

# Governments of Canada and Quebec invest in affordable housing

Québec, March 19, 2012 – The Governments of Canada and Quebec announced the signing of a new agreement that will result in an investment of \$346 million over three years and that will help improve the housing conditions of Quebec households in need. The Investment in Affordable Housing 2011 2014 Agreement was confirmed today, in Québec, by the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development and Minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), and by Laurent Lessard, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy, who is also the Minister responsible for the Société d'habitation du Québec (SHQ).



**Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development**



**Laurent Lessard, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Regions and Land Occupancy**

how important affordable housing is in building safe communities and at the same time, economic growth," said Minister Finley. "We are very pleased to

work with the provincial government in delivering solutions throughout Quebec,

See Page 7      Housing



See Page 11 - Tourism and Vacation Package Show



See Page 13 - Blessing of Ravi Tours Agency office

# Dr. Anton Juan's lecture on Philippine culture hits home

Reported by Z. Ferry-Kharroubi

Montreal, March 16, 2012 - In spite of the short notice, a big audience was on hand to listen to Dr. Anton Juan, a UP alumnus and a full tenured professor at Notre Dame University in Indiana, who came to Montreal on a brief visit, accompanied by the Philippine Embassy diplomatic corps, the Philippine Ambassador, Leslie Gatan and his wife, Mrs. Debbie Gatan, and Consul and First Secretary Porfirio M. Mayo, Jr., and his wife, Mrs. Florida Anne Camille P. Mayo, also a Consul and First Secretary. FAMAS headed by Au Osdon, a UP Alumna, along with members of the executive board and volunteers made all the arrangements at 6767 Cote des Neiges, a community resource center where the welcome reception was held. Co-hosts are: The Auxiliary for FAMAS, Ladies and Knights of Rizal, Tess and Derek Fincham and the Council of Canadian Filipinos of Quebec.



**Dr. Anton Juan, a professor at Notre Dame University in Indiana, delivered a lecture on Philippine cultural heritage which he is passionate about. He urges Filipinos to remember their culture as he says, if we forget it, we will also forget our values.**

Dr. Juan's main theme seemed to have driven home the

point that Filipinos everywhere need to remember their culture and pass it on to their children. He urged us to emulate heroic deeds because if we do not, we do not really remember our culture and we also forget our values.

It was evident from the very beginning of his lecture that he was well versed with Philippine history and that he was not only delivering a speech but also helping us build a unique Filipino identity which we seem to be losing after a long absence from our home country. He interspersed his lecture with humorous anecdotes that elicited laughter. Time passed unnoticeable as he really made a lot of sense and provoked some questions. For instance, he said "Of course, we can have fun, but we can also have the truth." He pointed out not only our strengths but also our weaknesses. "Instead of erecting towers of knowledge, we are destroying ourselves at the bottom."

Dr. Juan traced the roots of Philippine cultural history - from the ancient times to the present. He presented examples of great works of art by Filipinos. He said that we as a nation must be proud of ourselves. We have many talented artists,

See Page 4 - Philippine culture

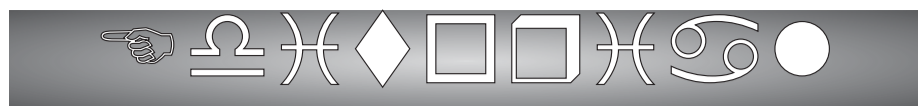


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## Raising awareness and pride of our cultural identity

After hearing Dr. Anton Juan speak about Philippine cultural heritage, we felt quite pleasantly surprised to learn that we have such a rich cultural heritage. Perhaps, some of us knew this before but the long absence from our home country makes us forget the past. Moreover, not many parents have the time to teach their children about Philippine history. As years go by, and our children grow up, we have not really been diligent enough to go out of our way to show something that will make them understand that their parents came from a civilized country, even before the Western powers came to colonize us. This lecture reminds us of our obligation to show to our youth that cultural traditions connect us to our ancestors and provide a cultural treasure that connect generations to one another, providing continuity and identification.

It is quite a refreshing and an inspiring experience to listen to another Filipino whose heart is full of passion for Philippine culture. He has captured the admiration of his fellow "kababayan" in realizing that we are blessed for having so many great artists, and beautiful works comparable to any other country in the world. He has also shown us that we can afford to laugh at ourselves, not because of any feeling of inferiority but because we can accept our common humanity.

Culture has always been quite an interesting aspect of our existence for it reflects our values as a nation. It is also a fundamental part of our identity which can easily be undermined by feeling of inferiority and insecurity. What Dr. Juan gave us through this lecture is knowledge of our own cultural history that makes us realize that we have something to be proud about. He has shown to us the many wonderful things that we have missed or failed to understand.

Having the experience of listening to lectures similar to Dr. Juan's is certainly a positive step towards broadening our common knowledge of our culture. It is also an opportunity to have a dialogue with others and begin to understand what is behind our apparent disunity. Often times, we make critical comments that are the result of miscommunication. On the other hand, if we manage to work on the idea that we have common values as Filipinos, we may eventually succeed in overcoming the negative traits of a "crab mentality" of which we easily accuse others of.

Although Dr. Juan did not discuss the issue of community unity, he has probably made it possible to think about this in relation to Filipino cultural traditions. There are many organizations in our community that are based on dialects which seem to imply that there is an inherent obstacle to community unity because of the fragmentation created. When the time comes to hold festivities, each group seems to have the desire to have their own party. Naturally, the dissipation of resources is unavoidable and the success of any activity is compromised because of lack of support. Even though it is a common opinion that there are too many associations in the community, no one can do anything about it. Maybe, it is part of our being Filipino to form clicks or groups which we call in the vernacular "barkada."

We are looking forward to the next visit of Dr. Juan when he brings to Montreal the play about migrants and overseas workers. Perhaps, this will give us the opportunity to demonstrate that in spite of our apparent differences from time to time, we can work together as a community to support someone like Dr. Juan who has many accomplishments that make us proud for being a Filipino.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

## Harper Government Takes Action to Support Canadian Families

### Telecommunications Decisions

Today's announcement will provide Canadian families with more choices at low prices for wireless services

Russell, Ontario, March 14, 2012—Today, the Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of Industry, announced that the Harper Government will be taking action to provide Canadian families with more choices at low prices for wireless services.

"The Harper Government understands that Canadian families work hard for their money and that they want their government to make decisions that will help them keep more of it," said Minister Paradis. "The

measures I am outlining today will ensure the timely availability of world-class wireless services at low prices for Canadian families, including those in rural areas."

Minister Paradis announced that: The Telecommunications Act will be amended to lift foreign investment restrictions for telecom companies that hold less than a 10-percent share of the total Canadian telecommunications market. This will help telecom companies with a small market share access the capital they need to grow and compete.

The government will be applying caps in the upcoming

See Page 14 Telecommunications

## Letter to the Editor

5 March 2012

### Disappointed at the Department of National Defence's Inaction

By Patricia (Pat) Varga

How could two departments of the federal government be so diametrically opposed? I ask this question because there are two economic support programs for our veterans in play here.

One is the Service Persons Income Security Insurance Plan Long Term Disability (SISIP LTD), a mandatory insurance program for Canadian Forces (CF) members, and the other is the Veterans Affairs Canada Earnings Loss Benefit (VAC ELB).

Before October 2011 the New Veterans Charter (NVC) and the Service Person's Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP) provided for 75% of a Canadian Forces member's salary at release – the two programs were exactly the same. Injured members were on one or the other.

Last year, in response to appeals from veterans' groups, such as The Royal Canadian Legion, the federal government announced they would increase the benefit to ensure basic needs as shelter, food, clothing, etc., could be met. VAC implemented the increased amount to the ELB program on 3 October 2011. The Department of National Defence (DND)/CF did not. Therefore, there is now a huge inequity! Through no fault of their own we have some veterans who have been injured attributable to their military service being paid \$40,000 per year and some at less than \$20,000.

This is an unacceptable situation and needs to be fixed now. We have given DND and the CF ample time to fix this inequity but there has been no commitment to date. Now, with the federal government deficit reduction a certainty, The Royal Canadian Legion is looking for a commitment and a firm date.

This is a substantive example of how the federal government's deficit reduction program is being run on the backs of our veterans. Surely our veterans deserve better treatment than this. Those that have been injured in the performance of their duties with the CF deserve the same income support regardless of which program they are on. This is only fair.

It is inconceivable that institutions such as the CF and the federal government can stand up and say we care for our troops and we care for our own when they treat the most vulnerable of our veterans so shoddily.

Young men and women today join the CF for a rewarding career. To have it cut short by a debilitating injury is hard enough, however, the loss of a suitable income should they be unable to work again is a two-fold burden that they should not have to bear.

Patricia (Pat) Varga is the Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion.

For more information call Bob Butt at 613-591-3335 Extension 241 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

## Irving Layton: a teacher and friend

(March 16, 2012) This week marks the centenary of the birth of Irving Layton. I had the honour to participate in tributes in his memory this past weekend in Ottawa and Montreal, where I joined with fellow students of his - which I was - and fellow admirers of his life and work, which I continue to be.

As I noted on the occasion, we were there to celebrate and remember a great teacher, poet, wordsmith, architect of language - a poetic genius with an abiding jeremiad against injustice.

Indeed, given his intense biblical image - his powerful, resonant voice, his railing against injustice - I remember feeling (I was studying Jeremiah at the time) that Jeremiah must have looked and sounded like Irving Layton.

Between 1952 and 1955, Irving Layton was my teacher not only in literature and the humanities, but in the entirety of the secular studies program at Herzliah Junior High School - including physics, chemistry and math. The result



was that I learned a great deal about literature and the humanities, but very little about physics, chemistry and math.

See Page 7

Irving Layton

## THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

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# COOPERATIVE NEWS



## What is a cooperative?

A co-operative is an enterprise that provides goods or services run by an autonomous association of persons according to democratic values, principles and rules.

What distinguishes co-operatives is a values-driven business model. In other words, a co-operative is:

A group of persons who collectively assume the responsibilities of business owners

an enterprise in which the co-owners are the users

an enterprise that seeks above all to maximize the various benefits enjoyed by members as business people, users and citizens

an enterprise that uses capital but does not make it the basis of members' decision-making power

An enterprise governed by rules which give members equal control and ensure equitable distribution of contributions and gains

an enterprise that encourages inter-cooperation in the process of building the business and in contributing to the community in which it operates

an enterprise that makes education, and especially the sharing of knowledge and information, an essential part of its approach to doing business.

Under the law, a co-operative is a legal entity by means of which individuals or companies unite to meet common economic, social or cultural needs by operating a business in keeping with the principles governing co-operatives.

The 7 guiding principles of co-operatives

1st principle: Voluntary and open membership

2nd principle: Democratic member control

3rd principle: Member economic participation

4th principle: Autonomy and independence

5th principle: Education, training and information

6th principle: Co-operation among co-operatives

7th principle: Concern for community

The 5 co-operative values

Self-help and self-responsibility  
Democracy

Equality  
Equity  
Solidarity

To learn more about the principles and values, visit:  
<http://www.cdr.coop/co-operative/une-coop-c%E2%80%99est-quoi/>

Types of co-operatives

Producer co-operatives

These can be created by independent business people, artists, farmers or other producers. They establish an enterprise that typically has a dual mission. The primary purpose is to transform and market products and services, but members may also use the co-operative to consolidate purchasing, thereby obtaining significant savings on the goods and services necessary to their professional activities.

Over the decades, producer co-operatives have proven effective in the agricultural and arts sectors. But the model is also applicable to a wide variety of producers working in a constantly evolving economy.

Consumer co-operatives

There is an old Radio-Canada TV series called La Pépinière which revolved around the ups and downs of a group of tenants attempting to turn their apartment building into a housing co-operative. It's quite a similar story when enterprising consumers decide to create a co-operative to take advantage of greater purchasing power in procuring goods or services for their personal use. The members of a consumer co-operative are assured that their business will be attentive to their needs.

These types of co-operatives can be found in sectors such as food, housing, educational goods and services, financial services, in-home services, funerary services and cable services, to name just a few of the possible areas in which consumer co-operatives could be established.

Solidarity or multi-stakeholder co-operatives

The defining feature of this type of co-operative, which was developed by a group connected with the CDR in Montréal-Laval in 1997, is the diversity of its members and its openness to a wide range of partners. The solidarity co-operative makes it possible for people who share a common cause or interest, but have different needs, to join together in a

single service enterprise.

Unlike other types of co-operatives that have only one category of member (workers, producers, consumers), the solidarity co-operative brings together service users and employees. In this type of co-operative, these people can combine to meet their needs and aspirations.

In addition, any person or company with an economic, social or cultural interest in fulfilling the co-operative's mission can join as a supporting member.

Employee-shareholder co-operatives

As its name suggests, the employee-shareholder co-operative makes it possible for employees to acquire equity in their company and participate in its management. This investment allows employees to be actively involved in shaping the business. The employees only hold voting shares indirectly: the co-operative is actually the shareholder and it names a member of the Board of Directors to represent the workers.

With the creation of an employee-shareholder co-operative, a company can benefit from an influx of capital from the employees, a stimulus which has the added advantage of strengthening the ties between senior management and the employees. The employee-shareholder co-operative is involved in running the company in the best interest of its members and sharing its gains. The interest of the members coincides with the interest of the company as the company's success becomes everybody's business.

This type of worker co-operative, which is mostly found in Québec, originated in Montreal in 1985. Since then, it has taken root in various sectors, including new technologies, wood processing, manufacturing and transportation.

Worker co-operatives

In this type of cooperative,

workers seeking to create jobs or protect existing ones come together to run their own company and in so doing create working conditions of their own choosing. Of course, one must work for the co-operative to become a member. The workers are both employees and owners of the company and they control all its operations.

In addition to their wages and depending on the profitability of the business, the worker-owners can periodically receive returns based on their contribution to the coop.

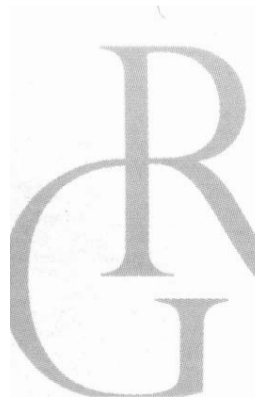
There are more and more young professionals and self-employed persons who wish to improve their conditions by forming this type of co-operative, which is already growing in sectors such as consulting-engineering, computer technology, the environment, land-use planning, business advisory serviceoperatives and how to start one, contact the Coopérative de développement régional de Montréal-Laval:

The mission of the Coopérative de développement régional de Montréal-Laval is to promote co-operatives within its operating territory and to offer co-operatives and prospective entrepreneurs expertise and customized support, especially in connection with producer and worker co-operatives.

The CDR de Montréal-Laval provides personalized support to business people through the entire process of setting up a co-operative, from initial idea to start-up.

The team of advisors helps business people with each of the following steps: project feasibility, legal structure, knowledge transfer and start-up, as well as personalized services such as training concerning the Cooperatives Act and tax regulations and various consulting

See Page 8 Cooperatives



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From Page 1 Philippine culture

singers, musicians, painters, and artisans. He showed examples of native designs that are unique as they are dreamed by the weavers themselves. He mentioned how Nora Aunor raised the bar of acting. He showed a young Dr. Jose Rizal and some of his works. What surprised many people in the audience was Dr. Rizal's sculpture that predated the Statue of Liberty. It would seem that this Statue was a copy of his work.

Some misconceptions and myths were dispelled by Dr. Juan, and even educated us about the true nature of Philippine languages that we used to believe consisted of 87 dialects. By defining what a language is, he said that the Philippines have 85 languages and 125 dialects. He made us understand the different movements portrayed in most Philippine folk dances. Using body language and gestures, he was quite amusing and entertaining when he made comments about common mistakes in the interpretation of some of our native dances. He cited some strange practices of Filipinos like taking a picture with the dead, playing cards and mahjong and serving food during the wake for relatives and loved ones. On the other hand, the Greeks pray solemnly which he observed firsthand because he lived and studied in Greece for several years.

Dr. Juan referred to the

the issue of community unity although he seemed to have acknowledged that this is a common problem among different communities where we find Filipinos around the world. For example, why do Filipino businesses, in particular, the restaurants do not last long? This is due to the lack of patronage from fellow Filipinos. He surmised that this could be due to the fact that some Filipinos prefer to cook their own food at home, and sometimes even claim that they cook better than the restaurants.

Finally, Dr. Juan stated that the next opportunity he has will be about corruption which is admittedly part of Philippine culture. He jokingly wondered aloud – how could Fernando Poe, Jr., a well-known folk hero, receive zero in many polling places in the Muslim districts during his election battle with GMA.

Dr. Juan has plans of bringing a play to Montreal regarding migrant and overseas workers entitled "Bayan, Bayanan." He is interested in finding out if this play will gather support from the Montreal community. Even though it is in the vernacular, there will be English subtitles so that it can be understood by foreign audiences. Many community leaders expressed great interest in helping promote this event. At press time, it is not yet known when this will be realized.

The launching of the 7th Ambassadors, Consuls General, and Tourism Directors Tour to the

## Juan's lecture is entertaining and educational

by W. G. Quiambao

I've been living in Canada for 43 years but I've never returned home to the Philippines even once. However my interest in our culture that I've almost forgotten has been renewed after hearing Dr. Anton Juan's lecture on cultural history of the Philippines on March 16 at 6767 Cote des Neiges. He was successful in reconnecting Filipinos in Montreal to their root. In fact, James de la Paz, president of Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec and Manny Lagasca, former FAMAS director, remarked, "He knows what he is talking about. Ok ito."



It is no wonder why Juan's lecture about the cultural history of the Philippines appealed to men and women, young and old. He has an impressive background.

The list of Juan's achievements and recognitions is long. Internationally recognized for his works that often challenge convention, playwright and director Juan is a Tenured Full Professor and Theatre Director at the University of Notre Dame du Lac in the USA. He completed his Ph. D in semiotics at the Kadistrian and Pandhellenic University of Athens. To honor his contributions to the arts, Juan has been Knighted twice by the French government, receiving the Chevalier du L'ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1992 and the Chevalier de L'ordre National de Merit in 2002. He also received the Alexander Onassis International Award for Theatre (Playwriting) and the Special Jury Prize Screenplay from the Cine Manila International Film Festival. In addition, he received the Balagtas Award from the National Writers Union of the Philippines, and won several playwriting awards from the Carlos Palanca Literary Awards.

Fluent in French, Italian, Spanish, Greek, English and Tagalog, Juan delivered his lecture with fluidity. When he talked about the political history of the Philippines, he confided that he always makes it a point to ask why the Philippines was sold for US\$30,000 to the Americans. He discussed the diversity and uniqueness of the Philippines with 85 languages and 125 dialects. He talked about the cultural history of the Philippines and its evolution - reflecting foreign cultures such as Spanish, Japanese, American and even Malaysian influences. For example, he explained that Zarzuela is a Spanish lyric-dramatic genre that alternates between spoken and sung scenes. It featured the Filipinos' love for women that symbolized our Inang Bayan. Hence, the Zarzuela was banned by the Americans. He also talked about the beauty of Filipinas who were called meztisas. The notion that only a mestiza was considered beautiful originated from the Spaniards that likened the mestiza to a Saint. He said the media sadly hypnotized our culture.

The lecture about the cultural history of the Philippines lasted for more than two hours but Juan managed to capture the interest of the audience with his sense of humor that oftentimes elicited

a roar of laughter. He told a story that in Greece, when someone dies, Greeks pray silently on the wake but in the Philippines, Filipinos serve food and play mahjong and cards. Moreover, he finds the fondness of Filipinos strange for posing for pictures at the funeral parlour or cemetery. He asked a rhetorical question why Filipinos are considered the best players of the flute. He said this is because of the shape of our flat nose.

Juan is not only deliriously funny but also undoubtedly witty. He seemed to have answers for almost everything. When a female member of the audience from Mexico asked why it was important to preserve our culture, he said, "Honey, when we die, our names will carry it. We should be deeply involved in our culture."

Juan strongly urged the Filipinos who are going back to the Philippines not only to look for restaurants but also to watch cultural shows because Filipinos have immense talents.

"Our children have no memories of our culture," Juan said. "They should remember and know their culture."

Juan's plays usually deal with social issues that have messages. He hopes to bring here his play, Bayan, Bayanan, a play about the lives of migrants and overseas workers, in the near future.

The next time Juan visits Montreal, make sure you don't miss his lecture or his play. You won't regret it.

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### Biographical Notes



Anton Juan was born on 25 November 1950. He obtained his primary and secondary education at the Ateneo de Manila University, and his BA in Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines. He received a series of grants and scholarships abroad, notably in Italy, France, Greece, Japan, and the U.S. His Ph.D. in Semiology earned him a mark of Arista (equivalent to summa cum laude) from the University of Athens. His post-doctoral work includes a Hitachi Foundation grant for a study of the Japanese Noh theater and Butoh dance, and a Fulbright grant for research on Filipino production during the American occupation, which won the Centennial Prize for the full-length play "The Price of Redemption." His numerous awards include the Alexander Onassis Foundation International Prize for Playwriting, the French Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, Manila's "Alagad ng Sining," UP Chancellor's Most Outstanding Faculty and Most Outstanding Artist, Asian Cultural Council Award, and various Palanca Awards. He continues to be an active lecturer, workshop panelist, visiting professor, director, designer, and librettist for productions in the Visayas, Mindanao and Europe.

Compiled by  
Alberto Baens Santos



Philippine Ambassador Leslie Gatan and Mrs. Gatan enjoying the lecture of Dr. Juan. Photo shows part of the big audience. (Photo: Courtesy of Bert Santos.)

different times of colonization of the Philippines - the long years under Spain, then under the Americans, and the Japanese for a brief period. He explained that we survived all these difficult times because of our piety. "Without piety, we would have not survived." But he could not help asking a disturbing question – why did Spain sell the Philippines to the United States for \$30,000 dollars? Filipinos already won independence from Spain at that time. He said that even though the French gave him an award two times, he kept raising the question why they did not follow the terms of their own treaty.

At the conclusion of his lecture, he stated that "culture and knowledge are the two ends of our experience." He acknowledged that by the very nature of our culture and different languages, we have diversity but in spite of this, we have a unity of spirit. He did not elaborate much on

Philippines was presented before the lecture, and then resumed at the end of the question and answer period. Ambassador Leslie Gatan spoke briefly about the economic benefits of having Filipino-Canadians visit the Philippines for it helps create jobs. Mrs. Gatan also gave a short talk about the tour and encouraged everyone to participate. Information flyers were given out. Those who are interested in joining the tour can contact the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa at telephone 613-233-1121. Locally, they can contact Ms. Shinette Khoury of Galleon Travel.

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**Statement by Minister Ambrose on International Women's Week**

The following is a statement



by the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister for Status of Women, on the occasion of International Women's Day, March 8, and International Women's Week, March 4 to 10.

International Women's Week is a time to celebrate women of all ages and to honour their invaluable contributions to our families, our communities, our country and our world. Each year, this week provides Canadians with the opportunity to celebrate women's achievements, past and present. It is also a time to celebrate women's extraordinary potential.

Canada's theme for International Women's Week 2012 is Strong Women, Strong Canada – Women in Rural, Remote and Northern Communities: Key to Canada's Economic Prosperity.

Women are crucial to the well-being and prosperity of their communities throughout Canada, whether they are in urban environments, agricultural areas or remote settlements in Canada's North.

With this year's theme, we call on Canadians to honour the three million women and girls who live and work in the 5,200 rural, remote and Northern communities from coast to coast.

Our government is working to ensure women in rural, remote and Northern communities can live free from harm, improve their lives, and participate fully in their communities and the Canadian economy. To that end, we have announced funding this week for 48 new projects totalling over \$12 million across Canada.

To all Canadians, I extend my very best

wishes for a happy International Women's Day and a fulfilling International Women's Week.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS TO TAKE FINAL VOTE ON THE SAFE STREETS AND COMMUNITIES ACT (BILL C-10)**

VAUGHAN, March 7, 2012 – The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, accompanied by the Honourable Julian Fantino, Associate Minister of National Defence, and Senator Pierre-Hugues Boisvenu, today welcomed the final vote in the House of Commons on the Safe Streets and Communities Act (Bill C-10).

"Canadians gave our government a strong mandate to crack down on child predators and violent drug traffickers," said Minister Nicholson. "We promised to do that in the first 100 sitting days of Parliament and today we will deliver on that commitment."

"More than 7.4 million Canadians became victims of crime in 2009 alone," said Senator Boisvenu. "We want to prevent further victimization and that means keeping dangerous and violent criminals off our streets."

"Our government is achieving results in our commitment to building safer communities. I advocated for such legislation during my years as police chief, and am very pleased that this Government is delivering on our commitments," said Minister Fantino. "We are ensuring those guilty of victimizing law abiding Canadians will serve sentences that better reflect the severity of their crimes."

The Safe Streets and Communities Act re-introduces the following reforms:

The Protecting Children from Sexual Predators Act (former Bill C-54), which will increase penalties for sexual offences against children, as well as create two new offences aimed at conduct that could facilitate or enable the commission of a sexual offence against a child;

The Penalties for Organized Drug Crime Act (former Bill S-10), which targets serious drug crimes, including those committed by organized crime, by imposing tougher sentences for the production and trafficking of illicit drugs;

Sébastien's Law (Protecting the Public from Violent Young Offenders) (former Bill C-4), which will better protect Canadians from violent and repeat young offenders and make the protection of society a paramount consideration in the management of young offenders by the justice system;

The Ending House Arrest for Property and Other Serious Crimes by Serious and Violent Offenders Act (former Bill C-16), which will eliminate the use of conditional sentences, or house arrest, for serious and violent crimes;

The Increasing Offender Accountability Act (former Bill C-39), which will enshrine a victim's right to participate in parole hearings and address inmate accountability, responsibility, and management under the Corrections and Conditional Release Act;

The Eliminating Pardons for Serious Crimes Act (former Bill C-23B), which will extend the ineligibility periods for applications for a record suspension (currently called a "pardon") to five years for summary conviction offences and to ten years for indictable offences;

The Keeping Canadians Safe (International Transfer of Offenders) Act (former Bill C-5), which will add additional criteria that the Minister of Public Safety could consider when deciding whether or not to allow the transfer of a Canadian offender back to Canada to serve their sentence;

The Justice for Victims of

Terrorism Act and related amendments to the State Immunity Act (former Bill S-7), which will allow victims of terrorism to sue perpetrators and supporters of terrorism, including listed foreign states, for loss or damage that occurred as a result of an act of terrorism committed anywhere in the world; and

The Preventing the Trafficking, Abuse and Exploitation of Vulnerable Immigrants Act (former Bill C-56), which will authorize immigration officers to refuse work permits to vulnerable foreign nationals when it is determined that they are at risk of humiliating or degrading treatment, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.

Backgrounder: Safe Streets & Communities Act

A detailed backgrounder on Increasing Offender Accountability can be found on Public Safety Canada's Web site.

-30-

Ref.:  
Julie Di Mambro  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Minister of Justice  
613-992-4621  
Media Relations  
Department of Justice  
613-957-4207

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# EARTH TALK™

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk: American farmers are an aging population. Is anyone doing anything to make sure younger people are taking up this profession in large enough numbers to keep at least some of our food production domestic?

-- Beverly Smith, Milwaukee, WI



There are several companies now selling natural insect repellents, many of which use essential oils as their active ingredients. Credit: iStockPhoto

Indeed American farmers as a whole are an aging group today as young people gravitate more towards virtual realities than tilling in the soil. The National Young Farmers' Coalition (NYFC) reports that the total number of American farmers has declined from over six million in 1910 to just over two million today, and that for each farmer under the age of 35 there are now six over 65. With the average age of U.S. farmers now at 57, one quarter (500,000) of all American farmers will retire over the next two decades. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack is calling for hundreds of thousands of new farmers nationwide, but convincing young people to take up farming remains a hard sell.

NYFC would like to see action at the local, state and federal levels to help beginning farmers. "At the local level, communities can create market opportunities for farmers by starting Community Supported Agriculture groups and shopping at farmers markets, as well as protecting existing farmland through zoning and the purchase of development rights." States can be helpful, the group adds, by offering incentives to preserve farmland and giving tax credits for farmers who sell their land to new practitioners.

But real change has to come from the top down. NYFC and others are pinning their hopes on the inclusion of the "Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Opportunity Act" in Congress' next Farm Bill. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to invest in the next generation of American agricultural and livestock producers by enabling access to land, credit and

crop insurance to help new farmers and ranchers launch or strengthen their businesses and become better stewards of their land.

"The future of family farming and ranching in America—and the viability of our nation's food supply—depends upon removing existing obstacles to entry into farming so that more people can start to farm," says the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, another backer of the proposed legislation. "This bill encompasses a national strategy for addressing those barriers, focusing on the issues that consistently rank as the

greatest challenges for beginning producers." Backers of the bill warn that, at a cost of just a fraction of one percent of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) budget, the nation can't afford not to pass the bill given its potential long term benefits to both our food supply and trade deficit.

The good news is that interest in healthier, greener food is driving a resurgence in organic agriculture. As such, many of the new farmers cropping up to replace their retired forebears are eschewing genetically modified crops and harsh chemicals, thus improving the quality of our agricultural land base overall.

Tierney Creech of the Washington Young Farmers' Coalition (WYFC) calls this influx of green enthusiasm an agrarian revival. "We're not just a few people spread across the country, we're a well organized, politically active group that can be documented," she says. "We know who our senators and representatives are, we vote, and our friends and families vote. We need USDA and government support to succeed and we're going to let the nation know that."

CONTACTS: NYFC, [www.youngfarmers.org](http://www.youngfarmers.org); National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, [www.sustainableagriculture.net](http://www.sustainableagriculture.net); W Y F C , [www.washingtonyoungfarmers.org](http://www.washingtonyoungfarmers.org); Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Opportunity Act, [thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3236](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c112:H.R.3236): (include ending colon).

E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I can't seem to find any natural bug repellents that

really work so I end up using the harsh, chemical varieties. Are there any really effective bug repellents that aren't chemically based, or other strategies we can use to keep bugs at bay?

-- Melissa Armantine, New Paltz, NY

While the industry standard insect repellents rely on the insecticide DEET (N,N-Diethyl-meta-toluamide) to keep bugs at bay, many environmental and public health advocates worry that regular long-term exposure to even



Convincing young people to take up farming is a hard sell but a necessary one: For each American farmer under the age of 35 there are now six over 65 and one quarter (500,000) of all American farmers will retire over the next two decades. Credit: iStockPhoto

small amounts of the chemical can negatively affect the human nervous system.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that, in studies, DEET has been shown to be "of low acute toxicity," although it can irritate the eyes, mouth and skin. The EPA concluded after a comprehensive 1998 assessment that DEET does not present a health risk as long as consumers follow label directions and take proper precautions. And since nothing works quite as well as DEET in deterring disease-carrying ticks and mosquitoes, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is relatively bullish on its use in order to reduce incidences of Lyme disease, encephalitis and other insect-borne diseases.

Regardless, many consumers would prefer natural alternatives, and there are several companies already selling DEET-free insect repellents, many of which use essential oils as their active ingredients. WebMD reports that soy-based repellent formulas (such as Bite Blocker for Kids) are the most effective substitutes for DEET, usually lasting for 90 minutes, which is longer than some low-concentration DEET formulas. Some other leading alternative repellents include All Terrain's Herbal Armor, Quantum Health's Buzz Away Extreme, Lakon Herbals Bygone Bugz, and California Baby's Natural Bug Blend Repellent.

WebMD adds that, despite popular opinion, products containing citronella are not the best non-chemical choice, as their effectiveness typically wanes within an hour. Likewise, peppermint oil and some other plant-based oils are also effective as insect repellents. Even venerable Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil, long thought to deter pests as well as DEET, only keeps mosquitoes away for up to a half hour.

Beyond repellents, there are many other ways to keep pests away. For one, avoid floral fragrances from perfume, deodorant or other sources that can attract mosquitoes and other bugs. The EarthEasy website recommends eliminating standing water around your home to keep mosquito breeding at bay. Bird baths, wading pools and pet water bowls should be changed at least twice a week; also make sure your gutters are draining properly. Also, since mosquitoes are attracted by carbon dioxide released from campfires and barbecue grills, EarthEasy recommends throwing sage or rosemary on the coals to repel the mosquitoes.

If all else fails and DEET is your only option, use it sparingly. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends using repellents with no more than a 30 percent concentration of DEET for kids over two-months old (and no repellent for younger babies). Keep in mind that formulas with lower concentrations of DEET may work just as well as others but not for as long. A 10 percent DEET concentration, for instance, should work for up to two hours outside. Applying DEET-based bug spray to your clothing instead of skin can help minimize any negative effects of exposure. Also, kids and grown-ups alike should wash off any DEET-based repellents when they are "out of the woods" so to speak.

CONTACTS: EPA DEET Fact Sheet, [factsheets/chemicals/deet.htm](http://factsheets/chemicals/deet.htm); CDC Insect Repellent Use & Safety, [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect\\_repellent.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/qa/insect_repellent.htm); EarthEasy, [www.eartheasy.com](http://www.eartheasy.com); American Academy of Pediatrics, [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org); WebMD, [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com).

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**At a fish market, look into the crab barrel. They never have to put a lid on it because if one crab crawls out, the others will grab him and pull him back down. That's what negative peer pressure does.**

**Ben Carson**



From Page 1 Housing

for those that need it most."

"In addition to helping thousands of citizens benefit from better housing conditions, the Government of Quebec's housing initiatives contribute to improving the quality of life for the entire population, as they have significant economic and social impacts on all of Quebec society," said Minister Laurent Lessard. "By combining our efforts with those of the Government of Canada, we are maximizing the strength of our actions, which is excellent news."

With this new agreement, which provides for total annual joint investments of more than \$115 million, Quebec will have greater flexibility in the use of federal funding, which will allow the SHQ, through its housing assistance and home improvement programs, to maintain its efforts to help Quebec households in need find adequate housing.

Today's announcement fulfills the remainder of a five-year commitment made in September 2008 by the Government of Canada to provide more than \$1.9 billion to address the needs of low-income Canadians, those at risk of homelessness, and the homeless.

The governments took the opportunity to recall the substantial sums invested from 2009 to 2011, under the different programs that are designed to promote the wellness of the people of Quebec by giving them access to quality housing and living environments.

Canada's Economic Action Plan

From 2009 to 2011, the Governments of Canada and Quebec and their partners jointly provided more

From Page 2 Irving Layton

Irving would teach us Shelley, Wordsworth, and Shakespeare, or Plato, Marx and Nietzsche, with appropriate criticisms. He would read from his own works in progress - such as Red Carpet in the Sun - in that resonant voice, that unique union of mind, heart, spirit and passion.

Herewith an excerpt, as alive and resonant today as when Irving wrote the words:

"They dance best who dance with desire

Who lifting feet of fire from fire

Weave, before they lie down

A Red Carpet for the Sun."

He was a great teacher: challenging, probing, provocative, evocative, passionate, audacious and inspiring. He had a unique and compelling command of words, of language. His words resonated in his pedagogy as in his poetry.

Irving Layton seemed to internalize in his psyche, as well as in his poetry, the romanticism of Shelley, the pantheism of Wordsworth, the dialectics of Hegel, the questioning of Socrates - questioning whatever was the zeitgeist of the time. His passion for justice, for the struggle against injustice, including the political

than \$552 million under Canada's Economic Action Plan. These investments allowed for the development of 86 community housing projects, for a total of 2,189 units for low-income seniors and persons with disabilities. An investment of \$311 million allowed for the renovation of 1,236 low-rental housing projects, for a total of 51,071 units.

Affordable Housing Initiative

The extension of the Affordable Housing Initiative generated total combined investments of nearly \$114 million from 2009 to 2011, to build 47 additional affordable housing projects, for a total of 1,100 units.

Joint concerted actions

It should be noted that the investments resulting from Canada's Economic Action Plan and the Affordable Housing Initiative build on all the other actions taken by the SHQ in this regard.

About the SHQ

The SHQ's mission is to facilitate citizens' access to appropriate housing conditions. Each year, through its various programs, the SHQ supports more than 240,000 households across Quebec.

In addition to helping thousands of low-income households benefit from better housing conditions, the SHQ's actions contribute to improving the quality of life for the entire population, as they have economic and social impacts on all of Quebec society. For more information on this agency's programs and services, visit [www.habitation.gouv.qc.ca/english.html](http://www.habitation.gouv.qc.ca/english.html). About CMHC

correctness that passed for conventional wisdom, was overriding.

Yes, sometimes there was sexual imagery or maddening metaphor that might have caused Shelley to blush, or Wordsworth to disclaim, or the prophets to ask, where was God in all this?

Yet Irving - teaching us in the mid-'50s, writing in the shadow of the Holocaust and the rebirth of the state of Israel - was alive always to the vulnerability of the powerless and the powerlessness of the vulnerable. He became the voice of the voiceless; and it was a voice profoundly Jewish - though not religious, and unwaveringly universalistic in its message. He put himself on the line with his poetry and message.

And so it was that Irving Layton, my teacher, my mentor, my inspiration, became also my colleague and my friend. Our lives intersected at neuralgic points of our respective being and becoming.

We both began our teaching at Toronto's York University in 1970. We both left York and returned to Montreal, for reasons as much of esthetics as anthropology.

We joined hands early and often in the struggle for Soviet Jewry - including the then-Soviet prisoner of conscience Anatoly Sharansky.

And we would meet - not by design but by inclination and intuition - in the same haunts and hallways: the Jewish Public Library, the Brown Derby restaurant, or the newsstand at

See Page 14 Irving Layton

To find out more about how the Government of Canada, through CMHC, is working to build stronger homes and communities for all Canadians, call CMHC at 1-800-668-2642 or visit [www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan](http://www.cmhc.ca/housingactionplan). For more information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, call 1-800-O-Canada or visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

Sources:

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
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Services for elderly offered by ACCESSS

FAMAS with ACCESSS (l'Alliance des Communautés Culturelles pour l'Égalité dans la Santé et les Services Sociaux) conducted a training workshop for the elderly last March 14 at the community centre. The workshop was attended by FAMAS volunteers, many of them are retired nurses that included Rose Arellano, Sofie Toledo, Tess Nepomuceno.

"Oftentimes, our volunteers get inquiries from the members of our community about the services offered for seniors," said Au Osdon, FAMAS president. "We want them to be able to serve our community better."



A souvenir photo taken of the workshop attended by community leaders with the members of the FAMAS executive board.

Access is an alliance of cultural communities for equality in the health and social services for cultural communities.

"We're serving organizations, not individuals, because we have 116 members," said Pascal Delgado, community organizer for Access. "Associations that become members get special benefits like training information. I work to support and train organizations. The project entails

## Street parking restrictions starting April 1st: Important changes in the districts of Loyola and NDG

### PRESS RELEASE

Montréal, March 13, 2012 – As a reminder, the street parking restriction period begins on April 1st 2012 and is to be applied throughout the borough's territory. The aim of this restriction period is to allow for street and sidewalk clean-up and maintenance operations.

Take note also that important changes were brought to seasonal parking restriction periods in the districts of Loyola and Notre-Dame-de-Grâce. These changes affect, amongst other things, the frequency and duration of parking restrictions as well as the days of the week upon which such restrictions are to be applied. Indeed, in those sectors where these changes have been made, parking will now be prohibited only once weekly rather than twice but for a period of two hours rather than one. Such changes will allow the

training of organizations regarding all programs available for the elderly in Quebec.

"I'm getting more involved in programs to counter elderly abuse and to network with many groups of ethnic communities to improve the lives of the elderly and reduce any form of abuse."

Some of the groups that the elderly can call are:

Caregiver Support Centre - (514) 485-7374  
Healthcare Insurance Administration - Medical Insurance MAMQ - (514) 864-3411, 1-800 361-3939  
Info Sante - 8-1-1

Meals on Wheels - (514) 484-7878  
Mental Health -Issues - (514) 252-8555  
Loc. 22 Anna Luisa Calbezaz..  
Mental Health Issues Transcultural - Psychiatry Clinic (514) 729-3036  
Paratransit - (514) 280-8211  
Elders Abuse (514) 489-2287

Because of the success of the training workshop last March 14, another one is planned to take place in the near future.

Borough to proceed more efficiently with the clean-up of its territory and will entail significant savings in terms of both time and costs.

The gradual installation of new traffic signs began last week and will continue until the end of March. The Borough therefore encourages citizens to be mindful of, and to respect, these new signs. Starting April 1st, car owners who fail to abide by these regulations may be fined.

If they have any questions, citizens are invited to communicate with the Bureau Accès Montréal by dialling 311.

Source: Borough of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce

Information: Caroline Langis  
Chargée de communication  
514 868-4018

From Page 3 Cooperatives

services related to financing and capitalization. In addition, the CDR Montréal-Laval specialists offer assistance in managing the associative and economic life of the organization as well as its governance and development. To learn more: <http://www.cdr.coop>

Elsewhere in Québec:

The mission of the Fédération des coopératives de développement régional du Québec (FCDRQ) is to support the Coopératives de développement régional (CDR) in pursuing their mission and to ensure coordination of and co-operation within the CDR network. The network of regional development co-operatives is a federation composed of 11 CDRs that cover Québec's 17 administrative regions.

The network has more than 1,100 members. With a total of \$6 million in revenues and \$5 million in consolidated assets, the CDR network has been involved in setting up more than 1,200 co-operatives in Québec. Over the years, it has contributed to creating and maintaining more than 16,000 jobs.

To learn more:  
<http://www.fcdrq.coop/>

For additional information on worker co-operatives:

The mission of the Réseau de la coopération du travail du Québec is to foster the development of worker cooperatives in Québec. To that end, the Réseau offers its members training and support services. Through its various projects and activities, the Réseau promotes the co-operative model, introduces young people to the cooperative experience and supports worker cooperatives. According to the Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, there were more than 2,800 worker cooperatives in Québec as of 2012.

<http://www.reseau.coop>

## 2012 International Year of Co-operatives

In December 2009, the United Nations declared 2012 the International Year of Co-operatives with the theme "Co-operative enterprises build a better world." The International Year is designed to promote the growth of co-operatives across the globe. It is also intended to encourage individuals, communities and governments to recognize co-operatives as organizations that contribute to the social and economic development of communities in Canada and throughout the world.

Main objectives of the International Year of Co-operatives :

Raise awareness of co-operatives and the role they play

Promote the growth of co-operative businesses and organizations

Encourage the development of suitable national policies to support co-operatives.

The International Year of Co-operatives is a year-long opportunity to build public awareness of cooperatives and promote a better business model. More than a billion people across the world will participate in the celebrations and contribute to demonstrating how co-operative enterprises help to build a better world.

In Canada, the Canadian Co-operative Association, the Conseil canadien de la coopération et de la mutualité and the Canadian government's Co-operatives Secretariat have joined forces in a nation-wide effort to make the International Year of Co-operatives a success. The initiatives include the website <http://www.canada2012.coop>

In Québec, the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (CQCM) and the Coopérative de développement régional de Montréal-Laval (CDRML) are involved in several Québec initiatives in connection with the International Year of Co-operatives, including this website.

The objective of the Conseil québécois de la coopération et de la mutualité (CQCM) is to contribute to

See Page 9 Cooperatives

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# Sariling Dila, Sariling Diwa



ni Mang Bert



Ang pitak na ito ay inihahandog ko sa aking manugang. Si Jerry Grinnage ay unang natutunang bigkasin ang mga salitang *Tatay at Nanay*.

Hanggang sa mga susunod na labas ay manaka-nakang isasalin ko sa salitang Ingles ang mga mahalagang salita upang si Jerry at maraming katulad niya na napusuang mahalina ang ating kalahi ay unti-unting maging interesado sa Wikang Pambansa.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mga Hiyas ng Wikang Pambansa

May mga hiyas ang ating wika na maningning noon ngunit ngayon ay halos kislap na lang na nakalikom sa mga publikong aklatan.

Unahin natin ang balagtasang.

Ang balagtasang ay isang pagtatalo ng dalawang magkaibang panig ukol sa isang paksa sa paraang patula na nangangahulugang may tugma at sukat.

Isang halimbawang paksa: Dapat bang aprobahan ang diborsiyo sa Pilipinas o hindi? (Should divorce be approved in the Philippines?)

Panig ng Hindi Dapat: (Con)

"Pinagpipitaganang katoto, Salungat ang katwiran mo. Biyaya ng Diyos, di mapapasaiyo Kung utos Niya'y lalabagin mo."

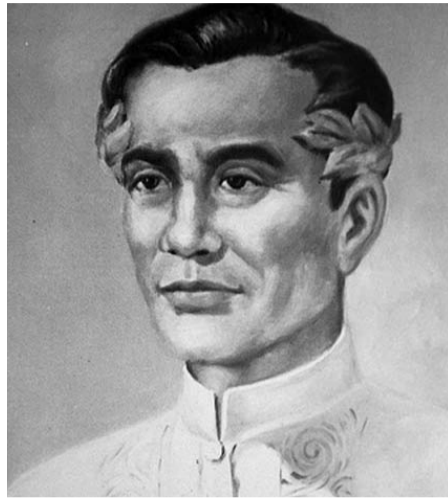
Panig ng Dapat: (Pro)

"Kapatid!! Di ba't Diyos din ang nagwika Umiwas sa alipin ng mga tukso? Kung kabiyak mo ay nagwawala na Nakahahawang sakit ay dadapo din sa'yo."

Ang balagtasang ay unang nasaksihan sa mga pampublikong entablado at teatro. Sumunod, napanood na rin ito sa mga palatuntunan sa radio tuwing araw ng Sabado o Linggo (radio dahil wala pang TV noon). Ngayon, kapag may malaking kapistahan ay may nagtatampok pa rin ng balagtasang sa mga entablado para mang-aliw at magturo sa mga tao.

Dahil sa ang uri ng pagtatalo ay, kung minsan, biglang-isip na pagbuo at pagbigkas ng tula, ang gumaganap sa balagtasang ay mga bihasang makata pati na ang lakandiwang namamagitan sa dalawang nagpapalitan ng katwiran. Nagiging masaya ang dulo ng pagtatanghal lalo't ang madla ang inaatasang humusga sa nagwagi ayon sa lakas ng palakpakan.

Tuntunin natin ang pinagmulan ng



Francisco Baltazar

hiyas na ito.

Ang unang nakaulat na balagtasang ay itinanghal noong ika-6 ng Abril, 1924. Nagdebate sina Jose Corazon de Jesus at Florentino Collantes na may nakahandang iskrip. Malaking tagumpay sa madla ang palabas na ito kaya nasundan pa ito ng iba pang sagupaan sa pagtula.

Ang malaking debate ay ginanap sa Olympic Stadium sa Maynila noong ika-18 ng Oktubre, 1925. Sa pagwawagi ni Jose Corazon de Jesus ay tinnaguriang siyang Hari ng Balagtasang (King of Balagtasang) at nakamatayang maaga ang titulo noong 1930.

Nagkaroon ng kani-kaniyang bersiyon ang balagtasang sa iba't ibang wika tulad ng bukanegan sa Ilocos na isa ring parangal sa kanilang makata na si Pedro Bukaneg. Sa Pampanga naman ay ang crisotan na hango sa pangalan at pagpupugay kay Juan Crisostomo Soto.

Noong 1924, may isang samahan ng mga manunulat na Tagalog na hinango ang salitang balagtasang sa pangalang Francisco Baltazar na kinilalang prinsipeng ng mga makata at sumulat ng dakilang awit na Florante at Laura. Ang balagtasang ay isang pagdangal kay Baltazar na nag-iwan sa atin ng isang mahalagang hiyas ng panitikan.

\*\*\*\*\*

31 Marso, 2012

Mahal kong Pechay,

Malugod at taos-puso kitang binabati sa pagdiriwang ng iyong unang kaarawan.

Nagmamahal,

Kuya Pichu



On February 27, 2012, Peter Tan was inducted by City Councillor Marvin Rotrand at the latter's office. Tan is now the President of the Fil-Can Chess & Social Club who took over the late Albert Floresca and will be serving until February 28, 2014. Councillor M Rotrand congratulates Peter Tan (photo by: Mars Cabantugan) Reported by Bert Santos

From Page 8 Cooperatives

Québec's social and economic development by encouraging a thriving co-operative movement.

Our mission:

facilitate cooperation between the co-operative and mutualist sectors and their partners represent and defend the

interests of Québec's co-operative and mutualist movement

promote the development of the co-operative and mutualist movement by spearheading a variety of activities, all with a view to expanding the benefits of cooperation and mutualism for members of the movement and for society as a whole.

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# Ask the Video Guy

**Al Abdon**

## The iPad Generation

Two years ago I bought the first iPad 1 version at Best Buy and selected 64GB (\$879.00) as my memory since I intend to download as many videos and music. I was not disappointed. Aside from its portability, the tablet is a general utility to all people on the go.

As expected Apple will not remain dormant on this model. They will up-grade and make a new model far greater than the one I have.

Maybe you're not one of the millions of folks who already own an iPad. And maybe you're ready to do something about it. Apple's added an extra wrinkle for you to consider: Which generation iPad should you buy?

Last year, when Apple rolled out a new model of its tablet, the decision was not terribly complicated—either you bought the new version or you didn't. This time around, though, Apple has not only introduced the 3rd generation but kept around the iPad 2—or at least, it kept around two versions of that tablet. So it's not just a question of which model iPad to purchase: You also have to figure out if the 16GB iPad 2 and its reduced price tag prove to be more appealing than the latest version of Apple's tablet.

First, the basics: Apple only offers the iPad 2 at one capacity now—16GB, with the Wi-Fi-only version priced at \$499. A version of the iPad 2 that also includes the ability to connect to 3G networks costs \$629.

Comparable models of the new iPad cost \$100 more—\$599 for the Wi-Fi-only 16GB version and \$629 for one that can connect to cellular networks. These prices vary because if you look at Future Shop and Best Buy, these prices may be lower.

Jason Snell's iPad review goes in-depth on the merits of the latest version of Apple's tablet. (And his iPad 2 review from last year is worth reading if you'd like to know about that version's strong points.) As for making any iPad 2-versus-iPad comparisons, I find the best way to settle the issue is to ask a few questions about your plans for your new tablet.

What will you use your iPad for?

The most important factor to weigh is what you'll use your shiny new tablet for. If you want to use it for watching movies, playing games, reading books, surfing the Web, checking email, and the like, the truth is you'll be well-served by either version of the iPad. Text will look a smidgen crisper on the new iPad, as will videos, photos, and any apps optimized to take advantage of the new iPad's Retina display; you'll see even more detail in high definition movies or when looking at photographs with the new iPad, too. But many folks have contentedly used the iPad 2 for a year or longer, without finding that the non-Retina display employed by that older model looks blurry or unclear.

If, however, you envision yourself primarily reading on your new iPad, you may well benefit from getting that new iPad and its Retina display. Once again, the iPad 2's screen isn't lousy by any stretch, but

prolonged reading periods may cause less total eyestrain with the high-resolution display in the new iPad ensuring the crispest text possible.

In fact, there's only one iPad use case which entirely rules out the iPad 2 as an option—and that's if you intend to use your new tablet as an oversized still and/or video camera.

The iPad 2's rear-facing camera is lousy. It takes blurry photos little better than a non-smartphone's junky included camera. The new iPad's front-facing camera is unchanged from what you'll get in the iPad 2, but it's intended primarily for video chats. The rear-facing camera, on the other hand, is a 5-megapixel iSight camera. It won't measure up to what you'll find in an iPhone



4S, but it's certainly comparable to the iPhone 4's camera.

That said, an iPad makes an awkward camera: It's big, and holding it up to snap photos requires two hands. But if you expect to use your iPad for photography, spring for the new model.

How much storage do you plan on needing?

The iPad's storage isn't expandable: What you get when you buy the tablet is what you'll have for the rest of its life. As mentioned, the iPad 2 only offers 16GB of storage. The new iPad, on the other hand, is available in 16GB, 32GB, and 64GB sizes. If you plan to load your iPad up with not just oodles of apps, but also your full music library, a bunch of movies, and a lots of photos.

Thus, if you do expect to store all kinds of large media on your iPad, I wouldn't consider a 16GB iPad model acceptable anymore. That means your lowest-cost option is the 32GB new iPad. If you instead don't plan to store several gigabytes of music on your

iPad—either because you plan to use iTunes Match, or sync no or little music—the 16GB size remains a viable option, which means you needn't cross the iPad 2 off your list just yet.

How much networking speed do you need?

If you're content with a Wi-Fi-only iPad, this question isn't relevant to you. But if you want a model that has the ability to connect to a cellular network, you'll need to consider the fact that the iPad 2 is only compatible with 3G networks.

How to decide

So if you don't plan to use your iPad for extensive photography and constant reading, you don't need more than 16GB of storage, and cellular connectivity is a moot point for you, should you just save the \$100 and go for the iPad 2?

The answer is a definite maybe. \$100 buys an awful lot of apps; saving that extra hundred bucks on your iPad purchase affords a whole lot of games involving birds in various emotional states.

But the new iPad is, objectively, a better iPad than the iPad 2. Beyond the Retina display, the new model also adds support for voice dictation and more RAM than the iPad 2. When Apple inevitably releases another new iPad in 2013, it's possible that new iPad 2 owners will feel more buyer's remorse than folks who opt for the new iPad instead.

The original, first-generation iPad still supports iOS 5 completely. Will it support iOS 6, or will that be limited to the two newer iPads? At some point, an iOS update will surely leave the iPad 2 in the lurch while keeping the third-generation iPad supported. But then, at some point, the third-generation iPad will be out of date, too.

Thus, if you have the extra \$100 to spend, the new iPad is objectively superior to the iPad 2, and more future-proof. But if saving the cash today helps your bank account, it's impossible to be disappointed by the iPad 2, which is a perfectly fine tablet in its own right.

Try one out today and see for yourself and join the millions of iPad lovers.

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## Philippine Embassy News

### Philippines Intensifies Tourism campaign at Tourism and Vacation Package show

Ambassador Gatan joined the Honorable Diana Ablonczy, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, and His Worship, Mayor Jim Watson, at the ceremonies opening the show. In his welcome remarks, Mayor Watson hailed the travel show for enabling visitors to travel around the world in one hour. He also cited the saleability of culinary, heritage and cultural trips to Canada's

Travel Scoop.

The forthcoming 7th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors (ACGTD) Tour was also earnestly marketed by the Philippine Embassy with promising results. The Embassy launching of the ACGTD Tour will take place in Ottawa and Montreal on 15 and 16 March 2012, respectively.



**Ambassador Gatan (2nd from right) joins Mayor Watson and Minister Ablonczy (center) during the opening of the trade show.**

ageing population. Minister Ablonczy opened the show which she regarded as a "tremendous way of building bridges and friendships around the world." Describing Canadians as adventuresome, she noted that 56 million trips, out of a population of 33 million, are made by Canadians each year. She encouraged Canadian travellers to observe the three R's (Read, Register and Reach Us) when taking trips abroad.

The Ambassador discussed Philippine destinations with exhibitors and other visitors to the Philippine booth

Besides tourism, the Philippine Embassy took the occasion to promote Philippine products and food. Filipino shell craft, baskets and the turon were the top drawers inviting queries and compliments from visitors.

Philippine participation in the travel show was organized by the Philippine Department of Tourism office in New York represented by Ms. Mitchelle T. Dy, Deputy Director for Marketing.

Visited by some 16,000 travel-ready Canadians, the 18th Ottawa Travel and Visitors Show boasted over



**Visitors looking over materials displayed in the Philippine Embassy booth during the trade show held in Ottawa.**

that included Minister Ablonczy herself.

(L) Amb. Gatan discusses PH packages with Stephane Tellier of UnikTour (R) Minister Ablonczy visits the PH booth

Since participating in travel shows in Canada several years ago, more and more tour operators have been selling Philippine packages. These include Tours Hai International, Jade Tours, Handa Travel, and Royal Scenic, among others. At the show, there was palpable interest in selling more Philippine destinations as demonstrated by Uniktour, Travel Professionals International and Family

190 travel and vacation exhibits from over 50 countries. Ottawa is home to 1.2 million well-educated, affluent Canadians with the second highest per capita income of all major Canadian cities.

"Filipinos in Canada are well-placed to persuade their Canadian friends to take an interest in a Philippine vacation, as Canadian visitors to the Philippine booth proved. Together with the Filipino community, the Embassy hopes to generate more buzz for Philippine destinations in line with its economic diplomacy program," Ambassador Gatan stated. END

### Speech of Ambassador Leslie B. Gatan at the 34th Anniversary and Induction of New Officers of the Association of Filipino-Canadian Accountants, Saints Peter and Paul Banquet Hall, Scarborough, Ontario

10 March 2012

Thank you for inviting me to your important event tonight. Let me congratulate the new officers and felicitate the outgoing officers for a job well done, and I refer, in particular, to your Association's commendable efforts in easing up the accreditation process for accountants trained in the Philippines, as well as for your annual tax preparation assistance to the senior citizens.

Your anniversary theme, "Staying Ahead in a Changing World," also applies to the story of the Philippine economy and how it can stay ahead. Predictions

Merrill Lynch of BoA projected last January that the Philippines will post this year a GDP of 4.4%. It also projected that only four countries in our region - Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Thailand - will achieve faster growth. Merrill Lynch predicted the global GDP to average at 3.6% in 2012; 2.5% for the Americas, and 0.5% for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Early this month, the ADB President said he expected the Philippine economy to grow by 5 percent in 2012 and a medium to long term growth from 6 to 7%, based on our balanced economy, relying not solely on rebounding exports but also on our very strong services sector, outsourcing and financial sectors, including the real estate sector, as well as on such growth drivers as consumption and investments.

On our economic policies, the IMF praised the Philippines last Tuesday in Singapore for its sound monetary and fiscal policies and even suggested to let the peso rise further to respond to capital inflows. The IMF described our economic policies as prudent that underpin our strong economic recovery. On trade, British banking giant HSBC gave a briefing last Wednesday in Manila saying Philippine trade will grow by an annual average of 6.4% over the next five years, higher than the 3.78% in global trade, supported by rising intra-regional trade, entry into new markets and expansion of higher value-added products.. This projection does not take into account the impact of mining once its potentials valued at \$1 trillion are unlocked, the Philippines being the fifth most mineralized country in the world .

On FDIs, our 13 Investment Promotion Agencies, led by the Philippine Export Zone Authority, targets P5 trillion investment inflows in the next five years. Its prediction is buoyed up by the survey findings of the Japan External Trade Organization that the Philippines is the best investment destination in Asia, and by the IPAs' own track record with PEZA, alone, realizing earnings of P1.99 trillion since its inception in 1995 and P413 billion in the last 18 months representing 22% of its total earnings.

Signs of a Robust Economic Health

Do you know that the Philippines is now a creditor country? We prepaid all our debts with the IMF ending 45 years as an IMF borrower. As part of the IMF's creditor list since 2010, we already lent \$251.1 million, half of which went to the ailing countries in Europe. Thanks to our

healthy gross international reserves, amounting to roughly \$77 billion today, which continue to grow substantially from remittances. And do you also know that Canada is the second largest source of workers' remittances, next to the US?

Do you know that Manila is now the call center capital of the world? Our Business Processing Association predicted an increase in revenues from \$11 billion in 2011 to \$25 in the next five years, to equal the volume of remittances. With a workforce of 600,000 and soon to reach 1.3 million, our predicted revenues represents only 10% of the global BPO market where India's share is 51%, followed by Canada as the second largest in the non-voice sector where we account for only 7%, covering such services as banking, game development, animation, transcriptions, engineering and related services. The BPO market potential is vast. Tips for us to stay ahead will help.


Our renewable energy sector is a source of great pride for Filipinos. Do you know that our nine coco-diesel plants produce 390 million liters of biodiesel and bioethanol or about 60% more than the local demand at 2% blend and that our surplus can help feed into worldwide demand, which will collaterally help our ailing coconut industry? Perhaps consider that we are the world's second largest generators of geothermal energy. Nearly 39% of our country's energy requirements are supplied by renewable sources, from hydropower, geothermal, solar, wind to biomass. The biomass sector will soon increase its output from 39 megawatt in 2010 to 300 megawatt a five years, giving over half a million farm families stable source of income from agri-wastes and forest residues. Talk too about our renewable energy investment potentials.

Do you know that Boracay was voted by the travel website (www.TripAdvisor.com) last January as the best beach in Asia and second in the Provinciales, Turk and Caicos in the Caribbean? The travel advisor also ranked Baguio as the 22nd top destination, and three Philippine hotels ranked among the best, namely, Dave's Straw Hut Inn in Boracay (14th), Padre Burgos Castle Resort in Southern Leyte (18th), and the Alegre Beach Resort in Cebu (25th). You will be proud of your own country's world class touristic offerings. I invite you to join me in the 7th Ambassador, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour of the Philippines from 11 to 15 July this year, to see for yourselves our tourism strides. Surf the embassy website for more information on this tour. Do you know that one tourist generates a job for one year? Do you know that Canada is now the 8th largest source of tourists? You will not only promote our tourism but also generate jobs for our poor.

In relation to tourism, do you know that Cebu Pacific will embark this year on long haul flights to North America, Europe and the Middle East? Also in aviation, do you know that Cebu Air is setting up a world class full aviation academy at Clark with the support of Montreal-based CAE, Inc. the world leader in simulation and modelling

See Page 21 Ambassador Gatan



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# STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Anton Juan (left, seated) poses with the FAMAS Executive Board and the Philippine Ambassador Leslie Gatan and his wife, Mrs. Lydia Debbie Mijares Gatan. (March 16, 2012)



A souvenir photo with Dr. Juan (from left): Willie Quiambao, Zenaida Kharroubi, Tess and Derek Fincham (March 16, 2012)



Ravi Tours Travel Agency held a blessing ceremony and party on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at their new office on the ground floor of Holiday Inn, 99 Viger West, Montreal.



Part of the Philippine Embassy booth at the Tourism and Vacation Package show in Ottawa held on March 10, 2012 to promote the 7th Ambassadors Tour to the Philippines

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## PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

### Vicente expresses his emotions through dance - from ballet to Zumba

by W. G. Quiambao

Unknown to us, Montreal is a city where we can find talented Filipino performers who need exposure. We have already featured Norm Zabala, a music composer/folk singer who has performed in Vancouver Olympics, Montreal Jazz Festival, Bermuda

they are passionate about, knew that he would be happy with his decision. The National Ballet School has many children from all over Canada and the world who live and study in Residence with 150 girls and 70 boys.

"My mom wants all of us to be active," said Vicente. "My dad, Ramon,



Music Festival and Paul Baluyot, a stand-up comic who has performed in the Philippines and the United States. Another personality we have featured is Emilee Veluz, a stage actress who won the Montreal Mirror's 2005 Best Second Local Actress for her performance in Miss Orient (ed). Mark Vicente, a ballet and Zumba dancer, belongs to this group of talented performers who we can call the pride of Filipinos.

Vicente's love for ballet happened by accident. He was still in an elementary school in Montreal when he saw a poster that piqued his interest. The poster simply asked, "Do you like to dance?". At the age of 10, Vicente decided to leave home. He went to Toronto to audition at the prestigious National Ballet School. His decision was initially difficult for his family, especially for his mother. However, his mother, who always supports her children to do whatever

has a band. He sings, plays the drum, percussion and saxophone. And my mother, Ester, takes Zumba class. My sisters are all active too. Anna works and performs at Cirque du Soleil. Frances is a yoga instructor and a dancer. Elizabeth is in the eighth season as a Montreal Alouettes' cheerleader.

"I knew then that if I didn't do something, my mom would choose something for me that I didn't like," Vicente said with a laughter. "But seriously, I'm thankful to my parents for their support and love."

When Vicente got accepted to the National Ballet School, he started training as a classical dancer. Although ballet was his main education, he did contemporary, modern and flamenco. Ballet companies do other forms of dance in their repertoire so it is important to be well-rounded.

"We trained every single day

for two to four hours, including Saturday," said Vicente. "People don't always associate dance with sports but dancers are really athletes. They have to be strong and agile. They've to be graceful under pressure. Ballet dancing is a physically demanding profession and like athletes, dancers get injured all the time."

A year later, he joined the Strafford Festival of Canada and performed in the West Side Story. He also did another season there and performed in the King and I. Both productions are musicals. He also performed in the Toronto production of Disney's the Lion King at the Prince of Wales Theatre for three years.

Although he was happy in Toronto, he moved to New York because it had been his dream to live there. Living there was difficult because he had no visa at the time and the competition in the business was cut-throat, but he had no regrets making such decision because it challenged him and fed his soul. He learned about himself. It was a magical time.

From New York, after four years, he moved to Montreal where he seemed to find his niche. His sister introduced him to Zumba.

"Zumba is a cardio fitness using world music and Latin rhythm," explained Vicente. "It's about having fun and love for move to music)"

Because of his love for Zumba, Vicente opened classes in various locations in Montreal, one of them is at rgw Appleton Centre.

Mark's students can only say positive things about his class.

"Once you start Zumba, you'll get used to it," said Haileen Quiambao with enthusiasm. "The reaction to your body gives you 100% energy. It feels good. The stress is relieved."

Emmanuel Bostner, a French-Canadian who is on her third session, said, "I feel the spirit of the group. "Mark makes you feel good because he encourages you and smiles a lot. It's nice to feel the spirit of the group. A sense of belonging."

"Filipinos are very welcoming," said Kimvy Haang Lee, who originally comes from Vietnam. "Zumba makes you feel energetic. It combines work and fun."

Vicente takes pride in saying that he started with 30 people and now, he has about 60. Many of them are female and he hopes more men will join.

"Zumba is about celebrating who you are," said Vicente. "I think that Zumba is so effective. To see so many of all ages and sizes have **space to just be free and have fun is such a rewarding experience** for me. It has nothing to do with doing the 'right step nor being perfect.'"

Zumba is held every Monday and Wednesday at 6585 Appleton Centre, Cote des Neiges. FAMAS registration fee is \$7 and every session is \$3.00. For more information, call at (514) 341-7477.

From Page 7

Irving Layton

the corner of Peel and Ste. Catherine.

I spoke on the occasion of Irving's 85th birthday at the Centaur Theatre. There was a most moving moment when Irving said publicly what he had said in our private encounters: that I was his "spiritual son."

Irving developed Alzheimer's in his last years, but continued to be comforted and cared for by Musia Schwartz, his devoted friend for some 50 years.

It was with her (and until now was only known to her) that I experienced my most moving encounter with Irving.

It was at Maimonides Hospital. Irving did not know who I was, but somehow also did know, in a place where the heart and spirit came together, and the head nodded in acknowledgement of me as his "spiritual son" - or so I believed in my conceit. Irving was for me at that moment - given all that had come before and all that he had meant to me in my life, as I stood there in the presence of one who taught me how to think, how to struggle against injustice, "how to live," as Leonard Cohen put it - my "spiritual father."

IRWIN COTLER is the Member of Parliament for Mount Royal and a former federal minister of justice and attorneygeneral of Canada. He was a friend of Irving Layton.

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From Page 2 Telecommunications

spectrum auctions to guarantee that both new wireless competitors and incumbent carriers have access to the spectrum up for auction.

The government will apply specific measures in the 700 MHz auction to see that rural Canadians will have access to the same advanced services as everyone else in a timely manner.

The government will improve and extend the existing policy on roaming and tower sharing to further support competition and will improve transparency and information sharing to facilitate agreements between companies to slow the proliferation of new cellphone towers.

A portion of the 700 MHz spectrum will be reserved for public safety users such as police and firefighters across Canada.

This spectrum will allow telecom companies to bring the latest 4G LTE mobile networks to Canadian consumers and businesses, including those in rural areas. This means Canadians will have access to the fastest mobile speeds and latest devices, such as the newest iPad, PlayBook and smartphones. They will have access to high-definition video and video conferencing over mobile networks. Canadians will benefit from greater access to e-health, intelligent transport and other advanced applications. This will result in

See Page 23 Telecommunications



# Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

## Sarsiadong Isda (Fish in tomato sauce)



Sarsiadong isda is an old Filipino recipe that is easy to prepare. It is very popular among mothers in the Philippines due to its simple preparation and availability of ingredients. The process merely involved frying the fish in a combination of tomatoes and beaten eggs. Sarcaiadong is easy, simple, and delicious.

Ingredients:

- 2 medium fish cleaned (any fish)
- 2-3 eggs beaten
- 1 tomato chopped
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 small onion chopped
- 2 tbsp fish sauce
- cooking oil
- 1/2 cup water



Pakbet or Pinakbet Recipe

Estimated cooking time: 35 minutes

Pakbet Ingredients:

- 1/4 kilo pork with fat, cut into small pieces
  - 2 Amapalya (bitter melons) sliced to bite size pieces
  - 2 eggplants, sliced to bite size pieces
  - 5 pieces of okra, cut in two
  - 1 head garlic, minced
  - 2 onions, diced
  - 5 tomatoes, sliced
  - 1 tablespoon of ginger, crushed and sliced
  - 4 tablespoons bagoong isda or bagoong alamang
  - 3 tablespoons of oil
  - 1 1/2 cup water
  - Salt and pepper to taste
- Pakbet Cooking Instructions:

In a cooking pan, heat oil and fry the pork until brown, remove the pork from the pan and set aside.

On the same pan, saute garlic, onion, ginger and tomatoes.

In a casserole, boil water and add bagoong.

Add the pork in the casserole and mix in the sautéed garlic, onion, ginger and tomatoes. Bring to a boil and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add in all the vegetables and cook until the vegetables are done, careful not to overcook.



Pork Sarsiado

salt and pepper to taste

Sarsiadong Isda Cooking Instructions:

Wash and clean the fish. Make a slit on both sides and rub salt around.

Heat cooking oil in a wok and fry fish until brown. Set aside.

In same pan saute onion, garlic and tomatoes. Add water, and season with fish sauce. Simmer to boil.

Add eggs beaten and simmer until cooked. Place fried fish on the mixture and pour the sauce over the top of fish. Let fish sit for few minutes. Salt and pepper to taste. Turn off heat.

Serve with steamed rice.



**Maja Blanca** is a Filipino dessert made from coconut milk, cornstarch, and sugar. Often called Coconut Pudding, this luscious dessert is easy to make and the ingredients are very common. Unknown to many, the original Maja Blanca Recipe does not include corn and milk. In this recipe, I added whole sweet kernel corn and condensed milk for added taste and a more creamy texture.

Maja Blanca

Recipe: Maja Blanca

Ingredients


- 4 cups coconut milk
- 3/4 cup cornstarch
- 14 ounces condensed milk
- 3/4 cup fresh milk
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 15 ounces whole sweet kernel corn
- 5 tbsp toasted grated coconut

1/2 cup lean pork, cut into cubes

- 2 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1/3 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1/2 cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup diced potatoes
- 1/2 cup of green peas
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 and 1/2 cups of water
- salt and pepper to taste

How to Make Pork Sarsiado

1. Saute the garlic, onions and tomatoes in cooking oil.
2. After about three minutes, add the pork and a little water.
3. Add in the seasonings, cover and simmer until pork is almost done
4. Add the potato cubes and cook for 5 minutes.
5. Add the green peas and bell peppers.
6. Cook for 3 more minutes while gently stirring.
7. Adjust the amount of water and tomato sauce to get the desired thickness.



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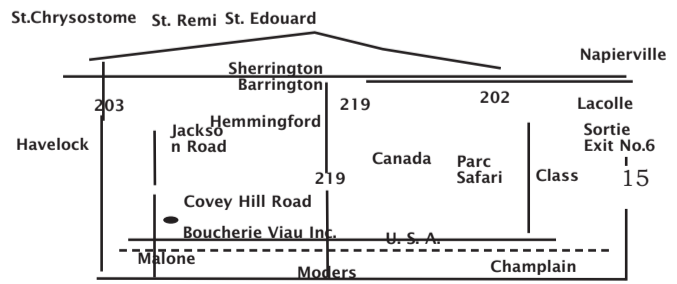
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# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## Local, international celebs among '100 Amazing Filipinas'



Celebrities not only entertain, some also manage to make a significant difference in society, as evidenced by the inclusion of a handful of female celebrities in the list of "100 Amazing Filipinas" compiled by local website Female Network.

Released on March 19, the list enumerates the inspiring women "who have shown... that adversity only serves to make a strong woman stronger," and is divided into five categories: Artists, Superstars, Trailblazers, Warriors for a Cause, and Real Women.

About two dozen celebrities were cited in the Superstars category. These include actresses Nora Aunor, Anne Curtis, Ai Ai delas Alas, Eugene Domingo, Angel Locsin, Cherry Pie Picache, Vilma Santos, Andi Eigenmann, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, KC Concepcion, and Ruffa Gutierrez; songbird Regine Velasquez; TV hosts Bianca Gonzalez, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Christine Jacob-Sandejas, and Cong. Lucy Torres-Gomez; beauty queens Shamcey Supsup and Venus Raj; model-racer Gaby dela Merced; Ford Supermodel of the World 2011 winner Danica Magpantay; and international performers Lea Salonga and Charice.

Half-Filipinos Nicole Scherzinger (of The Pussycat Dolls fame and former judge on "The X Factor USA") and Hailee Steinfeld (who reaped acclaim for her debut performance in the film "True Grit") are also part of the list.

Veteran broadcast journalists Luchi Cruz-Valdez, Kara David, and Ces Oreña-Drilon were among the Trailblazers, or the individuals who "bring truth and innovation to the country." Also part of this illustrious

category are international designers Josie Natori, Monique Lhuillier, and Melissa Ramsay.

"Creative souls" were likewise cited in the list via the Artists category. These include singer-songwriter Cynthia Alexander, prima ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, theater actress Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, and famous film extra Lilia Cuntapay.



Venus Raj

Meanwhile, broadcaster Mel Tiangco was recognized under Warriors for a Cause, the "passionate, driven individuals who are working to better the country—and the world—one step at a time." She was listed alongside senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Pia Cayetano, and congresswoman Risa Hontiveros.

And because one does not always need to be a celebrity to affect change and inspire others, the Real Women category lauds non-celebrities who are advocates of certain causes, survivors of illnesses, entrepreneurs, even writers and other such representatives of strong women who "overcome adversity" and "draw on her inner strength when the situation calls for it;" women that are "living proof that you can achieve your dreams with a little luck and a lot of hard work." ■

## KC admits her heart is 'happy'



KC: 'Choose to be happy!'

Continuing her graceful departure from the heartbreak phase, KC Concepcion is now more open in getting to know different people.

Although quite uncertain if she can be considered "dating" again, she related in an interview with ABS-CBN News that, "Marami akong nakikilalang mababait at mga sincere na tao."

The multi-faceted Kapamilya star noted, however, that there's no one romantically special to her at the moment. And if she looks more blooming these days, it's due to a fitness program she enrolled in as well as a "happy heart," KC said.

Her continuous showbiz work has likewise allowed her to further appreciate the value of her craft, added the singer-host-actress.

She even shared an advice of sorts to her Twitter followers on Mar. 12.

"Great to be happy this summer... Choose to be happy! Everything in life is a choice. Hello, summer!\*" she posted.

KC has embarked on some bold moves since her high-profile breakup with Piolo Pascual last year, including

## TV5: Sharon's talk show will not be like Kris'



Sharon Cuneta

It has been three months since Sharon Cuneta inked an alleged P1-billion, five-year deal with TV5, and the lull has many fans asking what's in store for their idol.

Aside from a couple of event appearances and TV guest stints, she hasn't been visible. But that's about to change.

This month, Cuneta will officially debut as a Kapatid talent via a daily talk show, "Sharon." Although the concept and format are still under wraps, TV5 head of creative and entertainment production Perci Intalan said the show was tailor-made for Cuneta and "different from what people might expect."

Intalan noted that TV5 would mine its experience from creating "public affairs-talk show hybrids," such as "Public Atorni" and "Face to Face" for

cutting her hair short, and doing sexy pictorials for Rogue and Cosmopolitan.

'X Factor' update

KC is busy doing rounds all over the country for the auditions of the Philippine version of "The X Factor," which she will host. She's excited over the project and hopes to meet the brainchild of the original UK talent search and former "American Idol" judge, Simon Cowell, whom she revealed also needs to approve the local contestants.

Although tight-lipped on the identity of the "X Factor Philippines" judges, KC said that the selection undergoes a meticulous process.



KC on the cover of the Cosmopolitan March Issue

"We've been doing screen tests para sa mga judge. So as you can see hindi lang 'yung mga contestants ang ino-audition." ■

Cuneta's new talk show.

"Sharon has done talk shows in the past, but we want something fresh. We're confident that we've created is perfect for her," Intalan told the

Inquirer. He added that Cuneta was "very hands-on," and attended all brainstorming sessions.

More accessible

In a TV interview, Cuneta promised viewers that the show would have a lot of heart. "Mas makabuluhan ... the best among all the shows I've done."

While "Sharon" is expected to tackle a wide range of topics, Intalan revealed that more focus would be given to issues concerning women.

"Expect a more accessible Sharon, someone people can reach out to and confide in," he said. "She's prepared to really open up, and won't be afraid to share her personal experiences."

Asked if there was a possibility of "Sharon" going up against Kris Aquino's "Kris TV" over at ABS-CBN, Intalan said he would announce the final time slot soon. He added: "Our show will be different from Kris,' that much I can say." ■



## Two Pinoy acts earn standing ovation on 'Canada's Got Talent'

Filipinos as world-class talents was again showcased in a reality-based talent show, "Canada's Got Talent," where two Pinoy acts earned a standing ovation for their performances.

Paul Kelvin Ong, who introduced himself as "a new immigrant from the Philippines although I'm a pure Chinese" and who lived for "just over a year" in Winnipeg, performed "Somewhere" from "The West Side Story."

"Canada's Got Talent" judges Martin Short, Stephan Moccio and Measha Brueggergosman were impressed with his performance, as were the audience who lavished him with applause and a standing ovation.

"You have a sweet voice. Bravo, bravo, bravo," said Moccio. "I'm intrigued. I really want to see what's next from you, Paul," he added.

"I really like how connected you were to the song. It was a really, really great performance," Brueggergosman commented.

"I do think you have a really lovely voice," Short said admiringly.

All three judges gave Paul their "yes," which helped him advance to the next round.



Paul Kelvin Ong and Kayumanggi once again showcased world-class Filipino talent

In his post-performance interview, Paul, who was initially speechless, said, "It's a once in a lifetime experience. Thank you."

A Pinoy group that collectively calls themselves Kayumanggi Filipina Performing Arts likewise earned plaudits and standing ovation for their performance.

Before their showcase, one male member shared that, "Being here gives us an opportunity to share our culture. The Philippines in history...we have been incorporated by so many

different cultures from Spaniards to Japanese to Chinese."

He added, "This part that we're doing in particular is from the Muslim culture. We're very proud to be Filipinos."

A female performer, who played the princess, shared the background of their dance, the singkil.

"The story behind it is that the princess escapes from the evil king, from the castle, and everything goes back into harmony," she said.

After a thunderous applause, the

three judges favorably said yes to Kayumanggi.

Brueggergosman, obviously impressed with the group's performance, said, "I was really, really looking forward to representation from the Filipino community and Winnipeg is, I heard, a very large one. Thank you so much."

Moccio felt that, "There was a genuine authenticity to your performance. Your costumes are gorgeous. Your smiles are gorgeous."

Short compared the group's act to "different beautiful paintings being presented to us."

In a report posted by ABS-CBNnews.com, it said that Toronto Star had written a favorable review of Kayumanggi's performance.

"Their performance, acting out a tale about a princess escaping from an evil king in a castle, included boys balancing on bamboo poles held aloft, girls dancing and posing between the poles as the guys brought them together and apart, and dancing with fans. It was very colourful and unlike anything we've seen before on the show," the review noted. ■

## Legal tussle between Maricel, two househelp now over



All's well now between Maricel Soriano and her two former househelp May Cachuela and Camille Acojedo

Maricel Soriano and her former helpers May Cachuela and Camille Acojedo have finally reached an agreement in an out-of-court settlement months after the two accused the actress of physical and verbal abuse, among other charges.

A joint statement by both camps aired on "Showbiz Central," Mar. 19, said that the resolution of the issue was made possible with the help of radio broadcaster Mon Tulfo and ALE Partylist Rep. Catalina Bagasina.

"... ang mga partido ay nabigyan ang bawat isa ng pagkakataon na ipaliwanag ang kanilang saloobin sa mga pangyayari sa isa't isa. Dito natanto ng lahat na ang naganap na insidente ay isa lamang hindi pagkakaintindihan ng mga partido dahil sa bugso ng kani-kanilang damdamin," it read.

With that, "Pinili ng mga partido na makipagkasundo sa isa't isa at kalimutan na lamang ang kung anumang nangyari at bigyang halaga ang matiwasy na muling pagkakasundo nila."

A proof of this agreement in the form of a photo was aired in a "24 Oras" Chika Minute report Tuesday evening. In the photo, Soriano can be seen flanked by Cachuela and Acojedo, all smiles.

Recall that July 2011, Cachuela and Acojedo publicly decried Soriano for allegedly abusing them during their less than a month stay at the actress' condo unit at Rockwell, Makati City. On June 30, the two appeared as guests on Tulfo's radio show to recount their experience.

In an interview with "The Buzz" on July 3, Cachuela and Acojedo revealed what drove them to leave Soriano's home the day before their interview with Tulfo. According to them, while they were tending to Soriano's things as she was scheduled then for a recording the day prior, she went as far as hurling curses and threatening that she would use her gun on them.

More, the two helpers related that Soriano's son, Chen, not only defended them from her but also signed their clearances so that they could be allowed to leave the building.

Soriano's camp slammed these allegations, with her personal assistant Inday Castillo claiming that Cachuela and Acojedo stole from the actress. Cachuela, in turn, belied this.

Cachuela even purported in the same "Buzz" report, "Marami na daw mga katulong na bumaba na sinasaktan ho niya, na sinabuyan daw ng mga mainit na tubig, pinukpok daw ng kung anu-ano. Hindi ho sila lumaban, 'yung mga katulong na'yon dahil, ewan ko, binayaran daw po

silá."

Prior to the settlement, Soriano has never personally spoken up about the issue, only claiming in a rejoinder affidavit that "Showbiz Central" was able to secure and air in October, "I

categorically deny the accusations that I called any of them names, hurled spiteful expletives or threaten to shoot any of them with a gun considering that I do not keep any gun inside my residence." ■

## Local artists back Charice's image evolution



'This is the look that I want,' says Charice

Several OPM artists see nothing wrong with Charice's recent and much talked-about image evolution—a short blonde hair, a "Love Eternally" tattoo, and an overall rock chic look.

Geneva Cruz deemed that the international singing sensation might've felt "bored" with her previous look that's why she took a 360-degree turn in her image.

"Si Britney Spears [nga] nagpakalbo one time. And I understand her kasi I grew up in this business," said the sexy singer in a "TV Patrol" interview aired March 13.

The changes in Charice—whether in her musical inclinations or her looks—will continue as her career soars, another industry veteran, Basil Valdez, said. Nevertheless, he did not overlook the improvement in the young singer's vocal prowess.

"Makikita mo 'yung changes in terms of 'yung vocal [na] kakayahan niya," said the balladeer.

Meanwhile, Kuh Ledesma stood up for the 19-year-old performer, whose sexual preference got questioned amid the buzz about her "tomboy" look. The singer apparently can relate to Charice as she had also been rumored to have had "a different preference."

"Sabi ko mga tsismoso kayong lahat. Masama iyon eh kasi maraming tsismis na hindi totoo," said Kuh.

At the press conference for her recently concluded Manila "Infinity Tour" concert, Charice wasn't pleased when the gender issue was brought up.

"Why would you ask me that question? I think that's a very inappropriate question. For me, just love me. I'm a person. If you think I'm a boy or a girl or if I look like a boy, then fine. I'm Charice," she responded.

Charice maintained that the drastic change in her look was her decision.

"Yun 'yung makakapagpasaya sa akin. I'm gonna get a haircut. I'm gonna do it. And I was actually proud," said she.

Having been a target of criticisms especially online, Charice couldn't care less about what others think of her.

"This is the look that I want. The only thing that you can do is move on," related the "Louder" singer.

Prior to her latest look, Charice had also sported long straight locks, wavy tresses, as well as her notable "geeky" look on "Glee." ■



**Showbiz Gossip** *Continued from p.17***Charice Confirms Judge Role for PNoy On 'X Factor Philippines'**

The 'new' Charice during her 'Infinity' concert tour, March 9 at the Smart-Araneta Coliseum.

Charice herself confirmed reports saying she will be joining ABS-CBN's upcoming talent search "X Factor Philippines."

The international sensation announced this during her "Infinity" concert tour's Manila leg, March 9 held at the Smart-Araneta Coliseum.

"Ate KC, I'm so excited to work with you. Yes, I'm one of the judges. It's going to be amazing!" the "Pyramid" hitmaker addressed the show's host KC Concepcion, who was present at her concert.

Charice is said to be the only female judge on board "X Factor Philippines," a cut from "X Factor" created by Simon Cowell and originated in the UK.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, the 19-year-old singer expressed excitement over her

upcoming stint on the show and that she vowed to be an "honest" judge throughout the show.

"I wanna be honest. I know some people will think that I will be mean, but I wanna be honest. I wanna choose who's talented. I wanna choose the real talent," she said.

"Thank you so much to the people behind 'X Factor.' I love 'X Factor' and I'm very happy to be part of the team and I'm very excited. I just wanted say, 'Saludo ako.' I know there are a lot of very talented celebs here in the Philippines. Thank you for trusting me," Charice added.

Being a judge in "X Factor" is like bringing Charice back to where she started. In 2005, when she was just 12 years old, Charice finished third place in ABS-CBN's singing search "Little Big Star," where Sam Concepcion emerged as winner.

The two "Little Big Stars" winners had a mini reunion of sorts during Charice's concert, where she was joined by "Little Big Star" alumni: Rhap Salazar, Kyle Balili, and Gian Barbarona.

After her Philippine stop, Charice will bring "Infinity" to Hong Kong on March 19 and South Korea on March 21. ■

**Grace Lee: An earnest listener**

Korean TV and radio personality Grace Lee believes PNoy has a 'very strong stance of what he needs to do for the country'

President Noynoy Aquino may not be some people's most favorite person right now, but his current apple of the eye, Grace Lee, remains supportive of him.

The TV and radio personality, who's said to be "getting to know" the chief executive, related that she's more than willing to lend an ear to PNoy, what with all the concerns he has to attend to everyday.

"His love for his country puts my love for this country to shame. So, all I can do is listen if he wants to tell me something, if he has problems that he wants to share, if there are certain incidents na gusto niyang ipahiwatig sa akin. I'm there to listen, and I think that's one of the bigger things that I can do for him..." said Grace in an interview with PEP.

Protesters recently slammed what they dubbed as "noynoying," a term that indicates the president's alleged languid work ethics. Apparently in an attempt to

believe the claim, the Palace has released photos of the president hard at work.

Grace deemed that PNoy, aside from having a great support system, also has a "very strong stance of what he needs to do for the country."

"And no matter what problems he's facing, kakayanin niya 'yon dahil mahal na mahal niya ang Pilipinas at ang mga tao," she added.

As for Grace's own career, the Manila-based Korean looks forward to start her new program on Magic 89.9. Recall that she exited "Good Times," a morning show she headlined with Mo Twister, among others, earlier this month.

The concept of her new show, she related, would hopefully be "more women-conscious and more women-oriented."

"Kasi 'yong show namin tuwing umaga at sa gabi, very male-oriented, 'di ba? So for a change naman... I think it'll be nice to have a female-oriented show.

"But ayaw ko rin naman... na puro babae lang ang makikinig sa show namin. So, we're going to have a little of twist to that. That's what we're studying right now," said Grace.

Grace is grateful to the radio station for their continued support and trust.

"Lahat talaga ng DJ sa Magic, tinulungan ako to get past all the problems that I faced, directly or indirectly, between Magic and my show before, sa morning show. And to the management, nagpapasalamat din ako dahil they trust me enough to give me a show," said she. ■

**Jessica continues 'Idol' journey, faces criticisms from judges**

She may not have impressed the judges during the latest performance night but Jessica Sanchez remains in contention, advancing to the Top 10 of the ongoing "American Idol."

Shannon Magrane was voted off, March 16, leaving Joshua Ledet, Phillip Phillips, Skylar Laine, Colton Dixon, Deandre Brackensick, Hollie Cavanagh, Heejun Han, Erika Van Pelt and Elise Testone with Sanchez to continue next week's round of performances.

Jermaine Jones was disqualified over the week because of criminal history, leaving the Top 11 to perform during the "Year You Were Born" night, March 14 (March 15 in Manila).

The 16-year-old Filipino-Mexican contestant chose the 1995 Gloria Estefan hit "Turn The Beat Around" as her piece.

Although her performance was well-applauded, the San Diego native didn't earn a standing ovation from the judges Steven Tyler, Jennifer Lopez and Randy Jackson this time. It was Joshua Ledet's rendition of Michael Bolton's "When A Man Loves A Woman" that stood out.

Sanchez, who wowed "American Idol" since her inclusion in the Top

13, faced constructive criticisms from the judges regarding her song choice.



Jessica Sanchez turns the beat around but fails to impress 'Idol' judges.

Tyler said, "Jessica... I love your voice... I love your voice, but you can't stray too far from what I think you sing the best which is ballad and I don't think you should stray too far on that."

"And the rhythm that you sang with the song was just a little shady but again I love your voice, obviously they do, too," he added.

Lopez agreed to Tyler and also took note of Sanchez's strong vibrato, which didn't fit her song choice.

"It's the type of thing that your voice has such a strong vibrato which is so beautiful on certain songs but on songs like this where you have to really be kind of be

syncopated and on that beat, it lagged a little bit behind so it lost a little bit of the energy," she explained.

"Even though you sang it great, it's not about that. It's about just having the rhythm on those type of songs so you really, really just kill it. So for me, [your performance is] not my favorite thing I've ever seen you do but good job," Lopez remarked.

Jackson believes that Sanchez's "Turn The Beat Around" didn't let her big old voice to shine.

"You're one of the greatest in this competition so I feel that we should really steer you always on the right direction and give you great constructive criticism. The problem for me was the song choice. You got this big old voice. The song does not allow you to show that. Not that you have to show it every time but pick something more that you can really play with and make your own. Cause you're so good," he said.

Sanchez, on the other hand, welcomed the criticisms. She admitted, "I had to work really hard to make my voice fit this song. It was a bit of a challenge."

Before the performance night, mentor-of-the-week Black Eyed Peas' will.i.am was impressed with Sanchez, calling the young singer,

"You're a Swaggernaut."

A Swaggernaut, as will.i.am explained, is like an "out of space swag" for a 16-year-old.

Fellow BEP and Fil-Am apl.de.ap. urged his fellow Pinoys to support Sanchez.

"Watching 'American Idol,' to all my Pinoys vote for Jessica Sanchez, Pinoy pride, she's amazing!" Apl posted on Twitter, March 15.

In a separate ABS-CBN News interview, Sanchez thanked her Filipino fans for their continuous support.

"Thank you guys for all the support and all the love. I hope I can visit the Philippines one day. You guys are amazing!" she said.

Due to the setback in the early rounds of performances, critics have been comparing Sanchez to last season's finalist Pia Toscano, a judges' favorite who was voted out too early from the competition.

A quote from USA Today said, "Tonight, Jessica reminds me of a more mobile Pia Toscano. She's note perfect, and she's got her moves down, too, but there's something that's just a little too studied. It's probably something she'll grow out of, but she's only got a few weeks to do it." ■



## Fil-Am Wins 'Top Chef' In US



Paul Qui

Filipino-American Paul Qui emerged champion Feb. 29 during the final cook-off of "Top Chef: Texas," season 9 of the US-aired reality show.

Qui, the executive chef of Uchiko Restaurant in Austin, Texas, defeated Sarah Gruenberg of Chicago following a kitchen square-off at Black & Blue restaurant in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Qui told host Padma Lakshmi after she named him Top Chef: "I am top chef. I am extremely happy to see my mom and dad and Deana being there and everybody I met throughout this journey. Seeing my dad cry makes me say that he is

really proud of me. It has been a while since I saw him be proud of me like that."

However, work remains the same for the new celebrity chef. "I'd still be cooking, and doing what I do best," the 31-year-old winner of \$125,000 said.

During the finale, Qui "rocked a clam dashi broth and coconut ice cream with Thai chili foam," according to OK! News.

Other Fil-Ams have tried to win the title exhibiting grace under pressure over several seasons of the Bravo and Food Network reality show aired over Solar cable channels in Manila. Sally Camacho of Los Angeles placed runner-up to Chris Hanmer of Las Vegas in 2011's second season of "Top Chef: Just Desserts."

US-based Filipinos previously featured in the TV franchise were Dale Talde from "Top Chef All-Stars" season 8 and "Top Chef" season 4, Leah Cohen and Eugene Villatora from "Top Chef" season 5 (New York), and Josie Smith-Malave from "Top Chef" season 2 (Los Angeles).

Qui is scheduled to return for a reunion episode of the biggest season yet for "Top Chef." A total of 29 hopefuls made it at the start of the competition. In the US, the show clocks in an average of more than one to two million viewers per season. ■

## Robin 'shocked' with brother Rustom aka BB Gandanghari



Robin Padilla

Actor Robin Padilla admitted that things are not well between him and his brother Rustom Padilla, who is now known as BB Gandanghari.

Talking to reporters during a press conference for his endorsement of remittance company Moneygram on Wednesday, Padilla said his wife, host Mariel Rodriguez, wanted to have a reunion since Gandanghari is currently in town.

Gandanghari, who has been based in New York for the past two years, returned to Manila early this month.

"Gusto ni Mariel na magkaroon ng reunion kasi dumating nga si Rustom. Gusto niya magsama sama kaming magkakapatid. Parang siya ang naging daan para magkausap-usap ang magkakapatid," Padilla said.

Without going into details, Padilla said he is "shocked" with his brother.

"Shocked ako eh. Lalo na ako," he said.

According to rumors, Gandanghari has had a sex change operation, although he declined to discuss the issue in an interview with another network.

Instead he told Rodriguez, who did the interview, that "whatever you're seeing now is a manifestation of how I really feel deep inside."

"And I've made decisions in my life and I guess (they're) the best decisions

I've made. It made me surer, it made me happier, more peaceful," he said in the TV5 interview.

It can be recalled that Rustom Padilla admitted that he was gay when he was a contestant on the first "Pinoy Big Brother Celebrity Edition."



Rustom Padilla



Rustom now BB Gandanghari

A few years later, he announced that "Rustom Padilla is dead" and is now BB Gandanghari.

Robin Padilla, however, is not closing the door on his brother.

"Darating tayo d'yan. Sa ngayon, hindi kami okay," he said.

"Sa mga paniniwala medyo magkaiba kami ng tinatahak," he added. ■

## Manny Pacquiao teaming up with Michael Jordan



Manny in New York

According to BoxingScene.com, welterweight champion, Manny Pacquiao is in talks to take his product line from Nike to NBA legend Michael Jordan's own Nike branch-off, the Jordan Brand.

Pairing up with one of the most well-known sports figures of all time will take Pacquiao's already enormously successful career to a new level, even after he does eventually retire from boxing.

Hooking up with Nike has given Pacquiao's career a boost, as his line is big success with his ever-growing fanbase, and adding Jordan's name anywhere near Pacman's will be a double threat that would surely boost sales of Pacquiao endorsed merchandise even more.

Fans in Pacquiao's home country of the Philippines already compare him to Jordan, according to Antony Gordan, president of Creative Talent & Advisory Group, the company heading

the talks about switching Pacman over to the Jordan Brand from Nike.

"...the infatuation of sports fans in the Philippines and surrounding areas in Asia with basketball finally hit a 'marketing tipping point' when the local media began branding Pacquiao as the so-called 'Michael Jordan of boxing,'" Gordan said.

Along with fellow welterweight champ Floyd Mayweather, Pacquiao is already one of the most known boxers since Mike Tyson, so it would be a no-brainer for Jordan to bring Pacquiao on board with the Jordan Brand, making him the third boxer to team up with the Jordan brand behind Roy Jones, Jr. and Andre Ward.

With Pacquiao saying he has two or three more fights left in him, he most likely has around one or two more years left in the sport of boxing. The Jordan Brand getting the hype surrounding partnering up with Pacquiao as he bids farewell to the sport that made him a worldwide star will help ensure Pacquiao's presence in boxing won't be gone even though he isn't fighting anymore.

If the deal does indeed go through, as it appears it will, Jordan would give Pacquiao's career a breath of fresh air, one that could have his career soaring, like Jordan once did on the basketball court. ■

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## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.19*

### Garrie Concepcion shares grief over death of 'stepfather' Iggy Arroyo



Garrie to her mom Grace: 'Be strong'

With the passing of her Dada, Negros Occidental representative Iggy Arroyo, last Jan. 26, Garrie Concepcion says that the overpowering pain that washed through her almost felt like she lost her own father.

Garrie is the daughter of actor Gabby Concepcion and former star Grace Ibuna, Iggy's partner of six years.

In a live interview with "The Buzz" on March 4, Garrie tearfully recalled the beautiful and loving family life that Iggy had enabled them to experience all these years.

"Gusto 'ko lang pong sabihin sa lahat na very blessed ako to have two fathers. Siyempre si Papa Gabby and nandyan din po si Dada (Iggy)," she began.

The budding actress said that her mom had never been any happier than when she was with Iggy. More, she also shared that "he [Iggy] really loved my mom so much and he loved me and my siblings so much like we were his own children."

"Tito Boy [Abunda], my mom changed everything. 'Yung buong buhay niya changed because of Dada. 'Yung pagmamahal na binigay nila sa isa't-isa, ang laking binago ng buhay ni Mommy, ng buhay namin. In a sense na punong-puno ng pagmamahal," she recalled.

According to her, the love that their family felt also extended to Iggy's daughters with his first wife—Dina

Arroyo-Tantoco and Bianca Arroyo, who have welcomed them to their family with open arms.

It was the reason losing him broke the heart of everyone in their family.

"It was painful for me to see my mom hurt so bad and also to see my two siblings, my younger siblings, feel that way. Na this is it, this is so good for us. We already have a complete family and then he was taken away," she emotionally shared.

The 'other woman'

Even before Iggy's death, Grace has been the target of accusations and offending labels by some people, one of which was her being called the "other woman." Iggy's marriage with his second wife, Aleli Arroyo, is said to have not been annulled. Speculation also arose that Grace was only after the late congressman's wealth.

Grace has remained mum over all the allegations, but Garrie won't just sit by and allow the public to "judge" her mom, taking a swipe at their family's detractors during the interview.

"Masakit po na marinig 'yung mga ganon pong bagay especially para sa pamilya 'ko. Alam po kasi namin 'yung totoo kaya po kami nasasaktan.

"Ang dami pong taong nagju-judge na sa tingin 'ko po sana po tumigil na kayo kasi they really loved each other sincerely and I witnessed everything from day one. They were always there for each other," she stated.

Garrie even attested that her mother's love for the late politician was so great that she's willing to "give up everything" just to get him back.

"And with regard do'n sa habol ng mommy 'ko pera lang, it's not true," she refuted.

"Kasi 'yung mommy 'ko na nga 'yung nagsasabi na pwede niyang ibigay lahat. Na kung gusto niya ibibigay niya na lahat, bumalik lang si Dada. She can give up everything," Garie stressed. ■

### Gwen Zamora goes international



Gwen joins the list of local celebs who have conquered the international film industry

Gwen Zamora is keeping her fingers crossed that Pinoys would be proud of her stint in the international movie, "The Witness."

Weeks prior to the release of the GMA Films and Skylar Films co-produced Indonesian flick, Zamora shared how thrilled she was to be part of a production as big as this one.

"I hope I made the Philippines proud kasi I'm the only Filipina representing the Philippines in [that] Indonesian film," enthused the part French, Italian, Vietnamese and Filipino actress in a taped interview with "Unang Hirit [UH]" aired March 6.

Filming experience

In the film, Zamora plays half-Filipina, half-American expatriate, Angel; a hotel employee who, according to a previous Bulletin Entertainment report, witnesses the grotesque killing of her father by an armed syndicate.

Being sole eyewitness to the crime, Angel was forced to flee and hide from the syndicate who wants to get rid of her as well. With the goal to avenge her father's death, Angel eventually meets his leading man played by Indonesian actor, Tyo Pakusa Dewol.

Since fractions of the film were shot

in Indonesia, which is known as a strict Muslim country, Zamora reiterated that the entire production team had to be extremely cautious in capturing certain sequences.

"They were very meticulous about 'yung pagtakbo ko. Hindi pwedeng umaalog 'yung dibdib gano'n," shared the actress in the "UH" report.

Although, she deems the film to be "very conservative" she pointed out that they were able to successfully go around the "sensitive scenes" making the flick "very twisted" at the same time.

Of all the things that she's done in the film, Zamora singled out that what frayed her nerves the most was "yung shooting everyday tapos iyakan everyday."

Recall that in a past report, Zamora described the film as the "most intense" she's done to date, in her relatively new acting career.

"There's a lot of action, a lot of shooting, a lot of blood. Madugo talaga 'yung Gwen Zamora na makikita ninyo dito," she said.

She even boasted that she did all the stunts in the film without a double which is why "half of my shooting days, I had bruises everywhere. My kneecap was sort of out for a while, so I was [in and out] of the hospital and I was always on painkillers so it was really intense talaga."

But, despite the physical challenges posed by her role, Zamora said "It was really worth it!"

The young actress bagged the titular role in the suspense-thriller flick when the Indonesian film outfit was scouting for talent from the GMA Artist Center (GMAAC).

"Actually they went around the Philippines kasi gusto daw nila ng Philippine actress in their movie and GMA presented their various actresses tapos 'yon," shared Zamora in the "UH" episode.

According to her, the film would premiere in local theaters on March 21. It will also be screened in other Asian countries namely Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand; and in Dubai. ■

### Derek Ramsay worries for ailing parents



For hunk actor Derek Ramsay, family comes first

A total contrast from the strong and muscular hunk that fans have come to know, an emotional Derek Ramsay appeared on "The Buzz" on March 4 to share that his greatest fear in life is losing his parents.

The Filipino-British actor said that both his parents are in the midst of recuperating from age-related diseases.

"My Dad, matigas ang ulo rin niyan, eh. He's been having problems with his feet and there's something wrong with his stomach and it's actually been a while now," the hunk actor shared.

Derek said that at first his father did not want to have himself checked but their family was eventually able to convince him to do so.

"He actually missed the day when he's gonna get the results of the tests because he came with me to have a meeting with ABS-CBN," he recalled. "So 'yun nga, inuna niya pa rin ako kesa sa sarili niya."

Derek had a meeting on Feb. 29 with the Kapamilya executives regarding his contract with the network.

Later in the interview, Derek morosely bared that his mother also had her share of misfortune as she recently suffered a mild stroke.

"And then my mom naman, she's a

very strong woman but also hardheaded. It's actually her second mild stroke. Hindi niya kasi iniinom 'yung gamot niya," he said in a chastising but concerned tone.

He continued, "It's supposed to be maintenance medicine and she only takes it when she feels na mataas na 'yung blood pressure niya. So now tutok na tutok kami na sa kanya."

Asked how he's coping with his parents' condition, Derek took a long pause and obviously held back tears in saying: "That's my biggest fear... I can't entertain the thought na mawawala sila."

Derek claimed that he doesn't usually turn emotional on cam but since, for him, "family comes first," he can't help it.

In the end, the box office actor was asked what he wanted to tell his parents.

He enthused, "Mom and Dad, they

know that I love them deeply. They know how I try my best to make them proud and I just want them to know that I know that they're proud of me. And it's a great feeling to know that you have parents who are there for you and always will be."

"Hindi ako umiiyak sa totoong buhay 'eh so I hate you Dad," he said in jest.

Before speculations could rise, Derek immediately clarified that putting his family first doesn't necessarily mean that his longtime girlfriend Angelica Panganiban is going to be out of the picture.

"Family always comes first for me. And when I say that they ask, 'Pano naman si Angel?' Well Angel's part of the family and my parents treat her like their very own. Sometimes nga better than me," shared he. ■





## Five Tips for Navigating a Wine List

By David White

Navigating a wine list can be daunting.

Even wine geeks are intimidated by the leather-bound tomes that so many restaurants hand out. When the wine list doesn't land on the table with a thud, patrons are still met with unrecognizable regions and producers. Plus, no matter where you dine or how much you know, prices can be senseless.

Fortunately, deciphering a restaurant's list doesn't have to be stressful. Here are five simple tips.

### Ask For Help

The era of the snooty sommelier is over. Whereas yesteryear's sommeliers were glorified sales agents who intimidated their guests by pushing expensive, predictable wines, today's sommeliers are wine zealots, eager to share their passion and palates. So if the restaurant you're visiting employs a

wine professional, ask for advice. Most are keen to help patrons find the perfect wine, regardless of the price.

### Be Brave

If you're at a restaurant with an impressive wine list, seize the opportunity to be adventurous. Your dinner companions will be impressed with your courage, and you'll learn something new.

If you like Chardonnay, for example, consider Viognier. If you like Sauvignon Blanc, try Torrontes or Albarino. If you typically order California Cabernet, consider ordering Malbec or Sangiovese. And don't be afraid of Merlot. Even though it's become cool to bash the grape, Merlot can be as rich as Cabernet Sauvignon, and is generally more approachable.

If everyone at your table has ordered something different, opt for an unusual wine that'll pair with virtually everything. For white, think Austrian Gruner Veltliner. For red, think Sicilian Nero d'Avola.

### Look For Value

I recently chatted with Kathy Morgan MS -- one of just 186 people worldwide to earn the "master sommelier" designation -- and she insisted that good deals can be found virtually everywhere.

"Don't be afraid to order cheaper wines, especially if the wine list was put together by a sommelier or a wine professional," she explained. "If thought is put into the list, all the wines should be good."

If there isn't a sommelier, Morgan advises people to seek out wines from less popular regions. At steakhouses, for example, you can often find deals on Pinot Noir from France and the United States, as most

patrons order bigger wines. And at every restaurant, wines from Spain typically offer a great value.

### Try Some Glasses

Morgan is also convinced that skipping the bottle list can be a wise decision. "At restaurants with serious wine programs," she explained, "sommeliers see wines by the glass as an introduction to their programs -- they know that's where people are going to get their first impression."

Ordering by the glass also enables patrons to try a wine before committing to it -- it's not frowned upon to ask your server for a taste of something before ordering a full glass. Plus, ordering by the glass makes it easier to try a variety of wines at one meal.

### Remember That You're In Charge

Is your wine too warm? Do you feel pressured to spend more than you'd like? Is your server refilling your glass too quickly? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," speak up!

Restaurants are notorious for serving red wine too warm -- reds should always be served slightly cool, at about 60-65 degrees. So if your wine tastes like it's been sitting at room temperature, ask for an ice bucket or switch to a white wine -- or beer.

If the sommelier is steering you towards something too expensive, there was probably a miscommunication. So say something. If you don't want to let your guests know how much you're spending, point to the price you're thinking and ask for something similar.

Finally, don't be embarrassed to ask your server to slow down. I always insist on finishing my glass of wine before it's refilled. That way, I can track the wine's evolution and better monitor how much I've consumed.

While there are countless other ways to navigate a restaurant's wine program, these five tips should be easy to remember -- and help elevate your next dining experience.

David White, a wine writer, is the founder and editor of Terroirist.com. His columns are housed at Wines.com, the fastest growing wine portal on the Internet.

From Page 11 Ambassador Gatan

technologies, to help provide Asia's requirements of 72,000 pilots in the next 20 years?

Do you know that more Philippine health centers are now being recognized by Accreditation Canada, which will give many Canadians the opportunity to seek sophisticated, timely and cost-effective medical services in the Philippines tied to the Canadian national health system? Our national health system now gives you the option to undergo treatment using state-of-the-art facilities, recovering among lush forested mountains and palm-lined beaches.

Do you know that electronic products are our top export? Our electronics industry considers 2012 as a rebound year where growth is expected at 20% with more new investments streaming in? Fully 85% of mobile phones in the world contain a vital chip only made in the Philippines. Tell your friends that parts of their cellphones are made in the Philippines.

There are other many healthy signs for our economy. Our stock market was the best performer in Asia last year; inflation is among the lowest in Asia at 3.9%; infrastructure spending is rising; corporate balance sheets are in the best of shape in a decade;

See Page 23 Ambassador Gatan

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## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p. 20*

### Judy Ann is eager to work with today's hot actors



**Judy Ann Santos wants a good balance between career and parenting**

Actress Judy Ann Santos wants to work with some of today's hottest, most bankable actors, singling out John Lloyd Cruz and Coco Martin as possible onscreen partners.

"Si John Lloyd nakatrabaho ko siya nagsisimula pa lang siya. Baby boy nga ang tawag ko sa batang 'yan. Proud na proud ako sa bata kasi nakikita ko kung paano siya magtrabaho," said she in a recent interview with push.com.

As for Martin, Santos said she has long been fascinated with how the actor works and is "excited" to observe him up close.

"Kasi nakikita ko siya kung gaano siya ka-intense umarte. Nakikita ko kung gaano siya mag-motivate," she explained.

But Santos, it seems, is not as

eager to work with heartthrob Piolo Pascual.

"Lahat ng bagay napapag-usapan. Lahat ng bagay nagagawan ng paraan. Naghahanap lang siguro tayo ng maayos na panahon," said she, seemingly balking at the suggestion that she works again with her former onscreen love interest.

For now, however, Santos is hard at work being the best mom to her children. Sharing the burden is her husband, actor Ryan Agoncillo.

"Siyempre Kami naman ni Juday, we're trying hard talaga to give the best to our family," said Agoncillo in a separate interview with PEP.

But the "Talentadong Pinoy" host admitted that Santos wants to do another teleserye or a movie and, as such, is motivated to lose weight.

"Iniisip niya na lang din na kailangan niyang pumayat para sa trabaho rin and I admire her for that, for having a healthy view in life," said he.

With both of them being busy, the couple isn't really planning on having another baby anytime soon.

"Kung darating ang another baby, darating. Pero sa ngayon, masaya kami na dalawa ang anak naming. Hindi naman kami nagpapa-pressure," said Agoncillo.

The husband and wife team last worked together in "My Househusband: Ikaw Na." ■

### OFW chosen as torchbearer in the 2012 Summer Olympics



**Reymund Enteria shares the honor of bearing the torch in the 2012 Summer Olympics with his fellow OFWs**

OFW Reymund Enteria will bring honor to the country after having been chosen as one of the torchbearers for this year's Summer Olympics in London.

"Sipag, determinasyon at lakas ng loob. Mga katangian na naging daan upang makamit ni Reymund Interia, isang OFW sa London, ang pangarap niyang maging torchbearer sa 2012 Summer Olympics sa London," a report on "24 Oras" said.

As recalled by the report, "Sa murang edad pa lamang [ay] namulat na si Reymund sa hirap ng buhay. Bata pa lamang ay tinutulungan na niya ang kaniyang ina na maglako ng ulam. Nangarap hanggang makatapos sa kursong Occupational Therapy. Sandali lang nagtrabaho sa bansa si Reymund hanggang makapagtrabaho ito sa Saudi Arabia at ngayon ay nasa isang ospital na sa London."

Actually, Reymund had read about an ad looking for possible torchbearers but he initially did not give it importance.

"Kuwento ni Reymund o mas kilala sa tawag na Apol, hindi niya pinansin

ang advertisement na naghahanap ng torchbearer nang una niya itong makita."

"One night, mga around August po yata 'yun, noong nag-i-scan ako ng magazine I read na kailangan nila ng inspiring individual. Hindi ko naman po naisip ang sarili ko na i-promote as inspiring kasi nga wala pa naman akong nagagawa pero naisip ko agad 'yung mga overseas Filipino workers," Reymund recall in the episode.

"Nagbago ang kanyang isip nang makita niyang ang hinahanap na torchbearer ay isang taong ang buhay ay maaaring maging inspirasyon ng nakararami.

"Isinulat niya ang buhay niya bilang anak ng OFW at bilang OFW. Disyembre noong nakaraang taon nang tanggapin niya ang mensahe na isa siya sa mga napili para maging torchbearer."

Reymund's friends greeted and congratulated him for his feat.

"Hi Apol, good luck. God bless. Mabuhay!" they collectively greeted him in the episode.

Luz Interia, Reymund's mom was overwhelmed with joy when she learned of her son's great luck.

"Masayang-masaya ako. Proud na proud ako dahil sabi ko talagang gift ng God sa amin dahil binigyan ako ng mabait na anak. Kung bibigyan ng pagkakataon gusto naming makarating doon para mapanood namin siya," Mrs. Interia said.

Reymund offers his feat to fellow Filipinos, especially the OFWs.

"I'm not really doing this for myself but for the entire Filipino overseas workers kasi I owe everything to my mom. Gusto ko mapasalamatan ko siya sa lahat ng mga hardships na ginawa niya," he said.

"Nag-iwan din siya ng mensahe para sa mga nangangarap na tulad niya. 'Wag raw mawalan ng pag-asa [dahil] ito raw ang susi sa pagkamit ng tagumpay," the report closed. ■

### Sam Milby continues chasing 'the American dream'



**Sam Milby currently resides in the upscale SoHo neighborhood**

Fil-Am actor-musician Sam Milby remains hopeful despite critics' claims that his breaking into Hollywood would be a near-impossible feat.

Recall that Milby has put his local career on hold in favor of trying out in the American entertainment industry. He has been based in New York City for about a month now.

"Parang imposible pumasok sa Hollywood, and for me, a lot of people say [that] it is. Maybe a lot of people are saying that and even up until now, if nothing happens even

this year - let's say this year, 'cause it's my first season - I'm not gonna give up," Milby said in a taped interview aired on The Filipino Channel's "Balitang America," with the video clip posted on its official website on March 8.

According to the report, Milby has already "gone through nine auditions for roles in TV pilots for major networks and is now waiting to hear from casting agents and directors."

On this, he expressed, "It is anxious and stressful. You know, 'cause you hear good things, you hear good feedback, and then you're like, 'Okay, what's going on here? Will I get a call back?'"

Nevertheless, Milby believes that his dream is "something that you really got to keep believing in and be positive about always."

"I already have the step ahead of being with such a good agency and that's already hard to find. So If I have such a good agency that believes in me, it's just maybe the right project has not come for me yet this season. Hindi ibig sabihin na imposible.

"Kasi I believe... you just gotta believe. You gotta believe," he stressed. ■

### Sharon plunges into real estate



**Sharon has invested millions in Bohol and Palawan**

Actress-singer Sharon Cuneta is eager to add another notch to her seemingly ever-widening belt - that of property mogul.

The actress, herself, revealed so in a recent interview, saying it's the fulfillment of a longtime dream. Already, she has acquired several properties including one in an area near Tomas Morato, where she plans to build several townhouses.

More, Cuneta divulged having bought a two-hectare oceanfront property in Bohol that she aims to develop into a retirement village. Another recent investment is an eight-hectare property in Palawan.

In the same interview, the 46-year old denied having an interest in politics saying that she doesn't have what it takes to last in such a "cynical" arena. Cuneta, who is married to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, insists that having one politician in the family is enough.

That said, Cuneta lavishes praises on several colleagues who have made inroads in politics including Vilma Santos, governor of Batangas.

Prior, Cuneta signed a long-term contract with media giant TV5 in hopes of reinvigorating her TV career. The deal, rumored to have amounted to a billion pesos, is said to be the biggest ever in the history of local show business. ■



**From Page 21 Ambassador Gatan**

government budget gap has narrowed to about 2% from a record high of 5.2% in 2002; consumer debt as a proportion of the economy is 7%, the lowest in Asia; remittances accounts for 10% of our GDP; Manila to possibly become another Las Vegas in five years; and the allure presented by our youthful population from a market nearing 100 million, over 80% of whom speak English.

**Challenges**

I will be biased if I present only the rosy side of the story. Our country is also beset with a number of challenges, among which are, as reported by Reuters: stock prices are among Asia's most expensive; investment protection laws need more transparency; government revenue is

deemed the weakest in Southeast Asia; huge diaspora seeking opportunities abroad; more spending by multinationals needed to further spur investments; mining investments remain difficult to attract due to policy issues; and good governance require more bold measures.

In conclusion, have you heard or read the Hongkong Bank study released late last year, carried by some Filipino community papers in Toronto, that by 2050 the Philippines will be the 16th strongest economy in the world? We do not have to wait for 2050 to stay ahead if we all work more closely together. Other nationalities are doing it. Our famed Filipino accountants can do better.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!  
\*\*\*\*\*

"Our government has taken significant action to promote competition in the wireless sector, and our decisions have helped to reduce mobile wireless prices for Canadian families by 10 percent since 2008," said Minister Paradis.

Today's announcement will provide Canadian families with more choices at low prices for wireless services. For a more detailed description of the measures to be taken as part of the policy approach to the upcoming auctions of 700 MHz

and 2500 MHz spectrum, please consult the attached backgrounder.

For further information (media only), please contact:

Richard Walker  
Director of Communications  
Office of the Honourable Christian Paradis  
Minister of Industry  
613-995-9001

Media Relations  
Industry Canada  
613-943-2502  
Backgrounder

Harper Government Takes Action to Support Canadian Families

Rules for the 700 MHz and 2500 MHz Spectrum Auctions

Foreign Investment Restrictions in the Telecommunications Sector

The Harper Government is introducing several measures with the objectives of sustaining competition and robust investment in wireless telecommunications and of promoting the timely availability of advanced services for all Canadians, including those in rural areas.

Foreign investment restrictions will be lifted for companies that have less than a 10 percent share

of the telecommunications market, promoting competition by improving new wireless entrants' access to capital.

Caps in upcoming spectrum auctions will effectively ensure that new wireless entrants and regional providers have access to prime spectrum.

Tower sharing and roaming policies will be improved and extended.

Obligations will be imposed on 700 MHz spectrum licence holders to see advanced wireless services quickly delivered to rural Canadians.

The government plans to hold the 700 MHz auction in the first half of 2013, to be followed by auction of the 2500 MHz spectrum within a year.

prices for Canadian families, including those in rural areas.

Wireless telecommunications, and the radio frequency spectrum that enables it, are fundamental to world-class digital infrastructure, a key pillar of Canada's digital economy.

**From Page 14 Telecommunications**

improved connectivity for consumers, increased business productivity and enhanced safety for Canadians.

In 2008, the Harper Government set aside spectrum for new entrants and implemented other policies to support new competitors. New entrants have since made large investments to launch services and are providing greater choice to Canadian consumers.

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99¢



Bulacan Palabok, 1 lb  
99¢



Likas Papaya soap  
\$2.99 each



Silver Swan Soy Sauce  
\$1.79 bottle



UFC Banana sauce, regular  
\$1.19 bottle



Bioy Bawang  
3 / \$1.99 tax included



P.D. Cheese Hot Dog  
\$2.99 each



Nestle thick cream  
\$1.99 can



Del Monte Fruit Cocktail  
\$6.99 each



Macapuno Strings  
\$1.99 jar



Bulacan coco gel  
\$1.29 jar



Chicken Legs  
99¢ / lb



Pork Belly  
\$2.72 lb.





Collège

**GILMORE**  
International

**5320-A Queen Mary Road**

(between Decarie Boulevard and Coolbrook)  
Montreal, QC H3X 1T7

**Tel.: 514-485-7861**

E-Mail: [zbc@gilmorecollege.com](mailto:zbc@gilmorecollege.com)  
[www.gilmorecollege.com](http://www.gilmorecollege.com)

(accessible by bus, Nos. 17, 51, 166, and Snowdon Metro)

**Registrations by appointment**  
**Classes start soon.**

**Flexible schedules - Days, Evenings or Weekends**

**Education raises the bar but lowers the barriers to a rewarding career.**



As a nursing aide graduate, I believe that self-discipline and determination enabled me to achieve my goals in life. Gilmore College International provided me the opportunity to find a job easily. The knowledge and skills I have learned during the course of my studies gave me the edge to work in the health care environment where one needs to show the willingness to render service to the sick and the elderly. (Ethel Tugna, March 2011)



Gilmore International College provides immigrants the tools for a successful career change. The training and the skills that I learned from the program gave me the confidence to work as a nurses' aide. (Adele Lascano, October 2008)



PAB/PSW Batch 6 class (Old Program - 100 hours, theory Session: June 3, 2009-August 30, 2009 (200 h Practicum - September 5, 2009 to December 27, 2009 Students of this group: Balag-ey, Carolina; Battad, Mildred; Bituin, Milaine; Dagdagan, Joan; Danda, Gloria; Gacutan, Maria Ann; Laqui, Paz; Nipa, Edilan; Pagada, Jovita; Pailaga, Delia; Ramos, Juvelyn; Ramos, Ronalyn. Instructors: Amy Manon-og; Sophie Toledo; Director-General: Zenaida Kharroubi. Other instructors not in photo: Terry White, Clarice Mackay. The new PAB/PSW program has been upgraded to 600 hours, consisting of 350 hours of theory and 250 hours of practicum, in response to the requirements of the job market. Graduates of the old program are therefore encouraged to get additional training in order to have access to jobs in government health care facilities. Call 514-485-7861 for information on upgrading courses.



Gilmore College International building showing future sign to be installed soon

**CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

- PSW-PAB Nursing Aide
- Office Technology
  - Secretarial option (Medical/Legal)
  - Accounting option
- International Trade
- Early Childhood Education
- Integration of Foreign Graduates of Nursing (Permit Pending)

**SELF-IMPROVEMENT COURSES**

- Second Languages - English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Filipino (Tagalog)
- Computer courses - Computer Literacy, Microsoft Office, Simply Accounting
- Financial & Investment Courses
- Writing Workshop, Leadership Seminars, Coop Education
- PDSB, CPR, on request by 10 or more students



Gilmore International College gave me the opportunity to start a new career, I finished the nursing aid/P.A.B. course last October 2011. I got a job easily and I am now working fulltime because I learned new things from this course which focuses on how to care for the elderly. I'm proud to be part of this college. (Giselle Arellano, Oct. 2011)



Office Technology (Medical, Legal, or Administrative Assistant positions)



Early Childhood Education Assistant



PAB/PSW Program (Nursing Aide)



International Trade Program to earn a C.I.T.P. designation (Certified International Trade Professional)