 26 at the Vanier College Auditorium, Ville St. Laurent.

"FAMAS board believes that our community will be better off if we reach to young aspiring teen age girls and give them the opportunity to get involved in the community," said Shinette Salcedo-Khourry, FAMAS vice president and the event chairperson. "These girls will make new friends, develop poise and personality and with confidence while they are made aware of the youth programs that FAMAS continues to support and create for their benefits."

The five young, talented and pretty candidates who vied for the coveted title of Miss Teen FAMAS were: Christine Sy, 14; Junora Gapuz, 14; Klaudeen Carbon, 15; Maegan Cowling, 13; Romina Gabrielle Avelino, 17.

Carbon, who bagged the title of Miss Teen FAMAS, won the essay contest. The first runner up, Avelino, won the titles of Miss Photogenic and Miss Congeniality. She also received the talent award. Cowling and Sy won the Community Service and Miss Charity awards, respectively.

Gracing the occasion were: Irwin Cotler, MP for Mount Royal; Michael Applebaum, NDG borough mayor; Marvin Rotran, NDG councillor.

The first Miss Teen FAMAS pageant, hosted by Marie Handinero, attracted a crowd of 300 guests, mostly screaming teenagers rooting for their candidates.

## Canadians go to the polls May 2

The 2011 Canadian federal election (more formally, the 41st Canadian General Election) will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 to elect members to the House of Commons of the 41st Canadian Parliament.

The writs of election were issued by Governor General David Johnston on March 26, at the request of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose Conservative government was defeated in the House of Commons on a motion of non-confidence which declared the government to be in contempt of Parliament.] This is the first time in the Commonwealth of Nations, that a government has fallen on a contempt motion and it is without precedent in countries governed by a Westminster-style parliament.

The 2008 federal election resulted in a second consecutive Conservative minority government. Harper's second term was tumultuous, marked by an unprecedented prorogation for the purpose of avoiding facing a motion of non-confidence in 2008 and then a second controversy over prorogation in December 2009



In and Out scandal  
Elections Canada laid charges against the Conservative party for contravening the Canada Elections Act. This issue, along with the Bloc Québécois announcing its intention to vote against the budget unless it contained \$2 billion in compensation to Quebec for harmonizing PST and GST, ignited the election fever on

Parliament Hill. Election speculation was further heightened after Conservatives released their attack ads on Ignatieff, while Parliament was still in session.  
Contempt of Parliament  
On March 9, 2011, Speaker of

See Page 4 Federal Elections



Contents	
Editorial . . . . .	3
Cooperative News . . . . .	2
Any Which Way (Op.Ed.) . . . . .	5
Tagalog Corner. . . . .	9
Ask the Video Guy . . . . .	10
Philippine Cuisine . . . . .	14
Showbiz Gossip . . . . .	16
Classified Ads.....	21

# COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Members are urged to attend the next general assembly

In order to prepare our members to attend our 5th general assembly, we are giving you an advance notice of the meeting which we will announce in the May issue of this newspaper in view of the fact we have not yet convened the board of directors meeting to finalize the details but we expect it to be held in the month of June. By that time, we will be able to present two financial statements, 2009 and 2010. The lateness of the statements is due to the limited manpower, in fact, it is well-known that volunteers, committed to the cause of cooperatives, are hard to come by.

Since the move of the Marché Coop to the new location on 5710 Victoria Avenue, we have always been hearing how hard it is for people to find the place, in spite of the sign, and pictures of where the Coop can be found. Another problem is the lack of volunteers who can operate the store in the morning until the evening. Perhaps, it is asking too much to have someone to be present in the store for long hours and have only a few customers. Even when we used to pay a full time cashier, the Coop is only opened from 12 noon to 8 p.m., and located on a street level, prime space, Filipinos did not come often enough. There are over 350 fully paid and 400 partially paid members. Even 10% of this number can make the Coop become profitable, if they will buy a minimum of \$20 weekly or even \$50 monthly.

The common excuse for the lack of patronage is that they do not find everything they need in one place so they prefer to go to the bigger stores. However, we would like to point out that it is impossible to have everything yet as Marché Coop is not financed by a big capitalist but only being kept open single-handedly by one person who has committed herself to the goal of making everyone aware that this is not a private business but a social economy enterprise. By definition, this means that the cooperative is designed to build a community, to create jobs for the common people. It is therefore hard to understand how else we can make our members realize that without their active participation and support, the progress of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative will definitely be very slow.

We are not asking for any financial contribution nor do we want people to spend more than they can afford. We are simply asking everyone to buy even a small amount of basic groceries every month. After all, we

have sufficient stock that everyone can use like rice, sugar, salt, vinegar, spices, cooking oil, canned goods, frozen fish, meat and many other kinds of groceries. We also try to keep our prices as competitive as possible and in some instances, even cheaper. There is really no reason for anyone to refuse our attractive offers of service and good prices, unless one is definitely against the idea of cooperation. We even give a guarantee that if you find our prices higher, just let us know and we will adjust it to sell at the price of the competitor.

If the customer traffic becomes busier, we will be able to stock vegetables but due to the lack of participation by many members, we certainly cannot be too ambitious to stock any perishable product. Besides, we must first recruit more volunteers so that we can open the store longer. Please take note that we have tried to keep the store open regularly on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. However, I have no control over the weekend and Monday schedules as the volunteers for these days are not always available for a variety of reasons, mostly due to personal health. But as far as the four days I mentioned are concerned, they are almost 99.9% guaranteed that someone will be working and waiting for any customer to shop. If someone is really interested to shop when the Coop is closed, we can also make a special appointment as long as the purchase is at least \$50 or more. To be sure that the store is open, feel free to call 514-733-8915.

What else do we need to do to encourage our members to come and shop? We would like to hear from you. You can always send a message to our e-mail as indicated on the ad beside this column.

There are so many associations in the community, each one of them trying to raise funds for their own projects. The Cooperative in a way is like an association, but the difference seems to be in the degree of commitment and loyalty of its members. Perhaps, the Filipino community has not yet been exposed to the benefits of cooperatives although we have been trying to publish relevant articles about their economic and social goals. We still have to see whether our efforts and appeals will have an impact on changing the behaviour of our "kababayan."

Zenaïda Khararoubi



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# Editorial

## VOTING - a right and responsibility

It's quite an irony to say that right now, people in the Middle Eastern countries are dying for the right to vote for their government while here in Canada, a model of a democratic country, we have had the lowest voter turnout in history in the 2008 elections - just 58.8%. Furthermore, only about 39% of eligible young voters used their right of suffrage. On the other hand, the election of the first black president in the United States was attributed to the huge turnout of young voters. Can the young people in our country be inspired to vote this time? Many experts say that it is a big challenge. What can make the difference in our 2011 elections?

Perhaps, the key lies in public education about the political system, the values that we cherish as a democratic nation, the kind of society that we want our children to inherit, and to learn how to make choices based on knowledge, not hearsay or rumors. The media, whether it is a newspaper, radio, television, or internet, should be used cautiously because there are certainly some dangers that the opinions expressed by the writers, speakers, or producers of materials in these media could have been biased or partisan. How do we know whether they are reliable and can be taken seriously? We believe that the best way is to get as much information as possible on the same topic, both positive and negative before making a choice. After listening to the debates, many editorial writers, and speakers offered their own analysis of what they heard. As one can easily discern from the comments made by many people, there was no consensus on who won the debate. The political ads have a way of making an impact on people's decision making ability. Negative ads have been blamed for the low turnout at the polls. For some strange reasons, people become fed up and just shrug off their shoulders to say that all politicians are the same. The challenge then for most voters with a serious desire to make the right choices is to be sure to analyze what each party offers and whether the candidates offering to represent us are honest and highly principled.

As far as our review is concerned, it seems useful to make a comparison of the approaches of the different parties, the vision of its leaders and if we can believe or trust that they will keep their promises without raising taxes. But then we wonder, if this is a realistic expectation.

Hereunder is a typical commentary about the different leaders:

"To nearly every question, Conservative Leader Stephen Harper

found a way to return to his primary election plank: that he and his party are the only ones with the steady hands needed "in difficult economic times." The other parties, he argued, are about raising taxes and expanding the size of government that will grind the economy to a halt.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff repeatedly slammed Harper as someone who is undemocratic, holds Parliament in contempt and is out of touch with the needs and interests of regular Canadians. What would he do to Canada if given a majority? Ignatieff warned.

Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe, who was again totally out of place at the national debate with his typically narrow provincial interests, and New Democratic Party Leader Jack Layton, who spent most of the evening getting off his usually clever pre-written jabs at his opponents and policy points to prop up his supporters, were clearly not the main event."

Comments like the above quoted material should only serve as a reason to find out more about the different party policies. If we really want to get a deeper understanding of all the issues, we must try to gather all the facts. Which platform will be more beneficial as far as we are concerned? Do we want big corporations to thrive or our families to live comfortably? Do we agree that education is more important than jets and more prisons? What is really the key to a brighter future?

From a further rundown of subjects of political speeches, we have been exposed to the questions about the environment, the economy, Afghanistan, justice system, security, human rights, healthcare, retirement pensions, housing, unemployment, credit card interests, protection of the disabled, prevention of sexual exploitation of women, homelessness, immigration reforms, family reunification, treatment of refugees, and so on. Obviously, there are too many issues to consider but we should learn to choose our priorities, and not just leave them to politicians to choose for us. Generally speaking, we should try to see which party cherishes the same values as ours.

We have just been witnessing the massacres of civilians who are protesting against dictatorships in the Middle Eastern countries. They are willing to die to have the right to vote while we already have this right.

The most important favor we can do for ourselves is simply to go out and vote wisely on May 2nd.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

### The North American Filipino Star

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March 11, 2011

## Letter to the Editor

Mrs. Zenaida F. Kharroubi  
Publisher/Chief Editor  
The North American Filipino Star  
5450 Cote des Neiges, Suite 511  
Montreal, Quebec H3T 1Y6

Dear Mrs. Kharroubi:

This has reference to the article that F. C. Magallanes, the publisher/editor-in-chief of the Filipino Forum, wrote in the January 16-February 15, 2011 edition of said newspaper. In that article, Magallanes reported that I ejected Mr. Budz Sarmiento, one of your columnists, from the St. Kevin's Church Social Hall during the UPS elections last November 21st.

For the sake of truth and in fairness to Mr. Sarmiento, I strongly deny Magallanes' allegation that I ejected him. It never happened. There was no justifiable reason to do that. In fact, in my power as the chairman of the UPS Comelec, I deputized him to take photos of the proceedings, particularly the tallying of ballots.

I hope that you will publish this letter unedited so that fairness and responsible journalism may be served.

Respectfully yours,

Rey Balansi  
reylbalansi@yahoo.ca

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The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star and its editors.

## From Page 1 Federal Elections

the Canadian House of Commons Peter Milliken made two rulings on contempt of Parliament: The first found that a Conservative Party cabinet minister, Bev Oda, could possibly be in contempt of Parliament. The second ruling found the Cabinet could possibly be in contempt of Parliament for not meeting Opposition requests for details of proposed bills and their cost estimates, an issue which had "been dragging on since the fall of 2010." Milliken ruled that both matters must go to committee and the committee must report its findings by March 21, 2011 — one day before the proposal of the budget.

Concerning Milliken's first ruling, the committee never made a determination on whether Oda was in contempt, as the Conservatives used the filibustering technique to block the committee from reporting its findings.

Concerning Milliken's second ruling, on March 21, 2011 the committee tabled a report which found the Conservative Party in contempt of Parliament. As such, a motion of no confidence was filed against the government. On March 25, 2011, Members of Parliament voted on a Liberal motion of no confidence finding the Conservative government in contempt of Parliament, passing by a margin of 156 to 145.

The contempt finding against the government is unique in Canadian history, and indeed in the history of the British Commonwealth. It is without precedent in countries governed by a Westminster-styled parliament. Election campaign

The 41st federal election campaign began on Saturday March 26, when Governor General David Johnston granted Stephen Harper's request to dissolve Parliament and call an election for May 2, 2011.

\* Liberal Party leader Michael Ignatieff's wife, Zsuzsanna Zsohar, came under attack from conservative lobby group National Citizens Coalition president Peter Coleman over the fact that she is not yet a Canadian citizen, and will therefore be unable to vote for her husband on May 2. Zsohar explained in the interview that she, like any other immigrant arriving in Canada, was waiting in line for her Citizenship application to be accepted and that the campaign was not about her.

\* The Conservative Party came under heavy fire on April 11 when a draft report for the G8 summit was leaked to the Canadian Press, which indicated that the Tories mislead the Parliament of Canada to seek approval for \$50 million tax dollars to be spread on dubious projects, which over half of it was spent on the riding of Parry Sound—Muskoka — Tony Clement's riding. It prompted calls from the other leaders to release the report now, but the Auditor General of Canada, Sheila Fraser, told reporters the rules forbid her to release it because she has to release it to the Speaker of the House of Commons.

\* A Green Party candidate, Alan Saldanha, resigned after making a rape comment on Facebook. Saldanha, running for a seat in B.C.'s Fleetwood-Port Kells region, has since removed the comment.

\* Two Conservative riding association

members (Richard Lorello and Tracey Kent) quit their own riding association in Vaughan after money was earmarked for the Vaughan Health Campus of Care (VHCC), which has two key fund-raisers for incumbent Tory candidate Julian Fantino as backers. Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff responded to the incident, saying that "it doesn't sit well, it doesn't look right, it doesn't feel right and Conservatives themselves are embarrassed by it."

\* Canadian Arab Federation president Khaled Mouamar received an email from Etobicoke Centre Conservative campaign staffer Zeljko Zidaric asking him if he had any groups that would like to participate in a Conservative rally "by having someone at the event in an ethnic costume". The email further elaborated that they wanted them for a "photo-op about all the multicultural groups that support Ted Opatz our local Conservative candidate and the Prime Minister." Mouamar immediately took offence to the email. A counter rally was made to protest the email.

\* Conservative candidate Gavan Paranchothy (previously known as Ragavan Paranchothy), who is running in the riding of Scarborough Southwest, has in the past praised the Tamil Tiger movement, including hosting a televised tribute to the Tamil Tigers in November 2010. When questioned about the candidate Conservative leader Stephen Harper simply stated that his part has "taken a strong position against the Tamil Tigers", but did not comment specifically about the candidate.

\* The Conservative Party alleged that a special ballot held at the University of Guelph on April 13, 2011 could in fact be illegal under the Canada Elections Act, claiming that partisan election material was present. Elections Canada, who are responsible for enforcing the act, responded that the ballots were legal. The action by the Conservatives, especially after allegations that a party volunteer attempted to grab the ballot box in an attempt to halt the voting, was criticised by the opposition parties who accused the Conservatives of discouraging youth from voting.

\* Conservative candidate Wally Daudrich had posted on his Facebook page that Barack Obama was the "worst president that America has ever had" as well as the "the biggest lying president America has ever had". His comments were primarily motivated by the candidates stance on abortion, with him being against certain aspects of the President's health-care reform bill. After his post became widely publicized he deleted the comment. Conservative leader Stephen Harper refused to admonish the candidate, stating instead that he and Obama "have a very good working relationship"

\* On April 14th, 2011 QMI Agency reported that Michael Ignatieff was involved in strategy and planning sessions assisting the United States military to prepare for the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

\* After days of intense media coverage the Liberal campaign stopped running a televised attack ad against Harper which falsely attributed statements made by one of Harper's former bosses to Harper himself. [

\* After criticizing Conservative candidates for not attending local debates, Michael Ignatieff admitted that

he too would not attend the all-candidates debate in his riding.

Leaders' debates

The English- and French-language debates were scheduled for April 12 and April 13 respectively.

On March 29, the consortium of broadcasters playing host to the debates (the CBC, CTV, Global, Radio-Canada and TVA) announced that it would only invite the leaders of the four recognized parties in the House of Commons, namely, the Conservative Party, the Liberal Party, the Bloc Québécois and the NDP. Therefore the Green Party will be excluded, despite earning 6.8 per cent of the popular vote in the 2008 federal election

On March 30, Stephen Harper challenged Michael Ignatieff to a one-on-one televised debate. Although Ignatieff accepted the challenge, this was opposed by the other opposition parties. The idea was later rejected by the broadcast consortium and cancelled.

On April 1, comedian Rick Mercer suggested over Twitter hosting a one-on-one debate between Stephen Harper and Michael Ignatieff at Toronto's Massey Hall. He later added he would donate \$50,000 to the charities of their choosing if they were willing to participate. Ignatieff immediately accepted the challenge and named the Alzheimer Society as his charity of choice, as his mother succumbed to Alzheimer's disease in 1992. Harper has not responded to the challenge.

In an interview with The Globe and Mail published on April 1, Troy Reeb, the broadcast consortium chairman, discussed the process

behind setting up the leaders' debates and the rationale for various decisions made, including the decision to exclude the Green Party's leader Elizabeth May.

On April 5, the Federal Court rejected the Green Party's request for an expedited hearing on the matter prior to the scheduled debates.

On April 10, the date of the French leaders debate was changed from April 14 to April 13 due to worries of broadcasting conflicts with the NHL playoffs scheduled for April 14. Also on April 10, Elizabeth May participated in a panel interview on CHCH-TV Hamilton, which she was invited to attend, as were the leaders of the Bloc, Liberals, NDP and Conservatives, by Channel Zero, whose president was disappointed by May's exclusion from the leaders' debates.

Source: Wikipedia

#### Beatitudes of Leadership

Blessed is the leader who knows where he is going, why he is going and how to get there.  
 Blessed is the leader who knows no discouragement, who presents no alibi.  
 Blessed is the leader who knows how to lead without being dictatorial.  
 Blessed is the leader who leads for the good of the most people and not for the personal gratification of his own ideas.  
 Blessed is the leader who develops leaders while leading.  
 Blessed is the leader who has his head in the clouds but his feet on the ground  
 Blessed is the leader who considers leadership an opportunity for service.

Anonymous

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# Any Which Way

Bernardo "Budz" Sarmiento  
badosarmiento@yahoo.com

## Hey Mom, I'm Big Surot now!

### "LIAR, LIAR!" WASN'T MEANT FOR APPLEBAUM

Fraud was partly right and partly wrong when he wrote about his faithful wife Patria yelling "Liar, Liar!" during FAMAS special general assembly held last February 19th (Page 32, March 2011 edition, Filipino Forum). While I have no problem bearing him out that his faithful wife did indeed yell "Liar, Liar", I cannot agree with him that it was Applebaum she was yelling at. The truth is, she was yelling at her own husband, a congenital liar and the indisputable King of Lies. But of course, Fraud, also an NPD-sufferer, would never admit it. He would rather dump it on the good borough mayor against whom he is harboring a grudge. And that's exactly what he did.

I'm not sure if it's linkable to the Magallanes family photo that appeared in the March 2011 edition of his tabloid, but there's something in that photo that invites innuendoes and stirs up suspicion. It's interesting to note that in that photo Fraud is too distant from his faithful wife, and too far back and almost hidden from view. Nagmukha tuloy s'yang houseboy o sailing-pusa sa kinatatayuan n'ya. More flattering than that, he's like Punsutawney Phil, the world's most famous prognosticating rodent, during Groundhog Day in February. I don't know who took that picture, but in an ideal family photo, the father and the mother of the family should be in front and at the center, and closely beside each other. That is not the case with Mr. and Mrs. Fraud Crass Magallanes which leads me to think that there may be more about that loving couple than the photo depicts or they are willing to admit.

Here's more: On Page 27 of the January 16-February 15, 2011 issue of the same tabloid, Magallanes cropped his and his faithful wife's photo so much that only his likeness remained. For reason of his own, he got rid of his faithful wife's image. I don't mean to read too much into it, but from my point of view, it speaks volume about their relationship, and I suppose it isn't something that the publisher and editor-in-chief of the there's-nothing-like-it Filipino Forum can plume himself upon as he usually does with his imaginary achievements.

\*\*\*\*\*

### HEY MOM, I'M BIG SUROT

**NOW!** - After crowning me King of Comedy sometime ago, Fraud made me King of Epic and then he called me Community Pariah after I called him very similar nickname. To his dismay, not even one of those epithets has gained currency simply

because almost all members of the community believe that they suit him more than they suit me. Now, he dubs me "Big Surot." Obviously, Fraud Crass Magallanes couldn't come up with better ideas on what to make of my initials "BS". He cannot use "bull s\_\_t" without calling the attention of the Quebec Press Council and without upsetting the sensibilities of his own readers. But I know that that's what he thinks whenever he uses "BS" in his articles. Yet, I cannot care less.

Anyway, Fraud should give me a better and more appropriate nickname than "Big Surot." "Surot," as all of us already know, is bedbug. According to Wikipedia, "it is a flat, wingless, bloodsucking hemipterous insect that infests houses and especially beds."

The name "bed bug" is derived from the insect's preferred habitat of houses and especially beds or other areas where people sleep. Bed bugs, though not strictly nocturnal, are mainly active at night and are capable of feeding unnoticed on their hosts. They have however been known by a variety of names including wall louse, mahogany flat, crimson Rambler, heavy dragoon, chinch and redcoat.

Based on that description of "surot," I don't think "Big Surot" fits me at all for the simple reason that I don't infest houses or beds. I don't suck blood, either. I am not hemipteran by any definition. But if he insists, he may suit himself. In fact, he may call me any names he likes. However, I suggest to Fraud to give me nicknames as apt as the ones I gave him. I christened him Flintstone, Fraud Crass Magallanes, King of Lies, King Liar (a parodic take on King Lear), King of Chutzpah and, lately, Sic-in-the-Head.

I dropped "Flintstone" as soon as I realized that it wasn't fair to Fred Flintstone, the affable and popular, albeit tends to be loud-mouthed, cartoon character whom millions of children around the world have come to love and enjoy watching over the years. I then thought of "Fraud Crass" because of his penchant for deceiving people about himself (hence, Fraud), and he is quite thoughtless, vulgar and insensitive as to lack all refinement or delicacy (hence, Crass). Remember the vulgar ad he placed in the otherwise decent souvenir program from a debutantes' special event? Besides, "Crass" fits his middle initial "C" perfectly. And lastly, "Sic-in-the-Head" (a play on the phrase "sick in the head" which means insane or lunatic) because of his lunacy and indiscriminate and

obsessive use of "[sic]" regarding my articles even though there's no dire need for that or the error is too negligible to fuss about it.

\*\*\*\*\*

### DUMPING IS FRAUD'S FAVORITE SPORT

- As a Narcissistic Personality Disorder-afflicted person, it's instinctive for Fraud to dump his evident bad traits and shortcomings onto others, more particularly his perceived enemies. Whatever Fraud is or does, he involuntarily dumps on them. Here are some of the many instances of his dumping activities that you can find in the pages of his tabloid:

- BS has a limited grasp of the English language. This comes from a guy who was kicked out of the University of the Philippines for his weak command of the English language. So what does he know? Read his sophistic explanation on my use of apostrophes. It sucks!

- His (meaning 'my') articles are not controversial nor edgy nor even funny. They are ugly, spiteful, nasty, pathetic and wrong. One only has to turn the pages of his tabloid, no matter which edition, to find out that it is full of ugly, spiteful, nasty, pathetic and wrong articles that he either wrote himself or plagiarized by his wife from articles, particularly recipes, written by other people.

- One of the reasons Fraud was reprimanded by the Quebec Press Council is his bad habit of foisting his political views or personal opinions into a news story. As an editor-in-chief he should have known better that it's wrong, that it's a no-no in journalism.

- BS twists the truth. His version of events is almost always accepted by halfwits in FAMAS even if it is wrong. It's astonishing that Fraud, the Humbug, could effortlessly bring himself to say that I twist the truth when it's he who always not only twists the truth but also tells outright lies and erroneous version of events in every issue of his tabloid. Remember his item on Shinette Khoury having been appointed honorary consul when no such appointment was made yet and was never made at all? Remember the \$3.5M he reported the City of Montreal would give to FAMAS for its community center?

- And how about his reports that Michael Applebaum paid certain Filipinos to run against each other to divide the Filipino voters to assure victory for Saulie Zajdel, and Rey Balansi, the chairman of the UPS Committee on Elections and Commander of the Montreal Chapter of the Order of the Knights of Rizal, ejecting me from the St. Kevin's Church Social Hall during UPS elections in November 2010? (See Letters to the Editor section for Rey Balansi's denial of Fraud's false story) There are so many more instances of his twisting the truth that there's not enough space in this column to accommodate them all. But why do you think he was found guilty by the Quebec Press Council? For twisting the truth, that's why.

- Leading the flock astray with BS's trash. For someone who has

been writing trashy articles in his tabloid for a considerable number of years, that statement is pure hogwash. He must have a pretty thick skin to be able to say that with a straight face and without any qualm. But then again, effrontery is an indispensable part of his being. It has become his value along with humbugging.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SCARED OF POLITICIANS?

**NAH!** - Fraud Crass Magallanes ludicrously mistook being respectful for being scared. He has maliciously claimed that Filipinos are scared of Applebaum. Why would they be scared of the good mayor? They are just fittingly showing their respect to a respectable man. The money Mr. Applebaum is giving does not go to the pockets of Filipino community leaders for their personal use. It goes to various community organizations for their respective worthwhile projects. Besides, would Magallanes have advised Angie Ogerio or Julie Parado not to accept the money if it was given to Ogerio's Federation? I don't think so. Fraud is quite begrudging only because he feels left out of the blessings. It bothers him so much that Mayor Applebaum doesn't give him the feeling of importance that Narcissistic Personality Disorder-afflicted Fraud always craves, but doesn't always get. And why should Applebaum give importance to the lone pariah of the community? Why should he pay attention to the person who always tries his best to divide, rather than unite, his own community? Fraud isn't worth a penny. Not even a grain of salt. Oh heck, he's worthless!

In his increasingly tasteless and constantly shoddy editorial (Page 6, Plenty of pork, not much vision from our civic leaders, March 2011 Filipino Forum), Fraud implied that Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum was running roughshod over the Filipino community, particularly its leaders, and buying their votes so he would stay in power. Nothing can be further from the truth. Such garbage can only thrive in the polluted mind of Fraud Crass Magallanes. If he were in his native country and treated a local mayor the way he treated Applebaum, maggots would have already been feasting on his bloated bullet-riddled cadaver floating on a far-flung creek. The jealous editor-in-cheat ... err, editor-in-chief ... has also implied that Filipino community leaders are naïve and can be bribed if the price is right. Inherently mendacious Fraud also used the word "mendacity" when he referred to them. Don't you find it exasperating?

Fraud also wrote: "For two elections now, Filipino candidates have been fielded to break up the Filipino votes and guarantee the election of Applebaum's candidate." Fraud never learns. When Fraud could not prove his accusation that Alex Robles was paid to run for councilor in Darlington to ensure the victory of Saulie Sajdel, he was investigated and reprimanded a few years ago by

See Page 7 Any Which Way

# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment  
EarthTalk®

E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What's the nutritional difference between the carrot I ate in 1970 and one I eat today? I've heard that that there's very little nutrition left. Is that true? -- Esther G., Newark, NJ

It would be overkill to say that the carrot you eat today has very little nutrition in it—especially compared to some of the other less healthy foods you likely also eat—but it is true that fruits and vegetables grown decades ago were much richer in vitamins and minerals than the varieties most of us get today. The main culprit in this disturbing nutritional trend is soil depletion: Modern intensive agricultural methods have stripped increasing amounts of nutrients from the soil in which the food we eat grows. Sadly, each successive generation of fast-growing, pest-resistant carrot is truly less good for you than the one before.

A landmark study on the topic by Donald Davis and his team of researchers from the University of Texas (UT) at Austin's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was published in December 2004 in the Journal of the American College of Nutrition. They studied U.S. Department of Agriculture nutritional data from both 1950 and 1999 for 43 different vegetables and fruits, finding "reliable declines" in the amount of protein, calcium, phosphorus, iron, riboflavin (vitamin B2) and vitamin C over the past half century. Davis and his colleagues chalk up this declining nutritional content to the preponderance of agricultural practices designed to improve traits (size, growth rate, pest resistance) other than nutrition.

"Efforts to breed new varieties of crops that provide greater yield, pest resistance and climate adaptability have allowed crops to grow bigger and more rapidly," reported Davis, "but their ability to manufacture or uptake nutrients has not kept pace with their rapid growth." There have likely been declines in other nutrients, too, he said, such as magnesium, zinc and vitamins B-6 and E, but they were not studied in 1950 and more research is needed to find out how much less we are getting of these key vitamins and minerals.

The Organic Consumers Association cites several other studies with similar findings: A Kushi Institute analysis of nutrient data from 1975 to 1997 found that average calcium levels in 12 fresh vegetables dropped 27 percent; iron levels 37 percent; vitamin A levels 21 percent, and vitamin C levels 30 percent. A similar study of British



**Although fruits and vegetables are still our best source of nutrients, those grown decades ago were much richer in vitamins and minerals than the varieties most of us get today. The main culprit in this disturbing nutritional trend is soil depletion. Credit: Martin Poole, Digital Vision/Thinkstock**

nutrient data from 1930 to 1980, published in the British Food Journal, found that in 20 vegetables the average calcium content had declined 19 percent; iron 22 percent; and potassium 14 percent. Yet another study concluded that one would have to eat eight oranges today to derive the same amount of Vitamin A as our grandparents would have gotten from one.

What can be done? The key to healthier produce is healthier soil. Alternating fields between growing seasons to give land time to restore would be one important step. Also, foregoing pesticides and fertilizers in favor of organic growing methods is good for the soil, the produce and its consumers. Those who want to get the most nutritious fruits and vegetables should buy regularly from local organic farmers.

UT's Davis warns that just because fruits and vegetables aren't as healthy as they used to be doesn't mean we should avoid them. "Vegetables are extraordinarily rich in nutrients and beneficial phytochemicals," he reported. "They are still there, and vegetables and fruits are our best sources for these."

**CONTACTS:** Journal of the American College of Nutrition, [www.jacn.org](http://www.jacn.org); Kushi Institute, [www.kushiinstitute.org](http://www.kushiinstitute.org); Organic Consumers Association, [www.organicconsumers.org](http://www.organicconsumers.org).

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Dear EarthTalk: I read a heart-wrenching story of a polar bear that swam 400 miles with its cub on its back in search of an ice floe to rest on. It survived but its cub did not. What can be done to save these magnificent creatures? Is it too late?

Jerry Bresnehan, Des Moines, IA

It's sad but true that life is getting harder for polar bears due to

global warming. Polar bears live within the Arctic Circle and feed primarily on ringed seals. The bears' feeding strategy involves swimming from the mainland to and between offshore ice floes, poaching seals as they come up to breathe at holes in the ice.

But climate change is heating up the atmosphere and substantial amounts of offshore sea ice are melting. The result is that bears must swim further and further out to sea in search of ice floes; some expend all of their energy in doing so and end up



**Climate change is causing substantial amounts of offshore sea ice to retreat at a record pace; it is a situation that does not bode well for the future of polar bears. Credit: Jupiter Images/Getty**

drowning. Scientists first noticed this deadly phenomenon in 2004 when they noticed four drowned polar bears in the Beaufort Sea off Alaska's North Slope.

More recently, researchers from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) fitted several Alaskan polar bears with tracking collars to find out the extent of their travels and document how much trouble they are having hunting in a warmer Arctic. One of the bears, a mother with a yearling cub on her back, made what researchers are calling an "epic journey in search of food" during September-October 2008. "This bear swam continuously for 232 hours and 687 km and through waters that were 2-6 degrees C," reports USGS research zoologist George M. Durner. "We are in awe that an animal that spends most of its time on the surface of sea ice could swim constantly for so long in water so cold." During the rest of the two-month tracking period, the bear intermittently swam and walked on ice floes for another 1,200 miles.

But while the mama bear survived the ordeal, she lost 22 percent of her body fat during a crucial time of year for fattening up before a long winter's hibernation.

And her cub was not so fortunate. "It was simply more energetically costly for the yearling than the adult to make this long distance swim," said Durner, whose findings were published in the January 2011 edition of Polar Biology. The case of this one polar bear and the failure of her offspring to survive in the new environmental conditions of the Arctic doesn't bode well for the future of the species, especially as Arctic sea ice continues to retreat at a record pace.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which maintains the international "Red List" of threatened species, considers the polar bear "vulnerable" due to climate change-induced retreating sea ice. For its part, the U.S. government listed polar bears as "threatened" in 2008 under the Endangered Species Act. The IUCN website also points out that, while the polar bear has come to symbolize the impact of global warming on wildlife, many other species are similarly affected, including the ringed seal and well-known species like the beluga whale, arctic fox, koala and emperor penguin.

Some argue that, since it is illegal to engage in activities that could harm or kill threatened or endangered species, Americans should be forced to cut their greenhouse gas emissions to preserve polar bear habitat. While such a notion hasn't forced many of us to voluntarily drive fewer miles or turn down our heat, it might be just what it will take the world's largest land carnivore from going the way of the dodo.

**CONTACT:** IUCN, [www.iucn.org/about/work/programme\\_s/species/our\\_work/climate\\_change\\_and\\_species](http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programme_s/species/our_work/climate_change_and_species).

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From Page 5 Any Which Way

Conrad St. Pierre of the Commission on Elections.

Fraud went on to write this: "Gone are the days when our leaders were politically aware but did not want to be around politicians. Back then, they were honest and honorable men and women." Magallanes deserves to be called Fraud for he is indeed a fraud and a certified hypocrite. Convinced that Pierre Bourque and his Indio-Canadian candidate for councillor would win, and salivating at the prospect of having some political clout at City Hall, he published in the Filipino Forum unauthorized ads of the two candidates. Magallanes, who claims to have taken law at the University of the Philippines (it's true, but only for one semester because he was kicked out for failing to obtain the minimum grade requirement), landed in hot water because placing unauthorized ads of candidates was illegal. When the police knocked at his door to investigate him, the very first words he uttered were "Am I going to jail?" Takot din palang makulong ang gago!

Lastly, if Fraud Crass Magallanes does not want to be around politicians, why did he and his gang invite Thomas Mulcair, a Member of Parliament for Outremont, Quebec, to be the guest of honor at Angie Ogerio's lavish debutantes' party last October? Very hypocritical, isn't it?

Oh, yes! Most likely, Fraud Crass Magallanes and his small band of like-feathered friends will throw their support on Mulcair. If I were Mulcair I would ask them to take a vacation in the Philippines at my expense before the campaign period starts, and come back only when the election is over. Otherwise, Mulcair would go the way Bourque went – the ignominy of defeat.

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**WHAT KIND OF ORGANIZATION IS FAMAS?** – Fraud asks what kind of organization that uses its website to attack its members. He also asks why said association has been giving a platform to BS's vicious attacks, and why "this man" is allowed to write on the website in the first place, etcetera, etcetera.

I have parallel questions to ask, such as what kind of government that gives Magallanes a platform to publish with impunity outright lies about people whom he has an axe to grind, what kind of community that allows Magallanes to write malicious articles about its leaders, what kind of newspaper editor-in-chief that breaks up rather than unites the community that he belongs in, why does the authority permit the Filipino Forum to exist in the first place and what kind of Filipino Magallanes is to be the first one to denigrate his own compatriots before the Canadian public, describing them as beggars?

The simple answer to all those questions is: Freedom of Expression. The right to freedom of expression upholds the rights of all to express

their views and opinions freely. It is essentially a right which should be promoted to the maximum extent possible given its critical role in democracy and public participation in political life. Any form of censorship is a curtailment of that right. It's funny, much less absurd, that the one who passes himself up as a journalist and the one who has been attacking the community viciously for years is the first one to suggest that I be censored for defending myself and the community against his ferocious attacks.

If there's one Filipino who is an embarrassment and a burden to his family and the Filipino community in Montreal it's Fraud Crass Magallanes, sometimes known as Fred C. Magallanes. It's high time that community leaders banded together and did something about the cancer that is Magallanes. That douchebag has done so much damage to the community that he should be placed in his proper perspective once and for all.

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**FROM UP DROPOUT TO "EXPERT" ON ENGLISH GRAMMAR** – Fraud 'Sic-in-the-Head' Magallanes started his law studies at the prestigious University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City in school year 1968-1969. After just one semester, however, he was kicked out of the school due to his weak command and poor comprehension of the English language, among other reasons. The UP College of Law was not convinced that Sic-in-the-Head had the necessary tools – most of all, the intellect – needed to be a lawyer so the dean of the College recommended that he not be readmitted, and he wasn't.

In the January 2011 Edition of this column, I wrote the sentence "That got me thinking how I could be persona non grata when I was quite acceptable and welcome to both Mrs. Nene Francisco's and Mrs. Warlie Basbacio's camps." in response to NPD-afflicted Fraud "Sic In-the-Head" Magallanes's baseless comment that I was persona non grata at the UPS elections last November 21.

For no other purpose but to humiliate me, Sic-In-the-Head placed "(sic)" after "Mrs. Nene Francisco's" in the above quoted sentence even though there was nothing wrong with that sentence. His weak command and poor comprehension of the English language led him to think that there should not be an apostrophe in "Mrs. Nene Francisco's" so he removed said punctuation mark. To his chagrin, he only exposed his blatant ignorance of the rules on apostrophe usage, specifically concerning joint and separate possession.

Clearly unsatisfied with the mortification he inflicted on himself, Sic-In-the-Head criticized my knowledge of the English language yet again in the March 2011 Forum. In an attempt to create verisimilitude and in defense of his gratuitous correction of my sentence, he wrote: "But I've got

some bad news for BS and his fans. BS's position is absurd as there is an adjective "both" before the nouns Mrs. Nene Francisco and Mrs. Warlie Basbacio that fuses them together as a whole and not individually. Therefore it can't be Mrs. Nene Francisco's and Mrs. Warlie Basbacio's camps because both of them, in BS's own words, welcomed him at the UPS (United Pilipino Seniors) elections." What a sophistry! With that flawed imbecilic rationalization, Sic-in-the-Head has to be the stupidest and most incompetent newspaper editor-in-chief that has ever run a newspaper. He has no business being a writer, let alone editor-in-chief, of an English language publication. It's probably better if he just writes in Tagalog or any other dialect he grew up speaking in his part of Leyte.

Contrary to Sic-in-the-Head's extremely tenuous argument, the use of the adjective "both" before the nouns referred to didn't alter the meaning of the aforementioned original sentence nor did it fuse them together as a whole; it's still separate possession. His removal of the apostrophe from "Mrs. Nene Francisco's" rendered the sentence ambiguous. Worse still, he made it appear that the camps were jointly owned by Mrs. Francisco and Mrs. Basbacio which was never the case. Meanwhile, the adjective "both", which means "one and the other," modifies the word "camps." Its use in the sentence, specifically before the nouns "Mrs. Nene Francisco's" and "Mrs. Warlie Basbacio's", doesn't make the possession of the camps a joint possession, and it was used only to emphasize that the two camps (the camp of Mrs. Francisco and the camp of Mrs. Basbacio) accepted and welcomed me during the UPS election despite their reported bitter rivalry.

Magnifying his ignorance and

stupidity even further, Sic-In-the-Head cited an inapt example, namely, "In his February story on Libya, Liberal MP Irwin Cotler wrote: So the Libya resolution is a major step forward, both for the people of Libya and in the international community's stated commitment to end mass atrocities."

Of course, there shouldn't be an apostrophe in the first noun "the people of Libya" not because there's "both" before the nouns "people of Libya" and "international community" but because the people of Libya and the international community share the same commitment to end mass atrocities. This is an example of joint possession as opposed to separate possession as in the case of Mrs. Francisco's and Mrs. Basbacio's camps. While the two women didn't own both camps jointly, the people of Libya and the international community practically own the same commitment jointly.

By the way, in Sic-in-the-Head's example sentence, "both" is used as a conjunction with two facts or alternatives joined by "and" to indicate that not just one (the people of Libya) but also the other (international community) have stated the same commitment to end mass atrocities. What's more interesting is, he typed in my original "re-acquaint" as "re-acquaint" and then placed "(sic)" after it. (For reference, see Page 10, February 2011 edition, Filipino Star; and Page 33, March 2011 edition, Filipino Forum). And by the way, "reacquaint" can be with or without hyphen as in "reelect/re-elect."

Kung mandaraya ka rin lang, Fraud, paghasayin mo na nang husto. Wala ka nang pag-asa talaga! Kokopyahin mo na lang, mali ka pa. Iyon siguro ang tinatawag na "Fraudian slip." Hindi "Freudian slip", ha? Iba 'yun! Editor-in-chief daw. PHOOEY!

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## FOCUS fundraising features music of Montreal artists

By W.G. Quiambao

No one can say that Filipino university students are not involved in their own community. They are. In fact, the Filipino Organization of Concordia University Students (FOCUS) is holding its annual fundraising on April 16, Saturday, at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall, Loyola Campus University. Proceeds of the event, Focus on Music, will go to Silid Aralan, a non-profit organization that strengthens the educational services of underprivileged public students in the Philippines.

FOCUS, which was founded in 2003 by a group of Filipino Concordia students, is a student club. Its goal is to organize annual event to raise awareness about current issues and trends that affect the educational and social environments. The fundraising will help and maintain a chosen charity.

"Although the club promotes young Filipino professionals, it also welcomes students who want to learn about Filipino culture," said Debbie Resurreccion, incumbent president of FOCUS. "We have members from Turkey and Quebec."

One of the activities that FOCUS has been doing is to welcome visiting university students from the Philippines.

"We give them a feeling of belonging," said Resurreccion.

## Filipinos will celebrate Independence Day with a bang

By W. G. Quiambao

Filipinos in Montreal and suburbs have reasons to be jubilant when they celebrate their 113th Independence Day. Indeed, leaders and members of the community are busy preparing various activities for the event.

James de la Paz, president of the Council of Filipino Associations of Quebec, has announced that there will be celebrations of the Philippine Independence Day on June 12.

At 7:00 a.m. the associations and businesses joining the parade will assemble at St. Kevin St (near Mackenzie King park). The parade, which will feature floats, starts at 11:30 a.m. from St. Kevin St, left to Victoria St., straight to Vezina St., right to Westbury, left to Westbury, left to St. Kevin and back to Mackenzie King park. After the parade, celebrations will continue at the Mackenzie King park. At 1:30 p.m., a mass will be officiated by Father Frank Alvarez, followed by serving of lunch, provided by the CFAQ and other associations. The program will include presentations of folk dances from various ethnic group, performances by local talents and presentation of martial arts.

Government officials, from municipal to provincial and federal, are expected to join Filipinos in celebrating their Independence Day. The program will fold at 7:00 p.m. (For more information, call James at 514-762-9547)

Meanwhile, Aurora Osdon,

"Oftentimes, they get homesick. We invite them to the activities here in Montreal."

Some of the following artists that will perform on April 16 are: ILL TEAGUE - It is a new project deriving from the collaboration of two Montréal's hottest urban acts: ILLUMECI (female group) and LUCAS (male group) TEAGUE. Both known for their vocal vocal harmonies, their music styles have been compared to Brandy, Boyz II Men, Jagged Edge and 112.

ILLUMECI and LUCAS TEAGUE recently teamed their projects due to substantial amount of interest they received overseas for this type of act. The ILL TEAGUE project is being developed to target the European market.

Norm Anthony Zabala - A singer and songwriter, Zabala was born in the Philippines. Zabala, who moved to Canada at six, became a musical director for the eclectic group of young artists and the National Youth Talent Association. He performed at the World Expo in Vancouver and several Canada Day festivals in Parliament Hill. He plays guitar, Dobro, bass and mandolin.

Nelz'n Yang and Daniel Paquin - For over two decades, Yang's dedication to the pursuit of beats has taken him across the dance floor and deejay booths around the world. The last two years have seen his focus from working as a deejay to producing music. He recently teamed up with his friend, Daniel Paquin, who plays drum, guitar and electric keyboard.

president of FAMAS, confirmed that the usual flag-raising ceremony would take place in front of the community center at 9:39 a.m. on June 12. Its Independence Ball will be held on June 18. (For more information, call FAMAS at 514) 341-7477)

On the other hand, Rey Balansi, chapter commander of The Order of the Knights & Ladies of Rizal, announced the organization's activities to celebrate the 150th birthday of Dr. Jose Rizal. On June 4, the Knighting Ceremony of new members will be held in a gala night at Ganesh Party Palace, 300 Marciel Laurin Blvd., St. Laurent. On June 19, flower offerings from various community leaders and organizations will be held at the Mackenzie King park where the bust of Dr. Rizal is installed. (For more information, call Rey at 738-7999)

Also, in conjunction with the Independence Day celebrations, PaulBComedy.com will present a comedy show, Froud Pilipino, on June 4, at the Oscar Peterson Hall. It features Dan Ramos and Ron Josel, a comedienne from Toronto. He is seen at CTV and CBC.

Asked why Froud is spelled with "f", Paul explained: It's because many Filipinos can not distinctly pronounce the "f" and "p".

"Punny" enough to attract audience, Faul. (For more information, call 514 979-5121 or contact www.paulbcomedy.com.)

## CDN—NDG citizens are invited to take part in Grande OpérationMontréal.net

Montréal, April 19, 2011—Michael Applebaum, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Ville de Montréal and Mayor of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, is encouraging citizens to pitch in and help keep their borough clean by participating in Grande OpérationMontréal.net, to take place the weekend of April 30 and May 1. "Every little gesture on the part of citizens can make a huge difference when it comes to the condition of our living environment, and that's why I urge everyone to make time on the April 30–May 1 weekend to take their own cleanliness initiative as part of Grande OpérationMontréal.Net," Mayor Applebaum said. He also took the opportunity to remind everyone that the borough's public works crews have been busy since early April with the spring-cleaning blitz of streets and sidewalks.

This will be the second annual edition of Grande OpérationMontréal.net, a Montréal-wide cleanup initiative aimed at all boroughs on the island and supported by radio stations as well as the Société de transport de Montréal.

Citizens invited to register initiatives on operationmontreal.net The procedure is simple. Citizens are invited to form a group of family members, friends, co-workers and/or neighbours to carry out a cleanliness or beautification initiative. They then register their project on the www.operationmontreal.net site, entering the date and time as well as the location they will be cleaning up.

On the weekend of April

30–May 1, promotional vehicles from the supporting radio stations will cruise throughout the city, stopping to meet the volunteer groups at work in the public spaces they have chosen. Gifts and prizes will be handed out in participating Montréal boroughs.

Activities organized by the éco-quartiers

Both of the borough's éco-quartiers will be holding activities as part of this year's Grande Opération Montréal.net, and residents are invited to join in:

- Saturday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the Éco-quartier Côte-des-Neiges invites residents to clean up Avenue Victoria between Saint-Kevin and Plamondon, as well as Avenue Saint-Kevin between Lavoie and Victoria. The meetup point will be in front of the Côte-Sainte-Catherine métro station. For further information: 514 738-7848.

- For its part, Éco-quartier Notre-Dame-de-Grâce will hold a cleanup activity around Royal Vale School on Saturday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to noon. The meetup point will be in front of 5851 Avenue Somerled at 9 a.m.

- Also on Saturday, April 30, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Éco-quartier Notre-Dame-de-Grâce is organizing a cleanup along the Boulevard De Maisonneuve bike path between Coffee Park and Décarie. The meetup point will be at the intersection of West Broadway and De Maisonneuve, at 1 p.m. For further information: 514 486-2727.

Source: Ville de Montréal and Borough of CDN—NDG

Information: François Puchin, 514 868-3483

Communications Officer

http://thenextstar.ytv.com

## EVENT LISTING

**MONTREAL Open Casting Call: Saturday, May 14**  
**Do you have what it takes to be THE NEXT STAR??**

**YTV's Hit Series Travels Across the Country in Search of Canada's Next Singing Superstar**

WHAT: It's time for kids to shine as YTV's The Next Star returns for an exciting fourth season! Corus Entertainment's hit reality series The Next Star is back in Montreal on Saturday, May 14 as part of a six-city, cross-country tour to find the next young Canadian superstar.

Kids 15 and under who think they have what it takes to be Canada's next talented singer are encouraged to audition. Complete audition information can be found at

**Arcie Mallari selected to speak at "Living Your Legacy" Conference**

The conference to be held at the Palais de Congrès on Thursday, April 28, 2011 is open to Concordia University students and alumni. The conference will start at 11 a.m. and end at 7 p.m.

Speakers are world renowned Nobel Peace Laureate and former UN

WHO: Host Adamo Ruggiero (Degrassi: The Next Generation) and the esteemed panel of Canadian experts including Award-winning singer Suzie McNeil, JUNO award-winning songwriter Christopher Ward and Executive Director of MusiCounts Steve Cranwell, will all be in attendance.

WHERE: HOTEL OMNI MONT-ROYAL  
1050 Sherbrooke St. West  
Montreal, QC

WHEN: Saturday, May 14  
Registration: 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.  
For further information and high-resolution images, please contact:  
Anne Vranic, Holmes Creative Communications  
W: (416) 628-5606  
C: (647) 992-8412  
avranic@hccink.com

Secretary General Koffi Annan, Environmentalist David Suzuki, and former governor general, Michaele Jeanne. Arcie Mallari is one of the 5 youth speakers.

Arcie was featured in the North American Filipino Star last month for being the first Filipino scholar of the Sauvé Scholar Foundation. and for having a very worthwhile project called "Silid Aralan" designed to help educate underprivileged children



**Nieves Baens del Rosario**

Abogada, guro, manunulat, lingkod-bayan, asawa, ina, babae. Iyan ang maraming papel na mahusay na ginampanan ni Nieves "Ebeng" Baens del Rosario. Ipinanganak siya noong 24 Hulyo 1902 sa Orani, Bataan. Panganim siya sa siyam na anak nina Pablo Baens at Petsa Sevilla. Bata pa lamang ay may palatandaan nang aani ng maraming tagumpay si Ebeng. Nagtapos siya nang valedictorian sa elementarya at salutorian sa hayskul. Pagkaraan, nagtungo siya sa Maynila para kumuha ng abogasya sa Philippine Law School.

**Ang Mangingisda**

"DIYOS KO PO, ibalik mo po sa akin ang aking asawa," ang paos na sigaw ng nananambitang si Luisa. Ang luha man, ang huling libingan ng isang namamanglaw, ang tubig na nagpapaluwag sa dibdib na sikip na sikip na sa tindi ng kalungkutan, ay ayaw nang bumalong sa mapupungay na mata ni Luisa. Wala na siyang luha, ngunit sa nanlalalim at namumugto niyang mga mata ay nakaguhit pa rin ang maiitim na bakas ng lumipas niyang pagluha.

"Huwag mo nang pag-iisipin ang iyong asawa," ang payo ni Matandang Tonang, ang mabait ng



Hinamon ni Ebeng ang tradisyonal na posisyon ng babae sa lipunan. Hindi lamang siya nagtrabaho kundi nanguna pa sa pakikipaglaban sa kapakanan ng manggagawang Pilipino. Nagsimula siyang maglingkod sa Kagawaran ng Paggawa noong 1923 bilang klerk. Mula sa pagiging ordinaryong kawani, unti-unti siyang pinagkatiwalaan ng higit na mabibigat na posisyon: Hepe ng Women and Children's Section; Hepe ng Workmen's Compensation Commission; Direktor ng Bureau of Workmen's Compensation; at Tagapangulo ng Workmen's Compensation and Commission.

Higit pang mapahahalagahan ang mga tagumpay ni Ebeng kung sisipatin ito sa panahon na ang mga larangan na sinangkutan niya ay pinamamayanihan ng mga lalaki. Hindi naiiba dito ang larangan ng pagsusulat ng panitikan. Isa rin sa mga kinikilalang manunulat ng kaniyang panahon ni Ebeng. Ang kaniyang nobelang Erlinda ng Bataan na tila isa lamang melodramatikong paglalahad ng karanasan ng isang mag-anak sa Bataan at sa pag-ibigan ng isang magkasintahan ay isa ring malikhang paglalahad ng malungkot na karanasan ng Pilipinas na nasa gitna ng digmaan.

Bukod sa Erlinda ng Bataan ay marami pang ibang isinulat si Ebeng. Isa na rito ang akdang Ang Mangingisda na sinisimulan nating iserye sa isyung ito ng ating pahayagan.

kapitbahay. "Alalahanin mo ang maliit mong bunso," ang paalala pa ng matanda.

"Ngunit Impong Tonang," ang namamaos na tugon ni Luisa. "Si Sencio po ay mabait na asawa. Diyos ko! bakit mo po siya pinabayaang malunod? Kung may mga babae pong tumatangis at nagpapakamatay kung sila ay iniwan ng kani-kanilang asawa ay lalo na po akong dapat maghinagpis sapagkat si Sencio po ay isa isang asawang tapat. Hanggang noon pong huling hapon na siya ay tumugpa sa dagat upang huwag na palang magbalik kailanman ay ipinakilalang minamahal pa niya kaming mag-ina. Bago siya umalis ay

niyakap pa kaming dalawa ng aking bunso at gaya ng dati niyang ugali ay lingon pa siya nang lingon sa amin habang lumalayo ang bangka niyang sinasakyan. Naku, Impong Tonang, hindi ko po akalain na ang hapong yaon ay kahuli-hulihang pagkikita namon ng aking asawa! Kaawa-awa naman ang anak ko," at bigla na namang nagpanangis si Luisa nang makita niya ang walang malay na bunsong naglalaro saka kaniyang kandungan.

Wala nang pag-asa. Lahat ng pagsisikap na ginawa ng mga mangingisdang kapitbahay ni Luisa upang ang bangka man lamang ng nalunod ay maiwi sa mag-ina ay nawalang lahat ng kabuluhan. Tatlong araw nang lumiwanag ang panahon at ang di hinihintay na bagyong dumating ay lubos nang naparam, ngunit pagkatapos ng may isang linggong paghahanap ay umuwi ang mababait na mangingisdang kapitbahay ni Luisa; malulungkot ang mukha at walang uwi kundi isang sombrero ng balanggot na sira-sira na at ang lumang bangka ni Sencio, na siyang mga piping saksi ng kasawiang inabot ng may-ari. Lalo nang napaiyak si Luisa nang makita niya ang bangkang wari'y nagpapahayag sa kaniya na nawala nang lahat ang pag-asang buhay pa ang kaniyang pinakamamahal na kabiyak ng dibdib.

"Napasasalamat ako sa inyong lahat," ang kaniya na lamang nasabi. "Sa pagkalunod po ng aking asawa ay aarlin ko nang aliwan ang tapat ninyong pagdamay sa akin," ang wika pa ni Luisa at saka niyupyop ang walang malay na sanggol, ang tanging kayamanan niya sa ibabaw ng lupa, at tuloy-tuloy na pumanhik sa kaniyang ulila na ring tahanan.

"Diyos ko. Ikaw po ang nakaalam ng lahat. Kalooban Mo pong lahat ang nangyayari sa amin. Bigyan Mo po ako ng lakas upang matuto akong makiayon sa iyong kalooban," ang dalangin ni Luisa sa paanan ng Lumikha sa lahat.

Siyam na gabing ipinagdasal ang nalunod na mangingisda. (ipagpapatuloy sa Mayo 2011)

**Bukas na Liham: Sariling Amin**

Mahal kong Kuya Pichu,

Sa wakas ay nasa maliwanag na rin ako. Dumating ako noong ika 31 ng Marso, 1:59 n.h. at medyo nabigatan ang mga kamay na sumalo sa akin dahil sa timbang kong 8.7 libra. Tulad mo, Kuya, ay nakaabang na sa pagdating ko ang Tatay Harold. Bumuhos ang pagmamahal sa ating angkan nang maramdaman kong nandoon din sa silid ang ating Lelang Nery.

Kakatwa ang naging salansan ng ating pamilya. Ang ating mga Tiyo ay walong lahat at ang Nanay Laura ko lamang ang babae. Anak siyang panganay ni Lolo Butch at Lola Jhay. Mabuti na lang at nauna ka, Kuya Pichu.

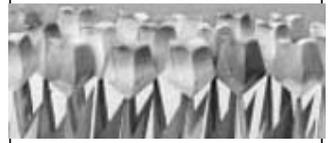
Habang dala-dala ako ni Nanay Laura ay tagos ang pag-aalala ng Tiyo Aaron.

Ang pinakamagandang balita sa ngayon ay doon ako ititira sa itaas ng tinitirahan ng lelong at lelang natin. Balita koay doon nagpupulong ang ating buong kamag-anakan tuwing Linggo pagkatapos ng simba. Sana ay huwagkang liliban ng pagpunta at aabangan ko lagi ang iyong pagdating.

Nagmamahal,

Pechay

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**Ask the  
Video Guy  
Al Abdon**

**Why do we hire a wedding videographer?**

It is wedding season here again and to those who are getting married this summer has a long "To Do List" which I assume most of it has been taken care of. From my experience, the last item on the checklist are the videographers. Why? Because it of a simple notion that is wedding video important?

Aren't still photographs, candid shots and portraits sufficient? The answer for most couples today is that they would not consider eliminating a photographer at their wedding, but a videographer is equally important in capturing their event. It is the Videographer who will capture the action, surprising, spontaneous moments, along with the sounds of the day, to create a complete visual memory of their wedding day. It is video, which when watched, will allow the bride and groom to review the wedding much as they might have as guests.

Once a bride and groom have decided to include a Videographer in their wedding, the question inevitably arises as to whether or not it's wise to ask a friend to do the honors with a camcorder. Unless budget absolutely does not allow it, a professional Videographer is preferable. Asking a friend to take the video, is asking him or her not to fully enjoy and participate in the event. In addition to that, most nonprofessionals are not trained, so you can be quite sure that there will be important details missed.

Here are some guidelines to follow



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when interviewing, hiring and working with your Videographer.

1. Any professional Videographer should be pleased to meet with you in order to discover your likes and dislikes. In order to catch your mood, your Videographer must know and understand what's important to you and must translate that into what's important to him or her. An important part of your preliminary discussion with your Videographer is the decision as to whether or not you want behind the scenes Videography. Some brides prefer video which is strictly "up-front," in other words, just what a guest might see. Others wanted a documentary style. These may include such things as the musicians setting up, the floral designer decorating, the guests arriving, and the bride and groom dressing. It's important for you to discuss your wishes and make them really clear to your Videographer, so that there are no misunderstandings and no disappointments. You may also wish to invite the videographer to your home so that he or she can do some shooting during those special pre-ceremony moments.

2. Most professional videographers will provide you with a demo tape as an example of their work. What you should be looking for when you review the video is the demeanor of the videographer. Is he or she invasive? Does it look like the videographer is forcing his or her style? Sometimes a smaller company may be more willing to be flexible and so may be preferable to a high-profile company which provides lots of bells and whistles. It's important for you to get the feeling that the videographer whom you hire is more concerned with your wishes than his or her own.

3. A good Videographer must be unobtrusive. Starting with the way he or she dresses (to blend with the rest of your guests) and ending with a non-glaring lighting system, the Videographer should be neither "seen" or "heard."

4. During your interview, ask the Videographer whether or not her or she has taped at the location you have chosen. A Videographer who is familiar with your wedding venue will be more comfortable and, therefore,

more likely to get the best possible results.

5. A professional Videographer will have an extensive array of equipment, and at least one trained assistant. Although you may not be personally familiar with much of the nomenclature, this list should give you something to work with when you interview your prospective Videographer:

- A. at least one extra camera
- B. state-of-the-art digital cameras
- C. clip-on mini-microphones
- D. special lenses for low-light situations
- E. a shotgun microphone
- F. digital editing capabilities
- G. effects, title and photo insert equipment

Because accidents do happen, will the Videographer have available back-up equipment in the event of equipment glitch?

It's also important to discuss how much tape will be used and what, if anything, will be the fee for additional tape used.

6. Some Videographers offer what is known as a "Love Story" as a part of their service. These are short movie scenarios which can follow your wedding video on your completed tape. Generally these shorts deal with topics such as how the bride and groom met and any other fun things you might wish to include. It's a pleasant way to reduce some of the stress involved in planning a wedding and is limited only by what your imagination and creativity allow.

7. Is the videographer a member of a Videographers Associations such as WEVA (Wedding

Event International Association) or any local videographers club. Associations such as these conduct yearly conventions, monthly publications on the latest trend of wedding styles, techniques, equipments and tricks. You will be surprised to see the difference.

In conclusion, there are no "second takes" at any wedding. That makes it all the more important to hire a Videographer with whom you can develop whom you can feel totally comfortable. Setting the groundwork for the video which will be shot your wedding is a collaborative effort between the bride, the groom and Videographer. A high-level of communication and understanding is imperative. There are no "second takes." Your extra effort in hiring a Videographer and setting the ground rules will be worth well your effort.

**Note to Filipino Solidarity  
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# Cotler talks to the Filipino Star Editor



**Irwin J. Cotler**

Montreal, April 15, 2011 – Many Filipino-Canadians may still recall when Mr. Irwin Cotler was elected for the first time in 1999 in a by-election when Mrs. Sheila Finestone was appointed to the Senate. He won by 92%, a huge landslide victory. Since then, Mr. Cotler has been re-elected five times, and if he wins again, it will be his sixth mandate in 11 years in the riding of the Town of Mt. Royal.

In order to highlight the issues of this election and let our readers know him better, I made the appointment to interview Mr. Cotler last Friday, April 15, 2011 at his campaign office in the Cavendish Mall. Since most people know him as a political person, I thought it would be a good idea to let them see his personal background – what guided him in all the years of his professional and political life. In reply to my question, he told me that he was born and raised on Carlton Avenue near Victoria Avenue, right in the heart of the biggest Filipino Canadian Community in Montreal and he was guided in his entire life by lessons his parents taught him – the imperative or importance of pursuing justice. His father used to tell him, using the biblical commandment, that this was equal to all the other commandments combined, that this was what he should teach his children. Justice in his definition is equal to three words in English – justice, charity and righteousness. When his mother heard them talking about justice, even before he really understood the word, she told him that if he wanted to pursue justice, he should feel the injustices going around him.

Otherwise, justice would just be a theoretical notion. So when he became a law professor for 30 years, he was also a human rights lawyer and never took money for the case, domestically as well as internationally, because he was acting on his mother's concept. He said that in teaching law, he was pursuing justice mainly in a theoretical way, however important it was. Working on behalf of the disadvantaged and poor immigrants led him to be involved with setting up Project Genesis initially and establishing a legal aid clinic in Point St. Charles. He began teaching poverty law which it is hard to teach unless you work with the poor and the disadvantaged. He then realized that he should not only improve the situation domestically but also internationally so he got involved in international human rights as well. He cited his role in defending political prisoners in different parts of the world which meant that he defended them against the false charges for which they were imprisoned for, in particular, the great human rights dissident in the Soviet Union, Andrei Sakharov, Nelson Mandela who was imprisoned because of apartheid in South Africa, and Saad Ibrahim, a democracy advocate from Egypt. For him, the protection of human rights in any part of the world as well as in his home country became a fundamental part of his involvement. As a law professor, he had a role in bringing about the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which he saw as an instrument to transform not only our laws but also our lives. This meant that Canadians are not

only passive observers to a legal process but also claimants of their rights. Before 1999, Prof. Cotler was not really interested in politics as he was happy teaching law at McGill University from where he graduated. When he got married, he moved from the Cote des Neiges district to Cote St. Luc where he still lives, had 4 children, two daughters are lawyers, one daughter doing a doctorate degree in psychology and the youngest son is a law student. He recalled how he was recruited to run for office. There were three people nominated to run for the Liberal Party but they all stepped aside for him, including Saulie Sajdel, now running for the Conservative Party in the same riding. There was just one day before the deadline to submit nominations, when people came to his house and stood with him most of the night. He still did not want to run. Since it was only one year left for the term of Mrs. Finestone, his wife told him it was an opportunity to learn about the parliamentary process and she believed this would make him a better law professor. It was supposed to be only for one year but 11 years later, he still feels quite enthusiastic about his job. He mentioned that every time an election came up, he always wondered whether he would run again because teaching law would have been easier and more comfortable, a different life style that allowed more time with his family of 4 children and 5 grandchildren. To be in politics is certainly harder than teaching law. He said that with the minority government as it is now, he spends 5 days a week in Ottawa, and as Human Rights Critic in the Opposition, has responsibilities internationally.

Prof. Cotler has always referred to an over-arching principle to pursue justice which serves as a reminder of his parents' lessons and his moral compass. This is why he is upset about the Prime Minister's statement that we did not need this election to which he also agreed but said the Prime Minister ignored telling why we were in an election. He cited the important fact that people should know about - that we are in this election because it is the first time that a government was defeated for contempt of Parliament. He continued to say that in terms of democratic accountability, it could not be more

serious than this. An officer of Parliament, the Speaker ruled that the government was in contempt for refusing to give parliamentarians information that they should have according to the rule of law. He stated that for six months, they were asking the Prime Minister and the government for the information required in order to oversee government spending, that "we as parliamentarians are trustees of the people and we are here to do the people's work. One of our responsibilities is to oversee the budget. We cannot discharge our constitutional responsibility unless you give us the information." I asked why Mr. Harper did not give the information. His reply: "Because this is a government that is characterized by secrecy on this and everything else, by a culture of deception. They misrepresent what they are doing, and they also misrepresent what the opposition is doing. We need to return to an open, transparent, accountable, democratic government. That is why the first thing in my priorities is to restore integrity in government, ethics in government and democratic accountability. The omission of information is part of a pattern of conduct that was in contempt of Parliament. The government has been held by the courts, not by me, to have been in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and then they disregarded the judgment of the courts. The Federal Court also cited them for electoral fraud. I do not want to go on more with this but all I can say is what we are seeing is a pattern of government misconduct, government secrecy, government contempt of Parliament, of the courts, of the civil service, of officers of Parliament, and in effect, contempt of the people." The whole interview lasted for an hour and could have continued longer if time permitted. Prof. Cotler explained in great detail the difference in values and visions between the Conservatives and the Liberals. As an example, the approach to crime is a big issue. As a former Minister of Justice and Attorney General, he said "Of course, we want safe neighborhoods, of course we want to protect the security of citizens,

See Page 19 Cotler



**Me Rosanne M. Luciano**

Filipina Attorney  
General Civil Law



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# The North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Irwin Cotler salutes UPS Seniors during their monthly social at St. Kevin's Social Hall. In the background: Mrs. Basbacio, president, and Bert Abiera, former publisher of the Star.



Irwin Cotler and former PM, Paul Martin, pose with members of the Filipino community during a rally at Cavendish Mall on Wednesday, April 13, 2011.



Souvenir photo after a ride in the ballade of La Goudrelle sugaring place in Mont St. Gregoire, Saturday, April 9, 2011



Marilyn Tugade and her friends with Sophie Toledo and Zenaida Kharroubi at the dining hall of La Goudrelle



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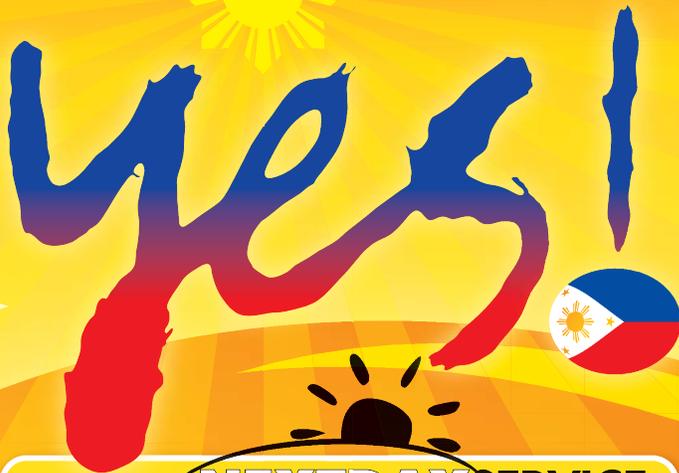


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# Philippine Cuisine

## Pork Kilawin



Estimated cooking time: 40 minutes

### Pork Kilawin Ingredients:

- \* 1 kilo pork
- \* 1/3 cup soy sauce
- \* 1/2 cup Vinegar
- \* 2 medium onions, chopped
- \* 4 cups of water
- \* 1 teaspoon salt

### Pork Kilawin Cooking Instructions:

- \* In a casserole, put pork in water and some salt.
- \* Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes or until the pork is tender and the skin is soft.
- \* Remove pork from water.
- \* Slice the pork into bite sized pieces while still hot.
- \* Place in a bowl and add vinegar, soy sauce and chopped, uncooked onions.
- \* Serve immediately!

## Chicken Potato Salad



### Ingredients:

- \* 1 kilo potatoes
- \* 1 big chicken breast
- \* 3 pieces medium sized carrots
- \* 500 ml mayonnaise
- \* 1 can (836 g) pineapple tidbits or chunks
- \* 1/2 cup sweet pickle relish
- \* 1 cup cheddar cheese, diced (optional)
- \* 3 tablespoons of chopped spring onions (optional)
- \* Iodized salt to taste (pepper, optional)

Chicken Potato Salad Cooking

### Instructions:

- \* In a big pot, boil potatoes and carrots (covered with water) for about 15 to 20 minutes or until cracks on the potato skin appears. (tip: pierce a potato with a toothpick. If you can pierce it with little resistance and the toothpick comes out clean, the potatoes & carrots are cooked).
- \* Drain potatoes and carrots, let cool.
- \* Once cooled, the skin can be easily be peeled by hand.
- \* Dice the potatoes and carrots (about 1x1 cm)
- \* Boil the chicken breast in water with some salt. Let cool, then shred the chicken meat in 1 inch lengths
- \* Drain pineapple chunks or tidbits.
- \* Combine all ingredients (potatoes, chicken meat, pineapple, carrots, pickle relish, mayonnaise...) in a big bowl and salt to taste. You may add pepper if you wish.
- \* Refrigerate before serving.

### Potato Salad Cooking Notes:

- \* You may add the optional ingredients (diced cheese, chopped onions, spring onions) or a handful of raisins for added flavor

## Halayang Ube



### Halayang Ube Ingredients:

- \* 1 kilo ube yam root
- \* 1 can (14 ounces) evaporated milk
- \* 2 cans (12 ounces) condensed milk
- \* 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- \* 1/2 teaspoon of vanilla (optional)

### Halayang Ube Cooking Instructions:

- \* On a pot, boil the unpeeled ube yam in water and simmer for 30 minutes. Drain and let cool.
- \* Peel and finely grate the ube yam.
- \* Heat a big wok in medium heat.
- \* Melt butter or margarine, add the condensed milk and vanilla flavoring. Mix well.
- \* Add the 1 kilo grated ube

- Yam,
- \* Adjust the heat to low
- \* Keep on mixing the ingredients for about 30 minutes or until sticky and a bit dry (but still moist).
- \* Add the evaporated milk and continue to mix for another 15 minutes.
- \* Let cool and place on a large platter.
- \* Refrigerate before serving the halayang ube.

### Cooking Tips:

- \* You may spread additional

- butter or margarine on top of the jam before serving.
- \* For the sweet toothed, sprinkle a little sugar on top of the jam after placing on the large platter.
- \* Instead of manually grating the ube, you may cut it in cubes and use a blender to powderize it.

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## Taal volcano heats up, gets ready to rumble

The water temperature in the main crater of Taal volcano increased over the weekend, a sign that the volcano may be about to erupt.

Volcanologists raised alert level 2 over Taal early this month.

A bulletin released by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said the temperature of crater waters rose from 30.5 degrees Celsius to 31.5 degrees Celsius over the weekend.

Clyde Yayong of the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (DRRMC) in Tagaytay City said they are keeping close tabs on the volcano.

Although Tagaytay City is quite far from the volcano, he said the city might have to take in evacuees from the volcano island in the event of an eruption.

"The fluctuating water temperature means magma is also increasing," Yayong said.

On Sunday, 14 volcanic earthquakes were also recorded by the seismic network of Phivolcs on Taal.

The number of volcanic quakes reached an average of 15 a day, according to Vicente Tomazar, chief of

the Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon).

At around 6:35 a.m. Monday, a magnitude three earthquake jolted the volcano island, said Allan Loza, resident volcanologist at the Taal Observatory.

Villagers in Calauit felt a loud rumbling sound and shaking of their houses because the quake's depth or epicenter was shallow, Loza said. The quake lasted about 15 seconds but the shaking was felt for only 5 to 6 seconds.

The main crater as well as the Daang Kastila trail and the Mt. Tabaro portions of the Taal Volcano island are off limits to the public.

Out of the some 5,000 residents on the volcano island, some 260 families or 1,468 persons have evacuated. Some are staying at the second floor of the public market in San Nicolas town while others are in the homes of their relatives and friends in various surrounding towns, according to Ginette Segismundo, Batangas government information officer. ■

## Tons of rice still rotting in govt-run warehouses

OFFICIALS have discovered close to 10,000 metric tons of aging or rotting rice in government warehouses in Western Visayas, the National Food Authority said over the weekend.

"We're still trying to verify if the stocks are just aging or if those are already unfit for human consumption," Administrator Angelito Banayo said.

"There's still a chance we can salvage a portion of that. Based on initial reports, the volume is not big."

Banayo called for a meeting with all his regional directors over a week ago to determine the exact volume of aging or rotting rice in 12 to 16 regions where the Food Authority had the grain stockpiled.

The government might bid out the aging or rotting rice and let the buyers re-mill it for sale as commercial rice, Banayo said.

"It will be expensive for us to absorb the cost of re-milling since we cannot sell at commercial prices," he said.

"We just have to allow the private sector to come in and buy the rice, re-mill and re-bag [it]."

Banayo said his agency had been making an inventory of the country's

rice stocks to determine its preparedness for the lean season.

The country had 2.85 million metric tons of rice as of March, enough for 83 days. That was 6.5 percent lower than the 3.05 million metric tons in February, but 26.7 percent higher than last year's 2.25 million metric tons.

Meanwhile, the government's purchases of rough rice reached 79,172 metric tons in the year to April 2011, Banayo said, adding his agency was able to increase its purchases after the government released its P2.5-billion budget.

The Food Authority had earlier announced it would buy as much as 870,000 metric tons of rough rice, or 5 percent of the paddy rice production target, depending on its budget.

The agency finances its rough rice-buying program through commercial loans and the proceeds from the sale of its milled rice. Its rough rice inventory forms part of the government's rice buffer stock, which should not go below 30 days of national consumption. ■

## Pilapil sister-in-law now a prime suspect

**It's robbery, not carjacking.**

This was the conclusion of police investigators on the motive behind the abduction of former beauty queen and veteran actress Pilar Pilapil.

The Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) director, Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., on Monday also disclosed that Pilapil's sister-in-law, Rosel Jacosalem Peñas, is now considered as one of the primary suspects in the case.

Peñas is a brother of Bernie Peñas, the Cebu City-based Christian pastor-husband of Pilapil.

"We have already a clearer picture of what really happened before, during and after the incident," Pagdilao said.

"Her [Peñas] failure to surface after the incident and the fictitious circumstances surrounding her personality have convinced authorities that she is a suspect, not a victim," he added.

The CIDG chief explained that police investigators were focusing on the actual participation of Peñas and the other two male suspects for the purpose of filing robbery with serious physical injuries charges, among other possible cases, against them.

Sr. Supt. Joel Napoleon Coronel, the chief of the Special Investigation Task Group Pilapil, said that the probe team also established that the suspects took the money and personal belongings

of the veteran actress on the night she was abducted.

"The suspects took away some P30,000 to P50,000 in cash and other valuables from Miss Pilapil," Coronel said during a press briefing.



Chief. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. shows during a press conference at Camp Crame, Quezon City, on Monday a printout of the passport of Rosel Jacosalem Peñas.

"The Pilapil case is no longer a case of carjacking since there was no report of such an incident at the PNP Highway Patrol Group and that Pena was already in possession of the vehicle, a Kia Carens with plate number CIZ-888 since November last year," he added.

Pagdilao said that the CIDG has provided personal security to Pilapil, who was discharged from hospital on Good Friday after a weeklong recuperation from stab wounds that she got from suspected assailants

who dumped her at Antipolo City on the night of April 14.

The PNP-CIDG chief also ordered a manhunt for Peñas and the two alleged male suspects who were with them the night the crime

Carens.

### Lies of Peñas

Besides previous findings that Peñas was not connected with a multinational company as she had told Pilapil, investigators have found from records of the Department of Foreign Affairs that the suspect did not leave the country, contrary to her claim to Pilapil that she was in Australia prior to the incident.

Pilapil earlier told investigators that Peñas claimed to be an employee of Uniliver Philippines but the firm denied that and the ownership of the Kia Carens.

A check with the Social Security System also showed that Unilever has no employee by the name of Rosel Jacosalem or Rosel Peñas.

Pilapil alleged that the assailants pulled her to the middle section of the car where she was stabbed several times while Peñas was directed by the male suspects to keep on diving.

She was found bloodied at a grassy portion of Piedra Blanca Homes, Barangay Luis, in the early hours of April 15.

Coronel urged the public to call hotline 7221206 if they sight Peñas or one of Pilapil's assailants, whose picture and computer-generated artist's sketch were released to the media last week. ■

# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## Celebrity Holy Week vacations: Where the stars hid when the faithful stirred - by Neil Ramos



Taking the time to break away from the shackles of work during the Holy Week, quite a number of celebrities did more than just stay home in the city. With an outlook of enjoying much-needed rest-and-recreation and spending quality time with friends and family, they trooped to the hottest summer destinations here and abroad.

### Pampanga

Aside from the sumptuous Kapampangan cuisine, Pampanga is also known for the annual reenactment of the crucifixion as done by devotees. Among celebrities who joined a throng of 80, 000 to witness what had already become a tourist attraction is Jon Avila.

"I wouldn't actually call it crazy, it's a reenactment of the crucifixion and it makes us relate in a way to the hardships that Jesus went through for us," he says.

Aside from Avila, some members of the hot hip hop dance group Philippine All Stars also spent the holy days in the midst of these devotees.

### Quezon

TV host Boy Abunda was in Manila on Maundy Thursday, completing a visit to 14 churches for the traditional "Visita Iglesia" for the first time. On Friday, he went to "Kamay ni Jesus" in Lucban, Quezon.

The TV host couldn't help but mention the hospitality he encountered during the visit. "Talagang kahit saan sa Pilipinas ang Filipino very hospitable," he says.

### Batangas

Couple Aga Muhlach and Charlene Gonzales headed off to the usual family retreat in Batangas together with their kids. Gonzales noted the solemn ambience in the family farm specifically mentioning hearing the non-stop chanting made by nearby residents doing the traditional "Pabasa."

Not that they haven't had fun. "Nag wake-boarding kami in the middle of Taal lake," she says.

### Boracay

Still very much the place to be for beach lovers, Boracay once again saw a great deal of celebrities this year. Among those spotted enjoying the cool bluer waters of the hot spot during Holy Week was Vina Morales and daughter Ceana. "First time niya sa Boracay and we just came from Bangkok," says Morales.

Celebrity couple Bong Revilla and Lani Mercado was also in Boracay. "It's our retreat for the past four years na," Mercado says. "It's a great breakaway from work."

News anchors Karen Davila and Gretchen Fullido, as with weatherman Kim Atienza, were also seen partying in Boracay.

The Gutierrez brothers, Richard and Raymond was also in Boracay bonding with friends. "It's definitely fun ngayon lang kami nagkaroon ng sunod sunod na araw na bakasyon at nangyayari lang 'yan tuwing Holy Week," Raymond shares.

Also parading in the paradise island wearing the skimpiest of swimsuits were sizzling showbiz

babes Jackie Rice, Lovi Poe, Michelle Madrigal, Bianca King and Solenn Heussaff.

### Cebu

Matteo Guidicelli enjoyed a reunion of sorts with his family based in the Queen City.

### Samar

Trying out the majestic waves off Samar are surfing enthusiasts Jericho Rosales and Gab Valenciano.

### Bohol

Comedian Vice Ganda was in Bohol together with friends, as with fellow comedian K Brosas, who was with her kids.

### Bukidnon

Ruffa Gutierrez spent most of Holy Week in a friend's ranch in Bukidnon. "Nagpaka-cowgirl ako dun with my daughters [Lorin and Venice], pero walang cowboy huh," she

quipped.

### Singapore

Other celebrities took the time to travel further out, to Singapore particularly, included the talented Jodi Sta. Maria, who was with her mother and baby. Among the places they visited was the world-famous Universal Studios.

### New York

Kapamilya stars Kim Chiu, Maja Salvador and Angelica Panganiban bonded in the Big Apple after working hard being for their Star Magic US Tour.

TV host Bianca Gonzales was also in New York, taking time off to visit relatives based in the city. ■

## Charice scores rave for 2nd 'Glee' solo



Charice Pempengco's "Glee" return as Filipina exchange student Sunshine Corazon once again wired Pinoy pride Wednesday, April 20 during the afternoon US match airing of "A Night of Neglect" on ETC.

Now on free TV, the said "Glee" episode featured storyline and subplots centered on experiences of neglect experienced by the TV serial's characters.

Sunshine, who traded her spot in the McKinley high school choir for a membership in rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline during this season's pilot, begged to return as a role player for New Directions.

She pleaded for the gleeks to allow her into the group again to join their benefit performance. And to prove that she's worth the spot, Sunshine belted out what she called the perfect "song about neglect," Celine Dion's version of "All By Myself."

"When I found out about the song [I was to perform], I freaked out [because] I've been singing that song since I was a kid," Charice said via viral interview shot during the "Neglect" taping.

"I felt that I was shooting the first episode again. [The experience was still] nerve-wracking. I just couldn't believe that I'm here again," she expressed

In "Audition," season two's pilot, Sunshine bailed from joining New Directions after Rachel Berry (Lea

Michele) pointed her to a crack house to audition instead of at the school's auditorium.

In yesterday's drama, Sunshine divided the club's members on whether or not they should take her in. She figured "All By Myself" will settle things in her favor not knowing that her strength as an able main singer renewed threat to diva-positive members Rachel and Mercedes (Amber Riley).

As expected, even Sunshine's rivals applauded her involuntarily, a scene that was pretty much the same when she soloed "Listen" in her previous "Glee" guesting.

But this is not the first time Charice conquered "All By Myself" to pitch-perfect heights. She faced several standing ovations after singing the song during the run of "David Foster and Friends" concert series.

Fellow recurring "Glee" star Ashley Fink (Lauren Zizes in the show), who was not present in the first episode, called Charice's performance "incredible."

"It's incredible! It's crazy, to see something so large coming from someone so tiny," she said in the same behind-the-scenes footage before challenging viewers. "Be ready, America. Bring a tissue."

"Glee" previously reduced its fans to more tears than usual during the episode "Grilled Cheesus" back in October 2010.

Charice, who just released her version of the Ari-Levine-and-Bruno-Mars-penned "Before It Explodes," has other singles ("Louder" and "Waiting Outside The Lines") planned for release.

"It's thrilling to work with so many talented songwriters and producers... I had a fantastic time in the studio recording these songs and can't wait to perform them live for my fans," she said.

Charice is scheduled to co-star as Maila Dela Cruz opposite Salma Hayek, Kevin James and Henry Winkler in "Here Comes The Boom." ■

## Pacquiao to release new recording, named 2010 Best Paid Athlete



**Manny on Jimmy Kimmel Live**

Boxing champ and music enthusiast Manny Pacquiao will release a new single before his WBO welterweight title fight with Sugar Shane Mosley on May 7.

As reported by Reuters, the eight-division world boxing champion and Sarangani Representative will release "Sometimes When We Touch," a duet with American balladeer Dan Hill. The CD Single/DVD of the song for his fans is expected for a worldwide release on April 28.

Hill, the song's creator, made the song a hit in 1978. Apart from Pacquiao, several artists have covered the song including Tina Turner, Tammy Wynette, Rod Stewart, Barry Manilow and Engelbert Humperdinck.

"I was immediately drawn by the honesty and the gentleness of his performance. It was like 'wow,'" Hill was quoted as saying about Pacquiao.

The pound-for-pound king, who is busy training in Los Angeles for his

upcoming bout, is scheduled for return on the "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show this week for the song's debut. His supposed fourth appearance on the show is said to be part of the Pacquiao-Mosley fight promotion.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao has been named Best Paid Athlete of Year 2010 by ESPN The Magazine, putting his earnings at \$32 million (P1.376 billion) last year. The estimated income was from the boxing champ's wins against Joshua Clottey (March) and Antonio Margarito (November). Endorsement and appearance fees, sponsorship deals, and other sources of extra income are not included in the figures.

Ranking tie with Pacquiao is American baseball player Alex Rodriguez of New York Yankees.

Placing next to Pacquiao and Rodriguez is Formula One champion Kimi Raikkonen of Finland, with race winnings of \$26,333,333 last year. On the third spot is NBA superstar Kobe Bryant with \$24,800,000.

Fourth is Portuguese soccer player Cristiano Ronaldo with \$19.5 million, while Japanese baseball player Ichiro Suzuki ranked fifth with \$18,000,000.

Completing the top 10 are Chinese basketball player Yao Ming (\$17,700,000), Venezuelan-born horseracer Ramon Dominguez (\$17,411,880), tennis player Rafael Nadal of Spain (\$10,171,998), British golfer Luke Donald (\$5,867,601) and Belgian tennis player Kim Clijsters (\$5,035,060). ■

## Charice resumes taping for 'Glee'



**Christian Bautista is among the latest victim of burglars known to operate in the days leading to, during and after the annual observance of Holy Week.**

Singer-actor Christian Bautista got the surprise of his life April 17 by coming home from an out of town gig only to find his house ransacked. Apparently, burglars had paid Bautista's place a visit, helping themselves to P100,000 in cash and some personal items including a couple of high-end watches.

Carlo Vizcara, publicist of Stages, Bautista's management firm confirmed the same to Bulletin Entertainment via phone interview.

"Nilooban siya," he said. "Dumaan sa bintana sa fourth floor kasi bukas ang mga bintana eh. Nalaman lang ni Christian ng pumasok na siya sa kuwarto niya—gulo gulo na ang gamit niya."

Vizcara said they have already reported the matter to police.

Bautista, who lives alone, left the place locked Friday on his way to the Dagupan Bangus Festival where he was slated to perform together with other ABS-CBN talents. He didn't go home Saturday after the show deciding instead to go directly to the airport for another appearance in Guimaras.

"Madaling araw na siya nang Sunday nakauwi, so 'yun nagulat na lang siya nakakalat na gamit niya," Vizcara related.

Stages sent an official statement on the matter:

"It is with deep regret that STAGES confirms the news that Christian Bautista's San Juan residence was robbed last Sunday, April, 17.

"Christian who came from a show in Guimaras the previous day learned of the robbing incident when he found out that his belongings were scattered all over his room. He lost 100,000 in cash and some of his valuables including watches and other belongings.

"The incident has immediately been reported to authorities. STAGES is still thankful that Christian is safe." ■

## Another Pinoy director on his way to Cannes



**Alessandra de Rossi in 'Busong,' director Aureaus Solito's (inset) latest movie**

Film director Aureaus Solito is the latest Filipino to make it to the Cannes Film Festival.

A report on filmbiz.asia April 20 confirmed the entry of Solito's film "Busong" as one of three Asian films to be screened as part of the Directors' Fortnight (Quinzaine des Realisateurs) section.

"Busong"—retitled "Palawan Fate" for the festival—tells the story a crippled woman and her brother and their search for a healer. Central in its motif is the notion of instant karma relating to humans and Mother Nature.

"Busong" stars Alessandra de Rossi, Clifford Banagale, Rodrigo Santikan, Bonivie Budao, Vincent Magbanua and

Mina Tesorio. It was produced by the director's Solito Arts Productions in association with Cinemalaya. "Busong" will be shown alongside director Vimukthi Jayasundara's "Mushrooms (Chatrak) a lyrical Bengali-language drama and maverick Japanese director Sono Sion's "Guilty of Romance."

With "Busong" Solito follows a long line of Filipino directors whose works were featured in the prestigious festival which includes the likes of Lino Brocka, Mike de Leon, Mario O'Hara, Raya Martin and Brillante "Dante" Mendoza.

Solito gained prominence in 2005 when his first feature film "Ang pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)," was celebrated at Robert Redford's Sundance festival. "Ang pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" went on to win 15 international awards including 3 awards at the Berlinale (The Teddy award, International Jury Prize at the Kinderfest and Special Mention from the Children's Jury of the Kinderfest). It is also the first Philippine film nominated for Best Foreign film at the Independents' Spirit Awards in the US.

Notoriety followed Solito when another of his film, 2009's "Boy," was banned from exhibition in 22nd Singapore International Film Festival where it was vying for the Silver Screen Awards. ■

## The real deal behind Cristine and Rayver's 'secret marriage'



**Christine Reyes & Rayver Cruz**

Easter Sunday is the celebration of Christ's resurrection but after several days of respite from showbiz intrigues, it also brings about new crop of issues for our local celebs.

One such issue is the "secret wedding" between Cristine Reyes and Rayver Cruz. As one of local showbiz' most controversial couples, their relationship has been riddled with intrigues that have gone very public—not the least of which has involved pop star Sarah Geronimo, Rayver's ex. Among the rumors surrounding them, the latest is that the couple has already married in secret several weeks ago.

In the "Confirmed or Denied" segment of "The Buzz," aired on April 24, the short report on this only featured a denial by Cristine.

"Natutuwa lang kami pero ano, matagal pa 'yun. Nag-iipon muna

kami," she said, to which host Boy Abunda added he does not believe the couple has already tied the knot.

Although it wasn't mentioned in the report where the secret marriage rumor came from, it was most likely stirred even more by a recent interview with Cristine. In a press conference for her upcoming movie "Tumbok" just this April, Cristine shared that she and Rayver have already talked about marriage—but clarified that they were just daydreaming about it and that they had no concrete plans of yet.

She did, however, admit she thought Rayver would make a good provider; being that he's just as good a son as he is a good brother to his older siblings.

In another article that came out online just last April 17, Cristine noted wanting to get married before she turned 30. She and Rayver are both 22, and aside from hoping they would actually end up married eventually, she said they weren't in a hurry, with still eight years to prepare. And while she admitted there that they were both starting to save up, she denied having a joint bank account with her beau. ■

- Showbiz continued on page 18

## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

### Britain's royals, once rulers, are now celebrities - by Jill Lawless



Prince William & Kate Middleton

Poor Kate Middleton. She's not just marrying a future king. She's marrying all of us.

Once upon a time, British subjects gazed upon their sovereigns from afar. Not any more.

Members of the royal family are now Hollywood-style mega-celebrities — their cellulite, receding hairlines and boozy nights out subject to the same relentless scrutiny as other A-listers.

The monarchy has gained in star power, and perhaps lost in dignity, since William's mother, Princess Diana, burst into the royal family in a blonde blaze of charisma and changed it forever.

On British newsstands ahead of Friday's wedding, Kate and William beam from the covers of celebrity magazines alongside Catherine Zeta-Jones, singer Cheryl Cole and surgically altered glamour model Katie Price. One promises the inside scoop on "Royal Wedding Meltdowns!" Another says that "Pals Fear for Skinny Kate." The royal couple is even on the cover of TV Times — the wedding will be the television event of the year.

It's easy to forget that it was not always like this.

"When I was growing up I thought the royal family was harmless but a bit boring," said novelist Monica Ali, whose new book, "Untold Story," imagines an alternate future for Princess Diana.

"It was really when Diana came on the scene that things started to change," Ali said. "She divided opinion. A lot of people adored her, some people didn't like her, but everybody had an opinion about her.

"She brought celebrity into it — for good or for ill."

"Untold Story," out now in Britain and published in the United States in June, imagines that Diana didn't die in a 1997 car crash, but faked her own death, changed her name and rebuilt her life in a small American town.

Ali, whose books include the best-selling London immigrant saga "Brick Lane," uses the novel to muse on the price of celebrity and the pressures of fame.

"Kate is not just marrying into the royal family," Ali said. "She is marrying into celebrity. She is entering the game show of the first wives' club. She'll be competing with Michelle Obama and Carla Bruni."

There's nothing new in a popular desire to read about celebrities, but over the decades our relationship with them has been transformed.

Perhaps it was the rise of the paparazzi, with their long lenses and lack of boundaries. Maybe it was the lowering of social barriers and inhibitions that began in the 1960s. Nowadays, we want to know everything.

Ellis Cashmore, a cultural studies professor at England's Staffordshire University and author of the book "Celebrity Culture," said Princess Diana was a key figure in this transition — and so, even earlier, was the late Elizabeth Taylor, with her emotional exuberance and health problems and turbulent love life.

"It wasn't the Liz Taylor we saw in the movies we were interested in — we wanted to know the real person," he said. "We became much more interested in people's private lives — or what was once their private lives."

The royal family remained largely off-limits — until Diana worked her fairy-tale magic.

The romantic 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and 20-year-old Lady Diana Spencer was followed by two sons, William and Harry. Then came bulimia, a suicide attempt and marital discord that was obvious to the world even before Diana told a TV interviewer in 1995 that "there were three of us" in the marriage — Diana, Charles and his paramour Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Throughout it all, paparazzi trailed Diana wherever she went. Her combination of glamour, personal warmth, charity work and unhappiness was gold dust.

"The humanizing touch Diana gave it was like a magic touch, a wand — the entire royal family became in one instant human," Cashmore said. "It was as if it had dawned on us that they were ordinary people just like us."

And that changed the royal family. "Diana jolted them into understanding they weren't a private institution at all," Cashmore said. "They were public, and we — the consumers, the fans — felt a sense of entitlement. It's not just a monarchy. It's our monarchy."

"The royal family has had to come to the recognition — slowly and rather reluctantly — that they are public property."

That reluctance — and recognition

— was dramatized in "The Queen," Stephen Frears' film about the aftermath of Diana's death, in which the attention-shy monarch played by Helen Mirren is galvanized into a public display of grief by populist Prime Minister Tony Blair.

In the years since Diana's death, the palace has made increasing concessions to popular hunger, including carefully staged interviews and photo opportunities with the young princes, William and Harry.

Royal officials have media-managed the wedding preparations with skill, releasing a steady drip feed of details, setting up a website, YouTube channel and Twitter account and arranging to stream the wedding ceremony live on the Internet. It is all designed to satisfy huge public curiosity while maintaining some control over the disclosures.

Most people in Britain express nothing but goodwill for William and Kate — and many sympathize with the

nervousness Middleton must feel about becoming public property.



"I do think there's a boundary," said 23-year-old London trader Leah Clarke. "Every person is human and entitled to their privacy and that's a right to everyone whether you're a royal, a celebrity or whatever."

Perhaps Kate and William will be allowed their fairy-tale ending — or at least a normal existence. Ali hopes so.

"There is a very human part of us that longs for more drama," she said, "but we would like the fairy tale to work out this time around." ■

### Lea Salonga believes online interaction can be 'fun,' 'informative'



Lea Salonga

Although social networking sites seem to be a source of malicious controversies nowadays, international singer Lea Salonga believes online interaction is not all about negativity.

In an interview with ABS-CBN's Push, the Tony Award winner said interaction in Twitter and Facebook can be valuable with the proper and responsible use of such sites.

"It can be fun and it can be informative in real time and it's a really wonderful way for people [to] express themselves, as long as, [as] with other forms of communication, [they do it] without attacking anyone for fun, or [their] dignity," she said.

Lea is one of the many celebrities who are active online. The singer-actress interacts with her 358,316 followers on Twitter and 109,920 "likers" on Facebook. Aside from touching base with them, Lea sometimes engages her followers in discussion. One of the constant topics that fill Lea's Twitter dashboard is the Reproductive Health (RH) Bill, which she fervently backs. She even re-tweets the various and sometimes contrasting opinions of her followers.

A few weeks back, Lea became one of the targets of Willie Revillame's tirade, with the TV host accusing her—along with their showbiz colleagues Jim Paredes, Bianca Gonzales, Aiza Seguerra, Tuesday Vargas, K Brosas, Agot Isidro, Mylene Dizon and Leah Navarro—for maligning him in their respective Twitter accounts, following the furor that followed the appearance of a six-year-old boy who performed a "macho dance" routine on his show "Willing Willie."

Despite Willie's accusation and threat to sue them, Lea remained unruffled. As one of her tweets last April 9 read, "Nothing incendiary will be coming from me. No need for it."

In her Facebook shoutout last April 15, meanwhile, Lea shared a realization:

"One thing I've learned about being in showbusiness in this: At no point will you be able to please everyone. No matter what you say or do, regardless of quality or intent, someone will always find something wrong with it."

Revillame, in a recent interview, took back his earlier threat to sue his Twitter critics.

Like other celebrities, Lea related that she also had an imposter.

"I had a problem signing on for Twitter because there was somebody who was pretending to be Lea Salonga, so I wrote the management, and said okay I'm really Lea Salonga and whoever is using my name is not me. So if you are in the right, you have a way to actually stand up for yourself. There are ways to legally go about all of that," said she. ■

From Page 11 Cotler

that is why when I was Minister of Justice, we had a crime prevention program to prevent people from going into crime, we had a youth employment process, we realized that prisons can end up being a factory for crimes and not rehabilitation, particularly of young offenders who may have committed a first offense, don't move them right away to prison. What the Conservative government has by their own acknowledgment, are 18 crime bills – that is almost their whole justice agenda.” The Conservatives do not have a “justice agenda” but a “crime agenda.” One of these bills alone would cost \$5 billion according to the parliamentary budget officer who is not a Liberal. He expressed amazement that the Conservatives would spend billions of dollars in building mega-prisons when the crime rate has been declining by 17% in the last decade while they reduced the crime prevention budget by 41%. He concluded that the Conservatives have their priorities upside down.

The other issue that concerns him is the F-35 jets which the Conservatives have not provided information as to how much they would cost. He had a pre-budget consultation meeting in his riding on February 10. The estimates then were \$16 billion but by March 17, the cost had gone up to \$30 billion. He pointed out that they are therefore spending 1000 times more on jets than on seniors, caregivers, and higher education. He also cited the Conservatives' lack of policy on climate change which makes Canada one of the worst in the world.

Besides having no policy about caregivers, the Conservatives had not done anything about early childhood and daycare spaces. When Mr. Ken Dryden was the Minister of Social Services during Paul Martin's government, he negotiated a unanimous agreement with the provinces. When the Conservatives came into power, they scrapped the agreement. Could this be due to economics? Prof. Cotler confirmed it would cost money but he believes that with a strong economy you can attend to the needs of the people at the same time. He said he was in a government that did accomplish both. He cited as an example that under Jean Chretien and Paul Martin governments, there were eight years of budgetary surpluses from 1998 to 2006, which were unheard of in the history of Canada. He said the Conservatives squandered the \$13.2 billion that the Liberals left them when they were defeated in February 2006, even before there was a recession. He

emphasized the fact that the Conservatives now have the highest deficit in history in the amount of \$56 billion. How did the Conservatives reach such a staggering amount? Prof. Cotler replied that it was due to irresponsible spending for things like the G-20 summit, photo ops, and building mega prisons. In fact, the Auditor General is going to release a report after the elections on the alleged wastes committed during the G-20 summit last summer.

Another difference between the Liberals and the Conservatives can be seen in the immigration issue. He referred to the family re-unification which the Harper government has reduced and budget cuts to resettlement programs for immigrants, and the reduction in visas for parents and grandparents by 44%. He was upset by the current Immigration Minister Jason Kenny who targeted his riding by identifying his constituents as “very ethnic” and using the Immigration Minister's letterhead in sending letters to them.

My last question was about Prof. Cotler's motivation in continuing to run again and what he wanted to accomplish if re-elected. He said he has an agenda for action as listed in his campaign brochure. He expressed his strong desire to continue serving the needs of his constituents. In his own words, “This is the first responsibility of a member of Parliament – to be an ombudsman to the people. And so I like to feel that I have the best constituency office with Howard, with Diane du Sablon, with Isabelle Casanova. ... Second, I have tabled more bills in Parliament than any other parliamentarian. I want to try to see them through. I am particularly committed to the promotion and protection of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that the Conservative government has been in violation of, and if they form the government, I am there as a member of the opposition to hold them to account in Parliament. If we get to be in the government, I am there to promote and protect human rights, restore integrity in Parliament and ethics in governance. Again, it is a contrast in visions and values.”

Lastly, Prof. Cotler noted that it was unfortunate that the Gomery Commission which he set up to investigate the sponsorship scandal rendered a decision after the Liberals were defeated. It was proven that no Liberal Member of Parliament was implicated. He confirmed his commitment to react properly to any allegations of wrongdoing by setting up an inquiry commission as he had done in the past, if necessary.

Reported by Zenaida Kharroubi



Mr. Irwin Cotler is flanked by his supporters. To his left is Stephane Dion.



Justin Trudeau signing autographs

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**It's Always Earth Day at E – The Environmental Magazine, Where Getting Your Green Fix Has Never Been Easier**

Before most green-focused publications and websites existed, and long before Al Gore woke the public up to the consequences of climate change with An Inconvenient Truth, E - The Environmental Magazine, which turned 21 earlier this year, was providing issues chock-full of need-to-know environmental information: chemical pollution and toxins and their impact on health; the rise of renewable energy and electric cars; endangered wildlife crises; ocean pollution, overfishing and declining fish populations; the environmental consequences of biotechnology; and much more.

And in each issue, E's Green Living section has given readers concrete ways they can cut their energy consumption, reduce their chemical exposures, and improve their overall health and carbon footprints -- with regular columns on healthy eating, green investing, green building and design, shopping smart, eco-style and responsible travel.

Now, the revamped and redesigned emagazine.com, E's online home, is able to connect readers with important environmental news, information and insights in a more accessible and interactive way.

E, which is nonprofit and independent of any one membership group, has been online for more than a decade. But its new website -- launched in January 2011 -- marks a turning point. More than just a reflection of its bimonthly print magazine, posts on emagazine.com now reflect up-to-the-minute, on-the-ground happenings of environmental campaigns, environmental legislation in the works, the latest renewable technologies, serious weather events and expert insights from green leaders.

And E's bloggers -- all experienced environmental journalists - provide weekly commentaries that explore such topics as: where to find the best green products; the environmental legal campaigns to watch; how to avoid toxins in the home; just-launched renewable energy innovations; the adventures of eating locally; and more.

E's videos highlight important eco-documentaries, news and events, and its “Green App Picks” point online readers to the best smart phone apps for such things as finding hiking trails, teaching kids about nature and uncovering toxic ingredients. And E's EarthTalk feature, a long-running, nationally syndicated environmental question-and-answer column, and a perennial reader favorite, addresses issues as diverse as the harmful yet undisclosed ingredients in cleaning products, how conserving land helps prevent global warming, the safety of children's press-on tattoos, and federal

tax credits for the purchase of electric cars.

Look for the upcoming May/June 2011 issue, which features: a look at the environmental impact of pets and how we can cut their “carbon paw prints”; a one-year look back at the BP oil spill and what's in store for deep water drilling; natural allergy relief strategies; the best green shopping apps; and more. And E's new web presence means readers can more easily engage with stories, access references and share their thoughts. “We like to think of our new website as a meeting place, welcoming anyone looking for -- or looking to share -- environmental information,” says E Editor Brita Belli.

E – The Environmental Magazine is a bi-monthly “clearinghouse” of environmental information, news, ideas and resources that is edited for the general reader but also presented in sufficient depth to engage the dedicated environmentalist. E is published six times per year and is available by mail subscription or at bookstores. E also publishes EarthTalk, a nationally syndicated environmental Q&A column distributed free to 1,850 newspapers, magazines and websites throughout the U.S. and Canada (www.emagazine.com/earthtalk-letter). Single copies of E's May/June 2011 issue are available for \$5 postpaid from: E Magazine, P.O. Box 469111, Escondido, CA 92046. Subscriptions are \$24.95 per year, available at the same address or at www.emagazine.com.

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## Zajdel to challenge Cotler in Mount Royal on May 2nd election

Now that Saulie Zajdel is running for the Conservatives of Canada against Irwin Cotler for the Liberals, it is no wonder why he is reaching out to the Filipino community in Cote des Neiges.

"For about 24 years, as a councillor for Darlington/Victoria districts, I was there for the Filipino community," said Zajdel, who has degrees in Commerce and Social Science from McGill University. "I delivered what I promised, at the

Zajdel admits that he used to be a staunch supporter of Liberals. In fact, he stepped aside for Cotler to win the riding's nomination for the 1999 by-election. However, he switched party when Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff accused Israel of war crimes in conflict with Lebanon. Besides, he likes Harper's handling of economy and strong support for Israel. He also believes that Harper has done wonderful things for the country, economically and money-wise. (can



request of Filipino leaders, to install a basketball court and the bust of Rizal at the Mackenzie King park, to zone the center and secure a tax exemption, to rename a park after Rizal at Clanranald. I'd also donated money for the improvement of FAMAS. These are concrete examples of what I'd accomplished. I delivered, not talked, for the sake of the Filipino community."

In 2009, Zajdel quit politics to spend more time with his family and serve as the director of Laval Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital. But when he was offered to run for the Conservative Party, he accepted the offer because it was a chance to serve the country and make a difference in Mount Royal.

"Someday, I don't want to look back and ask 'Why didn't you give it a shot?' It was an opportunity that I couldn't pass."

## The princes' Pinay nanny invited to Royal wedding

The Pinay nanny of William's brother, Prince Harry, didn't have to go on a hunger strike to get an invitation. She already did - without even lifting a finger or perhaps without even expecting it. She's none other than Araceli "Lillie" Piccio, a nurse from Bacolod, who was a member of Lady Di's household staff for eight years until Lady Di died in a car crash in Paris in 1997.

Called "Miss Lillie" by Lady Di, Lillie who is still working in London but under another employer, did receive the invitation.

"They are nice," said Lillie, "down-to-earth, very humane and exactly the

we replace this with the word "financially" to sound more in agreement with the previous idea of economically).

"Cotler is a great man but he is with a wrong party," said Zajdel. "I don't like the direction it's going and some of its foreign policies."

Zajdel points out the fact that Mount Royal riding has various communities - Filipino, Tamil and Muslim - with whom he has good relations.

"I've proven that I'm a doer for the Filipino community and I will continue to serve them if elected on May 2," said Zajdel. "I pledge to do everything in my power as a Member of Parliament to serve the Filipino community. One is the possibility of getting federal funds for the purpose of acquiring a bigger Filipino center."

opposite of all the crap the London tabloids are publishing about them. Kami nga, hindi na naniniwala sa mga dyaryo dito when they print stories about the Royal Couple. Panay hindi totoo, e! It's a good thing if one out of 10 stories they print is true. When we go over those papers, we keep on saying, 'Oh no, this is not true! That's not true!' We know because we are at the Royal Apartment every day (except Sunday when everything and everybody in London screeches to an abrupt halt, including the theaters)." Lillie is among the 30 Royal household staffers, the only Filipina in the group and the first Filipina ever to have



Araceli "Lillie" Piccio

been employed by the Royal Family. Lillie enjoys the job immensely, not so much because of the nice salary (confidential) but because, and especially since, Princess Diana "is very, very nice to all of us." The Princess and the Prince never forget to give a gift, accompanied by a card with a touching dedication, to each and every member of the Royal Household Staff who spends his/her birthday. The card is always signed: From the Four of Us, Diana and Charles.

Lillie and the other household staff are not stay-in. They report to work very early in the morning and leave early evening. Sometimes, Lady Di would remind Lillie, "Miss Lillie, please wake me up tomorrow morning." That means that first thing Lillie does when she arrives at Kensington Palace is go straight to Lady Di's bedroom for the wake-up call.

During important occasions at the Royal Home, such as Christmas, Lillie and company get invitations a month in advance. They gather at a certain place where they are picked up by a bus which brings them to wherever the affair is being held. Each staffer is entitled to bring along one companion.

How did Lillie get into the Royal Household?

She said she was working part-time at ITV-4 when a lady (the one who recruits "candidates" to the Royal Household Staff) approached her and asked her if she wanted to work "with the Royal Family." Lillie was told that the job would include arranging the Royal Couple's things (clothes, etc.) and looking after their children. Lillie was hesitant, not wanting to be confined to a nine-to-five job again (she's a nurse, remember?), but she reconsidered.

"I didn't know I was going to work with Princess Diana and Prince Charles until the next day when I was brought to the Kensington Palace," said Lillie, a gracious and graceful lady you'll fall in love with at first meeting. "The Lord Chamberlain walked with me to an apartment within the Royal Compound. When I looked closely at the sign at the gate, I froze. It says, PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES' APARTMENT. It was only then that I learned who my master and mistress would be."

Lillie's first meeting with Lady Di happened in the morning of her first day at the Royal Household. While taking breakfast with some members of the staff, Lillie could hear sweet laughter of a woman obviously playing hide-and-seek with some kids in the other part of the house. By and by, Lady Di materialized at the dining-room door and Lillie gasped, nearly choking on her food.

"Oh," Lady Di said with a big smile, "so you're the new one."

Then she approached Lillie and extended her hand in warm welcome. Lillie frantically made a gesture to wipe her hand but the Princess stopped her, "That's all right, that's all right," and proceeded to shake Lillie's hand. The Ilongga was stunned. "At that instant," Lillie now recalled, "I felt how kind she is, what a beautiful person she is inside and out."

That warmth exuded by Lady Di, not to mention her breathtaking beauty, is what keeps the staff working at the Royal Household for years and years (some have been there for more than 15 years). The Royal Couple sometimes hosts barbecue parties at the Highgrove House, located a few miles outside of London, for the staffers. There, the Princess and the Prince talk to the butler, the cook, to everybody, in a personal manner that never fails to disarm the staffers.

Lady Di is also generous with gifts. Lillie has accumulated in the apartment (she shares with another sister, Virgie) stuffed toys (given to her by the Princess herself from the teeming cabinet of Princes Harry and William) and flowers of all kinds (also given by the Princess).

"Once you work with them, you'll never want to leave them," said Lillie to whose ears Princess Diana's laughter while playing hide-and-seek with Princes Harry and William in the morning has become sweet music she can't live without. As a kid, William, only a toddler when Lillie started working for Lady Di, was hyperactive. He would run around the place while playing hide-and-seek with brother Harry and their mom who was usually barefooted at play. Everytime Lillie got a bunch of pasalubong from the Philippines, she would share some of them with Lady Di whose favorite was preserved mango.

Only a few months after Lady Di died, Lillie resigned from the Royal Household Staff and worked for Bryan Adams for more than a year. She has moved to another employer since then.

"Mabait talaga ang Royal Family," said Buddai.

The invitation to Lillie proves it. It shows that the Royal Family remember and acknowledge those who work with and for them even if they have moved somewhere else.

When Lillie left the Royal Household Staff, Buddai remembered what Prince William, who was then turning 16, told Lillie, "When I get married, I will take you back."

## Filipino caregivers' case against Super Nanny still unresolved



From left: Evelyn Calugay, chairperson of PINAY, Sylvia Cordoba, live-in caregiver, Fo Niemi, Executive Director of CRARR, Jovita Pagada, live-in caregiver, and their defense lawyer.

Montreal, March 17, 2011 - Two advocacy groups held a joint press conference to bring to the public's attention the failure of government agencies to act on cases of human rights abuses and exploitation of vulnerable women known as live-in caregivers.

Pinay, a non-profit support group of women, headed by Evelyn Calugay, and Fo Niemi, Executive Director of CRARR, (Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR), a non-profit civil rights organization promoting racial harmony and equality, presented two caregivers, Sylvia Cordoba and Jovita Pagada, who gave their testimonies and recalled how they were treated and how they felt when they arrived in Canada and found themselves under the control of Mr. John Aurora, the operator of Super Nanny, a placement agency. Even though they paid exorbitant agency fees, they did not have jobs they were promised. Instead, they ended up living under inhuman conditions in a crowded apartment owned by Aurora. They were made to sign leases and when they moved out because of intolerable conditions in the crowded apartment, they were sued for back rents.

Even after the caregivers filed a complaint with the Quebec Human

Rights and Youth Rights Commission through PINAY in May 2009, on behalf of 26 women from whom Aurora sought back rent, the RCMP and Canada Border Services Agency investigated briefly, but none of the investigations has netted results, Niemi said. The Commission did little investigation and almost dismissed their case in October 2010 due to the death of John Aurora in September 2009

Because Aurora's job placement agency, Super Nanny, is still in business and his estate was left in the custody of his daughter, Natalie, the Filipino caregivers believe they still have a case against Aurora's estate for human rights violations, including human trafficking, "for discrimination and exploitation committed by other persons associated directly with his (John Aurora's) agency.

The question we're asking is, how many other women have been treated in this way?" Niemi said.

Many live-in caregivers are afraid to complain, he added, noting that all but 12 of the 26 women who originally complained to PINAY decided not to pursue their cases.

"There is nothing to fear," said Niemi, urging caregivers who feel they have been abused by an employer or consultant to come forward. "You have

to break the silence," he said.

According to PINAY President Evelyn Calugay, "This case will test Quebec Prime Minister Jean Charest's commitment to civil rights and fair opportunities for one of the most vulnerable groups of women in Quebec, the Filipina Live-in Caregivers. It is about having laws that are not enforced and recourses that don't work, or worse, recourses that are supposed to protect these women but that actually perpetuate the violations of their civil rights."

## One Man braves through toughest challenge

San Francisco, Calif. (April 5, 2011) - To run a race or get to the finish line of a triathlon is a struggle between body and mind but 33-year old Filipino-American, JR Calanoc is clear on his motivation: to swim, bike and run a total of 140.6 miles within 17 hours for the children of Bantay Bata. The race is set to take place in Penticton, British Columbia on August 28th, 2011.

The Subaru Ironman triathlon is known for its grueling length and harsh race conditions. "A few years ago, I went through some life-changing events and started racing to feel that I could accomplish anything I put my mind to," said Calanoc. "For many poor children in the Philippines, their life stories are a contiguity of struggle and disappointment. I realized that if I could be a conduit to giving them a chance to change their lives for the better, it was a challenge I wanted to take on."

In 1996, Calanoc began a 4-year acting stint in the Philippines as JR Herrera, debuting with ABS-CBN's Star Circle as one of its teen actors. Some of his films included Batang PX, FLAMES the Movie and Tunay na Tunay, working with celebrities like Jolina Magdangal, Robin Padilla and Piolo Pascual. In 2000, he decided to return to the US to further his education and earned his economics degree at the University of San Francisco. Calanoc is president of Activentures, a dive tour company which takes divers from the US around the Philippine islands.

"Working with Bantay Bata was

an easy choice to make. Their many years of direct service and integrity gave me confidence that they would do the real work that could make significant change," said Calanoc. "To make the country better, there's no better place to start than with the kids."

"We're so happy that he's doing this for the kids of Bantay Bata," shares J. Robbie Fabian, President of the ABS CBN Foundation International. "It is encouraging to find that so many Filipino-Americans choose to look back and give to the many children of the Philippines. In this day and age, no child should have to die of hunger anymore. JR is committed to being part of the eradication of malnourishment in the Philippines. We hope many young Fil-Ams follow suit."

A \$1,000 donation to the program feeds 200 malnourished children for a six-month period and brings them back to regulated norms of health, according to UNICEF standards. "Contribute \$5 or \$10 to my race and run with me to the finish line," encourages Calanoc, as he prepares mind and body for his life's toughest challenge yet. To donate online or for more information, visit [www.seejrun.com](http://www.seejrun.com).

## ABOUT ABS CBN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL:

ABS CBN Foundation International is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children and their families in the Philippines and around the world. Its flagship program, Bantay Bata (Child Watch), is a child abuse rescue operation that responds to an average of 15,300 calls for assistance a year. The program assists more than 21,000 children and families in relocation communities and feeds at least 4,400 severely malnourished children a year. Its education program serves 4.2 million elementary school children and their teachers. United States, the organization partners with Filipino-American organizations and associations in addressing community issues—youth truancy, housing, issues affecting the elderly, health, and emergency needs. For more programs and information, visit [www.abcfnfoundation.org](http://www.abcfnfoundation.org).

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## Personality profile of the month

### Shinette Khoury: Elitist or Proletarian?

In the galaxy of Filipino community stars, Shinette Khoury shines among the brightest. Leading a charmed life with a well-appointed home at Town of Mont Royal, she's the devoted wife of Toni Khoury, a wealthy and personable-to-a-fault guy of Lebanese descent, and the doting mother of two wonderful young adults.

While she's friends with a great many people from different social, cultural and economic strata, some – fairly or unfairly – still perceive her as elitist. When reminded of such unconstructive perception, she would only display a broad grin and gladly explain, "I will not deny that there is some element of elitism in me. I developed that from having attended the then-so-called "American School," which would later become "International School," from 1965 to 1975 in the Philippines." And in her characteristic self-assuredness, she went on to say, "Those people would be hard-pressed to find a more caring, more candid and more loyal friend than I am."

Shinette received her two high school diplomas – one from Euclid Senior High in Euclid, Ohio and the other from Mansfield Senior High in Mansfield, Ohio. Why two diplomas? She would only say it at length at some other time. From there, she took up two

years of university education at the University of the Philippines – Manila with the intention of continuing on to UP-Diliman for a degree in Tourism. But her life segued into a different route when, at 18, she met a dashing, young and gentlemanly Toni Khoury. One year thence, Miss Shinette Salcedo became Mrs. Toni Khoury.

At age 15, Shinette got a diploma from the Karilagan Finishing School where she was trained by Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo, the acknowledged dean of training in charm, and social and cultural activities. This is where she learned how to type, take shorthand, sew, cook, walk, talk, wine, and dine.

Shortly after, she was personally selected one of the three girls, from the original 200 usherettes, by the then-First Lady Imelda R. Marcos to travel with her all over the Philippines, including her hometown of Olot in Leyte to assist her in welcoming to the Philippines VIPs and other distinguished guests during the IMF convention held in Manila at the time.

Shinette's father was mayor of Bansud, Oriental Mindoro. It was most probably from him that she learned how to blend and deal with people from all walks of life, including farmers and their families. On many occasions when her mayor father would visit his constituents, Shinette would tag along to gain some valuable insight into the kind of life that farmers led. And every



Shinette Khoury with Freddie Roach, Manny Pacquiao's famous trainer. The photo was taken in Baguio City last March.

time her parents would visit their home provinces, namely Mindoro, Cavite, Batangas and Quezon, Shinette would almost always volunteer to come along.

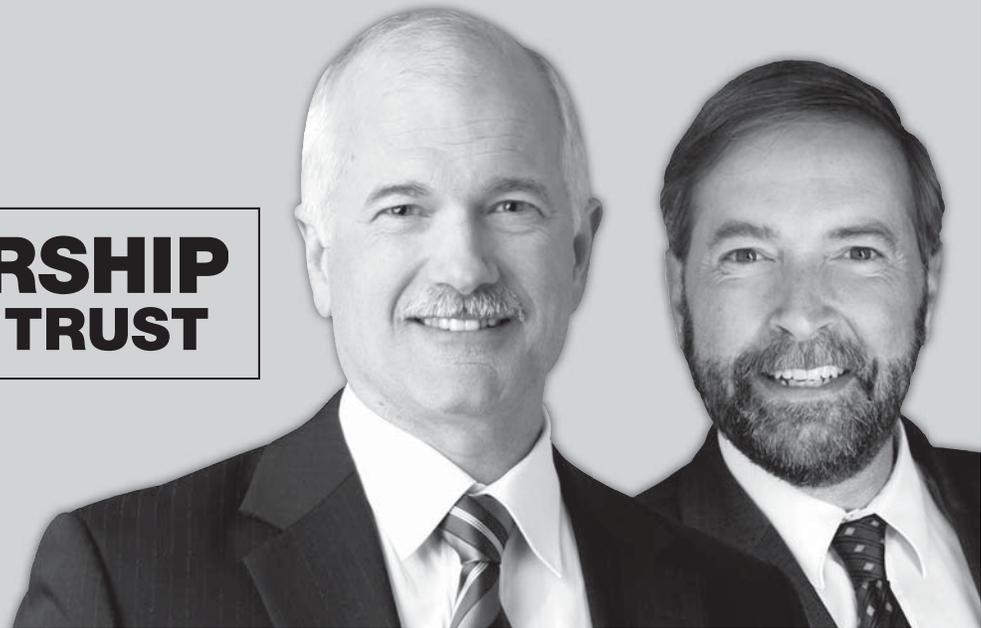
It was during those domestic travels with her dad that she was able to see firsthand what lay outside the relative comfort of her parents' cozy home. The experience immeasurably helped Shinette get attuned to a lifestyle much different from the one she was so used to. She learned how to be down-to-earth. Though she might initially come off to some as one who is highfalutin, many are pleasantly surprised to find out that no one else could be more compassionate, more generous, more straightforward, more sensible, more humorous and more unpretentious than Shinette.

As a leader, either in business

or in community politics, Shinette ranks among the most capable in the community. She co-owns, with her husband, the Galleon Travel, a lucrative Montreal-based travel agency. As vice-president of FAMAS, she is able to parlay her business acumen, gregariousness and leadership skill into many successful projects, such as the Miss Philippines Montreal – Ambassador of Goodwill, the Miss Little Philippines and, lately, the Miss Teen FAMAS.

Shinette may also be mischievous during light-hearted moments. She admits, "Maldita ako and will always be kikay."

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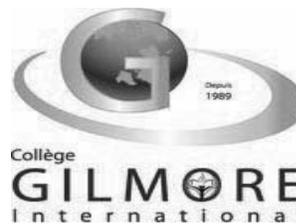


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# RE-ELECT IRWIN COTLER

## IRWIN COTLER'S AGENDA FOR ACTION:



- Continue to serve your needs with one of the best constituency offices in Canada
- Immigration reforms - increasing family reunification class; resettlement assistance; recognizing foreign credentials; and improving the immigration and refugee determination process
- Restore integrity in Parliament, ethics in governance and democratic accountability
- Promote and protect the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Implementation of parliamentary initiatives which Irwin Cotler has tabled to protect the most vulnerable amongst us: immigrants, seniors, children, women, minorities, and the disadvantaged
- Advance a comprehensive social justice agenda, including:
  - ✓ Safeguarding and enhancing our health care system;
  - ✓ Supporting caregivers and promoting a family care plan;
  - ✓ Enhancing early learning and daycare access;
  - ✓ Promoting access to higher education;
  - ✓ A green renovation tax credit for home renovations;
  - ✓ Investing in seniors, pensions, and retirement security;
  - ✓ Fighting poverty, supporting affordable housing, and creating jobs
- Restore a strong economy, reduce the Harper government's historic deficit, and introduce a responsible budget that would invest in the above social justice agenda, rather than unnecessary mega-prisons, and an untendered contract for fighter jets
- A principled foreign policy promoting and protecting democracy, freedom, human rights and the rule of law.

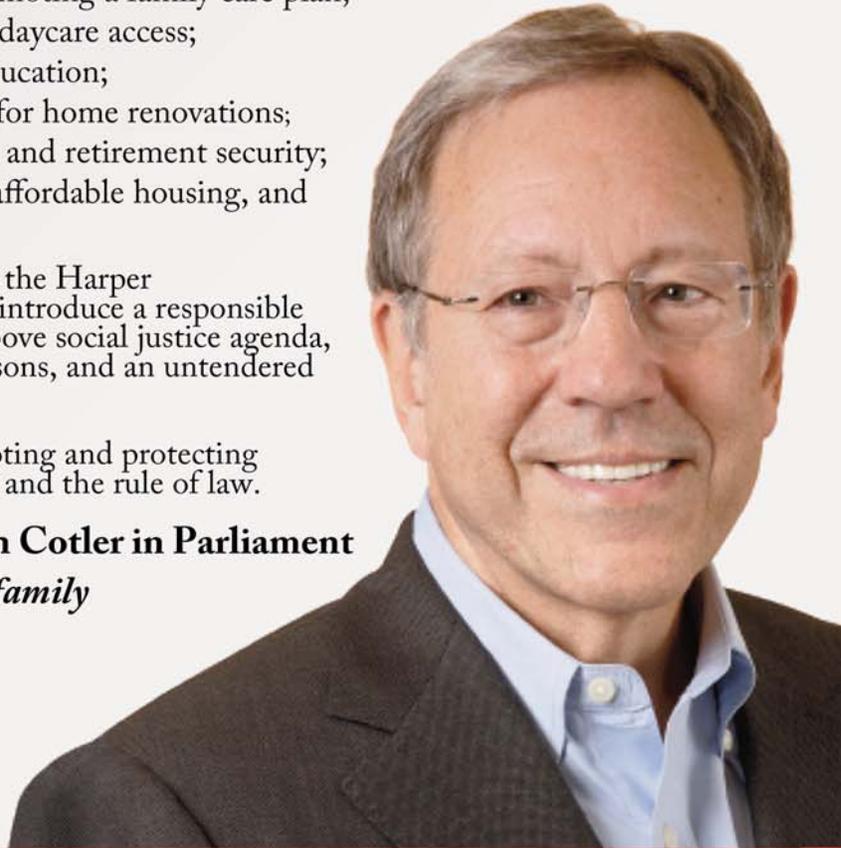
**More than ever we need Irwin Cotler in Parliament**

*Happy Easter to you and your family*

**Liberal**

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**Integrity. Experience. Achievement.**

**IRWIN COTLER**  
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Authorized by the official agent of Irwin Cotler.