

Legal challenge launched to ensure fair play in provincial elections

CTV Montreal
Published Friday, April 21, 2017

Politicians and concerned citizens are launching a legal challenge to Quebec's electoral map.

In addition to the inherent unfairness of creating a riding with more people than the provincial average, the group says it is concerned about the loss of a voice for several ethnic communities.

In March, Elections Quebec announced it was merging the ridings of Mont Royal and Outremont to create a new larger riding, and enlarging the riding of D'Arcy McGee.

Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand said this would shrink the electoral voice of anglophones."We go from three ridings, Mont Royal, Outremont, and D'Arcy McGee, to two."

Under the new map D'Arcy McGee and Mont Royal-Outremont will have about

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Legal challenge



Included in this photo are Mayor William Steinberg of Hampstead, former M.P. Marlene Jennings, former MNA Lawrence Bergman, various citizen representatives and Councillor Marvin Rotrand.

Criminal case vs Duterte filed before International Criminal Court



Lawyer Jude Sabio shows the stamped complaint he filed before the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands on Monday, April 24, 2017. Trillanes office/Released

By Patricia Lourdes Viray (philstar.com)
MANILA, Philippines The lawyer of self-confessed hitman Edgar

Matobato on Monday filed a complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte and 11 other government officials

before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Lawyer Jude Sabio accused Duterte of being a "mass murderer" and asked the international court to prosecute him over his involvement in the so-called Davao Death Squad.

"Your favourable action on this matter would not only serve the noble ends of international criminal justice but would also be the beginning of the end of this dark, obscene, murderous and evil era in the Philippines," Sabio told the court in his cover letter.

In his accompanying communication titled "The Situation of Mass Murder in the Philippines; Rodrigo Duterte: The Mass Murderer," Sabio accused Duterte of "repeatedly, unchangingly and continuously" committing extrajudicial executions since 1988.

The lawyer claimed that Duterte has

been waging mass murders constituting crime against humanity from his term as mayor of Davao City under his Davao Death Squad to the present after assuming the presidency through his bloody drug war.

Sabio asked the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC to confirm the proper criminal charges for crimes against humanity against Duterte and his senior administration officials and to issue a warrant of arrest against them.

The lawyer is also seeking for an appropriate trial against Duterte and his senior administration officials which would lead to a conviction and sentence to a prison term or life imprisonment.

The following senior government officials are facing complaint:

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Criminal case

EDITORIAL

A legal battle may be risky but necessary to claim fairness

The decision by the CRE, Quebec's electoral commission to merge Mount Royal and Outremont has upset many people, particularly the Anglophone and other ethnic communities. They believe that their rights have been violated because they will be losing the power of their votes as a group.

To oppose the decision of the Commission, community and municipal leaders have decided to launch a legal battle which may be costly but many people want to go ahead anyway. They oppose these changes which greatly impact most Filipinos, Jewish, and other ethnic communities whose votes will most likely be diluted because of the split of these communities into separate ridings. According to a legal opinion of a law professor, there is a good chance a court challenge will succeed. because there is a lot of jurisprudence on electoral division and modification of the electoral map being unconstitutional in view of the effect of limiting representation of minority communities. Other expert opinions underscore the fact that electoral map changes in Quebec favour rural voters over the urban ones, and dilute effective representation in the province.

A citizens committee has been formed to oversee the legal battle to make the CRE reverse its decision. The law firm of Grey Casgrain has been hired to handle the case. Funds will be needed to cover the costs of going to court with a topnotch lawyer like Julius Grey, a constitutionalist

The new electoral map shall take effect during the 2018 elections. If the decision to merge Mount Royal and Outremont is not reversed, there will be one less MNA representing Montreal in the National Assembly. As Russell Copeman pointed out, the City has lost about 4 MNAs in a decade.

At this stage, we do not have enough information as to how the court challenge will proceed, and how fast it will be heard. But the hope of most leaders is to show the CRE that we are

not standing idly by and we are willing to fight for our rights, even if it means paying a price for it.

We must also keep in mind that the key to a just society is to have fair representation in the lawmaking body of the land; that we need to be vigilant against any move to ignore the existence of natural communities and boundaries that should be maintained.

Beryl Wajzman points out in his editorial in the *Suburban* that there has been inequality between rural and urban votes for quite some time: "The equality of everyone's vote has never been seen in Quebec. It takes about 1.5 votes to elect someone in an urban riding to equal the weight of one vote in a rural one due to the population discrepancies. So this proposal certainly doesn't help the goal of equality. In fact it may even inflate the populations of D'Arcy McGee and Outremont making matters worse."

The Mount Royal Riding must be kept intact for it is where most immigrants live and where there are many ethnic communities. Breaking it up will certainly cause some social and economic problems.

We hope that we will have the opportunity to present our arguments more convincingly through the courts which will ensure Mount Royal riding to exist permanently as a political entity for the multicultural communities in Quebec.

We urge all residents of Mount Royal to be more aware of what they can do to help support the opposition to the merger. According to Mr. Beryl Wajzman, "the Commission itself invites the public to post comments on its site at <http://lacarte.electionsequbec.qc.ca/fr/> You may also contact your MNA Pierre Arcand or Helene David to express your views and concerns. By doing so, our voices will not be easily ignored and demonstrate the fact that we are willing to stand up for our rights.



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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 nor its editors.

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Expecting Visitors? Plan Ahead

April 26, 2017—Ottawa, ON – With the number of visitors coming to Canada on the rise, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is launching a campaign to encourage those who need a visa to apply early to avoid disappointment.

In 2016, Canada received 2,674,964 temporary resident applications – an increase of 15 percent from 2015, and the upward trend is continuing in 2017.

With a significant number of people wanting to visit Canada in the coming months, particularly for #Canada 150, applying early is more important than ever. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is reminding travellers to review Canada's entry requirements to help ensure they are prepared for their trip ahead of time.

Expecting international visitors? Help spread the message by reminding your friends and family abroad to apply as early as possible for a visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA), to help ensure a smooth and stress-free travel experience.

Whether they plan to come to Canada for tourism, business or studies, planning ahead and getting the right travel documents is key.

Quote

"It is our goal to ensure that Canada remains a welcoming destination for visitors. If you know of

someone coming to Canada for their holidays, to attend a wedding or visit family, we encourage you to reach out to them. Help raise awareness of the importance of applying early for any travel documents, to avoid any last-minute problems."

– The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Quick facts

Canadian citizens, including dual citizens, cannot apply for an eTA or a visa and will need a valid Canadian passport to fly to Canada.

Permanent residents of Canada are also not eligible to apply for an eTA or a visa, and, as usual, must show their permanent resident card or a permanent resident travel document when travelling to Canada.

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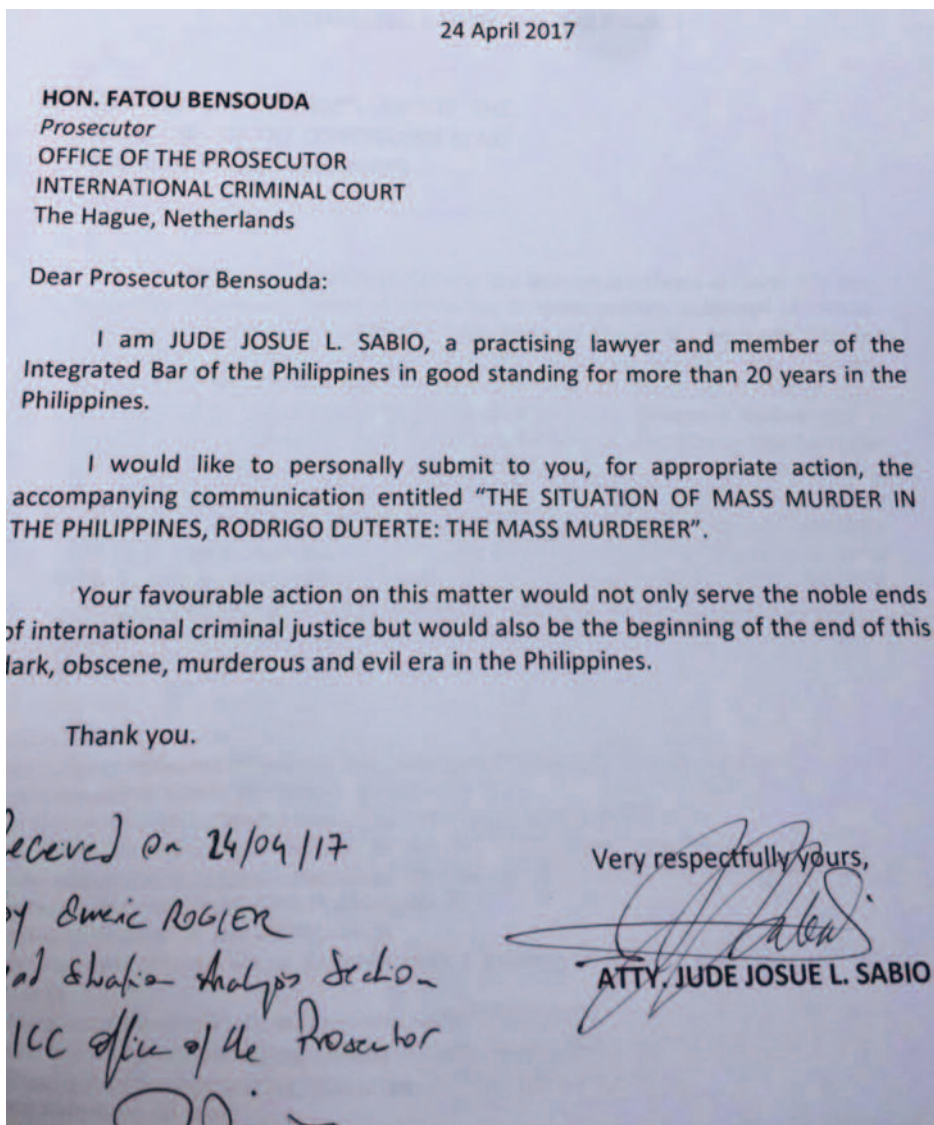
From Page 1 Criminal Case

Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre
Philippine National Police Director
General Vitaliano Aguirre
House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez
Former Interior Secretary Ismael Sueno
Police Superintendent Edilberto Leonardo
Senior Police Officer 4 Sanson "Sonny" Buenaventura
Police Superintendent Royina Garma
National Bureau of Investigation Director Dante Gierran
Solicitor General Jose Calida
Sen. Richard Gordon
Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano
Sabio requested the prosecutor, Fatou

Bensouda, of the international court to conduct an analysis of the situation of extrajudicial killings in the country and determine the criminal liability of Duterte and the 11 senior officials through a preliminary examination.

In his communication, Sabio cited the findings of international human rights watchdogs Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Both international human rights groups found that operations of rogue officers or vigilantes responsible for mass killings of drug offenders directly involved the police, making the president liable for the killing



Cover page of the complaint filed before the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

'Forgotten refugees' want to be recognized in Canada without a hearing

ICatherine Solyom, Montreal Gazette
Published April 26, 2017

It may seem extreme, but advocates want the federal government to fast-track about 5,600 so-called "forgotten

refugees" who after five years in Canada have still not been given a hearing.

The refugee claimants, from all over the world, are what are known as "legacy" claimants because they filed for refugee status before the new refugee determination regime came into force in December 2012.

While under the new system, a claimant must be given a hearing within 60 days — or in some cases 30 days — the legacy claimants, judged low priority by the Immigration and Refugee Board, have been waiting in limbo for five years.

"Families are separated, young people can't pursue their education, no one can get on with their life — and there is no resolution in sight," said Loly Rico, the president of the Canadian Council for Refugees. "Fairness requires that we



Hundreds of Montrealers gathered downtown in 2015 to demonstrate against Canada's refugee policy, and were calling for Canada to immediately accept 10,000 refugees. VINCENZO D'ALTO / MONTREAL GAZETTE

Newswire

**For Immediate Release —
Wednesday, April 26th, 2017**

Bissan Eid forced to give birth in Gaza, as Eid family continues to call for support

Montréal's Bissan Eid, a Concordia graduate student remains blocked in the Israeli military besieged Gaza Strip. Now eight-months pregnant, she continues to call on the Canadian government for support.

Given the current circumstances of Bissan's difficult pregnancy, Bissan and her family have decided that the safest course of action is for Bissan to give birth in Gaza.

"The Canadian government has had over four months to intervene in support of Bissan," outlined Hadi Eid, the father of Bissan, "yet, instead of taking action at the urgent request of Bissan and our family, the Canadian government failed to act and now Bissan will have to give birth in Gaza."

As it has become impossible for Bissan to travel, we call on the Canadian government to coordinate with the Eid family to ensure that Bissan and her child are able to travel in late May or early June. We demand that the

government act immediately to secure safe passage and full Canadian citizenship documents to both Bissan and her child, who by law will also be a Canadian citizen.

Since issuing a public call for support, Bissan's struggle to return home to Canada has garnered support from the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), as well as many workers and faculty at Concordia University. A petition launched last week has attained over 850 signatures and a Concordia-specific open letter has attained 165 signatories from the Concordia community. School of Community and Public Affairs, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, and Concordia University Part-Time Faculty Association have all released public statements calling on the Canadian government to act immediately.

Amnesty International Québec is also publicly calling for the Canadian government to do more to support Bissan.

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give them the opportunity to regularize their status in Canada without delay."

The CCR, along with the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers, are proposing that rather than wait another five, six or eight years for a hearing on their initial refugee claim, the legacy claimants be given the option of having their status decided on humanitarian and compassionate grounds: on how well they have integrated into their communities in Canada and what hardship they would face if returned to their countries of origin.

Instead of a hearing, with all the delays and costs associated with it, an immigration officer would consider a

written application, and look at the criminality of an applicant, whether they are working, paying taxes, and have small children, for example, said Mitchell Goldberg, the president of the CARL.

As it stands, only 678 legacy claims were finalized in 2016. At this rate, it could take another eight years to hear all the remaining legacy cases before the IRB. And in the meantime, new cases are piling up.

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Jasmine finally lives her dream to be a princess

BY W. G. Quiambao

Jasmine Cleofas-Tabares, a charming 8-year old student at Ecole-Armand Frapper, was crowned Munting Bb. Pilipinas Montreal 2017 last April 22 at the Hellenic Community Centre.

“Just like any little girl, she has a dream to be a princess,” said Anita, Jasmine’s mother. “After placing 4th runner up and bagging the title of Miss Manila in the Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas last year, she worked and trained well. The experience gave her confidence. With all the efforts, she won the title of

Munting Bb. Pilipinas Montreal and finally had her dream come true to be a real-life princess.”

Jasmine, the daughter of Filomeno and Anita, has three brothers – John, Patrick and Jonathan.

Even at an early age, she has been involved in many activities. She took ballet lessons for two years at CPA Candiac and already had a performance with the class to a big crowd twice. After her ballet lessons last year, she enrolled in an ice skating class at Club Patinage Artistique in La Salle. She enjoys skating even though

this sports is a bit advance for her age. She currently attends Kumon classes to sharpen her skills in math and reading.



“Despite her many activities, she still has the energy and time to help her Tito Cesar and Tita Tess at Restaurant Pinoy Pancitan whenever she and I visit them during the weekends,” said Anita. “You might see her clearing the tables and bringing them to the kitchen for dishwashing. She is mature for her age and takes responsibilities like an adult.”

Jasmine finds leisure in playing chess, playing games on her Ipad, watching cartoons and swimming in summer. She is fond of dancing and singing to any Bruno Mars songs, particularly Uptown Funk.

In another 10 years, with her patience and determination, Jasmine might live like a queen when she wins other big pageants.

From Page 1 Legal challenge

15 percent more voters than the average.

D'Arcy McGee: 56,265 voters, 14.9 percent above average
Mont Royal-Outremont: 56,390 voters, 15.2 percent above average

With 90 percent of the province's English-speaking population living in Montreal, people are also concerned the English community will lose a voice in the National Assembly.

Former MP Marlene Jennings said this will diminish the voting impact of anglophones.

"We have many natural communities on the island of Montreal. The Supreme Court of Canada and our own electoral law say that natural communities should be protected. What's one of the natural communities? The English-speaking minority," said Jennings.

This new citizens' committee also says it's fighting to maintain the voice of the Jewish, Filipino, and other communities in the three ridings whose vote will also be diluted by the electoral map change.

The citizens' committee has hired constitutional lawyer Julius Grey to contest the decision.

He believes the changes are not reasonable.

"It doesn't observe the minimum and maximum deviation from the norm in terms of how many electors there should be in any riding," said Grey. "It reduces the weight of Montreal when in fact Montreal is already below the appropriate representation in the National Assembly."

Grey added the specific changes fail to take into account the interests various community groups.

Beryl Wajzman, editor of The Suburban, is among those fundraising for the group to support the legal

challenge.

"We've got \$8,000 in commitments already, that's aside from Hampstead and Cote St. Luc. Of that \$8,000, \$1,500 has come in already in \$100-contributions already in one week since we decided on a lawyer. That's participatory democracy from the ground up," said Wajzman.

The group says the legal challenge will be a sign their communities cannot be ignored.

Extreme deviations

When Elections Quebec came up with its new map it merged two rural ridings into the supersized riding of Laviolette-Saint Maurice, which will have 57, 701 voters.

Meanwhile it created two ridings and redistributed three others, leaving four ridings much smaller than the norm: Les Plaines, Masson, Prevost, and Rousseau all have between 39,258 and 44,659 voters.

Under Quebec electoral law there can be 122 to 125 ridings in the National Assembly, and the number of people in each riding should not be 25 percent more or less than the average. The exception is the Iles de la Madeleine, which is considered one electoral district no matter how few people live there.

The average riding should have about 48,500 voters.

That said, there are seven ridings that fall well under the 25 percent cutoff.
Abitibi-Est: 33,779
Abitibi-Ouest: 35,281
Bonaventure: 35,814
Gaspé: 30,048
Iles de la Madeleine: 10,670
René Levesque: 33,563
Ungava: 27,423

Likewise there are eight ridings, many near Trois Rivières, that exceed 20

percent more voters than the average, and several others that approach that level.

Arthabaska: 60,262
Champlain: 58,862
Gatineau: 58,560
Johnson: 58,870
Nelligan: 58,692
Papineau: 59,336
Richmond: 59,366
Saint Hyacinthe: 58,242
Saint Jean: 60,180
Saint Jerome: 58,796
Vercheres: 59,077

Court case against new Quebec electoral map going ahead

By Joel Steingberg, Montreal Gazette
A newly formed citizens committee announced Friday the launching of a court case to contest the Quebec Electoral Commission's new electoral map, which will eliminate the provincial Mont Royal riding and enlarge D'Arcy McGee.

During Friday's press conference at the Côte des Neiges-NDG borough office, Snowdon councillor Marvin Rotrand, spearheading the effort against the new electoral map on the political side, said the case is expected to be filed in court at the end of May. He also announced the launch of a fundraising campaign for the case to supplement the efforts of Suburban Editor-in-Chief Beryl Wajzman on social media over the past weeks.

The citizens committee, headed by former NDG-Lachine MP Marlene Jennings and Beryl Wajzman, has hired well-known rights lawyer and constitutional expert Julius Grey to take on the case.

Other committee members include former Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler, former D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman, former Hampstead councillor Abe Gonshor, Merson Automotive

president Mark Merson, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, other former politicians, and leaders of the Jewish, Filipino, Bangladeshi, Black and Himalaya communities.

The new electoral map would merge the Outremont and Mont-Royal ridings, and expand D'Arcy McGee (comprised of Côte St. Luc, Hampstead and Snowdon) further eastward into Côte des Neiges. Local politicians and activists have argued this violates the Election Commission's own guidelines that ridings' "natural communities" should be respected, Canadian and Quebec Charter guarantees of "effective representation" and prejudices the voices of the anglophone and allophone communities in the Assembly.

Jennings says she believes there is a constitutional argument for the island of Montreal getting special status from the province, "and have as part of the law a minimum number of provincial seats below which the Commission cannot go, and that should be no less than 31 seats."

Wajzman said that "the time for nuance is over when they come after the sovereignty of your vote" after years of battles on language and schools ." He also repeated what Premier Couillard told him in a Suburban interview that "The Director-General of the Elections Commission has to answer for his decision and probably in court." Wajzman reported that there is already \$8,000 in commitments to the legal fund from the public, aside from the financial commitments of local councils. "Of that \$8,000, \$1,500 has come in already," he pointed out. "That's just in one week since we decided on the lawyer. That's participatory democracy from the ground up. This electoral map change is an attack on Canadian civil rights."

Local politicians like Rotrand, Côte

See Page 7 Court case

Kevin O'Leary drops out of leadership race, citing lack of Quebec support

Laura Payton, Ottawa News Bureau
Online Producer

Published Wednesday, April 26, 2017

OTTAWA - Kevin O'Leary explains why he dropped out of the Conservative leadership race, citing numbers and a relief he could win Quebec.

all you can do is live with that risk and see where the votes settle."

He also said he and Bernier are statistically tied as front-runners, separately noting his strong support in the West. O'Leary said he polled as



Conservative Leadership Candidate Maxime Bernier shakes hands with former candidate Kevin O'Leary after he announced he was dropping out of the leadership race. (CTV)

Kevin O'Leary is dropping out of the Conservative leadership race, citing weak second-ballot support and a lack of popularity in Quebec.

Even as he explained the reasons for departure, the Canadian politics outsider, who built a business and celebrity profile in the U.S., peppered his explanations with references to American politics and his prominence in the country south of the 49th parallel.

O'Leary says his outsider status limited his second-ballot support, and cited his weakness in Quebec as the reason he was quitting.

O'Leary win could put Conservative Party unity at risk, strategist Jenni Byrne warns

Conservative Leadership Candidate Maxime Bernier shakes hands with former candidate Kevin O'Leary after he announced he was dropping out of the leadership race.

Businessman Kevin O'Leary announces he is dropping out of the Conservative leadership race next to candidate Maxime Bernier in Toronto on Wednesday, April 26, 2017.

"The real reason is I only got the 12% in Quebec. That's a fact," he told reporters at a press conference Wednesday afternoon, comparing Quebec to Florida, a state that can determine a U.S. election.

"The Conservative Party needs someone who has the best chance of beating [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau]. Someone who will command the support of Canadians from every region of the country and who can build a consensus among all members of the party," O'Leary said in an email to supporters. "Second ballot support is always a concern for any candidate and

high as 34 per cent in some provinces. All the leadership contestants are in Toronto for the last official debate of the contest, with the new leader to be announced May 27

O'Leary and Bernier have consistently polled ahead of the other 12 competitors in the race, making this move potentially game-changing if O'Leary's supporters move their votes to Bernier.

But that's not guaranteed. The party's nearly 260,000 members aren't bound to follow their preferred candidate's direction if he or she drops off the ballot.

The winner has to take 50 per cent plus one point of the 33,800 points allocated equally among the country's 338 ridings. Each electoral district is allocated 100 points regardless of how many members belong to the riding association.

That makes it hard to predict the outcome, as does the party's ranked ballot, which will see the bottom finishers dropped off the ballot and their support redistributed round by round.

O'Leary says his team has sold 35,335 party memberships, including "a whole new generation of young Canadians, many of whom are new to the Conservative Party."

O'Leary run lasted three months

O'Leary spent a year teasing his possible entrance into the race before finally declaring last January that he would run. He had said he was waiting for some of the candidates to drop out so that the debates would be more substantive. Instead, he landed in a 14-person race and avoided several all-candidate debates, claiming the format didn't allow for proper discussion.

He was also criticized for travelling frequently to the U.S., including doing an American TV interview on a day he skipped a debate in Toronto. Even as he departed the race, O'Leary noted he had done an American TV interview the day before.

"Yesterday in New York City I defended Canada's position in our trade relationship with that country on CNBC, with [Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia] Freeland," he said.

"I'm a very well-known Canadian to Americans."

Pressed about his frequent travel to the U.S., O'Leary defended his sincerity in joining the race.

"You think what I just did for four months was fun? I've been to towns you don't even know how to spell the name of," O'Leary said in an interview with Don Martin, host of CTV's Power Play. "Are you kidding? That was the hardest thing I've ever done."

Despite his efforts, O'Leary won little Conservative caucus support, leading a former Stephen Harper strategist to posit he was the worst-placed candidate to maintain party unity.

One concern cited by a number of MPs was O'Leary's inability to speak French. The celebrity businessman initially said it wouldn't matter because voters cared more about the economy, but eventually relented and hired a French teacher. His progress was slow, however, and he struggled with the language.

'Welcome to politics'

Still, O'Leary managed to attract several federal and provincial conservative heavy-hitters to his campaign, including former Ontario PC Premier Mike Harris and former Conservative Senate leader Marjory LeBreton.

O'Leary also claimed to be a fundraising powerhouse, although he was in the race so short a time that Elections Canada hasn't yet confirmed his first quarterly filing. He can continue to fundraise to pay off any campaign costs, and says he will fundraise with Bernier.

Even those who opposed O'Leary admitted he drew additional media attention to the race -- though not always positive attention, at least for the other candidates. Last month, he issued a press release complaining a rival was vote-rigging by signing up fake members using pre-paid credit cards. While his spokespeople wouldn't say who they suspected of the vote-rigging, other O'Leary officials privately pointed to reaction from the Bernier campaign that suggested the Quebec MP was the target of the complaint.

The party investigated and cancelled 1,351 memberships. Bernier told CTV's Question Period that the fake

memberships didn't come from his campaign.

Asked about their former rivalry, O'Leary was sarcastic.

"Oh, he was critical during a campaign. Welcome to politics," he said.

Bernier said he likes competition, particularly in a free market.

"He was my biggest opponent and a strong competitor," Bernier said. "We had a nice competition and now we are together."

Exclusive: U.S. commerce secretary denies 'trade war' with Canada

CTVNews.ca Staff

Published Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Trade tensions may appear to be escalating between Canada and the White House, but U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross denies that an all-out trade war is on the horizon.

In an exclusive one-on-one interview with CTV's Richard Madan in Washington, D.C., the Trump administration's commerce chief touched on recent flare-ups over Canada's dairy and softwood lumber industries, and discussed other sectors that may be reconsidered under NAFTA.

On Monday, the U.S. imposed significant new duties of up to 24 per cent on lumber imports. The sudden tariff is expected to cost jobs in Canada's softwood lumber industry, which relies heavily on sales to the

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross speaks with CTV News' Richard Madan on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

wilbur ross

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross speaks with CTV News on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Speaking with CTV News, Ross stood behind the move.

"No, I don't think it's the start of a new trade war. The dispute over softwood lumber has been going on for as long as I can remember," Ross said.

"I think even friendly trading partners should live by the rules. And I feel based on the work that we've done that Canada did not live by the rules in the case of the softwood lumber."

U.S. President Donald Trump blasted Canada's dairy industry last week, saying that the supply management system was unfair to Wisconsin farmers who want to sell milk north of the border. This week, Trump targeted softwood lumber, a longstanding trade rift between the two countries.

Ross suggested that other industries may soon be put under the Trump administration's microscope as it moves closer to renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement.

"Well, part of the problem with NAFTA is that it doesn't include everything that it should include. But there are also other issues. Canada has adapted what I would call an anti-patent position, particularly in pharmaceuticals," Ross

See Page 12 U.S. Commerce

It took me 40 years to have my first ever sugaring off experience

By Bernardo Sarmiento

In the last few weeks leading up to spring, there have been frenetic trips to any of the few hundred "cabanes a sucre" that abound in the province of Quebec. People who would like to shake off the cabin fever that they had to endure during winter are raring to go to the nearest sugar shacks.

The province of Quebec produces nearly three-quarters of North America's maple syrup. That is the reason sugaring-off season, which begins the last weekend of February and runs until early May, is very big business in the province.

Sugaring-off time is that brief space between winter and spring when the snow starts to melt and sap begins to flow in the maple groves. The production of the maple syrup remains essentially unmodified from its traditional past despite technological

monotony, I am glad to have accepted the invitation to join Gilmore College's annual sugaring off trip.

As soon as our rented bus arrived at Erabliere La Goudrelle, a sugar shack near Mont-St.-Gregoire, a thinly populated community south of Montreal, my fellow visitors and I went right inside our restaurant-style cabanes a sucre, and partook generous servings of delicious pea soup, ham and sausages drowned in maple syrup, crisp pork rinds, crispy bacon, omelette, freshly-baked bread and freshly-brewed coffee. It is topped off with delicious desserts of deep-fried dough, sugar pie, doughnuts and crepes. All that for a measly \$35.00, and that included the transportation. I should not forget to mention the maple taffy that is made from ladling boiling syrup on fresh snow and then twirling it on to a popsicle stick. It was heavenly delicious and moderately sweet.



Dining hall full of people enjoying typical Quebec food on tables covered with table cloth of red plaid design. advances in farming techniques.

For the benefit of those who do not have any idea what a sugaring-off is from a Canadian point of view, it is the boiling down of maple sap to produce sugar, traditionally a social event in early spring.

I have been a resident of Montreal since I came here from the Philippines on a permanent resident visa in June 1976. As long as it may have been since then, I had never experienced sugaring-off until yesterday. And I only joined my friend Zeny Kharroubi's sugaring-off party only as an afterthought, and because I was bored to death doing nothing but Facebooking. So I felt I needed to do something worthwhile to break the

Aside from the hearty meal that we enjoyed, some of us had a 10-minute ride on a horse-drawn carriage around the place for \$3.00 each person. A couple of us had themselves caricatured in a drawing by a local artist for a few dollars fee. Others enjoyed themselves petting domesticated animals, such as ponies and goats at a nearby petting zoo.

There was also dancing, but I passed that one up because my feet are both left.

Joking aside, my first ever sugaring-off is time well spent, and the experience is nothing short of wonderful and worth reminiscing several years from now.



Enjoying the atmosphere of a "cabane à sucre" with friends - sitting on the bench from left: Budz Sarmiento, Marilyn Tugade, Paz Tugade, Monica Regacho and Rose Padayao. Photo taken on April 22, 2017, La Goudrelle, Mont St. Gregoire.

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ANO ANG LIBELO?

Malimit nating naririnig at nababasa ang salitang libelo. Ito ay ang isinusulat at inilalathalang artikulo na nakasisira sa reputasyon ng isang tao. Akala ko ay nauunawaan ng mga ordinaryong tao, lalo na ng mga reporter, ang libelo subalit mali ako. Kung nauunawaan nila ito , bakit patuloy silang nagsusulat ng maseselang bagay na alam nilang magdudulot lamang ng problema sa kanila? Ang magandang halimbawa ay si Tess Cusipag ng Balita Newspaper sa Toronto. Kahit wala siyang sapat na katibayan ay isinulat niya na kasangkot sa fraud si Senator Tobias Enverga. Dahil sa kaniyang ginawa, nahatulan siya ng korte na bayaran si Sanator Enverga ng kabuuang halagang \$340,000.O baka katulad siya ng ibang rep orter na ginagamit ang kanilang diaryo upang siraan ang taong hindi nila gusto.

Nagsimula ang galit ni Cusipag kay Senator Enverga nang anyayahan niya ito sa isang press conference. Dumalo

si Senator Enverga subalit huli na dahil dumalaw muna ito sa lamay ng kaibigan. Hindi ikinatuwa ni Cusipag ang ang hindi pagdating ni Senator Enverga sa tamang oras. Nagbanta si Cusipag na sisirain niya ang reputasyon ni Senator Enverga. Sa halip na gamitin ni Cusipag ang isip, pinairal niya ang galit at tinupad ang banta kay Senator Enverga.

Kailangan mag-iingat sa kaniyang pagsusulat ang isang reporter. Halimbawa, hindi niya maaaring paratangan na magnanakaw ang isang tao kung wala siyang sapat na katibayan. Hindi batayan ang tsismis o He said, She said.

Kung may kinakapanayam ang reporter, hanggat maaari ay gumamit siya ng tape recorder. Pero sabihin niya sa kaniyang kinakapanayam. Nang kausapin ako ni Felix Reyes, Ed Tupas at Jojo Nicolas na isulat ko ang kanilang panig sa isyu ng Federation, sinabi ko sa kanila na gagamit ako ng tape recorder upang makatiyak ako na walang babalik sa akin at magreklamo

na , “Hindi ko sinabi iyan.” Kapag napatunayan ng Quebec Press Council na lumabag sa etika ng pamamahayag ang reporter o naidemanda ito at natalo, iyon na ang simula ng kaniyang katapusan. Sira na kaniyang kredibilidad at hindi na ito maibabalik.

MARAMING ALAALA ANG IBINALIK NG TAWAG NG TANGHALAN

Noong nakaraang buwan ay ginawa sa Showtime ang finals ng Tawag ng Tanghalan. Ito ay isang paligsahan ng mga baguhang mang-aawit sa Pilipinas noong dekada 60 o 70. Ang mga host ay sina Lupito at Patsy Pachochay, mga komedyanteng sikat noon.

Sa ginawang finals kamakailan, naging panauhing pandangal ang ilang dating kampeon tulad ni Boy Leonardo at isang lalaking nasa wheelchair na hindi ko matandaan ang pangalan. Kalbo na at payat pa rin tulad ng dati si Leonardo na nagpasikat ng awiting Tender is the Night at Tammy. Hindi ko napigilan i-google ang mga ilang dating kampeon tulad ni Ric Manrique, Jr. , Diomedes Maturan at maging si Nora Aunor. Si Ric Manrique na kilala sa kaniyang kantang Sapagkat Kami ay Tao Lamang ay tumaba at si Diomedes Maturan na binansagang Perry Como ng Pilipinas at nagpasikat sa kantang Rose Tatoo ay patay na. Si Aunor naman na dalagita pa lamang noon at umawit ng Moonlight Becomes You na nagpanalo sa kaniya sa finals ay tumanda na at basag na rin ang boses dahil sa droga. Malaki na ang

pagkakaiba ng anyo nila noon at ngayon. Subalit maganda pa rin ang boses nila nang marinig ko sa You Tube. May kakaiba akong naramdaman. Ang lalaking nasa wheelchair ay hindi napigilan ang mapaluha. Tulad ko, maraming magaganda at malulungkot na alaala ang ininalik sa kaniya ng Tawag ng Tanghalan.

NAGALIT SI ATE DAHIL HINDI PALA SIYA SIKAT NA TULAD NG KANIYANG AKALA

Hindi ko mapigilan ang tumawa nang malakas nang ikuwento ng isang kaibigan ang isang lider sa komunidad. Lumapit daw ito sa kaniya upang humingi ng solisitasyon para sa souvenir program ng tinutulungang asosasyon. Ganoon daw si Ate. Kapag may fundraising ay nangunguna raw siyang tumulong. Dalawang beses na raw tumanggi ang aking kaibigan sa paglapit ni Ate dahil maliit lamang ang kaniyang negosyo at naglalagay naman siya ng advertisement sa Facebook. Parang hindi ito nagustuhan ni Ate kaya tinanong siya, ``Kilala mo ba ako? Kilalang–kila ako sa Plamondon.” Wala sa loob na sumagot naman ang aking kaibigan, “Ate, hindi ko kayo talaga kilala. Busy ako sa trabaho at wala akong panahon makipag-tsismisan at hindi ako nagbabasa ng community paper natin.” Dito lalong nagalit si Ate dahil nabigo siya. Akala nga niya ay sikat na sikat siya. Sa English, may tinatawag na famous (kilala sa kabutihan ng ugali) at infamous (kilala sa kasamaan ng ugali) Sa huli kabilang si Ate.

From Page 4 Court case
St. Luc Mayor Mitchell Brownstein and Hampstead Mayor William Steinberg reiterated their arguments against the new electoral map.

Brownstein also announced that his city will be financially supporting the case.

"I have encouraged our residents to support it financially — many cheques have gone in," the Mayor added. "We hope we get all the money that is needed to support this campaign. I'm sure we will. And I hope the Quebec Electoral Commission considers the fact we are taking this matter seriously and that we'll go as far as we have to in the courts, and I hope they reverse their decision."

Hampstead council has already committed \$7,000 to the case. The Town of Mount Royal recently announced that the Town will match each dollar given by residents, up to \$10,000.

Côte des Neiges-NDG Mayor Russell Copeman says he does not support his borough — one taxpaying body— funding a case against a part of another taxpaying body — the province. But Rotrand told The Suburban that the council caucus will discuss in May whether the borough will contribute to the case.

"Mr. Copeman is joining the other mayors involved in inviting the public to contribute and support the case, and we are encouraged that people are beginning to respond and we note that other communities have made the decision to finance the contestation," Rotrand added. "I'll be reporting back to the caucus what I've heard from all the other mayors and Côte des Neiges-NDG council will make a decision."

Those who wish to donate to the court case can send cheques made out to "Julius Grey in trust" to The Suburban, 7575 Trans Canada Highway, Suite 105, St. Laurent, Quebec H4T 1V6. For more information, call 514-484-1107. TMR residents are being asked to send their cheques to the Town Hall, 90 Roosevelt Avenue, Town of Mount Royal, Quebec H3R 1Z5. Other locations where cheques can be sent will be announced very soon.

joel@thesuburban.com

For NDGéCDN Residents, Councilor Marvin Rotrand is asking everyone to help out in meeting the financial obligations of a court challenge to protect our rights.

Councilor Marvin Rotrand issued the following appeal:

I am asking that you consider making a personal donation. As well, please urge your friends and contacts to do

the same. We need to raise substantial funding to support our case in court.

Here's how to contribute:

CHEQUES TO "JULIUS GREY IN TRUST"
mail or drop off: 5160 Decarie #710, Montreal, QC. H3X 2H9
envelope addressed to "Marvin Rotrand, City Councillor"

OR

CHEQUES TO "JULIUS GREY IN TRUST"
send them to 7575 Trans-Canada suite 105, Ville St.Laurent,QC, H4T 1V6. in an envelope addressed to "SAVE MONT-ROYAL ".

Marvin Rotrand

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Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon

The Art of Composition

I can never emphasize more to the readers that taking great pictures is the result of patiently composing the scene before you press the shutter button.

1. Use The Rule Of Thirds

You've probably heard of the rule of thirds but maybe don't know the full extent of the composition rule, or at least need a refresher. The rule of thirds is loosely based on a tic-tac-toe grid that you can imagine overlaying your photograph. This rule works well for people, landscapes, architecture, and nature photography. Take a look at this street photo of a woman walking past a graffiti covered wall:

If the rule of thirds is applied to this photo (remember the tic-tac-toe grid), the woman's face perfectly intersects with the upper-right rule of thirds lines. Use the tic-tac-toe grid for photographing a person within your horizontal or vertical picture.

Remember that it's the person's face that should be on either the left or right intersecting points. Landscape and scenic photographers can also make use of this rule, but aren't limited to a tic-tac-toe grid. Below is a traditionally composed mountain scene where the sky roughly occupies the top third of the picture, the mountains are in the middle third, and the trees occupy the lower third of the picture space.

By dividing up the photo into three equal horizontal lines you can see how the rule of thirds works great for landscape photography.

Keep in mind that your own landscape photo doesn't need to exactly follow the three horizontal lines. The lines are simply guides to help you balance your photo into three distinct sections. There's no need to just limit this compositional rule to mountain scenes either. Almost any landscape photo can benefit from the rule of thirds.

Another interesting aspect of the rule of thirds is that you can break it down into only two sections instead of three. Take a look at this photo of Rio de Janeiro:

When you are composing your photo, imagine a line going through your picture while you are getting your shot ready. Is there a section of the photo that stands out, and can be put to one-third of the picture space? If so, the remaining two-thirds of the picture doesn't need to be split up.

2. Use Symmetry In Your Photos

Take a look at the photo below. Do you feel that it's a well balanced photograph? It obeys the rule of thirds because it has the green wall on the left side, but somehow the picture doesn't feel right.

When your subject is symmetrical, meaning that the left side is equal, or almost equal to the right side, its best to compose your photo as straight on as possible. This version below feels much more balanced, and as a result becomes a more effective photograph.



Don't forget to stand in the middle of the room with your camera pointing straight forward toward your scene. If you aren't in the middle of the room your photo won't feel balanced.

3. Compose People Intentionally

When choosing how to pose people there are many excellent composition principles out there, but possibly the two most important are a centered placement and a thirds placement.

In the following photo the woman is roughly on the right third of the picture. Because she is walking and looking into the picture, we want to allow more space in front of her.



The woman is placed on the right third of the photo so the viewer can imagine her walking past the camera. This photo wouldn't work as well if she was photographed in the center of the camera frame. When you are photographing people going in a certain direction, allow for more space in front of them than behind them.

You don't always need to have your subject on the side of the camera frame, as sometimes its better to have them in the middle of the picture. If the person is completely straight on to your camera (their body and face is pointing right at you), you can compose them perfectly centered in your picture.

Most of the time you will want to have the person walk and look into the picture, so you will allow for more space in front of the person. There are however artistic reasons to have a person look in the opposite direction.

If you feel that you would like to convey a sense of melancholy, regret, or reflection, then choose to have your subject look away from the majority of the picture (looking out of the frame).

4. Combine Several Composition Principles Into One

Sometimes everything comes together in your photo and you can combine two or more composition principles in one single image.

In this photo of a Mexican streetscape there's a symmetrical church and street, and also a woman walking toward the camera on the left third. This means that the photo uses two different compositional rules in one single photo: symmetry plus the rule of thirds.

If you see a scene that is symmetrical, center your camera (be careful if you are in the middle of the street), and wait for a person to walk along one of the thirds lines.

5. Compose Your Photo Using Color

In this photo of a VW Beetle it's the bold colors that make up the compositional design of the photo. The VW is considered a block of color, as are the red and yellow color blocks along the wall.

If possible look for colorful scenes that have two, three, or five different color sections.

Another way to compose with color is to have your subjects match their background, or at least a background item in the scene. The two similar colors tie the photo together, creating a strong composition.

In the following photo the Thai monks match the tent in the background.

The red scooter matches the woman's jacket in the photo below of a cyclist in Italy. In both of these example photos, think of the background colors as playing a supportive role to accentuate the main subject.

To practice this technique, find a bright color next time you are in a city, and wait until the right person enters your picture. If you don't have the time to wait for the right person to walk by, ask a friend to help you out! Remember that bold colors work best.

The following photo is a great example of having two composition theories in one shot. The colors create the composition, however the photo also works as a rule of thirds example. The red portion occupies the left third of the picture, and the blue portion occupies the right two-thirds of the picture.

Remember to keep things simple when composing with color. The simpler your photos are the more impactful they'll become.

6. Create Panoramic Photographs

Most cameras have a panoramic option that allows you to take a wide photo. If your camera doesn't allow for panoramic photos, you can always take a normal photo and then crop the top and bottom off when editing in your computer. Because panoramic photos have a unique shape, you may have a hard time finding an above-mentioned composition rule to follow. This is normal for the odd shape of the panoramic: simply take the shot and if you like it, keep it!

7. Create Texture And Pattern Photos

The unique thing about pattern or texture photos is that they never have a main

subject matter. To create a texture or pattern photo, make sure that you have hundreds (or thousands) of objects that are visually similar and placed tightly together. These rocks work well for such a photo, as there is no strong individual object that stands out as a main subject.

If you need any more ideas on how to create texture and pattern shots, try a large brick wall, sand at a beach, a field of flowers of the same species and color, or a sky full of rippling or wavy clouds. The following photo of hundreds of roof tiles works well as a pattern shot, as almost all of the tiles are the same appearance.

Don't forget to fill the entire frame of your camera with the tiles, rocks, or whatever objects you are using. If the edges of your photo contain objects that are completely different in appearance, your photo will lose its effectiveness.

8. Use High And Low Angles

Did you know that about 90% of all photographs are taken at eye-level? Why not be among the interesting 10% and try high and low angle photography? Your photos will stand out from the crowd simply because you took the time to change your position.

For high angle photos try shooting downward from bridges or windows.

For low angle photos get right down on the sidewalk and capture a perspective that people rarely see.

9. Take Both Horizontal And Vertical Photos

Should you take horizontal or vertical photos? The answer is yes to both! It's a great idea to take both versions of the same photo for potential magazine covers, or wall art in your house.

The photo above is a standard horizontal composition that most people would take. The photo below is a vertical composition that allows for a lot of flexibility when it comes to framing for wall art and publishing in traditional or digital media. When possible, try and take two versions of the same scene.

There may be times however that taking both a horizontal and vertical photo doesn't work. For example, most landscape photos only work as horizontals. Or maybe there's a situation like the following that works great as a vertical, but because there were trucks parked near the building a horizontal photo would have looked terrible.

To summarize, when your scene works well in either horizontal and vertical compositions, you might as well take both.

10. Make Use Of Geometry In Your Compositions

Using geometric shapes in your photography is a great habit to get into, as each shape has its own emotional feel to it. Here are some general examples: The S-curve is a tried and true method to help your viewer explore your photo. The viewer imagines that they are walking through the street or path that you photographed.

Al Abdon



Tasty and healthy recipes



Pesang Isda (Fish simmered in Ginger and Tomatoes)

This main dish is heart healthy because the fish is simmered in water, not fried, and no fat is added. Flavoring comes from the herbs and spices instead of sauces that are high in sodium.

- Ingredients
- ¼ cup fresh ginger, thinly sliced (about 2 inches long)
 - 1 cup ripe tomatoes, chopped
 - 1 cup white or yellow onions, thinly sliced
 - 4 cups water
 - 2 pounds fleshy fish (c fillet, halibut steak, or trout
 - 2 cups pechay (bok choy) stems and leaves, cut up separately
 - ½ teaspoon salt
 - ½ teaspoon ground pepper
 - 1 cup green onions, sliced

- Directions
1. In a 4-quart saucepan, simmer sliced ginger, tomatoes, and onions in 4 cups of water over medium heat until onions are tender (about 7 to 8 minutes).
 2. Reduce heat to low, add fish and poach gently until almost done (about 3 to 4 minutes).
 3. Add pechay stems, salt, and ground pepper. Cook for 1 minute; then add pechay leaves and green onions. Cook another 30 seconds.
 4. Serve immediately

Your family will love this heart healthy side dish. It is made with vegetables, seafood, lean meat, and a small amount of corn oil. The pork is slowly simmered in moist heat with vegetables and mung beans, creating flavors that will make your taste buds jump for joy!

- Ingredients
- 1 tablespoon corn oil
 - 2 cloves fresh garlic, crushed (or 1 tablespoon, minced)
 - 1 cup white onions, chopped
 - 1 cup ripe tomatoes, chopped
 - 1 cup (4 ounces) lean pork, thinly sliced
 - 4 cups water
 - 3½ cups precooked mung beans (from 1¾ cups dry beans)*
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 1 teaspoon ground pepper
 - 1 cup (4 ounces) shrimp, peeled and deveined
 - 1 cup (about ¾ of a 10-ounce package) leaf spinach, frozen
- * To cook dry, uncooked mung beans: Wash and boil the uncooked mung beans in a large saucepan, using 6 cups of water. Cook until tender, about 1½ to 2 hours. Drain.
- Directions
1. In a skillet, heat oil, and sauté crushed garlic until lightly brown.
 2. Add onion and tomatoes. Sauté until skin begins to curl.
 3. Add pork, and sauté until lightly brown.
 4. Add water, and simmer pork for about 15 minutes.
 5. Add the sautéed mix to mung beans, and continue to simmer 15 minutes.
 6. Season with salt and ground pepper.
 7. Add peeled shrimp.
 8. Add frozen leaf spinach, and cook 4 minutes until done.



Eggplant Adobo

- Ingredients
- 4 cups eggplants, cut into 2x2 inch pieces
 - 1/2 cup white vinegar
 - 1/4 cup soy sauce
 - 1 tablespoon garlic, finely minced
 - cooking spray
 - black pepper, if desired
 - red chili pepper flakes, if desired

- Directions
- Preheat broiler.
- Spray cookie sheet with oil. Place eggplant cubes on cookie sheet and spray them with oil.
- Broil eggplant until browned, about 5 minutes, flip them and 5 minutes more.
- In a medium saucepan, bring vinegar, soy sauce, garlic and if desired, pepper to a boil and simmer for 6 minutes. Add browned eggplant to sauce and cook for 5 minutes more, stir several times. Serve hot with sticky rice.



Mungo guisado (Sauteed mung beans)



Buko Salad

- Ingredients
- 4 cups young coconut (buko), shredded
 - 6 ounces sugar palm fruit (kaong), drained
 - 12 ounces coconut gel (nata de coco), drained
 - 2 cans (15 ounces each) fruit cocktail, drained
 - 8 ounces pineapple chunks, drained
 - 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
 - 7 ounces table cream
- Instructions
- In a mixing bowl, combine young coconut, kaong, nata de coco, pineapple chunks, and fruit cocktail. Gently stir to distribute the ingredients. Add sweetened condensed milk and table cream. Mix until all the ingredients are properly distributed. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or place in the freezer for 1 hour. Transfer to a serving bowl. Serve for dessert. Share and enjoy!

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Spring is coming!

The North American FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Riding a carriage pulled by two horses, are Janeth, Sheila, Terry, Raffy, Myra, Zeny, Lanie and her hubby, Sonia, Luz, and Budz.



Ruth Concepcion with her group and two children having their brunch buffet with other Gilmore students in the background.



Going sugaring with friends is a nice break from daily routines. Terry White, Sophie Toledo, PAB nursing instructors of Gilmore College sitting with Marydel Celis who we haven't seen for more than a decade. It was indeed a pleasant surprise to see her join our sugaring off party.



From left: Wendy Singh, Monica Regacho, Luz Maderazo and Arnel John posing for souvenir of their sugaring off experience. Did you enjoy Quebecois food?



From left: Tess Manuel, Aldrich Jake Soria, Jasmine Cleofas-Tabares, Anita Cleofas. Photo taken during the coronation of FAMAS Munting Bb. Pilipinas Montreal, April 22, 2017 at the Hellenic Community Center.



After a few minutes of posing for the artist, Myra Wanawan is happy to see a caricature of herself drawn by this gentleman. A nice souvenir for \$17 in color. A black and white caricature costs \$10.



Celebrating their new friendship are, from left, Budz Sarmiento (former columnist with this newspaper), Felix Reyes (former president of FFCAQ), and Wilfred Quiambao, writer/columnist, also of this newspaper).

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* 4 Pillars represents the debtor to structure the payment terms of a consumer proposal which is filed by a bankruptcy trustee.

Recent Consumer Proposals Structured by 4 Pillars

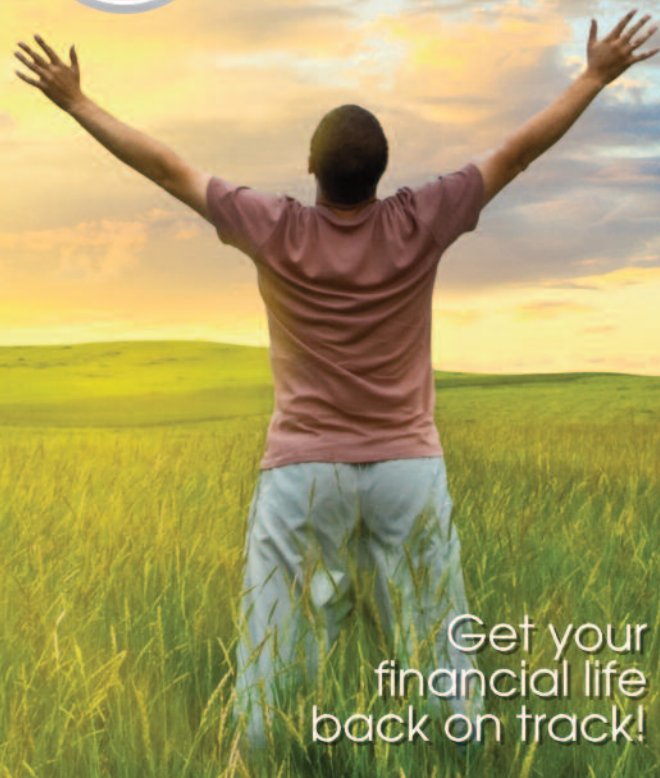
| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Manny married father of 1 child, owed \$44 887..... | settled at \$200 x 60 mth |
| Mary and Alain family of 4, owed \$49 526..... | settled at \$190 x 60 mth |
| Danny single, salary being garnished, owed \$37 322..... | settled at \$150 x 60 mth |
| Anna married family of 4, owed \$110 417..... | settled at \$150 x 60 mth |
| Kathy and Lucien family of 4, owed \$80 640..... | settled at \$525 x 60 mth |
| Zilendo single father of 2 children, owed \$67 000..... | settled at \$100 x 60 mth |
| Robert married, owed \$148 525..... | settled at \$475 x 60 mth |
| John single, owed \$59 700..... | settled at \$200 x 60 mth |

"Ako'y isang ina na may asawa at 2 anak. Problemang masyado ang utang namin, tuwing lingo, tumatawag ang bangko at naniningil ng bayad, ang sueldo namin ay para ibayad sa utang ng credit cards. Sa wakas, tumawag kami sa 4 Pillars at nang makausap namin sila, guminhawa agad ang aming pakiramdam sapagka't binigyan kami ng solusyon. Nabawasan ang utang namin at ngayon, wala na kaming problema at nag-umpisa kami sa panibagong pagtatayo ng aming credit.

Salamat sa inyo, 4 Pillars, kayo ang talagang nagbigay sa amin na bagong pagkakataon sa aming buhay."



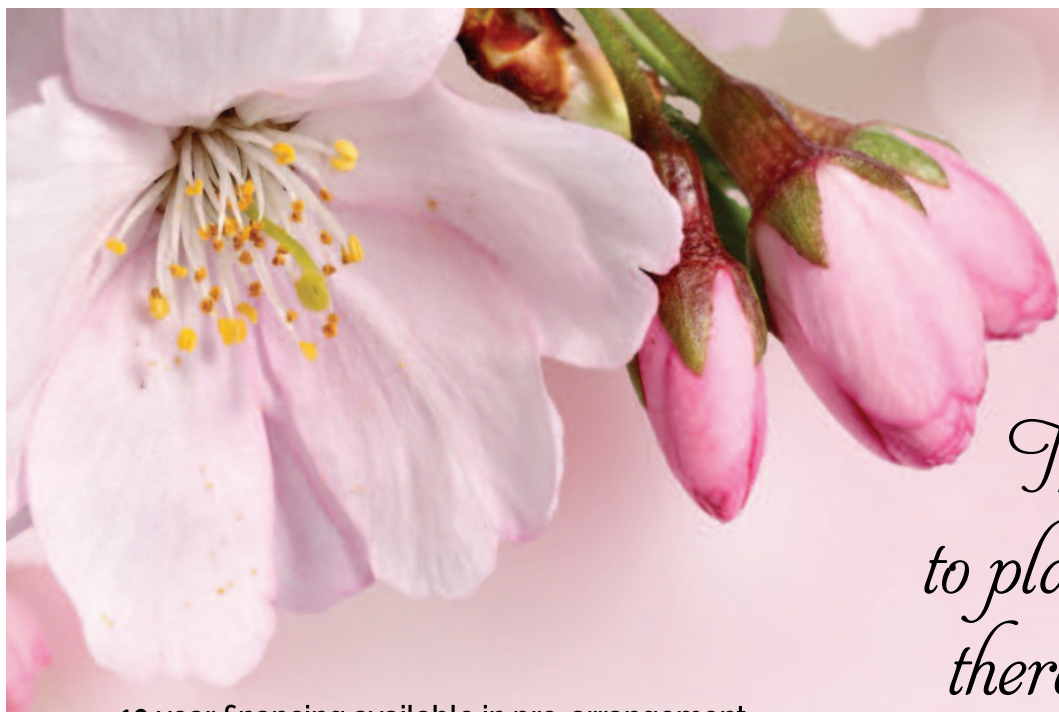
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COMMUNITY NEWS

First Golden Balangay Awards For Filipino Canadian Achievers Launched

By : Tony A. San Juan, OCT.

Truly meeting the long-cherished desire of recognizing purposefully the "remarkable achievements of Filipino Canadians across Canada", the 1st Golden Balangay Awards was significantly launched on March 18, 2017 at the Edward Village Hotel in

Pilipino of the Year; and Pinoy of the Year. The Project's major sponsors and partners are: Awards Online, Canadian Industry Event Awards, Filipino TV, iKubo Media, Kubo Magazine, Philippine Chamber of Commerce - Toronto, Pinoy Radio and Proximity Wave.



The Awards Executive Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee (left to right) - Ronnie Dela Gana, Steve Pagao, Alberto Rodil, Garry Tanuan, Josie De Leon, Michelle Serrano, Claire Dela Gana, Bloomy Favila, Jovy Favila, Ysh Cabana and Rachelle Cruz - with guests Michelle Chermaine (7th from left) and Rollee Mangante (rightmost)

North York, Toronto. Thus, the first nationwide search for outstanding Filipinos in Canada is now underway !

Under the auspices of iKubo Media and Awards Online Canada, the initiative will provide a vehicle for the pangalahatang masa to choose and honour the high achievers and exemplary members of the ever-growing community in respect of their highly significant contributions and meaningful participation into the life, work and well-being of the Filipino Canadian and mainstream communities.

Specifically, the Balangay Awards aim "to promote excellence, hard work, higher education, entrepreneurship, public service and community involvement." When asked why the name Balangay was chosen, Ronnie De La Gana, iKubo CEO and project co-founder reasoned out that : " we wanted a moniker that would symbolize our journey in chasing our collective dreams as well as one that would give us the sense of community."

The 17 categories of the Balangay Awards are : Educational Excellence in Secondary and Post-secondary Education; Excellence in Arts & Culture, Sports & Fitness, Media, Music & Entertainment and Business; Excellence for Community Service; Educator of the Year; Young Leader of the Year; Senior Achiever of the Year; Most Influential Community Organization; Young Entrepreneur of the Year; Entrepreneur of the Year; Executive of the Year; Manggagawang

Abyly hosted by ABS-CBN -Toronto reporter Rachelle Cruz, the kickoff event began with song-and-dance front acts of the all-kids Elements group. Philippine Deputy Consul General Bernadette Fernandez delivered an inspirational keynote address and 2014 RBC Top 25 Immigrant Alberto Rodil shared about the heart-rending challenges and struggles in his immigrant's experience. The Awards organizers Ronnie & Claire Dela Gana and Jovito Favila appeared in the video presentation making a strong pitch for their special project including its rationale and ramification as well as stressing the "use of online technology for awards nomination and judging.....a first for the Filipino community".

Among the more than 150 people in attendance were community leaders and noted personalities: Manolo & Fe Arnaldo, Jun & Ning Calaguio, Patrick Dooc, Seva Gama, Judith Gonzales, Belinda Herrera, Susan Llanera, Pol Llorente, Rolly Mangante, Agnes Miranda, Danny Orbillo, Kim Christian Pacis, Jesse Panem, Elvie Polarco, Joseph & Lorelei Redoblado, Marisa Roque, Jocelyn A. San Juan, Monina Serrano, Marla Tanuan, and Atty. Tony Villarin & wife Marissa ,

The Awardees will be selected by a panel of judges employing a set of criteria established by respectable members of the Awards Technical Advisory Committee composed of : Prof. Patrick Alcedo, Ysh Cabana, Josie De Leon, John Kok, Louroz Mercader, Steve Pagao, Dr. Francis Rementilla, Alberto Rodil, Michele Serrano, Trustee

Garry Tanuan, Rose Tijam, and Kaylene Tolentino, In his written message to the official launch, Dr. Francis Rementilla expressed that : "he believed that the Awards will showcase the accomplishments of Filipino Canadians

will be held on September 9, 2017 (Saturday) at the BMO Institute for Learning.

For more details about the awards and to nominate, visit :

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in their various fieldsand that they be recognized for their invaluable efforts to inspire the younger generations to strive for the best".

Nominations are now accepted and will close on August 12, 2017. The full list of nominees and judges will be announced on August 19, 2017. The Awards Night

From Page 5 U.S. Commerce

said.

Asked about rules of origin for auto parts, an important piece of NAFTA that lays out rules for the auto industry, Ross called it an "important issue" that may be up for discussion.

"I think it should be on the table because if there is any merit at all to a free trade agreement, it's to help the people inside versus the people outside," he said. Ross later clarified that Asian auto part makers are a critical part of the equation, and that new limitations on those countries could protect North America's auto industry as a whole.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met Trump just three months ago in Washington in a meeting that focused on the country's shared values and longstanding trade relationship. At the time, Trump said his concerns with NAFTA had more to do with Mexico, and any changes to Canada would just be "tweaking."

www.goldenbalangayawards.com or contact: Ronnie Dela Gana at 647-300-1970. With the mantra "Libu-libong kwento ng paglalakbay , isang gabing pagdiriwang" , aptly encapsulates the novel celebration of the 2017 Golden Balangay Awards. (Tony A. San Juan)

Trudeau responded to the new softwood tariff Tuesday, saying that a "thickening" border would be detrimental to both the U.S. and Canada.

"We are tremendously interconnected in our economy with that of the United States, but it's not just a one-way relationship," Trudeau said during a visit to Kitchener, Ont.

"There are millions of good U.S. jobs that depend on smooth flow of goods, services and people back and forth across our border."

Trudeau spoke directly with Trump later Tuesday. According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the prime minister "refuted baseless accusations" on the softwood lumber industry and said he would vigorously defend the sector. The two leaders also "agreed on the importance of reaching a negotiated agreement," the statement read.

Sources say the White House plans to release new information on its plans for NAFTA very soon.



Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Cariño



Hi, everyone! Spring is in the air and so is spring cleaning. Previous homeowners like Marlene Birao, Letty Bulotano and Lydia Fielding are freed from this yearly ritual; they are happy apartment dwellers. Some, like Remy Monteagudo and many others, are house hunting still. And yours truly's four-split home in DDO is on the market. Anyone interested? Visit me and let's make a deal !!!

Celebrations are inevitable and inescapable. Here are some from my grapevine. Puring de la Cruz Bamba was feted by good friend Maria Kuersteimer at the Brochette La Porte Grecque in Sources Blvd in DDO. Present were husband Mario Bamba, Carlito and Thelma Arlegui, Espi Marcos, Deacon Pete Tapia, June of St. Luke's Church, Maria and myself. You should visit this Greek restaurant, a favorite of many Filipino couples.

Some recent birthday celebrants (March and April) are LWIF (Living Waters International Fellowship) members: Hugo Lait, Tim Matue, Jacquie Guingab, Roger Alano, Nanay Upeng, Jaydee Reyes, Gaby Madrid, Mona Domingo, Zachary Dongail, Angel Molina, Elvie Balanga, and Jenna Madrid. Imagine if you were invited to all these celebrations? If you were, it might have been hard to refrain from indulging your sweet tooth; there were sweets galore !

It's not only birthdays, anniversaries and housewarming events. We also commemorated the 40th day of the passing of Mrs. Natalie Pelausa's sister, Josefina Sinahon. Dr. Hermie Pelausa invited friends for supper at

the St. Kevin's Church Social Hall. We also mourn the passing of another dear friend, Asuncion Magbanua, who succumbed to lung cancer. May they rest in peace. (And let me recognize the kindness of Dr. Hermie Pelausa who also honored the 84th birthday of Alma Robinson).

Friends of Lydia Cabugao also gathered to honor the 40th day of her passing. It seems just like yesterday, but UPS President Marly Basbacio invited friends to dine at Plaza Cotes de Neiges' Kam Shing restaurant to remember this special lady, a supportive wife and a great mother. I would like to imagine the gates of heaven greeting her a warm welcome.

Now, who wants to read about politics? Whether you like it or not, we are in the middle of one political change that can affect the voting pattern of many Filipinos. Let me elaborate. This political agenda started when the Quebec Electoral Commission decided to merge Mont Royal and Outremont ridings and significantly alter D'Arcy Mc Gee, the boroughs of Cote des Neiges – Notre Dame de Grace and Outremont, as well as the municipalities of Town of Mont Royal, Cote St. Luc, and Hampstead. This change came to the attention of FAMAS President Cora Aberin. Mrs. Aberin wrote the Commission stating, "the proposal to make Mont Royal and Outremont into one riding and much of the remaining Snowdon neighborhood be added to D'Arcy McGee will split the Filipino Community in two. This will unfairly diminish our voting weight." Let's hope that the Quebec Electoral Commission will have a change of

heart.

My friends, who among you still eat 'kamayan-style' ? Well, if you are missing this, you do not have to go back home; you can experience the joy right here at the Kamayan Restaurant located along Victoria Avenue. Mrs. Connie Fabro of SWIS (Seniors of West Island and Suburbs) arranged for members to go and sample the food. We brought along four non-Filipinos: Lolita Williams, Gary Smith, Nick Mazzone, and Hans Wilgehoff. I told them not to cheat (by using spoons or forks)! Lolita, Gary, and Hans didn't cheat; I'm not sure about Nick ! Anyway, that was a fun evening ! The sumptuous food laid out on large banana leaves is a feast for the eyes and can easily perk up the appetite ! It certainly was an experience! SWIS members at the Kamayan Restaurant (owned by Cesar Manuel) were: Connie Fabro, Nards Alberto, Elvie Maximo, Nora Arcalas, Emmy and Cesar Bayan, Violy Campos, Mila Encarnacion, Dory Isada, Delia Manzano, Minda and Nick Mazzone, John Megley, Lilia Avendano, Rose and Flor Rillo, Lucy Salazar, Luz and Gary Smith, Mameng Transfiguracion, Jean and Paz Vilorio, Lolita Williams, Val and Cora Zarate, Benny and Lita Bote, and yours truly.

The CCFAQ (Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec) introduced a Spring Disco Mix Dance held at the Grand Salon of Chemin de la Cotes des Neiges, Montreal.

A close friend of mine, Adoree Silva, commented on how much they enjoyed the party. She remarked, "We liked the lively music, the live dancing, the mixed dances, especially the food. We even had wine and lechon. We enjoyed the casualness of it." For this, more power to the CCFAQ under the presidency of Gerry Danzil and his Executive Board. I arrived late from another party and found Dario Buco holding a big bottle of wine and President Danzil asking me to sit down and have something. It was also the first time to see James and Rose de la Paz from their month-long visit to the Philippines. James was singing the praises of President Rodrigo Duterte's

administration in cleaning up our beloved homeland, which can now compare to many other places in the world that are beautiful to behold. For more interesting changes, please be sure to ask James !!!

Last but not least was the Coronation Night of the Munting Binibining Pilipinas Montreal 2017, held at the Hellenic Community Center on April 22nd. This event had all the trimmings of an adult beauty contest - starting from the makeup, the colorful ballgowns with matching shoes, the regal walk etc! A special attraction is the addition of individual escorts with their proud parents walking behind them. Here are the winners: Munting Binibining Montreal is Jasmine Cleofas Tabares (8-yr old daughter of Filomeno Tabares and Anita Cleofas) escorted by Aldrich Jake Soria, Munting Binibining Luzon is Maria Yzabel Sinocuz (10-yr old daughter of Rossel Serado and Criselda Sinocruz) escorted by Eric John Sinocruz, Munting Binibining Visayas is Lovely Marilou Punzalan Asuncion (8-yr old daughter of Luisito Asuncion and Anna Maria Punzalan) escorted by Allen Benedict Egenia, Munting Binibining Mindanao is Aliyah Grace Castillejos Tavas (5-yr old daughter of Frezer Tavas and Rosalyn Castillejos) escorted by Pierre Miguel Tavas, and Munting Binibining Maynila is Erich San Juan Margallo (7-yr old daughter of Emma Rose San Juan) escorted by Terrence Logan Poirier.

The crowd was entertained by three powerful singers namely Thea Cruz, Adiva Ross Estinozo, and Mark Simbulan, the emcee. Youssef Aguirre Kamal, the Fil-Can Idol and Champion, Junior Division, Munting Lakan ng Luzon 2014, serenaded the winners. Of course, President Cora Aberin welcomed the guests and together with Svetlana Suarez managed the festivities with diligence and utmost care.

The event chairperson was Angelita Vasquez Ramos. Well done. It was a night worth remembering !

God bless and see you next issue !!!

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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Comedy movie proves to be a milestone for Megan



Megan Young

Megan Young is slowly but surely spreading her reach, acting-wise. Veering from the usual dramatic roles, she is now trying her mettle in comedy and in a big way too, appearing alongside Ai Ai delas Alas in the upcoming film, “The Mighty Yaya.”

The 27-year-old is proud to have taken on the challenge.

“It is something totally different compared to what I have been doing in the past like sa films at sa TV,” she said. “So, siyempre, sa una may kaba, may doubts ako kung kaya ko ba pero now that I completed it I would say na apart

from being proud, I’m really thankful to have been part of this project.”

“I feel din kasi na andami kong natutunan na bago,” she added. “And sa tingin ko, my experience in doing this movie made me become a better actress somehow. Well, hopefully.”

So, how was it working with Ai Ai?

“It was fun,” Megan shared. “Sobrang bait niya sa akin. Hindi siya diva despite her status, sobrang down-to-earth siya. Ang galing niya makipag-kapwa tao. Napaka-gracious niya and she treats people well.”

In the film, Megan’s

character will make life hard for Ai Ai’s yaya and she admitted, “yun ang pinakamahirap na part sa lahat actually.”

She went on, “I don’t share my character’s values at all na talagang napakasama, maldita, matapobre, pero I have to do it at sa character pa ni Miss Ai so ang hirap.”

Thankfully, Ai Ai herself and film director Jose Javier Reyes were both encouraging.

“They told me to simply have fun with it at nakatulong naman,” Megan said, going on to describe her working relationship with Ai Ai and Joey a “breeze.”

“Parang nagkukulitan lang kami,” was how she put it.

In their many scenes together, Megan couldn’t help but laugh at Ai Ai’s antics.

“Madalas hindi ako makapag-focus kasi tawa ako ng tawa sa kanya,” she shared. “But it made the whole thing fun and (with that ay) naging madali para sa akin gampanan ang role ko.”

Thankful

We asked Megan if she had a nanny growing up and she said, “Ang pinaka-experience ko lang having someone like that is ‘yung assistant ko when I was younger. I

was 15 at the time and she was 17. We became so close we even slept on the same bed. Lahat ng secrets ko alam niya but then she had to say goodbye to us to raise her own family.”

They are still in touch. Megan is, in fact, a ninang to her former assistant’s child.

“To this day, I consider her na parang angel kasi she helped me in so many ways growing up in this business.”

Would she hire a yaya if and when she has a child of her own?

“I see the possibility pero I also have this thing na parang I want to raise my child on my own din. So I don’t know. Yeah, siguro I would want some help on that eventually.”

Megan doesn’t see herself marrying in the immediate future but she is hopeful that if ever, she will exchange “I do’s” with her boyfriend Mikael Daez.

“Siyempre naman siya na,” she said. “I mean, we wouldn’t last six long years if I’m not happy with our relationship.”

What is it with Mikael she likes most?

“Maalaga siya sobra,” she related. “Hindi lang where I am concerned but to my family as well. And he’s fun to be with.” ■

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'Guardians' star Dave Bautista: 'I wear the Filipino flag with pride'



Actor Dave Bautista attends a premiere of the film "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" in London.

Years back, Dave Bautista, then a professional wrestler, was left dumbfounded after learning of his massive Filipino fanbase.

"I didn't really make the connection," admitted the part-Pinoy actor, who rose to fame for beating people up (for theatrical purposes) as part of the WWE. "I couldn't understand why

they looked up to me so much and it was really odd for me."

He only began to understand the fanfare surrounding him when he visited the Philippines. "They really accepted me as one of their own, even if I was born in the United States," he shared.

"And they said, 'It's not often that the

Filipino people get to be inspired by one of their own.' And from then on, I never took it for granted. It is still so humbling to hear that."

Pointing to the tattoo he has on his shoulder, he added: "I love it and I wear the Filipino flag on my shoulder all the time with pride."

Bautista, whose father is Filipino-

American, was speaking with ABS-CBN News' Marie Lozano as of a promotional tour for Marvel Studios' "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2".

Actor Dave Bautista attends a premiere of the film "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" in London. Hannah McKay, Reuters

In the James Gunn-directed summer movie, he reprises his role as Drax, a deadly fighter who has quickly become a fan-favorite for his all-too-literal approach to the world.

Gunn attributed the popularity of the character to Bautista, whom he has nothing but praise for.

"I think Dave isn't appreciated by Dave more than anyone else. Far and anyway, Dave Bautista is people's favorite character in the film. And I think it's just a testament to what a great actor he is," Gunn said.

"And every time I tell Dave, 'You're amazing in the movie. People love you.' He always says, 'Because you wrote it that way.' But that's just not the case. No one else would be able to deliver those lines like he is able to do it. So he's a great actor."

"Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" is now showing in cinemas nationwide.

What Judy Ann wants for her big acting comeback



Judy Ann Santos to host newest season of Bet On Your Baby

The queen of Pinoy soap operas, it seems, has had enough of heavy drama.

That's why when asked about her dream acting comeback, Judy Ann Santos said she prefers to do

something light.

"Gusto ko nga sana ay medyo light na drama, para masaya lang," she said in a press conference for her upcoming show "Bet On Your Baby" on Wednesday.

"Sa labanan ng teleserye na napapanood ko, hindi na kaya ng powers ko 'yung mga ganyang aktingan na parang mapapatid ang litid ko sa ganyang puyatan," Santos explained.

"I want to give something really worth waiting for kasi ang tagalog kong nawala."

Santos's last teleserye was the dark drama "Huwag Ka Lang Mawawala," which aired in 2013. She was set to appear in the series "Someone To Watch Over Me" with Richard Yap but the project was shelved after she became pregnant. Now a mother of three, Santos stressed that if she's going to do a new teleserye, her goal is to give inspire viewers.

"Gusto mo happy, gusto mo to give inspiration and aspiration, 'yun naman ang goal ko ngayon talaga. Kung gagawa ako ng isang teleserye sana ay may advocacy. It should be inspirational, it should be aspirational, 'yung hindi siya mabigat sa dibdib. Naghihintay pa lang po ako at work in progress pa din itong katawan ko. So kapag nasa fighting form na po ako at pwede ko nang iwanan ng husto ang mga inakay (mga anak) ko ay pwede

na po," Santos said.

In the meantime, Santos started working for the third season of "Bet On Your Baby," which will debut on ABS-CBN next month.

Self-Managed

Meanwhile, Santos also confirmed that Alfie Lorenzo is no longer her manger and that she's now managing her career.

"It's just me, I decide for myself. Iba na 'yung nagaganap ngayon, it's my decision kasi since having a family, my focus now is my family. So whatever I do now, whatever projects I accept, it's my family I consider first. So I think it's about time na I have to decide for myself," Santos said.

According to Santos, she talked to Lorenzo last year to say formally say goodbye.

"It was a very proper discussion, conversation, I was with my brother. Nagpaalam ako ng maayos kasi malaki ang utang na loob ko kay Tito Alfie, at 'yung utang na loob na 'yon ay hindi mapapalitan ng kahit anong halaga, alam natin 'yan. It's not a professional thing, it's just really a personal thing that I had to make because Tito Alfie is not just a professional manager, he is family," Santos said. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

The ‘gambler’ in Echo



Jericho Rosales

It's funny but Jericho Rosales doesn't relate to his character in the movie "Luck At First Sight" at all for one basic reason.

"I don't believe in luck," said he who is "Echo" to his close friends. "Personally, I believe in being prepared when an opportunity comes. For me 'yun ang swerte, kapag dumating ang opportunity tapos prepared ka."

He added: "I believe in preparation, I believe in hard work. I believe in God's good grace more than anything else."

Yet he considers himself a "gambler," we needed.

"Yeah, kasi everyday naman is a gamble," he countered. "That's why, I think in a way, I'm a gambler."

He later talked about the many gambles he took in life, including the time he did away with a love team and showbiz temporarily, in order to concentrate on his music for one year.

"Yun ang mga malalaking bagay na ginawa ko para sa sarili ko," he mused. "Yung banggain ko 'yung hindi normal (para sa akin). It worked."

Jericho does not believe juggling love and career always spells disaster as "nangyayari lang 'yon kapag may pinabayaan kang isa."

Through touchy times

While filming "Luck At First Sight" produced by Viva Films, Jericho's co-star, Bela Padilla, broke

off with the film's producer Neil Arce. But shooting went on as scheduled.

Jericho said, "Kaya nga saludo ako sa professionalism nila. Sa nakita ko sa kanila, they did great in handling the situation."

He gave unsolicited advice to couples who break up, saying, "Just respect the process of healing, of moving on and saving whatever you can save in a relationship or kung ano man ang natutunan ninyo sa isang tao. It will make you a better person."

Also, Jericho's dad died around the same time.

"Namatay siya while we were shooting a romantic scene in Bulacan. Hindi na ako humingi ng break, ibinigay na agad nila sa akin. So ako, I feel blessed to be involved in this project and the people I worked with."

After his dad's death, Jericho traveled with a buddy.

"Nag-long ride kami ng barkada ko. We did 1,800 kilometers in 72 hours on a motorcycle. Pinuntahan ko 'yung San Juanico Bridge kung saan nagpunta si Papa. Kinunan ko 'yung litrato. Iniyak ko lahat doon sa tulay. Bumalik ako ng Manila. I came back a better person, a stronger

person and understanding my father even more. Our family is better, medyo naka-move on na kami. Of course, we miss Papa, my source of adventure, my source of strength," he said. ■

New song for Sarah G



Sarah Geronimo

Multi-hyphenate star Sarah Geronimo has just released "Misteryo," the fourth single off her 2015 album "The Great Unknown

(TGU.)"

It sees her reunite with "Kilometro" songwriters Thyro Alfaro and Yumi Lacsamana. The song is a bombastic, electronic dance number perfect for heating up dance floors. Meanwhile, Viva has announced Geronimo's "The Great Unknown Live In Pampanga" concert on June 30.

The show will feature the singer performing unplugged versions of songs from the Platinum-selling album. ■

No wedding date yet for Erwan and Anne?



Erwan Heussaff and Anne Curtis-Smith

Filipino-French celebrity chef and entrepreneur Erwan Heussaff and actress Anne Curtis are engaged but they've not revealed when exactly they're tying the knot.

It was in 2011 when Anne admitted she and Erwan were a couple and reports about their engagement surfaced especially after Anne met with Erwan's parents.

Anyway, the newest about

Erwan is, he was recently named the brand ambassador of the noted international luggage and bags label, American Tourister. It's something he welcomed because he loves to travel, both for business and for leisure.

"I travel as much as possible," he said. "I get a little itchy and antsy when I stay in one place too long." ■

John Lloyd opens up about new movie with Sarah G



Sarah Geronimo & John Lloyd Cruz

They have already done several movies together but John Lloyd Cruz said working on his fourth film with Sarah Geronimo still feels like they are collaborating in a project for the first time.

The two are the lead stars of an upcoming Star Cinema film under the direction of Theodore Boborol and it will be their reunion movie since "It Takes a Man and a Woman" in 2013. "Para kaming parehong nangangapa ni Sarah. It's a celebration. It's a reunion film for me and Sarah pero wala 'yung isang aming partner in crime, wala si direk Cathy (Garcia Molina)," he said.

Cruz said Boborol uses a different "language" that gives him and Geronimo a fresh experience while filming.

"Si direk Ted, sobra naming nae-enjoy dahil ibang iba 'yung experience. Napakabago nung naibibigay at naibabahagi niya sa amin kaya enjoy kami sa shoot," he

said.

Boborol was the director of "Just the Way You Are" and "Vince and Kath and James."

Meanwhile, Cruz shared that his contract with ABS-CBN is about to expire this year and he wants to make the most out of it.

"Gusto kong masulit 'yung buong taon at ma-prioritize lahat ng kung ano man ang ipagkakatiwala sa atin ng Kapamilya network. Gusto ko muna ma-prioritize ang ating obligasyon," he said.

Cruz also took the opportunity to thank Gawad Tanglaw for his Presidential Jury Award for Best Film Performances.

"Maraming maraming salamat po. Mabuhay kayo. Napakaganda po ng ginagawa niyo para sa aming industriya. Huwag po sana kayo magsasawa sa pagtangkilik at pagsuporta sa aming mga taga pelikula at taga TV. Maraming salamat po Gawad Tanglaw," he said. ■

Filming starts for reunion movie of Piolo, Toni



Piolo Pascual with Toni Gonzaga

Piolo Pascual is more than excited for his fans to see his upcoming reunion movie with Toni Gonzaga, three years since they were paired in the blockbuster film "Starting Over Again."

More than two months since the project was announced, Pascual said the two of them have already started filming, which explains his new look.

"Nag-start na kami ni Tin last week ng bago naming pelikula kaya mukha akong ermitanyo. Kasi chronological kami so hindi ako pwede mag-shave hangga't hindi pa tapos 'yung kalahati ng pelikula. Kaya mahirap, mukha akong sanggano. Pero I am just really happy kasi direktso ang trabaho," he said.

Asked to give a hint about the story of the film and his role, Pascual said: "Hindi naman [ako bad boy dito], may pinagdadaan lang. It's not heavy, it's a rom-com. Maganda

'yung storya, it's something new."

In a previous interview, Gonzaga said her still-untitled movie with Pascual is something she did not expect.

"This project actually came out of nowhere. I was supposed to do a different movie and then all of a sudden, everything fell accordingly. Nangyari lahat 'yung mga schedule namin, the script is so beautiful, it's something that I wouldn't want to miss," she said.

Gonzaga said it is hard to compare this new film with "Starting Over Again."

"Sobrang iba. Actually hindi mo siya puwedeng paglapitin. Magkaibang genre. Hindi ko siya mae-elaborate lahat pero I've never been this excited to go back to doing movies nung nabasa ko yung script," she said.

No other details about the movie have been revealed. ■

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What made Gloria, Margie and Pia the most beautiful women in the universe?



Gloria Diaz, Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach & Margie Moran respectively Miss Universe 1969, 2015, 1973

When one becomes the most beautiful woman in the universe, certain qualities would stand out.

How she is adjudged as Miss Universe takes crucial factors—those that really bring out her best and quite emphatically, how that distinctiveness resonates on the judges, the live audience, and the millions of viewers who stay glued on the pageant.

Part of this is how she carries herself onstage, donning either a sexy swimsuit, a glamorous evening gown or that unmistakable national costume. But the most important factor is how she keeps herself composed and eventually utter that unforgettable response in the question-and-answer portion, one that will ultimately decide her fate. Although, in this year's Miss Universe, a new, final judging is based on her tangible, riveting overall "look" that will earn the crown.

In the near 65 years of the most prestigious beauty pageant in the world, three Filipinas have taken the stage, waving to everyone, bearing the crown and sash. And certainly, these three Filipinas have shown how they truly deserved the Miss Universe title in more ways than one—that distinct "x-factor" that truly wowed the judges and gripped the rest of the world.

Gloria Diaz

Those who witnessed the coronation of Gloria Diaz as the Philippines' first Miss Universe in 1969 at the Miami Beach Auditorium

in Miami Beach, Florida, truly experienced how the Filipina has confidently come of age on the global stage. As she strutted through that merciless gauntlet of the high-brow upper echelon of American society and Hollywood A-Listers, Gloria would seem undaunted and fearless. This became her hallmark—showing to the whole world that an Asian, a Filipina could be smarter, better poised, more self-assured, and best of all, the wittiest among the most gorgeous in the universe.

This was all so evident in her final response in the Q&A:

Asked "In the next day or so, a man will land on the moon. If a man from the moon landed in your hometown, what would you do to entertain him?"

She calmly answered without batting an eyelash, "Oh, just the things I do. I think he has been on the moon for so long, I think when he comes over, he wants to change, I guess."

Margie Moran

When Margie Moran took the crown four years after Gloria at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens, Greece, people were just enamored not only by her utter beauty but also by her enrapturing charm and empathy towards the people around her.

Yes, she did take the stage extravagantly with her awesome class, look and confidence, but it was her heart that stood out. It was quite apparent in the way she looks at everyone and at the cameras all with

an arresting yet warm smile that welcomes all within her sight.

This was much revealed in the Q&A when asked: "If you had a million dollars, what will you do with it?"

Margie answered. "I would buy a big house where I can live with all the people I love."

Not only was her answer touching and aspirational, it emphasized the wonder of the Philippine culture: the deeply rooted love for family.

Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach

With Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach's breathtaking and impressive ascent to the Miss Universe crown at The AXIS in Las Vegas, Nevada in December 2015, it was all encapsulated with the phrase, "confidently beautiful with a heart." In fact, her defining statement truly was

what Miss Universe was all about and she lived it.

From the preliminaries to the main pageant itself, Pia just wowed everyone with her beauty and elegance as she sashayed with that stunning evening gown, luscious swimwear and exquisite national costume. The way she carried herself throughout the competition made her truly a winner, especially with that dazzling face and that adorable smile.

But her defining moment came when she was asked two questions and answered each of them with great candor, confidence and passion. Asked about having US military bases in the Philippines:

Pia said: "I think that the US and Philippines have always had a good relationship with each other. We were colonized by the Americans and we have their culture and traditions even up to this day. I think we are very welcoming with the Americans and I don't see any problem with that at all."

And why she should be Miss Universe:

"To be a Miss Universe is an honor and a responsibility. If I were to be Miss Universe, I will use my voice to influence the youth and I would raise awareness to certain causes like HIV awareness to certain causes like HIV awareness that is timely and relevant to my country, which is the Philippines. I want to show the world that I am confidently beautiful with a heart."

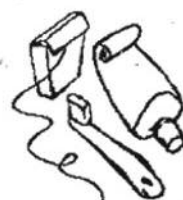
And even if the host had made that awful mistake of announcing a different winner, her eventual coronation had been one incredible validation.

Gloria, Margie, and Pia are truly the pride of the country—not only as representations of the incredible beauty of the Filipina but also by being the most amazing and inspiring unique individuals—one deserving "x-factor" to becoming the most beautiful person in the universe. ■

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CPR Course by CPR Experts instructor Mitch Zeitlin standing beside Zenaida Kharroubi, Director-General & Founder, Gilmore College International. Photo taken on April 15, 2017 by Sophie Toledo.



Souvenir photo of Batch 10 PAB/PSW Nursing aide graduates at the La Cucina Restaurant on Sherbrooke West, October 2011 (Photo: Budz Sarmiento)



Gilmore College International provides immigrants the tools for a successful career change. The training and the skills that I learned gave me the confidence to work as a nursing aide. Adele Lascano (October 2009 graduate)



The knowledge and skills I learned at Gilmore College gave me the edge to work in the health care field where one needs to show willingness to render service to the sick and the elderly. (Ethel Tugna, March 2011 graduate)