Manuel challenges Osdon in a tight FAMAS presidential race

Sweet smiles, firm handshakes, usual speeches and promises - it’s election time - one of the much-anticipated events in the community this year.

FAMAS (Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs), the oldest and largest Filipino association in Quebec, will hold the election of its new set of officers on August 14, Sunday, at the St. Kevin Social Hall.

Two teams, whose respective candidates filed their certificates of candidacies at the eleventh hour on June 15, are running this year. Representing the Mabuhay team is Aurora “Aur” Osdon, incumbent FAMAS president and representing Samahang Makabayan team is Cesar Manuel, a former FAMAS director. Many observers say it is a tight race because both teams have staunch supporters.

One hot issue that is often raised by the supporters of Manuel is their belief that the center is closed most of the time. “If we win, we’ll make sure that the center is always open,” supporters of Manuel promised. “That’s a community centre. Now it’s like a funeral. It’s so quiet.”

The supporters of Mabuhay team are quick to answer. “That’s not true. People running the centre now are all volunteers. They provide referral services like answering inquiries of Filipinos who want to renew passports or to get French lessons. The centre is always open for business, not monkey business.”

Manuel spoke of his platforms. One of them is to suggest that each term, at least three teams, to pay a candidacy fee of, say, $4,000. That should be at least $12,000 which is guaranteed income for FAMAS. This is because both teams have staunch supporters.

Lions International Montreal Westward Club donates to the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative

Lion Benjamín Bade, one of the five founders of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative, informed Zenaida Kharroubi during the Pista sa Nayon festival that the Lions International Montreal Westward Club is donating a $500 cheque to the Coop. It was a very pleasant surprise to Mrs. Kharroubi who has been single-handedly sustaining the operation of the Coop despite financial hardships. Presentation of the cheque was made on Monday, July 18, at the office of Gilmore College International and witnessed by some students studying French (see photo on page 4).

The Filipino Solidarity Cooperative was founded in August 2004 and opened its grocery store on 4711 Van Horne on July 15, 2005. After barely a year, the first president left the Coop in shambles, without proper turnover of documents that are essential for the Coop to function.
Editorial

Are we ready to embrace changes in FAMAS politics?

By now, being closer to the biennial elections of new officers of FAMAS, people should be aware of the changes that have been introduced by the Comelec concerning the venue of the election and the requirements imposed on the candidates for the different positions. As can be expected, some people may disagree with these changes while others are more open to new ideas of improving our ways of electing our community leaders.

Before rejecting the changes, we should first try to understand the reasons behind them. For example, there have been issues on how we can ensure an honest and orderly election. FAMAS has evolved into a bigger organization but it has had all kinds of problems, including scandals which had tarnished our reputation as a community and vote buying during elections. To prevent these bad practices from occurring, the Committee on Elections proposed a change of venue, and the deadline for paying membership fees that qualify people to vote during elections. The purpose of these changes is to prevent the problems of the past from occurring again.

But in spite of all these changes, people who have other motives in mind, found a loophole in the way registration of members is processed. Somehow, an unusual number of memberships were filed in big batches to beat the deadline of July 17 during the town festival. Who knows who paid for these membership fees as they were presented with payments without the personal presence of the people making the application. What does this mean? Are these people who are registered this way serious? Do they consider FAMAS elections as just a social game or a Russian roulette where the stakes are high?

It is quite disappointing to hear that all the changes intended to promote an orderly and clean elections are still not tamper-proof. Somehow, there are loopholes that can lead to unpredictable and surprising results. There should have been a stricter way of accepting membership registrations by requiring individuals to present themselves with two pieces of ID, and having them sign in front of the officer accepting the registration. Although this is not going to prevent completely the payment of membership fees by a candidate who wants to ensure victory, at least, it is not going to be as easy as it has been by having someone else fill up the form and submitted to the registration desk in such a wholesale fashion.

The number of voters during FAMAS elections has always been huge. With the changes introduced this year, many have expressed doubts whether or not the turn out will still be big enough to be considered a successful one because FAMAS is funded from the membership fees. But the real test of a democracy is really not in numbers. It is in the way the people take their right to vote for their community leaders in a more responsible way.

This coming election is an experiment in bringing up the standards of behavior in local politics. May the best candidate win.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

We all need to pray for one another, and to love one another. We should always pray for the safety, peace, love and brotherhood for people all over the world.

Too bad we can’t have an independence day for the entire world. A day of freedom from ignorance, hatred, war, illusions, power and control. A day where we can all love each other as human beings and toss away the weapons of war, and cast out our fears and hatreds from our hearts into the graves. We must mourn the graves of the innocents all over the world, and give the children of the world the hope of a peaceful, loving and beautiful world.

A world full of love and without hatred or fear. A world where we can join hands together and accept one another, regardless of our skin color, ethnic divisions, religion or nationality. If we don’t unite as a human race, then we have condemned the future generation of children a dark and very grim future.

Think of love, compassion and peace always...

MY PRAYER FOR PEACE AND HARMONY

Merciful God, You made all of the people of the world in Your own image and placed before us the pathway of salvation through different Preachers who claimed to have been Your Saints and Prophets. But, the contradictions (made by us) in the interpretation of Your teachings have resulted in creating divisions, faith based hatreds and bloodshed in the world community. Millions of innocent men, women and children have so far been brutally killed by the militants of several religions who have been committing horrifying crimes against humanity and millions more would not be butchered by them in the future, if You guide and help us find ways to reunite peacefully.

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE COMPASSIONATE, THE MERCIFUL, look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the controversial teachings of arrogance, divisions and hatreds which have badly infected our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; reunite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish Your purposes on earth; that, in Your good time, all nations and races could jointly serve You in justice, peace and harmony. (Amen)

Regards,

S.A.Rehman
Peace Activist
PAKISTAN

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Montreal, QC H3T 1Y6

Name
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Gilmore College International and North American Filipino Star move to a better location

The two-storey building in the center is the new site of Gilmore College International on the second floor measuring 1500 square feet and has three big bay windows, four rooms and a big hallway in the middle of the rooms. Gilmore’s new address is: 5320-A Queen Mary Road which is accessible from the Snowdon Metro, and Bussses 17, 166, 151.

The staff and administration of Gilmore College International are pleased to announce the new headquarters to be located on a very nice area with a lot of pedestrian traffic which will make the school more visible and accessible. Snowdon Metro is just a block away, and the bus stop for three bus lines are just a few feet away. Being on a two-storey building is an advantage for this allows the putting up of a sign outside the building that will make people aware of the existence of a school that can service their needs. A new park will be built on the corner of Coolbrook and Queen Mary which is just opposite this building. With all the amenities available, students and teachers will find this location ideal and convenient. With this move, there will be more opportunities to hold seminars that will be held monthly or bi-monthly on different topics, ranging from leadership training, team building, entrepreneurship, small business management, writing workshops, cooperative education, to other useful topics which will be of interest to everyone of all cultures and backgrounds.

As the North American Filipino Star is also under the management of the founder of Gilmore College International, the newspaper will also benefit from this prime space location. It will have its own sign that will be more visible to the public, making it easier for other businesses in the area to contact us for advertising.

Moving is never easy as it costs money and time. But with the advantages of having more space, bright windows, and more visibility, we are glad that we made the decision to move.

As tradition dictates, moving to a new place is always followed by what we call a “house warming” and blessing. At Gilmore College, we still believe in this practice. At the same time, there will be an open house to welcome prospective students to our new location. The date will be announced in the August issue of the North American Filipino Star.

The Filipino Solidarity Cooperative invites all members and prospective members to join us in a community potluck picnic
Sunday, August 21, 2011 - 11:00 A.M. and General Assembly
2:00 P.M.
Beaver Lake Park (second parking lot)

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COOPERATIVE NEWS

In less than three weeks, we will be holding our community pot luck picnic and general assembly. We are urging members to make sure they mark August 21, 2011 as an important date on their calendar. This is the best time and maybe the only occasion that we can communicate all the information they must know in making them understand the exact situation of the Cooperative. We have never had a good attendance in the past assemblies for a variety of reasons which we cannot control. But, maybe this time, people are ready to participate in the Cooperative’s affairs after several years of silence or inactivity. We are hoping to have a better attendance even though we have not been able to reach all listed members because many of them have changed their phone numbers without notifying us. We are again making an appeal to have them call us at 514-733-8915, or 514-485-7861 and let us know about their change of address and telephone number.

At the picnic, we will have available a list of all fully paid members to be used in checking attendance for the general assembly. Although we published all the names of both fully paid and partially paid members in the past issues of the North American Filipino Star, we did not get enough feedback. Only a few people responded to say that they did not really apply for membership but only donated their $10 to the Coop. We will bring copies of the newspaper pages which showed the names of members in several issues as we had to publish them in instalments for lack of space. We even sent letters to the partially paid members but some were returned undelivered and others did not bother to reply.

We are again trying to encourage our members to be more involved in the affairs of the Coop and we thought it would be a good idea to hold a community potluck picnic. At the beginning of August, we will have some volunteers call everyone in the Coop in having sent e-mail and flyers everywhere. We are using every means to contact as many members as we can. If you or anyone you know plan to attend the assembly, please call us at 514-685-7861 and leave us a message with your name, and phone number. We also would like to have your e-mail to make it easier to send messages instantly in the future.

According to the Cooperative’s constitution and by-laws, directors have a term of 3 years. Since we were elected in our general assembly in March 2008, we have already exceeded the normal term of three years because of the delays in our financial reports. It is therefore important to advise our members of the necessity of holding the election at this general assembly. Any fully paid member can run to be a director, or be nominated to be a candidate. Current directors also have a right to run for re-election. We shall have to elect only five directors so if there are more than five candidates, we shall hold an election. However, if there are exactly only five candidates who are willing to be directors, they will be acclaimed and then they will select among themselves the different positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and director.

The following is the proposed agenda for August 21, 2011.
Part I - Lunch
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Part II - General Assembly
2:00 - 4:00 PM.
1) Opening prayer
2) Roll call
3) President’s report
4) Presentation of financial reports
5) Formation of Comelec
6) Nomination of candidates for directors
7) Election or acclamation of candidates
8) Formation of committees
9) Next meeting
10) Adjournment

Considering that this meeting is important in electing a new board of directors that will manage the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative for another three years, we are urging all concerned members to help us campaign for a good turn out. We also ask that members with business management experience and who are willing to render service to the community that they accept their nomination and become the directors of the Cooperative for 2011-2014.

We have gone this far and kept the Cooperative open for the past five years. We hope that the next three years will be better and see us all united in working for our common prosperity together.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Roman A. Gordy B.A., B.C.I.
AVOCAT / ATTORNEY AT LAW
Immigration
Civil Law—Commercial Law—Médiation
Tél.: 514-664-5404
Fax: 514-849-3101
1117 Rue Ste. Catherine O. Suite 406
Montréal QC Canada H3B 1H9
romanagordy@videotron.ca

July 2011
The North American Filipino Star

www.filipinostar.org
The voters will notice several election changes made this year like the candidates are required to make a candidacy deposit. The election venue is moved from the Mackenzie King Park to St. Kevin church basement.

The move of the election venue from Mackenzie King Park to St. Kevin church is causing quite a stir in the community. The COMELEC explains that the move is for a safer, more peaceful and orderly conduct of the election. Opponents of the move, however, are unhappy.

The former location of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative’s store on 4711 Van Horne which is a store front high rent space. Another store occupied it but only lasted for a few months and closed down but the Coop had rented it for a few years, July 2005 to January 2010.

As much as what Mrs. Kharroubi had done during the course of five years since August 2006 when she readily lent money to the incumbent treasurer to pay for rent and purchase of rice. As of this date, Mrs. Kharroubi has lent over $15,000 to the Coop out of her pocket, and has borrowed about $70,000 from the bank in her own name to support the Coop. All the financial reports since 2005 to the present time have always shown a lot of deficits which have kept increasing because of lack of patronage from members. However, Mrs. Kharroubi believes that with time, things will change for the better as she continues to receive a lot of support from her students and close friends who shop at the Coop.

With the reduction of overhead costs and use of volunteers, the Coop can reach its break even point more easily than before when the rent was over $3000 a month at its former location on Van Horne. But the turn around of the Coop will eventually happen only when more members realize that they are going to gain by supporting the Coop because they can get rebates for their purchases when there are surpluses instead of deficits.

The Filipinos have been in Canada for over 50 years but there is no significant institution they have established so far. Why not consider having a big store under the name of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative’s Marché Coop? It is achievable and realistic because there are over 35,000 Filipinos concentrated in Cote des Neiges.

The million dollar questions now are: Who will win the election? Will the number of voters decrease because of the change of venue of the election? Advance voting will be held on Aug. 7, 8,9,10,11, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Philippine Community Centre, 4708 Van Horne Avenue. The election will be held on Aug. 14, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Kevin church basement, 5600 Cote des Neiges Road.
Mabuhay
for continued progress
patuloy tungo sa kaunlaran

VOTE ALEX SY
FOR VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL

MAPUA Graduate, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

CANADIAN WORK EXPERIENCE

Kone Wood
Design Engineer
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Manager at Kone Wood

NLK Consultants Inc.
Material Handling Specialist
96-97

BMH Wood Technology
Project Engineer
98-2000

ANSY Engineering
President
2001-2008

Bahay Kubo
Owner
Since 2000

Together towards progress, peace and a better tomorrow!
Kapit-bisig tungo sa kaunlaran, kapayapaan at kinabukasan!

MABUHAY TEAM

Aurora ‘Au’ Osdon  President
Alex Sy  Vice President Internal
Gene Santander  Vice President External
Melle Lugod  Secretary
Ramon Vicente Jr.  Treasurer
Alia Ceniza Rasul  Auditor
Agnes Calgo  Accountant
Alfonso Abdon ‘Boy’  Press Relation Officer
Gina Medina  Director of Membership
Debbie Resurreccion  Director of ESCA
Christine Gevero  Director of SYD
Joan Junio  Director of Outreach Services
Rose Marie Arellano ‘Rose’  Director of Special Projects

PLEASE VOTE ON AUGUST 14, 2011 AT ST. KEVIN CHURCH
Mabuhay! For continued progress Patuloy tungo sa kaunlaran

University of the Philippines Alumna, BSHRA. Former President or Board Member of PBPSSG, NCCFA, FCAO, Bicoll Association, Homemakers Club, Secular Franciscan Order, St. Kevin’s Parish Council, Alliance Quebec and Cultural Communities Committee of Provincial Liberal Party. One of Outstanding Filipino-Canadians, 1999. FAMAS President 1987-88, 2009-2011

Aurora Osdon for PRESIDENT

Currently FAMAS Auditor 2010-2011. Mapus Graduate, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Design Engineer, Stoker Product Manager, Kobe Wood Ltd. in Ottawa. Material Handling Specialist at NXL Consultants, Inc. Project Engineer at BM&H wood technology. President of ANSY Engineering, Owner of Bahay Kubo.

Alex Sy for VICE PRESIDENT (INTERNAL)


Gene Santander for VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. Founding President and current Advisor, Nove Ecipta Acacia; Volunteer Recording Secretary, Member of the Board of Trustees, Member of the Constitution and Bylaws committee (FCAO) FAMAS 2009-2011. Served as Filipino Heritage Program Tagalog language teacher/FCAW; Served as Director for Social Services, Director for Immigration and Employment, Director of Human Rights and Legal Referrals. Member of the Board of Trustees – FCAO.

Melle Lugod for SECRETARY

Served the FCAC as Treasurer and Vice President. Former President of FCAM. Member of Board of Trustees – FAMAS and Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FCAO). PRO-Philippine Basketball Association (PSAM) Treasurer – Filipino Solidarity Cooperative (Marchi Coop).

Ramon Vicente Jr. for TREASURER

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science (72) University of the East, Air Academy Class 75 Civil Aeronautical Administration (Philippines). Member of the Canadian Forces Reserve (Rank: Captain) 1983 – 1998, Vice-President (External) Federation of Filipino Association of Quebec 1986. Public Relations Officer at PBSSG 2006-2009.

Al “Boy” Abdon for PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Psychology from McGill University. Marketing administrator at Romeo Oscar Inc. where she is responsible for all company finances. Executive Board Member, Director of Professional Development, Alpha Kappa Phi McGill Chapter, Professional Business Fraternity. Founder of Recyclable™ or <www.recyclable.org>, an organization that is dedicated to the education about little known world of recycling.

Alicia Ceniza Razul for AUDITOR

Diploma in Public Administration. Volunteered at FAMAS; helped in encoding of membership database; helped in the ratification of FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws. Volunteered at the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative (Marchi Coop), helped in the bookkeeping update and inventory of goods. Volunteered at Pinay Women’s Organization as a member of the Finance Committee.

Agnes Calgo for ACCOUNTANT

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education at Vanier College. Administrator & Educator of Precious Ones Family Home Daycare; Past President of Philippine PBSSG-Quebec, Director, Office- Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers; Parish of St-Kevin’s Catechist since 1999. Officer-Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers, President of the Philippine National Teachers’ Association 2009-2011. Member of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec.

Gina Medina for DIRECTOR MEMBERSHIP

Retired pediatric nurse who held various managerial and educational positions at the Montreal Children’s Hospital. Worked overseas in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Spearheaded the establishment of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at the King Fahad National Guard Hospital. Community involvement includes volunteering at the FAMAS Center for 2 years, volunteering with the Medals on Wheels program at La Salle community, since 2009. President of the Filipino Canadian Tennis Association of Montreal 2009-2011. Member of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec.

Rose Marie Arelanno for DIRECTOR SPECIAL PROJECTS


Debbie Resurreccion for DIRECTOR EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS


Christine Gevero for DIRECTOR SPORTS & YOUTH DEVT.

MVOING ON TOGETHER FOR CONTINUED PROGRESS!

SAMA-SAMA PATULOH TUNGO SA KAUNLRAN!

2011-2013 Mabuhay Platform

• Complete Implementation of the 2011 FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws (FCBQ) to ensure good governance and leadership development rooted on good work ethics, values and discipline.

• Enhance existing communication tools (BalliTiang FAMAS newsletter and website) to facilitate info dissemination.

• Build-up and expand Pag-SIBOL program to continue the momentum and increase involvement among the young members of the community.

• Undertake renovations and improvements inside the center (after completing major repairs this year outside), and upgrade facilities for efficient service delivery.

• Continue building strong partnerships and activities with other organizations or groups and different levels of government.

• Ensure financial stability.

• Forge ahead with existing programs to promote our culture and identity.

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• Forge ahead with existing programs to promote our culture and identity.
**New look of FAMAS center’s facade**

Au Osdon, current FAMAS president, speaking during the Pista sa Nayon, July 17 at St. Lazare King Park, Quebec. “He is supporting her.”

Natalie Pelausa, founder of the Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society Quebec, said, “A leader always supports her leader.”

A good leader becomes the leader of the community. She is also a good speaker who can represent our community when dealing with politicians and dignitaries. This is one qualification that a FAMAS president needs. I want her to serve FAMAS for another two years.”

Osdon takes pride in the members of her Executive Board who all have full-time job have accomplished since 2009.

The ongoing projects, like the French and Filipino Heritage classes and the fundraising drive are still going on,” said Osdon. “We have new projects like Balantog FAMAS, a newsletter that is published four times a year; Project Pagsilibol, a program for youth development, the Auxiliary for FAMAS and we are continuously exploring other means of fundraising to finance our programs and upkeep of our community center. We have also installed a financial reporting system which can be used for many years.

“The first year was the most difficult for us,” Osdon continued. “A Special Audit Committee was established in order to review the incomplete financial records submitted by the previous administration, with the hope that they can assist in completing it. The committee found out that it would be impossible because most transactions were made in cash and not properly recorded. Last year, we were shocked when FAMAS received a bill amounting to approximately $10,000 from the past president for renovation materials used in 2007, 2008. The documents are currently with some members of the previous administration for verification. Up to this time though, we have not yet received the financial records statement from Sept. 2007 to Dec. 2008.

“If our financial record now has transparency,”

Asked about the issues that are often published in a newspaper, Osdon initially refused to talk about it as a waste of time and energy. However, she relented when she was advised by her supporters to clarify the issue about the illegality of the ratification of FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws.

“The 30% of the membership requirement which equates to approximately 1,200 members in attendance to constitute a quorum is impractical, unattainable and counter-productive. This is a tactic used by oppressive governments to stay in power and maintain status quo. The 2005 ratification, for example, which then required 60 members present to constitute a quorum was ratified by 50 members only. Those in attendance, including one of the 5 who voted against the 2011 ratification, passed a resolution then to consider those present as quorum but admitted they overlooked the 30% requirement and wondered why they passed it then.

Yes, we can get over 1,000 people in the park, but not to study and deliberate on such a serious subject. People go to the park to have a good time so as in the past, members will quickly sign blindly! Never in the history of FAMAS did a committee on FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws (FCBL) may not be perfect but it is the most comprehensive version we ever had. Osdon pointed out that the FCBL is a living document, it breathes and grows with the members and the community.

Some of the awards received by Osdon are: Community Service award by the Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec and Federation of Filipino Associations Quebec; Presidential Award by FAMAS; Distinguished Citizen Award by Alliance Quebec and One of the 10 Most Outstanding Filipino Canadians by the Biñibining Pilipinas in Toronto.

**Calling all Coop Members and Prospective Members to attend the community pot luck picnic on Sunday, August 21, 2011**

Beaver Lake Park (2nd parking lot near the Museum)

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Who should be the next FAMAS president?

**OSDON OR MANUELE: Who should be the next FAMAS president?**

**MABUHAY TEAM VS. SAMAHANG MAKABAYAN** – The coming FAMAS election promises to be an electrifying and cliffhanging race between Ms. Aurora Osdon, a re-electionist who has been touted as the best president FAMAS has ever had, and Mr. Cesar Manuel, someone who and whose loyal supporters believe can still do a lot better than his opponent has done in the last two years. Osdon or Manuel, who will it be? The community won’t know till the evening of August 14, 2011 whom the voters have chosen to lead FAMAS until August 2013. In the meantime, I would like to see that the more competent candidate – not necessarily the one who has more friends – in every race gets elected to the FAMAS Executive Board. Better yet, I hope that the electorate will go to the polls in droves, and vote intelligently.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: JOB DESCRIPTION**

Next to the president, the public relations officer (PRO) is, in my opinion, the most important member of the FAMAS Executive Board. He plays a very delicate role in the association. The problem is, people, and sometimes the PRO himself or herself, take said office lightly.

“Public relations (PR)” is about managing reputation. This field aims to gain understanding and support for the Executive Board, in particular, and the entire FAMAS organization, in general, as well as to influence opinion and behavior.

The PRO uses all forms of media and communication, such as the FAMAS website and Baltiagnet FAMAS newsletter, to build, maintain and manage the reputation of the association. These range from public bodies or services to businesses and voluntary organizations. He communicates key messages, often using third party endorsements, to define target audiences in order to establish and maintain goodwill and understanding between an organization and its public.

The PRO monitors publicity and conducts research to find out the concerns and expectations of an organization’s membership. He then reports and explains the findings to its management.

The role is very varied and will depend on the organization and sector. Tasks typically involve:

- planning, developing and implementing PR strategies;
- liaising with colleagues and key spokespersons;
- liaison with and answering enquiries from media, individuals and other organizations, often via telephone and email;
- researching, writing and distributing press releases to targeted media;
- collating and analyzing media coverage;
- writing and editing in-house magazines, case studies, speeches, articles and annual reports;
- preparing and supervising the production of publicity brochures, handouts, direct mail leaflets, promotional videos, photographs, films and multimedia programs;
- devising and coordinating photo opportunities;
- organizing events including press conferences, exhibitions, open houses and press tours;
- maintaining and updating information on the organization’s website;
- sourcing and managing speaking and sponsorship opportunities;
- commissioning market research;
- fostering community relations through events such as open houses and through involvement in community initiatives;
- managing the PR aspect of a potential crisis situation.

**FAMAS COMELEC 2011-2016** – I couldn’t be any prouder and more impressed of the splendid way my fellow members of FAMAS Committee on Elections 2011-2016 have been doing their jobs. Dick Ribaya, acting as chairman in my absence, proves a very competent, brilliant and efficient manager. He always sees to it that every decision he makes is according to the set rules and regulations occasionally tempered with pragmatism without bending the rules. Tessa Calica, Pastora Emma Denny, Andi Neufeld, Cynthia Puray and Sonny Valdez complement Dick’s leadership with their articulateness, intellect, experience, dedication and godliness. This group is so competent and dedicated that it could be a part of future executive board.

**WHY SOME PEOPLE RESIST INDOOR POLLING PLACE** – Even when you present members of FAMAS with clear compelling evidence that St. Kevin’s Church Social Hall is better than Mackenzie King Park for the next FAMAS election, some of them often remain unconvinced and have even threatened not to renew their memberships or simply boycott the election if it is not held at Mackenzie King Park.

I would argue that in distressed businesses and turnaround situations in particular, it might be more helpful to think of the broader concept of “Resistance to Change”. Psychologists are used to dealing with this. In fact, there’s an old saying about clients in therapy: “everybody wants things to be different, but not everyone wants to change.”

I would like to quote the three characteristics of flexible people from John Maxwell’s book “The 17 Essential Qualities of a Team Player” that one should try to emulate.

1. Flexible people are teachable and are eager to break new ground
2. They are emotionally secure and thus change does not make them nervous, and
3. They are creative because creativity fosters adaptability

People who lack all three of these characteristics will usually resist change. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!"
Dr. Emilisa Espiritu

Chirurgien Dentiste / Dental Surgeon

5790 Cote des Neiges Rd Suite A-024
Montreal, Quebec
H3Y 1N9

Phone: 514-340-8222 (4077)
E-mail: dr_e_pin@yahoo.ca

E-mail: dr_e_pin@yahoo.ca

THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

July 2011

The North American Filipino Star

Bukas na Liham:

Ang Mangingsida

Atty N. Baens del Rosario

45x1033

July 2011

Elnora na magdadalawang linggo pa
Caridad ang bunsong kapatid na si
wikang pangwakas ni Luisa.
humihingi sa iyo ng dalangin,” ang
Mapapangarap mo nga, sapagkat
darasal ang kaniyang kaluluwa.
mahigpit. Siya kong pagkagising,” ang
niya nakikilala. Sa sama raw ng aking
ang nilapitan, sapagkat ako ay hindi
mukha niya kagabi. Kung saan-saan
ang “nasira.”
mukha ay biglang nagkulimlim. Sana’y
naman kagabi ang Tatay. Buhay daw
panlampaso ng bahay.

Tubig si Luisa nang sa walang ano-ano
nanaog na si Pitong sa bahay.
Sabado noon. Maagang maaga pa ay
bulong ni Pitong sa sarili samantala
nakawalang. "A! ikaw si
hagdanan, “sakit sa puso ang
ng malaking bahay ng mga Aquino sa
banig at hindi matatagalan ang isang
pamangkin.

Nanay, Linggo na si Caridad.
Mga mata ang nag-usap.
O! kung ang mga mata.
Sariling Amin

**Eleksyon Na Naman!**

Dalawang bagay lang at isipin mo ang isang botante.
Una: Sino sa dalawang makagatungang hilig ni
aarapat na nararapat na
ihahalal at kanya?
Pinag-aralan, karanaan sa
pamunugnan atbp. (profile ng bawa’t
lumahong may bagong
Pangalaw: May kandidatong bibili
ang bato at may kandidatong
bata pa ang kanyang

**Good luck!** sa lahat ng
kandidato at mabuhay syang
lahat sa

Pangalaw: May kandidatong bibili
ang bato at may kandidatong
bata pa ang kanyang

*"Huwwag na anak ko, hindi na rin
laman niya ako aabutan...Tinatawag
na ako ng Dakilang Ama sa kanyang
sinapupunan. Sa ilalim ang unang
niyong mag-ina. Iyan lamang ang
sa inyo."

Mahal kong pinasasayaw, Pinay.

Nakul! Eh di maya’aya na
kina Leong at Leong
buhay na nang lumiit ka.

Mabuti mabuti ang galing
kaya tung-tung tuwa sila
bilangin ang mga ito tiwining
kakarangan a. Sinasabayan ko
nang bunginis hahang nagbibigilis sa

Kumakin na rin ako ng keso
maapingrut na ka kong
ngayun. Kaya nalapat na ang hindi
maiwasang pagkakataon ng
maganabat na nga kapalaran

*Sabihin mo. Nakahanda
akong tumpad,” ang may habag na
sa na ni Pitong.

"Una, mahalin mo ang aking asawa,
at ang ikalawang ay hawag mo saan
aaprubahan aking anak.”

At sak na sinundan ng paglayo na
sakaup.

Umalis ang ilakating kalong ng
malaking kalumaban. Inihihat pa ni
Pitong ng kaniyang mga panging ang
anino ni Luisa. Ang mag-asawa ang
nakapagtang. "Si Luisa, ayaw na bangang
makipagpakita sa akin?” ang nakakaha-
hang ang ng mahiwag.

Hindi na nagatungo si Caridad,
Mga luh a rin ang humilam sa kaniyang
mga mata.

"Ang Nanay mo...ayaw na
bangang makipagpahahamak mas
laman ng ako sa akin?” ang uhit ni Nici.

Sa ikalawang mga lalaw na ito ay
Lalanon napili si Caridad. Naghaglap
siya ng maitutungo, ngunit umid ang
kanyang dila kayat pinakoa na lamang
ni Caridad ang lalawana ng mga
netas at sa pagkatungo ngiyang yaon.
ay nahlalana na ni Nici ang ibig
sabihi ng kaniyang anak. Isang tingin
ang inihagi ni Nici kay Pitong at
isang titig na punong-puno ng
hinanakit, titig na naglalagos sa
kahulungan ng puso ni Pitong.

Pati bana na nga ng kaunting
liligaw na nalalaki sa aking asawa
na makuas ko kahit saglit, bago
laman ako mamaty, ang tunong kung
asawa ay ipagkakait mo pa? O! sa
kabelita pala ng aking pagkatagkwilo sa
sahig kalagayan alangan ng
sa kathahimikan ng iyong tahanan at
ay hindi ko minalakhang ang huling
sang isang mamamatay, "ang wika
ni Nici kay Pitong.

Pamagpatubig na ang
yanong warong
naganggap sa mga
libangan ko at ang souvenir na suot ko ay
para "candyman.”

Narito na ang itirato ko.
Dina ala ako sa Lake George ng Tatay na
ano ak sihulubago at ang kaniyang
nauna na ng aking

Makalaglag-lampin ba?

Nagmahal,
Kuya Aiden

Elnora na magdadalawang linggo pa
Caridad ang bunsong kapatid na si
wikang pangwakas ni Luisa.
humihingi sa iyo ng dalangin,” ang
Mapapangarap mo nga, sapagkat
umibig pang mangyabint sa
nig operation ko ay para

"Luisa, Luisa, ipaghanda mo ako ng
bihisahan at aalis ako ang
"Saan ka parorooh? Hindi ka
na nag-aagahan,”
"Aba, siya nga talo! Caridad,
magbibihi na at sa asama ka sa akin.”

"Saan banga sayo parorooh,
Tayo Pitong?" ang uisinga sa
mga yangtko

"Sa Kalagiman, tayo’y may
dalahang anayana.”

"Sama kami, Taty,” ang halos
sabay-sabay sa hiling ng mga bata.

"Kung hind kahit sinasasa
ay hawag kayaang habaoh,” ang
panagalar nga na ing ang
mga bata naman ay hindi
nagpinagismik.

Hindi na iniisens ni Luisa kung
ano ang kaniyang kaniyang
asawa sa isang
kaniyang awa.

"Para hawag kawang magbibi,
ang wika ni Pitong sa pamangkin,
"ay saasabihi ko na sa iyo ngayo nga
ay nagdaalawan ta ay ang iyong ama.”

"Ang aking ama?” ang
pagnutag at
pano nga ni Caridad at
na ninawan nga ang
kaniyang papanigpin.

"Oo, siya ay bahaay pa,
ngunit na oras na ito ay
nag-aagaw-bahay.

"Tatay ko!” ang
yak ni Caridad.

"Bakit hindi natin isaan
ang aking Nanay?" ang
tano nga ni umiyaik
pamangkin.

"Mahina pa ang
katawangan ng
ikaw. Nanay. Hindi pa si
nakakasahan sa
at bangot ang
laat na ang kaniyang

Hindi natagalan ang
mga Aquino sa
laya nga Kaliwan ng

"Wala nag lunas,“ ang
piling-iling na
wika ni Dr. Pascau
na nasabulong ng
mag-amain sa
hagdanan, “sakto sa puso
ang sumumpong,” ang
dungang na
banglang mangagamot

"Luisa, Luisa, nasan ka?“
ananapitan ng
mayaak. “At ikaw si Luasa,
Ikag nga baga sa ikaw?“
ang parang hibangan na
wika ni Nici nag

maka’t si Caridad na
nakakaya ang
mga ing。</ref>
Tougher rules governing immigration consultants enacted and new regulator announced

Ottawa, June 28, 2011 — Legislation cracking down on crooked immigration consultants will come into force on June 30, 2011, Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenney announced today.

Bill C-35 strengthens the rules governing those who charge their clients for immigration advice or representation, making it an offence for anyone other than an accredited immigration representative to conduct business, for a fee or other consideration, at any stage of an application or proceeding. It also increases penalties and fines for unauthorized representation and allows for more government oversight in order to improve the way in which immigration consultants are regulated.

With the designation of the ICCRC as the regulator of immigration consultants, consultants who are currently members in good standing of the Canadian Society of Immigration Consultants (CSIC) can begin to register with the ICCRC on June 30, 2011.

Immigration representatives must be either members in good standing of a provincial or territorial law society, including paralegals; members of the Chambre des notaires du Québec; or members of the governing body for immigration consultants.

The 30-day transitional period will be put in place to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of service for both CSIC members currently in good standing and their clients during the transition to the ICCRC. The transition period ended on October 31, 2011.

After a notice was published on March 19, 2011, in the Canada Gazette, Part I, proposing the ICCRC be designated the regulator of immigration consultants, over 70 percent of the public comments received during the 30-day consultation period supported the proposal to establish a new regulator of immigration consultants.

"The ICCRC has committed to accountability, transparency and good governance and has pledged to work to protect the interests of consumers," added Minister Kenney. "Their efforts, backed by strong new legislation, will allow us to better serve people through our immigration processes and protect potential immigrants, all while improving the integrity of Canada’s immigration system."

Backgrounder 1: Transitioning to the ICCRC - the designated regulator of immigration consultants

Backgrounder 2: Highlights of Bill C-35 Frequently Asked Questions

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The Government of Canada Supports Seniors

Vancouver, British Columbia, June 06, 2011— Minister of State (Seniors) Alice Wong and Wai Young, Member of Parliament for Vancouver South, were pleased to tour the Holy Family Hospital and highlight the steps the government has taken to help seniors, including that more than 680,000 of Canada’s lowest income seniors, will soon benefit from the most significant increase to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) in a quarter century.

Canada’s seniors have worked hard to build a better country for future generations and the Government of Canada has taken significant action to improve their quality of life," said Minister Wong. In Budget 2011, the Next Phase of Canada’s Economic Action Plan, we have increased financial support for low-income seniors and enhanced the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP)."

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- 30 -

www.immigration.gc.ca/antifraud
A listing of the ‘seven deadly sins of modern society, as published in the magazine Social Welfare for Malayan Youth (near Corner Appleton)

Seven Deadly Sins of Society
1) Politics without principles
2) Wealth without wisdom
d) Power without influence
3) Knowledge without character
4) Wealth without work
5) Commerce without morality
6) Science without charity
7) Worship without sacrifice.

Since 2006, the Government of Canada has taken action on many issues important to seniors including:
• providing Canadians with close to $72 billion this year through Canada’s public pension system;
• providing $2.3 billion annually in additional tax relief to seniors and pensioners through measures such as pension income splitting and increasing the Old Age Credit;
• providing $400 million over two years under Budget 2009 for the construction of housing units for low-income seniors;
• supporting positive and active aging through the collaborative Age Friendly Communities Initiative, Physical Activity Tips for Older Adults, and falls prevention initiatives;
• appointing a Minister of State (Seniors)—someone who can bring the concerns of older Canadians to the Cabinet table and stand up on their behalf;
• establishing October 1st as National Seniors Day, 10 Persons
• providing $2.3 billion annually in additional tax relief to seniors and pensioners through measures such as pension income splitting and increasing the Old Age Credit;
• providing $400 million over two years under Budget 2009 for the construction of housing units for low-income seniors;
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Shooting Children’s Parties

I’ve been asked by colleagues at a convention my opinion about taking children’s parties as part of the service offered although I prefer doing videos and taking pictures which are fun. There are photographers who are specialized in event photography especially children’s parties.

Children photography isn’t always easy. Photographing ‘the birthday party presents it’s own unique opportunities as well as challenges for a photographer. Birthday Parties present us with a lot of emotion, interaction, color and energy in a child’s party. On the challenging side of things children’s parties can be chaotic places with moving subjects, lots of clutter and often little time for those organizing them to pick up a camera and take a shot.

Here are a few tips on Photographing Children’s Parties according to D Rosse of Digital Photography:

1. Designate a Party Photographer

There’s nothing worse than getting to the end of a party and realizing that while the camera was out that no one bothered (or had time) to pick it up and take some shots. Give someone the job and release that person from other party duties to just take photos. This way you’re guaranteed to get some shots and will have something to remember the day with. It is also good because it means others are able to relax and enjoy the party and that parents can rest assured that the photos will only be used responsibly.

2. Get a Child’s perspective

One of the most important tips I can share is to get down low when taking photos of children. The biggest challenge in party photos is different taking shots from a standing position looking down onto a scene. While you might take a few shots from this perspective the majority of your photos should be taken at eye level of the subject.

3. Mix Up Your Shooting Angles and Focal Lengths

Having said this – it can inject a lot of life into party shots if you do mix up your shooting angles and focal lengths at a party. Try some shots from standing up high (get on a chair even to accentuate it – this can be great for group shots) but also get down really low and shoot looking up at kids. Also try a range of focal lengths ranging from wide angle shots that take in the whole party scene through to zoomed shots of kids and party elements. Mixing it up like this will mean you end up with a more dynamic and playful series of shots at the end of the day.

4. Adjust White Balance Settings

Most children’s birthday parties happen inside (at least in part) where lighting can be tricky. In most cases there will be some artificial light which can leave your photos with different types of tinges. The easiest way to overcome this and ensure your shots are bright and color is to learn about your white balance controls. This is the subject for another post but most modern digital cameras have a variety of automatic settings that will give you some easy settings for indoor lighting situations. Before the party experiment with white balance and get your setting right.

5. Look for the Party Details

Another way to add interest to the shots is to focus in on the details of the party. I find that many of these shots are best taken before the guests arrive and might include shots of the cake, photos of balloons and other decorations, photos of presents stacked, shots of a set party table. Often it’s good to get in nice and close to these elements – fill the frame with them (to the point where they even become a little abstract). You’ll find that these types of shots look great scattered through an album between shots of people.

6. Use Bounce Flash or a Diffuser

Speaking of lighting – you’ll probably need some sort of extra lighting if your party is inside. You can help to eliminate the need for this by increasing your ISO setting a little but unless you have a lot of natural light or an extremely fast lens you’ll probably need to use a flash. If you have a flash hotshoe you’ll probably get the best results if you bounce the flash off the room or walls or if you use a diffuser of some kind so that the flash is not as harsh on your subjects (a common problem with many party photos).

7. Know the Party Plan

In order to capture all of the important moments in the party you should know how it is planned to run. Know when everyone will be sitting down, when the blowing out of candles will happen, when presents will be opened etc. This will mean you can be well positioned for each event just ahead of them happening.

8. Shoot Candidly

Most of your party photos will end up being candid ones of children and adults interacting with one another around the different party activities. These shots are largely of kids interacting with each other, playing, eating etc. The other thing to do as the party ‘warms up’ is to actually get into the party and shoot from within it. In these instances you will find a wide angle lens more appropriate and you actually join in the circle of activity (ie sit with the kids, play the games, eat the food) and photograph the children as you do this. At times it might even be appropriate to make taking the photos a game of sorts – getting them to pose and then show them the results on your LCD.

9. Include Adults in your Photos

The focus of children’s parties is generally the children – but the adults attending the party can actually present you with some fascinating shots as they watch on. Sometimes their reactions to what the children are doing can be quite fascinating and its worth including them in shots – particularly those adults in the immediate family of the child having the birthday.

There you go.

Films are almost gone, digital files are cheap, there are no excuses to practice shooting your favorite subjects.

Have fun,

Al Abdon

Hollywood Junkies

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Have fun,

Al Abdon

Hollywood Junkies

From Page 10 Seniors

seniors make to families, communities, workplaces and society;
• creating the National Seniors Council in 2007 to provide advice to the federal government on matters related to the well-being and quality of life of seniors; and
• investing $13 million over three years in support of the Federal Elder Abuse Initiative (FEAI), which successfully concluded on March 31, 2011. Building on the momentum created through the FEAI, which featured an awareness campaign, the Government of Canada remains active in addressing elder abuse through the New Horizons for Seniors Program.
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**FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY**

A souvenir photo with Prime Minister Stephen Harper at his garden party at 24 Sussex Drive on Saturday, June 25, 2011

Wedding of Lourdes Lubang, a Gilmore College alumni, to Maynard Magalang on Sunday, July 17, 2011. Reception was held at Bella Bonavista on Newman Boulevard in Lasalle.

A co-member of the Vigie Asiatique, Monica of Bharat Times poses with Zenaida Kharroubi, as a souvenir of Prime Minister Harper’s garden party.

The Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec headed by Gene Magalit held their annual picnic at Beaver Lake on Saturday, July 9, 2011. Photo above shows Gilmore College teachers pose with the happy couple, Leurdes Lubang and Maynard Magalang. From left: Terry White, Zenaida Kharroubi, and Amy Manon-og. Photo taken on July 17, 2011.

The FAMAS Committee on Elections 2011-2016; from left, Andi Neufeld, Cynthia Puray, Dick Ribaya (Vice-Chair), Budz Sarmiento (Chair), Sonny Valdez, Pastora Emma Denny and Tess Calica.
Sweet and Sour Fish Balls

Ingredients:
- 10-12 fish balls
- 1 1/2 tablespoon tomato sauce/ketchup

Fish Ball Soup

Ingredients:
- * 20 fishballs
- * 100 grammes of chinese mustard greens ( rinsed throughly and cut into smaller (halved) pieces)
- * a pinch of chinese salted vegetable (tung chye)
- * 600 ml ikan bilis stock (boil 700 ml water with a handful of ikan bilis for 30 minutes. strain and remove ikan bilis)

Baked Basa Fillets in Garlic and Butter

Ingredients:
- * 2 fillet slabs of basa fish (mine was 1.4 lb in total), or any white fish of your preference
- * 3 tbsp butter, melted
- * 1/4 tsp salt

To make coconut rice, use this proportion: For every cup of uncooked white rice, use 1/4 cup coconut milk (canned is perfectly fine) and 3/4 cups water.
Reigning Miss Earth Nicole Faria of India and last year’s other Miss Earth winners flew into the country Tuesday and vowed to help promote government programs aimed at saving and protecting the environment.

“I’ve heard a lot of wonderful things about the Philippines and I’m thrilled to be here. It is my pleasure to work with the Miss Earth Foundation, and I am so excited to meet the Filipino people and help protect the natural wonders of such a lovely country,” Faria said, during a press briefing in Pasig City.

Faria is in town together with Miss Earth Water Watsaporn Wattanakoon of Thailand, and Miss Earth Air Victoria Shchukina of Russia. They flew in from Bangkok.

They will make a series of appearances on behalf of the Miss Earth Foundation throughout their stay in the country. “Through these activities, we hope to give our Miss Earth winners a first-hand experience of the projects that we do in our country,” said Miss Earth Foundation executive director Cathy Untalan.

The activities of the beauty queens include paying a courtesy call on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Aug. 1. It will be followed by a visit to SM Supermarket to promote the chain’s “I am Plastic-Free Campaign.” Capping the day will be a stopover at the Tayuman Elementary School in Rizal as part of the foundation’s “I Love My Planet Earth School Tour.”

On Aug. 2, the following day, the beauty queens will focus on coastal clean-up and tree planting at the Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Eco-Tourism Area.

Fashion has always been part of a beauty queen’s life and the winners, along with the Miss Philippines-Earth past and present title holders, will sashay on the runway in a special fashion show on Aug. 3 at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas, featuring a 36-piece collection of Frederick Policarpio’s creations.

The winners will be off to De La Salle University in Manila on Aug. 4 to participate in a forum dubbed “Fostering Beauty and Responsibility through Environmental Stewardship.”

While the 2010 winners are busy participating in various projects and activities, the preparation for the 11th edition of the Miss Earth coronation night is well under way.

Faria will be turning over her crown on Nov. 12 in Pattaya, Thailand, one of Asia’s largest tourism destinations. International franchise holders of the Miss Earth pageant are already fielding out their representatives for the coming pageant.

“We have received a lot of favorable feedbacks from different franchise organizers,” said Carousel Productions, Inc. executive vice-president Lorraine Schuck. “They are very excited to send their delegates and share their respective environmental advocacies.”

Representing the Philippines is Athena Mae Imperial from the municipality of Casiguran, Aurora. The 24-year-old stunner works as a program researcher for GMA 7. She bested 49 other candidates in the Miss Philippines-Earth pageant held last May.

Aligning with the International Year of the Forests, this year’s staging of the Miss Earth pageant is expected to be a grand showcase of Thailand’s rich culture, tourist spots, and, more importantly, its efforts to save and protect the environment.
Lady Gaga’s discovery, Filipino-Canadian YouTube sensation Maria Aragon, is in the country and will be staying until September to fulfill a few engagements.

As reported by ABS-CBN News, Aragon arrived July 20, around 10:30 p.m. via Japan Airlines. Aragon signed an exclusive ABS-CBN contract July 22. She is set to record an album with ABS-CBN’s record label, Star Records. Aragon is also scheduled to guest and perform in several Kapamilya shows such as “ASAP Rocks.”

“I’m gonna be recording an album under Star Records... You’ll hear sounds like obviously ‘Born This Way’ and ‘Kung Bubuksan Mo Lang Ang Puso,’” Aragon told ABS-CBN News.

The 11-year-old singer became a hit. I have been traveling all over Canada to perform and be a guest on different shows. I love what I’m doing and it’s a dream of any kid to have this kind of opportunity. But it makes me miss my family a lot,” she related in an interview with PEP.


Celebrating her 11th birthday last July 17 was emotional for Aragon because according to her, “that was the last time I will see my family because I have to fly here in Manila. Before this trip, I haven’t been spending enough time with them because of all that has happened ever since the video became a hit. I have been traveling all over Canada to perform and be a guest on different shows. I love what I’m doing and it’s a dream of any kid to have this kind of opportunity. But it makes me miss my family a lot,” she related in an interview with PEP.

Aragon says she would love to work with Piolo Pascual, Martin Nievera, and Gary Valenciano.

“I really like to work with Piolo Pascual. I find him so talented. I also like Martin Nievera. I love his songs and he’s a very good singer. And it’s a dream for me to meet and work with Gary Valenciano. He is such a performer and it would be a dream come true if I get to sing a song with him,” Aragon remarked.

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has disapproved another “sexy” billboard, this time featuring Kapuso actress Lovi Poe. The billboard, an ad for Dr. Vicki Belo’s company, showed Lovi wearing a one-piece bathing suit.

Lovi lamented the MMDA’s decision, expressing her disappointment on her Twitter page July 19, saying: “sad... nasmusog "ang belo billboard ko :)" was just wearing a one piece bathing suit. been waiting for that to come out pananaman! :((sic)."

Belo herself was just as disappointed with the decision. She posted on her Twitter page: “Hay Naku our lovie Po billboard has been disapproved. Why oh why she is in a one Piece bathing naman, Picture to follow (sic)."

Belo then posted a link to let her followers see Lovi’s photo for the ad.

The MMDA’s recent crackdown on what it deemed are “offensive” billboards began after Mandaluyong City Mayor Bertur Abalos responded to Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian’s complaint regarding the Philippine Volcanoes’ sexy billboard along EDSA.

The MMDA removed not only the Volcanoes’ billboards but also those that featured stars like Anne Curtis and Angel Locsin.

Meanwhile, Sharon Cuneta has reportedly lost six inches around her waist, says her friend and stylist, Fanny Serrano.

“Kasi alam mo ang bewang niya from 40 plus [inches] ay nasa 34 [inches] na ngayon... Sabi niya sa akin na magugulat kayo,” related Fanny on ABS-CBN News online.

Sharon, Fanny said, was inspired to lose weight while hosting “The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition.”


Sabi ko ‘maghintay kayo, doon sasabay si Sharon, ‘yun ang purpose kaya siya nilagay diyan [sa show].”

Last February, critics lambasted Sharon’s billboard along EDSA for a reducing clinic. They alleged it was “misleading” as it was said to have been “photoshopped.”

Sharon, however, stood by her “before and after” pictures as seen in the ad.

He’s much more enthused talking about the 14 million pesos worth of medicines that he acquired from an international organization for distribution to needy children. Diether sourced the donation from the Asian-American Initiatives on behalf of K.I.D.S. Foundation.

The foundation, which the actor put up to help poor children in need of medical attention, is now six years old. It maintains communities in Kalinga and continues with its medical missions throughout the country. On July 21, K.I.D.S. Foundation is holding the Second Diether Ocampo Charity Golf Tournament at Tagaytay Highlands to raise funds for the scholarship program of the foundation.

On the celebration of his 30th birthday, Diether Ocampo isn’t wishing for anything grand in his career or something romantic to satisfy his personal longing.
Manny Pacquiao donates 3 hectares of land for housing project

Boxer-congressman Manny Pacquiao has taken his inner philanthropist to another level by donating three hectares of his land in Sarangani for a housing project to benefit the less fortunate.

"Binili ko 'yung lupa at binigay ko sa mga tao para magkaroon sila ng sariling bahay... sariling pera ko ang ibinili ko roon, kasi kung gobyerno pa 'yun, marami pang proseso." Pacquiao was quoted by ABS-CBN News as saying.

The Sarangani representative, who was hailed as Habitat for Humanity's newest Hero Ambassador for the deed, said he is happy to give back to the needy, given the love and support that they had continually showered him.

"Natutuwa ako dahil sa suporta na ipinakita sa 'kin ng kababayan at sa mga tao," Pacquiao said in an interview aired on "Unang Hirit," July 22.

Pacquiao also extends his charitable works through his latest interview aired on "Unang Hirit." He explained in the "Unang Hirit" interview that he had signed an "extension contract" with VisionQuest Resource Group to handle all his "accounting, personal and business tax, audits and examinations, as well as all contract reviews." VisionQuest will also report "Mel & Joey" ended.

John Estrada confirms wife Priscilla Meirelles is pregnant

John Estrada’s Brazilian wife, 2004 Miss Earth Priscilla Meirelles, is pregnant.

"Yes, she’s probably about two to four weeks pregnant," John announced on ABS-CBN noontime show "Happy, Yipee, Yehey!".

"My wife had three pregnancy tests and the results were all positive. We will visit an obstetrician soon to check her condition." 

Ruffa wins custody battle against ex-husband

Ruffa Gutierrez won the "biggest battle" of her life – the custody of her children Lorin and Venice Bektas. According to the TV host-actress, the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 107 issued a decision last March 11, 2010, giving her sole custody of her daughters. The decision was signed by Presiding Judge Jose L. Bautista.

The TV host-actress’ recent Twitter posts have been laced with drama and mystery like this one on July 13: "Just received a shocking phone call. The storm I was anticipating is coming, SOON. Please pray for me as I fight the biggest battle of my life.

However, the posts were later deleted to "clear false reports and to pacify my loved ones who are worried," she said.

Yilmaz, on the other hand, was granted visitation rights.

In a report by "24 Oras," July 16, Yilmaz aired his disappointment over the court's decision.

"How does the court in which Ruffa sue the case against me made in favor of Ruffa without even giving me the right to defense (sic) myself and then got us divorced and gave the guardianship rights of my children to her??!! without listening to one of the relevant parties!! (sic)," said Yilmaz via mail sent to GMA News.

Yilmaz also insisted that the regular financial support he gives to his daughters should have been taken into consideration. He cited one incident when he even offered Ruffa $2 million to allow him time with his daughters for one week.

He said via e-mail, "I always gave my money to my children (sic). I would not have offered 2 millions dollars to Ruffa in order to see my children for 1 week. (sic) She requested some time and, after talking to her father and mother, she did not accept this proposal."

Yilmaz vowed to fight back: "I need my rights to see my children with the law."

Comedian Joey de Leon said that 'Mel & Joey' ended

Malay niyo... sabi ko kay Partner (Mel)... eh sa kanya siabi niya yata re-retire or something eh, ewan ko, hindi ko sigurado. Re-retire muna [saya]."

He will miss doing the show, particularly the trips they've had, Joey added. Nevertheless, he is hopeful that, "maaaring itanong ako ng Manila Bulletin at ang TV Patrol, kaya ang bahala mo eh.

"Enjoy naman 'yung Barakuda" of "Eat Bulaga." In the same interview, he related how they enjoyed the trip despite the scorching heat in that country.

"Sa Italy treinta'y siyete 'yung int. Tapos lumipad ako ng Pamplona (a city in Navarre, Spain), dahil nakatayo ako ng running of the bulls. Lumipad ako para sa two days lang. Eh nuwebe [o] diyes naman ang temperatura kaya nagbago 'yung katataw ng bahay.

"Siyete." Joey is back from a vacation in Italy with his fellow "Dabarkads" on "Eat Bulaga." In the same interview, he related how they enjoyed the trip despite the scorching heat in that country.

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"Enjoy naman 'yung Dabarkads sa Italy. Sabi ko nga i-tape na lang namin 'yung 'Bulaga' eh, [for] the whole year. Pareho din ratings eh," he said.

Although the door for "Mel & Joey" had closed—at least for now—another has opened for Joey. He will host the upcoming Kapuso game show, "Win Mo, Kapuso: Suwerteng-Suwerte sa Siyete."
Claudine Barretto’s reconciliation with Gretchen filled with ‘tears of joy’

“Yung maraming months na nawala sa aming hindi mababalik ‘yon so when it finally happened, sinabi ko sa sarili ko na hinding-hindi na mauulit ‘to. Hinding-hindi na mawawala ‘yung kapadlo ko uli sa buhay ko. Hindi na ako papaya’y.”

Now that they have patched things up, Claudine feels “mas dependent na ako sa ato ko” and “mas lagi akong nakapayat sa ato ko ngayon.”

“Hindi ko alam [kung] paano ako maka-survive ng ilang months na wala siya. Ang sarap-sarap pala ngayon na may kapadlo ko. Mas maraming maging katulad mo na mas maraming naging kapatid mo para sa akin. But then again tapos na.”

After their estrangement, Claudine shared how Gretchen had been pleasantly surprised at how big her son Santino had become. “Naiyak siya kasi ang laki na, eh. Doktor na namang kasi nag-aanong ngayon... humabaw. Humabaw siya nang ganoong pagkakataon na talaga, yung sa mga bata, sa mga plano.”

With her spat with Gretchen now a thing of the past, “gusto ko lang na maka-move on na, move forward na,“ Claudine said.

And part of her moving on is concentrating on her latest project “Igot” with Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin.

“Iba ‘yung excitement. Iba ‘yung nervobos na naramdaman ko. Iba, iba ‘yung adrenaline rush na naramdaman ko,” she said of her new soap after some months of absence from TV.

Ruffa rewards honest cab driver

True to her promise, actress-TV host Ruffa Gutierrez gave the honest driver who returned her six expensive pairs of shoes a big hug, a kiss and a cash reward.

In a report on “TV Patrol,” July 20, the actress was seen inside the DZMM booth, during the “Aksyon Ngayon” radio program hosted by Mayor Alfredo Lim and Kaye Dancel, where she met taxi driver Ariel Dalangin, the man who returned her missing shoes. As a show of gratitude, Ruffa hugged and kissed Ariel. She also gave him an undisclosed amount of money.

News anchor Vic de Leon Lima, the “TV Patrol” report said, also gave Ariel a P2,000 cash reward.

On Monday, July 18, Ruffa tweeted a series of messages asking her followers to help her find her six pairs of custom-made shoes after her assistant, Jaime Aguilera, accidentally left these inside a taxi.

The day after, Ruffa was overjoyed to hear the good news – that the cab driver had returned her shoes on “Aksyon Ngayon” radio program on DZMM.

“Im so happy that we have good Samaritans like Mr. Ariel na naisip niyang isauli [ang niwang shoes sa cab niya]. Para akong si Cinderella. Ayan o, suot-suot ko na siya ngayon,” Ruffa said.

The actress welcomed this good news after going through a spate of bad news recently.

“Oh! I am so happy! I am so happy!” Ruffa exclaimed as she showed her six pairs of shoes.

“I am so happy that we have good Samaritans like Mr. Ariel na naisip niyang isauli [ang niwang shoes sa cab niya]. Para akong si Cinderella. Ayan o, suot-suot ko na siya ngayon,” Ruffa said.

Claudine Barretto says she is more ‘clingy’ to her ate Gretchen these days

Claudine Barretto admits her reconciliation with sister Gretchen Barretto was very emotional that had them in tears.

“Tears of joy... siempre iyakan,” Claudine noted in her “Showbiz Central” interview on July 24.

Bulletin Entertainment first detailed about the touching encounter of the two last July 6, reporting that the “emotional incident culminated in a tight, tearful embrace between the warring sisters.”

“We were talking about the shoes. We were talking about Gretchen. ‘Yung maraming months na nawala sa aming hindi mababalik ‘yon so when it finally happened, sinabi ko sa sarili ko na hinding-hindi na mauulit ‘to. Hinding-hindi na mawawala ‘yung kapadlo ko uli sa buhay ko. Hindi na ako papaya’y.”

Now that they have patched things up, Claudine feels “mas dependent na ako sa ato ko” and “mas lagi akong nakapayat sa ato ko ngayon.”

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And part of her moving on is concentrating on her latest project “Igot” with Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin.

“Iba ‘yung excitement. Iba ‘yung nervobos na naramdaman ko. Iba, iba ‘yung adrenaline rush na naramdaman ko,” she said of her new soap after some months of absence from TV.

Kris regains number one spot in 2011 top endorsers list

Kris Aquino - still number one

Controversial actress-TV host Kris Aquino is number one in Yes! Magazine’s list of Top 20 Endorsers for 2011.

This is the second time that the local Queen of All Media grabbed the top spot in the list, having been named the most lucrative endorser by the same magazine in 2008.

According to Yes!, the ranking is determined by the number of endorsement contracts signed or renewed by the celebrity in a specified period (January 2010 to April 2011), the accumulated earnings of the celebrity as relayed by their managers, as well as information culled through consultations with marketing practitioners.

“We [are] still using multiple sources, impartial investigation, and disintegrated computation, our educated guesses about the celebrity’s involvement with their endorsers, and the professional decisions of our consultant.”

In an interview with ABS-CBN’s “The Buzz,” Sunday, July 24, Kris Aquino, when asked if she would start another film project, said, “Sa lahat ng mga kumuha sa aking kumpanya to represent them and most especially, gusto ko magpasalamat sa lahat ng taong tumangkilik doon sa mga produkton ine-endorse ko. Hindi ko naman makakamit ang honor na ito sa pangalawang pagkakataon kung hindi dahil sa suportang ginagawa nila.”

Also making it to the top five of the list are, in order, John Lloyd Cruz, Sharon Cuneta, Piolo Pascual and celebrity couple, Carmina Villaroel and Zoren Legaspi and their kids.

Also on the list are Marian Rivera, Kim Chiu, Robin Padilla, Sarah Geronimo, Judy Ann Santos, Vic Sotto, Anne Curtis, Angel Locsin, Boy Abunda, KC Concepcion, Ryan Agoncillo, and Dingdong Dantes.

Tied at the last three spot are Gerald Anderton and Bea Alonzo (18), Jericho Rosales and Michael V (19), and Al-AI alas Elias and Derek Ramsay (20).

Meanwhile, in the same “The Buzz” episode, Aquino denied romantic insinuations linking her to actor Diether Ocampo.

According to Aquino, Ocampo is simply a “super good friend.”

She also added, “Sobrang guwapo!” adding, “Kang makaka-agaw so wag na lang.”

She also refuted earlier allegations that she gave Ocampo an expensive watch as a gift for the latter’s recent birthday. “Ang hiningi niya is ‘yung library para sa mga bata sa Sulu. Umro-o ako. Sabi ko ako ang mag-su-supply ng libro,” she said.

Ruffa welcomes the idea, saying, “Thank you so much,” slipping on her shoes and talking about being ready to appear on a new show.

“Sa layunin ko ‘yan ang mag-su-supply ng libro,” she said.

Ruffa’s daughters, Venice and Lorin, were with the actress inside the radio booth to meet the goodhearted cab driver.

“I want her to wear it,” Venice said about the shoes.

Lorin was “happy because she [Ruffa] found her shoes and it’s $4,000.”

And with Ruffa’s visit to the ABS-CBN, comedian Vice Ganda expressed his interest in having her guest in his show “Gandang Gabi Vice.”

Ruffa welcomed the idea, saying, “Ako, non-exclusive ako [with TV5]... Kayo lang ang awa kumuhha sa akin.”

www.filipinostar.org
Has John Lloyd found “The One’?  

Believe it or not, John Lloyd Cruz is enjoying a steady and “very normal” relationship with Shaina Magdayao, unmindful of negative speculations and scandalous rumors. Nevertheless, the actor, who recently went on a month-long European break with Shaina, admitted that he is far from settling down.

“Sa estado ko ngayon di ko pa kaya sabihin na I’ve found ‘The One.’ I have not yet reached the age when I can say that I have,” said John Lloyd, who was also turned 28, last June 24.

The pronouncements were made during a presscon last Wednesday at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, wherein he was introduced as the newest face of the brand’s all-new “His Shoulders. John Lloyd and Angel Locsin, the brand’s long-time endorser, appear on a series of TVCs promoting the brand’s all-new ‘His and Hers’ variants.

John Lloyd, who was also romantically linked to the likes of celebrity stylist Liz Uy and actress-TV host Ruffa Gutierrez in the past, has always sparked fervid interest in his love life. The Kapamilya leading man is enjoying a steady and “very normal” relationship, he said: “It depends. Kilala mo na ba siya or hindi pa? Of course, physical attributes matter. Always naman kahit mahirap man siyang aminin. But it’s the character that makes you crave for more or want more from a girl. Dati nagkaroon pa ako ng pattern na I only go for morenas, but right now naging varied.

“As they say, with every breakup, you trade up,” John Lloyd further said. “But this is true.”

As I mature] siguro I go for one who exudes character.”

John Lloyd, who has been named Box Office King, does things outside showbiz to somehow achieve a sense of normalcy in his seemingly very public life.

“I don’t do stuff in the Internet. I don’t do Facebook, Twitter, or any other social networks. But I listen to the AM radio every morning because it keeps me grounded. I become aware of the basic problems of the people. Simpling bagay lang yan pero marami akong napupulot.”

In a previous interview, John Lloyd had expressed that yes, he would like to maximize his stature as a top endorser and actively push for certain advocacies in the future. But he’d like to fly off to unknown places and do community work there. He had said, “Kasi gusto ko yung bagong simula, yung pumunta sa lugar na walang istorbo na pa-picture kasi gusto ko lang magtrabaho.”

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Alexandra C. Sarmiento tops her graduating class

Alexandra Claveria Sarmiento's parents, Budz Sarmiento and Katherine Claveria, must be proud of her. And rightfully so because, on June 21, 2011, she graduated at the top of her class from Coronation Elementary School where she started as a pre-kindergartner.

Aside from being the valedictorian, Alexandra, a precocious 12-year old, received the following awards: Vicky Daly Memorial Award for Best All Around Student, five certificates of academic achievements in Francais Langue Seconde, Music, Art, Sciences Sociales and English Language Arts. She also received one certificate of achievement each for Language Arts. She also received one Art, Sciences Sociales and English in Francais Langue Seconde, Music, certificates of academic achievements Best All Around Student, five awards: Vicky Daly Memorial Award for valedictorian, “I know that she had always been getting high marks in school but I had no idea that she would be valedictorian,” said Budz, opinion editor of the North American Filipino Star.” "It came as a big pleasant surprise to us."

“Her average day is usually spent at home working on computer, reading stories from the Internet and listening to music,” added her mom Katherine.

Unlike other students who exert much effort to maintain or improve their grades, Alecsa has confided that she just sort of wings it at Kumon, and the rest of her lessons stays in her mind.

Alecsa, who dreams to be a medical doctor someday, will be on the Montreal Chapter commander Reyn Balansing (3rd from right), and other Montreal Knights of Rizal, Fred Villarino, Ed Valdez, Ed de la Cuadra, and Bert Abiera.

Pamana - pride of Filipinos in Quebec

By W. G. Quiambao

Pamana ng LuzViMinda Philippine Folkloric Dance Company was founded in 2005 by Leticia Bulotano. Co-founders are Paul and Marilyn Friedrich, Virgilio and Aida Bermejo, and James and Rose de la Paz. They founded this organization in order to preserve traditional Filipino songs and dances in the youth of the Filipino Canadian community in Montreal.

Pamana was founded with a two-fold mission: As a cultural organization, Pamana seeks to preserve and represent the diversity of the Philippine culture in the multicultural mosaic of Quebec and Canada. As a folk dance company, Pamana seeks to instill into its young performing members a sense of cultural awareness, dignity and identity.

For six years now, Pamana has been receiving accolades for their performances. In 2010, it embarked on a 3-week tour around Central Europe, performing in festivals across the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Croatia.

“We performed in small towns with 6,000 to 10,000 population,” said Sherling de la Paz, artistic director of Pamana. "Pamana is something new there so we attracted a large crowd. Because of our professionalism and artistry which impressed European festival organizers, we were invited to perform again at festivals in Belgium and Netherlands in 2013.”

Apart from its European performances, Pamana has also performed at the prestigious Philippine High School for the Arts in Laguna, Philippines in 2008. It has also performed several times in Richmond, British Columbia, Toronto, Ontario and Edmonton, Alberta. For the last five years now, Pamana has been performing in festivals in Ottawa. A favourite with the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa, the group has been invited annually to represent the Filipino-Canadian community at the Tulip Festival in Ottawa.

“Last July 10 was one of the largest audiences we had at the Botanical Garden,” said de la Paz. “there were about 1,000 people.”

Pamana seeks to instill into its young performing members a sense of cultural awareness, dignity and identity.

A delegation of Knights of Rizal from Toronto had a picture taken in front of the bust of Dr. Jose Rizal at MacKenzie King Park, with the Montreal Chapter commander Reyn Balansing (3rd from right), and other Montreal Knights of Rizal, Fred Villarino, Ed Valdez, Ed de la Cuadra, and Bert Abiera.

Happy faces, sweet smiles for the camera to have a souvenir of the picnic with the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec. Maggie Calcetas, founder of the FNAQ, poses with her husband, Benjie Calcetas, and other fellow Montrealers, Manny Lagasca, Andy Odulio, Zeny Kharroubi, Flor Rillo, Bert Santos and Danny S. Valdez. Photo taken on July 9, 2011 at Beaver Lake by Percival “Boyet” Madrid.
It’s first class all the way when you’re traveling with prizefighter Manny Pacquiao, says singer Madonna Decena.

“We get the VIP treatment everywhere, five-star hotels, first-class food,” Madonna says. “We are greeted by cheering fans at every stop. It feels good. It’s a far cry from her old life as a struggling singer who worked in a fast-food joint in the United Kingdom to make ends meet.

For YouTube fanatics, she will forever be the single mother from the Philippines who was discovered in the reality show ‘Britain’s Got Talent’ in 2008.

Well, Madonna has a new job now, fronting for Pacman’s MP band, alongside composer Lito Camo. “It’s an honor to work with a living legend [like Manny],” she says. “Lito and I travel with him when he has singing engagements and concerts here and abroad.”

Madonna adds that it’s a “thrill” to share the stage with Manny, but that it’s even more fascinating to watch him in action backstage. “I get to watch the champ’s back-up singer. “I’m proud of that,” she says. “I’m happy to be part of his new game show. We will go on tour and hopefully the champ will be given the chance to change more lives all over the country and in other parts of the world.”

She’s raring to hit the road again with the Pacman.

“I’m also looking forward to the album we’re recording now,” she says. “It’s produced by the man himself. It’s a very special compilation and I hope it will open more doors for me.”

A co-actor and former QC Councilor Aiko Melendez was disappointed when she was told the show would be aired in the afternoon, and not on primetime. When it was explained to her that “Reputasyon” would be ABS-CBN’s frontline for afternoon dramas, she accepted the challenge.

Also in the cast of “Reputasyon” directed by Jeffrey Jeturian and composed the theme song.)

With new teleserye “Reputasyon,” ABS-CBN takes afternoon drama on a different level.

Christine Reyes leads the powerhouse cast which also includes her real-life sweetheart Rayver Cruz. The TV serial banners the network’s Kapamilya Gold and from what we’ve gathered, the show is now keeping viewers glued to their seats weekdays after “Happy Yipee Yeyeh” with positive feedback.

Christine plays the role of Agnes de los Santos, a simple woman with big dreams for her family. This role, according to Christine, is her most challenging role so far “kahit itaya ko po ang reputasyon ko.”

Rayver – who plays Henry – said he’s happy to be working with his girlfriend. “I look forward to our taping days kasi makikita at makakasama ko siya.’’

Jason Abalos completes the love triangle, as Boyet.

The cast of ‘Reputasyon:’ Christine Reyes, Rayver Cruz, Aiko Melendez and Jason Abalos

Mervyn Brondial, are Jaclyn Jose, acclaimed directors Laurice Guillen and Celso Ad Castillo, Lito Pimentel, Emilio Garcia, Jill Yulo, Andre Garcia, John James Uy, and Deborah Sun who admitted, “Hindi maganda ang reputasyon ko noon, pero habang nabubuhay ang tao, mayayos niya ang buhay niya.”

Showbiz continued on page 22
Heart Evangelista

Heart Evangelista was calm and collected when she held a press conference July 21 at the family-owned Barrio Fiesta in San Juan in her effort to set the record straight regarding the controversy involving Marian Rivera and her mother Cecille Ongpauco.

Fear made her come out, Heart said. Fear from threats she has been receiving allegedly from the fans of Marian. She and her family also did not like it that tables were turned: Heart felt like it that tables were turned. Heart felt she and her mother had been erroneously maligned while Marian gave her side of the story during the press event of "Temptation Island."

Then Heart dropped the bombed: it was Marian who accosted her twice in her room during the last two shooting days of "Temptation Island," she said. Marian was angry in both instances, she said, "I was told that she was the last to know about the project that I was supposed to do with Mr. Dingdong."

Marian reportedly told her she didn’t like what she said earlier that she was excited to work with Dingdong. "She wanted me to correct it and she made some threats that her fans will kill me. She said isang text lang daw niya sa mga fans niya, patay na ako. Ma-air ko lang ang side ko okay na sa akin. Ayaw ko naman ng gulo. I just want to work in peace kaya lang marami nang naapektuhan. I have four endorsements that have been put on hold since this broke out. Last I heard, that project with Dingdong has been shelved. I don’t know what my next show in GMA will be."

Heart said her mother is much too elegant to assault anyone in the manner that had been reported. "It’s not in her to make taray to anyone. She was in the airport to pick me up and was accompanied by two NAIA personnel, not policemen, to wait near the luggage section. She didn’t see Marian, she didn’t talk to her."

Heart featured in Oprah’s bookazine

Unquestionably, international singing sensation Charice holds a special place in renowned TV host Oprah Winfrey’s heart as she gets featured in a collector’s edition issue of O, The Oprah Magazine.

Titled “Oprah’s Farewell Celebration: Inside 25 Extraordinary Years of The Oprah Winfrey Show,” the 19-year-old singer was placed under the bookazine’s “The Guests We’ll Always Remember” category where she was dubbed as the “golden piped girl.”

“One of the things I love most about Charice is that no matter what obstacles she’s faced in her life, she’s never given up on her dream of something better,” Oprah was quoted as saying about her godchild.

According to the magazine’s website, the 148-pager book/magazine features never before heard stories on the now defunct American daytime show, “Oprah,” some unforgettable moments, interviews and Oprah’s farewell message to her quarter of a century’s worth of loyal viewers.

The TV show ran for 25 years until it aired its farewell episode last May 25, 2011, which the host gave up so as to focus on her cable channel OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) which launched in January 2011.

Charice’s several appearances in “Oprah” were definitely memorable; as it served as the platform for her international career’s take off.

Recall that in one episode of the show Charice was named by Oprah as the “Most Talented Girl in the World” and it was also in the same show where she first performed her international debut single, “Note to God” in 2009.

For her part, Oprah was touted by “Chasters,” the young singer’s fandom, as Charice’s fairy godmother – as it was reportedly with her help that the singer was able to perform alongside highly-acclaimed singers: Celine Dion and David Foster among others, as said in the website Charice Mania.

The bookazine was released in the US last June 28.

Meanwhile, Charice is slated to be back in the country soon for the Asian Tour of “David Foster and Friends” on Oct. 25, where she will perform live at the Araneta Coliseum. Other guest performers in the concert include acclaimed singers: Michael Bolton, Phillip Bailey and Russel Watson.

Aside from performing in the Philippines, Charice is also expected to have concerts in Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

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

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From left: Teachers - Amy Manon-og, Terry White; students - Mildred Mendoza, Vilma Lagenilla, Gisele Arellano; (not in photo: Joesie Bingayen), teachers: Sophie Toledo, Edith Fedalizo (front row), Clarice Mackay, and Zenaida Kharroubi.

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