

# COMELEC declares Osdon as winner in FAMAS presidential election dispute

by W.G.Quiambao

Once more, the saying that "The power of a woman can not be underestimated" is true. Aurora Osdon of the Mabuhay Team holds the distinction of being the first FAMAS president to serve the association three times - 1987, 2009 and 2011. Although Osdon and Cesar Manuel of the Samahang Makabayan Party garnered 762 and 831 votes, respectively, Osdon was declared as winner of the election. Osdon won due to the implementation of the 150-vote deduction from Manuel's total votes because of the violation of COMELEC Rules and Regulations.

The last election was marred by allegations of violations of the COMELEC election Rules and Regulations. Some of the allegations and accusations were posted on the FAMAS website by followers of Osdon and Manuel. From the beginning, the COMELEC was accused by SMP



COMELEC Chair Budz Sarmiento with volunteer poll clerks Myrna Maranan-Francisco (left) and Carmen Zaballa.

supporters of conniving with Osdon when the election venue was moved from Mackenzie King Park to St. Kevin's social hall. The idea, according to them, was for the MT to discourage the voters from going to the polls. Bernardo Sarmiento, chairman of the COMELEC, vehemently denied the accusation.

Meanwhile, a list of five violations of COMELEC Rules and Regulations committed by the SMP was lodged by Shinette Khoury, incumbent vice president and campaign manager of the MT, with the COMELEC on July 20. The violations included: Dick Dahiroc, a supporter of Manuel, made a ribald and chauvinistic comment about Osdon; Dante Tabamo commented that "we should keep the center more open as it is often closed.;" six people claimed that they were offered by the SMP to pay for their registrations; Amelia Lelis,

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## Jack Layton, NDP Leader, 61, Succumbs to Cancer

(The Canadian Press)  
 OTTAWA — Jack Layton's untimely death from cancer Monday left a gaping hole in Canada's political landscape.

In a poignant letter written on his death bed, the NDP leader tried to assure Canadians that his party is more than a one-man show, that it will survive, even thrive, in his absence.

But even Layton's characteristic optimism couldn't mask the magnitude of the challenge now facing New Democrats.

Gone is the familiar, cheerful, mustachioed presence whose just-folks appeal propelled the NDP to official Opposition status in last May's election, a historic high for Canada's perpetual third party.

Gone is the popular leader on whom New Democrats had pinned their hopes of finally vaulting into



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# Editorial

## When do we follow rules?

History seems to repeat itself in the Philippine community.

A few years ago, a similar controversy over the results of the election became a long-standing feud that resulted in expensive legal battles. In the end, there was no winner. Just like most court cases, the only winners are lawyers who charge high legal fees. FAMAS was saddled with unpaid bills for quite a while until Au Osdon and her executive board came to be the administration that made significant changes. For the first time in many years, FAMAS has financial statements that showed being in the black. Of course, the job was not done by one person alone. Many volunteers helped out. But it cannot be denied that Au Osdon has carried her duties with unselfish devotion, regardless of sharp criticisms from her detractors. Now that Comelec has declared her and most of her team as the official winners in this year's election, she has been unnecessarily subjected to so much pressure from all sides - both for and against the decision of Comelec to issue a 150-vote deduction against the team that broke the rules.

In trying to make people understand the problem, we would like to ask the following questions: Why do we need to have a Comelec to oversee an election? Why are rules and procedures necessary in conducting any type of activity, whether it is football, hockey, or any type of competition? When do we follow rules? Do we choose to follow them when they suit our goals, and ignore them when they don't? If rules are broken, do we not expect the penalties prescribed by the

rules? When one committed a crime which was not discovered right away, will this prevent the authorities from prosecuting the criminal?

All of the problems we are facing now could have been avoided had there been a strict adherence to the rules.

The FAMAS Executive Board exercised its prerogative to appoint the Comelec. If the candidates did not want to accept the rules set up by this body, why did they not say so at the very beginning and refuse to sign their certificates of candidacy?

A lot has been said already and we need not say more. Poisoned darts have been going around in various e-mails and websites. But it seems necessary to remind people to use some self-control and avoid using foul language in communicating with one another. We should show some respect, whether or not we agree with somebody's opinion.

We are not going to participate in name calling, nor are we willing to be dragged into character assassinations. All we want is to focus on the real issue of this controversy which is not following the rules. It should not be focused on anything else for the problem really started from the violation of a rule which unfortunately proved to be unfavorable.

Considering that no one has anything to gain from continuing this divisive activities, let true leadership emerge which requires having a backbone and making tough decisions.

True leadership is not a popularity contest but it is a matter of accepting responsibility and recognizing

## Opinion Editorial by Hon. Irwin Cotler, MP The Philippines and the Combating of the Culture of Impunity

Yesterday, the Senate of the Philippines voted to ratify the Treaty for an International Criminal Court (ICC) – otherwise known as the Rome Statute – and the Philippines will officially ratify the statute at the United Nations in New York. This move is a triumph for accountability and international justice, and a blow against the culture of impunity worldwide, as the ICC is the most dramatic development in international criminal law – in developing a culture of prevention and deterrence – since World War II.

The path to Philippine ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC has been long and complex. One of the groups responsible for this advance – Parliamentarians for Global Action, of which I used to serve as President of the Canadian chapter – has led the advocacy for Philippine ratification for many years. Current PGA President and Chair of International Council, Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, an MP from Suriname, commented that: "The Senate of the Philippines vote of concurrence on the ICC Ratification Bill ... is to be warmly welcomed. I wish to applaud my PGA colleagues in the Senate of the Philippines, in particular Senators Miriam Defensor Santiago and Senator Loren Legarda for their extraordinary determination in bringing about this landmark day for the Philippines. This decision is of even greater importance, to the extent that the Asian sub-region continues to be under-represented within the ICC system".

Commenting also on this development, Dep. Alain Destexhe



(Belgium), Convener of the PGA International Law & Human Rights Program stated "From here in Rwanda, a country that has experienced among the worst atrocities known to the international community, I have just learnt that the Senate of the Philippines has given its concurrence to the ICC Ratification Bill. This represents a genuine moment of victory, not only for the Philippines and its people but also for the international community which has embraced the ICC as a vital international organ in combating impunity around the globe. I salute the Senate of the Philippines in taking this important step".

Another key player in ensuring this advance for the rule of law is the Coalition for the ICC in Asia, and in the Philippines in particular, whose tireless efforts and instrumental supportive role have borne fruit. Civil society actors – although often fighting uphill - kept the flame of hope alive, steadfast in the belief that one

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day their unwavering commitment would bear fruit.

Initially, the post-WWII Nuremberg/Tokyo Tribunals inspired the hope that a Permanent International Tribunal with global jurisdiction would be established — and indeed an ICC was first proposed some 60 years ago. However, it took the globalized horror of the killing fields of the nineties — the horror of Bosnia; the agony of Rwanda; the brutalized women and children of Sierra Leone and Sudan; and the emergence of the unthinkable, ethnic cleansing, and the unspeakable, genocide, to give the idea of an international criminal court the moral compellability and sense of urgency that it warrants.

What distinguishes the international criminal court from ad hoc tribunals is that the ICC is the first permanent international tribunal with a global jurisdiction to try individuals for criminal violations of international humanitarian law. Accordingly, unlike the International Court of Justice, whose contentious jurisdiction is restricted to states, the ICC has juridical authority to indict individuals from any global killing field; and unlike the ad hoc character of the Yugoslavian and Rwandan war crimes tribunals, the jurisdiction of the ICC — from the moment it takes effect for a given state party — and soon the Philippines — will not be chronologically or geographically limited

**IRWIN COTLER ON THE DEATH OF JACK LAYTON: CANADA HAS LOST "A GREAT PARLIAMENTARIAN"**

MONTREAL, August 22nd, 2011 – The Honourable Irwin Cotler, MP (Mount Royal) expressed his deep sorrow at today's passing of Jack Layton, Leader of the Opposition. Said Cotler, "Canada has lost a great Parliamentarian, public servant, and advocate for social justice. Our thoughts and prayers are with Olivia and the Layton family at this difficult time".

Cotler revealed that he and Layton shared a bond that formed when both men realized their fathers had battled prostate cancer. "When Jack initially announced his illness — and in discussion with him it came out that both our fathers had dealt with this

The ICC Treaty and corresponding implementing legislation will serve to institutionalize and internationalize the Nuremberg Legacy; work to end the culture of impunity; help deter international crimes while protecting international peace and security; counter the failure of national systems to bring war criminals to justice; provide enforcement mechanisms and thereby overcome one of the main failings of international law; underpin state responsibility to prosecute, or to extradite for purposes of prosecution, any individuals in their territory who are accused of international crimes of genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity; and will help protect the most vulnerable of persons in armed conflict: women, children, refugees and the like.

In a word, the ICC Treaty is a wake-up call and a warning to criminal human rights violators everywhere: there will be no safe havens, no base or sanctuary for the enemies of humankind. The Philippines should be lauded for this tremendous step towards international justice and for joining the family of nations supporting the International Criminal Court.

**Irwin Cotler is the Member of Parliament for Mount Royal and the former President of Canadian Branch of Parliamentarians for Global Action and a long-time advocate for the establishment of an international criminal court.**

disease — he said 'My father beat it, and I will beat it'".

Cotler continued, "He was a person of uncommon courage and determination. Even with the news of his new diagnosis, I believed and hoped, that once again, he would prevail".

Cotler praised Layton's political and Parliamentary prowess, saying, "Jack was a consummate Parliamentarian. People may not realize how often he would define the narrative of the day in the House and then take it to the public square. He had a unique talent to articulate the anxieties and hopes of ordinary Canadians, who came to know and love him as 'Jack'. It was a privilege to serve in the House with him and to witness his indomitable spirit. We shall not see the likes of him again".

Contact: 514-283-0171

**COOPERATIVE NEWS**  
**Coop's general assembly postponed to October 16**



From left: Desirée Fernando, Jennifer Lachica, Zenaida Kharroubi, Magnolia Camat, Ben Bade, Sophie Toledo, Au Osdon, Lina Fernandez, and Joanne Junio, Beaver Lake, Aug. 21/11. Other members who came but not in the above photo were: Ramon Vicente, Ester Vicente, Jojie Perez, Zeny and Danny Garcia. Guests were: Maggie & Benjie Calcetas.

In spite of the rain, we still went ahead with the picnic at Beaver Lake Park. Using borrowed big umbrellas from Cuisine de Manille, we were able to have a picnic with some members and directors of the Coop. The rain stopped for a while later in the day and we were able to have a short meeting but due to the absence of many members, the election of new directors could not be held. It was decided to hold the assembly indoors and use the headquarters of Gilmore College on 5320-A Queen Mary Road on Sunday, October 16, 2011 at 2 p.m.

We are able to produce two financial statements, 2009 to 2010, which we will present to the next assembly. They both showed deficits

due to low sales, and high costs of merchandise. One of the reasons for the high cost is due to the slow inventory turnover, hence, the product expiration necessitates clearing stock at a low price, even below the cost. If members can be reminded to shop even twice a month, the stock can be more quickly sold and definitely will make a huge difference in the profitability of the Coop.

When we can establish a more regular hours of business, Ester Vicente is willing to remind members to come and shop at the Coop. We hope to do so in a month or two.

Zenaida Kharroubi

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who was at the time in the Philippines, complained that her name was registered without her authorization; Lina Flores, a SMP candidate, handed flyers of SMP line-up to Nora Dulla during moratorium..

Since the COMELEC found that there were no sufficient grounds or evidence presented by Khoury on the first four charges, the accused were not found guilty. However, Flores was found guilty of violations on the fifth charge

On the strength of Dulla's testimony, the COMELEC found Flores guilty for having violated Section 10 and 11, Article VI of the FAMAS Rules and Regulations and Procedures. Flores distributed campaign materials on July 10, a date covered by the moratorium period and was outside of the campaign period. The campaign period would not start until 12:00 a.m., July 16.

Flores argued that Khoury's complaints should not have been heard because Khoury failed to abide by the 48-hour rule limitation as set forth in Sec. 1, Article X of the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures. The COMELEC, however, believes that mere technicality must not be allowed to prevail upon common sense and more importantly, upon what is just and right. It will be a travesty of justice if we let the accused to get off scot-free and worse yet, it may encourage, rather than discourage, the others to commit the same or similar violations.

COMELEC member Andrea Neufeld said, "If we pass down the penalties as cautiously decided, a) we will show the community that we're serious about correcting violations and thus are setting a precedent as a COMELEC to show the community we're serious about helping bring about change, b) SMP will be mad, no doubt, but 48 hour rule or not, they VIOLATED THE RULES! And now they want to hide behind a technicality? To me, that is an admission of guilt.

I think it is right to deal out a penalty to Lina Flores - SMP must be taught that this COMELEC does not stand for shady games and less than honest behaviour. I believe that 'breaking the rules' in the case of this technicality will champion this COMELEC more than harm us."

COMELEC member Teresita Calica opines, "For me the time element is not a valid ground to dismiss the complaint. It is very clear that Lina Flores has violated one of the election rules and regulations. Such fraud destroys the sanctity of the ballot and takes away the trust of the voting public. We, the COMELEC, as guardian of democratic governance should discourage such actions and punish those who are found guilty by implementing the Election Rules and Regulations. It must also be stressed that our Mission is to conduct honest, fair and peaceful elections but how can this be attained if the guilty is not accused because of mere technicality. If this happens now, then it will happen again in the future?"

We have announced publicly during the hearing that we don't want to disqualify anybody. Therefore, I suggest that penalty be imposed on the candidates of the Samahang Makabayan Party."

COMELEC vice chair Ricardo Ribaya has this to say, "Ms. Lina Flores made a mockery of the moratorium period for campaigning. The severity of this violation cannot be taken lightly or be simply dismissed because of technicality and therefore deserves a penalty. Let us carry on with what we believe is right."

Ms. Cynthia Puray stamped her seal of approval on this decision as well. She said: "It is very clear that there was a violation as per COMELEC Rules and Regulations."

The bone of contention was the severity or leniency of the penalty. Was the deduction of 150 votes from each candidate fair or not enough?

COMELEC explained that Under Section 1 of Article XX1 Penalties and Complaints, Ms. Flores is penalized as follows: One hundred fifty (150) votes will be deducted from the total number of votes she will garner in the election of August 14. Furthermore, since the rest of her slate most likely benefited from the illegal campaigning, the same amount of votes will also be deducted from the respective total votes of each one of her running mates from the presidential candidate to the last directorial candidate."

COMELEC added that Section 1 - Contravening the election rules outlined above and those sections of the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws relating to Qualifications of the

Executive Board and the COMELEC may result in penalties or disqualification. The COMELEC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ISSUE MULTIPLE STRIKES or NON-STANDARD PENALTIES where applicable.

"All the candidates were given the Election Rules and Regulations," said James de la Paz, president of Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec. "I'm sure they read it. If the SMP advisors know all the laws like what they are posting now, if there is anything that the SMP candidates did not agree with the rules and regulations because it is undemocratic, they should have brought it to the attention of the COMELEC then. Instead, they signed the Certificate of Candidacy that they abide by the Rules and Regulations of the COMELEC. They are adults. Nobody forced them to sign the Certificate of Candidacy. And now they are complaining, after violating the rules and regulations. If the situation has been reversed, I am sure the group will impose the same rules."

Although neither Osdon nor Manuel used the FAMAS website or email to express their opinions, their ardent supporters did.

Khoury emailed an emotional and vitriolic message to her former friend, Julie Parado, now a supporter of SMP: "Let me remind you that none of this would be happening if SMP followed the rules and did not violate Election Rules and Regulations by distributing flyers at Long Sault. Others saw it, too. Do you want to further embarrass yourself and your team if more witnesses start to come out? Never mind all the other allegations I filed pertaining to "vote buying" which you yourself condemned in the 2009 election when you called the police after seeing Albert Floresca's team buying votes. And now, you close your eyes? Just because it is your team. You can fabricate, you can continue to believe your own truth and if I can argue with you till I turn blue. I know I cannot change you. Your truth dictates that Au Osdon is evil, ratification is bogus, COMELEC is our ally, etc. What next? And you ranted hours and hours on the phone with me for years talking about your services to the community; so this is your definition of service?"

Elizabeth Raquel, a former friend of Flores, wrote: "May I remind

you Lina Flores that whatever you were accused of and penalized by the COMELEC, I was not there to witness. But, during the election in 2009, when we ran as team mates under Chris Bautista's banner with our famous slogan, "Honesty is the Best Policy", you called our team for an emergency meeting only for you to announce that "we should buy votes."

Mercy Umipig Sia, SMP candidate, was quick to refute Raquel's story.

Felix Reyes, another supporter of SMP, emailed August 10, with a carbon copy to a number of Filipinos, "The incident happened in Long Sault, Ont. which is beyond the perimeter of the Filipino enclave in Montreal, Que. Long Sault, Ont. is a 2-hr highway drive from Montreal, Que., which is approximately a 200 km-distance. What happened in Long Sault, Ont. stays in Long Sault, Ont. only. Period"

A supporter of MT could not help shaking his head, "I don't know where Felix got that argument. All the people involved - the accused, the witness, and accuser are from Quebec. Does he know what he is talking about? Question mark!"

But Alia Rasul, candidate of Mabuhay Team said it all, "I appeal to every one that rather than let the bumps in the road polarize us, let's all come together in peace and fix it. Let's not waste precious time and energy in pointing fingers and instead, move towards progress."

Note: As of this writing, the dispute about the election results is still unresolved.

Please take note that there were 2,586 in the official list of eligible voters posted on the FAMAS website and the FAMAS Bulletin Board. More than 100 names were added to that list as people with official receipts of registration came to have their names entered into the registry.

About 1,000 voters did not go to the polls. The question of many community members are: Who are these people and why did they not vote? COMELEC presumes that these people are: those who knew that their registrations were paid for but boycotted the election because of the change of venue and people who knew that their registrations were paid but did not vote because they did not like the idea of vote buying.

### OFFICIAL FAMAS ELECTION RESULTS

Position	Candidate's Name	Party Affiliation	Total Votes	Vote Deduction	Net Votes	Remarks
President	Au Osdon	Mabuhay Team	762		762	Elected
	Cesar Manuel	Samahang Makabayan	831	150	681	
Vice-Pres. Internal	Alexander Sy	Mabuhay Team	720		720	Elected
	Dante Tabamo	Samahang Makabayan	765	150	615	
Vice-Pres. External	Gene Santander	Mabuhay Team	791		791	Elected
	Mel Domingo	Samahang Makabayan	708	150	558	
Secretary	Melle Lugod	Mabuhay Team	718		718	Elected
	Tracy Alarcon	Samahang Makabayan	607	150	457	
Treasurer	Ramon Vicente	Mabuhay Team	747		747	Elected
	Lina Flores	Samahang Makabayan	706	150	556	
Auditor	Alia Ceniza Rasul	Mabuhay Team	651		651	Elected
	Cely Dagsaan	Samahang Makabayan	747	150	597	
Accountant	Agnes Calgo	Mabuhay Team	694		694	Elected
	Jhun Zapanta	Samahang Makabayan	714	150	564	
PRO	Al Abdon	Mabuhay Team	734		734	Elected
	Julius Abad	Samahang Makabayan	709	150	559	

From Page 1 Jack Layton dies

government in the next election. Gone is the glue that has held disparate elements of the largely rookie NDP caucus together.

Gone is the federal leader with whom Canadians consistently told pollsters they'd most like to have a beer.

What remains is a staggered party facing formidable challenges and an enduring mystery about what actually caused Layton's death beyond the "new cancer" he referred to last month. Those questions were diverted to his grieving family.

Within moments of the Layton family issuing a statement early Monday announcing his death, the twitterverse was swamped with an outpouring of grief. Within a couple of hours, Canadians began leaving flowers and notes outside Layton's Toronto home and at the Centennial Flame on Parliament Hill, where the flag on the Peace Tower was lowered to half mast.

"R.I.P. Jack. You were our HOPE," said one message attached to a bouquet of red roses.

Condolences poured in from political friends and enemies alike.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Layton will be remembered "for the force of his personality and his dedication to public life."

"We have lost an engaging personality and a man of strong principle."

Harper, a piano player, recounted how he and Layton, a guitarist, had talked about playing together one day but never found the time.

"I will always regret the jam session that never was. That is a reminder that we must always make time for friends, family and loved ones, while we still can."

Liberal Leader Bob Rae said Layton, both in his work as a Toronto city councillor and a federal MP, "leaves a powerful legacy of a commitment to social justice." A one-time New Democrat and premier of Ontario before joining the Liberals, Rae said he and Layton always remained friends despite their political differences.

"Sometimes the world has a way of breaking your heart. I think a lot of us feel that way today," Rae said.

NDP officials could not bear to contemplate Monday how they'll fill the void left by Layton's death at just

61 years of age.

Party president Brian Topp, a close friend and longtime senior adviser to Layton, said the NDP federal council will take time to grieve before meeting to discuss the process of choosing a successor.

"I don't expect we will get to that for an appropriate period of time, certainly not until next week," he said.

But Layton himself had no such qualms about confronting the cruel realities facing his party, which rebranded itself as "Jack Layton's NDP" for last spring's election.

Ever practical, he penned a letter to Canadians on Saturday -- just over a day before his death -- in which he took pains to assure voters that the NDP's electoral success in May was not a flash in the pan.

He urged his party to waste no time choosing a successor, recommending that a leadership vote be held "as early as possible in the new year ... so that our new leader has ample time to reconsolidate our team, renew our party and our program, and move forward towards the next election."

Layton tacitly acknowledged that his death will cause an upheaval in the federal political sphere, potentially stalling the NDP's recent momentum and giving new life to the moribund Liberals, who were reduced to a third-party rump on May 2.

Addressing his NDP colleagues, he wrote: "There will be those who will try to persuade you to give up our cause. But that cause is much bigger than any one leader."

"Answer them by recommitting with energy and determination to our work. ... Let's continue to move forward. Let's demonstrate in everything we do in the four years before us that we are ready to serve our beloved Canada as its next government."

Addressing Canadians, Layton emphasized the NDP team, predicting his 102 MPs will prove themselves to be a "compelling new alternative" to the ruling Conservatives and urging voters to "give them a careful hearing."

He had some words specifically for Quebecers, who triggered the so-called orange wave that swept across the country in May. Enchanted by "le bon Jack," Quebecers handed the party 59 of the province's 75 seats even though many New Democrat candidates were complete unknowns, some of whom

could not speak French and had never visited the ridings they now represent.

"You made the right decision then; it is still the right decision today; and it will be the right decision right through to the next election," Layton told Quebecers, calling his largely rookie Quebec MPs "a superb team."

Layton crafted the letter with the help of Topp, his wife, MP Olivia Chow, and his chief of staff, Anne McGrath.

During her last conversation with him on Saturday, McGrath said Layton was insistent that the coming leadership convention must be "motivating and energetic and something that would help with building the party and the movement."

McGrath acknowledged it's "going to be a challenge" to fill Layton's shoes. But she said he's leaving the party with some strong "underlying fundamentals" -- a revitalized fundraising machine and a growing membership.

"I think the key thing ... has got to be that we remember who he was and what he stood for and try and do what he wants us to do, which is to make sure that his legacy is one of building."

Topp railed at the injustice of Layton being felled by cancer before he could enjoy the fruits of eight long years of labouring to bring the NDP from the political wilderness to the brink of potential power.

"It is very unfair that, having gone so far and done so much, he doesn't have a chance to carry it forward," he said, echoing the sentiment of most New Democrats.

Still, Topp said New Democrats must adopt Layton's "hopefulness and his optimism" -- the qualities that endeared him to Canadians.

"Although no one can replace Jack Layton, we can continue his work. He taught us a lesson there that we will not forget about what it is that the people of Canada are looking for and it's an alternative to angry and small politics. And that's what Jack Layton was all about. He was about offering something bigger."

Another leader might adopt Layton's strategy but it's difficult to imagine any of his potential successors -- such as Montreal MP Thomas Mulcair, Vancouver MP Libby Davies and Ottawa MP Paul Dewar -- matching Layton's sheer likeability.

His ability to connect with average folk was reflected in the coast-

to-coast outpouring of grief that followed the early Monday statement from Layton's family.

"We deeply regret to inform you that The Honourable Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada, passed away at 4:45 am today, Monday August 22," said the statement from his wife, Olivia Chow, and two children, Sarah and Michael.

"He passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by family and loved ones."

A funeral service is expected to be held Saturday at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall. It is still unclear whether there will be any state involvement in the funeral for the leader of the official Opposition.

However, the family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the recently announced Broadbent Institute, a left-leaning think-tank.

Donations can be made online at [www.ndp.ca/inmemory](http://www.ndp.ca/inmemory). Canadians can also offer condolences online at [www.ndp.ca](http://www.ndp.ca).

Layton's death came a month after he appeared at a news conference, looking frail and gaunt, to announce he was suffering from a new, unspecified cancer and would temporarily step down as party leader and head of the official Opposition.

Rookie Quebec MP Nycole Turmel took over within days, but the caucus and party all expressed hope for Layton's quick return to health.

It was not to be.

Layton had been diagnosed with prostate cancer in early 2010, but continued a crowded schedule while getting treatment. He suffered a hip fracture just before the start of the spring campaign but it was surgically repaired. He leaned on a cane during the campaign, but seemed as full of energy and optimism as ever.

Toward the end of June, however, Layton began experiencing pain and stiffness. His condition swiftly deteriorated, leaving the once fit and athletic Layton looking emaciated and frail within just a few weeks.

The last federal political leader to die in office was Andre-Gilles Fortin, who was killed in a 1977 car crash eight months after becoming leader of the now-defunct Social Credit.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was leader of the Liberals at the time of his death in 1919. Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first prime minister, died in office shortly after winning re-election in 1891.

Official FAMAS Election Results (continued)			Total			
Position	Name	Team	Votes	Deduction	Net Votes	Remarks
Director, Membership	Gina Medina	Mabuhay	796		796	Elected
	Elmer Manila	S. Makabayan	701	150	551	
Director, ESCA	Debbie Resurreccion	Mabuhay	807		807	Elected
	Alfred Neil Castro	S. Makabayan	548	150	398	
Director, Sports Youth	Christine Gevero	Mabuhay	654		654	
	Mercy Umipig Sia	S. Makabayan	832	150	682	Elected
Director, Outreach	Joan Junio	Mabuhay	809		809	Elected
	Renato Tejeros S.	Makabayan	650	150	500	
Director, Spec. Proj.	Rose Marie Arellano	Mabuhay	738		738	Elected
	Ruben Majaducon	S. Makabayan	706	150	556	

# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

EarthTalk®

E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: The U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to strip the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its authority over state water quality. Why did they do this, what are the ramifications and what do leading green groups have to say about it? -- Joseph Emory, York, PA

The legislation in question, the Clean Water Cooperative Federalism Act of 2011 (H.R. 2018), passed the House of Representatives this past July with strong support from Republicans and will likely be voted on by the Senate in the Fall. It aims to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) in order to give authority over water quality standards back to the states.

The bill's backers—including most House Republicans and lobbyists for the mountaintop coal mining industry and factory animal farms—claim it will bring jobs to Appalachia and other distressed regions of the country where they say economic growth has been crippled by stringent environmental regulations. The bill would prevent the EPA from overruling decisions made by state regulatory agencies.

"By second-guessing and inserting itself into the states'...standards and permitting decisions, EPA has upset the long-standing balance between federal and state partners in regulating the nation's waters, and undermined the system of cooperative federalism established under the CWA in which the primary responsibilities for water pollution control are allocated to the states," says GOP.gov, the website of the Republican majority in Congress. "EPA's actions have created an atmosphere of regulatory uncertainty for the regulated community, and have had a chilling effect on the nation's economy and job creation."

But those opposed to the bill, including the White House and many Congressional Democrats, say that its provisions would undermine stringent federal water quality protections some four decades in the making.

"H.R. 2018 could limit efforts to safeguard communities by removing the Federal Government's authority to take action when State water quality standards are not protective of public health," said the White House after the bill passed in the House by a count of 239-184. Such changes, they added, could adversely impact public health and the environment through increased pollution and degradation of water

bodies that provide drinking water, recreation and tourism opportunities, and habitat for fish and wildlife.

For their part, environmental groups couldn't agree more. "Make no mistake: This bill would take the environmental cop off the beat and put at risk drinking water for millions of people, the habitat for scores of wildlife, and the jobs and economic growth that depends on a safer, cleaner environment," said Larry Schweiger of the non-profit National Wildlife Federation, adding that, if enacted, the bill would take us "back to a time when rivers caught fire because of rampant pollution."

Environmentalists are optimistic that backers won't have enough Senate votes to pass the bill. Meanwhile, President Obama has pledged to veto any such legislation that does make its way across his desk. But political winds shift quickly



The Cuyahoga River on fire in 1952. When it happened again in 1969 it helped kick start the modern environmental movement including the establishment of the Clean Water Act and the founding of the EPA.

inside the Beltway, and only time will tell if the bill will gain enough support to withstand a veto. The quality of the nation's water supply hangs in the balance.

CONTACTS: H.R. 2018, [www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-2018](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h112-2018); U.S. EPA, [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov); GOP.gov, [www.gop.gov](http://www.gop.gov); National Wildlife Federation, [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).

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Dear EarthTalk: I love to cook and when I have the time I make soups, stews and pasta meals in large batches and freeze them. I use leftover plastic containers, but I know this is not good. What kinds of containers are safe for freezer food storage? --

Kathy Roberto, via e-mail

Reusing leftover plastic food containers to store items in the freezer may be noble environmentally, but it might not be wise from the perspective of keeping food safely frozen and tasting its best when later heated up and served. Many such containers are designed for one-time

use and then recycling, so it's not worth risking using them over and over. Likewise, wax paper, bread wrappers and cardboard cartons should not be used to store frozen foods; these types of containers don't provide enough of a barrier to moisture and odors and also may not keep food fresh when frozen.



Freezing foods in plastic containers isn't as worrisome as heating them, but if you're leery of plastic, glass containers designed to withstand large temperature extremes, such as Ball Jars (aka Mason jars), like the one pictured here, or anything made by Pyrex, can be a sensible alternative. Just be sure not to load them to the brim as some foods expand when frozen. Credit: Johnhunder, Wikipedia

Luckily though, many other materials are suitable for use as freezer-safe storage containers, at least according to the National Center for Home Food Preparation. To qualify as "freezer-safe," the Georgia-based non-profit maintains, food storage containers must resist moisture-vapor, oil, grease and water as well as brittleness and cracking at low temperatures, while being durable, leak-proof and easy-to-seal. They must also protect foods from absorption of off-flavors or odors. "Good freezing materials include rigid containers made of aluminum, glass, plastic, tin or heavily waxed cardboard; bags and sheets of moisture-vapor resistant wraps; and laminated papers made specially for freezing," reports the group.

As to the leaking of unsafe constituent chemicals (BPA, phthalates, etc.) from certain plastics into foods, freezing is generally less of a threat than heating, but it is better to avoid plastics known to be problematic anyway just to be safe. Polycarbonate plastic, marked with #7, contains BPA while polyvinyl chloride, marked with #3, contains potentially harmful phthalates. If a plastic item does not bear a recycling number on its bottom, steer clear as it may well be a mix,

which classifies it as a #7 polycarbonate.

Of course, the majority of plastic containers designed for freezer use are safe and, since they can be washed and reused, are a better choice than disposable freezer bags and wraps. For those still leery of using plastic at all, glass containers designed to withstand large temperature extremes, such as Ball Freezing Jars (Mason jars) or anything made by Pyrex—regular glass containers could break when frozen or if thawed too quickly—can be a sensible alternative. Also, beware of loading up glass containers to the brim before freezing; some foods expand when frozen so leaving a little extra room between the top of the food and the bottom of the (airtight) lid is always a good idea.

However you store your frozen delicacies, keep in mind that freezing food may inactivate microbes like bacteria and mold but may not destroy them. According to dietician and author Elaine Magee on the MedicineNet website, just thawing out frozen foods doesn't necessarily mean they are automatically safe to eat. Foods that require cooking still require cooking for health's sake after thawing. Also, Magee recommends quickly labeling and dating any foods you are freezing to facilitate purging of potentially spoiled or tasteless food down the line.



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## Any Which Way ...

Bernardo "Budz" Sarmiento  
berniesarmiento@hotmail.com

### St. Kevin's Church binaboy ng mga lasinggero

Nasindak ang administrador ng simbahang St. Kevin nang makita n'ya ang ininwanang basura (mga basyo ng beer, mga upos ng sigarilyo at kung anu-ano pa) ng mga lasinggero ng kumunidad noong ika-14 ng Agosto, gabi ng eleksyon. Diumano, ang naturang mga lasinggero ay mga supporter ni Cesar Manuel ng Samahang Makabayan. Ayon pa sa balita, nagsisigawan daw ang mga nag-iinuman na parang nag-aaway na ikinabahala naman ng mga nakatira sa paligid ng simbahan.

Sa tindi ng galit ng nasabing administrador, pinadalan n'ya ng sulat ang walang kamalay-malay na pangulo ng FAMAS. Palibhasa'y pangulo ng asosasyon, si Au Osdon ang napagbuntunan ng galit ng naturang tagapamahala. Kahit kailan daw ay hindi n'ya ipagagamit sa FAMAS ang kanyang simbahan. Hindi ako sang-ayon doon pero that's another story for another time.

Iyan na nga ba ang ikinabahala ng maraming miembro ng ating kumunidad na pag nalukluk sa puwesto ang grupong iyan, tiyak na babalik sa dating malagim na kalagayan ang FAMAS Center. Magmimistulang night club na naman ang lugar at muling magiging marumi, amoy-sigarilyo at mapalot. Sayang ang pinagpaguran nina Au at Shinette sa loob ng dalawang taon.

**OGERIO SYNONYMOUS TO ILLEGAL INDUCTION** – One of the obligations that Cesar Manuel agreed to be bound when he filed his certificate of candidacy last June is to abide by the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws and the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures. He can't deny it because he signed it.

The certificate of candidacy

that he signed also states that if he violates that condition and any of the other conditions, he is risking disqualification or removal from office.

When he allowed a non-COMELEC member like Angie Ogerio to induct him not only for ceremonial purposes but also to install him into office, he violated one of the conditions set forth in his certificate of candidacy. I don't mean to rain on Cesar Manuel's parade but Ogerio's action is illegal and not binding. She usurped what is supposed to be a prerogative of the COMELEC. By partaking in that illegal induction, Cesar and the other candidates became accessories or conspirators.

#### **NO VOTERS WERE DISENFRANCHISED**

– Despite the insistence of the supporters of the Samahang Makabayan, 150 voters were not disenfranchised in the last FAMAS election because they were allowed to exercise their right to vote in the first place. Once those voters had cast their votes in favour of those penalized candidates, those votes belonged to said candidates already and, therefore, could be taken away from them for cause. That's what happened when Lina Flores jumped the gun and campaigned prematurely. That 150-vote penalty is the consequence of the gross violation that Ms. Flores, the Samahang Makabayan's candidate for treasurer, committed during the campaign moratorium. If she didn't break the rule, there wouldn't have been any penalty. Due to the grossness of the infraction, the COMELEC decided that it did not fall under standard penalty mentioned in Section 2, Article XXI of the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures but under Section 1 of

the same article which gives the COMELEC the power to issue multiple-strikes or non-standard penalties.

Before he joined the political fray, Cesar Manuel was given a copy of the election rules, regulations and procedures. He expressly accepted those rules, regulations and procedures when he willingly filed his certificate of candidacy last June 15. Basically, Cesar is a decent man. However, he allows himself to be manipulated by the most manipulative people in the community. He should be his own person if he is to be a leader to be reckoned with. I hope he realizes before it is too late that he's being used by two-tongued, two-faced control freaks in his organization for their own ulterior motives.

#### **FORMER HONORARY CONSUL JILTED**

– I never thought that Salvador Cabugao, a former honorary consul and a competent chartered accountant, would be so naïve to accept the invitation of ever-cunning Julie Parado, one of his nemeses, to induct Manuel into office only to find out to his chagrin that the bogus induction was already done by Angie Ogerio, the divide-and-conquer specialist and JP's BFF. Obviously, Mr. Cabugao was jilted and made like a fool by those con artists. It's pathetic that Mr. Cabugao failed to see through their scheme. He took JP's bait hook, line and sinker in exchange for little attention.

There is a perception that Mr. Cabugao always craves attention and if he doesn't get it, he sulks. Apparently, JP knew his weakness and she took advantage of it. Anyway, hasn't it occurred to him that Julie has a "doctoral degree" in lying and manipulation? I pity Consul Cabugao for miserably falling into her trap. Nevertheless, I blame him more than I blame Parado for becoming a laughing stock in the community. It could never happen to either James de la Paz or Au Osdon.

**THANK YOU, NILA!** – Despite several mistakes [all by my own doing] during the recently held FAMAS election, I can safely and comfortably say that said election was, at least for the most part, more

peaceful, more orderly and fairer than any of the past elections. Thanks to all my fellow COMELEC members for making such achievement possible. As many people already know, the COMELEC's job was never easy, but we, as a team, pulled it through.

I would like to make special mention of Ms. Nila Torquator-Ribaya, the indefatigable and devoted wife of our vice-chairperson Dick, for the unwavering dedication and valuable assistance she had given our committee. We should be grateful, and we are, to Ms. Ribaya for her indispensable service not only to our Team, but also to the entire FAMAS organization.

#### **MARAMING SALAMAT DIN SA MGA POLL VOLUNTEERS**

– Nais ko rin na magpasalamat sa mga poll volunteers na naglaan ng kanilang mahalagang panahon, lakas at talino alang-alang sa ikapagtatagumpay ng katatapos na halalan ng FAMAS.

Dalawang sangay ng Knights of Columbus – one from St. Kevin's headed by Rey Nacino, the other from St. Malachy's headed by Nelson Alvaro – that served as security guards and poll clerks-canvassers, respectively.

Natutuwa naman ako sa mga poll volunteers dahil hindi na nila binaybay kung sinu-sino sa kanila ang "Dilaw" at kung sinu-sino ang "Purple." Lyon kasi ang mga color motifs ng Samahang Makabayan at Mabuhay Team, respectively. Para sa mga poll volunteers, colorless ang nagdaang eleksyon. Anyway, palagi kaming salu-salo sa mga pagkain na provided ng FAMAS Executive Board sa kahabaan ng Advance Voting at noon mismong Election Day.

#### **VOTERS' COMMENT ABOUT THE BALLOT**

– Not a few voters expressed their discontent that the COMELEC should have explained what a "write-in candidate" was. They thought that they had to write – and they did – on the space provided for such candidate the name of the candidate they voted for. Their complaint seems legitimate. If I am still the chair of the COMELEC in the 2013 election, I'll see to it that the

See Page 10 Any Which Way

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## Sariling Dila, Sariling Diwa



ni Mang Bert



Katapusang kabanata

### Ang Mangingisda

ni Atty. N. Baens del Rosario

"Luisa, Luisa," ang tawag ng kaniyang biyenang. "Parini ka at umiyak si Elnora." Dali-daling pumasok ang mabait na ina sa loob ng silid. Samantalang pinapalitan niya ang basang lampin ng bata ay isang luksang paruparo ang pumasok sa silid. Si Luisa ay nahintakutan. Nalalaman niya ang pamahiin na ang luksang paruparo ay tagapagbalita ng kamatayan. Naalaala niya ang asawa at anak na baka nagkaroon ng kaphamakan. Lalong sumasal ang pagsikdo ng kaniyangkalooan nang dumapo ang paruparo sa barong pinagbihisan ni Pitong.

"Naku, Diyos ko, baka kung ano na ang nangyari sa aking asawa," ang wika sa sarili ni Luisa. Sa hangad niyang umalis ang paruparo ay kinuha niya ang baro at marahang ipinagpag. Umalis ang paruparo, ngunit isang sulat na bukas ang nalaglag. Nangangatal ang kamay ni Luisang dinampot ang liham. Tiningnan niya ang lagda. "Emilia Aquino" -A! sulat ng kumare niya sa Kalagiman.

Kumpareng Pitong,

Pagkabasa ninyo sa sulat na ito ay huwag na hindi kayo pumarini sa amin. Isama ninyo ang Kumareng Luisa at si Caridad. Kilala na ninyo si Sencio. Ipinagtapat niyang lahat sa akin ang pinagkasunduan ninyo kagabi. Nasa mabigat siyang karamdaman ngayon at ayon sa sabi ng manggagamot ay bumubiling na lamang ng oras. Kumpare, bilang pagpapahalaga ng kahilingan ng isang mamamatay ay inaasahan kong hindi ninyo ipagkakait kay Sencio ang kaniyang pakiusap na makita lamang kahit saglit ang asawa niya at anak bago siya yumao sa buhay na ito.

Mag-utos kayo, Emilia Aquino

"Langit!" ang hikbi ni Luisa. Pinagtiim niya ang dalawang bagang at batid niyang walang oras na dapat sayangin. Makikipagkita siya kay

Sencio. Ito ang nabuo agad sa loob ni Luisa. Hinila niya ang tapis sa sampayan at parang baliw na nanaog. "Hoy! saan ka tutungo" ang saway ng maingat na biyenang "Baka ka mabinat."

"Dito lamang, Nanay, kayo na ang maiwan muna kay Elnora." Matuling-matulin ang lakad ni Luisa. Salamat na lamang at sa liwasan ay nakita siya agad ng isang karumatang paupahan. "Sa Kalagiman," ang bigla niyang utos sa kutsero.

Lumuluha si Luisa at ang sunod-sunod niyang buntong-hininga ay nakatawag ng pansin sa kutsero. Malayo pa si Luisa sa bahay ay naririnig na niya ang hagugol ni Caridad. "Huli na yata ako," ang bulong niya sa sarili. Tuloy-tuloy siyang nanihik sa bahay. Wari siyang nahintakutan sa anino ng kamatayang anak'i'y naghari sa bahay na yaon.

"Sencio, Sencio, asawa ko!" ang panangis ni Luisa at pagdakay niyakap ang maysakit at ang yayat na mukha nito ay tinatakan niya ng halik na punong-puno ng pagmamahal.

Si Sencio ay hindi makakibo. Inibig niyang itaas ang kaliwang kamay upang maabot ang leeg ni Luisa, ngunit hindi niya makayang gawin. Ang nanginginig niyang kamay ay hindi na maitaas. Sinapupo ni Luisa ang nanlalagim na palad ni Sencio. "Sencio, salamat at nagkita pa tayong muli," ang wika na umiyak na si Luisa. "Lui...Lui...Lu..." at ang maysakit ay hindi na makapagsalita. Nangurong na ang mga labi at ang salitang nais niyang bigkasin sa bibig ay hindi na niya nasabi, subalit nalalaman ni Luisa ang pangalan niya ang hanggang sa kahuli-hulihan ay siyang pangalang nasa labi ng kaniyang asawa. "Sencio, huwag mo kaming iiwan!"

"Tatay, Tatay!"

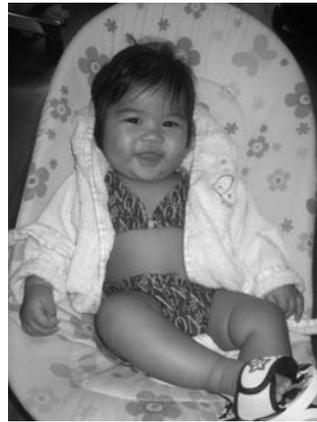
Si Sencio ay malamig nang bangkay. Sa mga labi nitong inihiningan ng pahimakas na halik ni Luisa ay naiwan ang isang ngiti ng kasiyahan. Nang hahawakan ni Luisa ang isa pang bisig ni Sencio ay saka pa lamang niya napuna ang putol na

kamay. "Sawimpalad!" ang hikbi ni Luisa, at ang putol na kamay ng patay na asawa ay binalutan ng mga halik at hinugasan sa mga patak ng luha. "Patawad, asawa ko!" ang wika niya kay Pitong. "Huwag kang manibugho, pahimakas ko na ito sa kaniya."

Napaiyak si Pitong sa pakiusap ng asawa. Ang malungkot na kamatayan ni Sencio ay nag-iwan kay Pitong ng isang mahalagang aral. Pinagsumikapan niyang ipagawa ng isang marikit na libingan ang mangingisda at sa ibabaw nito ay ipinalagay niya ang ganitong mga titik:

**DITO NAHAHABILIN ANG BANGKAY NI SENCIO, ANG MARANGAL NA MANGINGISDA.**

\*\*\*\*\*



Hoy! Kuya Pichu! (Aiden),

Ano bang makalaglag-lampin ang pinagsasabi mo. Masdan mo ngang mabuti ang litrato ko sa "swimsuit competition!"

O baka naman mahulog ang antiparang binili ni Tito A.J. sa katitingin mo sa akin.

Teka nga, nakakalakad ka na raw nang walang anumang gabay. Ako naman ay kaya pala nangangati ang aking giligid sa ibabang harap ng bibig ko ay dahil lalabas na ang unang ngipin ko. Panay ko ngang sinasalat ng dila. Akala naman ng mga Lolo at Lola ay nilalaro ko lang sila.

Pinag-uusapan na rito ang pagpapabakod ng buong looban dahil sa napipintong paglaki natin upang huwag tayong makawala sa lansangan kapag naghahabulan tayong.

Nakita ko rin sa FaceBook na ang hilig mo ay "drums" tulad ni Tito Admhar.

Alam mo, akala lang nila iyakin ako. Pero sa totoo lang, nagsasanay lang akong abutin ang matataas na nota.

Nagmamahal,

Pechay (Hailey)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sino ang karapatdapat manungkulan - ang dinaya o ang nandaya?**

Author Recreates the Love Story

Love is met with tremendous challenges in novel

NEW YORK – The love story has long been a staple in literary tradition. From Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to Erich Segal's aptly titled *Love Story*, the boy-meets-girl storyline is as varied as the authors who pen them. Staking out her own territory in this tradition is author Joan P. Lloyd. Her novel *Pyzaono Brothers* (published by AuthorHouse) tells the compelling story of a young woman who finds love in the wake of tragedy and loss.

Barely an adult, Nelly McFarland has endured her share of pain and suffering. After a gang of men violently assaulted and raped her, Nelly's father was murdered and her entire world shattered. Her friends and family did their best to support her, and her Aunt Dee from New York finally convinced the grieving young woman to come live with her in the city.

After packing her few belongings, Nelly boarded the train to New York and instantly locked eyes with a man who would become her lover as she opened her heart to the possibility of romance and a new future. When the man is killed, Nelly again has to pick up the fragments of a devastated life.

A new beginning awaits Nelly and is marked by a fateful encounter with a man named Joseph Barnatelli. The minute Joe lays eyes on her, he knows he and Nelly have a destiny beyond either of their control. The two begin a torrid love affair, but all the while Joseph is leading a double life – he's married and is also the head of a powerful mob family in Brooklyn; so, his relationship with Nelly must be a carefully kept secret.

Spanning the course of 20 years, *Pyzaono Brothers* is a well-crafted, sweeping romance filled with action and suspense set against the bustling backdrop of Brooklyn, Manhattan and Chinatown. Joe and Nelly's love will strengthen after he's the target of numerous murder attempts, and he'll struggle to run his business and meet the demands of marriage and the mob along the way. Lloyd's complex characters may be flawed, but they have good intentions and their vulnerability ultimately shows strength and courage. Get lost in the pages of this absorbing novel.

About the Author

Joan P. Lloyd is a native New Yorker. She is married with one son and has worked for the same company for many years. To visit the book trailer for *Pyzaono Brothers*, visit

Dailymotion : <http://www.dailymotion.com/video/34710052>

Youtube : <http://youtube.com/watch?v=VBqlwNl0u0>

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From Page 8 Any Which Way

ballot will be more user-friendly.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HIS KIND WILL NEVER BE FAMAS PRESIDENT AGAIN**

– A few days ago after the FAMAS election, the wife of a COMELEC member was harassed by a former president of FAMAS. She was at the restaurant located near the corner of Van Horne and Lavoie. While there, she encountered this cowardly and rude former president. He was vituperating the COMELEC while she was inside the restaurant. His verbal abuse of the COMELEC was too much for her to endure so she introduced herself as the wife of a COMELEC member, hoping that it would somehow ease up his outburst. It did not. If anything, it only exacerbated the situation and made him even more belligerent. He continued mouthing invectives against the COMELEC. "Palpak ang COMELEC! Palpak ang COMELEC!" he yelled repeatedly.

As if he was not insulting and despicable enough, he even hurled the f-word on the COMELEC member's hapless wife. He is associated with people who could be members of Alcohol Anonymous if they are not already. So I figured he must have too much to drink on that day. Anyway, it only shows how much havoc too much consumption of alcohol can wreak an otherwise nice and quiet man. He belongs to a group whom most members of the community don't want to see running FAMAS.

Despite the controversy it had generated, I think the rhetorical question "Do you like FAMAS Center to be like a motel and bar again?" was a fair question to ask the electorate.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MR. FELIX REYES' SLIPPERY SLOPES**

– The election rules, regulations and procedures that Cesar Manuel and his running mates signed to abide by include the following: Section 18, Article II which states "The COMELEC shall maintain jurisdiction over the winning candidates until their assumption to office in accordance with the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws. Any transgression of said Constitution and Bylaws by any or all of those candidates may result in their removal from office."

Furthermore, Section 19 of the same article stipulates that "the induction of the winning candidates shall be the prerogative of the COMELEC, and any induction officiated by anyone else is not binding and shall be deemed for ceremonial purposes only."

Assuming, for the sake of

argument, that there were indeed eight former FAMAS presidents, community leaders and about 100 Filipinos in the bogus induction ceremony yesterday as Mr. Felix Reyes claims, it is hardly "an eloquent collective testimony of the people's wish."

I am absolutely sure that the Mabuhay Team can easily gather as many people, or even more, but I don't think that Ms. Au Osdon is that ludicrous to take it as "an eloquent collective testimony of the people's wish", let alone as "a people's takeover of FAMAS and its environs." It seems that Mr. Felix Reyes is given to exaggerations.

In view of the aforementioned election rules, I wonder why Mr. Reyes, who claims to be the smartest guy in the community and possible member of MENSA, considers yesterday's induction of Cesar Manuel and the rest of his winning candidates "legitimately valid."

Here's another one of Mr. Reyes' fallacious arguments: "What happened in Long Sault stays in Long Sault." That's one of the most outrageous arguments I have ever come across in a very long while. The lady perpetrator and the people whose votes she was soliciting were from Montreal. The action that the former would like the latter to take was meant to be consummated in Montreal. So why should the violation stay in Long Sault? It doesn't make sense, does it?

\*\*\*\*\*

**FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO KNOW**

– All major decisions of the COMELEC were approved by at least a majority of its seven members. All are in the records. Those major decisions include the Felix de Luna case, the Shinette Khoury vs. Cesar Manuel, et al case and the 150-vote deduction.

I would like to reiterate here that Budz Sarmiento is not the COMELEC, and the COMELEC is not Budz Sarmiento. To insist that it is to insult the intelligence of the other six members, namely Dick Ribaya, Tess Calica, Pastora Emma Denny, Andi Neufeld, Cynthia Puray and Sonny Valdez (the last two resigned after the August 14, 2011 election due to their respective priorities) who are all smart in their own rights. I can and I do categorically say that they are not pushovers, not by any stretch of imagination.

Hasn't occurred to those critics and nitpickers that those people would have already deserted me if I made all those decisions alone and without their approval? Think about it.

**Press releases in French**

COMMUNIQUÉ  
Pour diffusion immédiate

**PLANIFICATION DE L'IMMIGRATION AU QUÉBEC POUR LA PÉRIODE 2012-2015**

Le gouvernement du Québec déploiera-t-il les moyens nécessaires pour intégrer les immigrants à Montréal ?

Montréal, le 25 août 2011 – Mme Mary Deros et M. Michel Bissonnet, respectivement responsables des communautés d'origines diverses et des relations gouvernementales au comité exécutif de la Ville de Montréal, accompagnés de M. Aref Salem, conseiller associé aux communautés d'origines diverses, déposeront ce matin à la Commission des relations avec les citoyens, la position de l'Administration municipale sur la consultation que mène actuellement le gouvernement québécois sur la planification de l'immigration au Québec pour la période 2012-2015.

« La Ville de Montréal, grâce à ses services de proximité, représente un partenaire majeur du gouvernement du Québec en matière d'accueil et d'intégration des nouveaux arrivants. Plus de 70 % des personnes immigrantes au Québec font le choix de s'installer dans la métropole. Les enjeux démographiques, sociaux et économiques liés à la question de l'immigration interpellent notre Administration au plus haut point et nécessitent un redressement financier significatif », de déclarer Mme Deros.

La Ville de Montréal demande notamment qu'un montant

correspondant à 10 % des transferts fédéraux liés à l'accord Canada-Québec soit équitablement consenti aux grandes villes du Québec et partagé au prorata des immigrantes et immigrants reçus. En 2011, le gouvernement du Québec recevra 258 M\$ du gouvernement fédéral pour intégrer en français les immigrants. En contrepartie, Montréal reçoit cette année quelque 3 M\$, incluant un montant de base de 1,5 M\$. Montréal souhaite obtenir sa juste part de manière à maintenir et à améliorer l'accueil et l'intégration des nouveaux arrivants qui constituent le principal moteur de la croissance démographique de la métropole.

« Pour la Ville de Montréal, il n'est pas uniquement question de les accueillir mais il s'agit de leur fournir les outils dont ils ont besoin pour prendre réellement leur place au sein de notre société. Le gouvernement doit donc consentir les ressources nécessaires à l'intégration des immigrants. À défaut de quoi, il devrait réduire significativement le nombre de nouveaux arrivants accueillis annuellement jusqu'à ce que l'intégration des immigrants déjà sur place ait été mieux assurée », de poursuivre M. Bissonnet.

Le gouvernement du Québec doit également reconnaître davantage le travail effectué par les acteurs institutionnels et communautaires, ce qui permettra aux immigrants d'assurer leur contribution à la société québécoise et d'exercer pleinement leur rôle de citoyen.

Des enjeux majeurs Il est impératif d'accroître la lutte contre la

See Page 20 Immigration

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**Family History**

Video is one of the most predominant story-telling mediums today. Your family has stories to tell that you need to capture, and your children may tell your story someday. There's no way around it - your parents, Lolo & Lola's, aunts and uncles have lived through interesting parts of history that you've only read about in books or told by your word of mouth, and we'll bet much of your family's history is completely unrecorded. Now is the time to tell their story, before it's too late. Capturing family recollections on video is not only fun but eye-opening and educational too; a way to preserve and share family member's unique remembrance of the world, and the impact that they've made upon it.

**Preparations**

There are several ways you can approach videos of family histories. One way is a literal history of your family and the other is history, told by your family. Both of these are interesting and a good family history will have some of both. It will contain stories about events and periods of history, but also anecdotes of pets, weddings, homes, neighbors, and children.

Start by creating a timeline beginning with your subject's birth and ending with today. Along the line, fill in important dates in history that you know of (President Marcos elected, Martial Law, People's Power, Manny Pacquiao's victory ). Mix this in with events from popular culture, movies,

music and TV shows that your subject may have seen and liked. (A short discussion before videotaping can be a big help.) Finally, add to the timeline a list of events important to the families: births, weddings, houses, jobs, new cars, citizenships, etc. This timeline will be a starting point and guide in helping relatives tell their history.

Next, compile a list of people you can interview and their relationship with one another. If multiple people have stories about a single event, ask them all similar questions. Your mother, for example, might have a very different recollection of her wedding than the one your uncle has - you'll want to hear both.

Bring family photo albums to the shoot, too. Choose representative images and have your subject talk about the event or the people in them. You don't need, (or want) to use all the photos, just a good representation, especially the ones that are clear and large enough to use.

**Shooting**

When you have your timeline, your lighting, and your subject planned, choose a location that tells something about your subject, like part of their house or a back yard or your first apartment. If you are shooting outside, you can control the audio for ambient noise by using a directional microphone or lavalier on your subject. Some interviews would benefit from a moving camera - perhaps taking granddad on a walk through the old neighborhood. Shaky hand-held camera work is sometimes the path of least resistance but camera stabilizers for consumers are becoming affordable and can greatly improve the quality of your footage.

**Don't Ask for Answers: Ask for Stories**

Your interview style is going to play a large part in the success of your project. Do you want an on-camera interviewer who hosts the show? Or a self-contained narrative where only the subjects are heard? If so, it's important that when you ask a question your subject's answer is self contained and can be used apart from your question - this will let you edit out your own voice and also will allow you to easily put group answers by different family members in the same segment of a video. Don't ask your subjects questions, ask them to tell stories.

Don't ask, for example, "When did you meet mom?" instead say "Tell me about the day you met mom." Make it more interesting.

**Editing**

While your raw footage will be very valuable, (hang on to it!) you'll also need to make an edited version - most people won't want to hear lola talk for four hours meandering through 65 years of tales. There are two ways you can approach editing - either linear (chronologically) or by subjects. Editing linearly - you start at the beginning and follow a timeline. You can put up titles with years "1950-1955" etc., and go on up to the present day. Dividing your video into subjects is useful if you're planning to make multiple videos or editing together various family members talking about similar things (family, the first house, neighbors, pets, etc.)

**Determining Your Audience**

While all family videos are of general

interest, you may want to make one with a particular audience in mind - perhaps honoring a set of beloved grandparents approaching a momentous anniversary, cousins who are going back to the Philippines, or grandchildren who you want to share the family lore with. Adding titles with personal messages can make a family history video into a gift that will be treasured forever.

Our stories about our experiences as a child until we have left for Canada are full of extraordinary stories. Stories about your childhood playing "Tumbang Preso" with rocks, playing with fighting spiders or "Tex" remember those cards we use to flip until it reaches the ground? These games are unheard of by our children today. Give them a part of your history. They deserve it. Start shooting.

Al Abdon  
Hollywood Junkies Video

**Let's go apple picking and have a picnic**



When: Sunday, September 25, 2011  
Time: 9:30 A.M.  
Assembly place: Plamondon Metro (Van Horne)  
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# STAR PHOTO GALLERY



"Happy Gilmore Girls" from left: Jennifer Lachica, Desirée Fernando, and Arlene Manalo, posing for a souvenir of the Coop picnic at Beaver Lake Park on Sunday, August 21. They are avid supporters of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative's Marché Coop store. In spite of the rain, they enjoyed themselves and took a lot of pictures.



The newly elected officers of the United Negrosanon Association of Montrea headed by Roy Javelosa I were inducted by Mr. Salvador Cabugao during their induction night at 6767 Cote des Neiges center, August 13, 2011. A Chinese buffet of seven delicious dishes was served to all the guests.



The rain did not dampen our spirits of adventure and camaraderie. As the saying goes, the show must go on and so we dared to go ahead with the picnic in spite of the rain. Photo taken when a brief sunny break came at Beaver Lake Park where Filipino Solidarity Cooperative members held a picnic, August 21, 2011.



# Philippine Cuisine

## Escabeche



- 1 whole big Red Snapper or Blue fish, cleaned
- 2 red bell pepper, julienned
- 1 big carrot, julienned
- 1 pc ginger, julienned
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 tbs brown sugar
- 2 onions, sliced
- 3 tbs minced garlic oil

Mixture : Dissolve flour in water then add in vinegar and sugar. Set aside.

Sprinkle all over fish with salt. Heat oil in a medium pan and fry fish until both sides are brown. Set aside.

In a different pan, pour around 4 tbs of oil then sautee garlic, onion, and ginger until slightly cooked. Add mixture. When the mixture has thickened, add carrots and red bell pepper. Simmer for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

On a wide platter, top the fish with the hot sweet and sour mixture. Serve hot with rice.

## Pinakbet



### Ingredients

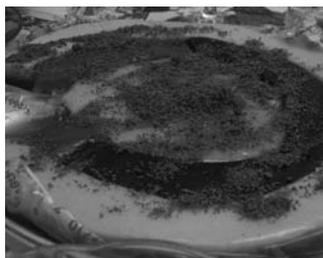
- \* 3 tablespoons olive oil
- \* 1 onion, chopped
- \* 2 cloves garlic, minced
- \* 1/2 pound pork loin, chopped
- \* 1/2 pound peeled and deveined prawns
- \* salt and pepper to taste
- \* 1 tomato, chopped
- \* 1/4 pound zucchini, seeded and cut into bite-size pieces
- \* 1/4 pound fresh okra, ends

- trimmed
- \* 1/4 pound fresh green beans, trimmed
- \* 1/4 pound eggplant, cut into bite-size pieces
- \* 1 small bitter melon, cut into bite-size pieces

### Directions

1. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium heat; cook and stir the onion and garlic in the hot oil until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in the pork and cook until completely browned, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir the shrimp into the mixture; season with salt and pepper. Continue cooking until the shrimp turn pink, about 5 minutes. Add the tomato to the pot, cover, and let cook 5 minutes. Stir the zucchini, okra, green beans, eggplant, and bitter melon into the mixture; cover, and cook until the vegetables are all soft to the touch, about 10 minutes more. Serve hot.

## Sapin-sapin



Sapin-Sapin Recipe, made from rice flour or rice that has been soaked overnight then crushed into a paste, sometimes yams or yam flour, coconut milk and sugar. Each layer is tinted (the bottom one a deep ube-like purple, the middle a golden yolk yellow, the top one white), and steamed before the next layer is added.

This famous Sapin-Sapin originated from the northern part of the Philippines, the province of Abra. A treat as sumptuous as sapin-sapin is no longer surprising when ways of cooking it is already spread down to other provinces, and thus now being enjoyed by many. Fast foods, cake and pastry shops are making and selling their versions of sapin-sapin. Estimated cooking time: 1 hour and 30 minutes

### Sapin Sapin Ingredients:

- \* 1 1/2 cups malagkit dough (galapong)
- \* 1/2 cup rice galapong
- \* 2 1/2 cups white sugar

- \* 3 cups cooked ubi (mashed)
- \* grated coconut
- \* 4 cups thick coconut cream (from 2-3 coconuts)
- \* 2 cans (big) condensed milk
- \* food coloring; violet & egg-yellow

Sapin Sapin Cooking Instructions:  
\* sapin-sapin-2.jpg Blend all ingredients except mashed ubi and food coloring.

Divide Into 3 Parts:  
\* To one part – add mashed ubi. To heighten the color of the ubi, add a dash of violet food coloring. Mix well.  
To 2nd part – add egg-yellow coloring. Mix well.  
To 3rd part – just plain white, nothing

to add.  
Grease a round baking pan. Line with banana leaves and grease the leaves. Then, pour in ubi mixture. Spread evenly. Steam for 30 minutes or more, until firm. Note: cover the baking pan with cheese cloth before steaming.  
\* Pour 2nd layer on top of the cooked ubi. Cover again and steam for 30 minutes.  
\* Lastly, pour in 3rd layer or the plain mixture. Again, steam for 30 minutes or until firm.  
\* Meanwhile, fry the grated coconut until brown and put on top of the sapin-sapin.  
\* Cool before slicing.

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<p><b>Half or Whole pork</b> Cut &amp; Wrapped <b>1.<sup>79</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Front quarter of beef</b> Approximately 200 lbs <b>2.<sup>89</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Regular smoked bacon</b> <b>4.<sup>99</sup> lb</b></p>
<p><b>Home smoked meat</b> <b>8.<sup>99</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Beef short ribs</b> <b>3.<sup>49</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>10 lbs &amp; over</b> <b>4.<sup>89</sup> lb</b></p>
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## Aquino: No apology for hostage death



The Philippine president expressed "deep regret" Tuesday for the deaths of eight Hong Kong hostages in a botched police rescue last year but rejected the families' call for a formal apology.

President Benigno Aquino III said the lone gunman and not the state is to be blamed for the tragedy. He compared the incident to last month's attack by a "deranged gunman" who killed 77 people in Norway.

He told reporters on the anniversary of the hostage-taking that an apology connotes that the state harmed the tourists, which he said was not correct.

The tourists were taken captive on their bus by a fired policeman fighting for reinstatement. Hours of unsuccessful negotiations turned bloody when he opened fire, prompting police to chaotically storm the bus. The gunman was killed by a police sniper.

A Hong Kong inquest earlier this year concluded that Philippine officials contributed to or caused

the deaths of the tourists. Philippine Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo has said that police fire did not kill any of the hostages.

No one has been charged criminally for lapses in the police operation and only one official has been fired.

"This was the act of one man, in the same token that some of us citizens have been affected elsewhere in the world, we do not blame the entire population," Aquino said Tuesday.

Tearful relatives and a survivor offered flowers and lit incense at the downtown Manila park where the 11-hour drama unfolded on live television the year before. Buddhist monks chanted prayers while local anti-crime activists carried a white cross bearing the names of the victims.

"We continue to sympathize with them," said Aquino, who did not attend the commemoration. "We really wish it did not happen."

He acknowledged that rescuers could have performed better, but said any police force would face serious limitations in responding to a gunman who suddenly changed his negotiating position.

In a meeting Monday with the relatives and a Hong Kong legislator, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima promised to relay to Aquino their demands for compensation and a formal apology, as well as the filing of criminal charges against police and other officials involved in the botched rescue. ■

## Rebels storm Gadhafi's compound

Tanks opened fire at rebels trying to storm Moammar Gadhafi's main compound in Tripoli on Monday, although the whereabouts of the longtime Libyan leader remained unknown a day after a lightning advance by opposition fighters who poured into the capital with surprising ease.

The international community meanwhile called on the longtime leader to step down as euphoric residents celebrated in the Green Square, the symbolic heart of the Gadhafi regime.

Nato promised to continue air strikes until all pro-Gadhafi forces surrendered or returned to barracks.

Rebel spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Rahman, who was in Tripoli, said pockets of resistance remained and that as long as Gadhafi remained on the run the "danger is still there."

The clashes broke out early Monday at Gadhafi's longtime command center known as Bab al-Aziziya early Monday, when government tanks emerged from the complex and opened fire at the rebels trying to get in, according to Abdel-Rahman and a neighbor.

An AP reporter at the nearby Rixos Hotel where foreign journalists stay could hear gunfire and explosions from the direction of the complex.

Tripoli resident Moammar al-Warfalli, whose family home is next to the compound, said there appeared to be only a few tanks belonging to the remaining Gadhafi forces that had not fled or surrendered.

"When I climb the stairs and look at it from the roof, I see nothing at Bab al-Aziziya," he said. "Nato has demolished it all and nothing

remains."

The Rixos also remained under the control of Gadhafi's forces, with two trucks loaded with anti-aircraft machine guns and pro-regime fighters and snipers posted behind trees. Rebels and Tripoli residents set up checkpoints elsewhere in the city.

The rebels' top diplomat in London, Mahmud Nacua, said clashes were continuing in Tripoli, but opposition forces controlled 95 percent of the city. He vowed Gadhafi would be found, saying "the fighters will turn over every stone to find him" and make sure he faced justice.

State TV broadcast bitter audio pleas by Gadhafi for Libyans to defend his regime. Opposition fighters captured his son and one-time heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, who along with his father faces charges of crimes against humanity at the International Criminal Court in The Netherlands. Another son was under house arrest.

"It's over, frizz-head," chanted hundreds of jubilant men and women massed in Green Square late Sunday, using a mocking nickname of the curly-haired Gadhafi.

The revelers fired shots in the air, clapped and waved the rebels' tricolor flag. Some set fire to the green flag of Gadhafi's regime and shot holes in a poster with the leader's image.

But Gadhafi's defiance in a series of angry audio messages raised the possibility of a last-ditch fight over the capital, home to 2 million people. Gadhafi, who was not shown in the messages, called on his supporters to march in the streets of the capital and "purify it" of "the rats." ■



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Snowdon

# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## YouTube revived the video star



**New Sensations - YouTube discoveries (from left) Maria Aragon, Arjohn Gilbert and Leanna Tabuñar make the most of their Warholian minutes.**

YouTube successes aren't new anymore, especially after the likes of Justin Bieber, Charice Pempengco and Arnel Pineda made their mark—and in dramatic fashion—through the medium. That said, many more are now coming out of the woodwork, each eager to show their talents via the same platform and in more ways than one.

### Maria Aragon

Lady Gaga has seen "The Future"



and her name is Maria.

Though her singing talent is passable at best, 11-year old Maria Aragon – or at least her sister – made sure she'd rise above the usual YouTube traffic by making a quaint little version of a hot song, in this case, Lady Gaga's "Born This Way."

More heartfelt and earnest than the original, Maria's slowed down version highlighted the message of empowerment inherent in the song and, with her sincere delivery, the whole deal was sealed, so to speak. And just like that, a star is born.

Maria is currently recording her album for ABS-CBN's recording label, Star Records.

### Leanna Tabuñar



In what seemed to many a knee-jerk reaction, GMA has signed on

eight-year-old Leanna Tabuñar as a regular performer in their numerous variety shows, including "Party Pilipinas."

Discovering Leanna also through YouTube—with clips of her singing uploaded by her musician-father—GMA Films president Annett Gozon-Abrogar and Vice-President for Program Management Joey Abacan were impressed after her video garnered thousands of views, only weeks after being uploaded.

"Napakagaling nyang kumanta, magperform at wala pa syang formal training in voice. Talagang natural lang, tapos maganda pa sya, mabait. Ang laki ng potential niya na maging big star kung gusto niya 'yun," Abogar said in a report on Yahoo! Philippines.

Wilma Galvante, however, seemingly downplayed their acquisition of Leanna, whom she described as "very raw" and still needed development.

### Arjohn Gilbert

The young Aeta singer who just recently got the attention of both Apl.de.Ap and Charice Pempengco after creating a big buzz with his YouTube performance videos, Arjohn Gilbert is now enjoying newfound success of sorts.

"I want to be the guy to first work with him. I'll be jealous if somebody else first does, but ayos lang. I give him the best. If he needs help, I'm here," Apl said about his cabalen in an interview on "TV Patrol," Aug. 16.

Charice, meanwhile, made her desire to work with Arjohn apparent via Twitter.

"Arjohn, next time I do my own show in the Philippines, I would love for you to come and perform with me!

Other Youtube sensations include the likes of five-year-old Filipino twins Jeremy and Justin Garcia are who are now receiving endorsement offers. ■

## Anne Curtis honored as 'Icon'



**Anne Curtis**

Princess of All Media Anne Curtis has acquired another title: Icon.

The TV host-actress was named Icon of the Year at the third Us Girls August Awards held Aug. 18 at the Amber Lounge in The Fort. She joins the ranks of previous winners KC Concepcion (2009) and Angel Locsin (2010).

Donning a skintone-colored short laced dress, Anne thanked those who are part of lifestyle magazine show "Us Girls" for the recognition.

"It's truly an honor to be Icon of the Year," Anne said in accepting the award.

Anne has been a staple presence at the Us Girls August Awards, having been declared one of the most fashionable women both in 2009 and 2010.

In introducing Anne, "Us Girls" hosts Iya Villania, Cheska Garcia-Kramer and Angel Aquino noted the Kapamilya star as "everyone's favorite" and a "perfect role model."

This year's August Awards noticeably has more winners per

category (four to five), as well as new categories: most fashionable male, and sexiest male and female personalities.

It also included winners from GMA-7—a first at the August Awards. These are Dingdong Dantes (Most Fashionable Male), Daniel Matsunaga (Sexiest Male), Marian Rivera and Jennylyn Mercado (faces of the year), Isabelle Daza (Most Fashionable Female) and Solenn Heussaff (Sexiest Female).

The youngest winner that night was 16-year-old Julia Montes, also one of the faces of the year.



**Julia Montes**

Asked how she takes care of her face, Julia told Bulletin Entertainment, "Actually wala naman. Siguro lagi lang dapat happy. Kasi pag lagi kang happy, siyempre lumalabas 'yun sa mukha mo."

Winners were determined through combined votes of the "Us Girls" hosts and staff, as well as the fans.

The event featured performances by General Luna, Gloc-9, Moonstar 88, Franco, Princess, 3AM, and Pedicab. International singer-songwriter Marié Digby also graced the awards night and performed her hit, "Say It Again." ■

## 'My Neighbor's Wife' poised to be the year's most daring film



**From left: Dennis Trillo, Carla Abellana, Lovi Poe and Jake Cuenca**

Brace yourselves for Regal Entertainment's newest sizzling and titillating offering, *My Neighbor's Wife*, written and directed by Jun Lana.

Lead stars Dennis Trillo, Lovi Poe, Jake Cuenca and Carla Abellana fit their roles to a T as they tackle their scenes in a story of love, deception and infidelity.

Jake and Carla play husband and wife while Dennis and Lovi portray lovers. All four are friends but their friendship turns sour when Lovi seduces Jake.

Since *My Neighbor's Wife's* theme revolves around marital infidelity, the film naturally carries daring scenes the four stars have never done before.

Each of them went beyond their

limitations in order to give justice to the required steamy and sexy scenes.

Of the four lead stars, Lovi is described as the most daring — showing skin in torrid love scenes with both Dennis and Jake.

Carla, the wholesome TV star in series like GMA Network's *Magic Palayok*, dares to bare enough of herself while romancing the likes of Jake and Dennis on screen.

This display of professionalism coupled with utmost cooperation during the shoot didn't go unnoticed as the mother and daughter team of Lily Monteverde and Roselle Monteverde-Teo expressed their gratitude for their stars.

"They're very professional. Maayos ang kanilang schedules at hindi nagbigay ng sakit ng ulo while doing the film. Sa totoo lang, kahit delicate ang scenes, wala silang arte at inhibitions that's why I really, really love them," related Mother Lily.

Touted to be this year's hottest and most daring film, *My Neighbor's Wife* opens in theaters starting Sept. 14. ■

## Paris Hilton loves the Pacquiao couple and Filipino food



**Manny and Jinkee Pacquiao**

Socialite-heiress Paris Hilton met up with her newfound friends Manny and Jinkee Pacquiao in a dinner in a posh hotel in Makati.

"I'm so excited tonight to see Manny and Jinkee. I think they're such an incredible couple," Paris said on "TV Patrol," Aug. 17. She was also impressed with the food served to them during the dinner. "The food is good. I love the food in the Philippines. It's delicious," she shared.

Although her visit to the country has mainly to do with business, Paris nevertheless found time to kick back a little. "I

love being a businesswoman. It's what I do. But I love having a good life and traveling and living life to the fullest. You only live once," she said.

The Hollywood celebrity also expressed willingness to record a song with the pound for pound king. "That would be awesome," she quipped.

In the show, she also showed the Little Pacquiao dog that the couple gave Paris as a gift.

Meanwhile, model Georgina Wilson defended her controversial tweet in which she questioned the planned courtesy call of Paris in Malacanang. The Palace, however, has denied such a plan.

"I like her but I just don't think that it was necessary for him (President Noyoy Aquino) to meet with her. I mean I would have liked it if he met with Bruno Mars. He's Filipino and brings a lot of fame to the country and makes us very proud," Georgina explained.

## Hayden Kho distraught over revoked medical license; camp mulls appeal



**The Philippine Medical Association suspended Kho in 2009 from practicing his profession (Photo fr. Kho's Twitter)**

Hayden Kho, Jr. may be on cloud nine these days, with his engagement to Dr. Vicki Belo, but he couldn't feel the same over the decision of the Professional Regulation.

The PRC based its verdict on the November 2009 decision of its medical examinations board finding Kho guilty of immorality and unethical conduct due to the video scandal that erupted in the same year showing his sexual trysts with various women.

In a statement flashed on "Saksi" on Aug. 22, the ex-doctor turned entrepreneur admitted that the decision was "painful" and "difficult to accept."

He further lamented that "I'm losing my medical license not

because of lack of knowledge or skills or even lack of dedication to my profession.

The "Saksi" report added that Kho's lawyers are already studying their options for appeal.

Meanwhile, Atty. Raymund Palad, legal counsel of sexy actress Katrina Halili, who was one of the women embroiled in the scandal, welcomed PRC's decision, the same news program reported.

He deemed that the dismissal of Kho's earlier appeal to regain his license is a "strong message that justice is still present here in our system, and that people like Hayden has no place in the medical profession."

Although his battle to regain his license seemed to have reached its dead end—for now, Kho had at least won one battle, prevailing over the charges filed in 2009 by Halili and her camp, accusing the latter of violating Republic Act 9262, of the Anti-Violence Against Women and Children Act, due to the leaked videos Halili maintained were taken without consent.

Judge Rodolfo Bonifacio of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court ruled, in his decision released in December 2010, that the evidence presented by the complainant was insufficient. ■

## Ruffa and Yilmaz 'okay' again



**Ruffa hopes that she could be friends with Yilmaz for the sake of their daughters (Photo from her Twitter)**

The angry tides that washed over Ruffa Gutierrez and her estranged husband Yilmaz Bektas seemed to have subsided, with the former revealing that they are now on good terms.

In an interview aired on "Umagang Kay Ganda," Aug. 23, the former beauty queen related, "Kami ni Yilmaz? Okay naman. Actually ngayon, good mood na naman siya..."

She also hopes that "hindi na kami guluhin niya (Yilmaz) and para maging maayos 'yung relationship namin for the sake of the kids."

A few weeks back, Ruffa and Yilmaz hogged the headlines after the latter went against the 2010 decision of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court granting the former the sole custody of their two children, Lorin and Venice.

The Turkish businessman, whom Ruffa had said was given visitation

rights for their daughters, also allegedly intends to claim guardianship of Lorin and Venice. He even went as far as offering Ruffa \$2 million in exchange for their daughters to live with him in Istanbul. Ruffa, however, turned down the offer.

Meanwhile, Ruffa held a storytelling event last Aug. 21 at the Resorts World Manila, a joint project with her good friend, host-eventologist Tim Yap for 100 kids from the Virlanie Foundation.

As seen on Twitter, personalities present at the event included Isabelle Daza, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Bubbles Paraiso, Azkals player Jason Sabio, and Cristalle Henares. Singer Faith Cuneta and the Virlanie Choir performed during the event.

Lorin and Venice likewise performed a song number, "Umagang Kay Ganda" also reported.

Ruffa is grateful with the turnout of the storytelling activity, which she noted is just the beginning of more charity projects she would organize with Tim, according to the column of Jun Lalin, her publicist.

Should Yilmaz visit the Philippines in the future, Ruffa would willingly organize another storytelling event and invite him to read for children, the same report added. ■

## Rumors about Sarah Geronimo continue



**Sarah Geronimo**

little space to sit.

The "ASAP" production people were reportedly disappointed to learn that not one cake was left for them to share. This prompted them to compare the singer with other "ASAP" regulars who celebrate their birthdays on the show and generously share their cakes with the staff, crew and marshalls inside the studio.

More, there are rumors that her mom had set a load limit for Sarah's cellphone. With this, she was left with no choice but to ask friends to call her when she needed to talk to them. However, everyone knows Sarah is endorsing a telecommunication line these days so this should give her more than ample load.

Also, it has been reported that Sarah's mom has also given her a daily allowance for her everyday expenses. However, the amount seems to be very minimal. At times, when Sarah has spent all her money, she reportedly asks friends to lend her some in case she wants to buy something. ■

There seems to be a smear campaign against singer-actress Sarah Geronimo as rumors about her continue to mount.

As Sarah celebrated her birthday last July 25, talks have circulated about her mother allegedly hoarding her superstar daughter's cakes that were delivered to "ASAP Rocks."

Reportedly, Mommy Divine asked Sarah's two bodyguards and production assistant to put all the cakes—given to the singer as gifts by her sponsors—inside her van. With the cakes of varying sizes inside her van, Sarah was left with

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## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

### James denies rivalry with Phil



**The Philippine Azkals' most popular strikers, the siblings Phil (L) and James (R) Younghusband**

Amid the adulation that his younger brother Phil has been getting, James Younghusband maintains that he is not jealous of him.

"If anything, I support my brother all the way. We support each other no matter what," he said in an interview with "Showbiz News Ngayon" aired Aug. 25.

Shrugging off rumors of competition between them, James said he is happy whenever Phil gets new projects or new endorsements.

"That's what we are. We are brothers. We support each other no matter what. There's no jealousy whatsoever," the 24-year-old striker emphasized.

#### 'Best friends'

More than being rivals, James likened their sheer closeness to that of best friends.

"We grew up going to the same

school, so we have many things in common," the British-Filipino athlete told PEP in an article posted on June 9. "Well, I guess we're like best friends."

However, like other siblings, they still "fight" from time to time.

"We fight over petty things... but definitely, not about girls!" James said, laughing.

"We are complete opposites. He is more of the expressive type. I really like expressing myself in other ways... I keep a diary and record everything. I hate it when I forget something, so I document things just in case," he said.

#### On defending Phil

Two months ago when news broke that Phil was already dating actress Angel Locsin, a certain KC Del Rosario, whom he was allegedly, dating came into the picture.

In abs-cbnNEWS.com's June 10 report, James defended his brother against the allegations, saying, "there is absolutely no [romance] between Phil and the rumored non-showbiz girl that Phil is dating."

"KC (the girl) goes to the same school as my girlfriend. Just to clarify, Phil's only met KC once. Angel is only in Phil's eyes," James said.

"This is the happiest I've seen him in a really long time. He's always talking about her. If anything I see less of him," he added. ■

### Mikael Daez on indecent proposals, his first year in showbiz



**Mikael Daez**

With his good looks and slim build, it's hard to believe that Mikael Daez hasn't received any indecent proposal yet.

"No. Not at all. As in, not at all. As in zero talaga," was Daez' adamant response to PEP in an article published on Aug. 25.

Is he homophobic?

"Not at all! I have friends, actually sa barkada ko, I have [gay friends]...sa extended barkada ko, may dalawa na

bading. Stylist sila, they work for a magazine. Sila yung nakakausap ko."

Daez is a former model who shifted to acting via GMA-7's "Spooky Nights Presents: Bampirella" where he played opposite popular actress Marian Rivera. They have been paired anew or "Amaya."

With such high-profile projects, it's safe to assume that Daez has been earning serious money. Yet, he has not invested in any kind of business nor bought anything big for himself. His money, he said, goes to the upkeep of his and his family's house, if not straight to his bank account.

"Of course, I help out in the household. Tinutulungan ko nanay ko," he said.

As a newbie in the industry, and being a Business Management graduate, Daez shared that he intends to save his earnings in his first year.

"Mag-ipon muna ako, tapos step back Tingnan natin kung anong magagawa ko sa pera ko," said Daez.

"Hindi naman ako spontaneous gumastos ng pera."

He, however, admits spending a lot on one item: Food.

"Meron na akong nabili—isang box ng tuna. Tuna na pang-diet ko," he explained. ■

### Gabby Concepcion: hands off on daughter's romance with Piolo Pacual



**Gabby Concepcion**

Former matinee idol Gabby Concepcion is keeping a safe distance from his daughter KC Concepcion's rumored spat with boyfriend Piolo Pascual.

"Wala akong pakialam sa relationship nila. It's their relationship not mine. Just make good of it. Be happy," he said on "TV Patrol," Aug. 25, when asked to comment on reports that the couple is going through rough sailing in their relationship.

A day earlier, on "TV Patrol," Sharon gave an intriguing statement that somehow hinted at the seemingly chaotic phase that her daughter is going through in her personal life.

"I just want whoever it is that that will be in my daughter's life to love and take care of her the way we would. Kasi hindi ko pinalaki 'yan para i-take for granted lang o balewain," she said.

She went on to say that "we went through so much when you were little. You don't have to go through it yourself."

"I'm not free to talk about what she's going through," Sharon notes, but adds

a reminder to her daughter that, "Kristina, mama's here. Don't forget you're my daughter. We love you."

Gabby is hands-off about the issue as well. He refuses to give a message to Piolo with whom his daughter has been in a relationship for 10 months now.

"It's not my life. I don't know what's going on. I trust KC. I trust Piolo sa relasyon nila. If it works out then I'm happy for them. If it doesn't work out, life is like that, eh, 'di ba?"

Aside from his daughter's romantic life, Gabby openly talked about his reunion movie with his ex-wife Sharon.

"I'm all for it... why not? Kung 'yan ang gusto ng tao gusto ko rin 'yan," he said.



**KC Concepcion**

The actor said he's ready for anything, including doing kissing scenes and bed scenes with Sharon.

"Wala akong kondisyon. I'm open. Kahit na ano," he said.

The "TV Patrol" report said that Gabby is currently doing a remake of "PS. I Love You," which he and Sharon topbilled before. ■

### Diva picks money over fame



**Hyacienth Diva**

While others usually claim they are in the biz for fame and recognition, "Starstruck" graduate Diva Montelaba says she's in it for the money.

Diva, Hyacienth Diva Montelaba in real life, knew how hard life can be while growing up in Cebu. Now a talent of GMA Artist Center, she's able to land gigs that show off her dancing and singing skills.

However small her participation in any TV project or out of town shows is, she makes every peso count by saving it.

Her frugal ways worked to her advantage as her grandmother was

diagnosed with cancer recently. Diva flew her to Manila to seek medical help.

"I was able to put aside money because of my showbiz career. I'm taking care of her, paying for her chemotherapy," shared Diva.

She loves the fact that she earns much more in Manila than when she did in Cebu.

"I'm enjoying pretty much my career although I am not yet as popular as some actresses in GMA-7. I'm just enjoying everything. I don't have any problems and I don't have any enemies," she related.

"I'm happy and single and I'm in love with all the people I meet and work with. I'm not looking for a boyfriend. I don't go out but I'm not anti-social. I just don't want to go out and party," Diva explained.

Aside from being a regular dancer in "Party Pilipinas," Diva is in the new dance-series of GMA-7 entitled "Time of My Life." Directed by Mark Reyes, she is cast as one of the members of the dance troupe The Elite Crew with fellow GMA Artist Center talents Steven Silva, Enzo Pineda, Yassi Pressman and Myra Carel.

The pilot episode of the new show on Aug. 1, earned a 24.7 percent rating according to Nielsen. ■

## More about Mariel and Robin's Maldives experience

Couple Mariel Rodriguez and Robin Padilla took time out to celebrate their wedding anniversary in Maldives, an experience that she says was nurturing and peaceful.

"Masaya. Nag-enjoy kami. Relaxing," Mariel said in her interview aired on "Showbiz News Ngayon," Aug. 23.

While on sabbatical, the "Happy Yipee, Yehey" host discovered just how religious her husband is.

"Dito sa trip na 'to lalo akong napabilib kay Robin kasi Ramadan ngayon, eh. Nag-fasting siya doon tapos he's been praying. Gumigising (siya) nang maaga, nagdadadal. Sabi ko bilib ako talaga dito kasi kahit na bakasyon, kahit na nagta-travel, nagagawa pa rin niya ang mga gano'n," Mariel shared.

She also related the different activities that they shared as a couple while in Maldives.

"Yung first day pinictorial ako ni Robin. He makes you feel beautiful. Day two naman, nag-biking kami."

Robin explained that he did his best to make their trip a memorable one.



**Mariel Rodriguez and her loving husband Robin Padilla celebrated their first wedding anniversary at the Shangri-La Villingili Resort and Spa in Maldives.**

"Gusto kong maging alaalang maganda 'yon kaya lahat ng puwde kong gawin na sorpresa sa kanya, ginawa ko. Talagang binabantayan namin ang sunrise at sunset," the action star said.

For their anniversary, Mariel plans

to give Robin a scrapbook she painstakingly made herself.

"Actually, hindi ko pa nabibigay ang gift ko sa kanya. Hindi niya alam. Ang ginawa ko 'yung mga pictures at saka 'yung mga naitago ko from Europe trip, kinombine ko 'yun

altogether. Scrapbook na kakaiba."

In the "SNN" interview, Robin clarified reports that he opted not to have a leading lady in his new sitcom so his wife won't get jealous.

"Ay hindi naman. Iba ang kaligayahan na binibigay ng leading lady. Iba naman 'yung... Wala lang dito na naitalaga kasi ang gusto nila iba-iba 'yung pumapasok na babae.



"Magagalit si Mariel nu'n. Ang gusto ni Mariel, eh, merong leading lady. Kasi ako naman sa kanya, gusto ko may leading man din siya. Artista ka. Narito tayo sa mundo ng showbiz. Kailangan 'yung mga personal, itatabi natin 'yon." ■

## Toni Gonzaga named Box Office Queen



**Toni Gonzaga**

SM Box Office Queen: Going home with a title like SM Cinema's 2010 Box Office Queen is no laughing matter.

Toni Gonzaga, who was honored by the SM group Aug. 18 for the tremendous box office success of her film, "My Amnesia Girl," jokes she had a good reason to star in another comedy after achieving the feat.

Toni faced a room-full of media persons that same evening only hours after she was crowned Box Office Queen to make a pitch for her new movie, "Wedding Tayo, Wedding Hindi." The movie co-stars her for the first time on equal footing with former supporting player Eugene Domingo.

Written and directed by Jose Javier Reyes, the movie takes a look at marriage from two vantage points. The first is from the dreamy-eyed view of it by first-time bride Toni,

while the second is from the jaded perspective of a wife, played by Eugene, on the verge of a marital breakdown.

The romantic-comedy's leading men are Zanjoe Marudo and Wendell Ramos, playing escorts to Toni and Eugene, respectively.

King and Queen: SM Cinema's Box Office King and Queen awards are an innovation by SM Cinema to promote further local movies and to encourage production of the same. The awards are handed out during the annual three-day filmmaking seminar and expo sponsored by SM Cinema and Star Cinema. This year, the expo was attended by more than 500 students and film enthusiasts.

Toni's movie, "My Amnesia Girl," produced by Star Cinema, reportedly grossed P164 million, several millions shy of the 2008 top-grosser film "A Very Special Love" which starred John Lloyd Cruz and two-time box office queen Sarah Geronimo.

"My Amnesia Girl," directed by Cathy Garcia-Molina, was hailed as nationwide top-grosser for the year 2010 by SM Cinema based on collected data from the 230 theaters in 40 branches of SM nationwide.

The SM Box Office King title was won by John Lloyd for the third time after having snatched it twice through "A Very Special Love" in 2008 and "You Changed My Life" in 2009.

SM Cinema picks its box office winners on the basis of film gross from January 1 until December 31. ■

## 'Glee' spokesperson denies Charice-Lea rivalry



**Charice and Lea**

An unnamed spokesperson for award-winning US TV show "Glee" belied rumors of a real-life rivalry between one of its female leads Lea Michele and former guest actress and performer Charice.

According to an article by the New York Post on Aug. 23, the supposed rivalry allegedly caused the latter's scenes to be "dramatically cut," purportedly "to avoid upsetting the show's star Lea Michele."

"This is categorically untrue. We love Charice, and she was a wonderful addition to 'Glee' last season," the spokesperson was quoted as saying in the same story.

A "show source" was said to have told NY Post prior that "Charice was signed for a minimum of five episodes and did a press junket with [fellow new star] Chord Overstreet" before the second season of "Glee," and was supposed to have "a big debut, but things changed and they

didn't put her back in."

"The word is, Lea is the big star, and producers want to keep her happy," the source reportedly said.

Charice made her first appearance on the TV show's second season pilot last September as Sunshine Corazon, a Pinoy exchange student at the fictional McKinley High and Lea's character Rachel Berry's singing rival. Charice's stint caused much hype here and abroad, despite her appearing in only three episodes overall including the finale. In July this year, "Glee" creator Ryan Murphy himself confirmed that Charice's Sunshine Corazon will no longer be included in the show's third season, which will start airing in September.

The "Glee" spokesperson continued, "While it is true that she [Charice] appeared in fewer episodes last year than we originally anticipated, this was due to her busy schedule and the natural creative process in which some story arcs ... did not materialize as planned."

The spokesperson also defended Lea, saying, "Lea is a consummate pro who couldn't be more welcoming of other powerhouse singers on the show, from Kristin Chenoweth to Idina Menzel, who is set to reprise her role as Rachel's birth mom this fall."

In the same NY Post article, Lea was recently even quoted to have praised Charice, "She's definitely the tiniest ball of talent I've ever seen in my life. Charice is beyond talented!"

## Personality profile of the month

### Twenty-four-year old Rasul touches the heart and opens the eyes of community leaders

by W. G. Quiambao

Is it possible to have three loves at the same time? Alia Ceniza Rasul thinks so. But don't get her wrong. Her loves are Recyclable or Not, Buhay Ko and recently, service to the Filipino community.

Alia Ceniza Rasul, the granddaughter of former Senator Santanina Tillah Rasul and former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Abraham Rasul, moved to Dubai at the age of 10 in 1997. Her father was assigned to be PNB's regional representative in Middle East and North Africa, the head office in Dubai. In 2006, she moved to Montreal to study at McGill University.

While a student at McGill, where she recently obtained a Bachelor degree in Economics and Psychology, she was a member of the Executive Board of the McGill Chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi, the oldest professional business fraternity in the world. She was awarded one of the highest fraternity awards, the B.L.U.E. award, which is given to the fraternity member who upholds the four pillars of the fraternity: Brotherhood, Loyalty, Unity and Education.

Rasul's interest in recycling piqued when she was studying at McGill University.

"Recyclable or Not started as a school project in which I set up a Recycling center in a neighborhood coffee shop and observed it for days," said Rasul. "I audited the trash (measured how much recycling was mixed with regular trash) and the results were terrible. People always mixed recyclable with non recyclable. The next part of my project was to survey people's recycling knowledge. The result was clear. Even though people acknowledged the recycling was important, they admitted that their recycling knowledge was poor."

Rasul explains that recycling is important because the world's resources are dwindling.

"We can not sustain life if we consume faster than the planet can regenerate its resources," continues Rasul. "It is important that we find ways to live more sustainably for the sake of future generations so that they may have enough resources to build their own lives. We need to keep the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle) in mind. It is always better to reduce first, then reuse, then recycle."

Today, she has 2000 subscribers to her blog.

"We have to raise awareness by talking about recycling to friends and neighbors. Tell people how important and interesting recycling is."

Recyclable or Not is not the only project that keeps Rasul busy. She is also involved in Buhay ko sa Smokey Mountain, a project aims to teach 25 students from the Smokey Mountain community how to documents and share their lives through photos, videos and blogs. The project is a collaboration between the Manila Jaycees and Young Focus



Foundation and was founded by her cousin, Abraham Rasul-Bernardo.

This innovative and creative project will allow the world a peak into the hope and dreams of youth of Smokey Mountain.

"I was a graphic designer for the project as well as a social media manager," said Rasul. "I helped set up and manage the project's face book page. (blog and twitter account). A lot of contributions were via the internet."

Because Rasul is in Montreal, she could not do much so she does her best as an ambassador of the project. Here, she tries to give it as much exposure as possible by talking about it everywhere hoping to attract potential donors or volunteers.

Another love of Rasul is serving the Filipino community in Montreal. She confides that she has found her niches here.

Although Rasul is new in the community and her posting last Aug. 12 was not controversial, she attracted more than 463 viewers, including feuding Filipino leaders. The following is an excerpt of her heart-warming and touching posting on FAMAS Message Board:

"For someone whose family is so far away, community becomes ever important; I am glad that I have found FAMAS. Admittedly, I was a little hesitant to join at first but after being invited to a few FAMAS events, I became intrigued. I watched Ms. PMAG and I was a judge at Miss Teen FAMAS. They were both fun, exciting events carried out with a very high level of professionalism. The care and thoughts that went toward the organizers of the events were tangible.

The past few months have been a whirlwind. - signing up for candidacy, campaigning and now, election. It was quick but I now feel like I belong here. So thank you for that.

I've learned that since the past election, unelected candidates have continued on to stay which is great. It really emphasizes win or lose, title or not, we are all volunteers striving to better the community. I know that these elections have not been smooth sailing the whole way through but that's to be expected in a community as dynamic as this.

In the end, it's all about the work. Many individuals, including the candidates, EB, the COMELEC, both

parties and the many volunteers who have done a great job to pull this very different thing together, have offered their skills, sacrificed family time and sometimes even worked through the night. As such, there is a lot invested in this that can lead to tension. But I appeal to everyone that rather than let the bumps in the road polarize us, let's all come together in peace and fix it. This is what communities do. Let's not waste precious time and energy in pointing fingers and instead, move towards progress.

I'll repeat, in the end its all about the work. And it's apparent here that work needs to be done. I look forward to working for FAMAS in the coming year, be it as a director or a volunteer.

From Page 10 Immigration

pauvreté et l'exclusion sociale, notamment en contrant l'insuffisance de grands logements familiaux à prix abordable sur le territoire montréalais. La connaissance du français est aussi primordiale à l'intégration des nouveaux arrivants sur l'île de Montréal et constitue un facteur de rétention important. Davantage de ressources sont nécessaires pour accroître la francisation des immigrants.

Puisque l'immigration s'avère un facteur clé de la croissance économique de Montréal, il devient essentiel que le gouvernement du Québec déploie également les efforts nécessaires pour réduire les freins à l'emploi. La disponibilité et la qualité du capital humain deviennent des enjeux majeurs pour la métropole. Il est aussi primordial que le gouvernement renforce les mesures visant à répondre aux besoins spécifiques des femmes immigrantes qui éprouvent davantage de difficultés à trouver un emploi que les hommes.

« Afin d'accomplir notre mission adéquatement et de relever les défis municipaux en matière d'intégration des immigrants, la Ville souhaite voir rôle d'acteur privilégié reconnu et ses efforts davantage considérés par le gouvernement du Québec », de conclure Mary Deros.

Le mémoire de la Ville de Montréal est disponible à l'adresse suivante : [www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/devsocial](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/devsocial).

## Filipinos coming home from Libya happy and sad

A handful of Filipinos were the first to board the first International Organization for Migration (IOM) boat to evacuate foreign workers from war-torn Tripoli on Thursday (3 a.m. Friday in Manila).

Some were happy, some sad, but all were relieved.

Construction foreman Ramil Nyala, 45, complained that he was leaving Libya empty-handed, without the precious remittances that are key to the Philippine economy.

"I was being paid \$600 to \$800

dollars a month. But they refused to pay me. I haven't had work for four months, and I have to pay \$350 a month in rent, so my savings are all lost," he said.

"All the stores closed a few days ago, and even if you have money, Libyans are the priority. We couldn't sleep at night because of the shooting everywhere. I'm happy to go and join my family," said Nyala.

"I'm happy to go home to the Philippines," said 9-year-old Arjan, whose mother worked at Tripoli's main hospital. "I was frightened by all the bang-bang."

Only 35 OFWs

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), citing a report from the Philippine embassy in Tripoli, said only 35 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) were able to board the IOM vessel.

The embassy had been able to arrange with the National Transitional Council (NTC) safe passage for 91 Filipino evacuees but "some OFWs from various workplaces could not be brought to the port because of heavy fighting in the streets of Tripoli," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez told a press briefing yesterday.

He said a team from the embassy would try to fetch the rest of the group for a second boat trip being arranged by the IOM.

More than 1,700 Filipinos have opted to remain in Libya even as Filipino diplomats warned them that it was still too dangerous to venture out.

"Clashes are ongoing in Tripoli" and "from the embassy, machine gun fires and explosions can still be heard," Hernandez said, quoting foreign undersecretary Rafael Seguis who is in Libya to help with the evacuation.

There were more than 26,000 OFWs in Libya when antigovernment protests erupted six months ago. Around 13,000 of this number have been repatriated, but Philippine officials could not account for the rest, other than the several thousand who had requested assistance to leave as violence escalated last week.

'We love Libya'

Some of the Filipinos were obviously returning home with reluctance.

Julie, whose husband worked as a "senior production coordinator," said she was sad to leave after living in the country since 1982, almost half her life, because "we love Libya."

"I love the life, the weather, the money," she said. "The standard of living is better than in the Philippines. Here we have money, we don't need to cook," she said.

"Our children were born and studied here, they speak Arabic and they want to come back," she said. ■

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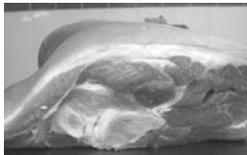
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From left: Edith Fedalizo, nursing aide instructor, Vilma Lagonilla, Gisele Arellano, and Mildred Mendoza, students; Terry White, nursing aide instructor. (Not in photo: Joesie Binggayan). Seated (from left) Clarice Mackay, Zenaida Kharroubi, Amy Manon-og and Sophie Toledo. Photo taken July 2, 2011 at St. Margaret CHSLD.



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Orientation session at St. Margaret CHSLD: PAB/PSW teachers showing students around on their first day. From left: Teachers: Sophie Toledo, Amy Manon-og, students: Gisele Arellano, Vilma Lagonilla, Teacher: Terry White, student: Mildred Mendoza, Teachers: Edith Fedalizo and Clarice Mackay. Not in photo: student: Joesie Bingayen.

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