

Filipinos excel in networking



Pro Travel Network presented top travel agents with membership in the President's Club. Five out of ten members are Filipinos, one of whom is from Montreal, Alicia Atayde Lee (4th from right). Photo taken in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

Special Report By Zenaida Kharroubi
 Punta Cana, Dominican Republic,
 May 2-5, 2008 - Pro Travel Network held another international training event at the Ocean Blue and Sands Resort which was attended by over 600 independent travel agents from across the U.S.A. and Canada..

Pro Travel Network, founded in 2003 has been enjoying tremendous popularity among Filipino-Canadians. It holds international training events four times a year. Prior to Punta Cana, a 7-day cruise of the Caribbean was offered to its independent travel agents just for \$99. Attracted by the possibilities of traveling and making money at the same time, many people have gone into travel as a home based business.

Paul Henderson, president and founder of Pro Travel Network, was interviewed for this article in order to

See Page 4 Pro Travel Network



TOURISM

Page 6

Contents

Cooperative News	p. 3
Tourism	p. 6
Filstar Photo Gallery	p. 10
Philippine Cuisine	p. 12
Community News	p. 13
Global Perspectives	p. 15
Showbiz Gossip	p. 16
Classified Ads	p. 18



Be a C.I.T.P. (certified int'l trade professional)
 Register now at Gilmore International College - Call 514-485-7861

Gilmore founder to receive TOFA award

By Alvin D. Veloso

Washington, D.C. - April 15, 2008 - A panel of judges for a U.S. based magazine, the Filam Image, founded by Nonoy Mendoza, has selected Zenaida Kharroubi, editor and publisher of the Filipino Star and founder of the first Filipino-owned college, as one of this year's TOFA awardees. Started 20 years ago, TOFA (Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad) endeavors to recognize Filipinos abroad who have achieved a certain level of success in their chosen careers and who have promoted a positive image in their communities. A gala event will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at the J.W. Marriot Hotel in Washington, D.C. to honor this year's awardees. Relatives, friends and associates of awardees are encouraged to attend. A detailed program of activities includes a courtesy call on the Philippine Ambassador to the United States, and VIP Tour of Historic Monuments and Sights including Dim Sum VIP luncheon. Congratulatory messages will be published in the souvenir program. Net proceeds from the event are to be donated to charitable projects in the Philippines.

Isaac T. Goodine's book entitled "Leaders Leading Leaders" contains an excerpt that states: **"Between the big things that we cannot do and the little things we will not do, the danger is that we will do nothing."** (Monod) This quote underscores the fact that there are people who do nothing but there are also those who

seem to be involved in many things. Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi whose pioneering spirit has been demonstrated time and time again in everything she has done - from building her own school to establishing the first Filipino Canadian Scout group in Montreal - is a classic example of how an immigrant like herself can succeed under any kind of circumstances. She also has proven that there are many things in life that can be done if one is willing to do them. She juggles her time among numerous tasks and responsibilities - she not only teaches full time but also manages a staff of freelance teachers who work in her own college, edits and publishes a monthly newspaper, serves as administrator of a Scouting group, called Laging Hand 0592 and volunteers in the first Filipino Solidarity Cooperative which she has saved from its impending closure when it ran out of funds. She served as its secretary treasurer for 1 1/2 years. Recently, she has been acclaimed to be its new president for a term of three years.

In recognition of her many accomplishments, she received several awards and certificates. In 2000, the Bb Pilipinas World Beauty Pageant gave her a certificate as one of the 10 outstanding Filipino Canadians. In May 2003, she received a Teacher Award from the Canadian Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers. The Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebec gave her a service



Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi, M.A., Director-General, Gilmore International College Publisher & Editor, The North American Filipino Star, and President, Filipino Solidarity Cooperative 2008-2010

award in May 2004 which was followed by a certificate of appreciation from the Chair of Human Relations of the World Academy of Letters in October 2004. In June 2005, Ambassador Francisco Benedicto of the Philippine Embassy in Ottawa gave her a plaque of appreciation. During the 17th anniversary celebration of Gilmore International College on October 28, 2006, three organizations gave her a big surprise - the Scouts and their parents, the Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebec, and the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative - each one of them

See Page 5 TOFA Award

EDITORIAL

Change we can believe in

Change - an attractive concept nowadays which seems to offer a lot of hope that things will be better. Presidential candidate Barack Obama has carried the slogan "Change we can believe in" which seems to have convinced the American voters, particularly the youth, to put their faith in his ability to make a difference. Even though this is yet to be proven after he gets nominated and elected to be the first Black president, we cannot help but stand in awe in our expectation of great things to come.

Borrowing the idea of Senator Obama that we can institute changes that we can believe in, we think this can be demonstrated by first changing people's attitudes if we are patient enough and if we are passionate about our beliefs. We can influence people by our determined effort to make things better not only in words but also in actions. For example, we are determined to show our fellow citizens that the only way to have economic progress in our community is to work together and build our prosperity through the cooperative movement. We want to share with everyone a vision of the future when we have built a business enterprise that belongs to the whole community. We believe that a cooperative is designed to help many more people than a single private business. It is also easier to raise capital without undue burden on one single individual. By agreeing to work in a cooperative, we also become community-oriented. Eventually, this experience will make us become better people, better citizens for we will be able to learn to care about other people's welfare. We also prove to ourselves that helping others is good for the heart and soul.

Besides the beneficial effects of the cooperative experience, we also must remember that the cooperative is a way to create jobs for our young people and newcomers. It can serve as a training center to improve people's skills in retailing, communication, and community service. It can also serve as a commercial hub for small businesses. Members can put their products on consignment and make money without spending a penny on high overhead costs.

When election time comes,

the cooperative can also become a political force. If all the members are informed of the issues of the day through information seminars, we would have accomplished a great task of nation building. We will be able to create a society we want by being able to ask our legislators what we need and want.

Things can be changed if we all can work together. The cooperative movement is a way to make the changes we can really believe in because we will be able to see the benefits of our efforts. Not only will we have better prices, better products but we will also enjoy the convenience of shopping for our daily needs in a convenient place. It will not be long before we have the benefits of our membership in the cooperative. It is feasible and believable that we will have a Philippine village in Cote des Neiges in the very near future if we all agree to support the cooperative movement. Being one of the most numerous population in this area, there is no reason for us to fail. All we need to do is to give ourselves a chance to prove that changing our attitudes towards one another will open up new opportunities economically, politically, and socially. These economic opportunities can be in the form of earning dividends from our membership investment, political power is in terms of having an organization that can lobby for our interests, and social support is in being able to participate in group activities that are both stimulating and enjoyable.

Perhaps, there are other benefits that are intangible for it is not always the materialistic gains that make us happy. We may appreciate the value of a cooperative in terms of the fellowship it offers and the feeling of having made it a successful business enterprise may be the greatest reward of all.

Perhaps, Senator Obama's slogan about change serves as a reminder to us that it is in each of us to choose what we want out of our life. It is our choice to believe in what we can see and what we can hear, and feel. But one thing is certain - life itself is a continuous flow of changes. To resist this flow will go against our being a real human being.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi



FILIPINO SOLIDARITY COOPERATIVE
Coopérative de Solidarité Filipino
 4711 Van Horne Avenue, Montreal H3W 1H8



We sell not only frozen fish, meat, but also canned and drygoods

Want to give away a unique gift?

Buy your gift certificates from the Filipino Coop

Earn 6% interest per year by buying interest-bearing shares available to Coop members
Attend our Info Seminar on Saturday, June 14, 2:30-4:30 P.M.
FAMAS Building
4708 Van Horne
Montreal, QC

FILIPINO COOP

STORE HOURS

Monday to Friday - 12:30-8:30 P.M.

Saturday-Sunday - 1:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Telephone: 514-733-8915

(FORMERLY DIVISORIA-CUBAO)
under new administration

Not yet a member? Support your first and only Filipino cooperative in Canada. Be a member now!
TANGILIKIN ANG SARILING ATIN

To all our clients:

If you wish to place an order for fresh lechon during weekends, please call us no later than Thursday. We need a guaranteed minimum order of 15 lbs to enable us to order lechon from our supplier.



4950 Queen Mary Road Penthouse
 (5th Floor) near Snowdon Metro
 Montreal, QC H3W 1X3

Tel.: 514-485-7861

E-Mail: marketing@filipinostar.org

Jerry Estrada
Lina V. Fernandez
Dr. Victor Gavino
Prof. Isaac Goodine
Esther Stansfield
Alvin D. Veloso
 Contributors

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi
 Chief Editor & Publisher
Sam Ferry
 Assistant Editor
 News & Tourism
Bert Abiera
 Founder

Hilda T. Veloso
 Community News
Mary Joy Lizarondo
 Sports News
Nida Verginom Butaran
 Sales Representative

Opinions, comments of writers and columnists do not necessarily reflect that of the management of Filcan Publications, Inc.

The North American Filipino Star SUBSCRIPTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

☐ 12 issues \$25 ☐ 24 issues \$45

Telephone: Residence: _____ Office: _____

Enclose a cheque or money order for: \$_____

COOPERATIVE NEWS

It's been almost two months since the general assembly, and we are still waiting for more people to be involved and to volunteer in helping the Coop with the numerous tasks that must be done. There are signs that people are taking notice of our steps to improve the Filipino Coop. In order to increase our store hours, more volunteers are needed to be trained so that they can operate the store during the hours that are not covered by our paid employee. Our new cashier is on

Coop, even at \$10 each, we will easily attain \$6300 of weekly sales.

New products have been delivered on consignment to the Coop. Other members have indicated plans to do the same thing

Although we need to purchase new equipment for fresh meat and vegetables, we are going to wait until we receive the funds we hope to raise from issuing the interest-bearing shares. The previous board of directors has already passed a



Coop Volunteers and Gilmore students Hesil Bariguez and Christe Lusdoc are learning how to operate the cash and close the sales, while Zenaïda Kharroubi, Coop president, looks on.

duty only for eight hours a day, five days a week. Therefore, if our members want to see the store open longer, we need at least 3 volunteers a day to give 2.5 hours from 10:00 to 12:30 Monday to Friday, and another 6 volunteers to take shifts from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. To lighten the load of each volunteer, we suggest a rotation of duties. If there are enough people willing to be volunteers, we can organize the schedules to suit everyone's convenience. Please submit your name by calling us at 514-733-8915, or 514-485-7861.

We made an attempt to offer specials during weekends like free food tasting and fresh lechon but the results have not yet been very productive. However, we will not give up and will try again soon but before doing so, we should find the time to contact all members. There is enough merchandise in the store but there still other items that need to be purchased. Our objective is to buy everything our members need so that they will come and buy their weekly groceries. If all our 630 members buy weekly from the

resolution to issue these preferred shares, however, we have not yet finalized the legal document necessary to be signed for this purpose. It is planned to have this ready for the Information Seminar that will be held on Saturday, June 14, 2008 from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. which will be held at the FAMAS building, 4708 Van Horne Avenue in Montreal. Mr. Art Cortez, a commercial and residential inspector will be one of the speakers.

A policy manual will be developed soon in order to have a clear understanding of the tasks and functions of each member, volunteer and director of the Coop. They have to remember that a cooperative is owned, operated, and capitalized by its own members. and it is democratically organized. A member is qualified to run for director after one year of membership.

To help the cooperative become successful, every member has a duty to do business with the cooperative by buying regularly. If you are a member and you know that you have not yet

bought your groceries from the Coop, we are appealing to you to do so from now on so we can turn things around. We will have one of our volunteers give you a call and remind you to come and visit us soon.

We would like to remind those people who paid only \$10 or \$20 during the time of the first president,

contact us and give us their new coordinates.

We wish to thank students of Gilmore International College for being generous and supportive namely, Esmeralda Roldan, Mary Ann Solidarios, Helen Rose Molino, Christe Lusdoc, Hesil Bariguez, Josie Cacal, Maricel Mamud and Remy Balmes.



Top photo: Freezers for clearance sale in order to enable us to buy the proper equipment for fresh meat and vegetables. Bottom photo: Glass computer tables purchased by former president Joe Gaviola for his office are also for sale. If you are interested, please call 514-485-7861 for info.

Jose Gaviola, to pay their balances. Around 400 people belong to this category of not fully paid members. If we can collect from them, we will have a cash inflow of approximately \$30,000 which can be used to buy the necessary equipment we need in order to have fresh meat, fish and vegetables that most people buy from the bigger stores. We will also be able to buy more merchandise directly from the wholesalers

We also want to ask those members who have changed their addresses and telephone numbers to

Dates to Remember
Saturday, June 14
2:30-4:30 P.M.
FREE Info Seminar
Famas Building
Friday, June 27 - 7:00 P.M.
Social Dance for the
benefit of the Filipino Coop
6767 Cote des Neiges
Donation: \$10



Filipino Dentist
DR. GENE SANTANDER
DENTAL SURGEON/CHIRURGIEN DENTISTE
5165 Queen Mary Rd., Suite 304
Montreal, Quebec H3W 1X7
TEL. (514) 484-3110



From Page 1 Pro Travel Network

get a better understanding of the concepts of networking and what is really involved in this type of business.

Henderson explained how he founded Pro Travel Network. He had been introduced to the travel business in 2001, and got involved with a

the expenses are tax deductible. The next international event will be in Cancun, Mexico on August 22-25, 2008. Those who attended the event in Punta Cana will get a \$50 discount if they book before Friday, May 9, 2008.

Henderson was not alone when he founded Pro Travel in 2003. A young lady by the name of Valerie



Alicia Ataydee Lee delivers her speech, acknowledging how much Pro Travel has helped her.

company specializing in membership benefits, allowing people to travel at a cheaper price based on a group discounted pricing similar to a Costco sales club. People buy memberships into this club. However, he found some aspects of this arrangement quite unfair as it presumed that

Penley who was an accountant trained by Ernst and Young helped him in starting the company. For a few months, they did everything – he was the president and janitor, and she was the secretary and coffee person. Because it was home based, many



Diamond rings were awarded to the top travel agents - three are Filipinos, namely Marlon Esperon (3rd from left), Connie Raz and Cora Lacsamana (5th and 6th respectively)

everyone would be able to go to a destination at the same time. Some people were unable to take advantage of their memberships because of lack of time, or money. This company ended up being bought out. He had already developed love of the travel business but had nowhere to go. Luckily, he met a gentleman from Montreal who operated a small travel business which was more focused on a true independent travel program that allowed people to become travel agents by operating their business from home. He discussed his vision of a bigger company with the business owner he was working with as he was willing to grow with his company, however, he did not want to accept his offer so he had to go on his own.

The international training events are actually the membership aspect of the business. People get to travel together and enjoy networking four times a year which he calls "paycation". Besides the educational aspect of these events,

people did not realize there were only two people. Unfortunately, she passed away as she had cancer but the business was already established by then. As she knew her disease was progressive, she had hired people to replace her.

Pro Travel had the distinct advantage of having began at a time when there were less people interested in travel because of 9/11. In fact, a lot of people had told Henderson that his idea was not going to work, but he had the vision to go ahead by building a true home based business combined with the membership aspect. Therefore, he was able to establish a strong foothold in the travel industry before others who came later.

According to Henderson, Pro Travel Network is enjoying tremendous growth. People started taking notice when stories about successful travel agents are heard like those of Cora Lacsamana and Marlon Esperon.



Marlon Esperon with Paul Henderson

Lacsamana used to work two jobs, which she gave up and worked full time with Pro Travel. She earned half a million dollars during her first year. What is amazing about her case is that she has had no prior experience in networking. Marlon Esperon had just arrived in Canada and was working as an alarm installer before joining Pro Travel Network. He also quit his job to work full time in the travel business. He was able to make over \$300,000 in his first year. It was Esperon who recruited Lacsamana. Henderson said that the direction of his company changed as a result of the successful stories of people like Lacsamana and Esperon. Instead of expanding into Europe, Pro Travel will now focus more on Asia but will first establish an office in Australia to strengthen its English speaking foothold and then will go straight into Asia, particularly China and Southeast Asia which includes the Philippines. Besides its main office in Fresno California, it has three offices in Canada – Toronto, Ontario, St. Jerome in Quebec, and currently finalizing an office lease in Vancouver, British Columbia. The support staff has now increased to 75 employees.

Networking is not a new idea but often times, people have misunderstood it. What is exactly the meaning of networking? Henderson said it would take more than a few minutes to explain it but he used the term "sorting" as a way of illustrating how people should look at it. He said

upset but just leave them alone. In his view, selling is personal because one gets upset when unable to make a sale.

Henderson, who hails from Los Angeles, California, was born on February 23, 1965. His parents have American-English-Irish-Indian roots. He is married to Jessica Lewis who hails from Seattle, Washington. They have a daughter. He says that his motivation is his desire to make the best product in the travel business, or to be the best in the industry. His company is constantly engaged in projects after projects in search of better suppliers, better commissions,



Paul Henderson with his wife and daughter

easier access, and better training modules. Pro Travel Network is a publicly listed company, and stocks are being traded under the name PTVL. Some of its top travel agents have already bought a lot of stocks in the company and they also advise others to do likewise before prices go up.

A Canadian blitz campaign is currently on. Henderson came to Montreal last May 10, and will be back on June 22, 2008.

For those who are interested to



Some members of the Montreal delegation pose for souvenir after the awards ceremony

that sorting is a way of selecting those who will be good at doing networking as a business. It is like going into business with those you share a common vision, or commitment to succeed in business. Those who do not share the same vision and who do not want to believe in the same thing as you do, you do not have to get

find out more about Pro Travel Network, they can attend free seminars every Tuesday in French and Thursday in English at 7:30 P.M., at Hotel Ruby Foo's on 7655 Decarie Boulevard, Montreal.

From Page 1 TOFA AWARD

awarded her a plaque of appreciation.

A quiet and unassuming person, Zenaïda Ferry-Kharroubi finds it hard to speak about her accomplishments. It takes a while before one can find out what she has done but one record speaks for itself - she is known to be the first Filipino to open a private college in Quebec. Her own experience as a student in four different universities and teacher in the public schools in Quebec was one of the reasons why she chose to open her own business in education. She believes that education is the only way we can effect change in society. She established Gilmore Business Institute on November 1, 1989 but it is now renamed as Gilmore International College because of the many foreign students attending courses in learning a second language and international trade.

She was born in Manila, Philippines and lived with her parents, the late Domingo S. Ferry and Filomena Aldana, in San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City. She was the only child until her parents adopted a baby girl when she was 15 years old. She grew up under very strict rules and had learned to work early in life, starting at age 16. She said she now realizes that the strict discipline she received from her parents gave her the motivation to be self-sufficient and to work hard. In fact, she had always been a working student for many years but in spite of her busy schedule, she managed to teach catechism on Sundays at the church near her home in Quezon City. She also worked during weekends in dressmaking although she already had a job as secretary, first at the Lions Club of Manila where she worked for seven years and then at Botica de Santa Cruz, a pharmaceutical and drug manufacturing company.

Due to the fact she could not attend the day school in the UP Diliman campus after high school, she first enrolled at Far Eastern University so that she could work during the day. She was offered a job by the treasurer of the Lions Club of Manila as a result of her winning a gold medal in a stenography competition at the Central Institute of Technology where she took a vocational course for six months during her senior year in high school. Then, she moved on to be department executive secretary for a German manager of Botica De Santa Cruz where she worked from 1963 to 1965.

Two years after obtaining a B.A. degree in English literature from the University of the Philippines, she immigrated to Canada in October 1965. She never had a difficult time finding a job. She found a secretarial job within a week of her arrival in Canada. Prior to her teaching career, she worked as an executive secretary in three major companies - Underwriters Adjustment Bureau, an insurance business, Readers Digest, an American owned publishing company, and Canadian Pacific Railway in the telecommunications department.

In 1971, she resigned from her secretarial job to pursue an Education

Diploma course at McGill University. Immediately after obtaining an Education Diploma in 1972, she was hired as a high school teacher with the Montreal Catholic School Commission and taught for 25 years before retiring in 1997.

While working as a high school teacher, she went back to university to finish a TESL certificate (teaching English as a second language) in 1979, and then enrolled in the graduate school of education, obtaining an M.A. degree in Educational Studies, Philosophy option from Concordia University in 1995. She also studied Financial and Management Accounting in McGill University and some courses in Business Administration from Concordia University.

"Wearing many hats", or doing many things at the same time seems to be a natural thing for her. Due to her hectic schedule for being a wife, mother, student and a teacher, she did not have time left to get involved with community activities before her early retirement in 1997. However, as soon as she accepted one volunteer position, she received many more requests for her services. She was press relations officer of the Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society from 1996 to 1998, then vice-president from 1998 to 2000. At the same time, she was the chairman of La Liga Rizalista in 1998 to 1999, and secretary of the Philippine Centennial Movement, Montreal Chapter. She was also the Vice-President of the Quebec Association of Filipino-Canadian Teachers from 1996 to 1998, and communication director of the Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebec for 4 years from 2002 to 2006. In 2003, she became a group commissioner of Scouts Canada, having formed the first Filipino Canadian Scout Group named "Laging Handa 0592, under the Quebec Council of Scouts Canada.

It was not her plan to be involved in publishing a newspaper but it seemed as if she was destined to find an outlet for her love of writing. She took over a community newspaper that had closed down after 16 years. Within a few years, she turned it around and made it profitable enough. Since April 1998, she has been editing and publishing the North American Filipino Star. Steadily increasing in popularity, the newspaper has enough advertisers to cover its printing costs and other expenses. Being the editor and publisher, she has been invited to many press conferences in Montreal, Quebec City and Ottawa. She says that one of the perks of the newspaper business is the privilege of interviewing different kinds of people. As she enjoys what she is doing, she does not mind working long hours, even until the wee hours of the morning to meet press deadlines. Moreover, she feels that she is fulfilling her objective of providing an important community service.

As if she does not have enough to do, she offered her help to the first Filipino Solidarity Cooperative in Quebec when it started having financial troubles in August 2006. Not only did she help establish its accounting system, she also helped

obtain a credit line with a bank in order to keep the store open. The Coop's store would have closed for lack of cash flow if she did not take the risk of guaranteeing the credit line which is secured against her own collateral. Believing that the Coop is an important symbol of community solidarity, she does not stop campaigning to recruit new Coop members. She devotes a column in her newspaper to write the news about the Cooperative in order to keep everyone informed.

Her latest preoccupation is about working on a license to offer the Professional Integration Program to foreign graduates of nursing. Many of her students taking language courses are caregivers who have university degrees in nursing, education, engineering, and other healthcare fields but because of not being accredited by the professional bodies, they are unable to practice their professions. She wants to make a difference by making it possible for these people to get the proper orientation and integration courses that will make them acquire the necessary license to practice their professions. She also plans to establish a student exchange program with universities in the Philippines. If she succeeds in having the program approved by the Quebec Ministry of Education, she will be selecting carefully the first group of students in order to make sure that they all succeed in passing the licensing examinations. Hopefully, she expects to finish preparations for this program for next school year in September 2009, perhaps, just in time before the 20th anniversary of Gilmore International College, which she plans to celebrate in an upscale venue.

What will be her next project? Nobody can tell but one thing is certain. She has a dream that the school she founded will one day

become an institution of higher learning. She has already started working towards that goal by collaborating with universities in other countries. In 2001, she signed an agreement with the Nantong Teachers College in China to offer the International Trade Program. She also signed an agreement with a university in Tunisia for future collaboration. She believes that one day Gilmore International College could be Gilmore University. But before this happens, she would like to have a branch or extension in other selected cities like Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. as soon as her pilot project in Montreal becomes successful. At present, she already has been sending nursing aide graduates to work in long term care institutions in Quebec.

Other TOFA awardees from Montreal are:

1995 = Leticia Bulotano-Wheeler
1996 = Dr. Jack Aranda
1997 = Dr. Gene Santander
1998 = Alvin D. Veloso
2004 = Editha Fedalizo
2006 = Felicidad Rosales-Carino
2007 = Marlene Birao-Schacter
1. Amb. Philippe J. Lhuillier - Albania, Italy; 2. Dr. Francis Talangbayan - Penn Valley, Pennsylvania; 3. Bob Dacanay - Falls Church, Virginia; 4. Daniel Raul Teodoro - New York, New York
5. Rosita Villanueva Lee - Las Vegas, Nevada; 6. Dr. Edmundo Relucio - Coal City, Illinois; 7. Dr. Jun Quion - McLean, Virginia; 8. Dolores Ortal - Honolulu, Hawaii; 9. Dr. Mariano Asperilla - Port Charlotte, Florida; 10. Dr. Eusebio Kho - Scottsburg, Indiana 11. Dr. Eddie Calderon - Minneapolis, Minnesota
12. Dr. Carmencita Fulgado - Jamaica, New York. The list is obviously not yet complete as traditionally, 20 awardees are selected yearly.

Filipino-Canadian Tennis Association of Montreal (Since 1980)

Place: Kent Park Tennis Court, corner of Appleton and Hudson St. at C.D.N.

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon every other Saturday.

Dates: Starting June 7 and 21

July 5 and 19

Aug. 2, 16 and 30

Sept. 13 (End of the Season)

For further information, please call, Bob Araneta, - Tel. (450) 969-5980 or (514) 297-6570, Luis Sarasola - Tel. (514) 798-5839, Tony Vargas (514) 626-7569 or the P.R.O., Reuben T. Santos with Tel. (514) 525-0355

SPACE FOR RENT

Office/Showroom/Business

Plamondon Metro

375 sq. ft. to 3,000 sq. ft.

Galleria Management Corporation

514-738-1166

TOURISM

ALBAY

PROVINCE

*Land Of The World's
Most Perfect Cone*



Our Lady of The Gate Church, Daraga, Albay - The beautiful spanish era stone church of Daraga that is entirely made of volcanic rocks constructed by the locals. An elevated place, it affords great views of the volcano.

The Albay province is a paradise located in the Bicol Region of the Philippines, 460km south of Manila. Albay is home to the spectacular **Mayon Volcano**, the region's crown jewel and one of the great wonders of the world. Only one hour away is the natural habitat of the fascinating Whale Sharks in **Donsol**, an amazing interactive eco-experience for the

whole family.

During the exploration of Juan de Salcedo in 1573, the province and its neighboring areas were known as 'Ibalon'.

A small settlement by a mangrove swamp was a town called Albaybay (meaning "by the bay"). The town was first renamed Albay, then Legazpi, as Albay went on to refer to the province.

Cagsawa ruins church tower - Today, only the belfry remains as a mute testimony of Mayon's unpredictable fury and devastating strength.

Agriculture dominates most of Albay's land area. Their major products include coconut, rice, abaca and corn. The province is also rich in mineral deposits like gold, copper, iron, mercury and deposits of coal, marble, ceramic clay, perlite, silica, guano and phosphates. Lying around the province is a mass of fishing grounds that contain a selection of fish species

like scad, tuna, siganid, anchovy and mackarel. Aside from farming and fishing industries, the Albaynons are good in handicraft making. Some of their famous products are **Sinamay and Pinolpog**, fabrics woven from abaca hemp and the mats made from pandan.

Bicolano cuisine is famous for its rich and spicy dishes, which are



Mayon Volcano, otherwise known as the perfect cone volcano

mostly cooked using coconut milk called gata and spiced with a very hot, local variety of chili called siling labuyo. Well known Bicolano specialties are Bicol Express (a very hot dish cooked in coconut milk with green chilies), Pinangat (fish or shrimp wrapped in gabi or yam leaves and cooked in coconut milk), Laing (gabi leaves and stalks boiled into a stew with ginger, chili and coconut milk) and Ginataang Langka (young jackfruit stewed in coconut milk with shrimp paste called bagoong).

Legazpi, the capital of Albay Province, is best known for its surrounding attractions, in particular, the majestic Mayon Volcano. Mayon is world renowned for its perfectly symmetrical cone, which billows smoke daily, a reminder that the volcano still erupts at frequent intervals. The buried remains of **Cagsawa**, with only the church steeple still standing, are proofs of the strong powers of this beautiful, but dangerous wonder of nature.

Historical sites found in the province are the Battle of Legazpi Trylon, Jose Ignacio Paua Monument, Old Albay, Simeon Ola Monument, Guinobatan and the Andres Bonifacio monument in Sto. Domingo. The National Museum in Cagsawa contains geological finds from Mayon.

Notable ancient churches include **Our Lady of the Gate** in **Daraga**, St. John the Baptist in Camalig and St. Rose in Bacacay.

Albay is filled with many natural wonders and notable attractions in the area include the **Hoyop-Hoyopan**, **Calibidongan and Pototan Caves**, the surfing beach at Sto. Domingo and also **Misibis Island**, a paradise for beach lovers, artists, and nature lovers and an ideal place to enjoy swimming and discover the exotic marine life underneath; **Busay Falls** and the **Tiwi Hot Springs**; San Miguel and **Rapu-Rapu Islands** are among the lesser known, but unspoiled dives sites in the country.

Mayon Volcano: The world's most perfect cone, Mayon Volcano has a height of 2,242 meters (8,189 feet) and a base of 10 kilometers embracing several towns. Her name was derived from the Bikol word "Magayon," which literally means beautiful. The peak, likened to the legendary beauty Daragang Magayon, is often concealed by clouds urging first-time visitors to stay longer to admire her charm.

Albay also celebrates its own festivities. The Karangahan Festival is celebrated in May is a grand Albayano celebration as an expression of wealth brought about by a good harvest. Katalingkasan Festival, held every July 21-25, is celebrated in conjunction with the town fiesta of Libon. Bicol Food Festival is a feast of the famous Bicol cuisine. Bancathon is a water sport activity participated in by fisherman from the different municipalities of Albay. ■



Local handicraft store, daraga, albay - Curtains & hanging lamps made from seashells, ball lamps from abaca twine, native fans & hand bags made of "sinamay" cloth, a material woven from fibers of a maguey plant (pineapple family).



The town of Tiwi, in Albay province, is known for their exquisite pottery.



Sleeping Lion Hill - Kapuntukan Hill is called so because its contour and shape are like a sleeping lion, lying a kilometer away from the busy Legazpi pier. Atop this hill affords viewers to relish the beautiful vista of the entire city of Legazpi and the neighboring municipalities as far as the town of Manito and the alluring islands of Rapu-Rapu.



5200A COTE-DES-NEIGES
MONTREAL QC H3T 1X8
514-489-6968
viavoyage@time.ca

Time Sensitive Worldwide Travel

Asian Travel Specialists

EVENING & WEEKEND SERVICE AVAILABLE
WEST ISLAND PICK UP & DELIVERY

New Service:

METRO REMITTANCE
CENTER INCORPORATED
An Affiliate of **METROBANK PHILIPPINES**

MONEY REMITTANCE SERVICE TO THE PHILIPPINES
SIGN UP FOR YOUR CUSTOMER PROFILE NOW
514-489-6968
SERBISYO PILIPINO EXT 114
MAAASAHAN, GARANTISADO
A.V.V. AGENCY VIA VOYAGE DIV. Time Sensitive Express Systems Inc.

TAWAG NA!

IATA

Quebec

Philippine rice crisis due to bad policies, not Japan to send rice to Philippines in emergency relief shortage: economist

May 20, 2008

The rice crisis affecting the Philippines is not caused by a shortage of rice but due to bad policies that have hurt the agriculture sector, a leading economist said in a report released Wednesday.

"The so-called rice crisis is really an income crisis," said Rolando Dy, executive director of the food division of the Manila-based University of Asia and the Pacific.

here, the only food they can afford is a mound of rice and some catsup (tomato sauce)," he said.

The Philippines could raise productivity but it had not properly invested in agriculture or its support infrastructure like irrigation and farm-to-market roads, Dy said.

He said the government was investing little in research and development, building sub-standard rural roads and not putting enough

May 19, 2008

Japan plans to send 200,000 tons of rice from its stockpile of imported rice as emergency exports to the Philippines, Kyodo News agency reported Monday.

The Philippines -- the world's top rice importer -- has been struggling to secure sufficient rice supplies in the face of soaring commodity prices.

Prices of rice and other food staples have been rising rapidly around the world, sparking violent protests in Haiti and Egypt along with concerns of unrest elsewhere amid profiteering and hoarding.

The Japanese agriculture ministry has not decided on the details of the rice shipment to the Philippines, including whether it should be given as aid or provided at current prices, according to Kyodo.

Under the Uruguay Round global trade agreement, Japan is obligated to import at least 770,000 tons of rice annually for domestic consumption. The country has been considering tapping into its stockpile of imported rice -- much of it from the United States -- to help countries with shortages.

Japan and the U.S. are scheduled to hold talks later this month about Japan's rice proposal for the Philippines. The U.S. is widely expected to approve the emergency relief plan.

Japan is also expected to export 50,000 tons of rice to the Philippines from another stockpile of rice the government bought in 2005 to address a surplus. ■

Palace admits its hands tied on controlling fuel price hikes

May 24, 2008

Malacañang admits that except for having oil firms "pace" their increases, it is helpless in controlling the runaway hike in the prices of fuel products.

Anthony Golez Jr, deputy presidential spokesman, on Saturday said the Philippines was in no position to influence, much less dictate, the prices of fuel.

"Sa presyo ng krudo o langis, 'yan ay isang bagay na mahihirapan ang bansa. Hindi tayo maka-dictate o makasabi ng hinaing natin dahil tayo ay dependent sa krudo (When it comes to prices of diesel or gas, that is something we cannot do anything about. We cannot dictate or even express our protest over high prices because our industries are dependent on fuel)," he said on government-run dzRB radio.

He said the only thing government could do "is to convince" oil firms to "pace" their hikes. "Nakikiusap tayo (para) mabigyan ng pacing (We talk to them to pace their hikes)."

Three oil companies — Total Philippines, Eastern Petroleum and

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp — raised their pump prices early Saturday, the 12th time this year.



A gasoline station in Manila. Crude oil prices rallied beyond 133 dollars on Friday, close to record highs reached this week on concerns that global output will not satisfy rising demand for energy, traders said.

The price adjustment came a day after the government said that it would bring down to zero the tariff on oil imports on June 1 due to skyrocketing world oil prices. ■



Children carry lower-priced, government-subsidised rice bought from a store in Manila

He blamed "under-investment in agriculture and infrastructure, a poor record in eliminating poverty (and) poor infrastructure quality," for the crisis which has forced thousands of poor Filipinos to line up for hours for subsidised rice.

"We cannot reap what we did not sow. We failed in reducing rural poverty compared to other countries," like China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, he said.

The Philippines is one of the world's biggest rice importers and does not enjoy large contiguous land areas with large river systems that allow China, India, Vietnam and Thailand to grow huge amounts of rice, Dy conceded.

But he said other countries which are more dependent on imported rice, like Malaysia and Singapore did not have long queues for rice and were not suffering from the crisis as badly as the Philippines.

Dy said that rice consumption in the Philippines was so high because much of its population was still poor and could afford to eat nothing else.

"There are so many poor people

irrigation into potential growth areas like the southern region of Mindanao.

Dy also complained that an agriculture modernisation law that took effect in 2000 was not getting adequate funding.

Graft and corruption also hurt the agriculture sector with rural infrastructure being built to poor standards.

The rice crisis might even be a blessing in disguise because it "will spur production and even investments," in agriculture which will have a positive effect in the long run, Dy said.

But he said the rice issue is "a problem not just of the executive branch... it is a problem of the legislative and judiciary," as well.

Dy said that there is likely to be "some correction in rice prices in the next 12 months but not dramatically," remarking that world rice prices will not return to levels seen in 2006. ■

**Philippine Independence Ball
Friday, June 13, 2008 - 6 p.m.
PALACE
1717 Lecorbussier
north of St. Martin, Laval, QC**



A follow-up to this course is the PDSB (proper lifting techniques) to be organized soon. More information to be announced later.

CPR COURSE

Sunday, June 15, 2008

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Instructor:

Mitch Katz-Zeitlin

QHSE CPR instructor and co-owner of Urgences Reanimation
Organized by

Gilmore International College

Call 514-485-7861 to register.

All PSW (P.A.B.) graduates and other interested individuals are invited to register in this course

Space limited - Please register early by June 10 (deadline) to determine venue of the course.

Tuition fees are tax deductible.

June 9 declared a non-working holiday

May 28, 2008

Malacañang on Wednesday declared June 9, a Monday, a non-working holiday in commemoration of the country's Independence Day.

In a statement, Deputy Presidential Spokesman Lorelei Fajardo said that the commemoration of the Independence Day - which is traditionally celebrated on June 12 - will be moved to June 9.

Fajardo, however, noted that Independence Day activities and celebrations will still be done on June 12.

Under the administration's

Embassy warns against illegal match-makers luring filipinas to South Korea

May 18, 2008

The Philippine Embassy in Seoul, South Korea, has warned against illegal matchmaking agencies after learning that some Filipina women married South Korean men through illegal match-making agencies, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said in a statement posted on its website Sunday.

The DFA quoted Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Luis Cruz as saying in a report these agencies act as a front for mail-order brides amidst reports that the South Korean government is set to crack down on inter-racial matchmaking agencies that violate local laws and use deceptive advertising.

"The Philippine Embassy reminds the public of Philippine Republic Act 6955 or the Anti-Mail-Order Bride Law, which makes it illegal for a 'person,

"holiday economics," holidays - except those that are religious in nature - would have to be moved to the nearest Monday unless otherwise modified by a law or presidential order.

"By Proclamation No. 1463, please be advised that Independence Day will be observed on June 9, Monday and is hereby declared as a non-working holiday," Fajardo said.

"All activities and celebrations in commemoration of observed Independence Day shall, however, remain to be observed on June 12," she added. ■

natural or juridical, association, club or any other entity' to 'establish or carry on a business which has for its purpose the matching of Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals either on a mail-order basis or through personal introduction," Cruz was quoted as saying.

He also noted that the law makes it illegal for anyone "to advertise, publish, print or distribute or cause the advertisement, publication, printing or distribution of any brochure, flier, or any propaganda material calculated to promote the prohibited acts" earlier mentioned.

Further amendments include its applicability to mail-order bride schemes using "mails or websites in the Internet," he added.

While matchmaking agencies are considered legal in South Korea, the South Korean law requires these

agencies to be registered and to be aware of issues concerning inter-racial marriages and ethics, said the ambassador.

Cruz said some Filipinas enter South Korea through marriages arranged through these matchmakers. Many of them are lured by promises of

work or a better life.

"As of Jan. 31, 2008, approximately 5,000 Filipinos married to South Koreans reside in the peninsula, some of whom met their respective spouses through matchmaking agencies," Cruz said. ■

Jubilant golfer Murakami earns US Open slot

May 27, 2008

Artemio Murakami of the Philippines was celebrating on Tuesday after earning his ticket to this year's US Open, where he will make his Majors debut.

Murakami birdied the last to clinch one of two berths, alongside Australian veteran Craig Parry, in the 36-hole qualifier at Ibaraki Country Club in Osaka, Japan.

"I'm looking forward to my first US Open at Torrey Pines, where I have played many times previously when I was a junior," said the 24-year-old.

"My goal today was to avoid bogeys. But I missed putts from seven feet on the 15th and 17th holes and to be honest, I was ready to give up after those two bogeys. So I am really happy to make birdie at the last hole to get a spot."

Murakami, winner of last year's Iskandar Johor Open in Malaysia on the Asian Tour, carded matching rounds of three-under-par 69 to share top spot with Parry. A total of 12 players teed up for the two berths.


Former Asian Tour number one Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand missed out on a top-two spot by one stroke after rounds of 69 and 70 and earned second alternate status via a play-off.



Artemio Murakami of the Philippines was celebrating on Tuesday after earning his ticket to this year's US Open, where he will make his Majors debut.

Reigning Asian merit champion Liang Wen-chong of China shot rounds of 69 and 72 to finish three shots outside the qualifying mark while Thailand's Prayad Marksang withdrew after an opening 72.


The year's second Major takes place at Torrey Pines, San Diego from June 12-15. ■



**CENTRE FUNÉRAIRE
CÔTE-DES-NEIGES**

PEACE C

IS AN EVERLASTING



***Our mission is to acknowledge
and respect the needs and
traditions of each individual family***

Centre funéraire Côte-

**RESTAURANT
LA MAISON NEW KUM MON**

**6565 Cote des Neiges,
Montreal, QC (Corner Appleton)**

**5047 Henri Bourassa Est
Montréal, QC H1G 2S1
Tel.: (514) 322-3133, 322-3130**

Bean Curd Seafood Soup 1/2 Crispy Chicken Salt and Pepper Pork Loin Stuffed Bean Curd with Shrimps Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables Steamed Rice \$37.95 4 Persons	Fish Maw Seafood Soup Baked Lobster with Ginger Seafood with Chinese Broccoli Salt and Pepper Cuttle Fish Fried Sea Bass Fish Steamed Rice \$58.95 4 Persons
Bean Curd Soup 1/2 Crispy Chicken Shrimp Cake with Chinese Broccoli Sweet and Sour Pork Seafood with Bean Curd in Hot Pot Salt and Pepper Squid Fried Sea Bass Fish Steamed Rice \$63.95 6 Persons	Fish maw seafood soup 2 Baked Lobsters with Ginger Seafood with Eggplant in Hot Pot Stuffed Bean Curd with Shrimp Seafood with Chinese broccoli Fried Sea Bass Fish House Fried Rice Special Fried Noodles \$125.95 10 Persons

FREE DELIVERY
Minimum order of \$10
Delivery hours:
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

514-733-6029
514-733-1067
For party menu, call Kenny

The Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Travel agents from across Canada pose for souvenir of the "Pirates" farewell party by Pro Travel Network in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, May 4, 2008



Fred Herzog of Stealth Travel Inc, Perris, CA, and Connie Raz, from Calgary, AB, both NTDs (National Trainer Directors) received the top award this quarter from Pro Travel Network President Paul Henderson (on the extreme right).



"Gilmore Girls": relaxing during the tulips festival in Ottawa, May 18, 2008



Members of the "Vigie Asiatique" visit FAMAS (Filipino Canadian Association of Montreal and Suburbs, May 20, 2008, headed by Marc Parent.



Gilmore International College students and their friends at the Tulips Festival, May 18, 2008



The Laging Handa Scout family posing in front of the Parliament Building, May 18, 2008

MAG-SUBSCRIBE NA PARA MASUBAYBAYAN ANG Paboritong Teleseryes at Variety Shows ng TFCko in 2008!



ANG PINAKAHINTAY
NA BAGONG TELESERYES



KIDDIE FUN TO THE MAX



Buy One Take One FREE!
Get 2 For Only
\$146
Hurry!
Limited Offer Only!
*Plus taxes



ANG PAVORITO NIYONG
MUSICAL VARIETY SHOWS



Authorized TFCko Dealers

PINOY PROGRAMS INC.

Rosemarie & Paul Zagala
514-543-8291 / 514-346-3794
respulin@yahoo.ca

Sariling Atin Restaurant, Dorie & Tirso
514-731-0638
dorie_francisco@yahoo.ca

Flavia Pe
514-513-6229

Mariz Restaurant, Robert Matue
514-940-2872
rmatue@hotmail.com



TFC on Demand



Crispy "Pata" or Fried Pork Leg



Crispy Pata Recipe

Preparation & drying: 4 hours to 1 day
Estimated cooking time: 20 minutes

Crispy Pata Ingredients:

- * 1 Pata (front or hind leg of a pig including the knuckles)
- * 1 bottle of soda (7Up or sprite)
- * 1 tablespoon of salt
- * 2 tablespoons patis (fish sauce)
- * 1/2 tablespoon baking soda
- * 1 tablespoon of monosodium glutamate (MSG)
- * 4 tablespoons of flour
- * Enough oil for deep frying
- * Enough water for boiling

Crispy Pata Cooking Instructions:

- * Clean the pork pata by removing all hairs and by scraping the skin with a knife. Wash thoroughly.
- * Make four to five inch cuts on the sides of the pata.
- * On a deep stock pot, place the pata in water with soda and salt. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 minutes. Then add the baking soda and continue to simmer for another 10 minutes.
- * Remove the pata from the pot and hang and allow to drip dry for 24 hours. An alternative to this is to

thoroughly drain the pork pata and refrigerate for a few hours.

* After the above process, rub patis on the pata and sprinkle flour liberally.

* In a deep frying pot, heat cooking oil and deep fry the pork pata until golden brown.

Crispy Pata Dip Sauce:
Mix 3/4 cup of vinegar, 1/4 cup soy sauce, 2 cloves of crushed garlic, 1 head of diced onion and 1 hot pepper. Salt and pepper to taste.

Lumpiang Ubod Spring Rolls



INGREDIENTS:

FILLING: 3 tablespoons vegetable or corn oil 1 tablespoon finely minced garlic 1/2 cup finely minced onion

2 cups hearts of palm, cut julienne-style 1/2 pound deveined, shelled shrimp (minced) 1/2 pound boiled pork, sliced thin (1/8 by 1/8-inch pieces)

1 cup green beans, sliced julienne-style salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

WRAPPERS: 3 eggs
2 tablespoons vegetable or corn oil
1 cup cornstarch 1/2 teaspoon salt
14 lettuce leaves 1-1/2 cups water 1 cup finely crushed peanuts

SAUCE: 1/2 cup sugar 2 cups water
3 tablespoons soy sauce

3-1/2 teaspoons salt 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground pepper 2 tablespoons cornstarch

FILLING: Saute garlic and onion in oil. When garlic browns and onion becomes transparent, add hearts of palm and cook until tender. Stir in shrimp and pork. Cook until tender. Add green beans and simmer for 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

2 **WRAPPERS:** Beat eggs

thoroughly; add oil. Stir in cornstarch and salt until dissolved. Add water and mix well. heat omelet pan and pour in a thin coating of batter to make egg roll. set aside. Repeat

until you have made 14 or more wrappers.

4 Lay out the spring roll wrappers on a flat surface. Place a lettuce leaf extending over border of wrapper. Add 3

tablespoons of filling. Roll and fold one end. Leave the other end open to show the lettuce leaf. Serve without further cooking, garnished with sauce and crushed peanuts (brush sauce on egg roll and sprinkle with crushed peanuts).

5 **SAUCE:** Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, over high heat until the sauce thickens. Let cool.



Hours:
Mon.-Tues. Wed. 8 AM-5 PM
Thursday -Friday 8 AM-6 PM
Saturday 8 AM-5 PM
Closed on Sundays.

Fill up your freezer for the summer season.

Pork loin
Approximately 15 lbs

2.19 lb

Half or Whole pork
Cut & Wrapped

1.39 lb

Home smoked meat

8.49 lb

Fresh Belly with skin

2.99 lb

Beef Blade steak

2.99 lb

Front quarter of beef
Approximately 200 lbs

1.89 lb

Pork Spare Ribs

2.29 lb

Beef short ribs

2.99 lb

Picnic ham (with bone)

0.99 lb

Boneless leg of ham

3.79 lb

1 litre of fresh blood with purchase 1/2 pork

Regular smoked bacon

4.79 lb

10 lbs & over

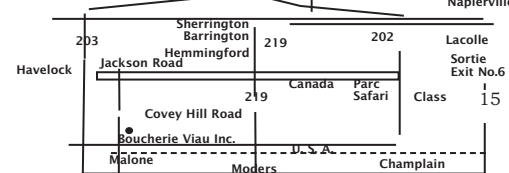
4.69 lb

St.Chrysostome St. Remi St. Edouard

Napierville

- Fresh pork blood
- Fresh bacon
- Fresh liver
- Pork skin

Available



83 Covey Hill, Hemmingford QC J0L 1H0
Tel.: (450) 247-2130 or (450) 247-3561

Dental Clinic

Dr. Rosario Ambayec, D.D.S.
Chirurgien Dentiste / Dental Surgeon

Comprehensive Gentle Dental Care for The Whole Family



- > Open Tuesday to Saturday.
- > Days & Evenings.
- > By appointment, Accept emergencies.
- > Free parking for your convenience.

(514) 731-6479

3535 Côte Ste. Catherine, Suite 1, Montreal, Quebec H3T 1C7
(corner Côte des Neiges)

ENTREPRISES
ED-DUMANDAN
ENTREPRISES

ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES

- Karaoke, Laser & Organ
- Sound System with Dancing Lights
- Video Services & Editing

- Airport Services Dorval & Mirabel
- Lipat Bahay Moving
- Projector

6460 McLynn Ave.
Montreal, Que. H3X 2R4
Tel. (514) 342-4100
Cell. (514) 891-0342
E-Mail: eddumandan@gmail.com

DUMANDAN ENTERPRISES

COMMUNITY NEWS

Filipino Artists Invited To Submit Entries For The Biggest Filipino Art Exhibit in Midwest

French-speakers.

In the case of the Province of Q The 2008 Beyond the Barrelman exhibition of modern Filipino art is now accepting submissions for its month-long showcase of artworks by Filipino artists from around the U.S., the Philippines and the world. The exhibition is scheduled for September 2008, at the Mercury Cafe Gallery, in Chicago.

Submission guidelines, entry forms and additional event details are available at BeyondTheBarrelman.com. The deadline for applications is

August 5, 2008. However, early jury selection of submitted artworks will begin June 20. Entries must be original paintings or photographic works executed after January 1, 2002.

The Beyond the Barrelman exhibition is a collaborative effort by three Filipino-American not-for-profit organizations: CIRCA/Pintig Theater Group, The Filipino American Network (FAN) and the Tahanan Cultural Group.

Through this exhibition, these Chicago-area groups seek to celebrate and support Filipino artists from throughout North America and the Philippines. The first Beyond the Barrelman exhibition was presented in 2005 and featured 72 artworks from 35 artists of Filipino descent. That inaugural exhibition was held at Chicago's ACME Gallery, with overflowing crowds attending both opening and closing receptions.

"Our mission for that first exhibition was to shine a spotlight on the creative talent of Filipino artists, both in the United States and abroad," said Amabel Delara, co-chair of the exhibition planning committee. "That same mission drives us today."

For the 2008 exhibition, the exhibition has moved to the much larger Mercury Cafe Gallery space in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood. The free opening reception will be held on Friday, September 5. The exhibition will close Sunday, September 28.

The exhibition accepts entries from any artist of Filipino descent at least 17 years old, regardless of current residence. Entries must be original works executed after January 1, 2002, and not have been previously submitted to the Beyond the Barrelman Exhibition.

The jury panel will have final authority to define what constitutes an acceptable entry. Artists will be notified via email or phone of the jury's decision. Unless otherwise instructed by the artist, the exhibition will encourage and promote the sale of the artists' works. During the first exhibition, almost one-fifth of the exhibited artwork was sold.

Although the coalition has been planning and preparing for the exhibition for almost a year, the

exhibition planning committee notes that there's still much to be done. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact RVillar@BeyondTheBarrelman.com or visit the exhibition website at www.BeyondTheBarrelman.com.

Contact: Rey Villar Jr.
RVillar@BeyondTheBarrelman.com

About CIRCA/Pintig

Pintig, meaning "pulse" in Filipino, was founded in April 1991, with a mission to serve as a voice of the Filipino American community by engaging in active cultural work—using art as a means to celebrate the community's rich history and culture. Pintig believes that a strong voice for the community can be developed through the cultural arts—powerful art with a progressive agenda. Pintig develops plays that interpret our Filipino American history and experiences, conduct educational and identity workshops for the community, and engage community members to challenge injustice rather than stand silent.

About the Filipino American Network (FAN)

The Filipino American Network is a not-for-profit organization that calls, challenges and supports Filipino American young adults by providing resources, connections and opportunities to enrich their lives, support their growth and deepen their self-awareness of our Filipino heritage. In addition to the art exhibition, FAN also hosts the Filipino American Film Festival and other events for Chicago's Filipino American community.

Rey Villar Jr.
ReyVillar@GMail.com
cell: 312.342.1574
fax: 312.604.1573

**Learn to speak
French the fast and
easy way.
Enroll at Gilmore
Call 514-485-7861**

ALTERNACARE
SERVICES DE SANTÉ

Alternacare, Montreal's pre-eminent health services provider since 1986, is proud to announce that we are putting our knowledge of the health care field at your disposal by offering a

NURSES' AIDE COURSE

Learn bedside nursing skills and patient care and receive certification in CPR, First Aid and PDSB. Class sizes are limited so call today for more information.

Nancy Pharo or Eve-lyne Taylor
Téléphone : 514-485-5050

LE GROUPE QUANTUM



From Page 15 Global Perspectives

Quebec, or the "Nation of Quebec" as some French-Canadians prefer, the situation appeared to be getting out-of-hand as outward emigration from Quebec reached 40,000 persons in a little over a year starting in 2005. Recently, two internationally acclaimed Quebec scholars, Charles Taylor, a philosopher and Gerard Bouchard, a historian and sociologist, co-chaired hearings into throughout Quebec that focused on the concept of how far the French-Canadian majority should go to make "reasonable accommodations". The Bouchard-Taylor advice to Quebecers is clear cut: "Update your vocabulary". Change the words you use because they have become narrow and legalistic, even condescending and because "reasonable accommodations" implies the majority is doing a favour by bending to the diversity around it. The main goal should be to protect minorities against the flaws in laws of the majority, and not the contrary. Alternative words like: adjustments, adaptations, or harmonization are suggested for use. And avoid the racist term "visible-minority" as well as the meaningless catchall "cultural-communities". The bottom line for the French-Canadian majority is to be inclusive, or risk losing ground to multicultural Canada, and of course losing ground in the international community. The growth rate of the French-Canadian population of

Quebec is insufficient to provide the human capital needed to sustain the economy and support social structures and services such as health and education, as the population ages and the "baby-boomers" retire.

There is now a shortage of human capital in Canada that looms as a darkening shadow over the prosperity of all. A two-pronged approach is needed to better manage human capital by making better use of underutilized resources in Canada and by improving the integration of new arrivals from abroad as and when they arrive. In that regard there is a new initiative underway with the Canadian Center for Global Professionals that was recently created by "immigrant-professionals" who are dedicated to improving the match between professionals and employers through competency based teaching-learning programs that would be "made in Canada".

Also deserving of mention, yet again, is Gilmore College, International, in Montreal, established 19 years ago by Filipino-Canadian, Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi, offering continuing education and special opportunities for immigrants to receive job-specific training to gain employment and advancement in the Canadian workforce. This is a resource not to be overlooked.

**Advertise in the North
American Filipino Star
Call 514-485-7861**

DR. EMILIA ESPIRITU

CHIRURGIEN DENTISTE / DENTAL
SURGEON

5790 COTE DES NEIGES RD.
SUITE A-024
MONTREAL, QUEBEC
H3S 1Y9

PHONE: 514-340-8222 (4077)
E-Mail: dr_e_pin@yahoo.ca



Angelito Ilagan

Dicel Trust
CORAZON MONEY EXPRESS AFFILIATED

ANGELITO ILAGAN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Includes:

**RRSP Loan
RESP (Family Educational Plan
Investment
Mortgage Insurance
First Time Home Buyers Plan
Life Insurance**

MONEY REMITTANCE/PADALAHAN NG PERA
MATAAS ANG PALIT
NAKA INSURED ANG PERANG PADALA

PICKUP SERVICE: WEST ISLAND &
MONTREAL AREA

Tel.: 514-697-8106
(514)882-9626
E-mail: april586@hotmail.com

We would like to remind you to be diligent to comply with the requirements for FINTRAC and to guard our company against Money laundering. Any transactions with missing information will not be processed.

**OPEN NA SA WEST ISLAND!!!
Mapagkakatiwalaan
Service Fee: \$10 - Manila
\$12 - Provinces**

Loss of Filipino rice crops was stoppable

May 18, 2008

The ongoing loss of rice crops throughout the Philippines at the hands of a growing insect horde could have been prevented, researchers say.

International Rice Research Institute researchers say they could have created rice varieties that would have been resistant to brown plant hoppers, but budget cuts by the Filipino government hindered their research. The New York Times reported Sunday.

Institute Director General Robert S. Zeigler said the budget cuts were due to the international stance that the world's food problems had finally

been under control.

"People felt that the world food crisis was solved, that food security was no longer an issue, and it really fell off the agenda," he told the Times.

Yet with East Asian rice crops now threatened with billions of the minuscule insects, global leaders have begun to finally take action.

The Times said the U.S. Congress has been asked for \$770 million to provide food aid to struggling global populations. Nonetheless, the United States has begun cutting funding to global research sites such as the rice institute that are aimed at improving crops in poor countries, the U.S. newspaper said. ■

Crusade vs gambling to go on, RP bishop vows

May 23, 2008

Despite the threat of a libel case still hanging over him, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz will remain a vocal critic of government, especially against gambling and graft.

While Cruz posted bail earlier this month, he insisted he is not afraid of being jailed, if only to expose what he called the "evils" of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"Not even the iron bars of prison can prevent me from continuing my crusade against both legal and illegal gambling, which is being promoted by this government," he said in a

statement posted Friday on the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines website.

Earlier, the Justice department revived libel charges filed against him by 20 Pagcor employees whom he described as "pitiful GROs" at a birthday party of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in 2004.

Cruz maintained he had no intention to offend the Pagcor employees, saying that he was even trying to defend them.

"This is their way of getting back against me," he said of the libel suit. ■

Lopez family retains control of Manila Electric

May 27, 2008

The Lopez family retained control of Manila Electric (Meralco), the Philippines' largest power utility, on Tuesday, defeating an attempt by a state pension fund to shake up management in a row over power rates.

Pension fund GSIS, which owns around 25 percent of Meralco, tried to wrest control of the group from the Lopez family by preventing the re-election of officers loyal to the clan at the company's annual meeting in Manila.

But Meralco's board shrugged off GSIS's attempt to halt proceedings and in a vote, which was delayed by at least 10 hours and marked by high turnout, the Lopez family retained majority control over the 11 person board.

"I feel great because we won and that is how it should be," said Oscar Lopez, chairman of First Philippine Holdings Corp., a holding firm of the Lopez family, which owns 33 percent of Meralco.

"It was a diabolical plan of Winston," he told Reuters.

Winston Garcia, the head of GSIS, had led a campaign against the Lopez family's management of Meralco, arguing that it was not doing enough to bring down power rates.

Critics say Meralco buys power at high rates from Lopez-owned generating firms and does not do enough to prevent illegal tapping of electricity, the cost of which is passed on to consumers.

Dynasty

The Lopezes are one of the Philippines' most powerful dynasties with two power generation plants and geothermal firm PNOC EDC, as well as the country's biggest media firm, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., among their assets.

Meralco's stock has dived nearly 29 percent since late April, when GSIS started its moves against management. But the shares were unchanged at 63 pesos on Tuesday, while the main index was up 0.5 percent.

Some analysts and commentators say Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo instigated the GSIS campaign to lower power rates and appease business groups and customers facing rising bills for items from rice to fuel.

But palace officials and Garcia have denied any government involvement.

Philippine electricity rates are among the highest in Asia due to expensive deals with private power producers, the country's reliance on costly imported oil to generate electricity and widespread illegal tapping.

Meralco says it has to pay high prices for power bought from all generating firms, including those belonging to state-run National Power Corp, whose ageing facilities mean it costs more to produce energy. ■

Gilmore International College & the World Academy of Letters

are pleased to invite you to the "Writers Helping Writers" workshop

inter-active, multi-cultural, motivational

Your ideas should not remain locked up in your head - find a way to express them and feel fulfilled by doing so. This workshop will help you get started easily in the most interesting way. Find out the secret by attending this unique workshop which will start soon.

Who should attend:

People from all walks of life, fields and occupations - nurses, doctors, architects, engineers, clerks, secretaries, teachers, students - anyone who wants to live a fuller life.

Why you should attend:

Everyone has to write, whether you earn your living by writing or working for yourself or others, your ability to express yourself in English is absolutely essential. Since English has become the language of business around the world, mastering the art of writing and speaking is the key to your success in your personal and professional life. Learning to write well helps you win friends and influence people!

Gilmore International College
4950 Queen Mary Rd. Penthouse
Montreal, QC H3W 1X3

www.gilmorecollege.com

What they say about writing:

There's only one way to learn to write - read!
Every person who has the ability to read can learn how to write.
What do writers do? They write.
What do good writers do? They write and re-write.
What do excellent writers do? They write, re-write, re-write, re-write until they get it "right."

Proof of Attendance:

An attractive certificate and tax receipt will be given at the end of the workshop.
Proceedings will be videotaped. You may purchase a copy for your future reference.

NOTE:

In addition to establishing a writers' network, a public speaking course will be a follow-up to this workshop.

Schedule: May 16, 17, 18, 2008

Friday - 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Register by appointment - call 514-485-7861

Tuition Fee:

2 1/2 days seminar
\$495 tuition fees including taxes and materials.



Workshop Leaders



Isaac T. Goodine

BsC, B.Ed., C.Eng
International Speaker & Author
ELeaders Leading Leaders:
Resource Person, Transparency
International, Former Principal, Director
of Schools & Colleges, Human
Resources Development, Specialist,
Consultant, World Bank



Zenaida F. Kharroubi

B.A. English, M.A. Ed.
Studies
Diploma in Education, TESL
Founder & Director-General
Gilmore International College
Editor & Publisher,
North American Filipino Star
Group Commissioner, Scouts
Canada, Quebec Council
"Laging Handa" 0592



Isaac T. Goodine

Global Perspectives



Hyphenated Peoples

This Global Perspective was prompted by developments in three different countries that show how economic and political realities are reshaping cultures and changing how we view the world. This in turn, alters how we relate to other people at home and abroad. The three countries involved in this case



Susan and Claudia at age 5, Nairobi, 1984.

are:

(1) Kenya, where the aftermath of a contested election led to unexpected inter-tribal strife in an otherwise peaceful land; (2) Cayman Islands, where the "early settlers" are seeking to entrench their political power over those who have arrived over the last forty years by a change in the constitution that opponents see as "minority rule", and (3) Canada, where the term "visible-minority" was invented in the 1980s to define "persons, other than aboriginal persons, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour" and this has led to the term "Hyphenated-Canadians" and by 2006 the Census shows that about two-thirds of all Canadians are "hyphenated" when listing their Ethnic Heritage,

In Kenya, where my youngest daughter was born in 1984, (Picture) there were horrendous inter-tribal conflicts, following the recent general election and the conflict was uncharacteristic of the peaceful and

progressive country we knew and loved so well for so long. In any case many things have changed since the 1980s that are linked to global changes and population shifts illustrated by these three changing cultures. In Kenya, there have been three simultaneous explosions: population (doubling every 13 years); knowledge (the best education in Africa but unable to expand access as rapidly as the population); and expectations (once people gain knowledge through modern education their expectations are raised). Then, when we added access to the ballot box, it was not enough, as there was no corresponding access to the market place through jobs, either at home or abroad. While the population expanded the land did not and with only 23 percent of the land being classed as "arable" part of the inter-tribal conflict arose over encroachment of outsiders into traditional tribal territory and the distractions of quarrelling political leaders gave rise to the chaos.

In the Cayman Islands, where my wife and I have had links since 1983, (Picture) there are proposed changes in the Constitution that one local writer, Gordon Barlow, suggests equates to the entrenchment of "tribalism" because people are divided on ethnicity into two groups which he has dubbed the "Tribes of Cayman". They are, the ethnic Caymanians ("natives", "born & bred") and the first generation immigrants ("expats", "foreigners"). The first group is a normal coalition of family-clans, and has inherited a political monopoly from Great Britain through the Foreign & Commonwealth Office; and now the tribal Caymanians want to entrench their political position, constitutionally, because they were there first. There are grounds for concern that this would lead to increased tension and "inter-tribal" conflict as the population continues to grow through immigration needed to sustain the workforce. There are Expatriates from well over 100 countries now working in the Caymans and the largest contingent is represented by contract-workers from the Philippines, numbering about 2500.

In the case of the Cayman Islands, population too plays a significant part. In 1983, the population was about 20,000 and now it is about

62,000. Two thirds of the total are "non-Caymanian". It is among the most peaceful places in the Caribbean, without the historic burden of slavery, yet the present situation regarding the constitution does give rise for some concern because if the group described by Gordon Barlow as the Caymanian tribe prevails, they would entrench "minority-rule" because two-thirds of the present population would have no political standing and as the population continues to grow to the Expatriate component would be the most rapidly expanding. Mr. Barlow's article raises a good point. "Imagine if the first batch of settlers in Cayman had claimed permanent privileges over the next batch we must be glad they didn't. And, we ought to be sad that today's descendants of those earlier settlers insist on claiming permanent privileges over settlers of the past thirty or forty years".

Some similar elements of concern are at play in Canada.

Now for the global perspective on Canada's demographic changes



Claudia Goodine as UBC grad

witnessed by my generation; consider that the number of countries of origin for Canadians has gone from about 20 before the Second World War to over 200 countries today. In the Census of 2006 about one-third of the respondents claimed Canadian as their Ethnic heritage and the remaining 20 (plus) million are from other Ethnic Groups and have become "hyphenate-people". As they mix and match, marry and breed, the numbers of "hyphens"

increases as part of the cultural shifts that globalization has triggered. This is on an unprecedented scale and Canada is the only major country to even try to make this new social order work on a fair and just set of principles of human rights. No one said it would be easy. When Canada invented the term "visible-minority" it was done in good faith and was intended to protect the rights of the persons so defined and in 1981 the definition applied to just about 4 percent of all Canadians. The figure rose to a little over 16 percent overall by 2006; but the visible-minority population has been growing at a rate five times the rate of growth in the overall population, and since new-Canadians tend to congregate in selected urban areas they have become the majority in some places as a percentage share of the population. Following are some examples of this trend:

Markham, Ont. = 65.4%;
Richmond, B.C. = 65.1 %; Brampton, Ont. = 57 %, and Vancouver, B.C. = 51 %. The Country's largest city, Toronto, has already reached 47 % of its 5 million (plus) as new-Canadians and proportion is growing

Vancouver is Canada's third largest city and the "new-majority" is quite visibly made up of "hyphenated-people", many like Claudia Goodine, who is but one of a large and growing contingent of young people in the world. She has lived in, Africa, United States of America, the Philippines, Barbados, and Canada—so far.

Now a Vancouverite, Claudia was born in Kenya, and is a Canadian Citizen of English-Chinese-Irish-French (Acadian) Ancestry.

Montreal is the second largest city and is another special case because over 80 % of all immigrants to the Province of Quebec settle in the Metropolitan area where the Anglophone-Quebecers of long standing are an "audio-minority" experiencing some serious "tribal" issues of discrimination on language grounds alone, due to a Provincial Law (Bill 101) that makes it "unlawful" to use English in a variety of ways that impinge on the "sensibilities" of the

See Page 13 Global Perspectives

Magic Sing Karaoke

SPECIAL PROMOTION LIMITED TIME OFFER

Call Norman Sorono
Tel.: 514-744-5191
Cell: 514-297-4965
Montreal Distributor



**Model ED8000
or ED 9000**

FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Mom's the word for Lea Salonga



Jokingly, Lea Salonga tells the press gathered at the launch of her 30th anniversary concert "My Life ... Onstage" that the "baby factory is closed." It means two-year-old daughter Nicole Beverly won't have a younger sister or brother anytime soon because Lea's booked to do shows till October next year.

Apart from the two-night anniversary concert on May 23 and 24, she's also slated to lead the Asian tour of the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical "Cinderella," which will have its debut run at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) from July to August this year.

Next year, she's set to do shows in Las Vegas.

For now, it seems work and Nicole are more than enough to keep Mama Lea on her toes.

Prior to the launch, Lea juggled a makeup session, two interviews and playtime with the tot.

Inquirer Entertainment caught Lea and Nicole huddled in front of her MacBook; the TV fixed on a cartoon show on Disney Channel.

Lea has often said that her baby "runs her life," that motherhood has "altered" her perspective.

Nicole was born right after Mother's Day two years ago.

What's the highlight of your 30 years?

It definitely includes the very first time I stepped onstage at the CCP, for "The King and I," when I was 7 years old. It was then that I realized that I had no fear

of performing in front of people.

Did you ever imagine then that it would become your life's work?

When you're that young, becoming an actress is not something you necessarily think about. It didn't really occur to me. I wanted to be a lot of things: to be a psychiatrist or a doctor. I wanted a life outside of this business, but it seems that God has other plans for me.

Will you allow Nicole to follow in your footsteps?

I don't know. It's hard to say because a kid will be a kid and will always emulate other people. Today, she's emulating her ninong (Lea's brother Gerard Salonga) conducting an orchestra. Earlier (at the rehearsals), she was holding the baton. She also imitated the violinist. But she likes holding drumsticks, too. She can very well end up a musician and not necessarily become a celebrity. Which is fine by me.

According to her Lola Ligaya, she's not afraid of the mic.

It's really up to her. I'm not going to force her into doing something that she may not want for herself. I'm not going to pressure her: "You have to be a singer, like mommy." I wasn't forced to do this. It stands to reason that I wouldn't force my kid into it, either.

Dennis Trillo, Jennylyn Mercado celebrate birthdays

Dennis Trillo was more than happy to blow his birthday cake on Sunday with his loyal fans.

In a Chika Minute report on Monday, the matinee idol and young father decided to spend the eve of his birthday with his adoring fans whom he said have stayed with him through thick and thin.

Dennis had been hit by criticisms this year following his refusal to immediately admit to his lovechild with

beauty queen Carlene Aguilar as well as his rumored relationship with starlet Cristine Reyes.

Carlene and Cristine had a confrontation incident earlier this year that was caught-on-cam, apparently fighting over Dennis.

Meanwhile, the very pregnant Jennylyn Mercado received a surprise birthday party on the set of Startalk last Saturday when her friends from "Starstruck" batch 1 came to celebrate with her.

The teary-eyed young mother-to-be was greeted by Yasmine Kurdi, Rainer Castillo, Dion Ignacio, Alvin Aragon and ex-boyfriend Mark Herras.

Each of Jennylyn's showbiz friends gave her gifts which also served as their baby shower presents.

When asked what her birthday wish was, Jennylyn replied: "Wala, wala na eh. Siguro sa baby ko na lang talaga na maging healthy siya, na mapalaki ko siya ng maayos (I don't have anything else to ask for except for my baby's health and I hope I raise him well)." and desist from discussing the matters involved in the case both in print and on television from here on." ■



Jennylyn Mercado

Sharon Cuneta: Starring in 'Caregiver' a humbling experience

"Awang-awa ako sa sarili ko. I really pitied myself when we were shooting Caregiver," shared Sharon Cuneta on the rollercoaster of emotions she felt while doing the 15th year offering of Star Cinema, which also marks her comeback after four years of being away from the big screen.

In "Caregiver," Sharon gives life to the role of Sarah, a grade school teacher who decides to give up teaching for a more financially-rewarding career as a caregiver in London.

In a presscon held at Pino Restaurant in Lahug, the Megastar detailed in candor the challenges she had to go through on the set of "Caregiver" in London. Eighty percent of the film was shot in what has been touted as the most expensive city in the world.

"For the first time, sa tanang buhay ko, nagka-rashes ako. Sobrang cold yung weather sa London, tapos umuulan. Parang yelo ang lamig. Tapos wala kaming tulog, about 2 to 3 hours of sleep only at travel ng travel, lipat ng lipat. One day lang ang off namin. For the first time sa buhay ko hirap na hirap akong magtrabaho," a looking trimmer Sharon shared.

"I had separation anxiety since I've never been away from my kids and my husband for more than two weeks. Naramdaman ko yung hirap at lungkot since I was practically made to do all, from how to save a patient's life, to do first aid, to apply CPR and even how to change them, how to really take care of the elderly as a caregiver," shared Sharon of the scenes that they shot at actual nursing homes.

But the film gave her a bird's eye view of what's the life of a caregiver

like, adding that her respect for them has risen to a thousand percent. "Imagine the hardships that these people have to go through, as they leave their own family to take care of somebody else's. Kakayanin ko siguro ang hirap ng kanilang trabaho, pero di ko kakayanin ang lungkot."

She said she got so emotionally involved with her role that the moment she returned to the country, she cried upon seeing her husband, Senator Kiko Pangilinan—literally feeling what every OFW felt when coming home to their loved ones.



Sharon Cuneta

Nevertheless, even the megastar that she is, Sharon harbored no regret of doing it all. "I am hard worker, but I worked doubly hard in this film. I want to earn the respect of others and not expect it to be given to me.

"Doing the film humbled me so much, at the same time it made me more grateful for what I have. I am so proud of the film. If it's going to affect my career in a positive way, it doesn't matter, because it already did much to me as a person." ■

Ann Curtis, showbiz goddess



In popular mythology, goddesses—known locally as *dyosa* or *mga dyosa*—are described as women who are possessed of an almost unnatural beauty. However, that's not all they have to recommend them. They are a rare breed, one that can balance beauty with strength of character.

Since no other female star in local showbiz fits that description better than Anne Curtis, it is fitting that she has been tapped to star in "Dyosa." The show's drumbeaters say it is one of the biggest and most expensive fantaseries mounted by ABS-CBN.

"Dyosa" is the story of a girl who discovers that she is descended from the legendary Mariang Sinukuan and Bernardo Carpio, two of Philippine folklore's most powerful figures. Apart from her origin, she also discovers that she has power over three elements—land, air and sea. Again, this is fitting because as her character can shift from one element to another with ease, Anne is a versatile actress who can shift from

comedy to drama to fantasy with little to no effort at all.

Aside from "Dyosa," Anne is riding high on the box-office success of "When Love Begins....," her movie with heartthrob Aga Muhlach. Her performance earned plaudits from fans and critics, who said her acting was effortless. Result? The movie earned P50 million in its first five days in theaters—not bad for a local movie facing stiff competition from a slew of Hollywood films!

Says Anne of her movie's success, "I'm very happy that it's done this well. This is my first real mature film role, so I'm proud that the fans and the critics have received it as well as they did. I'm also very thankful that Aga chose me to be his leading lady. It's an honor I'll treasure forever."

The stellar performance of "When Love Begins....," coupled with the success of her previous movie "Ang Cute ng Ina Mo"—which has just been certified as

one of the biggest earners in the history of Philippine cinema—has made Anne a force to be reckoned with in terms of box-office success. FYI, some quarters are saying that Anne's irresistible sex appeal helped make "When Love Begins...." such a success. Male moviegoers who would normally have to be dragged into a movie theater by their girlfriends to watch something like this have actually done so more than once—of their own volition, mind you. (We suspect that the many shots of Anne in a bikini had something to do with that.) Viva and Star Cinema are already sifting through tons of scripts to find suitable material for her next movie.

"I'm sure whatever they will come up with will be great," says Anne. "Star Cinema did well choosing 'When Love Begins....,' so I'm confident they can do it again."

Anne is truly an actress in every sense of the word—someone whose dedication to her craft shines through all that she does. (Kind of like a young Vilma Santos, don't you agree? ■

Piolo Pascual, Sam Milby drop libel suit vs Lolit Solis

After showbiz columnist retracts 'gay' story

"Sam, Piolo, I am sorry for the hurt and embarrassment I caused."

This apology of talent manager and entertainment columnist Lolit Solis over her writeup depicting Piolo Pascual and Sam Milby as "gay men" prompted the two matinee idols to drop the P12-million libel suit they filed against her and Pilipino Star Ngayon editor Veronica Samio.

"There is no factual basis for my article, which came out on October 15, 2007. I am extremely sorry for dragging the names of Sam and Piolo," said

Solis in a retraction letter she signed early Wednesday evening in the sala of Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Jose Mendoza.

At the same time, Pascual and Milby executed an affidavit of desistance to officially withdraw the case that stemmed from an item in Solis' "Take It, Take It" column in the tabloid, in which she said she saw the two actors "sweet" to each other at the Sofitel Hotel at around 4 p.m. on October 12.

"We have both decided not to proceed with the prosecution of the criminal case for libel against Lolit Solis and Veronica Samio regardless of the merits of the said case," the actors said in their affidavit.

Joji Alonso, Pascual and Milby's lawyer, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that the retraction was the result of producer Robbie Tan's efforts.

Last May 9, Alonso said she met with Solis, Samio and their lawyers in a restaurant where they talked for about two hours about the case.

"I'm very thankful that they agreed to drop the case. I'm grateful to them, especially to their manager Johnny Manahan. I admit that I am not completely sure that it was Sam and Piolo that I saw. I'm 61 years old. I might have been mistaken," Solis told reporters.

"From the very beginning, the only thing that my clients wanted was for the truth to come out and that such an incident never took place. That's why we sent a demand letter in the first place," Alonso said, stressing that the actors did not want to put Solis behind bars.

The actors shook hands afterward with Solis who also signed an affidavit of undertaking which ordered her "to refrain and desist from discussing the matters involved in the case both in print and on television from here on." ■

Will Wilma Santos do another movie?

Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos misses the movies. A true blue child of the business who started as a child actress, Vilma was at the peak of her career when she entered politics and made a good career out of it. Now Governor Vi would like to do movies again. "Gusto ko na po. Meron na ulit inihahanda ang Star Cinema. Meron pang indie film, and I am looking forward to making a movie this year. It has been five long years na hindi ako gumagawa ng pelikula. I owe it to my audience. I owe it to my public. Yong Vilma Santos na artista utang na loob ko yon sa publiko at miss ko na po."

Vilma also intimated to The Buzz about how happy she and her family were during their three-week vacation in America. "We were complete as a family except Lucky. But I understand that he is busy with work. It is during vacation time that I do things like other people do—we go shopping, we go anywhere, pag ayaw maligo, wag muna, ganun."

As governor of Batangas, Vilma feels "like the mother of the whole province of Batangas. Para akong ina na may anak na 2.3 million, that is the



population of the entire province." Her husband Ralph Recto has been her guiding force. "Ralph is doing good. Siguro yong hindi muna pagkakaroon ng posisyon sa gobyerno plus factor yon kasi he guides me on how to run Batangas. Kung wala si Ralph, hindi ko alam kung paano ko ito umpisahan." ■

More Showbiz Gossip - SEE PAGE 18



Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.10*

Continued from Page 10

If she wants to study music in Juilliard and perform in Carnegie Hall with a violin under her chin, that would make me incredibly proud. My husband and I would have to discern, along with her, what her real gift is and figure out how best to utilize that gift.



There are a lot of Filipinos, from Charice Pempengco to Madonna Decena, who are doing well in the international scene? What's your take on this?

Oh, it's wonderful. It's always great when Filipino talent is recognized worldwide.

Madonna was active in local theater.

She was on "Once on This Island" in Manila. I had friends in the same production. They were like: Wow! Our Little Timone is on "Britain's Got

Talent." It just seems to me a little sad that it has to be foreigners who point out how great we are.

Do you feel the same way, that you were underrated here prior to "Miss Saigon"?

But it's not fair to say that I was underrated. I wasn't exactly putting in

much of an effort because I had school then. For me, show biz was just a hobby.

But it seems it took West End to discover you?

There'll be people who'll say that. But I think it took them, for me to realize that this is what I was meant to do. If anything, it was a wakeup call for me. I wasn't meant to go to med school; I was meant to be onstage and make people happy with my performances. ■

Charlie & Madonna Decena shine in 'Britain's Got Talent'

Charlie Green, a tenyear old half-Filipino and club singer Madonna Decena are singing their way to the next round of Britain's Got Talent. It's a talent search created by American Idol judge Simon Cowell who also acts as judge in the show, alongside journalist Piers Morgan and actress Amanda Holden.

During the program's second week of live auditions in Birmingham, Charlie gave a spirited rendition of Frank Sinatra's 1966 hit record "Summer Wind." He was cool and composed throughout the entire performance, even doing some old-fashioned jazz scatting and finger snapping. After he sang, the audience gave Charlie a standing ovation and chanted his name for a few seconds.

Charlie is the second Filipino to make waves in the talent search. First was the 32-year old single mom and club singer Madonna Decena, who auditioned in Manchester, and wowed the judges with her powerful rendition of "I Will Always Love You."

Even the panel's harshest critic, American Idol judge Simon Cowell, had

nothing but praises. He said, "Charlie, I think you're a little star! I really, really like you!" In the end, Charlie got three "YES" votes from the judges, and is now set to move on to the next round of competition.

Charlie's mom is a Filipina Cecilia



Charlie Green

Sumargo, who hails from Dumajug, Cebu and his dad is British. Auditions for Britain's Got Talent are currently ongoing and will air locally very soon. ■

KC Concepcion Inks three movie deal



ABS-CBN's newest star KC Concepcion got teary-eyed after signing a three-movie contract with the Kapamilya Network's movie outfit Star Cinema.

"Kasi sobrang excited po ako talaga and hindi ako makapaniwala na kailan lang MMK 'yung ginawa ko dream come

true po kasi. Ang tagal kong hinintay and ngayon pelikula na and hindi lang isa mayroon kaming tatlong pelikula. Hindi ko alam kung how many years pero committed po yung tatlong pelikula," KC said.

KC said she will be doing a light romance flick for her first ever movie, which will be helmed by director Joyce Bernal.

"Handa na po akong maging leading lady....sobrang nagpapasalamat ako sa ABS-CBN dahil bibigyan nila ako ng opportunity na makatrabaho ang ilang respetadong director like sina Joyce Bernal na magiging director ng first film. And si direk Chito Roño and direk Cathy Garcia-Molina," she said.

She also gave a hint that she will be working with one of the famous sought after leading men in local showbiz. "Let's just say we both fought for this project," Concepcion said. ■

The North American Filipino Star Classified Ads

ADVERTISING

Cheapest way to advertise!

First 3 lines \$10.00
next additional line @1.99
Classified Ads must be prepaid
Text can be sent by e-mail or in person by calling for appointment, 514-485-7861
E-mail: filipinostar2@yahoo.com

COURSES

**Centre 2000 Vocational Training School
Specials**

- Dental Assistant
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Nursing Aide
- Daycare Provider
- Security Agent

Saturday / Sunday available

514-342-1000

APARTMENT FOR RENT

CDN, PLAMONDON - VICTORIA 4 1/2 LARGE QUIET HEATED, HOT WATER, FRIDGE/STOVE INCL., RENOVATED, FOR MAY OR JULY CALL RAIMON AT 514-733-4714 OR 514-952-2586 AFTER 5 PM

CDN, 5 1/2 upper duplex, \$965 heated, hot water, washer/dryer incl., ideal for professional, w/references, non-smoker, call 514-485-7861

CAR TECHNOLOGY

Are you sick of high gas prices? Convert your car to run on water as well as gasoline - triple your mileage! Save over 60% on fuel cost. Please visit this website: <http://tinyurl.com/6s7dse>

HOUSEKEEPERS

NATA agency is looking for reliable people for residential and commercial housekeeping, preferably with experience, call 514-835-8344

DRIVING

- * Car available for EXAM
- * 1 hour practice only \$25 (tax incl.)
- * Many examples of first time success
- * packages available

MR. KHALIL (514) 965-0903

Quebec certified driving instructor with 11 years experience in giving driving lessons. Exam car available
Toton 514-969-9622

FOR SALE

Chest Freezers, hardly used, bargain prices for clearance two computer glass tables, matching desk, call for information at

514-733-8915 or 514-485-7861

NURSING AID

Classes to begin soon, Register by appointment, call 514-485-7861

TAXI SERVICE

ALADDIN AIRPORT TAXI

Airport taxi, van, good prices, 24-hour service
514-591-0074

TECHNICIAN

Having computer problems?

Call (514)575-4066 / 342-3066
An experienced Filipino computer technician can come to your place at a very reasonable rate

PERSONAL

CANADIAN gentleman looking for serious relationship for lifetime partnership.
Call 514-962-6824

Filipino ex-tricycle driver is new William Hung

May 21, 2008

The Pinoy "William Hung" has the last laugh.

In spite of snide comments dismissing him as a one-hit wonder, Renaldo Lapuz, the Filipino tricycle driver who auditioned in the latest season of the US reality talent search "American Idol," has become an Internet sensation.

There are various versions of his composition "We're Brothers Forever" on the Net—techno, hip-hop, ballad, including a "politicians" remix" that features former Presidents Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, as well as President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a video montage.

Lapuz's official website (www.renaldolapuz.com) is holding a contest for the best remixed version of the song.

At press time, there were five finalists, according to web master Dave Desvousges, who is also Lapuz's manager. The winner will be announced on Thursday (Manila time), the same day as the "American Idol" Season 7 grand finals.

2.5 million hits

On the website, Desvousges says the video of Lapuz's audition on AI received "2.5 million hits in its first few days" before it was pulled from YouTube.

Successive remix versions on YouTube have cinched over 200,000 views and counting.



Renaldo Lapuz, right, is seen on stage with judge Simon Cowell during the season finale of American Idol on Wednesday May 21, 2008, in Los Angeles.

Desvousges also says Lapuz's homepage has logged more hits than the website of Kelly Clarkson, the first winner of "American Idol."

Lapuz's two TV commercials for telecommunications giant AT&T, launched this month, have also been posted on YouTube.

Star Spangled Banner

The first ad, in which he sings

"We're Brothers," has received five stars on the site's five-star rating system. The second ad, in which he belts out the US national anthem "The Star Spangled Banner," also merited five stars.

In a January interview with the Inquirer, Lapuz recalled that his father taught him how to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at age 5.

In the same interview, he said he was inspired by his friends to write "We're Brothers."

"I was crying. I was homesick. The song is for my friends who treated me well. They gave me food, shelter, a bed to sleep in. They gave me everything I needed. It took me three days to write it," he told the Inquirer in that interview.

According to Desvousges, Lapuz spent his last dollar on a plane ticket that brought him to AI's Dallas, Texas, auditions last year.

In Texas, he again relied on the kindness of strangers and hitched a ride to the AI tryout venue.

Although he was over-age (the age limit for contestants is 28), AI producers allowed Lapuz, in his feathered hat, quilted white suit and silver cape, to sing in front of the three judges.

Lapuz has surely gone a long way from his days as a struggling wannabe. There's even talk that he may perform in the grand finals of "American Idol" on Thursday.

On the website, his manager points

out that Lapuz has been cast in a Filipino movie (to be shot in Hollywood in June), along with another Fil-Am AI graduate Jasmine Trias. Trias was in the Top Three of "American Idol" Season 3.

"He's set to play himself," says Desvousges on the website.

In July, he is slated to perform in a homecoming concert in Reno, Nevada, with his fellow AI "sensation" William Hung.

Prior to auditioning on AI, Lapuz worked as a janitor in a Wal-Mart store in Reno.

His American Idol performance elicited a back-handed compliment from judge Simon Cowell, who quipped: "I have a horrible feeling [that song] will be a hit record."

With all those remix versions of "We're Brothers Forever" flooding cyberspace, Lapuz can very well fulfill Cowell's sarcastic prediction with the click of a mouse.

In a recent e-mail to the Inquirer, Desvousges says Lapuz has plans of visiting the Philippines "to spread his message of peace, love, unity and happiness" among his countrymen.

First stop for the balikbayan is Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, where Lapuz used to work as tricycle driver. "He wants to perform with his old friends," Desvousges says. ■



6430 Victoria Avenue, Montreal, QC Tel.: 514-733-7816

Prices valid from May 26 to June 9, 2008



Super Q Bihon 454 g
\$.99¢ / bag



Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce
3 for \$2.49 .99¢ ea



Young's Town Sardines
Hot & Reg. 3 for \$2.49 .99¢ ea



Holiday Luncheon Meat 340 g
4 for \$6.00 \$1.59 / can



Mama Sita's BBQ Marinade Sauce
350 ml \$1.79 / bottle



Lorins Soya Sauce 1 L
\$1.29 / bottle



Diwa Coconut Sport Strings
340 g \$1.79 / bottle



Lee Kum Oyster Sauce
1.81 L \$4.99 / can



Wonderfarm Coconut Milk
400 ml .79¢ / can



Elephant Jasmine Rice
18 kg \$29.95 / bag



Black Tie Shrimp Size 71-90
400 g \$2.99 / box 3 / \$8.49



AA1 Galungoong
\$2.99 / bag 4 pcs



Hasa Mackerel
\$2.49 / bag 4 pcs



Porc Shoulder \$3.99 / kg



Porc With Skin \$3.49 / kg

EDUCATION RAISES THE BAR

BUT LOWERS THE BARRIERS TO A REWARDING CAREER.



Daycare Assistant



Administrative Assistant



Certified International Trade Professional (C.I.T.P.)



Personal Support Worker (Nursing Aide)

PROGRAMMES & COURSES

- **LANGUAGES**
English, French, Spanish, Mandarin
Filipino (Tagalog)
- **OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**
Microsoft Office
Keyboarding
Accpac Simply Accounting
Accounting & Bookkeeping
Administrative Assistant Program
Business French
Bilingual Telephone Protocol
- **International Trade (C.I.T.P.)**
- **Personal Support Worker/PAB/Nursing Aide**
- **Early Childhood Education Assistant**
- **Integration of Foreign Graduates of Nursing (Education Permit Pending)**



PSW (Nursing Aide or P.A.B. graduates) on their last day of practicum at Centre D'Accueil St. Margaret in Westmount, Quebec/ From left: Edenia Dulot, Eva de la Paz, Catherine Faytaren, Rosemary Zagala, supervisor Josie Toledo, Elizabeth Lumigao, Michele Wong, Greline Jaramillo, and Vilma Solomon.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Seminars:

- **Writers Helping Writers**
- **Intercultural Communication (To be determined)**
- **Leadership Training (To be determined)**
- **Human Resources Development (On request)**

Tutorials:

- **English • French • Math/Science**
(Private or semi-private)



To register by appointment,
please call 514-485-7861
New classes start as soon as
minimum enrollment is achieved.



4950 Queen Mary Road Penthouse
Montreal, Quebec H3W 1X3
Telephone: 514-485-7861
Fax: 514-485-3076
Website: gilmorecollege.com
E-Mail: enquiries@gilmorecollege.com

SNOWDON



www.filipinostar.org