

Storm that killed 600 threatens the Philippines again, help urgently needed



Rescue workers are busy searching and retrieving victims from the rubble and uprooted trees after a strong typhoon hit the Philippines/.

NEW BATAAN, Philippines (Associated Press) 12/08/12 -- A typhoon that had left the Philippines after killing nearly 600 people and leaving hundreds missing in the south has made a U-turn and is now threatening the country's northwest, officials said Saturday.

The weather bureau raised storm warnings over parts of the main northern island of Luzon after Typhoon Bopha veered northeast. There was a

strong possibility the disastrous storm would make a second landfall Sunday, but it might also make a loop and remain in the South China Sea, forecasters said. In either case, it was moving close to shore and disaster officials warned of heavy rains and winds and possible landslides in the mountainous region.

Another calamity in the north would stretch recovery efforts thin.

Pacquiao loses to Marquez in 6th round (see page 4)



Juan Manuel Marquez (left) hits Pacquiao and knocked him out in the sixth round, during their match on December 8, 2012 in Las Vegas. See "After stunning loss to Marquez, Pacquiao faces tough choices, page 4.

Most government resources, including army and police, are currently focused on the south, where Bopha hit Tuesday before moving west into the South China Sea.

With many survivors still in shock, soldiers, police and outside volunteers formed most of the teams searching for bodies or signs of life under tons of fallen trees and boulders swept down from steep hills surrounding the worst-hit town of New Bataan, municipal spokesman Marlon Esperanza said.

"We are having a hard time finding guides," he told The Associated Press. "Entire families were killed and the survivors ... appear dazed. They can't move."

He said the rocks, mud, tree trunks and other rubble that litter the town have destroyed landmarks,

See Page 4 Typhoon

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"Lions live up to its motto: We serve the community today"

By W. G. Quiambao

The Lions International Club (Montreal Westward) held a fundraising

Reclaim, a literacy program and \$300 to FAMAS for the shipment of boxes of clothes for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. On December 17, we'll sell



Seated from left: Rose Rillo, Gina Medina, Au Osdon, Melle Lugod, and Joan Junio. Standing (L-R): Dany Ganas, Hartley Barber, Fior Rillo, Peter Ison, Gino Pugliosi and Ben Bade.

which featured Big Band Music last November 30 at the Dorval Community Centre. About 170 guests danced from boogie to cha-cha.

"I'm happy that it was another successful fundraising, said Ben Bade, president of the Lions. "A percentage of the proceeds will go to help a Filipina with cancer. We're also approached for donation by Doctors Without Borders, a

cakes in Cote St. Luc to buy food and presents for the needy. We'd like to thank McGill University for providing the names and addresses of these families. For January 2013, we'll join the Power of Dragon, in collaboration with the Montreal Chinese Lions Club.

In addition, Bade said that for the first time, since 1957, Lions will have an honorary member. The first recipient this



Posing by the Christmas tree of the Dorval Community Center during the Lions Club Big Band Party, on November 30th are : Philip, Ben Bade's sister in law, Fior Rillo, Gina, Zeny Kharroubi, Lina Fernandez, Precy Billones, and Budz Sarmiento.

group of volunteers that go to poor and war-torn countries."

In the past, Lions had donated and supported many organizations and individuals.

"In 2010, Lions donated a lot of money to St. Mary's Hospital for the purchase of prostate equipment," said Bade. This year, we donated about \$600 to

year is Pat Gallagher.

"We have also recruited a good number of members, said Bade. "Last year, we introduced two members. This year, we introduced another one. Next year, we will have another two members. We're doing good."

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Editorial

Christmas joy

By OSV Editorial Board - OSV Newsweekly, 12/23/2012

Christmas is a wondrous time. Believers gather to celebrate the great miracle of all the ages — God himself born among us in a manger in Bethlehem. What are the lessons of that babe in the hay?

The primary message of the Incarnation is a call to unwavering faith. In this Year of Faith, we are called to grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. In his apostolic letter, Porta Fidei (“The Door of Faith”), Pope Benedict XVI reminds us:

Christmastime can be a test of our faith, but with prayer we can respond appropriately

“During this time, we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the ‘pioneer and perfecter of our faith’ (Heb 12:2): in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment. The joy of love, the answer to the drama of suffering and pain, the power of forgiveness in the face of an offense received and the victory of life over the emptiness of death: all this finds fulfillment in the mystery of his Incarnation, in his becoming man, in his sharing our human weakness so as to transform it by the power of his resurrection ” (No. 13).

Faith itself is the message our world needs today. At Christmastime, we often see decorations and ornaments inscribed with the word, “Believe.” While this may point to the more secular aspects of the holiday, Christians know that believing in Jesus Christ is the real meaning of this holy season. Like the apostles, martyrs and

saints before us, our faith sustains us and gives our lives meaning and hope. Christmas joy Thinkstock

This time of year, our faith may be tested by loneliness or grief. We may struggle with the pressure of consumerism — the belief that buying more “stuff” will make us happy. We may struggle with family grudges or challenging relationships.

Yet, the greatest lesson of the Incarnation is that God himself has been born among us — and for this we should feel nothing short of awe.

Indeed, the babe in the manger reminds us that joy will have the last word. Joy, light and love came into the world so many years ago, and nothing, not even the grave, has the power to stop it.

So, this is our message to you in these sacred days of Christmas: let us rejoice like never before at the birth of the Savior of the World, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. (See prayer at left.)

And may our celebration sustain and increase our faith so that we might joyfully witness to Jesus Christ in all that we do. Let us remember the corporal and spiritual works of mercy — to feed the hungry, to care for the sick, to clothe the naked, to forgive grudges, to bear wrongs with patience (not always easy at Christmas) and to pray for the living and the dead.

Indeed, as Pope Benedict notes in his apostolic letter, our “faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of

grace and joy” (Porta Fidei, No. 7).

At the heart of our faith is the great Alleluia — God himself has been born! Let us go and make disciples of all nations and proclaim this Good News to everyone we meet.

Merry Christmas!

A Christmas Story

By W. G. Quiambao

Christmas is just around the corner and Jelly Herrera knows she'll have a merry Christmas this year . Despite this, she can't help thinking of the bleak Christmas she had last year. She was diagnosed with a breast cancer. The diagnosis jeopardized her



Jelly Herrera

chance of landing an immigrant visa. Herrera's ordeal began when she arrived in Calgary in 2006 as a tourist to take care of her sister who had an ovarian cancer. When her sister's condition improved, she visited her relatives in Montreal. She did not want to go back to the Philippines because of her ex-husband who mentally and physically abused her.

While waiting for her refugee status to be approved, she met Patrick Parizeau on the internet in 2007. They fell in love and got married in November 2010.

“Because of a poor advice of an immigration consultant, I withdrew my application for a refugee status which was already granted in 2008,” said Herrera. “Instead, I applied for sponsorship. That’s when my problems began.”

Herrera's hope for a bright future was dashed when she had a mammogram in January 2011. She was shocked when she found out that she had a Stage 2 breast cancer. She

had a surgery to remove the tumour and affected lymph nodes and had a chemotherapy in May. There were still six chemotherapy sessions when her health coverage expired in September. She immediately had her temporary Medicare renewed but she was told that she could not do it anymore because her status had changed from refugee to sponsorship. When her refugee status was approved in 2008, she was granted a temporary medical permit by the Reggie de ‘Assurance Maladie du Quebec under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. But that time, she was no longer entitled to Medicare since her sponsorship was still being processed. Herrera and her husband approached Outremont MP Thomas Mulclair to have the processing of their application for a sponsorship expedited on humanitarian ground. To their chagrin, they were told to wait. But for how long? No one knew.

Herrera was at her wits end when while having a chemotherapy at the Jewish General Hospital last October 2011, she met Stacey Charon, a teacher with terminal breast cancer. Feeling sorry for Herrera, Charon contacted the Gazette and CTV who picked up the story. The North American Filipino Star did the same thing. Charon paid the cost of the first chemotherapy treatment and a Filipina friend paid the second treatment. More outpouring of support from the community came in. An anonymous person donated \$15,000 which was handled by Hope and Cope.

But while waiting for her immigrant visa, her husband died from heart attack last April.

“Everything was happening at the same time,” said Herrera. “I was worried that I’ll lose my chance to stay here. “

Prayer and hope kept Herrera going. She would go to the Joy Community Centre when she was down. But she knew that there was a glimmer of hope. In the wake of her husband's death, the processing of her permanent visa was expedited. Instead of sponsorship, her application fell under humanitarian category. Herrera, who received her permanent status last December 11, has been relieved for now.

“I’ll be able to sponsor my children, ages 19 and 20, in the Philippines. I just want them to finish their studies there before coming here next March. I thank God, my family and friends who supported me during my trials.”



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From Page 1 Typhoon

making it doubly difficult to search places where houses once stood.

On Friday, bodies found jammed under fallen trees that could not be retrieved were marked with makeshift flags made of torn cloth so they could be easily spotted by properly equipped teams.

Authorities decided to bury unidentified bodies in a common grave after forensic officials process them for future identification by relatives, Esperanza said.

The town's damaged public

saws were brought by volunteers from as far away as the capital, Manila, about 590 miles to the north.

Nearly 400,000 people, mostly from Compostela Valley and nearby Davao Oriental provinces, have lost their homes and are crowded inside evacuation centers or staying with relatives.

The typhoon plowed through the main southern island of Mindanao, crossed the central Philippines and lingered over the South China Sea for the past two days. It made a U-turn Saturday and is now threatening the northwestern Ilocos region.

highest paid athlete in boxing ... it goes with the territory," boxing analyst Ed Tolentino said. "For Pacquiao, the fame was too much to handle. There was just too many things on his plate other than boxing."

The distraction was costly for Pacquiao, who trained for two months, compared to 4 1/2 for Marquez.

During that time the Mexican bulked up and became more muscular to withstand the blows from Pacquiao that proved so damaging in their three previous encounters.

Pacquiao grew up a survivor and fighter, overcoming poverty and cut-throat competition in a country where half of the population lives on \$2 a day and 3,000 leave for jobs overseas every day.

He left high school to work as a baker and a construction worker to earn money for his mother and siblings after his father left them. As a scrawny teenager, he was a stowaway on a ship that took him from his southern hometown of General Santos City to the capital, Manila, where he took up boxing while working as a labourer.

After finding success in local bouts, Pacquiao began his international career in the late 1990s. In the next decade, he became a household name by clinching eight world titles in eight weight categories. At home, he was declared a hero, "the people's champ" -- an inspiration to the legions of the poor, and the man the rich and powerful wanted to rub shoulders with.

As the titles, honours and money started pouring in, so did distractions.

Politicians, minor actors and an assortment of hangers-on formed his huge entourage.

"You only need a Ferris wheel and his training camp would have been a circus," Tolentino said.

In a nation where celebrities, money and politics equal a winning formula, Pacquiao played his card by running for Congress in 2007, but lost.

The most popular face in town, he turned to crooning his own songs. His picture endorsed countless products. He's a regular on TV, and hosts his own show. He's made a movie. Another passion is cock fighting, a traditional past time in the Philippines.

He was Pacquiao Inc.

Showbiz "takes a lot of time, a lot of energy. You have to prepare for these shows," said boxing commentator Ronnie Nathanielsz. "(Pacquiao) loses focus because he has so many things to worry about and attend to."

Pacquiao was elected to Congress from his southern Sarangani province in 2010, and has announced he will run for re-election next year. Taking a cue from his political allies, he appears to be building a political organization, with his wife, Jinkee, running for vice governor, and younger brother, Rogelio, for congress in neighbouring South Cotabato province.

In the meantime, he promised to clean up his act: no more gambling, drinking and womanizing, and took up preaching the Bible. Some called it a public relations stunt for a budding politician, but Pacquiao insisted it was for real.

"To those who think that way, let us leave them be. I will pray for them. Even Jesus Christ, even after he performed miracles, no one believed him, what more for a sinner like me," he said, adding he did not want to be a pastor but share how "the Lord changed my life."

Then came the first blow: a controversial decision awarding his June fight to Timothy Bradley. Questions arose if Pacquiao was showing the wear of 17 years in the ring, and whether the distractions catching up with him.

Saturday's loss to Marquez, whom he had beaten twice and drawn once, only made the question more urgent, although Pacquiao made no mention of a possible retirement.

"Among boxers, they don't have the word retirement in their dictionary. It's so hard to admit that all of sudden it's over, especially for Pacquiao," Tolentino said.

"His demotion was from the penthouse to the doghouse," he added. "I think really there has to be a lot of soul searching. ... He has to consult his family, his real entourage."



Thousands of people rendered homeless by the typhoon seek shelter at evacuation centers.

market has been converted into a temporary funeral parlor. A few residents milled around two dozen white wooden coffins, some containing unidentified remains.

One resident, Jing Maniquiz, 37, said she rushed home from Manila for the wake of two of her sisters, but could not bring herself to visit the place where her home once stood in Andap village. Her parents, a brother and nephew are missing.

Esperanza said heavy equipment, search dogs and chain

President Benigno Aquino III, after visiting the disaster zone, declared a state of national calamity late Friday to speed up rescue and rehabilitation, control prices of basic commodities in typhoon-affected areas and allow the quick release of emergency funds.

In Bangkok, Thailand, U.N. humanitarian chief Valerie Amos said the Philippines had appealed for international aid. She said many countries have already provided assistance, but did not specify the amounts.

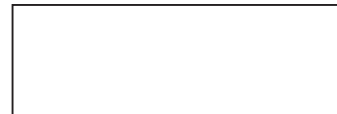
After stunning loss to Marquez, Pacquiao faces tough choices

MANILA, Philippines -- Manny Pacquiao has already achieved what most of his countrymen can only dream of: lifting himself out of wrenching poverty, securing a future for his children and becoming a hero to Filipinos the world over.

Not content with just winning in the ring, Pacquiao also set about making his mark in politics.

But after his stunning loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in Las Vegas on Saturday, the 34-year-old is facing some of the toughest questions of his remarkable 17-year career: does his future lay in boxing, politics, show business, religion, or perhaps there's even a new challenge on the horizon?

"Being the king of boxing, being the





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Dear EarthTalk: What is "perchlorate" in our drinking water supply and why is it controversial?

-- David Sparrow, Chico, CA

Perchlorate is both a naturally occurring and man-made chemical used in the production of rocket fuel, missiles, fireworks, flares and explosives. It is also sometimes present in bleach and in some fertilizers. Its widespread release into the environment is primarily associated with defense contracting, military operations and aerospace programs.

Perchlorate can be widespread in ground water, soils and plants, and makes its way up the food chain accordingly—even into organically grown foods. To wit, A 2005 Journal of Environmental Science and Technology study using ion chromatography to find contaminants in agricultural products found quantifiable levels of perchlorate in 16 percent of conventionally produced lettuces and other leafy greens and in 32 percent of otherwise similar but organically produced samples. Today, traces of perchlorate are found in the bloodstreams of just about every human on the planet.

Perchlorate in the environment is a health concern because it can disrupt the thyroid's ability to produce hormones needed for normal growth and development. Besides its potential to cause endocrine system and reproductive problems, perchlorate is considered a "likely human carcinogen" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Some 11 million Americans live in areas where concentrations of perchlorate in public drinking water supplies are significantly higher than what is considered safe.

Per the mandate of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA is currently working on setting national standards for how much perchlorate can be allowed in

drinking water without putting people at risk. As part of the process, the agency is studying the available science on the health effects of perchlorate exposure



Eleven million Americans live in areas where concentrations of perchlorate -- a chemical used in the production of rocket fuel, missiles, fireworks, flares and explosives -- are significantly higher in public drinking water supplies than what is considered safe. Credit: Comstock/Thinkstock

and evaluating laboratory methods for measuring, treating and removing perchlorate in drinking water. The EPA will publish a proposed rule on the matter for public review at some point in 2013.

"We are happy that the EPA is moving ahead with a drinking water standard...but we are concerned that it won't be strict enough," reports Renee Sharp of the nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG). The group would like to see the U.S. adopt "a truly health-protective drinking water standard lower than 1 ppb [parts per billion]" for perchlorate. Insiders don't believe federal policymakers will go that low, however, since the EPA says it cannot detect perchlorate below 2 ppb. But EWG point out that Massachusetts is already testing for it with a 1 ppb cut-off, per the mandate of its statewide standard set back in 2006.

The only other state to have a drinking water standard for perchlorate is California, which set 6 ppb or less as an allowable concentration back in 2004. But that state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment recently proposed lowering the standard to 1 ppb based on new data regarding environmental exposure, possible effects of perchlorate and consideration of infants as a susceptible population.

If the EPA develops a tough new standard, almost every state will need to readjust its water monitoring systems to take into account how much perchlorate is making its way to our taps and into the foods we eat—a no doubt costly process but one that will greatly benefit both current and future generations.

CONTACTS: Environmental Working Group, www.ewg.org; EPA Perchlorate Information, <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/unregulated/perchlorate.cfm>.

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Dear EarthTalk: I heard about a group called the Women's Earth Alliance that works on environmental projects in many parts of the world. What kinds of projects? -- Judy Stack, Barre, VT

The Women's Earth Alliance (WEA) supports community groups around the world that work at the intersection of women's rights and the environment. A project of the Berkeley, California-based David Brower Center, WEA partners with



The Women's Earth Alliance helps women around the world secure their rights and safety and remove barriers to full participation in society by supporting them in addressing the environmental issues impacting their lives. Pictured: A female farmer in India. Credit: iStockPhoto/Thinkstock

local women-led community groups engaged in finding solutions to vexing environmental problems. WEA helps women secure their rights and safety and remove barriers to full participation in society by supporting them in addressing the environmental issues impacting their lives. By bringing women's leadership to these critical environmental issues, WEA helps bring vital voices, perspectives and participation to addressing the greatest and most basic challenges of our time.

The idea for WEA emerged from a 2006 meeting in Mexico City where 30 women leaders from 26 countries gathered to address how women can do more to address today's environmental challenges. WEA offers training and resources around issues of water, land, food and climate change, operating on the guiding principle that "when women thrive, communities, the

environment and future generations thrive."

Of utmost importance to WEA is securing women's access to basic resources (food, land and water) so they can enjoy economic, social and political security. Since women in many societies are responsible for the management of food and water, the group reports, they can "experience both the unequal burden of work to secure and prepare the family's food and water as well as the vulnerability which results from traditional gender roles at home and gender discrimination in society." Women also tend to be particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, says WEA: "Women in underserved communities find themselves on the front lines of climate impacts, often witnessing their water sources and traditional land bases shift or disappear because of a dangerous mix of changing temperatures and structural inequalities."

Currently WEA focuses on three geographic areas: India, North America and Africa. Its India Program supports small and emerging women's groups that are promoting food sovereignty, traditional knowledge and advocating for the rights of women farmers. The group's trainings, advocacy and movement building have enabled thousands of poor Indian women to become environmental leaders in their communities.

In North America, WEA links pro bono legal, policy and business advocates across the continent with Indigenous women leading environmental campaigns. "Through rapid response advocacy, long-term policy working groups, trainings and delegations, WEA's innovative advocacy partnerships protect sacred sites, promote energy justice, and ensure environmental health on Indigenous lands," the group reports.

And in Africa, WEA partnered with Crabgrass, a California-based human rights group, to create the Global Women's Water Initiative (GWWI) that provides training to help people implement water related strategies to improve their communities' health, self reliance and resilience to climate change. With GWWI, WEA and Crabgrass are building a cadre of advanced female trainers skilled in applying holistic solutions with appropriate technology to environmental problems regarding water, sanitation and hygiene.

CONTACTS: WEA, www.womensearthalliance.org; Crabgrass, www.crabgrassusa.org.

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UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION REVEALS EXTREME ANIMAL CRUELTY AT PORK SUPPLIER TO CANADA'S TOP GROCERY CHAINS

Hidden-camera footage reveals pigs slammed against concrete, mutilated, and intensively confined at Manitoba pork supplier; animal protection organization calls on Sobeys, Loblaws, Metro, and Walmart Canada to ban gestation crates

Toronto, ON - Shocking hidden-camera video of animal abuse secretly recorded at Puratone, a pork supplier to Sobeys, Loblaws, Metro, and Walmart Canada, has been released by the animal protection organization Mercy For Animals Canada. The disturbing undercover video reveals pregnant pigs confined for nearly their entire lives in crates barely larger than their own bodies, and workers cutting out the testicles and slicing off the tails of fully conscious piglets without painkillers.

Mercy For Animals Canada is urging grocery giants Sobeys, Loblaws, Metro, and Walmart Canada to adopt new animal welfare guidelines prohibiting their pork suppliers from confining pigs in crates so small they cannot even turn around.

The undercover footage, recorded at a pork producer based in Arborg, Manitoba, reveals:

- Thousands of pregnant pigs confined to filthy, metal gestation crates so small they are unable to even turn around or lie down comfortably for nearly their entire lives
- Pigs suffering from large, open wounds and pressure sores from rubbing against the bars of their tiny cages or lying on the hard concrete flooring
- Pregnant pigs-physically taxed from constant birthing-suffering from distended, inflamed, and bleeding prolapses
- Pigs too sick to stand being kicked, slapped, and pulled by their ears to force them to walk
- Pigs having metal bolts fired into their skulls, leaving many still conscious and blinking
- Workers slamming piglets into the ground and leaving them to slowly suffer and die
- Workers cutting out the testicles and slicing off the tails of fully conscious piglets without the use of any painkillers

Upon reviewing the undercover footage, Dr. Ian Duncan, professor emeritus at the University of

Guelph, and holder of the oldest university chair in animal welfare in North America, stated: "It is the worst cruelty inflicted on an animal that I have witnessed in many years" and "[T]hese awful conditions are leading to terrible and unnecessary suffering for hundreds of animals."

Gestation crates have been widely condemned as one of the cruelest factory farming practices in the world. In fact, gestation crates are so inhumane they have been banned by the entire European Union, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as in nine U.S. states. Recognizing their inherent cruelty, major food providers, including Costco, Safeway, McDonald's, Tim Hortons, and over 30 other retailers in Canada and the U.S., have demanded that their suppliers do away with gestation crates. Yet Sobeys, Loblaws, Metro, and Walmart Canada continue to support blatant animal abuse by buying pork from suppliers that condemn intelligent and social animals to a lifetime of misery and deprivation.

"The hidden cost of cheap pork is blatant animal abuse," said Twyla Francois, MFA Canada's director of investigations. "No animal should suffer a lifetime locked in a crate so small she can't even turn around or lie down comfortably. It's time that these Canadian retailers take

meaningful action to ensure that the animals raised and killed for their stores do not endure lives filled with pain and misery."

To view the undercover video, visit www.PigCruelty.ca.

About Mercy For Animals Canada
Mercy For Animals Canada is a non-profit organization that was established in 2012 as a sister organization to Mercy For Animals in the United States. MFA Canada is dedicated to preventing cruelty to farmed animals and promoting compassionate food choices and policies. Over 99 percent of the cruelty to animals in Canada occurs at the hands of the meat, dairy, and egg industries, which confine, mutilate, and slaughter approximately 700 million land animals each year in Canada alone. MFA Canada aims to expose this cruelty to the public and to effect meaningful change for abused farmed animals through undercover investigations, public education, legal advocacy, and corporate outreach. For more information, please see www.mercyforanimals.ca.

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Machines must be managed but people must be led.
Ross Perot



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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Beyond the Pale
with Bernardo Sarmiento

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon sa Inyong Lahat

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année à tous.

Last year, I spent Christmas and New Year in my native town of Mendez-Nuñez in the historic province of Cavite, about 65 kilometers away from Manila. My town is adjacent to Tagaytay City, the alternate summer capital of the Philippines (next to Baguio City) where the temperature is relatively cold especially during the holiday season.

Iyon ang aking kaunaunahang Pasko at Bagong Taon sa Pilipinas sa loob ng huling ilang taon. Nanibago ako nang husto dahil puro naggagandahang parol sa iba't-ibang kulay na nakabitin sa mga plaza, mga bahay, mga department store at iba pang mga gusali ang aking nakita sa halip na makapal na snow.

As my fellow Pinoys already know, Christmas and New Year in the Philippines are gazillion times more festive and more enjoying (although costlier, particularly for ninongs and ninangs) than the most festive and most enjoying holiday, like Halloween, here in Canada, especially for children and adolescents. Not only that, Pinoys start the yuletide season as early as September, the first of what they call the "ber" months as in September, October, November and December.

Tulad ng nakagawian ng mga Pinoy tuwing magpa-Pasko, nagpapalit ako ng mga bago, mababango at malulutong na perang papel sa iba't-ibang denominasyon mula P20 hanggang P1000. Gustung-gusto ng mga namamasko, lalung-lalo na ng mga bata, na makatanggap ng ganoong kalutong na pera.

Bagama't nalaglagan ako ng mahigit P40K (humigit-kumulang \$1000) noong mismong araw ng Pasko at sumunod na araw, na kung tawagin ay "Pasko ng mga Matatanda", nang ako'y namigay ng aginaldo sa aking mga inaanak, kamag-anak at kaibigan, at maging sa ilang mga estranghero, napakagaan pa rin ng aking pakiramdam sa rami ng tao na aking napaligaya noong Kapaskuhan ng taong 2011.

ILANG BUWAN NA LANG AT FAMAS ELECTION NA NAMAN – Wala nang isang taon at eleksyon na naman ng FAMAS. Sinu-sino kaya ang mga kakandidato sa pagka-presidente? Habang isinusulat ko ito, wala pang nagpaparamdam na gusto n'yang tumakbo sa pagka-presidente ng FAMAS. Sino kaya ang papalit kay Au Osdon? Mahigitan kaya n'ya ang kasalukuyang pangulo, o mapantayan

man lamang?

By the way, for the benefit of those who are ignorant, or feigning to be ignorant, the COMELEC did not disqualify Lina Flores from her candidacy because it was the consensus, and eventually the decision, of the Committee (after Ms. Cynthia Puray, then a COMELEC member, passionately appealed during the hearing that nobody should be disqualified) that Ms. Flores' violation was not grave enough to warrant disqualification. That's the reason behind the 150-vote deduction instead of possible 300, let alone disqualification. That critic of the COMELEC's decision should have attended that hearing so he didn't have to rely on factoids or his own fabrications.

HE CAN BARK AT THE MOON AS MUCH AS HE WANTS

– You have to admire, albeit begrudgingly, the unsurpassed fiction writer of the Filipino community in Montreal for his doggedness, if not for his writing ability which is dubious at best. Egregious for his congenital flair and penchant for lying, he never ceases to intrigue even those whom he consistently maligns.

For 16 months and counting, he has been incessantly and grimly carping on the final and official result of the 2011 FAMAS election as if his life depended on it. Incredibly notorious for his brazen lies, he keeps on writing unsubstantiated allegations, mostly his own bizarre concoction [particularly about the sitting FAMAS President and the FAMAS Committee on Elections Chairman] that would have been quite humorous if they were not severely pathetic.

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO PETER TAN?

– Last November 16, I was at the party of the Fil-Can Chess and Social Club of Montreal on the invitation by its new president, Adolfo 'Boy' Nicolas, and one of its most active members and officers, Mario Bajar, a good chess player and a former member of the Philippine Marines.

While enjoying the lovely evening with friends and associates who were gathered at 6767 Cote des Neiges, I couldn't help noticing at least a couple of unusual sights. Instead of seeing any of the two most invited politicians namely, Councilor Marvin Rotrand and Michael Applebaum, the newly installed mayor of Montreal, I saw Mr. Peter McQueen, the councilor for Notre Dame de Grace, accompanied by his assistant Ms.

Sujata Dey. Councilor McQueen was the event's guest speaker. He also inducted the club's new president into office.

Very conspicuous by his absence was Peter Tan, the host club's immediate past president. Adding to the mystery was the non-mention of Mr. Tan's name in the printed program. Furthermore, not even once

MY DAUGHTER ALEXANDRA – I would love to congratulate my daughter, Alexandra Claveria Sarmiento, for emerging on top of her classes both at Kumon North America, a popular private math and reading school, located near Decarie Blvd. and in International Baccalaureate Program at Marymount Academy on Cote St. Luc Road.

In April 2013, she will be leaving



throughout the night was his name referred to, either by its new president or by the emcee for the occasion. This led me to think that there must be an acrimonious parting between Mr. Tan and the association that he had headed shortly after the passing of the club's founding president, Albert Floresca, until a few weeks ago for his name not to come out from any member's lips.

Randy Noriega, who once asked this writer for help regarding the club's constitution and bylaws, and who would later become its vice-president for internal affairs, also abruptly and mysteriously disappeared from said organization not too long after the inauguration of its first set of officers in 2010 at the now-out of business Fireside Restaurant on Van Horne Avenue. I haven't heard from, and about, Mr. Noriega since.



for Boston, Massachusetts to represent her high school in a workshop on leadership to be held there. Alexandra, a consistent honor student and a natural leader, aspires to be the president of the student council at Marymount.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Lionel Perez is the new CDN—NDG borough mayor

Montréal, November 23, 2012

– Mr. Lionel Perez has been elected by acclamation to the position of borough mayor for Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (CDN—NDG), following a nomination period triggered by the election of the previous borough mayor, Michael Applebaum, as mayor of Montréal.

Mr. Perez is committed to ensuring the orderly conduct of the borough's business, in continuity with his predecessor's administration, and to implementing some new policies. "Michael Applebaum achieved great things for our borough," said Mr. Perez. "I plan to protect his legacy and continue his projects, while advancing new projects and innovative initiatives." Among other things, the new mayor is committed to using new technology to bring residents closer to their representatives. His first step in that direction will be to introduce live streaming of borough council meetings, allowing residents to watch the meetings online from home or any other location.

The vacant councillor's seat for the Darlington district will not be filled until the next municipal election, in November 2013. Mr. Perez wishes to reassure the district's residents that he will remain attentive to their concerns in his position as borough mayor.

Timeline

Wednesday, November 21: the borough council held a special meeting for tabling the notice of vacancy for the borough mayoralty and the procedure for electing a new borough mayor.

Thursday, November 22: CDN—NDG



borough councillors wishing to succeed Mr. Applebaum had until 4:30 p.m. to announce their candidacy. Being the only candidate, he special borough council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 26 – intended for voting by the councillors if two or more candidates had stood for election – was cancelled as a result. Tuesday, November 27: Mr. Perez will be sworn in as borough mayor during a brief ceremony to be held at Montréal City Hall.

- 30 -

Source : Borough of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce
Information : Isabelle Lord, 514 868-4231

Bookshop struggles to survive with the neighboring construction site

MONTREAL, December 1, 2012 - It's tough enough to keep a small, independent bookstore afloat lately, but for one store on Queen Mary Blvd., problems have been compounded because of a massive construction site next door. Business at Bibliophile has been severely impacted by months of construction on a condominium building next door.

"There's no parking on this side of the street, the buses have been limited for a period of time -- one month two months -- they took away all the buses," said Sandra Climan, owner of the bookshop. Photos

Bibliophile is found at 5519 Queen-Mary Rd. Foot traffic has also stopped since the sidewalk in front of the store was also closed.

"I've had people call me and say, 'I've gone around the block seven times.' I say, 'Don't worry, I'll bring it out to your car if you know what you want,'" she said. Climan said she approached the construction company and spoken to the

city about the interference to her business, but it looks doubtful anything can be done.

"It's completely in conformity with zoning, but for safety reasons, the city has had to take away much of the parking, barricade part of the road, allow a construction trailer," said Montreal city councillor Marvin Rotrand.


Rotrand said there's nothing the city can do except encourage people to buy local anyway – which was the goal at a pre-holiday event at Bibliophile Sunday that Rotrand helped organize.

"The best I can do is make sure people know that this place means a lot to our community and we should help in their tough times," he said.

Business is done old school at Bibliophile – even information about authors and books is handwritten on cards.

"It's small, it's private, it's personal, it's friendly," said Sonia Zylberberg, author of The Orange on the Seder Plate.

Loyal customer Cheryl Jacobson said she's bought books at Bibliophile since the shop opened 30 years ago,



Bayang ng Pilipinas Ottawa Embassy of the Philippines

ANNOUNCEMENT


2013 SCHEDULE OF EMBASSY'S ONCE-A-MONTH WEEKEND CONSULAR SERVICES

The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa opens its doors to clients wishing to avail of its once-a-month weekend consular services. This public service is being made available to applicants who are not able to apply for their consular documents during weekdays.

Following is the 2013 schedule of the once-a-month Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 NN services:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| January 5 | July 6 |
| February 2 | August 10 |
| March 2 | September 7 |
| April 13 | October 5 |
| May 4 | November 16 |
| June 1 | December 7 |

Dates are subject to change. Please check the Embassy web site of www.philembassy.ca for updates or call the Philippine Embassy at 613-2331121 during regular office hours.





"If I run out of a book and I'm on vacation, I will read on the kindle, but my choice is to read a book," she said. "I like the feel of it and I like the warmth of it. I like the experience."

Despite the construction, which began in July, Climan has managed to

keep the store on its feet.

"I want to be here. We can't afford to lose independent businesses," she said.

It will be another six to eight months before the condos are built.

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Si Galileo S. Zafra ay isang guro sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman. Nagtuturo siya ngayon ng wika, panitikan at kulturang Filipino sa Osaka University ngunit babalik din sa Pilipinas para patuloy na maglingkod sa kaniyang bayan. Nabasa niya sa website ng NAFS ang magandang balita tungkol sa paglawak ng Wikang Pilipino sa Canada. Narito ang kaniyang komentaryo.-

Ipagdiwang Natin ang Wikang Filipino, Ipagdiwang Natin ang mga Wika sa Mundo

May ilang linggo nang nakakaraan, ibinalita na ang Tagalog daw ay panlima na sa mga wikang ginagamit sa Canada. Batay sa 2011 Census of Population: Linguistic Characteristics of Canadians (StatCan), ang Tagalog ang pinakamalaganap na di-opisyal na wikang sinasalita sa mga tahanan sa Canada.

Masaya't malungkot ang balitang ito. Malungkot dahil patunay ito na marami nang mga Filipino (kasama na ako) ang pansamantala o permanente nang namuhay sa ibang bansa tulad ng Canada para hanapin doon ang mas maginhawag buhay para sa kanilang pamilya. Masaya dahil mahihinuhang kahit ipinasya na nilang mamalagi sa ibang bansa ay patuloy pa rin nilang isinasabuhay ang kanilang kultura gaya ng paggamit ng wika.

Bakit mahalagang gamitin ang Tagalog (mas tumpak sigurong sabihing Filipino dahil ito ang opisyal na tawag sa wikang pambansa ng Pilipinas) kahit nasa ibang bayan na tayo? Noon, maraming magulang ang may palagay na dapat ituro at ipagamit sa kanilang mga anak ang dominanteng wika ng nilipatanang bansa. May ilan pa nga na halos hindi na ipinaparinig ang sarili nilang wika para diumano'y hindi na malito ang kanilang mga anak at mas mabilis nitong matutunan ang dayuhang wika. Para sa kanila, sa pagkatuto ng dominanteng wika, mas mapapabilis ang integrasyon ng kanilang mga anak sa lipunang kanila ngayong kinabibilangan.

Ngunit may ibang pananaw na rin ngayon. Marami na ang naniniwala na para sa mga pamilyang nandayuhan, mahalagang ituro ang kultura at wika ng magulang sa kanilang mga anak. Kahit kailan naman kasi ay hindi maitatakwil o maikakaila ang pinagmulan ng kahit sinong namalagi na ibang bansa. Kahit pa ang mga anak ay sa ibang bansa na ipinanganak at lumaki, naroon lagi ang palatandaan ng lahing kaniyang pinagmulan. At napakaimportanteng magkaroon ng pagpapahalaga ang mga batang ito sa kanilang pinagmulan, sa kultura ng kanilang mga magulang para mas magkaroon sila ng pagmamalaki sa kulturang ito at magkaroon sila ng tiwala sa sarili. Kaya nga tuwang-tuwa ako na sa bahay ng Kuya kong nag-migrate na sa Canada, halos wikang Filipino lang ang ginagamit sa bahay. Ang apat na anak niyang ipinanganak sa Pilipinas at ngayoy nasa Canada na ay matatas pa rin sa Filipino at mahusay rin naman sa Ingles, sa katunaya'y nangunguna pa sa kanilang mga klase. Hindi dapat pangambahan na madedehado ang mga bata sa paggamit ng dominanteng wika dahil sa labas ng tahanan, naroon ang lahat ng panlipunan at lingguwistikong

suporta—tulad ng eskuwelahan, media, barkada—para magkaroon sila ng kasanayan at kaalaman sa wikang ito.

May isa pang mas malawak at mas mabigat na kahalagahan ang pamamayani ng wikang Filipino sa Canada. Ebidensiya ito na posibleng patuloy na umiral ng multilinguwalismo o ng iba't ibang wika sa mundo. Sa ngayon, malaking banta ang patuloy na paglaganap ng Ingles sa buhay ng maraming wika sa daigdig. Ang dating paliwanag sa pagkalat ng wikang Ingles ay resulta ito ng imperyalismong pangwika. Ngayon, may pananaw na ang pamamayani ng Ingles ay resulta ng pagtingin dito bilang simboliko at intelektuwal na kapital. Ibig sabihin, para sa maraming tao, hindi na kailangang ipilit ang pagkatuto ng wikang ito. Ginugustong na nila ito kahit nahihirapan sila dito sa paniniwalang malaki ang pakinabang nila sa wikang ito.

Kaya naman lalong nanganganib ang maraming wika sa mundo. Namamatay rin ang mga wika. Namamatay ang mga ito kapag wala nang gumagamit nito. Ayon sa United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization Atlas of World's Languages in Danger, sa mahigit sa 6,000 wika sa mundo, halos kalahati ang endangered o nanganganib. Ibig sabihin nito, sa loob ng siglong ito, baka hindi na sinasalita o ginagamit ang mga wikang ito. May pagtaya pa nga na maaring dumating ang panahon na 10% na lamang ng mga wika sa mundo ang manatili.

Minsan, tinanong ko sa mga estudyante kong Hapon: Mas mabuti kayang kaunti na nga lang ang mga wika sa mundo? Inaasahan ko ang sagot nila. Marami ang nagsabi na mas praktikal na kaunti na lang ang wika sa daigdig. Mas mabisa ang komunikasyon at mas madaling magkakaunawaan ang mga tao.

Pero ang sabi ko naman, hindi lang komunikasyon ang mahalaga. Nais kong sipiin ang paliwanag ng dalawang iskolar at manunulat para idin ang kahalagahan ng patuloy na pag-iral ng maraming wika sa daigdig. Ginamit ni Ofelia Garcia ang hardin bilang analohiya ng wika. Ipinaliwanag niya, nakababagot kung nagbiyahe ka sa buong mundo at matuklasan mong ang lahat ng mga harding bibisitahin mo ay mayroong iisang kulay na bulaklak lamang. Ang pagkakaroon ng iba't ibang bulaklak na may magkakaibang hugis, laki at kulay ang nagbibigay lugod sa pagmamasid natin sa mga hardin. Gayundin dapat ang pagtingin sa wika. Kung mas maraming wika, mas interesante at makulay ang daigdig. Ngunit tulad ng mga hardin, may mga bulaklak na nangangailangan ng espesyal na pag-aalaga. Gayundin sa wika. May mga wikang nangangailangan ngayon ng kalinga para manatiling buhay. Sabi naman ng manunulat na si Colin Smith, ang paglaho ng isang wika ay tulad ng pagkawala ng isang maliit na restawran na naghahain ng maanghang na katutubong pagkain, kainang winasak at pinalitan ng McDonald's. Ano nga kaya kung dumating ang panahon na gusto nating kumain at wala na tayong ibang pagpiliang kundi ang mamantikang hamburger at maalat na french fries?

Kapag nakikipag-usap tayo,

hindi lang mahalaga ang instrumento—ang wika—para maganap ang komunikasyong ito. Kasinghalaga ay kung ano ang laman ng komunikasyong ito. Ano ang sasabihin natin sa iba? Ano ang ibabahagi nating karanasan? Ano ang mga kuwento natin sa buhay? Ano ang ating kultura? Nakapaloob sa mga wika natin ang kulturang ito. Kaya mahalaga na mapreserba natin ang sarili nating mga wika. Ang wikang ito ang magiging daluyan at nilalaman ng pakikipag-ugnayan natin sa iba't ibang tao sa mundo. Para sa ating mental at espiritwal na kalusugan, patuloy nating gamitin ang ating sariling wika at ipagdiwang ang iba't ibang wika ng daigdig. Patuloy nating gamitin ang wikang Filipino at ituro sa mga anak at sa mga darating pa.

Hinaing ng Isang OFW: Bukas na Liham

21 November 2012
To FilipinoStar
Montreal, Quebec

Sa kinauukulan,

Ako po ay isang manggagawang Filipino na sa ngayun ay naka base dito sa Montreal, Quebec. Dati po akong OFW ng 5 taon sa Israel bilang caregiver. Naranasan ko din po ang pagsiklab ng kaguluhan habang ako ay nagtrabaho duon. Sa kasalukuyang nangyayaring kaguluhan sa gitnang silangan kami po ay nadidismaya sa mga aksiyong ginagawa ng kapwa nating Filipino dyan sa Pilipinas sa pagsasagawa ng mga protesta sa harapan ng embahada ng Israel at kundinahin ang karahasang nangyayari sa Gaza. Ang mga taong walang magawa kundi sumawsaw sa mga isyu na hindi naman nila batid ang totoong pangyayari na nagaganap sa magkabilang panig. Karapatan lamang po ng Israel ang pinaglalaban nila. Ipagtanggol ang mga inosenteng tao sa kanilang sinasakupan. Di ba nila naiisip kung ilang libong OFW na sa ngayun ay nasa peligrong kalagayan dahil sa kaguluhan? Meron pong 41,000 Filipino ang nakatala sa Israel at 90% po ay puro mga caregivers. OFW na itinuring na Bagong Bayani ng Pilipinas, Manggagawa na tumutulong upang isulong ang ating ekonomiya sa Pilipinas. Mga manggagawa na

nagsasakripisyo, nagbabanat ng buto upang itaguyod ang kanya kanyang pamilya kapalit ng ano mang kapahamakan, susunungin lahat magampanan lang ang tinatawag na responsibilidad. Kayong mga nag ra rally nasaan ang inyong hiya para ikundena ang bansang Israel, bansang kumukupkop sa ating mga manggagawa na pantay ang proteksiyong ginagawa katulad ng mga Israeli na nasa peligrong kalagayan? Wala kayong tamang basehan, di ninyo alam ang puno't dulo ng pangyayari. Bakit hindi na lang kayo manahimik at gumawa ng kanya kanya ninyong trabaho o kung wala man kayong magawa magdasal na lang kayo na sana ang kaguluhan ito ay matapos na upang ang mga manggagawa natin duon ay maipagpatuloy nila ang kanilang trabaho at patuloy din ang pagpasok ng Dolyar sa ating bansa. Mga Protesters sa harap ng Embahada ng Israel, Gabriela Phils. Paki usap lang po tumigil na kayo wala kayong ginagawa kundi ilagay lang sa alanganin ang mga buhay ng mga OFW sa Israel. Nakakahiya po ang inyong mga aksiyon!!!!

Manalangin na lang po tayong lahat upang matapos na ang kaguluhan ito. Maraming salamats po..... God bless Israel !! Anaknu Ohavim Israel !!! Shalom le Khulam !!!
Sumasainyo,

Mary Grace Aggabao

- Pechay:** Maligayang Pasko sa iyo, Kuya Pichu.
- Pichu:**at Manigong Bagong Taon sa iyo, mahal.
- Pechay:** O paano tayo sa paglipat ng taon? Ano ang kame plan natin?
- Pichu:** Turuan kaya natin mag-Tagalog si Titi Jerry.
- Pechay:** Gandang plano 'yan. Ok na ok ako!!!
- Peras:** Hoy, kaunting baba naman ng boses. Hindi pa husto ang tulog ko!!!

Ang hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika, ay masahol pa sa hayop at malansang isda" . . . Dr. Jose P. Rizal



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Ask the Video Guy

Al Abdon

Mobile Phone Videography

I am sure you have tried this often enough using a cell phone as your camera, either as a still camera or video.

Cell phone screens are now considered the "third screen" after TV and computer screens. Cell phones can send email, buy and download music, stream live television, play games, shoot video and ah yes, they can still make phone calls. Granted, the video part of cell phones is still in its infancy, but this is sure to change. I wouldn't be surprised to see a cell phone someday used to incorporate Digital Media Centers like those available today by Samsung and others. These Digital Media Centers support MPEG2, Windows Media Video, AVI, and MP3 to name just a few. Many of them are only about 3 or 4 inches square, but they can hold about 5 to 7 full length movies!

A smart video producer will want to know on what kind of platform his or her video might be viewed. The TV commercial or marketing video you produce may very well end up on thousands of small cell phone screens with small speakers. Naturally, you would want to consider how the content will fit the small new video devices so you might, for example, avoid small text or other details that could be lost on such a small screen. Beyond content, you will also want to consider how the new devices can be used to accomplish the goal of your video. For instance, in a recent PBS Frontline series a documentary entitled *The Persuaders* explored current trends and thinking in advertising and marketing. One scene showed political volunteers going door to door offering to show a short political video to potential voters on the volunteer's PDA. This kind of video use opens a whole new realm of possibilities for using video on one on one situations. Some wedding videographers are already showing demos this way.

According to the *New York Times* this year's International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam included an entry called "Cell Stories," sponsored by Motorola, that was shot entirely with the video camera in one of the new Motorola cellphones. Motorola hired Director of Photography Ed Lachman (Erin

Brockovich is one of his many films) to shoot a number of short videos using their new cell phone. Is the cell phone on its way to replacing the camcorder? Not likely, but video is spreading.

Two years ago, the Philippine famous wedding videographer Jason Magbanua shot a wedding entirely with his Motorola cell phone and that sample was presented at the Wedding Event Videographers Association Convention in Orlando Florida. It started a new dimension in mobile phones capable of creating a story in sound and living color.

People who own the latest cell phones from Apple, Nokia and Samsung Electronics can watch streaming TV from Major League Baseball and other subscription services from the cable networks. Cellphones have become a ripe territory for marketers. Indeed, mobile phones have reached the frontiers of technology.

Have a Wonderful Christmas Holidays to you all and the Family,

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Christmas Recipes

Christmas ham braised in white wine with vegetables



Ingredients

1 tablespoon unsalted butter
 3/4 cup thinly sliced carrots
 3/4 cup chopped onions
 1 boneless cooked ham
 4 cups dry white wine, divided
 6 sprigs parsley
 2 bay leaves, broken in half
 6 peppercorns, crushed
 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
 Powdered cloves
 1 1/4 cup apple jelly
 3 tablespoons sweet-hot mustard
 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
 10 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
 10 1/2 tablespoons cold water
 Fresh watercress, for garnish

Recipe method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Heat butter in large, heavy roasting pan over medium heat. When hot, add carrots and onions and saute, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Place ham, fat side up, on top of vegetables. Add 3 cups wine, parsley, bay leaves, peppercorns, thyme and cloves to pan. Bring to a simmer. Remove from stovetop.

Cover pan. Transfer to oven. Bake until quite tender when pierced with knife, about 1 1/2 hours or longer, basting every 20 minutes with pan juices.

Remove pan from oven. Raise temperature to 450 degrees F. Combine jelly and mustard in small saucepan.

Cook over low heat, stirring, until jelly is dissolved.

Brush ham with mustard mixture and return to oven.

Bake uncovered for 15 minutes. Remove pan from oven.

Remove ham from pan. Tent loosely with aluminum foil.

Let cool for 20 minutes while making sauce.

Discard bay leaves and parsley. Puree remaining vegetables and any juices in pan in food processor, blender or food mill.

Return to roasting pan. Place pan on stovetop over high heat.

Add remaining 1 cup wine and stock.

Cook until mixture is reduced slightly, by a fourth.

Stir together cornstarch and water. Stir into roasting pan and cook, whisking constantly, until sauce thickens lightly.

To serve, cut ham into thin slices and arrange, overlapping, on serving platter.

Garnish with watercress. Top with a little sauce. Pass remaining sauce separately.

Ingredients

Chocolate Cream Drops

1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
 1/2 cup shortening
 1, 3 ounces, package cream cheese, softened
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 1 egg, well beaten
 2 tablespoons milk
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla



Buche de Noel (Christmas log cake)



Cake:

1 cup flour, sifted cake
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 4 eggs
 1 cup sugar
 1/4 cup water
 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Meringue mushrooms:

2 egg whites
 1/4 cup cream of tartar
 1/4 cup sugar

Cocoa, powdered

Butter cream:

1 cup butter, sweet, softened
 3 egg yolks

Icing:

1 tablespoon espresso, powdered
 1 tablespoon milk
 3 cups sugar, confectioners, sifted
 Food coloring, green

Recipe method:

Grease a jelly roll baking sheet. Line with parchment paper.

Grease the parchment paper.

Sift dry ingredients together.

Beat eggs at high speed about 5 to 10 minutes.

Add sugar by tablespoonfuls. Continue beating until the butter is very thick.

Then add lemon juice and water.

Fold in dry ingredients in four stages, 1/4 cup at a time.

Spread evenly on the baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees F for 15 minutes or until the sponge springs back when tested.

Sift powdered sugar onto the sponge.

Turn cake out onto a clean tea

towel.

2 ounces unsweetened chocolate, melted

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Recipe method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Thoroughly cream together the butter, shortening, cream cheese and sugar.

towel.

Remove parchment paper.

Trim edges of the sponge if they are crispy.

Roll up gently, leaving towel inside, while still warm. Let cool.

Beat egg whites, and when foamy add the cream of tartar.

When soft peaks form, gradually beat in the sugar.

Beat until meringue is stiff and glossy.

Pipe meringue through a pastry bag, making an equal number of stems and caps to resemble small mushrooms.

Bake mushroom pieces at 250 degrees F about 45 minutes.

When cool, glue them together with butter cream icing and dust lightly with cocoa in a fine strainer.

Beat egg yolks and butter together until smooth.

Add coffee and milk. Gradually add powdered sugar. Beat until smooth.

Mix about 1/3 cup to 1/2 cup of the frosting with green food coloring for the ivy decoration.

Unroll cooled sponge, remove towel, spread, cake with butter cream icing.

Roll up. Cut off at a diagonal, a 2 inch slice. This is the tree stump.

Frost the outside, then add the stump and frost.

Make ivy patterns. Add the mushrooms.

Dust the whole cake very lightly with powdered sugar, to simulate snow.

Keep in refrigerator. Cut with serrated knife

Add egg, milk and vanilla. Beat well. Stir in cooled chocolate.

Sift together the flour and salt.

Add to batter. Blend well. Stir in nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto greased cookie sheets.

Bake approximately 10 minutes.

Gilmore College International Annual Christmas Party - December 8, 2012



FAMAS Christmas Caroling at Gilmore College



Enjoying the party till the end are the "Happy Gilmore Girls" with Mr. & Mrs. Bogdan



Some of the guests who attended Gilmore's annual get together



Guests playing the boiled egg carrying game



Juvy Vales Durocher singing her favorite song on karaoke while the contestants eat the apples



Practicing the posing for a fashion show



A blue orchid for Christmas given by the "Happy Gilmore Girls" to their teacher



Preparing for the apple eating contest with Bogdan (back to the camera) holding the string and Edna seriously watching the contestants



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Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaïda Ferry Kharroubi

Turkey, ham, and chicken are favorites for the holidays



For the brine:

- 1 cup kosher salt
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1 gallon vegetable stock
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns
- 1 1/2 teaspoons allspice berries
- 1 1/2 teaspoons chopped candied

ginger

- 1 gallon heavily iced water

For the aromatics:

- 1 red apple, sliced
- 1/2 onion, sliced
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 1 cup water
- 4 sprigs rosemary
- 6 leaves sage
- Canola oil

Directions

[Click here to see how it's done.](#)

2 to 3 days before roasting:

Begin thawing the turkey in the refrigerator or in a cooler kept at 38 degrees F.

Combine the vegetable stock, salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, allspice berries, and candied ginger in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally to dissolve solids and bring to a boil. Then remove the brine from the heat, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate.

Early on the day or the night before you'd like to eat:

Combine the brine, water and ice in the 5-gallon bucket. Place the thawed

turkey (with innards removed) breast side down in brine. If necessary, weigh down the bird to ensure it is fully immersed, cover, and refrigerate or set in cool area for 8 to 16 hours, turning the bird once half way through brining.

Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Remove the bird from brine and rinse inside and out with cold water. Discard the brine.

Place the bird on roasting rack inside a half sheet pan and pat dry with paper towels.

Combine the apple, onion, cinnamon stick, and 1 cup of water in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Add steeped aromatics to the turkey's cavity along with the rosemary and sage. Tuck the wings underneath the bird and coat the skin liberally with canola oil.

Roast the turkey on lowest level of the oven at 500 degrees F for 30 minutes. Insert a probe thermometer into thickest part of the breast and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Set the thermometer alarm (if available) to 161 degrees F. A 14 to 16 pound bird should require a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours of roasting. Let the turkey rest, loosely covered with foil or a large mixing bowl for 15 minutes before carving.

Copyright 2012 Television Food Network G.P. Change Servings

- 1 (12 pound) bone-in ham

- 1/2 cup whole cloves



A well-glazed, spiced ham is typical of holiday food in most homes

1 (20 ounce) can pineapple rings in heavy syrup

1/2 cup packed brown sugar

1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage

1 (4 ounce) jar chopped maraschino cherries

Check All Add to Shopping List Directions

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (160 degrees C).

Place ham in a roasting pan. Score the rind of the ham with a diamond

pattern. Press a clove into the center of each diamond. Drain the juice from the pineapple rings into a medium bowl, and stir in the brown sugar and lemon-lime soda. Coat the ham with this mixture. Arrange the pineapple rings over the outside of the ham. Place a maraschino cherry in the center of each pineapple ring, and secure with a toothpick.

Bake uncovered for 4 to 5 hours, basting frequently with the juices, until the internal temperature of the ham is 160 degrees F (72 degrees C). Be sure the meat thermometer is not touching the bone. Remove toothpicks before serving.



Perfect Roast Chicken

Adapted from Martha Stewart's Cooking School

Ingredients:

- 1 fresh whole chicken (about 4 pounds)
- coarse salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 lemon, cut into 1/4 inch rounds
- 4 sprigs rosemary
- 3 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature

Prepare Chicken: Heat oven to 450 degrees F. Remove giblets and liver from cavity; discard (or reserve for another use). Let chicken rest at room temperature 1 hour. Trim excess fat from cavity. Rinse chicken thoroughly under cold water, inside and out, then pat dry, making sure the

cavity is as dry as possible. Season cavity with salt and pepper, then stuff with lemon, rosemary, and garlic. Rub skin with 2 tablespoons butter. Tie legs together with twine. Season all over generously with salt and pepper.

Roast: Place chicken in a large ovenproof skillet or a small roasting pan (filled with a rack, if desired). Roast until an instant-read thermometer inserted into thickest part of thigh (avoiding bone) registers 165 degrees F, 50 to 55 minutes. Transfer chicken to a platter. Let rest for 10 minutes.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

“People might think that I’m a beggar but I don’t care as long as I play music,” said Velasco

By W. G. Quiambao

Crisanto Velasco, a tenor saxophonist and clarinetist, is one of the about one hundred musicians playing in metro stations. They are simply known as buskers.

I don’t care what other people think about me,” said Velasco. “They think I’m a beggar. The truth is that money is secondary to me. What’s important is I’m able to do what I enjoy most – playing music. No amount of money can pay the joy that I experience when I’m playing music. Believe it or not, I’ve broken up with my girlfriends who wanted me to stop playing music, especially in metro stations. That’s what people don’t understand. My love for music.”

It’s no wonder why Velasco, who hails from San Pedro Laguna, has so much passion for music. He comes from a musically inclined family. His brothers, uncles and grandfather are all musicians. When he was about fourteen years old, his grandfather Joaquin Velasco, a musical director for LVN Pictures in the 60s and 70s, taught him not only how to play saxophone and clarinet but also how

to read musical notes. For three years, he’d religiously practise playing saxophone and clarinet. His taste for music is jazz.

“Music is important to me,” said Velasco. “I finished high school and went to college because of music. I got scholarship for playing saxophone and clarinet. I find it easier playing saxophone than clarinet. With saxophone, I play standard music while with clarinet, I play classical music. Like opera and overture.”

His big breakthrough happened in 1975 when he became a soloist clarinetist for General Laureano Cariño from GHQ. General Cariño was a conductor at Rizal Park in Luneta. While performing there, he was discovered by a talent agent who found him a gig in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan. He stayed in these three cities for five years.

“I played there six months a year,” said Velasco. “The rest of the year, I’d go back to the Philippines and I’d play in clubs on Dewey Boulevard like Romulus and Tonight and Today. I also played in a Japanese club in Makati.”



From 1980 to 1984, he played at La Tondeña and he worked as a backup musician for Lirio Vital and Darius Razon, known performers in the 70s. He was discovered again by a talent agent who offered him a job in cruise Lines. He worked as a saxophonist for Holland America Line that cruises to the Caribbean, Australia, Canada, New York and Florida and for Royal Cruise that cruises all over the world.

“I’d had fond memories of my work in cruise lines,” said Velasco. “My work enabled me to travel, meet a lot of people and make a lot of money. Most of all, I was happy playing music.”

Because Velasco enjoys travelling, he immigrated to Canada in 1995. He joined the Blacksmith Band in 1997 and then Peter Tan’s Band in 2000.

“I’d fun with them but I left the bands because the music that I played was different,” said Velasco. “I played jazz while the bands played contemporary and disco music. I like making my musical arrangement from sweet music to jazz. For example, Maalaala mo Kaya.”

In 1995, he made a big decision to play in metro stations. Playing music in metro stations is a decision he never regrets. I’ve a choice of places where I want to play music,” said Velasco. “I’ve freedom to choose what kind of music I want to play.

“Passersby – men and women, young and old – appreciate my music,”

continued Velasco, beaming with pride. “They say ‘c’est bon, c’est bon’ It’s deafening when they applaud. When they ask me how I manage to know 280 songs, I just tell them I read music notes. They also ask me why I don’t play in big clubs, I tell them I’d 25 years experience playing music in the Philippines before coming here. I’m retired. Playing music is just a hobby for me.

“A few Filipinos who understand my music appreciate what I’m doing.”

Velasco said that there are few Filipino musicians here who he thinks are good.

One of them is Norm Zabala. He sings, plays the guitar and composes songs. A talented guy. I read about him in the North American Filipino Star. Although I haven’t met him, I got in touch with him and we talked about music. Another good musician is Eric Colorado. He is a popular singer in the Philippines before coming to Canada. In the same league of Jun Polistico and Julius Obregon. Velasco has an advice for aspiring musicians: “Study music, study how to read music notes and practise every day. Practice makes you perfect.”

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FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Anne's see-through gown sends netizens abuzz



A photo of Anne Curtis wearing a Francis Libiran gown that has gone viral on social networking site Facebook.

A photo of Anne Curtis in a sheer gown at a recent gathering of Kapamilya stars has gone viral online, garnering thousands of comments in a matter of hours.

In a photo posted Wednesday on social networking site Facebook, the "It's Showtime" host is seen posing in a partly see-through gown by Filipino designer Francis Libiran.

The dress' see-through material exposed the actress' cleavage and the sides of her thighs up to her waist.

The photo was posted by an unofficial Facebook fan page dedicated to Curtis, and was taken at the Smart Araneta Coliseum last Tuesday at the sidelines of the ABS-CBN Christmas Special concert.

As of writing it, the viral photo has been "liked" on the social networking site more than 55,700 times -- a large

"likes" garnered by other photos on the same fan page, which average 4,000.

The photo has also gotten over 2,500 comments. The number of users who have shared the same image -- now over 1,700 -- has multiplied its viral spread on Facebook.

At the Kapamilya Christmas concert last Tuesday, Curtis, 27, appeared on stage alongside her "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" co-stars Robin Padilla and Kris Aquino. Angeline Quinto sang the theme song as the three actors interacted before a cheering audience.

On her account on micro-blogging site Twitter -- which is nearing 3.8 million followers -- Curtis thanked Libiran for designing the gown, which is inspired by the hit song "Diamonds" by pop star Rihanna. ■



number compared to the number of

Manny believes time is on his side; forgives Justin Bieber



For Manny, 'persecutors' like Justin Bieber should be forgiven

Eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao stated an obvious and perfectly acceptable reason for not hanging up his boxing gloves just yet: "Bata pa ako."

He reiterated during the birthday celebration "Pacman Forever: A Hero's Homecoming," held Dec. 12 at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia, what seems to be his mantra these past days following his loss to Juan Manuel Marquez:

"I believe, [with] God's will, we will rise again."

While he knows that his wife Jinkee wants him to retire from boxing, he said "kung ano ang desisyon ko daw... [susuportahan niya ako]." Manny's children Emmanuel Jr., Michael, Princess, and Queen Elizabeth were all present at the event.

The People's Champ dismissed rumors that he intended losing in order to entice Floyd Mayweather, Jr. to fight him.

"Di ako nagpatalo. Talagang talo [ako]," was his direct answer. He added in jest, "Talagang natulog tayo."

Nonetheless, he feels grateful for being "saved" from what he called Marquez's "lucky punch."

"Salamat sa Panginoon dahil iniligtas tayo sa kapahamakan... May mga pangyayari sa buhay natin na di maganda pero wag natin isipin yun dahil lahat ng nangyayari ay kasama sa tugatog ng ating tagumpay... Nandiyan ang Panginoon, ginagabayan tayo palagi. Ipagdadasal ko din sa Panginoon na iligtas tayo sa anumang kapahamakan."

It was announced on the show that Manny pledged P10 million as help for the victims of typhoon "Pablo."

"Ang bawat laban ko ay para sa inyo dahil alam ko na sa bawat suntok na tatanggapin ko, doble-doble ang pagmamahal niyo para sa akin," Manny stated.

Manny also invited televiewers to

watch out for his new show in January "na magbibigay inspirasyon at tulong sa ating mga kababayan." He added that his weekly show "Manny Many Prizes" will be back soon.

During the one-hour special, Regine Velasquez-Alcasid sang Manny's hit "Para Sa'Yo" and was later joined by the politician-recording artist himself. Other performers to the homecoming extravaganza include Rachele Ann Go, Julie Anne San Jose, April Boy Regino, Siakol, La Diva, among others. Several Kapuso stars and top network executives greeted Manny with warm welcome messages and birthday wishes, too.

Pacquiao Pardons Bieber

Meanwhile, Manny has forgiven Canadian singer Justin Bieber for his "distasteful" jibes against him. The boxer said that he will just pray for him and others who have made similar comments.

"Sabi nga ng kautusan ng Panginoon, pray for those who persecuted you. So we will pray for them, we will pray for them, okay? Patawarin natin sila," Manny said so in an interview with ABS-CBN News upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Wednesday morning.

Recall that Bieber posted on Instagram some photos that seemingly mock the Filipino boxer in relation to his loss to Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez via knock out on Sunday.

Bieber, a Mayweather fan, also accompanied the photos with comments that read: "[Mayweather] has nothing to gain fighting Pacquiao. Floyd has never in his professional career lost a fight and Pacquiao lost his last two fights."

"If Floyd wins it's not that big of a deal cuz it would be his third loss in a row, and if he loses he's gonna ruin his legacy either way there's no big win for Mayweather.. Mayweather is boxing," he said.

Bieber's posts earned the ire of many Filipinos and generated the hashtag #RespectThePhilippinesBieber on the social networking site Twitter.

The 18-year-old singer, on the other hand, is confident that his Beliebers (collective term for his fans) will stand by him.

"If they were beliebers I know they wouldn't leave my side over an[y] Boxing opinion I have," he said via his Instagram account on Monday, in reply to a fan's comment that read: "JB hope you feel proud cause you just lost your fans who like MANNY PACQUIAO but even though you like Mayweather posting these pics are just LOW even for a girl like you." ■

Gerald's tears for a hero



Budoy says he loves the Pacman

Gerald Anderson's perseverance and hard work have enabled him to f

Gerald Anderson was among many Filipinos who were devastated by boxer, Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao's humiliating knockout in the hands of bitter rival Juan Manuel "Dinamita" Marquez on Sunday.

Anderson admitted that he cried after seeing his idol fall flat on his face during the final second of the sixth round of the historic bout.

"Siyempre nadurog puso ko nu'n. Naiyak nga ako eh," he intimated in

an interview with push.com.

The 23-year old actor-model who, like Pacquiao, hails from General Santos City, maintains that his love for The Pacman was never diminished despite the latter's defeat.

"At the end of the day, manalo, matalo, you know, he's still our hero and siya pa rin ang Pinoy pride natin," said he, adding, "Actually, I think that out of all his fights, kahit du'n sa mga panalo niya, this is the best time para maging proud sa kanya."

Pacquiao displayed tremendous heart, accepting his defeat most graciously and even admitted that it was his own carelessness that led to his fall. He has since vowed to return to fighting form and soon.

Meanwhile, several celebrities also expressing similar admiration for Pacquiao over Twitter on the day of the fight, including TV host Kim Atienza, Actor-TV host Luis Manzano and actor Matteo Guidicelli.

"Manny, you are my champ forever," tweeted Atienza.

"Nothing left to prove Pacman... you are still the best!" Manzano said.

Guidicelli posted, "You still make us proud. Your still the man pacman!"

Piolo explains photo of him, Maja kissing



A screen grab from the video showing photos where Maja Salvador and Piolo Pascual appear to be kissing

Weeks after a photo of him and Maja Salvador apparently kissing circulated online, Piolo Pascual finally explained the story behind the captured moment.

The photo in question went viral some days after a video, which shows images of both Kapamilya

talents inside a car, was posted in November on video-sharing site YouTube. In one photo, Pascual, 35, and Salvador, 24, appear to be intimate.

According to the description of the video, the photos were taken on November 24 at McKinley Hills in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

"I was coming out of a run sa Sunlife last week tapos nag-'Star Magic Gives Back' concert kami," Pascual was quoted as saying by entertainment news site Push.com.ph.

"I was driving out of McKinley, nakita ko siya (Salvador), nagpaalam ako. Then she suddenly rode in my car tapos 'yun, may pumicture na we were going to kiss, tapos 'yun na," the actor added.

Although the photo may suggest a romantic relationship between the two, Pascual clarified that he is only friends with Salvador. Referring to the actress' former boyfriend, Pascual said, "I am friends with Matteo (Guidicelli) as well, and Maja is a nice girl as well, busy sa trabaho 'yun."

The "Apoy sa Dagat" star also laughed off jokes from their friends linking them as a couple. "Lokohan lang iyon, wala 'yun," he said. ■

Dingdong challenged by role in 'One More Try'



Actor Dingdong Dantes admitted he had a hard time portraying his role in

the movie "One More Try," an entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News on Thursday, Dantes said his role required him to play someone far from who he is in real life.

"Nahirapan ako kasi unang-una father ako doon at the same time husband. Ito ay dalawang matitimbang na role na sa totoong buhay, hindi pa ako ganoon, so mahirap," he said.

Dantes, however, said this did not become a problem as he had plenty of motivations.

"May mga kaibigan ako who are also young fathers and mga husbands na rin at the same time. And siyempre through the guidance of Direk Ruel Bayani and the very great script," he explained.

Meanwhile, the actor said he is grateful to have gained new friends among his fellow "One More Try" stars Angelica Panganiban, Angel Locsin and Zanjoe Marudo.

"Pantay-pantay kasi 'yung mga araw namin na nandoon kami eh. So we all shared an equal amount of time and moments para masabing nakilala namin ang isa't isa more than kung paano kami nag-umpisa," he said.

Dantes said more than any acting award, he would consider it more rewarding if a lot of people would come out and see their movie on December 25.

"Abangan nila kung anong magiging desisyon ng bawat character sa bawat importanteng crossroad ng kanilang buhay. Doon magde-define

kung anong klase kang tao, kung anong klaseng asawa, kung paano maisasalba ang isang tao or bata. Doon maglalaro ang plot ng story. Ultimately, it is a family movie," he said.

After "One More Try," Dantos said he wants to do more movies in 2013.

"Hindi ko pa masabi sa ngayon [kung anong mga gagawin ko in the future] kasi sometimes, 'yung mga gagawin mo, kapag gagawin mo na, maiiba siya. Pero definitely more movies. I really love making movies," he said. ■

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP continued p.18

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

Carmina's twins want to try acting



Twins Maverick and Cassandra already appeared in several commercials in the past

Maverick and Cassandra -- the twins of recently wed Carmina Villaroel and Zoren Legaspi -- have expressed interest in joining show business, as actors this time, during their recent guest appearance on the ABS-CBN magazine show "Rated K."

Whereas Cassandra related that she wants to be an "action star," her fraternal twin brother Maverick was more particular in noting that he wants to dabble in both comedy and action films.

After loss, Jinkee wishes for Manny to retire



Health, more than anything, matters to Jinkee Pacquiao that's why if it were up to her, she wants husband Manny Pacquiao to hang up his boxing gloves for good.

Jinkee recalled bringing the matter up to Manny following his appalling defeat to Juan Manuel Marquez of Mexico via knockout on Dec. 9 (local time) during their fourth showdown held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada—his second consecutive loss after the June match with Timothy Bradley. The eight-time world champ's response? Silence.

"Unang sinabi ko sa kanya is 'May purpose si Lord, baka gusto na niyang huminto ka na sa boxing, mag-focus na lang tayo sa Kanya, mag-serve na lang tayo sa Kanya. Hindi naman siya umimik," she told "The Buzz" on Sunday in a live phone interview.

Nevertheless, she acknowledges that Manny has the final say on the matter.

Jinkee was caught on camera all worried and crying as Pacman lay flat on his stomach in the sixth round after getting stunned by JuanMa's solid right-hand punch. It took several seconds

"Like you are an action star and you are in comedy at the same time," the 11-year-old Mavy explained.

The twins, born in the United States in 2001, have already appeared in several TV commercials in the past, mostly with their parents.

According to reports, both were instrumental in helping their father keep secret his intention to marry their mother in a lavish ceremony two weeks ago.

In an earlier interview with ABS-CBN News, Legaspi shared that he is very much willing to allow his children to pursue a career in acting but with certain conditions.

"Depende sa project. Ako kasi, ang nasabi ko sa kanila, papayag lang ako kung ako mismo ay kasama sa production. That way ay maalagaan ko sila. I should be the one handling them," he said.

He also shared having advised his daughter Cassy on the matter.

"Sabi ko, hindi pwedeng you just want to be an actress. Kailangan we have to work on it. Kailangan magaling kang kumanta, magaling kang sumayaw at magaling kang umarte," Legaspi said. ■

before Pacman managed to get up. He was first knocked down in the third round, while Marquez went down reeling in the fifth.

She desperately wanted to check on him inside the ring. However, "Hindi kasi nila ina-allow na... Kasi gusto nila 'yung doktor muna, titingnan muna si Manny kung okay siya, 'yun ang sabi sa akin," said Jinkee.

"By the grace of God, I'm okay. Siyempre nagulat po ako tsaka natakot kasi nga first time kong nakita si Manny na na-knockout talaga and then matagal kasi siyang nakabangon..." she added.

She is grateful that Manny is "okay" as per CT scan results.

"Nakakapagsalita naman siya, nakakalakad nang maayos. Praise God na okay naman siya... Hindi na namin iniisip kung anong nangyari sa laban, or na natalo siya, basta ang importante is 'yung kalusugan niya," said Jinkee.

Their four children had various reactions to the fight's outcome, Jinkee further related, "Si Manny 'yung tumawag sa kanila. 'Yung dalawang babae okay naman... Sabi nga nila kanina 'Daddy, okay lang 'yan, gusto ko happy ka.' Pero 'yung dalawang lalaki, medyo siyempre galit sila. 'Yung pangalawang anak ko nga, si Michael, binato raw 'yung TV after the fight. Naiintindihan ko naman 'yung nafi-feel nila kasi matapang talaga 'yung dalawang lalaki ko, eh."

Manny showed grace in defeat by admitting to reporters after the fight that he got "overconfident."

"I never expected those punches. He (JuanMa) got me a good shot. That's boxing. Sometimes you get hit. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose," said he. ■

Lucky Boy Kimpoy



Kimpoy Feliciano

Online heartthrob Kimpoy Feliciano has amassed a solid following in cyberspace with more than 430,000 followers on Twitter, 100,000 on Facebook, 100,000 on Tumblr, and more than 2,000,000 views on YouTube. He is said to be the most followed Twitter user in New Zealand.

And now, he has an album, too. Produced by Universal Records, the eponymous debut includes the hit "Ikaw Lang," which topped the www.mymusicstore.com.ph charts for two weeks and figured prominently in the MYX Daily Top 10 for almost three weeks. Other tracks in the album are "Ngiti," "Right Next To Me," "I'll Be Your Hero," "Una at Huling Mamahalin," and "Alipin," as well as a DVD of the music videos of the song.

FPJ monument set to be unveiled



A monument of the late actor Fernando Poe Jr. will be unveiled in Manila on Friday just in time for the eighth death anniversary of the "King of Philippine Movies."

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who had constantly honored Poe, will spearhead the ceremony.

Lim said the unveiling along Roxas Boulevard will be open to the public, adding that it will be the city's way of showing continued support for the late actor and the legacy he left behind.

"The people will continue to remember Poe for the kind of life he led, which continues to inspire his fans who are still very much around to show their support for him," Lim said.

Furthermore, the mayor said the monument will be installed along Roxas Boulevard in front of the US

Embassy as a way of perpetuating his memory as a "true and sincere champion of the masses."

"Si FPJ ay tunay at sinserong kakampi ng masa. Di kagaya ng iba na nagpapanggap lamang. Nalaman nga lang natin na marami pala siyang tinutulungan nung siya ay pumanaw na. 'Yun namang National Artist award na tinanggap ni FPJ ay long overdue and truly deserved that award," Lim stressed.

Lim also thanked President Benigno Aquino III for issuing a new proclamation that declared Poe as a National Artist.

He said it is but right to give the late actor that recognition since he has touched the lives of many Filipinos while he was still alive. ■

Four years ago, Kimpoy's family decided to migrate to Dunedin, New Zealand. Just like any kid in his situation then, he had no choice but to oblige in his family's decision to move to a new place, away from his other family, friends, and classmates.

"It was very hard for me when my family decided to move to Dunedin. I had to leave everyone behind. When we left for Dunedin, it was one of the saddest days in my life," says the 19-year-old Kimpoy, who is currently a second year Business Management Student in University of Otago.

"Who would have known that because of that sadness, I would connect to more people in the Philippines through social media? Talagang everything happens for a reason and I am blessed that I have friends from everywhere now. Talagang no boundaries."

The support of these new friends made Kimpoy one of the most influential Filipinos on Twitter, according to social media analytics site Klout.com. He ranked third in the survey, where he is the lone non-TV star.

Kimpoy was adjudged number one Youtube Leader in the 4th Annual Shorty Awards, besting other local and international celebrities. The awarding was held in New York, USA. He was also Peace Ambassador earlier this year by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. ■

Regine Velasquez looks forward to a relaxing Christmas break



When Regine Velasquez was recently queried about her holiday plans during a media huddle for her

latest endorsement – notably the supposed Amanpulo vacation with husband Ogie Alcasid – she replied, “Wag ka na makialam dun!”

After amusing the media with her quick retort, Regine turned serious and shared, “No, we have to reschedule it kasi nga we want to put up the show again; we’ll have to postpone it first. Kasi he’s (Ogie) also working eh, so siguro mga January pa ‘yun.”

She added, “Actually okay din sa akin, kasi para we can finish everything. And we’ll have time with friends and families; kasi, as you all know, we’re spending Christmas in Australia so, I want to have that time with family.”

This would be the second time that their baby Nate would be joining his half-sisters Leila and Sarah, Ogie’s daughters with ex-wife Michelle Van Eimeren.

“They’ve been missing him, kasi nga they’re so in love with him. So I’m very excited for the coming Christmas.

“New Year we’ll come back here kasi ‘yung families naman namin andito.”

At the media huddle dubbed

Pampers Slumber Party held at The Peninsula Manila, Regine had Baby Nate in tow, whose charming antics like wrestling the microphone from her and trying to “talk” while she does amused everyone.

“It’s been great,” Regine said of



Regine with baby Nate at the Pampers Slumber Party held at The Peninsula Manila

her one-year-old charmer. “You know when they say it will change your life, I had no idea! But it’s really wonderful. Had I known, I would have gotten pregnant sooner,” she laughed.

Giving insight on motherhood, she shared, “Yung mommies naman, you have your instinct, eh, ‘di ba? Ako nga, while I was pregnant, akala ko I don’t

have that, ‘yung mommy instinct, kasi nga I’ve gotten so used to being by myself. But it’s not true. Bawa’t iyak, alam mo kung ano ‘yung kailangan.”

As a working mom and a truly busy one at that, Regine values being a “hand on mom” and ensuring Nate’s comfort. Being a Pampers mom gives her that peace of mind, especially when it comes to her initial anxiety about diaper rash. She shares that she takes the “night shift” wherein “I make sure na he’s sleeping na dire-diresto...”

She added, “Ang maganda ron, if he’s sleeping straight like that, I’m also able to rest, sleep properly.”

She did, however, point out that Nate’s disposition “is really good... may pagka-komedyante nga eh, kanino kaya nagmana,” she said, feigning wonder.

Asked if she had a hard time taking care of Nate during her recent illness, she replied, “Pag may sakit isa sa amin [ni Ogie], he has to stay in his room. I make him stay with manang Dina kasi ayaw kong mahawa [siya] eh.” Then she kids, “But most of the time, actually, ako ‘yung hinahawaan niya!” ■

Charice opens up on controversies and staying true to herself

Charice’s silence has given way to several declarations when she granted a TV interview to set the record straight on a few recent issues.

On Mother And Managers

Speaking live on “The Buzz” on Dec. 2, the international singing sensation refuted allegations that she’s presently not in good terms with her mother, Raquel Pempengco. She noted, though, that it’s inevitable among family members to have occasional disagreements.

“...especially po nung time na naging independent na po ako. Siyempre mothers, minsan mangungulit – kamusta na ‘ko, ganyan – pero hindi naman po ‘yung sobrang laking away,” Charice said.

If anything, she’s a worried daughter these days, calling for prayers for Mommy Raquel because “may karamdaman po siya.”

The 20-year-old singer, meanwhile, begged off from going into details of her professional separation from Philippine manager Grace Mendoza as well as Courtney Blooding, from whom Charice had reportedly cut ties a few months after appointing the latter as her “new point of contact” in August.

“Ayoko na pong palakihin pa...” she said, stressing nonetheless her gratitude

to the two.

Fashion Fuss

While other celebrities caught in a brouhaha would easily jump into any opportunity to explain their side, Charice opted to keep mum and away from the media for several months.

“Naiintindihan ko po ‘yung mga inisip nila na suplada daw po ako dahil ‘di ko sinasagot ‘yung mga interviews po nila. Pero siyempre po, alam naman po natin na ‘yung mga ibang media... some of them medyo disrespectful po ‘yung dating... Siyempre that time, masakit for me,” she admitted.

Much of the controversies surrounding Charice relate to her online bashers who seem to find pleasure in nitpicking about her fashion evolutions especially during her mentor-judge stint on “The X Factor Philippines,” from her relatively peculiar choice of hair styles—the latest of which is the short, ash blonde layers—to her tattoos and edgier fashion style.

Though a “strong woman,” Charice got hurt and had to take a Twitter hiatus over the negative reactions albeit she had expected them when she joined the show.

What wounded Charice the most was how some, including those whom she knows personally, have unfairly



Charice says her heart is in a good place these days

judged her.

“Kasi para po sa akin, parang, ‘kilala niyo naman ako eh, hindi naman porket nagpalit ako ng buhok, ‘di naman porket may tattoo ako sa katawan ko eh iba na ako.’ ‘Di naman ganun ‘yun,” she said.

Fans of her previously long, black tresses as well as her more feminine stylings would have to content themselves with Charice’s current look because “ito na ‘yung normal na ako. Masaya na po ako.”

Meanwhile, the “Pyramid” singer admitted to have gotten confused by

people’s reactions on her American accent, saying she was criticized when she didn’t have it and even when she had already acquired the slang from her constant interactions with Americans.

“Hindi naman po sa dahil may accent eh maarte na. Preferred ko pa rin po ‘yung may Tagalog accent. Minsan kailangan ko lang po talaga [gumamit ng American accent],” she maintained.

Love And Gratitude

On a lighter note, a blushing Charice coyly admitted that her heart is in a good place.

“Masaya po ako sobra,” was all she could offer.

For all her accomplishments here and especially abroad, Charice is extremely grateful to her fellow Filipinos.

“I owe the Filipinos big time sa mga suporta na binibigay nila sa akin... Kahit na minsan ‘di nila ‘yun nafi-feel from me, sa puso ko, I owe you guys,” she said.

In parting, Charice related this message to herself while facing host (and her godfather) Boy Abunda’s “imaginary mirror.”

“Keep doing what you’re doing. You’re strong. Love yourself. Don’t live your life for other people. Believe in God. Love you.” ■

More Showbiz Gossip on p.20

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.19*

Richard Gutierrez veers from 'good boy' roles in 'Seduction'



Richard and girlfriend Sarah Lahbati

Cameras have started rolling for the Richard Gutierrez-starrer "Seduction" that sees him angsty and sexy, far different from the type of roles he has done before. The movie co-stars Solenn Heussaff, Sarah Lahbati and Jay Manalo, and is helmed by Peque Gallaga of "Scorpio Nights" and "Unfaithful Wife" fame.

This early, Peque is all praises for the good looking actor, who impressed the former when they worked together on TV series "Sugo" in 2005.

"I was watching him work so I knew what he could do as actor. I've been itching to work with him again since then," Peque said in an interview held at Oasis Bar near

Paco Park where they shot scenes last Nov. 30.

The director described Richard's character in "Seduction" as "antipatiko" and "utak pulbura" who is torn between two women each of whom has different personalities, "fire and rain" as Peque puts it.

"Si Solenn ang 'fire,' kumbaga exciting but destructive. Si Sarah naman ang 'rain' who's very conservative, mabait, life giving. Ang seduction dito ay hindi physical kundi more of psychological. Naseduca dahil sa pagkatao."

Peque added that in his upcoming film, "walang kontrabida" and that "hindi ito movie na pagandahan [lang] ng quotes."

Richard is excited to go out of his comfort zone, saying that he'll do "everything" to deliver on the challenge.

"Siguradong magugulat ang mga tao sa mga eksena kasi first time nila ako makikita this way. It's such an honor to be on this set and to be working with such professionals," the actor said.

Solenn Heussaff told Bulletin Entertainment that the story of "Seduction" is not about "the other woman" but more on extremely different and even complex personalities.

"Seduction" will start screening in theaters on Jan. 30 as the opening salvo film for 2013 of Regal Entertainment, Inc. ■

Angel, Angelica: no 'Sapawan' on set



Angel and Angelica star as Grace and Jacqueline, respectively, on 'One More Try'

Actresses Angel Locsin and Angelica Panganiban have belied reports that they seem to be "competing" with each other while shooting the film, "One More Try," an entry to the upcoming Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF).

"Natatawa nga lang ako 'pag may nababasa ako na parang, 'Ang pagtutuos...' mga gano'n. Wala naman kasing gano'n. Pero siguro 'yung artista, hindi ko pag-iisiipan ng gano'n kasi napaka-professional niya. Wala kaming gano'n," Angel told "The Buzz" recently.

She praised their director, Ruel Bayani, for being able to make each of the characters in the film stands out. "Napakaganda ng pagkakahati-hati ng storya. Na lahat ng characters umangat," Angel added.

On her part, Angelica said, "Hindi naman para umabot sa point na magsasapawan 'yung isa't-isa kasi

alam mong matalinong artista naman 'yung mga kasama mo sa eksena. At saka lumang style na 'yung nagsasapawan."

In "One More Try," Angel plays single mom Grace whose critically ill son is also the child of Dingdong Dantes' character Edward. Edward, in turn, is the husband of Angelica's Jacqueline. Actor Zanjo Marudo joins the cast of this adult-themed romantic drama as Tristan, Grace's boyfriend.

Mutual Admiration Club

Meanwhile, Angel expressed her respect for Angelica's acting skills, even claiming herself as a fan of the other since her "Becky days," referring to her role in the film, "Sarah, Ang Munting Prinsesa."

"Sobrang bilib ako sa kakayahan ng babaeng 'to sa pag-arte talaga. Fan na fan talaga 'ko. Becky days pa lang niya, sinubaybayan ko talaga 'yan kasi bilib ako kung papa'no siya... kung paano niya ibahin 'yung sarili niya from comedy to drama, kontra to bida..." said she, also praising Angelica's "bonggang-bonggang pasensya" when it comes to love.

On the other hand, Angelica commended Angel's kindness.

"Siyempre exciting na nakikita mo 'yung work ethic na isa mo pang ka-trabaho, lalo na kung paano siya mag-alaga ng mga katrabaho niya. Malapit na nga siyang lumutang sa lupa sa sobrang kabaitan niya talaga. Papalutang na siya eh, next to God... gano'n siya kabait," she said. ■

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP continued p.22



Study on aging among Filipino seniors: Participants needed

The study examines the aging experiences of Filipino seniors aged 65 years and older. Interested participants will be interviewed on their experiences of aging, immigration, and care in Canada. Each interview will last approximately one to two hours. Participants will be given a \$25 gift certificate (e.g. Pharmaprix, Tim Hortons) as compensation.

This study is also looking for Filipino adult children taking care of their older parent(s) (aged 65+). In this context, adult children will be interviewed on their perceptions of aging based on their caretaking experiences. A \$25 gift certificate will also be given as compensation.

The results of this study will highlight experiences of aging within the Filipino community, and has the potential in identifying potential needs of older Filipino men and women as they age in Canadian society.

For more information or to participate, please contact:

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Mes meilleurs vœux à l'occasion des fêtes !

Best wishes for the Holidays!

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Holiday Gifts for Wine Enthusiasts

By David White

Time is running out to finish up your Christmas shopping.

For those looking to impress a wine enthusiast, these final days are daunting. Malls and department stores offer little that would please an oenophile, and the staff at Best Buy doesn't know a thing about wine. The internet, of course, can be overwhelming!

Relax. Wine lovers are easy to please, regardless of your budget. Here are my top picks.

First, consider a wine club. Whether you're shopping for a complete novice or the next Iron Sommelier, everyone appreciates trying new wines.

TastingRoom.com is worth checking out, as it literally brings the tasting room to your living room. Launched three years ago by a tech entrepreneur, the company transfers wine into miniature bottles, allowing consumers to sample a host of wines

without having to purchase an entire bottle. Wine club memberships start at \$30 per shipment.

If you're shopping for someone who enjoys wines from Napa Valley, consider the "Bordello Wine Club" from Vintner's Collective, a multi-winery tasting room in downtown Napa. While the club is expensive -- the average shipment runs \$165 -- the collective is home to some of Napa's most celebrated, small-production winemakers. If you're shopping for a fan of Oregon Pinot Noir, there's a similar collective in the Willamette Valley called Carlton Winemakers Studio.

For novice wine drinkers, newspaper wine clubs are fun. These have proliferated in recent years, and the New York Times' selections tend to get the highest marks. That said, many local retailers have their own clubs that offer a better value.

Books also make good gifts.

If you're shopping for a budding oenophile, pick up a copy of Kevin Zraly's "Windows on the World Complete Wine Course." For good reason, it's been in print for nearly 30 years.

If you're shopping for a wine enthusiast who already has a stocked bookcase, pick her up a copy of "Wine Grapes," the just-released guide to 1,368 grape varieties by Jancis Robinson, Julia Harding, and José Vouillamoz. The book is hefty -- it clocks in at more than seven pounds -- and has a price tag to match, retailing for \$175. But it's a reference book that every wine geek is desperate to own.

A more affordable choice is "How to Love Wine," by New York Times chief wine critic Eric Asimov. Part memoir and part manifesto, the book thoroughly combats the poison of wine snobbery through an honest and personal evaluation of America's wine culture. It was my favorite book this year.

Actual wine also works. To make an impression, you'll want something that's recognizable but isn't easily found at the supermarket.

Champagne is always memorable, and in recent years, wine enthusiasts have gone gaga over "Grower Champagne," or wines made by the farmers who grow the grapes. Just as we understand why an apple grown in Virginia tastes different from an apple grown in Massachusetts, we understand why a Sonoma Chardonnay tastes different from one produced in Napa. Champagne is no different. And Grower Champagne conveys that sense of place. Egly-Ouriet, Pierre Peters, and Vilmart are three top Growers. Their wines are pricey but delicious.

Of course, if you go this route, don't hesitate to ask the knowledgeable staffer at your local wine shop for advice. She might steer you toward something else that's equally impressive, like a well-known Bordeaux or Super Tuscan.

Stemware and decanters also make for great gifts. Look for brands like Riedel, Spiegelau, and Schott Zwiesel.

Whatever you do, don't waste money.

I've never seen the point of a wine stopper, and no wine enthusiast wants a kitschy, hand-painted wine glass. The latest gadgets, too, are typically a waste -- cordless rechargeable wine bottle openers always seem more difficult to use than traditional waiter's tools.

David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com. His columns are housed at Palate Press: The Online Wine Magazine (PalatePress.com).

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Pacman moved by hero's welcome

Prized pugilist Manny Pacquiao was obviously touched by the reception he got from people upon his return to Manila early this morning, Dec. 12.

He admitted thinking "wala nang sasalubong" considering his defeat in the hands of Juan Manuel Marquez a few days ago. But seeing the crowd at the airport, he said "para akong dalawang beses nanalo sa Amerika."

He went on to personally thank all those present including Senators Bong Revilla and Gringo Honasan and Congressman Jayvee Ejercito, among others.

Looking very fresh and even unscathed, Pacquiao shared insights on his loss.

"Du'n sa nakaraang laban ko eh, ginawa natin ang lahat ng ating makakaya," he said. "Hindi naman tayo nabugbog o kung ano in fact, lamang pa nga tayo but ganuon talaga ang boxing, may disgrasya talaga."

He described the punch that felled him as a "very good" one. "Natiyempuhan tayo, but anyway pasalamat din ako sa Lord na walang nangyari [mas masama] sa akin."

He admitted watching the replay several times, revealing that he didn't know how badly he was hurt until he saw himself falling like a log face first on the canvas.

"Hindi ko naman alam kung ano ang nangyari eh," he said with a seemingly bitter smile.

"Hindi ko alam na bumagsak pala ako na nakauna ang mukha ko," he added. "Nalaman ko [na nakatuglo



Dec 12, 2012 - The Pacquios arrive in Manila and Manny tells reporters, 'don't worry, we will rise again'.

ako] nu'ng nakatihaya na ako at marami nang tao sa harapan ko."

In the end however, he said, "ganu'n talaga. Kasama sa larangan ng boxing 'yan eh. Kailangan buong pusong tanggabin."

He said that he had his reasons in taking on a more aggressive stance against a good counter-puncher like Marquez.

"Kasi gusto ko makita ng tao 'yung bagsik ko," he said. "May iba kasi sabi 'Ah, si Manny wala na 'yung anger,' 'wala na 'yung tapang ni Manny sa ring,' 'wala na 'yung killer instinct niya.' Pinakita ko na andu'n pa rin 'yun. Pero kung ako lang mas gustuhin ko na

hindi ako aggressive pag counter puncher ang kalaban ko, pero lucky punch lang talaga."

Pacquiao admits that as much as the loss hurt him, he felt even more for those who came to support him.

"Ang gusto ko kasi mapasaya lang lagi sila [fans]. 'Yun lang ang gusto kong mapasaya ang mga kababayan natin, ang aking mga fans, kaya nu'ng nakita ko nag-iyakan sila du'n din ako nasaktan. Syempre ayaw ko mangyari 'yun na malungkot ang mga fans ko especially lalo na 'yung familia ko," he explained.

"Nasaktan ako at nabigo ko sila, pero, like I said, babawi din tayo."

Not yet over

In a separate interview with "Unang Hirit," Pacquiao reiterated his intent to fight again in at least six months -- although he wasn't keen to name his next foe.

"Kung sino ibigay ng promoter ko iyong ang labanan ko," he said. "[Pero] hindi pa kami nakapag-usap ni Bob Arum ukol sa next fight."

Pacquiao vows to not make the same mistakes he made the last time out.

"Matinding paghahanda ang gagawin natin 'pag mayroon na tayo uling schedule at laong mas maingat pa tayo," he said.

"Pagbutihin pa natin 'yung training natin, pagbutihin pa lalo ang paghahanda natin," he added.

But the boxer's wife has another idea, intimating to the press that she would continue pressing for her husband to retire from the sport.

"Siguro i-pagpray ko kay Lord na he will talk to Manny na makapag-decide siya ng para sa kabutihan niya," Jinkee Pacquiao said in the same interview.

"Huminto na lang siya, she added. "[Syempre we should remain positive above all but] ayaw namin hintayin na kung ano pa mangyari sa kanya."

For now, she is adamant for her husband to visit his doctors before anything else.

"Wala kaming gagawin sa araw na ito, diretso na kami sa Cardinal Santos [Memorial Hospital]," she said. ■

Teen power: the young top achievers of 2012

Some of the young stars that have become quite successful this year have been in the industry for a time now, while others have only been under the limelight just recently. These youngbloods from various TV networks we're naming here have one thing in common—all of them are sure to have a merry Christmas because 2012 has been an outstanding year for them, career-wise.

1. Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla

If the consistent, nightly trending of hashtags containing anything "KathNiel"—the loveteam's pet name—on Twitter isn't proof enough of their tandem's remarkable success, then we don't know what is. From being a low-profile love team in the now defunct Kapamilya youth-oriented show "Growing Up" just last year, 2012 has seen a career turn around for Kathryn and Daniel, with the twosome rising to become the hottest young couple of the network with the airing of "Princess And I" some eight months ago.

From then on, triumphs after triumphs have dotted their partnership—whether as a tandem or as solo artists—from being tapped as endorsers for top consumer brands to appearing as a couple in movies like Star Cinema's latest ensemble film "24/7 In Love" and in the upcoming Metro Manila Film Festival entry "Sisterakas." In addition to their string



Prides of their respective home networks: (L-R) Julia, Jasmine, Daniel, Kathryn, and Julie Anne

of achievements are the notable sales of the "Love Songs from Princess and I" album, their serye's soundtrack, as well as the Gold Record award earned by Daniel's eponymous debut album.

2. Julie Anne San Jose

The former "Little Miss Philippines" runner-up-turned-singer is undoubtedly the Kapuso network's best kept gem today. She can sing, dance, act and she has very supportive fans who make sure her name is among the local top trending topics every now and then.

Although she's been part of the industry for almost a decade now, Julie Anne's stardom has definitely skyrocketed in 2012 as proven by her chart topping self-titled debut album's

Gold Record feat and the numerous citations she has received this year—among them the 43rd Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Awards Promising Female Singer/Performer award, 60th Famas Award's German Moreno Youth Achievement Award and the Globe Tatt Awards 2012 Trending Personality and People's Choice Award.

This is the year she also lands her first ever titular role opposite her love team Elmo Magalona, in the movie "Just One Summer."

3. Julia Montes

At 17, Filipino-German young actress Julia Montes has a clear-cut view of the things that are truly important in life. As such, the young star has purchased a two-storey abode

in Antipolo for her family in July this year. She may have joined showbiz only last year, landing a role in the landmark teleseryes "Mara Clara" together with Kathryn, but 2012 continued to be another prosperous year for her after having been included in the top-rating teleserye "Walang Hanggan" together with Coco Martin, Dawn Zulueta, and Richard Gomez.

Aside from that, this year is also special for Julia, as she has finally been able to make her Mama Flor's dream a reality by putting up the Julia Montes Salon in Pandacan, Manila.

4. Jasmine Curtis-Smith

She hasn't even gone full time in local showbiz yet but Jasmine Curtis-Smith has already topped the achievements of other stars in her batch. For one, the Filipina-Australian beauty, the younger sister of actress-host Anne Curtis, has already had a chance to work with an international star in the person of "American Idol Season 7" runner-up David Archuleta for the Kapatid serye "Nandito Ako."

Jasmine has only begun dabbling in showbiz last year after signing up with Viva Talent management but she's already gone full throttle as far as seryes and appearances in the Kapatid network and other endorsements are concerned. That's despite her having to fly to the country from The Land Down Under constantly just to fulfill her showbiz commitments. ■



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(Ethel Tugna - March 2011 graduate)



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- Gregg Shorthand - English & French
- Bookkeeping & Accounting - Accounting Technician
- Other courses on request



Photo taken during the PAB/PSW graduation ceremony on October 7, 2012. From left (front row) Annabelle Allosa, Ethel Tugna, PAB instructors Terry White and Amy Manon-og, Director-General Zenaida Kharroubi, PAB instructors Edith Fedalizo and Sophie Toledo, and Lourdescita Lubang. Standing (left to right): Grace Calvo, Vilma Lagonilla, Mildred Mendoza, Giselle Arellano, Marilou Hechanova, Edison Taguba, Annie Signey, and Joesie Bingayen.

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