Aquino orders charges vs 'Morong 43' dropped

Philippines high court rules 'truth commission' unconstitutional
Andrea Bottorff at 11:06 AM ET Dec. 7, 2010

The Supreme Court of the Philippines on Tuesday ruled that a proposed “truth commission” created to investigate former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is unconstitutional. President Benigno Aquino [BBC profile] set up the “truth commission” in July to investigate allegations that the outgoing administration engaged in corruption and rights violations, like rigging the 2004 presidential election, misusing government funds and profiting from government contracts. The court held that the “truth commission” violates equal protection by attacking only certain political individuals suspected of corruption. Critics of the court's decision argue that most of the justices were being New People's Army (NPA) rebels engaged in bomb-making activities.

In a speech during the celebration of Human Rights Day, Aquino said his administration recognizes that the “Morong 43” were denied the right to due process when they were arrested and charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

“As a government that is committed to the rule of law and the rights of man, this cannot stand. Therefore, I have ordered the DOJ to withdraw the informations filed before the court. This will in effect, subject to court approval, free those among them who have no other standing warrants in other courts,” he said at the celebration of the 62nd Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. He added: ‘Let this be a concrete

Truth Commission ‘unconstitutional’

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays
Malgayang Pasko sa inyong lahat

Filipino Solidarity Cooperative, Inc. (trading name: Marché Coop)
5710 Victoria Avenue
Montreal, QC H3W 3H2
Tel.: 514-733-8915
filipinocoop@gmail.com
marchecoop.com

Save money and shop during our inventory clearance sale
December 15 - 24, 2010

Thank you for your patronage.

www.filipinostar.org
Cooperative News

Product specials and merchandise inventory clearance

It is now almost the end of the year. Stock inventory time is again here. To make the inventory much easier, we would like to hold an inventory clearance sale. We therefore ask our members to help us accomplish this task by coming to shop during this clearance sale to be held between December 15 to 24, 2010 during our business hours. We are trying hard to make the Cooperative become the best place to shop by offering our members the convenience of making phone orders so that they can save time. We also would like to make the Coop a one-stop shop by asking them to call in their orders ahead of time so that we can complete our supplies. And perhaps, the most important feature of the new Marché Coop is our competitive low prices. We will be having sales more frequently to call attention to the Cooperative Store and change attitudes of our fellow kababayan - that is, from negative to positive - all for the cause of UNITY.

We hope to see many more members be reminded of their obligation to patronize their own store. We are planning to hold a Valentine’s party to raise funds for the Coop. We are counting on your support to make it successful.

Please reserve this date on your social calendar - Saturday, February 12, 2011. More details will follow in the next issue of the Star.

Zenia Kharroubi
President (2008-2011)

For your information, interesting statistics about cooperatives:

Statistical Information on the Co-operative Movement

The Co-operative Movement brings together over 1 billion people around the world. The United Nations estimated in 1994 that the livelihood of nearly 3 billion people, or half of the world’s population, was made secure by co-operative enterprise. These enterprises continue to play significant economic and social roles in their communities. Below are some facts about the Movement that demonstrate their relevance and contribution to economic and social development.

800 million people members of co-ops

Large segments of the population are members of co-operatives.

* In Asia 45.3 million people are members of a credit union.
  (Source: Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, Annual Report 2007/2008)
  * In Argentina, there are 12,670 co-operative societies with over 9.3 million members - approximately 23.5% of the population. (Source: "Las Cooperativas y las Mutuales en la República Argentina", Instituto Nacional de Asociativismo y Economía Social (INAES), 30 June 2008)
  * In Belgium, there were 29,933 co-operative societies in 2001
  * In Bolivia, 2,940,211 people or one-third of the population is a member of the 1590 co-operatives. (Source: Diagnóstico Nacional Cooperativo (DNC), 2008 as reported in Boletín Informativo aciaméricas.coop N°65, December, 2008)
  * In Canada, four of every ten Canadians are members of at least one co-operative. In Quebec, approximately 70% of the population are co-op members, while in Saskatchewan 56% are members. Source: Co-operative Secretariat, Government of Canada.
  * In Colombia over 4.8 million people or 10.6% of the population are members of the 8,124 co-operatives in the country. The movement reports an annual growth rate of 7.78% with 348,249 new members joining co-operatives in 2009. (Source: CONFECOOP. Gestión para construir una mejor opción de vida: Desempeno del Sector Cooperativo Colombiano 2009)
  * Costa Rica counts over 10% of its population as members of co-operatives.
  * Finland’s, S-Group has a membership of 1,468,572 individuals which represents 62% of Finnish households. (Source: SOK Corporation Annual Report 2004)
  * In France, 23 million people are members of one or more co-operatives or

See Page 4 Facts about Coops

Marché Coop

Cooperative de Solidarité Filipino 2004

Filipino Solidarity Cooperative Inc.

Épices orientaux et produits philippins
Oriental Groceries & Philippine Products

Merry Christmas - Happy Holidays

We thank you for your patronage of the first and only Filipino solidarity cooperative in Quebec.

This photo shows an inside look of the new Marché Coop, smaller and more compact. Due to a recent flood, the ceiling is still being fixed by the landlord. If all members who have fully paid their membership fee of $100 will come and buy from their own Coop store, there is no reason in the world why it will not become profitable soon and everyone will benefit from the return of their small investment.

Featuring our Rice Sale only $33.99 per sack of 20 kgs
Regular price: $35.85 (Limit of 2 per client)

Come and see other in-store specials December 15-24, 2010

Proposed 2011 Calendar of Activities

Filipino Solidarity Cooperative (Marché Coop)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 15-24, 2010</td>
<td>13:00-17:00</td>
<td>Inventory Clearance Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12, 2011</td>
<td>6:00 -12:00</td>
<td>Valentines Party (Fund Raising)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13, 2011</td>
<td>2:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>General Assembly &amp; Election</td>
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(Subject to the approval of the Board of Directors - final details to follow.)
Let’s reflect on the true meaning of Christmas

Amidst the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season, people get overwhelmed and feel lost about the true meaning of Christmas. In this highly advanced technological world where gadgets of all kinds attract our attention and where political correctness seems to be more important than the old fashion values of religious freedom, most if not all of us may feel too busy to reflect on the Christmas season, too busy to talk to each other about the true meaning of Christmas. Should we say Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays? It seems sad to think that we even have to worry about this when there are more important things in life.

We are not denying the existence of other faiths and different points of view, however, it is certainly important that the true meaning of Christmas is according to the Christian tradition. In order to keep our faith intact and pass it on to our future generations. The following excerpt from Lee Strobel’s book entitled “The Case for Christmas: A Journalist Investigates the Identity of the Child in the Manger” provides a comprehensive view of what the true meaning of Christmas used to be and should continue to be:

“The true meaning of Christmas is love. John 3:16-17 says, ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.’ To practice the true precepts of our faith, and believe that God loves us, and forgives us our sins, why can we not do the same to our fellow human beings? Admittedly, it is often hard to forget what they may have done to us, when they have hurt us not only in words but also in deeds. It is not easy to give the other cheek. Rather, it is easier to hit back and make our enemies feel the brunt of our anger. ‘An eye for an eye’ mentality seems to be a common human reaction to justify revenge. If we agree with this type of behavior or even consider this justifiable, how can we continue to celebrate Christmas? If we find it easy to find faults in others and never look at our own first, can we call ourselves Christians? How sincere are we in proclaiming that we believe in God when we really do not follow most of His teachings?

On the other hand, if we could become truer to our Christian faith, if we could just realize that we are all created equal and with different gifts or talents that we should use to make this world a better place, if we could focus on finding the good rather than the bad side of human nature, and if we could accept that we all have both weaknesses and strengths, we would all become better human beings and able to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas everyday of our life.”

Zenaida Ferry Kharrouri

Philippine bishop accuses Santa of stealing Christmas

Agence France-Presse
First Posted 03:01:00 12/04/2010

MANILA, Philippines — A senior statesman of the Philippines’ dominant Catholic church has accused Santa Claus of stealing the true spirit of Christmas, which he said is deteriorating into a shopping frenzy.

In comments published by a Roman Catholic website on Friday, Teodoro Bacani, a newly retired Manila bishop, said Santa Claus now had too much appeal in the Philippines, where eight in 10 people are baptised Catholics.

“Santa Claus helps promote consumerism because he is the symbol of shopping and gift-giving. Masses symbolise the sacrifice of life for man. But Santa has more commercial draw,” Bacani said.

Bacani lambasted that statues and images of Santa Claus were now displayed prominently across the Philippines while the traditional Christian symbol of the creche denoting the birth of Jesus was disappearing.

“Filipinos should remember that Christmas is meant to celebrate the birth of Jesus, said Bacani, a former close confidant of the late Philippine leader and democracy icon Corazon Aquino.

“Let us keep Christ at Christmas. Let us project Christ at Christmas,” he said in comments carried by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines website.

It said the comments were originally made in an interview with the Manila Catholic radio station, Veritas.

Philippines, communist rebels agree to Christmas ceasefire

The Associated Press
Updated: Fri. Dec. 3 2010 6:49 AM ET

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government and communist rebels announced Friday they will resume peace negotiations to end the 41-year-old Maoist insurgency early next year after the talks were suspended more than six years ago.

The two sides also agreed during two days of informal meetings in Hong Kong this week to observe a cease-fire for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays from Dec. 16 to Jan. 3, 2011, chief government negotiator Alexander Padilla and his rebel counterpart Luis Jalandoni said in separate statements.

The government and the rebels will hold preliminary talks in January to pave the way for the formal resumption of peace talks tentatively set for late February in Oslo, Norway, they said.

The Norwegian government is broken in the talks for a political settlement of one of Asia’s longest-running insurgencies.

The Dec. 1-2 talks in Hong Kong “were open, friendly, freewheeling and eventually meaningful,” Padilla said.

Padilla informed Jalandoni, a former Roman Catholic priest living in exile in The Netherlands, that an agreement giving safe passage and immunity to rebel negotiators and their staff had been restored. An order that could prevent Jalandoni from leaving the Philippines was also lifted, he said.

Jalandoni urged the government to release 43 health workers arrested early this year on suspicion they were part of the New People’s Army – the armed wing of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines -- and to withdraw charges against rebel negotiators and consultants to show additional goodwill and build confidence for the resumption of talks.

The Marxist umbrella group National Democratic Front, which represents the rebels in the talks, withdrew from the negotiating table in 2004 after accusing the government of suspicion they were part of the New People’s Army -- the armed wing of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines. The government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of instigating the inclusion of the Communist Party and its armed wing on the United States’ list of terrorist organizations.

Hopes were raised for the resumption of talks with the communist insurgents, as well as with Muslim separatist rebels, after the country’s new and popular president, Benigno Aquino III, took office June 30.

Aquino, son of Philippine democracy icons Corazon Aquino and Benigno Aquino Jr., reconstituted the government peace panels in the talks with rebel groups.

THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

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Community News

Bernardo
Sarmiento
Opinion Editorial

The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star and its editors.
example of how our administration is working in the broad light of day to build a country where the law protects us equally. The culture of silence, injustice and impunity that once reigned is now a thing of the past."

Thirty-eight of the health workers are detained at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City while the rest are still at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal. The ‘Morgon 43’ went on hunger strike last week (Dec. 3) for the immediate withdrawal of charges against them and their immediate release.

Anti-Torture Law

Friday’s announcement came after Aquino and other government officials signed the implementing rules and regulations of Republic Act No. 9745 or the Anti-Torture Law of 2009.

UN Coordinator to the Philippines Jacqueline Badcock said the Philippine government is now on the right track to reaching one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015.

In her speech, Badcock said the Philippines is the UN member-country to start “mainstreaming human rights in development planning,” referring to the government’s new Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP).

President Aquino did a first when he ordered the inclusion of the Commission on Human Rights in Bishops back Aquino on Truth Commission Issue

While they oppose him on the reproductive health (RH) issue, Catholic bishops expressed their support for President Benigno Simeon Aquino III on the issue about the Truth Commission.

The Supreme Court (SC) on December 7 declared as unconstitutional Aquino’s Executive Order (EO) No. 1 regarding the Philippine Truth Commission.

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Farcical Maharlika awardee runs amok at UPS election

In an indiscreet and shameless display of quip behavior usually seen in a mentally deranged person, Brujulita des Parado, the duplicitous and conspiratorial recipient of the 2010 Maharlika (pronounced ma-a-wa-ka) Award, treacherously attacked this columnist from behind without any warning. The many people who witnessed the incident unanimously said that she wouldn’t have been brazenly pugnacious if she and I were the only two people in that social hall at St. Kevin’s Church. The implication is that she was spoiling for a fight only because she knew that there were other people who wouldn’t let us get any closer to each other. As the Tagalog saying goes, “Nanggggigi dahil may pipigi.” I wish that the people assigned to secure the peace during the UPS election had just defenestrated Quezon Meanie and asked her not to come back for good. I believe that the community will be better off if she and Fraud are sent into exile.

Many people who participated in the election said that one of the reasons why Nini Francisco lost the election was because she had the bad luck of being backed up by Frauderico Crass Magallanes and Brujulita des Parado whose support, the same people believed, was a kiss of death for whomsoever the twin evils sided with. If Midas turned anything he touched into gold, Fraud and Brujulita turn any luck of being backed up by Frauderico election was because she had the bad reason Mrs. Nini Francisco lost the columnar talaga kay Maharlika Award, treacherously attacked this one of the reasons she wouldn’t have been nagpakaraming tao na ang nasusuklam kay Magallanes dahil siya mismo ang bully na nagpapaharap sa buong komunidad mang mahigit apan na dekada. Backfired Angular (BS) Sarmiento. Clearly, he is very selective. He didn’t include his propensity for lying and his tendency to dump on his critics. They are certainly certainties as volumes upon volumes of his newspaper will attest.

Isa pa, mahilig si Fraud na gumamit ng argumentong ad hominem (argument attacking the person rather than his argument) sa tuwing wala s’yang magandang pansagot sa mga isinulat ko. Ito ang mga isinulat ko na hindi n’ya pinansin o pinabulaanan: ang napabalitang pagnanakaw sa mga Palanoy sa kanyang anak na si Paul, ang natsismis na pagiging “love rat” (to borrow Fraud’s own words) ng kanyang asawang si Patria noong nasa Pinoy na handa at may kakayahang daw ako nanggaling, bagong kanyang artikulo (BS gets it all wrong talaga), napakahilig si Fraud na para bang s’ya ang naturang libro ay tugmang-tugma kay ang napabalitang pagnanakaw sa mga pamahalaan ang kanyang sarili. Anyway, nag-aayos ang sa kanyang sinabi, kaya nagpapakaraming tao na ang nasusuklam kay Magallanes dahil siya mismo ang bully na nagpapaharap sa buong komunidad mang mahigit apan na dekada. Backfired Angular (BS) Sarmiento. Clearly, he is very selective. He didn’t include his propensity for lying and his tendency to dump on his critics. They are certainly certainties as volumes upon volumes of his newspaper will attest.

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Some 80 million Americans drink beer, yet organic beer represents still only a sliver of the $7 billion U.S. craft beer market. But this sliver is quickly turning into a slice: Between 2003 and 2009, according to the Organic Trade Association, U.S. organic beer sales more than quadrupled from $9 million to $41 million.

According to Seven Bridges Cooperative, which has been selling organic brewing ingredients for a decade already, organic beers tend to feature exceptional clarity and a clean, flavorful taste. “On a more technical side, organic malts on average have a lower protein content which produces a flavorful taste. "On a more technical feature exceptional clarity and a clean, unadulterated beer."

Seven Bridges mail you all the ingredients you need to brew your own organic beer at home, but most of us would rather just enjoy the finished product. Depending on where you live, you might have dozens of organic beer brands available in bottles and even on tap at your favorite watering hole.

One of the most visible is Fortuna, California-based Eel River Brewing Company, founded in 1996. Eel River has the distinction of being America’s first certified organic brewery. Their IPA, Pale Ale, Porter, Amber Ale, Blonde Ale, Old Ale and Imperial Stout are all crafted from organic hops from New Zealand and organic grains from the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

Butte Creek Brewery, established in 1998 in Chico, California, brews organic Pilsner, Porter, Pale Ale and India Pale Ale. Their award-winning beers are distributed internationally. Olympia, Washington-based Fish Tale Organic Ales has been brewing ales, porters and stouts to rave reviews since 1993, and introduced its first certified organic beer in 2000. And Otter Creek Brewery in Middlebury, Vermont produces a line of organic ales called Wolaver’s, which includes an Oatmeal Stout and a Pumpkin Ale.

The UK’s Samuel Smith Brewery turns out a full line of acclaimed organic ale, lager and fruit beers. Other popular choices include Pinkus Organic Munster Alt, Peak Organic, New Belgium’s Mother’s Wit Wheat Beer, and Laketfront Organic ESB, among others. And Whole Foods Markets now produces its own private label organic beer called Lamar Street, which is known for its rich flavor and low cost.

Not surprisingly, even the big boys are beginning to jump in. Anheuser-Busch is pushing its Stone Mill, Wild Hops and Green Valley organic beers. Miller’s Henry Weinhard’s Organic Amber, on store shelves since 2007, is brewed with local ingredients by the Full Sail Brewery in Hood River, Oregon.

One way to sample dozens of organic beers at once is to attend the North American Organic Brewers Festival (NAOBF), held every June in Portland, Oregon. Whether you clue into organic beers at this event or just at your local pub you can’t go wrong by spreading your eco-consciousness to your beer drinking.


SEND YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS TO: EarthTalk®, c/o E – The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. E is a nonprofit publication. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe; Request a Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.

Dear EarthTalk: I see more and more organic wines on store shelves these days, but what options are out there today for organic beer?

Wichita, KS – Ken Strong.
Common mistakes and confusing words in English

Dissent versus uninterested
Dissent and uninterested share a confused and confusing history. Dissent was originally used to mean "not interested, indifferent". UNINTERESTED in its earliest use meant "impartial". By various developmental twists, DISINTERESTED is now used in both senses. UNINTERESTED is used mainly in the sense "not interested". DISINTERESTED is almost exclusively used to mean "not having a personal or property interest.”

Many object to the use of DISINTERESTED to mean "not interested, indifferent." They insist that DISINTERESTED can mean only "impartial". A disinterested observer is the best judge of behavior. However, both senses are well established in all varieties of English, and the sense intended is almost always clear from the context.

REGENERATES ("RATS" TO SOME PEOPLE)
People who had keenly followed the eight-month travails of the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws (FCBL) Committee, dubbed Marlene Birao-Schachter, Felix Salazar, and Denie and Paz Guloy “Four Rats of the FCBL” for deep-throating to Frauderico Crass Magallanes information that he would later use to malign FAMAS and the FCBL Committee.

At the outset, I was reluctant to subscribe to the depictions of the four. I even insisted that the Guloyos were decent people despite strong objection from those who knew them better. But after all, a couple, together with Marlene and Felix, tried all the tricks they could come up with, even quoting Biblical passages, to derogate Thirdy Tantongco’s steadfast stand and trenchant stand against Magallanes, and then tried to emend what to them was a faulty letter written in response to Magallanes’ malicious article, and then ultimately reneged on their promise to sign the letter on the flimsy excuse that it wasn’t in accordance with their principles or beliefs (as if they had principle to speak of in the first place), I had a better grasp why some people likened those four to said bozosom rodents. In fact, I don’t object anymore if people would like to label them “Rats of the FCBL.”

I’ve realized, to my disappointment, that Marlene, Felix, Denie and Paz are the type of people who don’t have any qualm leaving you in the lurch for their selfish motives. Worse yet, the Guloyos have been using the name of God in vain. Frankly, I hadn’t met such hypocritical people until now.

LATEST MEMBER OF FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF HYPOCRITICAL CITIZENS OF QUEBEC (FAHCQ)
Long time ago, Demosthenes D. Guloy talked to the editor-in-chief of this newspaper about submitting an article to the Filipino Star. Reasonably cautious, the good editor told Guloy that Magallanes would not allow that, but he bragged to her that he was not being paid so he could do whatever he wanted. Then he had to back out and admitted to her that Magallanes did not want him to write for the Star.

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Obviously, Guloy was principled only in words, but never in deeds. Could it be the reason he and his wife aren’t with the Couple for Christ anymore? Or is there another reason? Well, God bless! Right, Denie?

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Not only that, Birao-Schachter (phrases with “Shockter”) refused to sign the FCBL Committee letter to Magallanes in the pretext that she was against her principle, as if she had one to begin with. But when asked, for the sake of argument, what principle of hers was adversely affected, she couldn’t cite any. It is truly thought-provoking that someone who never had the ability to make insightful judgment was once the president of both FAMAS and the whilom respectable Federation of Filipino-Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ).

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(Readers’ comments are welcome. Send your e-mail at badosamanton@yahoo.com)

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COMMUNITY NEWS
By Budz Sarmiento

Regina Coeli Tolentino: a scholar and a leader

A consistent honor student, Regina Coeli Tolentino, second child and the elder of two daughters of Mandy and Gelly Tolentino, graduated valedictorian from the Marymount Academy on Cote St. Luc Road in Montreal. She also graduated valedictorian from the Coronation Elementary School on Van Home Avenue.

Aside from receiving the highest academic honors as a secondary student at Marymount Academy, she also received the following:

- Lieutenant-Governor General Award, a medal given to the graduating student of a secondary school who excelled both in academic and community leadership services among the graduates. This recognizes the student’s excellence as a well-grounded leader in the community (in this case, Greater Montreal region), considering her academic workloads.
- Principal’s Award – given to student/s who have maintained an average of 80% for every single term of his/her academic year. (Note: on her batch, only 5 students got the consistent average, where Regina Coeli tops at 93.42% for the entire Secondary 1 to 5)
- Leadership Award – given to the student who performs excellent leadership quality of services for the school. Regina was the President of the leadership Program, ever since she was in the Secondary III level. They conduct and participate in the inter-school leadership training programs; to the very least, she was one of the organizers of the EMSB School Board Leadership activities and training. Coeli even became a student judge at CBC Television on ‘Diversity Projects’.
- Subject Proficiency Awards – for getting the highest mark in each of the following subjects: French, Drama and Contemporary World.

She recently garnered the award of the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ) as the Top High Scholar 2010. In 2005, she got PBSSQ Top Elementary Scholar and also the valedictorian (with multiple recognitions, too) of Coronation School.

James de la Paz receives an award from Mayor Gerald Tremblay

MONTREAL – In a general council meeting of the Union Montreal held at the Renaissance at 7550 Henri Bourassa East Blvd. on November 27, 2010, Mayor Gerald Tremblay, leader of Union Montreal, paid tribute to James de la Paz for the latter’s dedication and commitment to the party and the city. De la Paz is one of five Montrealers whom the good mayor has awarded with a plaque that extols their services to the community.

On hand to congratulate de la Paz were CDN/NDG Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum; Councillor Marvin Rotrand; Mrs. Rose de la Paz; Mrs. Aurelia Basbacio, the newly-re-elected president of UPS; Mr. Rey Balansi, the Grand Knight of the Order of Rizal; Mr. Flor Rillo, former president of FAMAS; and 18 other loyal supporters of de la Paz. (Contributed by Budz Sarmiento)

The Fil-Can Chess and Social Club inducts its officers

MONTREAL – The Fil-Can Chess and Social Club (FCCSC) made all the right moves during their induction of officers held on December 4, 2010 at the Fireside Restaurant on Van Horne Boulevard.

Ed Valdez, emcee for the soiree, made no blunder in his opening gambit of leading the audience in the singing of the national anthems of Canada and the Philippines.

In his welcoming speech, Albert Floresca, founder and president of the FCCSC, happily announced that the Club had finally captured the Queen by having their organization officially registered. And amid the thunderous applause of the crowd, Floresca further announced that they could now apply for a grant that the organization could use in the promotion of its goals and objectives.

Introduced by Cathy Noriega, Snowdon Councillor Marvin Rotrand, the guest speaker and inducting officer, checkedmate the audience with a very inspiring speech in which he highlighted the important contributions of immigrants to Quebec and Canada, and the many benefits of using public transportation offered by the Société de transport de Montréal (STM). He said that he had a special fondness and high regard for Filipinos because of their industriousness and perseverance. He also assured the Club that the Borough would take a keen interest in the growth of the organization, one of whose objectives is to minimize juvenile delinquency.

After his riveting speech, Councillor Rotrand inducted the following officers:

- Alberto Floresca, founder and president; Carmelo Villanueva, Vice-President for Internal Affairs and Tournament Director; Randolf Noriega, Vice-President for External Affairs; Regie Villamor, Secretary; Nicolas del Rosario, Treasurer; Rudy Oliver, Auditor; Jojo Aguire, Business Manager; Cherry Palmos and Ferdie Manaog, Public Relations Officers; Diosdado Ilustre, Ronald Adiao, and Edgardo Santiago, Peace Officers; Peter Tan, Entertainment Officer; Marlou Agcaoili, Training & Development Officer; Mario Bajar, Director of Membership; Cathy Noriega, Elsa Villanueva, Mar Cabantugan, Clarence Soliven and Alejandro Toledo, Directors of Social Affairs; Dario Boco, Alberto Baens Santos, Melencio Domingo and Reuben Santos, Advisers. Shortly after the induction, various trophies were presented to the winners of the Club’s recent members-only tournament.

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Shinette Khoury, vice-president of FAMAS, is shown here with Mrs. Imelda Marcos, former first lady of the Philippines who visited her. Shinette is currently in the Philippines, staying in the Dakota Hotel while she is on holiday.

Sisipi ako ng isang mahalagang pangalang: "Bilang pagtugon sa mabilis na bilang ng mga bata at ang kaugalian ng kanilang mga ninong at ninang. Ang tumanggap ng pinakamaliit na mga bata ay kakantiyawan o bibiruin na ang mga bata ay magpapalakihan ng araw. Ang mga magkakapatid o mga bata ang kanilang "kita" sa buong araw. Ang mga magkakapatid ay magpapalakihan ng mga nagbibigay ng pera. Tuwang-tuwa ang mga bata kung ang makapangyari nila ay bago o malalim ang mananaline ng mga bata sa linggo ng Pasko dahil may mga kabala at mangyari ang mga pamilya.


"Ang biserisa ng Pasko ay Mayatubin ay pangkaraniwang ipinagdiriwang ng mga pamilya sa Pilipinas. May mga kasama sa mga pamilya ang mga ninong at ninang. Ang mga ninong at ninang ang nagbibigay ng mga opisina at sa mga tahanan sa linggo ng Pasko dahil may mga kabala at mangyari ang mga pamilya.

"Ang Pasko ay isang malaking pagdiriwang sa Pilipinas."
This idea of scrapbooking particularly with delightful color background to go with an album? Why not make a scrapbook and computer, digital frame or just a plain computer, digital frame or just a plain album? Why not make a scrapbook and present your photos in a more entertaining with delightful color background to go with. This idea of scrapbooking particularly applies to those who have tons of old photos taken when they were still in the Philippines and photos when they have arrived in Canada.

It’s time to have some fun and start making those eye-catching scrapbook pages. That’s one of our goals: to make pages that are appealing to anyone who picks up the album, even if they don’t know the people pictured in the photographs. The other goal is to make each page tell a visual story. Decide on your theme for the page and find photographs that go with that theme. For example if you have old pictures from your home town, you can use colored paper that blends in with your photos. If the town is so remote that the location is not prominent on a map, get an old map and use it as a background.

Designing Scrapbook Pages

When you have a visitor and would like to impress them with your pictures, do you show it with your computer, digital frame or just a plain computer, digital frame or just a plain album? Why not make a scrapbook and present your photos in a more entertaining with delightful color background to go with. This idea of scrapbooking particularly applies to those who have tons of old photos taken when they were still in the Philippines and photos when they have arrived in Canada.

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Selecting the photographs

Gather your photos and start selecting. You’re a photographer, so I know you have zillion of photos, especially if you’re shooting with a digital camera. You want to choose good photographs, but they don’t necessarily have to be of contest-winner quality; some lesser ones may depict the emotions of the event better. But you’ll want to eliminate the out-of-focus or poorly exposed ones. And don’t be tempted to choose redundant pictures, where there is just a minor change in expression, action, or camera position. Choose the photos that will tell your story best. Get your pile of selected photos down to no more than ten for a two-page spread. Editing out lots of photos can seem hard to do, but you can always put the extra photos in a conventional photo album. Now look at all the photos that made it to the selected list. This is the photo that captures the essence of your theme, or it may be the photo that is the very best one, photographically speaking. All the other photos round out the story as supporting players. If you have one absolutely terrific photo, you may want to enlarge it and place it alone on a page. You don’t have to have lots of photographs to make a terrific layout.

Choosing the background paper

To convey moods. Red and orange are exciting, blue and green are tranquil. Black can be dramatic. Think about the impression you want to make and try out several papers behind your photographs. In addition to setting the mood for your page, you want the background color to coordinate with the photos. An excellent way to insure this is to choose colors that already EXIST in your images. When you add a mat (a piece of paper that surrounds a photograph) you’ll also want to choose colors that work together in a harmonious color scheme.

Picture placement

Deciding where each photo should go can take some trial and error as you move them around. Placement on the page is composition– and you’ll see many similarities between composing a page and composing a photograph. For one, you want to make sure your focal-point picture is emphasized. When you take a picture, you usually try to emphasize your subject by making it relatively large. So make the focal-point picture the largest one in the layout and there’s no doubt that it is the one you want the viewers to notice first. Even if all the photographs are the same size, you can emphasize one by isolating it from the others, just as you might isolate one person from a group of people in a photograph.

If your entire album is about a single event or theme, you’ll want to unify the pages with repetition throughout. Repetition is good– but so is variety of your photographs. Occasionally you may want to angle them or overlap them. Arrange and rearrange you photographs before you glue them down. And don’t forget to leave space for some journaling.

The Christmas season brings lots of ideas with left over Christmas wrappers and tags, these recycled material will add ambiance throughout the holidays.

Now you are ready to present you own scrapbook photo album with pride when you have visitors. Just like a coffee table album, it add charms and spectacle in your livingroom.

Have a wonderful Christmas Holidays and a Happy New Year to All!

Al Abdon Hollywood Junkies

From Page 7

Common Mistakes

raze to the ground: Raze means to level something to the ground or shave it off, so the words “to the ground” are superfluous here. If a village is razed in the sense of being sacked and demolished, it would not make much sense to “raze” it into the air unless we figure out a way to defy the laws of physics and astillation, so it would seem silly to say “pie pie.”

Sahara desert: This is one that I learned fairly recently. Sahara means “desert” in Arabic, so if we’re specific desert in Africa, it’s just “Sahara.”

ironic: Isn’t it ironic? Actually, no, most of the time it is not. Irony, in its true form, is when you state something to a person who does not understand what you truly mean, but another person does. Essentially, it makes the hearer the brunt of the joke without their being aware of it. This is called dramatic or tragic irony.

Because it originated on the stage where the audience knew what was happening but the victim on stage did not. The most sustained example of dramatic irony is undoubtedly Sophocles’ Oedipus Rex, in which Oedipus searches to find the murderer of the former king of Thebes, only to discover that it is himself, or that the audience has known all Along.

Another form of irony is Socratic irony, in which the person pretends to be ignorant of a subject in order to truly show the ignorance of the person with whom he is arguing.

Unfortunately, poor Alanis Morissette had no clue when she said “it’s a free ride when you’ve already paid” or “it’s like rain on your wedding day”. This is not irony – it is misfortune or coincidence.

To sum it up, basically irony is a figure of speech in which what is stated is not what is meant. Sarcasm can be a type of irony.

RESTAURANT

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Fried Sea Bass Fish</td>
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For party menu, call Kenny

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A builder with a reputation for winning fat government road contracts has taken multi-millionaire boxing hero Manny ‘Pacman’ Pacquiao’s title as the Philippines’ top taxpayer.

Eight-time world champion Pacquiao, one of the world’s biggest-earning sportsmen, fell to number 113 on the Bureau of Internal Revenue’s top 500 taxpayers for 2009.

His tax due of 7.41 million pesos (about 169,000 dollars) was dwarfed by the 59.54 million-peso assessment on Elaine Gardiola, according to the list published on the bureau’s website Tuesday.

World champ Pacquiao was the country’s top individual taxpayer in 2008 when Gardiola was the number four, the bureau said last year without providing tax due amounts.

Local newspapers describe the new taxpayer champion, Gardiola, as the owner of a construction company named after her and based in Batangas province, south of Manila.

Her firm won 2.3 billion pesos’ worth of road repair contracts from the public works ministry in the nine years to 2008, according to the Philippine Centre for Investigative Journalism, a media watchdog.

Filipinos are taxed on the basis of their declared income, not their known assets.

The list of biggest taxpayers was sprinkled with many of the country’s top film stars and big businessmen.

However only one of the two Filipinos in the Forbes billionaires list this year, Henry Sy, made it to the top 10 taxpayers.

Shopping mall magnate Sy, the country’s wealthiest man with a family net worth of 4.2 billion dollars according to Forbes, was the number-eight taxpayer with tax due of 25.18 million pesos (574,000 dollars).

Lucio Tan, with 1.7 billion dollars in assets according to Forbes, was only the 76th biggest taxpayer with dues of 9.2 million pesos (210,000 dollars).

Both men’s firms, though, were in the top 10 of corporate income tax payers.

The bureau says just five million Filipinos pay income taxes with more than 20 million others probable tax evaders.

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**Philippine court orders return of Marcos mansion**

Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos said Tuesday that she will have a merry Christmas thanks to a court ordering the return of one of the sprawling mansions the government seized after her husband was deposed.

Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos, is seen in Laoag city in the northern Philippines province of Ilocos Norte.

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The 39-member Philippine Balangay Expedition team arrived in Manila yesterday after a four-month journey across six countries in Southeast Asia.

Filipino adventurers arrive on a replica of an ancient Philippine wooden boat called a balangay in Manila after a sea voyage following the routes and methods of ancient sea gypsies. The three vessels were made of carved wooden planks held together by wooden pins and pegs, and the 37-man crew navigated using the timeless methods of their ancient predecessors, team leader Art Valdez said.

The team, onboard vessels Masawa Hong Butuan, Diwata ng Lahi and Sama Tawi-Tawi, reached Harbor Square at the Cultural Center of the Philippines at around 9 a.m. after sailing from Sangley Point in Cavite.

The three boats are replicas of the precolony balangay boats, patterned after the boat unearthed in Butuan in 1975 and carbon dated to 320 AD.

The team sailed 12,600 kilometers from Butuan City to Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia. It sailed through rough seas using ancient navigation methods such as charting courses using the positions of the sun, stars, wind and clouds.

Among the personalities present to welcome the expedition team were former President Fidel Ramos, Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa Jr., Philippine Coast Guard commandant Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo, and former Philippine Army Brig. Gen. Dainio Lim. Team leader Arturo Valdez said they received enthusiastic support from Filipinos in countries where they docked.

"Our countryside even came to our rescue several times when supplies ran low or when storms would drive us off course," Valdez said.

Philippine Balangay Expedition was launched in September last year to retrace the pre-Hispanic transportation and trade routes of early Filipinos.

The Supreme Court ruled late Monday that the government agency created to recover billions of dollars allegedly looted by former dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his wife used a defective order to seize the beachfront, 104-acre (42-hectare) estate on Leyte Island.

The ruling came 24 years after a nonviolent "people power" uprising ousted Marcos and the government sequisted most of their property. Imelda Marcos and her children are seeking the return of the assets.

Officials allege the sprawling property was acquired through Marcos' looting of public money while in power. Imelda Marcos has long denied the allegation, saying the mansion is a family property where her father was born.

An aide said she broke into tears upon learning of the court decision.

"This is indeed a very happy Christmas, and I will try to go to Leyte before this holiday season is over," the former first lady said.

Imelda Marcos will forever be remembered for the dazzling jewels and 1,220 pairs of shoes she left behind in the presidential palace. They also are among the assets seized by the government and sought by the Marcoses.

Marcos and his associates allegedly amassed up to $10 billion in ill-gotten wealth during his 21 years in power. The Presidential Commission on Good Government has so far identified around $6.5 billion and recovered cash and assets totaling around $1.97 billion.

President Benigno Aquino III took time from his busy schedule to drop by the separate Christmas parties of journalists in the Congress Beat and the members of the House of Representatives.

Aquino was invited to the party by Congress media, many of whom covered him as congressman during his 12-year stay here.

Aquino stayed a while to party and joke around with the reporters before partying with congressmen.

Aside from Aquino, former President and now Pampanga 2nd district Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and House Speaker Sonny Belmonte led other congressmen in gracing the party for media workers.

Aroyo wished the media workers merry Christmas for everyone. Aquino arrived at the media party sometime after Arroyo left.

Aroyo arrived at the media party early so she and Aquino did not bump into each other. From the journalists' party, Aquino proceeded to the Christmas bash of the members of the House, where he was talked into doing two song numbers in return for the passage of the budget.

His first song was "All My Life" backed up by Rep. Neptali "Boyet" Gonzales. His second song was "Of All the Things," and this time, he was backed up by Belmonte, Gonzales, Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiao and other representatives.

Philippine Coast Guard commandant Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo, and former Philippine Army Brig. Gen. Dainio Lim. Team leader Arturo Valdez said they received enthusiastic support from Filipinos in countries where they docked.

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Lima Beans

Beans are low in fat and loaded with nutrients, and we'd probably eat more of them if they weren't also loaded with flatulence-producing enzymes. There are ways to enjoy beans without having to forego social appointments, however. One is to change the water from time to time while you're soaking or cooking the beans. Pouring off the water helps DRIED LIMA BEANS SOUP gets rid of the indigestible complex sugars that create gas in your intestine. It also helps to cook the beans thoroughly, until they can be easily mashed with a fork. Most bean aficionados prefer dried beans, but canned beans are also available. These don't need to be cooked, but they tend to be saltier and less flavorful than reconstituted dried beans.

1 lb. dried lima beans, soaked overnight, drained
In crock pot, put: 1 l g. can tomatoes 1/2 chopped l g. or 1 med. chopped green pepper 3 stalks chopped celery 1 med. chopped onion 1 bay leaf
Add beans and cover with water. Add a little pepper. Cover. Cook on low 8 hours.
2 cans chicken broth
1 can (1 lb, 12 oz.) tomatoes
1/2 tsp. paprika
1 c. celery
1 c. onions, chopped
1/4 c. parsley, chopped
1 c. chopped ham
Cover beans with water and refrigerate overnight; drain. Add bone, broth, tomatoes, paprika, and 3 cups water; cook 30 minutes. Add remaining ingredients and cook 1 hour.

Kadios with pork and jackfruit

As we have a lot of stock of black beans known as “kadios” in the vernacular at the Marche Coop, I thought I should promote purchase of this product by providing you with some recipes. However, there are some ingredients that may not be available, and you may find a substitute for one particular ingredient that is hard to find in Montreal, known as “batuan.” (See explanation and photo at the end of the recipe.)

You will need a generous cup of kadios that is rinsed in water, then boiled in fresh water for roughly 10 minutes, drained and rinsed again. Meanwhile, boil a pot filled with 7.5 cups of water, then add about 1.5 cups of pork, in small cubes, and boil for some 15 minutes or so. Add the kadios back into this pork broth and cook until the kadios and pork are tender. Add a half kilo of sliced unripe langka and continue to cook until the langka is done. The cookbook warns to make sure the langka is cooked before adding the next ingredient, batuan. Add around 6-7 medium sized batuans to the pot and let this simmer for several minutes until the taste permeates the broth and aroma in your kitchen is nice and fragrant. Add a tied up stalk of tanglad or lemongrass to the pot and season with sea salt.

Serve hot. And yes, it needs the batuan to really take it over the top. I have tried a few other kadios dishes in the past, but none of them were as incredibly simple and satisfying as this one. If only we can get a supply of batuan.

The following description of batuan is provided for you to find out the substitute ingredient that can be easier to find in Canada.

A small, green fruit used as a souring agent in Negros or Iloilo. Batuan (or batwan) is a common ingredient in dishes like Linaga, Kilawin, Tinola, or KBL, to name a few. Its scientific name is Garcinia binucao, derived from the Tagalog name for the fruit, binukau. To get the sour taste,
It’s another term for Warlie Basbacio as UPS President

Mrs. Warlie Basbacio was re-elected president of the United Filipino Seniors (UPS) in the election held on November 14, 2010 at the social hall of St. Kevin’s Church.

In hindsight, Myrna M. Francisco, Mrs. Francisco’s daughter-in-law and virtual campaign manager, should have discouraged Frauderico C. Magallanes and Brujulita des Parado from supporting her mother-in-law. Mrs. Basbacio garnered 320 votes against Mrs. Nene Francisco’s 209 votes in an apparently lopsided result. Right from the start of counting the ballots, it was Basbacio in the lead, and she never looked back.

After the winner was officially declared elected, Mrs. Basbacio treated her loyal supporters to a scrumptious dinner at Kam Shing at Plaza Cote des Neiges.

As is usually the case after an election, each side of the political fence accused the other of cheating. Meanwhile, in an incident unrelated to the UPS election, Julita Parado, a well-known kibitzer and recent recipient of the Maharlika Award, almost marred the otherwise peaceful event when she unexpectedly went into a rage and harassed Bernardo “Budz” Sarmiento, a columnist for the North American Filipino Star. Had it not been for the quick intervention of the people assigned to keep the peace throughout the election, the situation could have degenerated into a full blown confrontation between Parado and Sarmiento who kept his cool throughout the commotion.

Mrs. Warlie Basbacio, ninth from the left, poses with her loyal supporters after she was officially informed of her and her team’s victory.

Final dissolution of the Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal 2004 Inc.

Because of dissent within the ranks and also of the lack of support from the Filipino community and all of their many Associations, the Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal 2004 is now dissolved. It is very sad to see this happening, but it is a reality and a lesson to be learned. The Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal had to disburse all the funds raised from the start in 2004, over $70,000. The “Foundation” gave donations to major charitable organisations, and the FAMAS Association. Although this Association did nothing to support us, after incessant begging from one of our Directors, who did not raise much funds for the “Foundation,” it was decided to help the FAMAS Association for their Christmas party, they did not have any funds.

The funds were distributed as follows:

- 2,000 to Peace & Development, for the Ondoy victims
- 20,000 to the Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal
- 10,000 to MUHC Children hospital foundation
- 4,720 to children education RESP
- 10,000 to FAMAS Association
- 5,000 to Sun Youth Organization
- 3,000 to Sainte Justine Hospital Foundation
- 3,000 to Lakeshore General Hospital Foundation
- 3,000 to Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
- 3,000 to World of Dreams Foundation
- 3,000 to Dans la Rue Organization
- 3,000 to Old Brewery Mission
- 2,775 to the “Seniors in Motion” project

The “Foundation” had to return $2,775, so that this project could continue. However the “Foundation” was disappointing, but it was not a surprise, considering the lack of professional ethics from the community “leaders.”

The “Foundation” had to return a grant destined to the “Seniors in Motion Project”, because it was not a project of the Philippine Centre Foundation of Greater Montreal who was in the process of being dissolved at that time. However the “Foundation” issued funding in the amount of $2,775, so that this project could continue without being jeopardized. The simple truth always prevails.

Maybe some next grass root generation of the future could come to terms with the crabbing mentality and join together to form a united front. I hope for the best.

Abel Desprez, CGA
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December 2010
Nonito Donaire honored to be called 'the next Manny Pacquiao'  

Newly declared World Boxing Association (WBA) Interim Bantamweight champion Nonito Donaire, Jr. is honored that boxing analysts see him as "the next Manny Pacquiao."

"Manny Pacquiao is the best, if not, one of the best in history. One of the greatest. So to be said that you're the next na magiging Manny Pacquiao, it's a blessing and it's such an honor," said Nonito in a live interview on "Umagang Kay Ganda," Dec. 14.

The "Filipino Flash," together with wife Rachel, arrived in the country from San Francisco at 3 a.m. Tuesday after a triumphant fight against Wladimir Sidorenko of Ukraine last Dec. 4 in Anaheim, California. Nonito knocked out Wladimir in the fourth round, earning him his fourth knockout victory and 24th straight win.

"UKG" host Alex Santos noted that like Manny, Nonito is also left-handed, southpaw boxer. Both fighters are also known for their singing skills. Manny has two albums under his belt, while Nonito was one of the finalists on GMA-7's "Celebrity Duets."

Although he feels honored by the praise, Nonito is pressured by it, too. "I try not to think about it. Ang [iniisip] ko lang is kailangan kong mag-train nang husto at kailangang panalo everytime," he said.

Training resumes as early as the holiday season for Nonito, who will next battle it out with Mexican boxer and WBC (World Boxing Council) bantamweight king Fernando Montiel on Feb. 19, 2011.

Rachel, who was with Nonito during the "UKG" interview, said that Nonito will train in Japan. "While he's training, we're gonna set up a Christmas party," she added.

Nonito is keen on pulverizing his opponent, as doing so will make him the first Asian unified champion boxer. "As of now, siya (Montiel) 'yung pinakamagaling sa division, eh gusto kong matalo 'yung pinakamagaling sa division, para maging number one tayo. Dalawa 'yung belt niya, WBC and WBO, so gusto kong makuha 'yon eh, and one more belt after that to be the first Asian and first Filipino as well to be unified champion so 'yun 'yung goal ko ever since..." he related.
Angelica Panganiban reunites with American dad after 2 years

Actress Angelica Panganiban and his estranged American father has finally reunited.

ABS-CBN News reported that the 24-year-old Kapamilya talent finally met her father during her visit to Los Angeles, California on Nov. 21. She went there alone to see her father whom she had not seen since birth.

Angelica recalled her feelings about the meeting when she arrived in the country last Thursday.

“Ewan ko, hindi ko mapaliwanag ang feeling, parang hindi totoo, para akong nanood ng pelikula, parang manhid ang buong katawan mo, tapos bigla ka na lang iiyak.”

“Ultimo paa namin, magkaparehas,” Angelica added.

Though her father already has a family in the US, Angelica did not hesitate seeing him after learning his name and whereabouts.

Although 24 years has passed, Angelica said she holds no grudge against her father; and would just rather focus on how the two of them will patch things up.

“Medyo sensitive ‘yong part noon at medyo personal yong reason kung bakit kami nagkahiwalay, kung bakit hindi niya ako hinanap, kung bakit hindi ko alam na siya ang daddy ko. Ang importante, nag end up ng maganda ang lahat,” she said.

Recall that during Angelica’s live interview on “The Buzz” for her birthday celebration last month, she asked the network to give the vacation as a gift to her “kasi may kailangan na akong makita.”

“Kapag nakita ko na yun, masasabi ko kumpleto na ang pagkatao ko,” she said teary-eyed.

Derek Ramsay excited to meet Angelica’s dad

Derek Ramsay has no qualms admitting that he looks forward to meeting his girlfriend Angelica Panganiban’s biological father.


The hunk actor related that Angelica and her American father, Mark Charlson, frequently talk over the phone since they have a lot of catching up to do.

Angelica was estranged from her dad for years. She was only able to trace her dad’s whereabouts and then see him personally just a few weeks back.

“Si Angel, araw-araw yata kausap, eh,” Derek said referring to the actress’ dad.

Derek is happy about Angelica’s reunion with her long-lost dad.

“I always tell Angel, ‘You know, totoong daddy mo ‘yung nag-alaga sa ‘yo.’ She understands that and she loves Tita Annabelle. Maraming emotions to, eh, Makikilala mo ‘yung biological dad mo so we’re letting her enjoy. She’s happy. She deserves to be happy.”

To celebrate his birthday recently, Derek and Angelica hied off to Australia.

“Pumunta lang kami ng Australia. Angel and I spent my birthday sa Bondi beach. Nag-relax lang kami doon, nagbasa, nag-sunbathing. And then we went out to dinner together sa Opera beside the Opera house,” he shared.

The actor added that his “Magkaribal” leading lady Gretchen Barretto graced his bash.

“Yesterday I had a surprise party… and Gretchen came… that’s really nice of her… Matteo Guidicelli and all my friends and family… it was a good day. Napatasp kami ala kuwata na yata ng umaga.”

Derek’s birthday wish is for his family to have good health, especially his father.

“Dad is in the hospital now as we speak, getting a check-up. So, if I have one wish, it’s that there’s nothing serious with him.”
Vilma Santos talks about possible movie projects with Nora, Sharon

Vilma Santos

Vilma Santos is willing to make a movie with her biggest showbiz “rival” Nora Aunor, who is set to return to the Philippines within the month.


Nora has been in the United States for several years. She recently suffered a botched cosmetic surgery which supposedly damaged her vocal cords.

Vilma and Nora’s so-called rivalry escalated during the late 70s when they went neck-and-neck for acclaim. The two would later face off in what many deem as the ultimate showdown: The 1978 Ishmael Bernal film, “Ikaw Ay Akin.”

The two would later face off in what they went neck-and-neck for acclaim. They went neck-and-neck for acclaim.

Recall that last year, Vilma did one film under Star Cinema, “In My Life” which earned her a new set of Best Actress trophies, as well as a month-long TV special on ABS-CBN.

But what Vilma looks forward to the most now is having a new TV show.


Meanwhile, Vilma is equally optimistic that her friends Aga Muhlach and Sharon Cuneta will be able to iron out their high-profile “tampuhan,” Vilma herself also had a two-year “falling out” with the actor.


“At sabi ko nga tao rin kami, may mga time kami na may mga mood kami. But that doesn’t mean na may tampuhan eh parang malaking-malaking bagay na. Give them space, babalik at babalik din po ‘yan sa dati.” Parang kami rin ni Agaton,” Vilma said.

Ogie and Regine bare more of their wedding plans

With merely 15 days left, local Tinseltown is abuzz with talks and preparations for the much-awaited wedding of Regine Velasquez and Ogie Alcasid.

On Dec. 5, the couple’s “Party Pilipinas” co-hosts threw a bridal shower for Regine during the show. Love songs and dance numbers were performed, including a song number by Ogie, making the bride-to-be teary-eyed and emotional.

“It was very nice. We had a lot of fun. Thank you to everybody,” Regine told “24 Oras Weekend” that same day. Regine is set to have her last appearance before her wedding on “Party Pilipinas” this Dec. 12.

On a separate phone patch interview with “Startalk” last Dec. 4, Ogie revealed their post-wedding plans.

The singer-composer shared that he and Regine, together with their families, would be leaving for Bohol for a Christmas outing. He also revealed that their honeymoon may have to wait until next year.

“Yes, mag-iipon muna. Marami nang gastos,” Ogie quipped. He added that Regine would be busy continuing her taping for the upcoming TV series “I Heart You Pare” with Dingdong Dantes.

Regine wants. As of this writing, the couple has yet to comment on the matter.
Merry Christmas
Happy Holidays

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année

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Mark Bautista writes a song for Iza Calzado

Pop singer Mark Bautista has tried his hand at songwriting in his latest album titled “Nagmamahal,” coming up with two up-tempo love tracks in the process.

Though he’s humble with his being a greenhorn tunesmith, it’s interesting to know whom one of the songs is dedicated to: Iza Calzado.

The piece, titled “Ok Lang,” is an upbeat number that explains how he feels for the star of the ongoing series “Beauty Queen.” Iza is reportedly involved with another man, as the song actually contains the lines, “Ako’y nagpakakila/Dumatang ang isang kasama/Boyfriend pala sabi niya/Ngiti na lang/Ok lang yan kahit ako’y napahiya.”

In an interview with Bulletin Entertainment, he talked about Iza and said, “Apart from her looks, ‘yung ‘Beauty Queen.’ Iza is reportedly involved with another man, as the song actually contains the lines, “Ako’y nagpakakila/Dumatang ang isang kasama/Boyfriend pala sabi niya/Ngiti na lang/Ok lang yan kahit ako’y napahiya.”

Mark is currently loveless, though he goes out on dates. Songwriting serves as good exercise in creatively rechanneling his yearning for someone. “I want to write more songs. Gusto ko ang songwriting,” he said.

His album is themed all-Tagalog, 13 all in all, with another of his compositions called “Bakit” finding its way in the middle of the pack. Truly practicing the virtue of humility, he makes no effort in placing his songs in the same breadth as those written by the more experienced ones. In fact, his fave track is not one of his, but the Basil Valdez classic “Paano Ba Ang Mangarap,” with an arrangement that he describes as “grandioso.”

Other interesting numbers are “Buksan Mo,” pulled off by ex-That’s Entertainment mainstay-turned-songwriter Chuckie Dreyfus, and “Akalas Mo,” written by Hotdog’s Dennis Garcia. Mark also recorded his version of one of Gino Padilla’s big hits, “Gusto Kita,” credited to Snaffu Rigor who’s behind some of the classics like “T.L. Ako Sa’yo,” “Bulag, Pipi, at Bingi” and even that memorable Seiko wallet jingle.

“It’s just about maintaining your power,” he continued.

Erik Santos counts 2010 his most rewarding year yet

Singer Erik Santos will always remember 2010 as the year he was able to buy his dream car: A BMW worth at least P2-million.

“It was my birthday gift to myself last October. Natuwa kasi ako na nagfall yung birthday ko sa 10/10/10 (October 10, 2010) kaya binili ko na. Cash,” he told Bulletin Entertainment and other members of the press at the launch of his Star Records album, “All I Want For Christmas.”

Although his bid to conquer other Asian countries remains elusive, Erik has been blessed in other ways in the past 12 months. This includes a show with Sharon Cuneta and Christian Bautista titled “Star Factor,” two major concerts, one of which he co-produced (“Power of One” at the Meralco Theater last September), and the release of a previous album in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

“This has been my most financially rewarding year. Kahit ako nagulat na naging napakaganda pala ng taon na ‘to sa akin in terms ng pasok ng pera,” he said, smiling.

It doesn’t stop there. Erik recently recorded the official holiday theme song of SM Supermalls titled “The Christmas ChrISMs Bop,” which is also in “All I Want For Christmas” along with “Sana Ngayong Pasdo,” “The First Noel,” “Silent Night,” and “Christmas Is.”

Asked if he has listened to his so-called “rival” Christian Bautista’s Christmas CD, Erik said that they have exchanged albums.

“Di ko pa napapakinggan pero I’m sure maganda din yung kanya,” Erik quipped.

As usual, Erik was besieged with questions about his love life. Unfortunately, it will still be a loveless holiday for him in 2010 — thrice in a row since he broke up with actress Rica Peralejo.

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3 ½ apartment Cote des Neiges available immediately. Renovated, beautiful, clean, sunny apartment, quiet building, walking distance to stores, metro, bus, park, hospitals. Unheated, no appliances- $570 per month. Information call Tom 514-733-0535

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Looking for live-in caregiver, applicant must have working experience at least 6 months Call Genievie Milot Tel: 819-472-2700


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Having computer problems? Call (514) 770-4066, 342-3066 An experienced Filipino computer technician can come to your place at a very reasonable rate

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We are committed to your traveling pleasure, contact us at 514-485-7861, prostravelnetwork.com/ferrytraveltours

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Wanted live-in caregiver, applicant must have working experience at least 6 months, Call Genevieve LaPlante, Tel.: 514-871-5013 or 450-723-0893

Needed by family, live-in caregiver, applicant must have experience, minimum 6 months, call Kalliopi Yannopoulos, 514-349-3949

www.filipinostar.org
A CERTIFIED IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT CAN FACILITATE YOUR JOURNEY TO QUEBEC

DID YOU KNOW? As of February 2, 2011, your immigration consultant must be registered with the government of Quebec and hold membership with the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants. It’s the law. CSIC protects consumers by regulating immigration consultants who must meet its professional standards. For more information, visit www.csic-scci.ca.

SCCI
Société canadienne de consultants en immigration

www.csic-scci.ca
6430 Victoria Avenue, Montreal, QC
Tel.: 514-733-7816

Christmas Special
Prices valid from Dec. 15, 2010 to January 4, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Del Monte Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dole Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>$5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mama Sita Mix - all kinds</td>
<td>79¢ ea. or 3 for $1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinated Milk Fish</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 pce $3.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galunggong, pack</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juffran, Banana Sauce</td>
<td>550 g $1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Monte Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>3 kg $6.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dole Fruit Cocktail</td>
<td>2.8 kg $5.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mama Sita Mix - all kinds</td>
<td>79¢ ea. or 3 for $1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marinated Milk Fish</td>
<td>1, 2, 3 pce $3.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galunggong, pack</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juffran, Banana Sauce</td>
<td>550 g $1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilapia, no clean case, 18 lbs</td>
<td>$19.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai Gold Shrimp</td>
<td>70.80 2 for $9, $4.99 ea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milo</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed Milk Greece Brand</td>
<td>$1.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver Swan Soy Sauce 750 mL</td>
<td>$1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datu Puti Soy Sauce</td>
<td>$1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Datu Puti, UFC Vinegar, 1 L</td>
<td>$1.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banana Sauce 550g</td>
<td>$1.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pancit Canton $2.09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFC, Diwa, 16 oz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diwa Macapuno String, Coconut Gel</td>
<td>$1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squid, Kim Fish Sauce</td>
<td>$1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diwa Shredded Coconut</td>
<td>$1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kraft Cheese</td>
<td>$3.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diwa Shredded Cassava</td>
<td>99¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White King Puto Mix</td>
<td>99¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buitas Kaong 340 g</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed Milk</td>
<td>79¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glutinous Rice Flour Cock Brand, 454 g</td>
<td>79¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut Milk, all kinds 99¢</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Legs 99¢ lb</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil 3 L</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey Wings, Pilon 99¢ lb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Pork 99¢ lb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Eggplant 99¢ lb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bitter Melon 1.49 lb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulacan Longganisa</td>
<td>2 for $2.99, 1.79 ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UFC Spaghetti Sauce 1 kg</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunts Spaghetti Sauce 250 grams</td>
<td>79¢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnation Evaporated Milk</td>
<td>1.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Brand Rice 18 kgs</td>
<td>$29.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All kinds of phone cards</td>
<td>$2.50 for $2.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Season’s Greetings and Best Wishes for the Holidays.

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon mula sa Scotiabank.