

# Manuel challenges Osdon in a tight FAMAS presidential race

By W. G. Quiambao

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 "Au" Osdon, incumbent FAMAS president and representing Samahang Makabayan team is Cesar Manuel, a former FAMAS director. Many observers say it is a tight race



**Cesar Manuel**

because both teams have staunch supporters.

One hot issue that is often



**Aurora Osdon**

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

See Page 4 FAMAS Elections

## Lions International Montreal Westward Club donates to the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative



Photo shows from left: Lion Ted Philipp, Bong Bade, Lion candidate, Noli Bade, Filipino Solidarity Cooperative President Zenaide Kharroubi, Lion Flor Rillo, Coop member and director; Lion Past President Hartley Barber, Lion President Dino Pugliese, Lion Amado Lozano, Mrs. Benie Villegas, Lion candidate, and Lion Benjamin Bade who introduced Lionism to the Filipino community. Taken during the Pista sa Nasyon annual town festival, July 17, 2011. Not in photo are Myrna Maranan Francisco, also a Lion candidate and Lion Danilo Ganas who is on a Lion mission in the Philippines.

Lion Benjamin Bade, one of the five founders of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative, informed Zenaide Kharroubi during the Pista sa Nasyon 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 in spite of 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 turn over of documents that

See Page 4 Lions Club donates



Community Picnic see pages 3, 7

### Contents

Editorial . . . . .	2
Cooperative News . . . . .	3
Any Which Way (Op.Ed.) . . . . .	8
Tagalog Corner. . . . .	9
Ask the Video Guy . . . . .	11
Philippine Cuisine . . . . .	14
Showbiz Gossip . . . . .	16
Classified Ads.....	21



# GOLDEN PHOENIX

## MILAGROSA

## COMMERCE CHI KUANG INC.



# 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 with 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.

### The North American Filipino Star

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## 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

### ADVANCE VOTING

There will be advance voting on August 7 to 11, inclusive,  
at 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the FAMAS Center  
at 4708 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal, Quebec.  
**Bring medicare card and/or driver's licence**  
**Go out and vote!**  
**FAMAS COMELEC**

## THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

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*The opinions expressed by the writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of the North American Filipino Star nor its editors.*



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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 Busses 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 installments 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 spite of 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 514-485-7861 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 P.M.

- 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



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# From Page 1 Lions Club donates

could have allowed the Coop to continue smoothly. But since no accounting was done during the first administration, it was difficult if not impossible to keep track of all the transactions. This lack of accounting contributed to other problems of the Coop, including the long delays in presenting financial reports. The whole story of what had happened was reported in the North American Filipino Star's January 2007 edition but people seemed to have easily forgotten the real

the current president of the Coop to give them an idea on what they can do to help.

Lion Bade also told Mrs. Kharroubi that part of his share in the family business in the Philippines would be donated to the Coop annually. He expressed hope that other associations in the community, numbering over 60 and growing steadily, may be influenced to follow suit after the Lions Club's initiative. Another desired result will be a better attendance at the forthcoming general assembly on

member in good standing and who is a Canadian citizen can run to be a director. Out of the five directors elected, they will elect among themselves the new president. However, it is to be understood that anyone who wants to be president should assume the major part of the financial commitment to the Coop, just

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



**Lion Benjamin Bade is shown presenting to Mrs. Kharroubi a cheque for \$500 which he donated through the Lions International Montreal Westward Club, and witnessed by Gilmore College students from left: Lorna Asuncion, Michelle Abinal and Marichu Cornelio, on Monday, July 18, 2011.**

issues which have plagued the current administration of the Coop. It is therefore a welcome news for Mrs. Kharroubi to receive support unexpectedly from the Lions Club through the intercession of Lion Bade. The Lions fiscal year ends on July 30, 2011 but when they start the new one in October 2011, they would like to invite

August 21, 2011 at Beaver Lake Park. It is set up as a community pot luck picnic where everyone is invited, members and prospective members alike. Lunch will be from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. after which the general assembly of the Coop will start officially to discuss the financial reports for 2009 and 2010 and also to nominate and elect five directors. Any



**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 on increasing because of lack of patronage from members. However, Mrs. Kharroubi believes that with time, things will change for the better as she

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.

# From page 1 FAMAS Elections

idea will eliminate rampant vote buying. Also, the party or team leader could recruit candidates who have potential to be good leaders but who can not afford the candidacy fee. If that is the case, the team or leader could fundraise for them. Another important project is to encourage the youth to get more involved in the community. It is difficult to encourage them now because of the bad examples that our leaders show."

Meanwhile, since Osdon has accomplished a lot of things, her immediate plans are to continue the Project Pagsibol, a program for youth leadership, to develop new projects that would enable FAMAS to apply for government grants and to renovate the centre.



**Mabuhay Team (Courtesy: A. Abdon)**

Osdon's slate includes:  
Vice president (internal) - Alex Sy; Vice president (external) Gene Santander; Secretary - Melle Lugod; Treasurer - Ramon Vicente, Jr.; Auditor - Alia Ceniza Razul; Accountant - Agnes Calgo; PRO - Alfonso Abdon; Director of Membership -

Gina Medina; Director of Educational, Social and Cultural Affairs; Debbie Resurreccion; Director of Sports & Youth Development - Christine Cevero; Director of Outreach Services - Joan Junio; Director of Special Projects & Social Services - Rose Marie Arellano.

Manuel's slate includes:



**Samahang Makabayan (Courtesy: A. Abdon)**

Vice President (internal) - Dante Tabamo; Vice President (external) Mel Domingo; Secretary - Tracy Alarcon; Treasurer - Lina Flores; Auditor - Cely Dagsaan; Accountant - Jhun Zapanta; PRO - Julius Abad; Director of Membership - Elmer Manila; Director of Educational, Social & Cultural Affairs; -Alfred Neil Castro; Director of Sports & Youth Development - Mercy Umipig Sia; Director of Outreach Services - Renato Tejeros; Director of Special Project & Special Services- Ruben Majaducon

The voters will notice several election changes made this year like the following:

1. There are only two teams running
2. There are two vice presidential candidates for each team (external and internal)

3. The directors are running for positions
4. The candidates are required to make a candidacy deposit
5. 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.



**Cesar Manuel shakes hands with Au Osdon during the Pista sa Nasyon festival**

"It's been a tradition to hold the election at the park," said one FAMAS member who refused to be identified. "For example, it's a time to meet friends we have not met for a long time. Besides, parking space at St. Kevin is a problem."

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.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR August 2011

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 7-11 | ADVANCE VOTING<br>Famas Center, 5 to 9 p.m.<br>Bring medicare card and/or driver's licence   |
| 14   | Famas election<br>8 a.m. to 5 p.m.<br>St. Kevin's Church Hall  |
| 20   | Panday Tinig Concert<br>McGill Univ. Pollack Hall  |
| 21   | Filipino Solidarity Coop.<br>Community Potluck Picnic<br>& Members Gen. Assembly<br>Election of directors<br>Beaver Lake Park<br>11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. |



**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



Manager at Kone Wood



Design Engineer  
89-95



Project Engineer  
98-2000

**NLK** Consultants Inc.  
Material Handling Specialist  
96-97



President  
2001-2008



Owner  
Since 2000

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Kapit-bisig tungo sa kaunlaran, kapayapaan at kinabukasan!

## MABUHAY TEAM

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

PLEASE VOTE ON AUGUST 14, 2011 AT ST. KEVIN CHURCH

# Vote!



# Mabuhay!

## For continued progress

## Patuloy tungo sa kaunlaran

### FILIPINO ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL & SUBURBS (FAMAS) ELECTION

AUGUST 14, 2011 8AM to 5pm ST. KEVIN'S PARISH HALL

5600 Côte des Neiges

#### ADVANCE VOTING

August 7-11 5pm to 9pm FAMAS Center



**Aurora Osdon**  
for PRESIDENT

University of the Philippines Alumna, BSHRA. Former President or Board Member of PBSSQ, NCCFA, FFCAQ, Bicol 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



**Alex Sy**  
for VICE PRESIDENT  
(INTERNAL)

Currently FAMAS Auditor 2010-2011. Mapua Graduate, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Design Engineer, Stoker Product Manager, Kone Wood Ltd. in Ottawa. Material Handling Specialist at NLK Consultants, Inc. Project Engineer at BMH wood technology. President of ANSY Engineering. Owner of Bahay Kubo.



**Gene Santander**  
for VICE PRESIDENT  
(EXTERNAL)

Graduate of Dental Medicine; Current Director for Membership FAMAS; First Chairwoman Kababaihang Rizalista; President, FAMAS 1984-1985. Co-founder, Homemakers Association. Former President, Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ). Awardee of Most Outstanding Filipinos in Canada; One of 20 Most Outstanding Filipino-North America; enlisted in the Circle of Leaders Award in recognition of inspirational and dynamic leadership; One of 9 Founding Forces of the Foundation for the Philippine Center of Greater Montreal



**Melle Lugod**  
for SECRETARY

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Founding President and current Adviser, Novo Ecijano Association; Volunteer Recording Secretary, Member of the Board of Trustees, Member of the Constitution and Bylaws committee (FCBL) FAMAS 2009-2011; Served as Filipino Heritage Program Tagalog language teacher/FCAWI; Served as Director for Social Services, Director for Immigration and Employment, Director of Human Rights and Legal Referrals; Member of the Board of Trustees – FFCAQ.



**Ramon Vicente Jr.**  
for TREASURER

Served the FFCAQ as Treasurer and Vice President. Former President of FCAWI. Member of Board of Trustees – FAMAS and Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ). PRO-Philippine Basketball Association (PBAM) Treasurer – Filipino Solidarity Cooperative (Marché Coop)



**Al "Boy" Abdon**  
for PUBLIC RELATIONS  
OFFICER

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science (72') University of the East. Air Academy Class 75 Civil Aeronautic 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 of PBSSQ 2006-2009.



**Alia Ceniza Razul**  
for AUDITOR

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 Psi McGill Chapter, Professional Business Fraternity. Founder of Recyclable or Not <www.recyclableornot.org>, an organization that is dedicated to the education about little known world of recycling.



**Agnes Calgo**  
for ACCOUNTANT

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 (Marché Coop), helped in the bookkeeping update and inventory of goods. Volunteered at Pinay Women's Organization as a member of the Finance Committee.



**Gina Medina**  
for DIRECTOR  
MEMBERSHIP

Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education at Vanier College. Administrator & Educator of Precious Ones Family Home Daycare; Past President of Philbecan; PBBSQ-Director. Officer- Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers; Parish of St-Kevin's Catechist since 1999. Officer-Novo Ecijano Association. Director for Education & Leadership Training, Federation of Filipino Canadian Association (FFCAQ). Current FAMAS Director of Social and Cultural Affairs, In-Charge of Heritage Class. Teacher Awardee QCAFT.



**Rose Marie Arellano**  
for DIRECTOR  
SPECIAL PROJECTS

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 Meals on Wheels program at the La Salle community, since 2009. President of the Filipino Canadian Tennis Association of Montreal 2009-2011. Member of the Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec.



**Debbie Resurreccion**  
for DIRECTOR-EDUCATIONAL,  
SOCIAL & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Debbie Resurreccion, Directors of Educational, Social & Cultural Affairs, FAMAS Filipino Association Montreal and Suburbs 2009-2011, Public Relations Officer, supervised leadership training for Pag-SIBOL. Certified Family Life Educator from Concordia University. Graduated from Community Recreation Leadership Training from Dawson College.



**Christine Gevero**  
for DIRECTOR  
SPORTS & YOUTH DEV'T.

Graduated from LaVoie High School. Student of the year in 2005, Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers. Currently studying early childhood education at Vanier College. Founder of PINK FROG, hip-hop dance group whose mission is to provide free dance lessons to the youth as after-school activity. Member, Youth for Christ, Palaboy basketball team. Miss Teen Manileno 2009 & 2011.



**Joan Junio**  
for DIRECTOR  
OUTREACH SERVICES

Bachelor of Science in Biology Saint Louis University, Vice President United Filipino Homemakers 1994-1996. Director of Immigration and Employment- Federation of Filipino-Canadian Associations of Quebec 1998-1999, 2004-2006 and 2008-2010. Founding President Filipino Caregivers Association of Montreal (FCAM); Member of Migrante. Director for Outreach Services, Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS), October 2010-present. Member of ad hoc Community Center to recommend changes to the Live-In-Caregiver Program 2008

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#### 2011- 2013 Mabuhay Platform

- Complete Implementation of the 2011 FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws (FCBL) to ensure good governance and leadership development rooted on good work ethics, values and discipline.
- Enhance existing communication tools (Balitang FAMAS newsletter and website) to facilitate info dissemination
- Build-up and expand PagSIBOL 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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# Osdon is running again for FAMAS presidency to continue serving the community

## She breaks her silence

by W. G. Quiambao

When Aurora Osdon ran for FAMAS presidency in 2009, political observers in the community asked if she knew the challenges she would be facing. One of them was how to regain the respect of the community for FAMAS that had been plagued with scandals - the recount of scores in the Miss Philippines pageant, submission of incomplete financial records and the use and misuse of the centre that included installing of a camera in the toilet, smoking and drinking. The other challenge she would be facing was how to handle the unfair and harsh criticisms to be hurled at her by her detractors.

Now, Osdon can say she has no regrets with her decision in 2009. In fact, she is running again at the urging of the Mabuhay team and her supporters to continue the good work. The FAMAS administration has never been better since she took over as president almost two years ago. She also survived the criticisms.

"I'm here to serve the community," said Osdon. "I just have to focus on my job, not on what my critics say".

Armed with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration from the University of the Philippines, Osdon immigrated to Canada in 1981.

Osdon, who is fluent in Tagalog, English and French, first served as FAMAS president in 1987.

"It was not as challenging then as it is now" said Osdon. "Some of the goals of the association then were to provide social activities for Filipinos to come together, to promote cultural identity and to raise funds for the projected community centre. Today, the members of the community have significantly increased in number and the needs and issues we have to address are more complex. In addition, we have a center to maintain. Ensuring that we have the necessary resources to keep the community centre operational is one of the major priorities."

After serving as FAMAS president for one year, Osdon continued to serve the community. She served as a regional vice president of NCCFA for two terms. She also served as the secretary of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec for five years before acting as president of the Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society of Quebec. At the Filipino Catholic Mission, she chaired the 10th anniversary Special Project Committee and co-ordinated the Lectors Guild. At St. Kevin's Parish, she served as secretary and later on, as chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council.

But because of the plight of FAMAS, Osdon and her friends formed the Mabuhay team in 2009. Despite the team's 11th-hour decision to run, Osdon, together with six of her candidates for directors, won the election.

It has been said that for a bad president, two years of service is long but for a good president, two years of service is short. Osdon belongs to the latter.

"Michael Applebaum is impressed with Au's performance as president of FAMAS," said James de la Paz, president of Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of



**Au Osdon, current FAMAS president, speaking during the Pista sa Nasyon, July 17 at MacKenzie King Park**

Quebec. "He is supporting her."

Natalie Pelausa, founder of the Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society of Quebec said, "Au started as a young leader and she turned out to be a great 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 what she and 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 Balitang FAMAS, a newsletter that is published four times a year; Project Pagsibol, 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."

"Our financial record now has transparency."

Asked about the issues that are often published in a newspaper, Osdon initially refused for it is 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)

## New look of FAMAS center's facade

by W. G. Quiambao

The passersby along Van Horne Ave. will notice the new look of the FAMAS Center's facade. The improvement cost of about \$12,500, is money well spent. The dream of the current Executive Board in beautifying the center so that it may serve as our "home away from home" for our kababayans materialized the second week of July. The



landscaping was completed and benches were donated by the CDN-Notre Dame de Grace Borough to provide a welcoming ambience for us all.

"Filipinos can now have a meeting place where they can sit down or

consisting of credible, knowledgeable and objective people spend 8 months studying and deliberating on this document," said Osdon. The committee even invited people to send in their input and consulted with all stakeholders before producing the final document. Our new 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 Binibining Pilipinas in Toronto.

rest especially when the weather is nice," said Aurora Osdon, President of FAMAS. The new look of the FAMAS center was conceived by Alexander Sy, FAMAS auditor and an engineer by profession.

"The yellow awning has been removed," said Sy. "The change was due to the signage not conforming to the city's bylaws. It has now been replaced with an alloy text that enhances the look of the building, one which is longer lasting and requires very little or no maintenance at all."

When Sy was appointed as a member of the Executive Board earlier this year, he immediately faced several badly needed renovations. First was the need for total brick pointing, then the replacement of aluminum that holds the rain gutter, fascia and soffit and the placement of precast concrete on the windowsills, all of which were necessary to seal off and prevent any water and cold draft from seeping in.

Approximately over \$30,000 has already been spent on building improvements while the current FAMAS Executive Board continues to maintain financial stability. Meanwhile, if elected, the new Executive Board plans to renovate the center internally, including fixing the bathrooms, providing advanced computer technology for learning purposes, fixing the rooms upstairs and redesigning the basement to allow us all to maximize and enjoy the use of its facilities.

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## Any Which Way ...

Bernardo "Budz" Sarmiento  
berniesarmiento@hotmail.com.

### OSDON OR MANUEL: 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 Balitang 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 defined 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 spokespeople;
- liaising 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. Tess 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!"

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MEDICAL CARE: PHILIPPINES VS. QUEBEC

More than a week into my four-week vacation in my native country, my almost 85-years old mother fell so ill that she required hospitalization. So I immediately took her to the Tagaytay Hospital and Medical Center, a private medical facility in Tagaytay City. I decided to get a private room so I could be with her every day and every night throughout her stay and so I wouldn't have another patient to take into account.

While there, I was able to know firsthand how different Philippine medical care system was from Quebec system. As soon as we arrived at the hospital's emergency department, I had to make a down payment of P20K (roughly \$500.00 in Canadian money), which is unaffordable as far as many locals are concerned, before medical staff would attend to my mom.

When my mom needed an X-ray, I was asked to sign a paper before the procedure would be done. The same thing with electrocardiogram, blood tests, etc. I also had to sign for every medication my mom took. I even had to pay for bedpan that she was constrained to use because she was not allowed to get out of bed. My mother has already three bedpans from previous experiences.

My mom, like any other patient, was given a kit that contained a bottle of isopropyl alcohol, a small bottle of Johnson's baby powder, a toothbrush, a small sachet of toothpaste, a cake of travel size bath soap, a packet of cloth-like scented wipes, a packet of cotton buds, a very thin roll of bathroom tissue, a plastic drinking glass and a pair of utensils – a spoon and a fork – that she would use throughout her confinement.

I've also learned that a staff nurse in the Philippines, at least where my mom was treated, earns a dismal

See Page 10 Any Which Way

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## Sariling Dila, Sariling Diwa



ni Mang Bert



### Karugtong na kabanata

## Ang Mangingisda

ni Atty N. Baens del Rosario

"Sabihin mo. Nakahanda akong tumupad," ang may habag na saad ni Pitong.

"Una, mahalín mo ang aking asawa, at ang ikalawa ay huwag mo sanang aapihin ang aking anak."

At saka sinundan ng paglayo sa kausap.

Umalis ang lalaking kalong ng malaking kalumbayan. Inihatid pa ni Pitong ng kaniyang mga paningin ang anino ng marangal na lalaki. Unti-unting nakanlong sa mga bahay ang anino ni Sencio. Nanhik si Pitong sa bahay at buong taimtim na pinagmasdan ang mukha ng asawang nahihimbing.

"Akin, akin din siya!" ang bulong ni Pitong sa sarili saman-talang pinagmamasdan ang asawa.

Kinabukasan. Araw ng Sabado noon. Maagang maaga pa ay nanaog na si Pitong sa bahay.

Kasalukuyang nag-iinit ng tubig si Luisa nang sa walang ano-ano ay lumabas si Caridad, dala-dala ang panlampaso ng bahay.

"Nanay, napangarap ko na naman kagabi ang Tatay. Buhay daw at tayo ay hinahanap."

Hindi umimik si Luisa at ang mukha ay biglang nagkulimlim. Sana'y hindi na niya ibig pang mabanggit ang "nasira."

"Nanay, kitang-kita ko ang mukha niya kagabi. Kung saan-saan daw bahay tayo ipinagtatanong at nang tayo raw ay makita ay ikaw lang ang nilapitan, sapagkat ako ay hindi niya nakikilala. Sa sama raw ng aking loob ay umiyak ako kaya't ako ay nilapitan niya at niyakap nang mahigpit. Siya kong pagkagising," ang wika ni Caridad.

"Hindi mo na yata ipinag-darasal ang kaniyang kaluluwa. Mapapangarap mo nga, sapagkat humihingi sa iyo ng dalangin," ang wikang pangwakas ni Luisa.

Ang mag-ina ay nagpatuloy sa kani-kaniyang gawain.

Kasalukuyang binibihisan ni Caridad ang bunsong kapatid na si Elnora na magdadalang linggo pa lamang sa maliwanag, nang huma-

hangos na dumating si Pitong.

"Luisa, Luisa, ipaghanda mo ako ng bihisan at aalis ako ngayon din."

"Saan ka paroroon? Hindi ka pa nag-aagahan."

"Aba, siya nga pala! Caridad, magbihis ka at sasama ka sa akin."

"Saan бага tayo paroroon, Tiyo Pitong?" ang usisa ng tinukoy.

"Sa Kalagiman, tayo'y may dadaluhang anyaya."

"Sama kami, Tatay," ang halos sabay-sabay na hiling ng mga bata.

"Kung hindi kayo isinasama ay huwag kayong hahabol," ang pangaral ng ina at ang mga bata naman ay hindi na nagsiimik.

Hindi na inusisa ni Luisa kung ano ang kailangan ng kaniyang asawa sa nayon ng Kalagiman na hindi naman gaanong kalayuan sa Abukay.

Isang karitelang paupahan ang sinakyan ng mag-amain.

"Para huwag kang mabigla," ang wika ni Pitong sa pamangkin, "ay sasabihin ko na sa iyo ngayon pa na ang dadalawin ta ay ang iyong ama."

"Ang aking ama?" ang pagulat na tanong ni Caridad at naalaala niya ang kaniyang panaginip.

"Oo, siya ay buhay pa, ngunit sa oras na ito ay nag-aagaw-buhay."

"Tatay ko!" ang iyak ni Caridad. "Bakit hindi natin isinama ang aking Nanay?" ang tanong pa ng umiiyak na pamangkin.

"Mahina pa ang katawan ng iyong Nanay. Hindi pa siya nakaaahon sa banig at hindi matatagalan ang isang malungkot na pagtatagpo

Hindi natagalan at ang mag-amain ay inihinto ng kutsero sa tapat ng malaking bahay ng mga Aquino sa nayon ng Kalagiman.

"Wala nang lunas," ang pailing-iling na wika ni Dr. Pascual na nasalubong ng mag-amain sa hagdanan, "sakít sa puso ang sumumpong." ang dugtong pa ng balitang manggagamot.

"Luisa, Luisa, nasaaan ka?" ang panambitan ng maysakit. "A! ikaw si Luisa, ikaw nga бага si Luisa?" ang parang hibang na wika ni Sencio nang

makita si Caridad na anak'y larawang pinilas sa kaniyang ina.

"Tatay ko, ako ang anak mo," at yumupyop si Caridad sa amang maysakit. Mga luha ang nag-usap.

"Si Luisa, ayaw na bagang makipagkita sa akin?" ang nakahahabag ng tanong ng maysakit.

Hindi nakatugon si Caridad, Mga luha rin ang humilam sa kaniyang mga mata.

"Ang Nanay mo,...ayaw na bagang makipagpahimakas man lamang sa akin?" ang ulit ni Sencio.

Sa ikalawang tanong na ito ay lalong napipi si Caridad. Naghagilap siya ng maitutugon, ngunit umid ang kaniyang dila kaya't ipinako na lamang ni Caridad ang luhaan niyang mata sa amain at sa pagkatingin niyang yaon, ay nahulaan na ni Sencio ang ibig sabihin ng kaniyang anak. Isang tingin ang inihagis ni Sencio kay Pitong at isang titig na punong-puno ng hinanakit, titig na naglagos sa kaibuturan ng puso ni Pitong.

"Pati бага naman ng kaunting ligayang nalalabi sa aking buhay na makausap ko kahit saglit, bago man lamang ako mamatay, ang tunay kong asawa ay ipagkakait mo pa? O! sa kabila pala ng aking pagtatakwil sa sariling kaligayahan alang-alang sa katahimikan ng iyong tahanan ay hindi mo pinaunlakan ang huling samo ng isang mamamatay," ang wika ni Sencio kay Pitong.

Ang tinig na yaong wari'y nanggagaling na sa libingan na sinundan pa ng isang malalim na buntong-hininga ay nagbigay ng panginigilabot kay Pitong.

"Anak ko!" ang baling ng ama sa bunso, "magpapakabait ka, alang-alang sa akin, sawimpalad tayo ..maliit ka pa ay pinaghiwalay na tayo ng Tadhana at ngayong ako ay nakabalik sa Filipinas upang simsimin ang akala ko'y nalalabi pang ligaya ay .... sawimpalad ... may ibang asawa na ang iyong ina.... Hindi ko siya sinisisi. Inakala niyang ako'y malaon nang namatay. Caridad, yamang hindi na malalaman ni Luisa na ako'y nabuhay upang mamatay na muli, ilihim mo na ang lahat, alang-alang sa kaniyang kaligayahan."

"Tatay, kay-hirap ng iniuutos mo sa akin. Hindi ko yata masasarili sa aking puso ang kapalarang makita kang muli kahit na sa labi ng kamatayan. Tatay, hindi mo lamang batid ang pagmamahal ng Nanay ko sa iyo. Kadalasan, kung tahimik na ang lahat ay pinupukaw pa niya ako at magkasabay kaming nananalangin sa Diyos, patungkol sa iyong kaluluwa. Tatay, Tatay, kung batid mo lamang na malimit lumuha si Nanay sa tuwi-tuwina ng makakita siya ng mga bangka ng mga mangi-ngisada. O!"

"Salamat, anak ko, babaunin ko sa hukay ang matamis na alaalang nakita ko muna ang aking anak at nabatid ko ang walang kupas na pagmamahal ni Luisa. O! kung makita ko man lamang sana siya bago ako mamatay ay wala na akong pagtitiis isusumbong kay Bathala....Luisa, Luisa!" ang hikbi ng maysakit.

"Tatay, susunduin ko siya," ang wika ni Caridad.

"Huwag na anak ko, hindi na rin lamang niya ako aabutan...Tinatawag na ako ng Dakilang Ama sa kaniyang sinapupunan. Sa ilalim ng aking unan nariyan ang halagang dalawang libong piso, ang huli kong alaala sa inyong mag-ina. Iyan lamang ang maipamamana ko sa inyo." (katapusang kabanata sa Agosto)

### Bukas na Liham: Sariling Amin

(Ang tugon ni Aiden)

Mahal kong pinsan, Hailey,

Naku! Eh di maya't maya ay nandoon ka kina Lelong at Lelang buhat nang lumipat ka..

Mabuti naman at nitong mga huling araw ay hindi ka na raw masyadong iyakin. Maniwala ka sa akin. Higit na marami kang makakamit sa ngiti kaysa iyak.

Ngayon ay anim na ang aking ngipin kaya tuwang-tuwa silang bilangin ang mga ito tuwing kakargahin ako. Sinasabayan ko naman ng bungisngis habang nagbibilang sila.

Kumakain na rin ako ng keso at mga piling prutas na kaya kong nguyain. Kaya nalalapit na ang hindi maiiwasang pagkakataon ng magpapalusot ng kendi si Lelong Bert. Ang tawag sa kaniya ng mga nauna nating kamag-anak ay "candyman."

Narito na ang litrato ko. Dinala ako sa Lake George ng Tatay at Nanay ko at ang souvenir na suot ko ay para sa akin lamang. Makalaglag-lampin ba?

Nagmamahal,

Kuya Aiden



\*\*\*\*\*

### Eleksyon Na Naman!

**Dalawang bagay lang and iisipin ng isang botante.**

**Una:** Sino sa dalawang magkatunggali ang higit na narapat na ihalal ayon sa kaniyang pagkatao, pinag-aralan, karanasan sa panunugkulan atbp. (profile ng baw't isa). Ihambing nang mabuti.

**Pangalawa:** May kandidatong bibilhin ang boto at may kandidatong hindi baleng matalo kung ang paglilingkuran lamang ay mga botanteng nagbenta ng boto

"Good luck!" sa lahat ng kandidato at mabuhay tayong lahat sa walang kamatayang pag-asam ng pagkakaisa.

Aiden

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From Page 8 Any Which Way

salary of P8000.00 (approximately \$182.00 CAD) per month. It's a real bargain compared with what her Quebec counterpart gets. A volunteer nurse, a new graduate and who just received his or her license to practise nursing, earns P4500.00 (\$102.00 CAD) a month.

That, in a nutshell, is how Philippine medical care differs from the one I have been relatively fortunate to enjoy for more than three decades here in Quebec.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RETIREMENT: WHERE TO SPEND IT

Next August, I will be out of the work force as a retiree after plugging away for the last 35 years. My monthly pension cheque is not as big as I hoped it would be, but that isn't really what has been keeping me thinking for the last few months. The thing that occupies my mind during many of my waking hours is where I would be better off spending my retirement years, that is, here in Montreal or back there in my native town in Cavite.

I would like to resume residence in the Philippines because I want to be as close to my relatives as possible. After all, my relatives are the ones who would help me out or come to my rescue during crunch time. On the other hand, however, there are times when I don't feel like living there again because I would be close to my ... well ... relatives. As many of my readers may already know, sometimes, relatives are the solution to one's problem, but sometimes, they are the problem.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NOT BOASTFUL, JUST PROUD

Last June, while visiting my frail mother in the Philippines, I received exhilarating news that every parent would want to hear about their children.

My 12-year old daughter Alexandra, fondly called Alecsa, graduated at the top of her elementary school class and was made its valedictorian. Among the nine awards that she has received is the Vicky Valy Award which is given to the best all-around student. I don't mean to be boastful, but as her father, I can't help being proud of her outstanding academic achievement. Her mom Katherine deserves most of the credit for having nurtured our child into a smart kid.

Congratulations, Alecsa, for a job well done. Kudos goes to her mom, too.

## Seven Deadly Sins of Society

- 1) Politics without principles
- 2) Pleasure without conscience
- 3) Knowledge without character
- 4) Wealth without work
- 5) Commerce without morality
- 6) Science without humanity
- 7) Worship without sacrifice.

(A listing of the 'seven deadly sins of modern society, as published in the magazine Social Welfare for Malayan Youth in Singapore in 1965. Also quoted by Bishop Broome of Barbados and published in the Advocate, 1994

## 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.



Immigration Minister Kenny

At the same time, oversight of the consultant community is being turned over to the newly created Immigration Consultants of Canada Regulatory Council (ICCRC). "The Government of Canada has promised to crack down on crooked immigration consultants and their shady practices, and with Bill C-35, we now have the tools," said the Minister.

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.

A 120-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 will end on October 28, 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 [www.immigration.gc.ca/antifraud](http://www.immigration.gc.ca/antifraud) - 30 -

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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)."

As of July of this year, seniors with little or no income other than the Old Age Security (OAS) benefit and the GIS now receive additional benefits up to \$600 per year for single seniors and up to \$840 per year for couples.

The increase to the GIS represents a \$300 million investment per year and is the third GIS increase in the last five years. OAS benefits, including the GIS, help seniors meet their immediate, basic needs and maintain a minimum standard of living in retirement.

MP Young also highlighted that Budget 2011 is providing an additional \$10 million over two years for the NHSP. The NHSP helps seniors use their leadership, energy and skills to benefit communities across Canada. A call for proposals for this program is now open. Please visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors) for details.

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 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 to recognize the significant and ongoing contributions

See Page 11

Seniors

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## Ask the Video Guy

Al Abdon

### 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 its 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 mistake I see in party photos is adults 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 subjects you're shooting.

#### 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 true in color is to learn to use 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 different 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

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 alumna, 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.



Gilmore College teachers pose with the happy couple, Lourdes Lubang and Maynard Magalang. From left: Terry White, Zenaida Kharroubi, and Amy Manon-og. Photo taken on July 17, 2011.



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 some officers, members and guests of the association.



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.



# Philippine Cuisine

## 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 thoroughly 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

1/2 teaspoon Sri Racha chili sauce (or any spicy chili sauce)  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1/2 teaspoon oyster sauce  
1/2 teaspoon oil  
Sesame seeds

### Method:

Deep fry the fish balls until they turn golden brown. Dish out and set aside.

In a sauce pan, add in 1/2 teaspoon cooking oil, ketchup, chili sauce, sugar, oyster sauce and stir until the sauces are well blended. Toss in the fish balls and coat them well with the sauce. Dish out, top with sesame seeds, and serve hot.

### Seasoning

- \* 1 teaspoon of light soya sauce
- \* a couple of dashes of white pepper powder
- \* salt to taste
- \* a pinch of msg (optional)

### Method

Bring ikan bilis stock to boil. When boiling rapidly, add fish balls and allow it to cook till the fishballs float to surface.

As soon as the first fishball floats to surface, add the vegetables. Add seasoning.

Dish up when all fishballs have floated to surface. Sprinkle chinese salted vegetable before serving. If you prefer, you can drizzle a teaspoon of shallot oil.

Share and Enjoy :

- \* 1/8 tsp fresh ground pepper
- \* 2 tbsp chopped garlic
- \* 1/2 a lemon, cut in 1/2
- \* a handful of cilantro, roughly chopped, for garnish

### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.

2. In a baking dish, mix the butter, garlic, salt and pepper. Place the fish fillets into the mixture, and then turn them so both sides are coated. Cover the dish with aluminum foil.

3. Bake for 10 minutes, then take out of the oven and turn off the heat. Squeeze the lemon, a quarter lemon for each fillet. Sprinkle with cilantro and cover again with aluminum foil. Place back in the oven for another 5-10 minutes, until the meat becomes

flaky and the thinner edges begin to have some color. You will notice that you might end up with a lot of juice in the pan. That's fine. You can either toss it, or spoon a little over the fillets to be served.

4. Slice and serve with rice.



Frozen Basa fillet sold at Marché Coop at \$2.60 lb.

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.

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# 2010 Miss Earth winners in RP to promote Gvt programs

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



**Reigning Miss Earth 2010 Nicole Faria of India (center) is joined by Miss Earth-Air 2010 Victoria Shchukina of Russia (left) and Miss Earth-Water 2010 Watsaporn Wattanakoon of Thailand (right) strike a pose during a press conference Tuesday July 26, 2011. They are here to raise public consciousness on the importance of protecting the environment**

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. ■

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# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## Fil-Canadian Maria Aragon in Manila to record an album



Youtube sensation Maria Aragon

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 an instant celebrity overnight when her version of Lady Gaga's "Born This Way" was discovered in YouTube by the singer herself. Her post reduced Lady Gaga to tears; she even tagged the young singer "the future." The video, posted last Feb. 16, now has over 37 million YouTube hits to its credit.

Aragon went on to guest on several shows like "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "The Today Show" and "Good Morning America." She was also invited by Lady Gaga in her Toronto concert.

The young musician also caught the attention of Canadian

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and granted him with a performance —a duet of John Lennon's "Imagine." During the recent Canada Day held at Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Aragon performed the national anthem of Canada, "O Canada," before the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

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. ■

## Lovi's 'sexy' billboard disapproved; Sharon loses 6 inches around waist



Lovi Poe

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.... nadisapprove ang belo billboard ko :( was just wearing a one piece bathing suit. been waiting for that to come out panaman! :( (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 s 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 Benhur Abalos responded to Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian's complaint regarding the Philippine Volcanoes' sexy billboard

## Diether spends 14M pesos for kids' meds



On the celebra-tion of his 30-something birthday, Diether Ocampo isn't wishing for anything grand in his career or something romantic to satisfy his personal longing.

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



Sharon Cuneta

lose weight while hosting "The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition."

"Na-touch siya doon sa 'Biggest Loser,' na-touch siya. Hindi ba, iyak nang iyak lagi ang mga contestant doon? Doon, nakikita mo iba na siya," Fanny said adding, "'Yung ibang tao sinasabi 'ano ba 'yan, si Sharon ang taba-taba.'"

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. ■

# Manny Pacquiao donates 3 hectares of land for housing project

## Ruffa wins custody battle against ex-husband

### Yilmaz disappointed, fuming



**'Masaya ako na tumulong sa mga tao,' says Manny Pacquiao**

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 kababayang Pilipino at masaya ako na tumutulong ako sa mga tao," said he in an interview aired on "Unang Hirit," July 22.

Pacquiao also extends his charitable works through his latest game show, "Manny Many Prizes."

## John Estrada confirms wife Priscilla Meirelles is pregnant



**Priscilla Meirelles & John Estrada**

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."

In the show's pilot episode last July 16, he willingly gave away a house-and-lot to 61-year-old contestant John Roldan despite the latter giving the wrong answer in the last round of the show's main game.

"Masaya ako na tumutulong sa ating mga kababayan," Pacquiao, who's now known as the "Pambansang Ninong," emphasized.

Amid these philanthropic efforts, Pacquiao, one of the highest-paid athletes in the world, is beset with rumors that his wealth is dropping.

He refuted this however.

"Ah, talaga? Kaya pala nakabili ako ng bahay sa Forbes," Pacquiao quipped in the same ABS-CBN News report, pertaining to his multi-million mansion in Forbes Park, Makati City.

In other news, Pacquiao laughed off another rumor that he has fired his business adviser Michael Koncz. As if to disprove the malicious talks, Pacquiao divulged that he is set to meet the latter on July 22.

"Darating si Michael Koncz. Dala niya 'yung kontrata nung fight namin against [Juan Manuel] Marquez," he explained in the "Unang Hirit" interview.

Speculations concerning Pacquiao's termination of Koncz arose after a post on Pacquiao's official website announced that he has signed an "extension contract" with VisionQwest Resource Group, inc. and VisionQwest Accountancy Group to handle all his "accounting, personal and business tax, audits and examinations, as well as all contract reviews."

VisionQuest will also report directly to Pacquiao. ■



**Ruffa Gutierrez**

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 decree 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 sad that 'Mel & Joey' ended



**Sayang, pero ganun talaga eh."**

This is what veteran TV host and comedian Joey de Leon said about his just-defunct show with broadcast journalist Mel Tiangco, "Mel & Joey," which aired its final episode last July 17 after seven years.

Despite the sadness, Joey managed to whip up a punch line in an interview aired on "Unang Hirit," July 20.

"Sabi ko nga eh, okay lang 'yung show ang magsara, wag lang 'yung mata. Natawa naman sila," he said.

Turning quite serious, he continued, "Nangyayari talaga 'yan.

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

He will miss doing the show, particularly the trips they've had, Joey added. Nevertheless, he is hopeful that, "maaaring isang araw, baka bumalik [ang show]."

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.

"Sa Italy trenta'y siyete 'yung init. Tapos lumipad ako ng Pamplona (a city in Navarre, Spain), dahil nanood ako ng running of the bulls. Lumipad ako para sa two days lang. Eh nuwebe [o] diyes naman ang temperatura kaya nagbago 'yung katawan mo eh.

"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." ■

- Showbiz continued on page 18

## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

### Claudine Barretto's reconciliation with Gretchen filled with 'tears of joy'



**Claudine Barretto says she is more 'clingly' 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...siyempre 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 between the warring sisters culminated in a tight, tearful embrace that put to shame the most melodramatic scenes in any soap opera either of them had previously done."

Now that everything is well between the sisters, Claudine promises not to estrange herself from Gretchen again.

"Yung maraming months na nawala sa amin hindi mababalik 'yon so when it finally happened, sinabi ko sa sarili ko na hinding-hindi na mauulit 'to. Hinding-hindi na mawawala 'yung kapatid ko uli sa buhay ko. Hindi na ako papayag."

Now that they have patched things up, Claudine feels "mas dependent na ako sa ate ko" and "mas lagi akong nakayap sa ate ko ngayon."

"Hindi ko alam [kung] paano ako naka-survive ng ilang months na wala siya. Ang sarap-sarap pala ng may kapatid. May gano'n na bakit kinailangan na dumaan sa gano'n. 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. Doon naman kami nag-aano ngayon... bumabawi. Bumabawi sa ganoong pagkakataong 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 "Iglot" with Jolina Magdangal and Marvin Agustin.

"Iba 'yung excitement. Iba 'yung nerbyos na naramdaman ko. Iba, iba 'yung adrenaline rush na nararamdaman 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.

"While [we are] still using multiple sources, impartial investigation, and disintegrated computation, our educated guesses have become more mathematical in fact," the magazine said in a statement relayed to PEP.

In an interview with ABS-CBN's "The Buzz," Sunday, July 24, Aquino noted, "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 produktong 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 Anderson and Bea Alonzo (18), Jericho Rosales and Michael V (19), and Ai-Ai delas Alas 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, marami 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. Umo-o ako. Sabi ko ako ang mag-su-supply ng libro," she said. ■

### 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 Dacer, 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.



**Ruffa Gutierrez hopes that there will be more people like Ariel Dalangin (extreme left), the honest driver who returned her missing six pairs of shoes. Also in the picture are Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, DZMM host Kaye Dacer and Lorin and Venice.**

"I'm so happy that we have good Samaritans like Mr. Ariel na naisip niyang isauli [ang naiwang 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.

"Haping-happy ako ngayon. Eto na 'yung good news ngayon. Akala

ko puro bad [news] na lang. Nawala 'yung shoes ko. Ang daming nangyari sa buhay ko. Iyak ako nang iyak. Pero ngayon happy na lang uli."

Ruffa also said in an interview on "Showbiz News Ngayon" in the same evening, "I'm reunited with my shoes. Thank you so much," slipping on her pumps to show everyone that they do fit her.

"Napaka-honest na taxi driver and

Margel taxi company dahil sinauli niya 'yung anim na sapatos na iniwan ng aking assistant sa taxi. Talagang natutuwa ako and talagang nagpunta ako dito para makilala siya kasi para sa akin, 'di ba, hindi ko akalain na mahahanap ko pa 'yung sapatos ko," she said at length.

Addressing Dalangin, she said, "Haping-happy ako ngayon. Sana mas maraming maging katulad mo na honest."

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 ayaw kumuha sa akin." ■

## 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 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 anti-dandruff shampoo Head & 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 said that it's okay to go through changes, like moving on from a failed romance, to be one step closer to the ideal relationship.

He playfully associated how he deals with his love life to how he chooses his endorsement deals, saying that when things "come up short, switch, but when it's right,



commit."

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

Asked what draws him to a girl and what makes him stay in a 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 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. Simpleng bagay lang yan pero marami akong napupulot."

Angel, whom he also worked with on the defunct ABS-CBN teleserye *Imortal*, said: "A lot of people don't know this but John Lloyd is actually very smart. Nagugulat ka sa mga interests niya kasi ang dami niyang alam." (A follow-up project featuring their tandem is on the pipeline, Angel confirmed, but she wouldn't reveal if it will be on TV or the big-screen.)

John Lloyd is also a mountain-biking devotee. "Since I came back from Europe, I've been trying to do it regularly, like three times a week whether in the morning or the evening. You can do it say, 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. basta 'wag lang under the noontime sun."

He added, "Before, I used to mountain-bike in the morning, then pilates in the afternoon. I'm trying to watch my weight because I easily gain especially chest up."

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 nakakakilala sa akin. Yung walang istorbo na pa-picture kasi gusto ko lang magtrabaho." ■

**Showbiz continued on page 20**

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## Personality profile of the month

### Alexandra C. Sarmiento tops her graduating class

by W. Quiambao

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 being a member of the Yearbook Committee and a Bus Monitor.

Her entry for a yearbook cover contest was chosen the Yearbook Cover by the teachers and students at the Coronation School. Likewise, the English Montreal School Board (EMSB) chose the cover that she designed for My Voice in the World from all entries of schools under the jurisdiction of EMSB.

In addition, Alecsa, as Alexandra is fondly called by her family and friends, received a certificate of recognition from Kumon North America, a private school, where she has been a consistent honor student in Math.

"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 Coronation School but studies relatively harder 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 International Baccalaureate Program at Marymount Academy on Cote St. Luc Road next school year.

## 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 Marlyn 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 impressd 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."

## FILIPINO STAR PICTORIAL NEWS



Seniors in Motion pose for souvenir of the Pista sa Nayon at MacKenzie King Park on Sunday, July 17, 2011



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 Rey Balansi (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.

**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.19***Madonna sings backup for Pacman****Madonna Decena & Manny**

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... not in the boxing ring but in another arena," she says. "He never gets nervous before a show." Or if he

gets a mild attack of cold feet, "he quickly gets over it because he knows that Lito and I are behind him."

In a way, Madonna and Lito are Manny's "security blankets" (think musical Freddie Roaches). No wonder they were also hired to back up Pacman on the new GMA 7 game show, "Manny, Many Prizes." (Lito also composed the theme song.)

The boxer-politician has promised to uplift the lives of Filipinos with the prizes to be handed out on the show; one life he has definitely changed is Madonna's. More than the perks of show biz, she considers her homecoming as the ultimate gift from the Pacman.

"I was able to come home to my [two] daughters," she notes. "He put an end to my days as an OFW (Overseas Filipino Worker). Now I'm based in the Philippines and can be a hands-on mom. Sometimes I even take my kids to work."

Apart from being a YouTube sensation, she is now known as 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." ■

**Cristine Reyes risks reputation for soap****Christine Reyes**

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

Cristine 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 Yehey" with positive feedback.

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

Co-actor and former QC Councilor Aiko Melendez was disappointed when she was told the show will be aired in the afternoon, and not on primetime. When it was explained to her that "Reputasyon" would be ABS-CBN's frontliner for afternoon dramas, she accepted the challenge.

Also in the cast of "Reputasyon" directed by Jeffrey Jeturian and

**The cast of 'Reputasyon:' Cristine 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, maaayos niya ang buhay niya." ■

*Showbiz continued on page 22*

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**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.21***Heart pours her heart out****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 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 bomb: 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." ■

**Charice featured in Oprah's bookazine****Charice is included in Oprah's list of 'The Guests We'll Always Remember' in her collector's edition 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 (bookazine) 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.

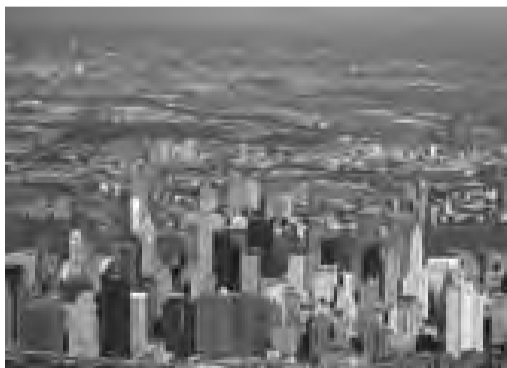
Meanwhile, Charice is slated to be back in the country soon for the Asian Tour of "David Foster and Friends" on Oct. 25, where she will perform live at the Araneta Coliseum. Other guest performers in the concert include singers Michael Bolton, Phillip Bailey and Russel Watson.

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, Gisele 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 Lagonilla, Gisele Arellano; (not in photo: Joesie Bingayen), teachers: Sophie Toledo, Edith Fedalizo (front row), Clarice Mackay, and Zenaida Kharroubi.**

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