



# THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

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## Filipinos celebrate Rizal's 150th birthday

A call for associations to rally for timeless unity on June 19 at MacKenzie King Park



CLEAN UP DAY on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at MacKenzie King Park led by the Alpha Phi Omega Association of Montreal headed by Ed Vasquez (5th from the right) and the Knights of Rizal headed by Ray Balansi (seated, 2nd from the left with Ed de la Cuadra on his right). Arnold Ortiz (not in photo) is an active member of APO who also participates in this yearly clean up. Some volunteers from other associations are also shown in this photo.

By Bert Abiera

MONTREAL, May 16, 2011 - The Montreal Chapter of the Order of the Knights and Ladies of Rizal, in conjunction with the other various community organizations and with the support of CDN-NDG Borough will celebrate the 150th birthday anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, the Philippine national hero.

The organizing committee is

inviting all community organizations to participate in this celebration to rekindle our gratitude to the heroes who shed their blood to obtain our freedom from colonialism and to inspire nationalism among our youth who must be given the opportunity to learn about the rich history of the Philippines, our mother country. Moreover, the attendance of officers and members with their associations'



Dr. Jose P. Rizal (1861-1896)

banners will give color to the celebration and prove to ourselves that when there is a call for unity and nationalism, we are one.

The week-long festivities will commence on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at Ganesh Party Palace, 300 Marcell Laurin Boulevard, Ville St-Laurent with the Knighting Investiture of aspirants to the Knighthood in a gala night dinner dance at 6:00 p.m. to be officiated by the Grand Knights from Toronto.

All participating organizations



Dr. Jose P. Rizal's bust in MacKenzie King Park in Montreal installed in 1998.

are requested to present a cultural number in the program prepared by the Order of Knights and Ladies of Rizal:

8:00 a.m. - Assembly  
 9:00 a.m. - Singing of the National Anthem led by the Heritage Language class of FAMAS, Panatang Makabayan by Median of FAMAS Heritage language class  
 Welcome address

## Pope John Paul II beatified

Pope John Paul II reigned as pope of the Roman Catholic Church and sovereign of Vatican City for almost 27 years. Since his death on 2 April 2005, many thousands of people have been supporting the case for beatifying and canonizing the late Pope John Paul II as a saint. His formal beatification ceremony took place on 1 May 2011.

Posthumous recognition and cause for canonization and the title "Great"

Since the death of John Paul II, a number of clergy at the Vatican and laymen throughout the world have been referring to the late pontiff as "John Paul the Great"—only the fourth pope to be so acclaimed, and the first since the first millennium.. Scholars of Canon Law say that there is no official process for declaring a pope "Great"; the title simply establishes itself through popular and continued usage.

The three popes who today commonly are known as "Great" are: Leo I, who reigned from 440-461 and persuaded Attila the Hun to withdraw from Rome; Gregory I, 590-604, after whom the Gregorian Chant is named; and Pope Nicholas I, 858-867.

His successor, Pope Benedict XVI, referred to him as "the great Pope John Paul II" in his first address from the loggia of St Peter's Church, and he referred to Pope John Paul II as "the Great" in his published written homily for the Mass of Repose.

Since giving his homily at the funeral of Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI has continued to refer to John Paul II as "the Great". At the 2005 World Youth Day in Germany, Pope Benedict XVI, speaking in Polish, John Paul's native language, said, "As the great Pope John Paul II would say: keep the flame of faith alive in your lives and your people." In May 2006,



Pope Benedict XVI visited John Paul's native Poland. During that visit he repeatedly made references to "the great John Paul" and "my great

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# COOPERATIVE NEWS

## Cooperatives Provide Value, Community

In my desire to convince people to believe in the idea of cooperatives being a good way to build communities, I spent some time surfing the internet to answer the question - Why are cooperatives good for the community? How do I convince the rest of the 35,000 Filipinos living in Cote des Neiges district to patronize Marché Coop, the first and only Filipino Solidarity Cooperative store?

It is obvious that our fellow Filipino Canadians are not familiar with the values of a cooperative. If they had been convinced that cooperatives are designed to promote the economic development of a community, they would have been more willing to go out of their way to shop even once a month. Before my involvement with the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative, I was also not sure how a cooperative works. I have had to do a lot of work in educating myself about cooperatives. The more I read about the success of other coops, I feel quite optimistic that we can also do the same thing. However, I know I cannot do it alone and I must convince other members to work with me.

It is not easy to visualize that a cooperative can be developed into a big business. Generally speaking, people do not participate in anything until they can see a concrete example of its possibilities of success. But in any kind of business, success comes from a combination of factors such as human resources, capital, skills and a lot of hard work. In the case of the Filipino cooperative, many mistakes were committed and it was difficult if not impossible to correct them. Naturally, it would take some time to change the image of the coop but after four years of having a new administration at the helm, it seems quite disheartening that it is taking such a long time for most members to come forward and offer a helping hand. Fortunately, I have been meeting newcomers to the community who appear to be more willing to consider the Coop as a good place to shop and they are willing to be involved even in a limited way.

In the course of my daily activities, I have not stopped talking to everyone I meet to patronize the Coop. It is a campaign that I have decided to carry on for as long as it takes until I can at least have a nucleus of 50 or more loyal members. With the commitment of a few loyal members, I believe that eventually these members could also convince their friends and neighbors to patronize our cooperative store. In

other words, it is similar to building a house, brick by brick, stone by stone. Perhaps, the common expression that Rome is not built in a day could be applied to the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative.

I came across a story of a cooperative in the U.S. that made me think that perhaps we can copy some of the things they did. Considering that we have a very big population in Cote des Neiges, we have a great asset to work with. In fact, 35 000 Filipinos in Cote des Neiges have been making the Vietnamese and Chinese stores become bigger and bigger. The question is: How can we wean them away from those big stores and patronize a small cooperative store instead? If we succeed in convincing even one per cent of the population, our cooperative store will certainly become profitable overnight.

Perhaps, the story below of a cooperative that became successful could make people understand it is possible to have a successful enterprise if all members work together.

### Hanover Co-op: A great store and a great citizen

Some buying clubs have evolved into full-scale retail food co-ops. The Hanover Co-op started one Great Depression winter, when a group of New Hampshire families went together on a bulk purchase of citrus fruit from Florida.

Many of the food co-ops thriving today started that way, says Allan Reetz, communications director of the Hanover Consumer Cooperative Society, which operates two full-service grocery stores (one in nearby Lebanon, N.H.), a gas/service station, and a convenience store.

Despite its mostly rural hometown of about 9,000 people, Hanover Co-op has 16,000 active members, 300 employees, and revenues of \$60 million in the most recent fiscal year.

Members of Hanover Co-op pay a one-time \$50 fee, which buys them 10 \$5 stock certificates. Members pay the same price at the register as non-members. However, Co-op revenues not used for operating expenses and improvements are paid back to members as a "patronage refund," a percentage of their total annual purchases.

Reetz says many members contribute their patronage refunds to the Hanover Consumer Cooperative Fund, a

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Coop News

## Editorial

## What do people think about the majority Conservative government?

The election results of May 2 have been counted, tallied and analyzed. Critics who favor the Conservatives are optimistic that Prime Minister Harper will manage the economy better which will be good for Canada. On the other hand, those who have always been critical of his non-transparent and controlling ways are concerned that he would now be able to do whatever he wants. Now, which side is close to reality? His decision to appoint one of the biggest cabinets in Canadian history was readily criticized as being an insult to Canadian voters. When he appointed three defeated Conservative candidates to the Senate, many people wondered how the Prime Minister could justify such a move.

To an average Canadian, the policies of the Conservative government do not seem disturbing but when one reads critics' opinions about the past things they have done, it would seem quite frightening to think that if they have done those things under a minority situation, how much more unpopular policies will they do now that they are in the majority? According to an article written by Maria Guergin entitled "Silencing Dissent", she wrote the following statements:

"There are countless further examples of critics who have been silenced, advocacy efforts that have been weakened, and human rights organizations that have been disempowered. The patterns are clear, however, and the point here has already been made: during the past five years, the Harper government has expressed its intolerance of dissenting views, independent decision-making, and critical discourse in ways that have come to threaten basic democratic values. Further, the government's chosen stance on women's rights, immigration policy, and domestic and international human rights advocacy has also not been without consequences"

If these things can happen under a minority government, what else can happen now that the Conservatives have the majority and a weakened opposition?

The next four years may completely re-define Canada according to most critics' opinions. The Conservatives are known to be focused on economics, business, and

reducing the deficit. Consequently, there is a danger that will inevitably reduce Federal services that mostly affect ordinary Canadians. They are also reported to be bent on continuing to reduce corporate taxes for more investments and job creation. But some economists do not seem to believe that taxes ought to be reduced when there is a big deficit. They have to make cuts somewhere and the big question is - who will suffer from these cuts? Certainly, it will not be the big corporations.

Since Prime Minister Harper has been ruling like a majority ever since he came into power, some observers say nothing much would change and he will continue to follow the Conservative agenda such as the law-and-order bills, which died with the election call, will be ushered through the Commons within 100 days. Among other things, serving sentences at home would be dramatically curtailed and anyone caught with more than five pot plants would be jailed. Also, the long-gun registry will die, political parties will no longer secure per-vote subsidies and Canada will buy fighter jets. Moreover, "they will cut and they will reduce the federal government's role in our lives," comments another academic.

At long last, Canadians will see how a Conservative majority government under Prime Minister Stephen Harper works. It will be worth our while to keep our ears tuned into the latest news about how the majority government is going to function.

Will Prime Minister Harper remember those days when the Liberals were the majority and how he hated what he called a "benign dictatorship." For this reason, maybe, he will try to govern differently and consider more centrist policies and avoid extreme rightist ones. Now that he has the power to rule uninterrupted for four solid years, he will no longer have a reason to blame politics for any unpopular policy his government may adopt.

In spite of critics' opinions that seem to be mostly unfavorable towards a majority Conservative government, we still hope that they will be proven wrong or that they will listen to prevailing public opinion. Our job as citizens is to be vigilant and be well informed about their political agenda.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi



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I wish to sincerely thank the people of Mount Royal who have renewed their confidence in me, as well as my dynamic election team and the numerous volunteers who made this victory possible.

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## From Page 1 Rizal birthday

## Guest Speaker

Response from the Borough

Response from the City

10:00 a.m. - Flower offering from

- Diplomatic Corps
- City & Borough
- Different community groups
- Cultural presentations from different associations

Whole day pot luck picnic. See you all at the Park for camaraderie and fun!

Souvenir T-shirts, coffee mug will be used to raise funds to defray expenses of the forthcoming hosting of the International Convention of the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

## HISTORICAL NOTES

José Protasio Rizal Mercado y Alonso Realonda was born on June 19, 1861 and died on December 30, 1896, after being shot by the Spaniards' firing squad.

Rizal was a Filipino polymath, patriot and the most prominent advocate for reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial era. He is regarded as the foremost Filipino patriot and listed as one of the national heroes of the Philippines by National Heroes Committee, and the anniversary of Rizal's death is commemorated as a



Philippine holiday called Rizal Day. Rizal's 1896 military trial and execution made him a martyr of the Philippine Revolution.

The seventh of eleven children born to a rich family in Calamba, Laguna, Rizal attended the Ateneo Municipal de Manila, earning a Bachelor of Arts. He enrolled in Medicine and

Philosophy and Letters at the University of Santo Tomas and then traveled alone to Madrid, Spain, where he continued his studies at the Universidad Central de Madrid, earning the degree of Licentiate in Medicine. He attended the University of Paris and earned a second doctorate at the University of Heidelberg. Rizal was a polyglot

conversant in twenty two languages. He was a prolific poet, essayist, diarist, correspondent, and novelist whose most famous works were his two novels, *Noli me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*. These are social commentaries on the Philippines that formed the nucleus of literature that inspired dissent among peaceful reformists and spurred the militancy of armed revolutionaries against the Spanish colonial authorities.

As a political figure, José Rizal was the founder of La Liga Filipina, a civic organization that subsequently gave birth to the Katipunan led by Andrés Bonifacio and Emilio Aguinaldo. He was a proponent of freedom and self-government by peaceful means through institutional reforms rather than by violent revolution. Although José Rizal did admit he will become partial to 'violent means' only as a last resort. Rizal believed that the only justification for national liberation and self-government is the restoration of the dignity of the people; for as he said "...why independence, if the slaves of today will be the tyrants of tomorrow?". The general consensus among Rizal scholars, however, attributed his martyred death as the catalyst that precipitated the Philippine Revolution.

Source: Wikipedia

## From Page 1 Pope John Paul II

## predecessor".

In addition to the Vatican calling him "the great", numerous books and newspapers have also done so. Journalist Peggy Noonan readily titled her book *John Paul the Great: Remembering a Spiritual Father*, and Catholic writer Randall Meissen subtitles his book about the late pope's influence on Catholic culture, *The Spiritual Sons of John Paul the Great*. Also, the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* called him "the Greatest" and the South African Catholic newspaper, *The Southern Cross*, has called him "John Paul II The Great".

## Official titles

John Paul II's official title was: 'Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of Saint Peter, Head of the College of Bishops, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, Sovereign of the State of the Vatican City, Servus Servorum Dei, Pope John Paul II.' In 2006 the title Patriarch of the West was removed from the papal list of titles by the reigning pope, Benedict XVI.

On 9 May 2005, Benedict XVI began the beatification process for his predecessor. Normally five years must pass after a person's death before the beatification process can begin. However, in an audience with Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Vicar Camillo Ruini, the one responsible for promoting the cause for canonisation of any person who dies within the diocese of Rome, cited "exceptional circumstances" which suggested that the waiting period could be waived.

The "exceptional circum-



stances" may possibly refer to the people's cries of "Santo Subito!" ("Saint Now!" in Italian) during the late pontiff's funeral. Therefore the new Pope waived the five year rule "so that the cause of Beatification and Canonisation of the same Servant of God can begin immediately". The decision was announced on 13 May 2005, the Feast of Our Lady of Fátima and the 24th anniversary of the assassination attempt on John Paul II at St. Peter's Square. John Paul II often credited Our Lady of Fátima for preserving him on that day. Cardinal Camillo Ruini, vicar general for the diocese of Rome, officially opened the cause for beatification in the Lateran Basilica on 28 June 2005.

In early 2006, it was reported that the Vatican was investigating a possible miracle associated with John Paul II. A French nun, confined to her bed by Parkinson's Disease, is reported to have experienced a "complete and lasting cure after

members of her community prayed for the intercession of Pope John Paul II". The nun was later identified as Sister Marie Simon-Pierre.

"I was sick and now I am cured," she told reporters. "I am cured, but it is up to the church to say whether it was a miracle or not."

On 28 May 2006, Pope Benedict XVI said Mass before an estimated 900,000 people in John Paul II's native Poland. During his homily he encouraged prayers for the early canonisation of John Paul II and stated that he hoped canonisation would happen "in the near future".

In January 2007, it was announced by Stanisław Cardinal Dziwisz of Kraków, his former secretary, that the key interviewing phase in Italy and Poland of the beatification process was nearing completion. The relics of Pope John Paul II—pieces of white papal cassocks he used to wear—were being freely distributed with prayer cards for the cause to interested parties; this distribution and prayerful use of relics is a typical praiseworthy pious practice after a saintly Catholic's death.

On 8 March 2007 the Vicariate of Rome announced that the diocesan phase of John Paul's cause for beatification is at an end. Following a ceremony on 2 April 2007 — the second anniversary of the Pontiff's death — the cause proceeded to the scrutiny of the committee of lay, clerical, and episcopal members of the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints, who will conduct an investigation of their own. On the fourth anniversary of Pope John Paul's death, 2 April 2009, Dziwisz told reporters of a presumed miracle that had recently occurred at the former pope's tomb in St. Peter's Basilica. A nine year-old Polish boy from Gdańsk,

who was suffering from kidney cancer and was completely unable to walk, had been visiting the tomb with his parents. On leaving St. Peter's Basilica, the boy told them, "I want to walk", and began walking normally.

In October 2009, Rome's mayor Gianni Alemanno said that the beatification, likely to draw huge crowds, was expected to take place in 2010, but on 4 November 2009 Monsignor Slawomir Oder, postulator of the cause of beatification, said that it was not yet known when study of the case could be concluded.

On 16 November 2009, a panel of reviewers at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted unanimously that Pope John Paul II had lived a life of virtue. If Pope Benedict XVI agrees, he will sign the first of two decrees needed for beatification. The first recognises that he lived a heroic, virtuous life and enables him to be called "Venerable", the next step in the sainthood process. That decree was signed by Pope Benedict XVI on Saturday, December 19, 2009. The second vote and the second signed decree would recognise the authenticity of his first miracle (most likely, the case of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, the French nun who was cured of Parkinson's Disease). Once the second decree is signed, the 'positio' (the report on the cause, with documentation about his life and his writings and with information on the cause) is regarded as being complete. He can then be beatified. John Paul II was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on May 1, 2011.

In the course of the beatification process, Monsignor Slawomir Oder, postulator of the cause, wrote a book on Pope John Paul II called *Why A Saint*. Oder described how the late Pope flagellated himself with a whip that he also took to his holiday home in Castelgandolfo. The book publishes the

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## Any Which Way ...

Bernardo "Budz" Sarmiento  
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### The "Game of Futility" won't be played anymore

This "Game of Futility" that I have been begrudgingly playing with Fraud Crass Magallanes for more than a year now seems to have reached its crescendo and usefulness, and may now be boring some people including myself. That said, this column won't contain anything Magallanes starting with the June 2011 edition. I promise not to reply to him no matter what malicious things he may write about me in the future issues of his tabloid. I realize that there are a lot of better, more informative and more purposive things to write about.

On that note, I would like to thank all my readers for their patronage. I sincerely hope that they have derived some pleasure from my musings and style of writing.

**FRAUD WANTS HIS CAKE AND EAT IT, TOO** – One of the possible scenarios that a marriage can be nullified is when the wife didn't disclose to her trusting husband before their marriage that she was sterile. Once the husband discovers that his wife cannot give him a child, he may ask a court of law to declare their marriage null and void ab initio, that is as if no marriage ever took place, and most likely the judge will decide in his favor.

Conversely, if the husband already knew of his wife's sterility before they got married, he cannot use it as justification for nullification of their marriage. The non-disclosure defense that would have been available to the husband is rendered moot and academic by his prior knowledge of his wife's incapacity to bear a child.

The situation in the above-described marriage is analogous to the ratification of the FAMAS Constitution which Fraud Crass Magallanes has since been harping to be illegal for lack of quorum. Long before the ratification started, Fraud already knew that there was no quorum, but he still partook in the voting anyway. That being the case, he cannot now claim that the ratification is unconstitutional. He opted to exercise his right to vote but when he lost he decries that the result is illegal. He cannot have it both ways. His having participated in the voting despite his claim of no quorum effectively quashed whatever argument he had against the ratification.

Have you heard about "caveat emptor?" It's the principle that the buyer must bear the risk for the quality of goods purchased unless they are covered by the seller's warranty.

Despite what he claimed – and still claiming – to be its defect (lack of quorum), Fraud still decided to purchase the goods (the Special General Assembly of February 19, 2011) and consummated the sale (participation in the ratification). Under

the principle of caveat emptor, he must bear the "illegality" of the ratification of the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws. In simple English, he should stop whining about the defect of the goods that he himself bought in spite of its imperfection.

In hindsight, what Fraud should have done if he was really convinced that the special general meeting of February 19, 2011 lacked quorum was to walk out and refuse to partake in the voting. The fact that he did and then complained when he lost only indicates that the dumb could get dumber. And that isn't just an opinion but the undeniable truth.

I agree with Capt. Reuben Santos in his suggestion that Fraud sue FAMAS and get the Minister of Justice Jean-Marc Fournier as his lawyer. And I suggest that he gets Philippine Charge d' Affaires Minerva Jean A. Falcon as his expert witness. Capt Santos is also correct that annoying grievance via his tabloid just won't do the job because only four other people are against its ratification. Fraud insists that the score is 58-5; it's 85-5, Stupid!

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**THE TRUE JEOPARDIZERS** – In an article published on Page 33 of the April 2011 edition of the there's-nothing-like-it Filipino Forum, Fraud Crass Magallanes averred that "Permit from mayor to de la Paz jeopardizes Independence Day celebrations." Fraud seems to have an early dementia. He forgot that it was his group that included Angelita Ogerio and Brujulita des Parado that jeopardized and eventually caused the cancellation of last year's Philippine Independence Day celebration by going against the good advice of CDN/NDG Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum to work together with James de la Paz and his supporters. The troika of Magallanes, Ogerio and des Parado would rather protect their false pride than cooperate with James. Their selfishness and humongous egos worked against their better judgment and the whole Filipino community suffered.

Brujulita des Parado, who seems to have more lives than an alley cat, did a Lazarus and came out of her resting place to dump all her despicable traits on Au Osdon. The 2010 Maharlika (pronounced ma-a-wa-ka) Awardee wrote: She seems to have some difficulty in distinguishing personal issues from legitimate and genuine community issues. I have now come to realize that she is not a fair person at all.

Her assertion would have been quite laughable were it not so pathetic. Brujulita saying that Au Osdon isn't fair is like Satan saying that God is evil. I'm absolutely sure that those who know better are not surprised that des Parado would write what she wrote because

they knew that they couldn't expect anything decent and benevolent from a consummate hypocrite. People are already pretty much aware that it is des Parado who "have some difficulty in distinguishing personal issues from legitimate and genuine community issues." It appears that the only contemptible attitude that she hasn't realized yet is her own. She's bitter because she and her small desperate group failed (once again) to get the permit that she/he and her/his wife Angie O covet. That failure may spell the end of the Ogerio's Federation, and they know it. No Federation, no cash cow for them. And no cash cow, no holidays in the Philippines, California or Hawaii. Their days of luxurious life style at the expense of other people are numbered. And that's what they are so worried about. When – not if – that happens, almost all Filipinos in Montreal and Suburbs will mark and celebrate another Independence Day – independence from the twin bullies of their community.

Speaking of bullies, Fraud Crass Magallanes really needs to go back to school because he doesn't seem to know what a bully is when he wrote in the latest issue of his tabloid that I was a bully. I did this once, but I'm afraid I have to do it twice. For Fraud's benefit, here's the definition of "bully" again: He is an aggressive person who intimidates or mistreats weaker people. The only one I'm "bullying" is Fraud Crass Magallanes and he isn't even human. But it doesn't matter; just the same the community is very grateful that I'm doing that. Sinisipi pa nga nila ako kung bakit nga ngayon lang daw ako lumabas sa community. Sana raw noon pa para hindi na nagkasungay ang anak sa labas ng Demonyo.

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**THEY USE WORDS APPLICABLE ONLY TO THEMSELVES** – Fraud and Brujulita are very fond of using words whose meanings they seem to be ignorant of. Immoral, seedy, unfair, and bully are only some of those words. They are also the words that best describe them.

According to wicked Fraud and depraved Brujulita, Au Osdon is immoral. Wow! That's quite a heavy adjective to modify a decent, respectable and God-fearing person like Ms. Osdon. And to think that it came from the same guy who described des Parado in his editorial as a true gem and the treasure of the community. That will go down in community history as one of the biggest lies those two have ever said to one of their nemeses. Those sociopaths have no compunction for all of the terrible accusations they said.

Let me tell you who are immoral. Luzviminda Mazzone, Ogerio's sister and des Parado's close associate, invested a large sum of the Ilocano Association of Quebec's money without proper authorization from the membership. They didn't even consult the Board about it which points out to their nefarious scheme. Now that money is missing, but no report about it. Where did the money go? There are also at least thirteen cases of fraud that Ms. Mazzone was found guilty of, but Magallanes never mentioned it in any edition of his tabloid. But he is very quick to publish rumors about the alleged transgressions of people not friendly to him. Actually, he has invented

so many fish tales about people who are courageous enough to fight back. Brujulita des Parado, the doyenne of hypocritical people in the Community, is fond of collecting money ostensibly for the victims of calamities in the Philippines. She always says that the money was given to this person or that person, but couldn't and wouldn't provide evidence that she actually did give the money to whom it was intended for. She was also found guilty of unfair business practices and can no longer actively get involved in the business she used to earn her living from.

She also collected a large sum of money supposedly for the benefit and upkeep of Ms. Laila Elumbra when the latter was having a terrible health and immigration problems several years ago. Reportedly, des Parado deposited that money under her own name. Unfortunately, there was never transparency with regard to that money and Ms. Elumbra was said to be in tears because she never saw even a pale shadow of that collection. That might be the reason why Brujulita didn't invite Ms. Elumbra to the Maharlika Awards Night when the former was the undeserving awardee.

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**HEY FRAUD AND BRUJULITA, D'YA WANT TO COME TO AU'S AND JAMES' PARTIES?** At the CDN/NDG Borough Council public meeting held at 5151 Cote St. Catherine on May 3, 2011, Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum awarded a grant of \$7,500.00 to James de la Paz and his CFAQ for the Philippine Independence Day Celebration to be held on June 12, 2011.

An equal amount was also given to the Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) for its Pista sa Nasyon festivities to take place the following July 17.

That should effectively erase whatever doubts James de la Paz's and Au Osdon's respective detractors always had about their competence in managing major community events. On the other hand, however, it will also surely exacerbate the jealousy of the same small group of detractors. Worse still, there would most likely be another ridiculous and vicious attack on the persons of those people in the next 1000 editions of the there's-nothing-like-it tabloid.

Those rabid dogs can bark as much as they want, but they cannot bring those true leaders down because the community itself will protect them. James de la Paz' supporters were expecting the usual detractors to attend the most recent borough council meeting, but they were a no-show. They probably came around and decided at the last minute that they would only waste their time and energy, something that one of them is gradually running out of.

But no matter how despicable those detractors have always been, James and Au are still magnanimous enough to invite them to the Philippine Independence Day Celebration and the Pista sa Nasyon.

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# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

EarthTalk®

E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: With all the talk of the need for safe, renewable energy sources, isn't the elephant in the room really that we should use far less energy than we do? Wouldn't more rules about conservation (like not leaving commercial building lights on all night) make the challenges easier?

-- Jennifer B., New York, NY

In short, yes: Scaling back our energy consumption significantly, whether voluntarily or as a result of laws and regulations, would go a long way toward achieving our pollution reduction and air and water quality goals. But Americans—and to a lesser extent those in many other developed nations—have never been very good at using less of anything, let alone the energy that makes everything in our whiz-bang modern world possible. That said, conservation is going to play an increasingly important role in all of our lives as we struggle to reduce our collective carbon footprints in a quickly warming world.

President Obama has repeatedly highlighted the need for greater conservation efforts when it comes to shoring up our existing and future energy reserves and reducing our dependence on foreign sources of oil. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 set aside upwards of \$3 billion to bolster efforts across the country to weatherize existing buildings in order to conserve energy.

Grants to local communities for such projects, along with calls for voluntary reductions in energy consumption, are part of the plan. The White House is also betting on technology by subsidizing various initiatives aimed at reducing energy use and making our existing power network more efficient overall. Research has shown that investments in energy efficiency that promote conservation are cheaper and provide quicker returns than building new, cleaner power plants. A recent study released by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory predicts annual spending on energy efficiency and conservation to quadruple to as much as \$12 billion a year by 2020.

As for what you can do to promote conservation, lead by example—and you'll see your energy bills go down, too. Turn lights, computers and TVs off when you are done using them. If you're remodeling or building a new home, occupancy sensors that turn lights on and off as people enter or leave rooms is a good investment, as is making use of natural light in more overt ways to obviate the need for artificial lighting in daylight hours. Also, purchasing appliances rated for good energy efficiency under the federal government's Energy Star

program will save energy. Likewise, driving a hybrid or electric vehicle, or foregoing a car altogether in favor of public transit, biking or walking, is a great way to conserve energy.

One way that awareness about the importance of energy conservation is being promoted around the world is through "Earth Hour," which began in 2007 when two million individuals and 2,000 businesses in Sydney, Australia turned their lights off for one hour to make a statement about the need to fight climate change. Within a year, the concept had spread to more than 50 million participants in 35 countries. In



**Legalizing pot (left-hand image), some say, would eliminate many negative environmental impacts associated with clandestine growing and illegal smuggling. It would also likely open the door for the legalization of hemp (right-hand image), a relative of the cannabis plant that can't get you high but could help us sustainably meet a good amount of our fiber and fuel needs. (Wikipedia)**

2011 Earth Hour drew participants in 135 countries; organizers expect the 2012 event (March 31 at 8:30 p.m., wherever you live) to be even bigger. Similar but unique "Lights Out" movements in San Francisco and other American cities will align with Earth Hour as well.

Dear EarthTalk: I heard someone say that legalizing pot—as Californians considered doing last year—would benefit the environment. How would that be?  
-- William T., Portland, OR

It is well known that legalizing pot could have great economic benefits in California and elsewhere by allowing the government to tax it (like it now does on liquor and cigarettes), by ending expensive and ongoing operations to eradicate it, and by keeping millions of otherwise innocent and non-violent marijuana offenders out of already overburdened federal and state prisons.

But what you might not know is that legalizing pot could also pay environmental dividends as well.

Nikki Gloudeman, a senior fellow at Mother Jones magazine, reports on the change.org website that the current system of growing pot—surreptitious growers illegally colonizing remote

federal wilderness."

Also, legalizing pot would move its production out into the open, literally, meaning that growers would no longer need to rack up huge energy costs to keep their illegal indoor growing operations lit up by artificial light. This means that the energy consumption and carbon footprint of marijuana growers would go way down, as the light the plants need for photosynthesis could be provided more naturally by the sun.

Yet another green benefit of legalizing marijuana would be an end to the destructive eradication efforts employed by law enforcement at bust sites, where the crop and the land they are rooted in are sometimes subjected to harsh chemical herbicides for expedited removal.

The legalization of pot in the U.S. would also likely open the door to the legal production of hemp, a variety of the same Cannabis plant that contains much lower amounts of the psychoactive drug, THC. Proponents say hemp could meet an increasingly larger percentage of our domestic fiber and fuel needs. Cannabis, the plant from which marijuana and hemp is derived, grows quickly without the need for excessive amounts of fertilizer or pesticide (it's a "weed" after all) and absorbs carbon dioxide like any plant engaged in photosynthesis. The fiber and fuel derived from hemp would be carbon neutral and as such wouldn't contribute to global warming—and in fact could help mitigate rising temperatures by replacing chemical-intensive crops like cotton and imported fossil fuels like oil and gas.

Of course, one might argue that the best thing for the environment would be to stop growing cannabis altogether. "But let's be real: That's never going to happen," says Gloudeman. "In light of that, the next best bet is to make it legal."

CONTACTS: Change.org, [www.change.org](http://www.change.org); Drug Policy Alliance, [www.drugpolicy.org](http://www.drugpolicy.org).

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**Earth Hour 2011 saw the participation of millions of individuals in 135 countries who turned their lights off for one hour to make a statement about the need to conserve energy to fight climate change. Organizers expect the 2012 event (March 31 at 8:30 p.m., wherever you live) to be even bigger. (Reway2007, courtesy Flickr).**

CONTACTS: Energy Star, [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov); Earth Hour, [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org); Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, [www.lbl.gov](http://www.lbl.gov); Lights Out San Francisco, [www.lightsoutsf.org](http://www.lightsoutsf.org).

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forest lands and moving pesticides, waste and irrigation tubes into otherwise pristine ecosystems—is nothing short of a toxic scourge. Legalizing pot, she says, would clean things up substantially, as the growing would both eliminate the strain on public lands and meet higher standards for the use and disposal of toxic substances.

Legalization would also reduce the environmental impacts of smuggling across the U.S./Mexico border, says Gloudeman: "Cartels routinely use generators, diesel storage tanks and animal poison to preserve their cache, when the border area is surrounded by more than 4 million acres of sensitive





From Page 4 Pope Paul II

testimony of 114 witnesses. Oder also mentions that when the Pope was shot in Vatican Square, he initially thought the group Brigate Rosse was responsible. Sometime before the shooting, the Pope's secret service reported a Brigate Rosse plan to kidnap him.

Prior to the announcement of his beatification, some ecclesiastical authorities had expressed concern that the cure of Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, and perhaps the cure of the boy who had cancer, may not be complete and lasting, as it has not been that long since the supposed miracles. Sister Marie's symptoms were analyzed very thoroughly before the beatification was announced (by the Vatican's Congregation for the Causes of Saints and its medical panel for the Pope's case) to make sure they were not actually psychogenic, or related to another disease. The medical miracle was given a positive affirmation by the Congregation and its medical and theological panels, and by Pope Benedict. It would not have counted as a miracle if the cause was psychogenic and if the immediate physiological cure had not been

final days of his life, was displayed as a relic for veneration at the ceremony. The reliquary in which the vial was



A huge tapestry of a smiling John Paul II was unveiled at the front of St Peter's Basilica

kept during the ceremony was carried by Sister Marie, who says she was cured after praying to the Pope, and Sister Tobiana, who nursed the Pope during his illness. In the ceremony, John Paul II was declared "blessed".

A total of 87 international delegations attended the ceremony, including 22 world leaders. Five European royal families were



A huge crowd approximately 1.5 million people attended the beatification of Pope John Paul II on May 1, 2011

judged to be definitive, total, and permanent, as well as directly attributable to his intercession.

"It will be a great joy for us when he is officially beatified, but as far as we are concerned he is already a Saint." Ceremony

Statue of Pope John Paul II outside the Catedral de la Almudena (Madrid, Spain). Made by sculptor Juan de Ávalos (1911–2006) in 1998.

The beatification ceremony of Pope John Paul II was held on 1 May 2011 and was presided over by Pope Benedict XVI. A vigil in preparation for the celebration was held the night before in the Circus Maximus. The casket in which he was interred was exhumed and placed before Saint Peter's tomb on 29 April 2011. It was to be placed in front of the main altar for public veneration during the ceremony. After the ceremony, the casket will be reinterred in the Chapel of St Sebastian. A vial containing the late Pope's blood, taken during the

represented. The British Royal Family was represented by the Duke of Gloucester. The ceremony was also attended by Jewish leaders. Israel was represented by minister without portfolio Yossi Peled.

Amid controversy, President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe also attended the ceremony in the Vatican despite a European Union-wide travel ban imposed on him. He was able to travel freely into the Vatican via Rome due to a treaty that allows individuals wanting to travel to the Vatican to pass through Italy. His travel ban was waived by the EU.

One million Catholics gathered for the mass at Saint Peter's Square, where a giant portrait of the former Pope was set up.

The city of Rome plastered 30,000 posters of Pope John Paul II around the city in preparation for the ceremony. The city provided 3,000 police and traffic officers, thousands of volunteers, additional public

transport and medical facilities. A no-fly zone was enforced over Saint Peter's Square.

On May 2, 2011, following a two day viewing by hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, John Paul II's coffin was sealed under the altar in a chapel located near Michelangelo's famous Pieta.]

#### Celebration in the Holy Land

The beatification of Pope John Paul II as well was celebrated in the city of Bethlehem, where is situated the main headquarter of the John Paul II Foundation in the Middle East. Many locals and internationals came to celebrate this important day. Among the honour guests was Palestinian premier Salam Fayyad. Also present were numerous clergy and members of religious orders in the Holy Land, as well as a many people from Italian associations supporting the Holy Land's John Paul II Foundation.

The worshipers gathered on the plaza of the Foundation took part in the morning Mass presided by the Apostolic delegate for Jerusalem, Antonio Franco. As well the visit of the Pope in the Holy Land in the year 2000 was recalled.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, Monsignor Franco with the Bursar of the Custody of the Holy Land and Chairman of the Foundation for the Middle East Brother Ibrahim Faltas, and the Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority Salam Fayad uncovered and inaugurated a statue dedicated to the Pope who has been beatified this day.

Because of this great celebration John Paul II Foundation build the first scene called with the name of blesses John Paul II. What is more, the whole project was accomplished by artistic show and works of the Bethlehem's community. Criticism of beatification

Some Catholics question the validity of the beatification. Calling into question both the validity of the purported miracle and also asking whether the purported miracle should be attributed to John Paul II rather than the prayers of Sister Marie Simon-Pierre to any other saint. There has been criticism of the rapidity of the beatification in light of the sexual abuse scandals. John Paul II has been criticized (more than perhaps any other issue) for not recognizing

the full severity of the Catholic sex abuse cases until they erupted in America in 2002. He has also been criticized for not recognizing the dual life of the late Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, and for allowing diocesan bishops to transfer pedophile priests from one parish to another instead of reporting their crimes to the authorities. In 2007, TIME magazine



Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, holding the vial of blood of Pope John Paul II during the beatification ceremony

reported that John Paul II may have been complicit in his own death, in a manner that the Catholic Church considers euthanasia. This would have contravened his own position, and that of the Catholic Church who enjoin Christians to use all medical means to prolong life. None of this opposition prevented his beatification.

Source: Wikipedia

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Project of Philippine Foundation of Montreal changes the lives of seniors

By W. G. Quiambao

Tess Mamagat's world collapsed when her husband died of cancer two years ago. Most of the time, she would just stay home. Her two children were pushing her to go out, but she could not do it because she had not come to terms yet with the death of her husband. But things changed when a friend recently introduced her to Seniors in Motion, a group that offers services to seniors to improve the quality of their lives. She

members but through word of mouth, the number of membership had doubled.

Violeta Gasman, 68, is another senior who benefits from the services offered by the SIM. "I arrived in Montreal last July," said Gasman. "Being new here, I felt isolated because I didn't know many people and places. Now, I'm meeting a lot of friends, seeing places and getting involved in many activities."

Membership of SIM are free and open to seniors from 55 and over, male



Seniors in Motion led by Caring Tabunar (seated in the center)

found the zest for living again.

"I began to have a social life," said Mamagat, a retired teacher, 64. "I like meeting people, dancing, cooking. The activities keep me active - mentally and physically. Being a member of Seniors in Motion gives me a sense of responsibility. I'd like to help other seniors who are in need too."

Seniors in Motion, which started last year, is a project of the Philippine Foundation of Montreal that is funded by the Community Participation and Leadership for the New Horizons' for Seniors Program. PFM works in collaboration with the Philippine

and female, Filipinos and non-Filipinos.

Run by volunteers, many of them are retired nurses, SIM offers the following free services:

Recreation and social program - tai-chi, yoga, fitness class, line and social dances, bingo, arts and crafts  
Educational program - seminars and workshops in health awareness, quality of life and well-being will be given at anytime during the five-week period covered by the project  
Field trip program - one-day outing to places of interest like museum, parliament, parks, botanical garden

Daphny Odulio, 60, a retired nurse and board member of SIM, adds,



Seniors in Motion members in their dance costumes after their performance during a seniors monthly social event at St. Kevin's Church Hall.

Association of Montreal & Suburbs, Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society of Quebec, Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal and Canadian People Helping People in the Philippines.

"We encourage seniors to contribute their skills, experience and wisdom in support of well-being in their community and promote the ongoing involvement of seniors in their community to reduce their risk of social isolation," said Caring Tabunar, chairman of SIM.

SIM started with about 30

"We're also raising funds so we can buy a building for the young generation. Someday, we're not going to rent anymore whenever we have activities. Everything that we do is for the community."

For more information, call Caring Tabunar at (514) 626-7635 or Norma Vohra at (514) 695-3740. Seniors in Motion will perform on June 12 at the Mackenzie King park during the Independence Day celebrations

## Western Union Foundation Grants US\$250KD to develop model to channel remittances for economic development in overseas Filipino home communities

*UNDP and Philippines national and local government collaborate to lead project*

MANILA, Philippines, April 5, 2011 – The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Government of the Philippines today launched a US\$250,000 major project wholly funded by the Western Union Foundation to harness the power of remittances from migrant workers

world's fourth largest recipient of overseas remittances after India, China and Mexico with US\$18.76 billion sent home in 2010, or about 14% of GDP, Mr. Meyer said.

Patricia Riingen, Senior Vice President, Pacific and Indochina, said: "At Western Union, we believe that leaving home to



to drive sustainable economic development in the Philippines.

The Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development: Building a Future Back Home (OFs-RED) Project aims to launch a pilot program to pool funds from migrant workers and channel them into projects that lead to economic development and community-based enterprises in the workers' home communities.

The two-year project is made possible by a US\$250,000 grant from Western Union's philanthropic arm The Western Union Foundation.

Renaud Meyer, UNDP country director in the Philippines, said: "The Western Union Foundation funded OFs-RED project will contribute to efforts in the Philippines to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the target to halve poverty by 2015, by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for overseas Filipinos and their families to use remittances for development."

The project will test a mechanism to facilitate and direct overseas remittances towards savings and investment in livelihood improvement and entrepreneurship for the poor and vulnerable, and ultimately create jobs and reduce poverty. The Philippines is the

work overseas should be a choice, not a necessity borne of lack of options. We share the dream that, some day, people in the Philippines and in developing countries everywhere will have the option to stay with their families, that jobs and opportunities at home will provide a choice and that going overseas will be but one way to make a better life. That is why we are so wholeheartedly committed to the OFs-RED project."

Western Union's commitment towards this project commenced in 2008, when the company funded an Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) report to test the interest of pooling remittance. The report found there was willingness to offer and use pooled or collective remittances to fund development, but there was no efficient mechanism to do so.

In 2009 Western Union facilitated a dialogue with multiple stakeholders from government, civil society, business and academia.

Luella Chavez D'Angelo, President of the Western Union Foundation added, "We are delighted that what commenced as a concept was tested in a dialogue and now

See Page 11 Western Union

## Borough of CDN—NDG adopts Urban Forestry Plan

Montréal, May 6, 2011—It's official: after several months of work, the borough of Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (CDN—NDG) has adopted its Urban Forestry Plan, thus becoming the second Montréal borough, after Saint-Laurent, to acquire a tool of this kind to ensure the preservation and development of its arboreal heritage.

Development of the CDN—NDG Urban Forestry Plan is the outcome of a commitment in the Politique de l'arbre de la Ville de Montréal (Montréal tree policy) and is also in keeping with the policies of CDN—NDG's Green Plan, adopted in 2008.

"Given the fact that the borough of CDN—NDG has one of the richest urban forests in Montréal, we feel it is essential that we equip ourselves with the right tools to manage and maintain this tree heritage, so that it can be preserved and developed for the benefit of today's citizens as well as future generations," said Councillor Lionel Perez, responsible for this environment file.

The borough's Urban Forestry Plan is structured around six objectives, from which stem 25 actions covering such aspects as planning, operations, management, by-laws and communications. The plan includes an inventory of the tree population in public areas, an action plan for the years to

See Page 10 Borough Forestry





## Karugtong na kabanata..

### Ang Mangingisda ni Atty. N. Baens del Rosario

ISANG umaga noon. Bagaman ang masipag na alagad ng Diyos sa bayan ng Abukay ay nagdaraos ng misa sa araw-araw ay hindi lubhang pangkaraniwan kay Luisa ang pumasok sa simbahan kung araw ng Miyerkoles. Maagang-maaga pa ay tinungo niya ang simbahan at akay-akay ang kabuto niyang anak na lumalakad na noon sa anim na taon.

"Nanay, hindi lamang ang Tatay ang aking ipinadasal kundi pati ikaw, " ang wika ng matabil na bata nang sila ay makarating na sa bahay.

"Caridad. anak ko, ganyan nga, magpapakabait ka. Sawimpalad ka, sapagka't hindi na nagisnang ng isip ang iyong ama. Ikalabing tatlo rin ng Agostong gaya ngayon nang siya ay masawi. Hindi sana siya lalabas noon sa dagat upang mamalakaya; ngunit ang tao nga naman ay nabubuhay sa guhit ng palad. Naisipan niya ang lumabas noon dahil sa iyo. "

"Dahil sa akin, Nanay?" ang tanong ni Caridad.

"Oo, anak ko, sapagkat nais niyang maibili ka nang lahat ng iyong mga kailangan, kaya't naisipan niyang tumugpa sa dagat. Maliwanag noon ang panahon kaya't ako ay di man lamang sinagilahan ng anumang pangamba. Ako ay nakapuna sa kaniya ng kaunting pagkabalisa. Hindi siya makaalis-alis ng bahay. Lalabas siya at papasok sa kabahayan at lahat ng ayos ng bahay ay pinagmasdan niyang mabuti. Hindi ko nalalaman na yaon pala'y isang pagpapaalam na sa atin. Wala akong kakaba-kaba ng loob. Kinilik kita at magkasama tayong siya'y inihatid natin sa daungan. Niyakap pa niya tayo nang mahigpit. O, Diyos ko! Kaya pala ay hindi na siya muli pang babalik," at ang mag-ina ay magkayakap na nanangis kapwa.

Sa tabi ng dagat ay madalas magtungo si Luisa. Inaabot siya ng takipsilim sa daungan samantalang tumatanaw siya sa malayo at sa pamamagitan ng makapangyarihang pakpak ng mga guniguni ay para niyang inaangin ang lumang bangka ni Sencio. Ang mga mata ni Luisa ay wala nang itulong luha. Ang pinaka-malungkot na pangyayari sa kaniyang buhay ay malaon nang lumipas kaya't kung binabakas man niya sa isip ang mga luksang alaala sy tila ayaw pa rin siyang maniwalang sa Sencio'y di na magbabalik at ang akala niya'y isang malungkot na panaginip lamang ang lahat ng nangyari.

"Luisa, bakit pag-uukulan mo pa ng pag-iisip ang mga yuma? Siya ay tahimik na, wala nang suliranin at wala nang kalungkutan. Bakit mo pa iisipin ang nalunod mong asawa? Siya ay patay na at wala nang pagtititis. Tapos nang lahat ang pakikitungali niya sa buhay. Samantalang ako, akong nalunod sa alon ng iyong mga pasakit ay bakit di mo sagipin? Luisa, matagal na akong nagtititis nang dahilan sa aking wagas na pag-ibig sa iyo."

Bahagya na lamang nilingon ni Luisa ang nagsasalita. Nalalaman niya kung sino yaon. Ang lalaking namimintuho kay Luisa ay si Agapito Legaspi, isang taga-Bulacang may dalawang taon nang inihatid ng tadhana sa tahimik na bayan ng Abukay, upang mabihag ng mahin-hing ganda ng malungkuting bala. Batid ni Luisa ang kadakilaan ng pag-ibig sa kaniya ni Pitong.

"Luisa, matagal na akong naghihintay ng awa," ang luhog ng binata, "Kailan mo ako tutugunin?"

"Pitong," ang malungkot na tugon ni Luisa, "nalalaman ko ang kadakilaan ng iyong pag-ibig at dahil diyan ay natatakot akong baka hindi matumbasan ang alaala ng nasawi kong asawa na parang sumusurot sa aking kalooban, na mapag-aralan ko man ang ikaw ay aking ibigin ay latak na lamang ang pag-ibig na maidu-dulot ko sa iyo. Hindi mo masasarili ang aking puso sapagka't sa tuwi-tuwina ay naisip ko pa si Sencio," ang paliwanag ni Luisa.

"Kay-tigas ng puso mo, Luisa... Ang kaunting ligayang maidudulot mo sa akin ay aarin ko nang langit sa buhay na ito," ang wika ni Pitong.

"Diyos ang nakakabatid na nais kong ang pag-ibig mo ay masukilan ko ng kapwa pag-ibig, maipakilala ko lamang sa iyo na ako'y nagpapahalaga sa lahat ng mga pagod mo sa akin. Ngunit Pitong, hindi kita maaaring linlangin. Hindi kita maiibig na tulad ng pag-ibig ko kay Sencio."

"Luisa, ang lahat ay mapag-aaralan. Maghihintay ako. Ang pag-ibig na unti-unting pumapasok sa puso ng isang tao ay dakila, tunay at dalisay sa lahat. Maghihintay ako, samantala'y pag-aralan mong ako ay ibigin," ang habilin ng binata.

Hindi natagalan at kumalat na lamang ang balita na si Luisa at si Pitong ay pinag-isang palad sa simbahan ng Abukay.

"Mapalad din si Luisa," ang sabihan ng ilan. Nakatagpo din siya ng may kaya at marahil ay mabait pa kaysa una niyang asawa.

"Anong malay natin?" ang sabad naman ng isa. "Baka mabait lamang iyan

sapagkat nasa panahon ng pamumintuho." (ipagpapatuloy sa Hunyo, 2011)

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### Bukas na Liham: Sariling Amin (...ang tugon ni Pichu)

Mahal kong Pechay,

Salamat sa sulat mo noong Abril. Nabagabag ang buong pamilya natin noong ika 4 ng Abril nang sapilitang dalhin nina Tito Aldy at Tito Admhar ang Lelong Bert sa ospital. Diumano, ay hirap na hirap siya makahinga. Mabilis na lumaganap ang balita kaya't sa ikalawang gabi niya roon ay nagkatipon-tipon kaming lahat sa labas ng silid ni Lelong. Sa dami namin ay ipinaubaya ang bulwagan ng mga nars upang hindi kami makasagabal sa daanan ng mga tao.

Dumating si Tiyo Jonah, na kinagiliwan ng lahat. Sa tuwa ni Jonah, nang lumalim ang gabi, ay ayaw pa ring umuwi dahil nawiling makipaglaro sa mga matatangkad nating tiyo at Kuya Aaron niya. Ikaw lang ang hindi pinayagang dumalaw dahil limang araw pa lamang

ang edad mo at natakot ang Nanay at Tatay mo na baka makakuha ka ng sakit sa ospital. Gabi-gabing nangagsidalaw ang lahat, salit-salit, hanggang sa palabasin si Lelong noong ika 9 ng Abril at may taglay na pacemaker.

Pilyo talaga at masayahin ang Lelong natin. Ang tawag niya sa bagong gabay ng puso ay 'peacemaker. "Eto ngayon ang katawa-tawa. Tayong dalawa raw ay mga 'pissmakers." Hindi lang 'yan, Pechay, ang tunay mo palang pangalan ay Hailey Angela at ako naman ay Aiden Zachary. Tuwang-tuwa lang si Lelong na bansagan ng pangalan ang mga mahal niya sa buhay.

Umpisahan mo nang magsulatan tayo sa tunay nating mga pangalan at tingnan natin kung magagalit si Lelong Bert. Huwag kang matakot, ipinagtanong ko na sa mga tiyo natin at nanay mo, hindi raw namamalo ng apo ang Lelong at Lelang, tayong pang apo sa tuhod na!

Nagmamahal,

Kuya Pichu

## Common mistakes and confusing words in English

By Bernardo Sarmiento

### FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH/FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH

If there is a physical distance involved you may use farther or further. If it is a figurative distance you should use only further.

Even though we talk about something being far from the truth, it is a figure of speech, no physical distance being involved, so we should not say "nothing is farther from the truth."

### DISSATISFIED/UNSATISFIED

Don't mix up dissatisfied with unsatisfied.

Dissatisfied applies only to people who are unhappy, frustrated or disappointed with a thing, person or situation.

Examples:

I was dissatisfied with the service I received at the restaurant.

She was dissatisfied with his response to her question.

Unsatisfied refers to the feeling of needing more and can be used with abstract items.

Examples:

Despite the hearty meal, his hunger remained unsatisfied.

She has had the bill for three weeks, but it still remained unsatisfied.

### ALREADY/ YET

Are you confused on how to use the terms "already" and "yet?" Well, you

shouldn't be! These two words have their respective functions in sentences and questions.

It is more about telling the timing as to when the action took place or will take place. For example, when you say "The buses have already been here," this means that the buses have arrived a little earlier than expected but may have just left. This is different when you say, "The buses haven't arrived yet," because this implies that you are still waiting for the buses and that it's running a little late. The same goes with the sentence, "The first group has already travelled, while the second group hasn't travelled yet." If this was a race, obviously group 1 has already taken the lead.

Another point of differentiation between the use of "already" and "yet" is the type of statement it is incorporating. Positive or optimistic statements bearing the term "already" implies an "earlier-than-expected" achievement of a certain action or activity. For some, it signifies pride. Alternatively, "yet" is often seen in neutral to negative statements as it somewhat denotes a delayed completion of an action or activity. For some, it may even symbolize regret.

A good example is, "I have finished my assignment already." The

See Page 11 English Grammar

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## Ask the Video Guy

Al Abdon

### Pocket & Mini-Cams

The right camera isn't always the most expensive or biggest one! We're reading a lot these days about video producers who are actually making commercially viable productions using a minicam - that pocket cam or even their video-capable cell phone. While these tools, (some call them toys), are not



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always suitable for the every day shooting and production crunch, they certainly are worth a look for special situations you might encounter. In most cases they're also affordable.

#### Pocket Cam, Who Would Want One?

Everyone it seems wants one! Those inexpensive but convenient and intriguing high definition (HD) shooters are virtually point-and-shoot in their ease of operation. While the results might not be on a par with your standard-size unit and while most are severely lacking in the controls you're used to, they can still get the job done. They offer both of what I call the "F" factors - fun and frustration.

Problems might run from overall graininess to no mic input, lack of controls to the extent they are only point-and-shoot recorders. But the beauty of it all is that the

video producer or hobbyist who wants to incorporate extra angles into his production can now do so.

"Pocket cam" says it all because most of this category fits nicely in a shirt or pants pocket, fanny pack or handbag. You see something you want to capture, whip it out, turn it on and start shooting in an instant, knowing you're likely going to get something usable if not memorable.

#### Pocket Cam, Minicam - What's the Difference?

Not much really. In fact if you do a search on Google for either one you will usually and often wind up with the same information, models and references. The



panasonic  
www.panasonic.com



Your best bet is the hands-on approach. Don't begin and end your research with your favorite video camera store department. Take information from the accompanying buyer's guide and narrow your list of possibilities down to six or so - fewer or perhaps more. Make notes regarding must-have features and those that might or might not be great deals.

Then do like you should do after you make your purchase, have fun. Create a list of the available electronics stores, department stores and camera stores in your area and make a day of it. Visit each one with the purpose to not only compare prices but to also pick them up, hold and handle them and take your time checking each feature-for-feature. Some shoppers are uncomfortable with this approach. Others don't want to appear clueless and many simply do not



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think it worth taking the time for a mere \$200 purchase.

So, make a day of it. Take all the time you need and want. Don't submit to the pressures of an overly attentive sales or counter person and make a hasty purchase. Don't depend on the salesperson's claim for expertise as it isn't always based on what's best, affordable or practical for you. After a bit, when the sales person sees you are determined to handle, hold, operate and check out the entire counter display he'll move on to the next potential impulse buyer in line. When you've satisfied yourself with the

#### From Page 8 Borough Forestry

come, and various recommendations on upkeep of both young and mature trees, as well as planting, protection and awareness-raising.

The CDN—NDG Urban Forestry Plan is the result of several months of joint efforts involving the borough's Direction de l'aménagement urbain (urban development department) and Direction des travaux publics (public works department), Nature-Action Québec, and forest engineer Luc Nadeau. It was the subject of a public information session on April 6, and was officially adopted by borough council at its meeting of May 3, 2011.

The final version of the plan can be consulted in full (in French) on the borough website: [ville.montreal.qc.ca/cdn-ndg](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/cdn-ndg).

make and model, the store's guarantees, return policies and the price then go ahead and buy it. Take it out of the box on your way home and shoot some footage so that when you are comfortably seated behind your editing system or computer you'll be ready to affirm your choice.

By the way, when you open the box do not throw anything out yet because if you are not satisfied or some features are not functioning you can return or exchange it without any hassle.

There is no better time to try these cameras than when summer has arrived.

Good Luck Happy Shooting,

Al Abdon  
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range of image and audio quality falls lower than the pocket models while some can actually be better. Whatever the case you might be more comfortable with a palm-friendly shape that comes closer to what you are used to shooting with. You might want one or more for the same reasons others want a pocket model but prefer something that looks and feels more like what you are used to.

The DigiLife HDV-H20 looks and feels more like a conventional handycam or palmcorder unit. If you shop around you'll find that it rings the register for under \$200. Nonetheless you'll find that some of these offer white balancing or at least a range of filters for sun, overcast, Fluorescent and/or indoor lighting. Many provide decent-sized LCD monitors and a few offer a selection of audio/video outputs, if not audio input. Peruse the features and focus on what's missing that you might want, but keep in mind also that most, if not all, the sensors in these units are CMOS and some are quite tiny, so even with HD capabilities you might not get much of an image.

#### Sidebar 2: Finding and Getting the One You Really Want

Manufacturers don't always seem to wait for a specific time of the year to introduce new models, makes and brands to the consumer market. New models can show up on the retail shelves of your favorite electronics or camera stores just about anytime. You will in fact find discontinued models on display right alongside the newest and best, so how do shoppers make certain they get what they want?

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# From Page 2 Coop News

charitable endowment the co-op runs.

Saving money, after all, isn't why so many people remain Hanover Co-op members. The more important benefit, Reetz says, is the bond created by two things: Hanover's partnership with local producers to offer fresh, top-quality products; and the co-op's commitment to teaching members about the products they buy.

"As a consumer co-op, based upon the needs of members, we believe in educating our consumers. We have a registered dietitian on staff who writes the most popular articles in our newsletter," Reetz says. The co-op also conducts classes and demonstrations by the chefs and local home cooks.

## Supporting local farmers

Over the past 10 years, Hanover Co-op has strengthened its partnership with local farmers. Before each planting season, Hanover buyers and farmers agree on who will grow what for the co-op in the coming year.

Everyone wins. Hanover is not-for-profit, so it can pay farmers more for their goods than chain food stores can. Farmers who once competed with one another cooperate. Reetz says this makes it easier for each farmer to have a sustainable mix of crops, which protects their businesses from losing everything if one product fails.

"I've had farmers say to me, 'I wouldn't be in business anymore if it wasn't for the co-op,'" Reetz says. "The whole local agricultural picture has changed, not only the business relationship, but this wonderful bond with farmers."

The above example of a successful cooperative illustrates an important point - a cooperative can be successful if members work together. It also showed that members' remained loyal to the coop for reasons other than money. They are bound by the spirit of

fellowship. It is like a choice of a life style that usually make people believe in a cause. This feeling of loyalty or choice of a lifestyle is barely present in our community.

To help us develop more contacts with our members, one of our newest volunteers, Zenaída García, has suggested to hold free seminars for members, similar to the Hannover Coop. She has started to recruit a volunteer speaker, her own sister who used to work as a dietitian in a big hospital. She agreed to hold a workshop based on her field of expertise. More details will be announced in the Filipino Star next issue.

We would like to ask our readers, and in particular, our absentee members, to let us know what will make them become more interested in being part of the cooperative. Perhaps, this 2-way communication will bring the Coop closer to the membership. Moreover, their attendance in the next general assembly tentatively scheduled for August 21, 2011 will give us some hope that they will patronize the cooperative store sooner than later.

If members become more interested in learning about different topics, we will invite other speakers but we must make sure that they will attend in greater numbers, or even a minimum of 15 to 20 people. Members will be called and asked to commit 60 to 75 minutes of their time to listen to an invited guest speaker.

We are planning on holding the general assembly to present the 2009-2010 financial statements during a community picnic. It may be possible to coordinate with other associations in order to avoid conflicts of schedules. We are planning on requesting for a permit to use MacKenzie King Park, Van Horne Park or Beaver Lake, if a permit is required. The details about the exact date and time as well as location will be announced in due time.

By: Zenaída FerryKharroubi

-oOo-

# From Page 8 Western Union

we are turning the concept into action, collaboratively with development and government experts. This represents a breakthrough in Western Union's corporate social responsibility program here in the Philippines."

"Western Union transfers much more than money. We at the Western Union Foundation have decided to honor that by committing USD250,000 to the UNDP to develop the OFs-RED Project, which will be rolled out over in six stages over two years."

"The program intends to efficiently and accountably link hard monies from overseas to create sustainable small businesses that generate jobs and economic opportunity back home in the Philippines. Upon success, the model will be replicated in different parts of the world," she said. The project will jointly be led by UNDP, the Philippines Government's National Economic and Development Authority, The Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Local Government Units and Western Union.

The six phase project will involve facilitating Governmental support for public policy inclusion of collective remittances; building awareness for the concept; getting people living and working overseas organized to pool funds; giving people at home the skills and capabilities to identify and carry out projects; promotion of the concept and mobilizing funds, including public and private fund matching and implementing a pilot

between two send countries and Ilocos Norte and Taguig City in the Philippines.

Rolando G. Tugpalan, Deputy Director-General of the Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority, echoed the need for all stakeholders to work closely together. He said: "Consistent with the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016, the OFs-RED Project aims to develop policies and field-test models to harness remittances for community-based enterprise development. It encourages multistakeholder collaboration to expand livelihood opportunities and create more jobs."

"We are encouraged by Western Union's commitment and hope there would be many other corporations that would follow this example," he said.

Secretary Imelda Nicolas, Chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, said: "The objective of harnessing remittances for development is the next frontier for development banking."

"On behalf of OFWs we applaud Western Union's leadership and hope that the banking and financial sectors will create the same enabling and creative environment as they did in microfinance," she said.

She challenged finance sector leaders to take up the challenge of working with overseas Filipinos and their families, all levels of government and civil society in creating a new model for development.

These contributions represent a portion of a US\$1.1 million grant from the Western Union Foundation to support the

# From Page 9 English Grammar

word "already" is the more appropriate term to use because substituting it with "yet" is inaccurate as in "I have finished my assignment yet." However, if there seems to be some delay or when the statement is to bear a pessimistic tone then it is okay to use "yet." Like, "I haven't finished my assignment yet!"

When the sentence is in question form and that it uses the word "already," most likely the person asking the question is expressing some sense of optimism that the work or action will be completed earlier. Conversely, if the same person gives a question bearing the term "yet," most likely there is a sense of pessimism as the work or action may become delayed.

So when somebody asks you, "Have you finished your assignment?" he is usually more optimistic as compared when asking, "Haven't you finished your assignment yet?" which is more pessimistic, as the asker of the question seems to know that you are still not yet finished with your task.

## Summary

1. "Already" is used in statements whose action has been completed earlier than expected, while "yet" is used in statements whose action or activity has not been completed.

2. "Already" is used in more optimistic statements and questions compared to the use of "yet" in more pessimistic-toned sentences or questions.

## RELATIONSHIP TERMS

If someone walked up to you and said "Howdy, I'm your third cousin, twice removed," would you have any idea what they meant? Most people have a good understanding of basic relationship words, such as "mother," "father," "aunt," "uncle," "brother," and "sister." But what about the relationship terms that we don't use in everyday speech? Terms like "second cousin" and "first cousin, once removed"? We don't tend to speak about our relationships in such exact terms ("cousin"

seems good enough when you are introducing one person to another), so most of us aren't familiar with what these words mean.

Sometimes, especially when working on your family history, it's handy to know how to describe your family relationships more exactly. The definitions below should help you out.

## Cousin (a.k.a. "first cousin")

Your first cousins are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you. In other words, they are the children of your aunts and uncles.

## Second Cousin

Your second cousins are the people in your family who have the same great-grandparents as you, but not the same grandparents.

## Third, Fourth, and Fifth Cousins

Your third cousins have the same great-great-grandparents, fourth cousins have the same great-great-great-grandparents, and so on.

## Removed

When the word "removed" is used to describe a relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. You and your first cousins are in the same generation (two generations younger than your grandparents), so the word "removed" is not used to describe your relationship.

The words "once removed" mean that there is a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference equals "once removed."

"Twice removed" means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

-oOo-

efforts of three United Nations agencies to advance the Millennium Development Goals - a set of eight internationally-agreed goals designed to reduce poverty, hunger, disease, and maternal and child deaths by 2015.

## For more information, please contact:

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## About the Western Union Foundation

Through Western Union's Our World, Our Family® signature program, the Western Union Foundation supports initiatives to empower people through access to economic opportunity. Recognized by the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy in 2009, the program is a five-year, \$50 million commitment reflecting efforts made by Western Union employees, agents and partners around the world. Since its inception, the Western Union Foundation has awarded more than \$71.7 million in grants to more than 2010 nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) in 104 countries and territories. To learn more, visit

<http://foundation.westernunion.com>

## About the UNDP

The United Nations Development Program is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners. <http://www.undp.org/G>  
General Background

## 2008

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), sponsored by Western Union, a global leader in payments, produced a white paper in 2008 - Building a future back home: Leveraging migrant worker remittances for development in Asia. The paper examined communal or collective remittances, the impact they are having and what can be done to make them more effective.

In conclusion, the EIU said that the issues impeding further use of collective remittances for development are all related to one central factor - the need for leadership, both among the migrants and in the recipient community. In some cases where programs have been relatively successful, a key factor has been the role taken by the government, not so much in providing funds but in supporting capacity building in the recipient towns and among the migrants.

## 2009

Following the publication of the

See Page 14 Western Union



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**PAB/PSW students from left (standing): Annie Signey, Lourdescita Lubang, Ethel Tugna, Janet Haydock, Annabelle Allosso and Joesie Bingayen. Seated: Zenaïda Kharroubi, Director-General, and Sophie Toledo, teacher.**



**Standing from left to right (PAB/PSW students): Adele Lascano, Melanie Bangit, Salvacion Battad, Leilani Galsim, Concepcion Dupali, Joyce Liwaliw, and Milet Daquioag. Teachers seated in front: Clarice Mackay, Nina Schiff, and Zenaïda Kharroubi, Director-General.**



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## Lumpiang Isda Fish Lumpia



Lumpiang Isda or Fish Lumpia is a healthier and cheaper alternative to lumpiang Shanghai which uses ground pork as the main ingredients. I have been cooking this lumpia fish version for sometime now. Fried spring rolls whatever the filling is one of the popular and favorite Pinoy food that is usually served at parties. They are troublesome to prepare because of the added rolling procedure but they are ideal as party food. Fried lumpias are also loved by most kids. For my fish lumpia I used galungong but any firm flesh fish will do. The fish has to be poached first for easier flaking. It has to be sautéed also with garlic and onion to remove the fishiness. Here is how I cooked my lumpiang isda.

### Ingredients:

Lumpiang Galungong  
1 kilo galungong or any firm flesh fish  
1/2 head garlic, crushed  
1/2 head garlic, finely chopped  
2 medium size onion, finely chopped  
1 small size singkamas, finely diced  
1 medium size potato, finely diced  
1 medium size carrot, finely diced  
1 bundle kinchay chopped  
1 large size egg, beaten  
3 tbsp soy sauce  
salt and pepper  
spring roll wrappers  
cooking oil

### Cooking procedure:

Lumpiang Isda, Lumpiang Galungong - Procedure

### To poach the fish.

Remove and discard head, innards, fins and scales of fish. In a wok pour 2 cups of water, add in crushed garlic and a tablespoon of salt bring to a boil. Add in fish and let simmer for about 1 minute. Remove from wok, drain and let cool down. Discard the poaching water.

### To make the filling.

Coarsely flake the fish meat and remove and discard fish bones, keep aside. Using same wok sauté garlic and onion until fragrant. Add in the flaked fish and stir cook for 1-2 minutes. Stir carefully to avoid the fish from disintegration. Remove from wok and place in a big mixing bowl, let cool down. Mix in all remaining filling ingredients thoroughly. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

### Assembly and frying.

Place 1 tbsp. of filling on one side of wrapper and wrap tightly, secure wrapper by lightly dabbing water on wrapper edge. In a wok deep fry lumpia at medium to low heat for 2-3 minutes or until wrapper turns to crunchy golden brown and the filling is cooked. Serve with sweet and sour sauce or Thai sweet chili sauce.

## Tinolang Tahong Mussels Soup (Pilipino style)

Tinolang Tahong is a simple Pinoy way of cooking tahong or mussels. The broth of tinolang tahong is very refreshing. The best way to cook is first boil the water with the aromatics before adding the mussels. Should you prefer more broth then you have to add more



water and little salt to taste. Lemongrass could be boiled with the water if you want an additional zest to the dish. Overcooking will shrink the mussel meat therefore it is very important that it should be cooked until the shells had opened.

### Ingredients:

1 kilo tahong, mussel  
1 thumb size ginger, sliced into strips  
1/2 head garlic, crushed  
1 medium size onion, sliced  
1 bundle kangkong tops, trimmed  
2-3 pieces green sili  
cooking oil

### Cooking procedure:

### Tinolang Tahong - Cooking Procedure

Wash mussels and place in a bowl, cover with water and let sit in for several hours to allow the mussels to expel dirt and discard water, wash and drain. In a wok or pan sauté garlic, ginger and onion. Pour 1 cup water and bring to a boil. Add mussels and allow water to boil once more and simmer until the shells start to open, now add in kangkong and green sili, simmer for another 2-3 minutes or until done. Serve hot.



Fresh ingredients - kangkong leaves, green pepper and fresh mussels

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From Page 11 Western Union

EIU white paper, Western Union convened the first Western Union conversation in the Philippines in 2009 to discuss how collective remittance projects can be made more widespread and successful. The forum – an invitation only multi-stakeholder dialogue was attended by 50 leading figures of government, academia, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, industry groups and businesses from the Philippines.

The overwhelming consensus of the forum was for a collaborative and multidisciplinary approach in planning and in execution to drive migrant-funded development in home communities.

Based on the collective

recommendations of the delegates a five-point action plan was devised as a working framework for review and pilot testing. This included: Government support for policy inclusion of collective remittances, Awareness building to communicate individual and collective benefits; Collaborative capacity building to achieve optimal project stewardship, Fund matching to encourage multiplier effect, Project leadership encompassing inception, implementation and evaluation

2009/2010  
Western Union commenced a dialogue with UNDP and committed funding towards The Overseas Filipinos Remittances for Development: Building a Future Back Home (OFs-RED) Project

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# Pacquiao dominates Mosley

## Yellow-gloved Manny conquers, as expected

Philippine master Manny "PacMan" Pacquiao retained the World Boxing Organization welterweight title on Saturday by beating American Shane Mosley to extend his winning streak to 14 bouts.

Pacquiao came on strong in the third round, knocking Mosley down with a straight left hand and then went on to earn a unanimous decision in front of a sellout crowd of 16,000 at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

The mainly partisan Filipino crowd, clad in yellow to match Pacquiao's gloves, were delighted to see their hero get the decision 119-108, 120-108 and 120-107.

The Manila Times scored the fight 120-108.

"He felt my power," Pacquiao, 32, said of Mosley. "I wanted to fight toe-to-toe. I did my best to give a good fight."

The Filipino boxing icon, a 10-time world champion in a record eight weight divisions, was making the second defense of his current welterweight crown.

The southpaw from Sarangani province in southern Mindanao, who suffered from leg cramps in the middle rounds, dominated from the opening round as Mosley spent the majority of the fight in full retreat, bringing back memories for Pacquiao of his fight with Joshua Clottey.

Pacquiao (53-3-2, 38 knockouts) was the aggressor, continuing to push forward and trying without success to go for the knockout, especially in the third and 11th and 12th rounds.

After the fight, the multi-talented Pacquiao was scheduled to head across the Las Vegas strip to the Mandalay Bay hotel for a singing engagement with his band at a "Beach Party" in his honor.

He threw 552 punches compared to just 260 for Mosley.

The Filipino said that his biggest problem was his legs, which started cramping in the middle rounds.

"I told my coach to press my legs because I can't move," Pacquiao said.

"My legs tightened up during the fight. I couldn't move. It is the same thing that happened to me against [Juan Manuel] Marquez. Now it has come back."

Pacquiao, who was encouraged by his trainer, Freddie Roach, to go for the kill failed to score the knockout because he was having leg cramps after the eighth round.

Mosley claimed that he would expose Pacquiao's weaknesses but

there was no turning back the clock for the 39-year-old four-time world champion, who looked every bit his age.

said. "He's fast and I had to be cautious of his counter-punch."

Mosley (46-7-1, 27 knockouts) managed to succeed in not getting

went down with a little help from Mosley's right hand.

Bayless apologized to Pacquiao after the fight for the mistake.

Mosley denied that he was showing his age.

"You can't blame age," he said. "Manny is an exceptional fighter. He truly is the pound-for-pound king. He has speed and power that I have never felt before. He surprised me with that power with the knockdown. That's the most legitimate knockdown on me in a long time."

Indeed, it was the first time that Mosley has been knocked down in nine years, since losing to Vernon Forrest in 12 rounds.

Pacquiao earned close to \$15 million while Mosley collected about \$5 million.

With Mosley out of the way, he expects to fight next in November, possibly against Marquez.

Pacquiao was supposed to fight Floyd Mayweather Jr. last year but the fight fell through in a dispute over drug-testing.

On Saturday, he described his legacy as solid with or without a Mayweather fight.

"I don't care about that fight," Pacquiao said. "I am satisfied with everything that I have done in boxing."

Bob Arum, boxing promoter Top Rank chief executive, said that he expects Pacquiao to be back in the ring, possibly for a third fight with Mexican world lightweight champion Marquez.

Before the fight, Top Rank was reported to have offered Marquez a guaranteed \$5 million, the same guaranteed purse given to Mosley, for a third fight with Pacquiao—possibly on November 12.

But respected boxing commentator Larry Merchant said that he would rather see Pacquiao fight one of the exciting young guns, among them unbeaten Mexican welterweight champion Saul Alvarez, another Mexican and newly crowned welterweight champion Victor Ortiz or unbeaten junior welterweight titlist Timothy Bradley.

"Business-wise, it looks like Marquez will be next for Manny, but I would rather see him fight one of the most exciting young contenders available," Merchant said by phone from Santa Monica, California.

Arum earlier said that he had booked MGM Grand Arena for a November 12 fight for Pacquiao. ■



**Victory in Vegas.** Manny Pacquiao throws a punch against Shane Mosley in the fourth round during a WBO welterweight title bout in Las Vegas. The Filipino boxing champion won by unanimous decision.



**Manny Pacquiao leaves Shane Mosley on the floor during their bout for the World Boxing Organization welterweight title, Saturday May 7, 2011.**



**Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines celebrates after his unanimous decision victory against Shane Mosley**

Pacquiao's knockdown in the third round was just the third time in Mosley's 18-year career that the American challenger has hit the canvas.

Mosley's main goal appeared to be simply keeping his record of never being knocked out intact.

"Mosley is not slow," Pacquiao

knocked out but was booed loudly, especially in the eighth and ninth rounds.

Referee Kenny Bayless awarded Mosley a suspect knockdown in the 10th round as television replays showed that Pacquiao was throwing a punch off-balance, slipped and

# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## 5-minute applause greets Solito's Cannes premiere



Filmmaker Aureaus Solito: "I Cannes!"

A five-minute applause highlighted the premiere of the Filipino film "Busong (Fate)," held Monday night at the Theatre Croisette in Cannes, France, its director Aureaus Solito told the inquirer.

The film, which was inspired by stories that the director's mother, Leonarda Calo Solito, told him about her native Palawan when he was a child, debuted at the Directors' Fortnight (Quinzaine des Réalisateurs) section of the world's most prestigious festival.

Solito said that Frederic Boyer, artistic director of the Directors' Fortnight, introduced "Busong" and recounted the history of Filipino filmmakers' participation in the festival — citing the late Lino Brocka's debut in Cannes in 1978.

The film's lead actress Alessandra de Rossi and Solito wore piña (pineapple fiber) barong and gown, respectively, by designer Oliver Tolentino.

In his remarks before the screening, Solito said: "I was a kid when Lino Brocka made it to the Quinzaine in 1978. I thought then, can I do this someday? And now I'm here."

And then he quipped: "I Cannes!"

### 'Busong' team

The "Busong" creative team and the Filipino-American producers were also present: Hai Balbuena, production designer; Jong de Castro, executive producer; Chuck Gutierrez, editor, and his wife Baby Ruth Villarama, who are also the associate producers through Voyage Studios; Henry Burgos, co-writer; and Ligaya del Fierro, who did the film's French subtitles.

Also in the delegation were the film's co-producers who flew in from the United States: Meme Alcasabas and doctors Bambi Loricca, Raffy Gorospe, Merla Puray and Emile Tayag.

Solito said he told the audience about the film's inspiration, his mother, who coincidentally was celebrating her birthday in Manila on the day of the premiere, May 16.

The audience broke into applause after the last frame of the film, Solito related. He sat down but the clapping wouldn't stop, so Boyer



Bonnie Budao in "Busong".

asked him to rise again and bow.

The cheers continued as De Rossi and the rest of the "Busong" team stood up and bowed together.

"We all started embracing each other," Solito recounted. "Everyone was teary eyed. Even Alessandra cried."

Clifford Bañagale, the Los

Angeles-based actor who plays Aureaus' alter ego character in "Busong," did not make it to the premiere due to a delay in the processing of his travel documents.

"The hospitality of the Filipinos in Cannes, led by Amy Cedo and her family, is amazing," Solito said. "The Filipinos were organized by Maria Angela Ponce, consul of the Philippines to France. She was a member of my theater group in the University of the Philippines called the UP Tropa."

He also cited the Film Development Council of the Philippines for helping provide funds for the "Busong" delegation's trip to Cannes and the film's post-production.

### First of a trilogy

"Busong" is the first of a trilogy on Palawan that the director of the internationally heralded "Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros" is making.

The second and third films, "Delubyo (Deluge)" and "Sumbang (Origin)," will tackle the picturesque province's past.

"Busong" itself is composed of three segments: "Forest," "Sea" and "Mountain."

In her review of "Busong," The Hollywood Reporter's Maggie Lee

described the film as a "visually and aurally delightful celebration of Philippine indigenous culture that is more mystifying than mystic."

Lee wrote: "'Busong' is of immense interest to researchers of South East Asian anthropology, as well as anyone planning a paradisiacal beach holiday, but it will be hard to market a film that will certainly leave any audience nonplused even in art house cliques. Nevertheless, as scenes of pristine nautical beauty and sensuous masculine physicality testify, the film has higher aesthetic sensibility than just a cultural curio, and should find a spot in festivals."

Lee summed up her review by praising Louie Quirino's cinematography: "The superb underwater cinematography makes the marine creatures throb with life and move with ballet rhythm. The final scene, which features a magical metamorphosis of butterflies, is surreal yet truly beatific, and momentarily lifts the story into the realm of magic. Even Magritte would be impressed." ■

## Charice shrugs off 'Before It Explodes' controversy: 'It's my song'



Charice

Despite the success of the digital release of "Before It Explodes," Charice faces controversy with some people claiming the song is not rightfully hers. Fans of British R&B and pop singer Alexandra Burke point out that their idol was first to record it.

Burke is the winner of the fifth series of "The X Factor" in 2008. She popularized the song originally by Leonard Cohen "Hallelujah."

On "Startalk TX" May 14, Charice clarified: "Gusto ko lang i-clear, actually ano, kasi ang daming lumabas na issue about it (the song). Na kasi, merong isang artist na nag-demo nung song — si

Alexandra. So, gusto ko lang i-clear na hindi niya ni-release 'yan, hindi niya ni-release, or si Bruno.

"Ako yung kauna-unahang nag-release, so song ko ito," said Charice, who is currently in Las Vegas.

The international star, who turned 19 last May 10, would rather focus on her first Hollywood film than her critics.

"Ayun, nagsu-shooting pa rin ako ng movie, movie with Kevin James and Salma Hayek, and it's called 'Here Comes The Boom.' Ilalabas siya next year, pero nagsu-shooting pa rin kami ngayon. And ang role ko, yeah, Filipino. My name is Maria," Charice related.

Charice also busies herself promoting "One Day," the song she co-produced with Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers.

"Actually yung 'One Day' is a song para sa commercial ko na... na theme song for that, and Nick Jonas wrote the song 'One Day,'" she said.

Reports have it that Charice is set to appear on the last episode ("New York") of the hit US musical series "Glee," airing on May 25. Charice is also set to release her sophomore album on May 31. It will contain her latest singles "Louder" and "Lost the Best Thing." ■



## Beauty queens parade for the Holy Mother

Reigning and past beauties of the Bb. Pilipinas joined the annual religious and cultural procession along the streets of Araneta Center in the 2011 "Grand Santacruzán" last May 15.

The "Grand Santacruzán" pays tribute to Queen Helena's search for the Holy Cross. Now on her second year to join this event, Ms. Universe 2010 4th runner-up Venus Raj marched as "Reyna Elena" while 1970 Ms. International Aurora Pijuan was the "Reyna Emperatriz."

Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Shamcey Supsup was "Reyna de las Flores," while Bb. Pilipinas-International Dianne Necio paraded as "Reyna de las Virgines," and Bb. Pilipinas-Tourism Isabella Manjon as "Reyna del Cielo." Bb. Pilipinas 2011 Runners up Janine Tugonon and Mary Jean



**Binibining Pilipinas 2011 winners and participants in this year's Grand Santacruzán**

Lastimosa joined the procession as "Reyna de los Propetas" and "Reyna Paz," respectively.

In an interview on "Unang Hirit" on May 16, Supsup giddily shared "I'm very much happy because I've seen all the other candidates here also so parang reunion din namin." "Sobrang honored and happy na kasama ako [ulit] actually, this is my 2nd year sa Santacruzán ng Araneta," Raj commented in the same

interview.

The other participating Bb. Pilipinas ladies were finalists of the recently concluded pageant including former tricycle driver Luzelle Felipe and Best in National Costume, Elizabeth Clenci.

Past queens who lent elegance to the occasion were Nicolette Henson, Patricia Fernandez, Jennifer Barrientos, Marie Ann Umali, Czarina

Gatbonton, and Kapuso star Krista Kleiner.

The Santacruzán has been a widely popular and highly revered tradition in Filipino culture, which celebrates beauty and bounty. Starting with a Holy Mass to consecrate the occasion to the Virgin Mary, the belles paraded around the Center representing the various characters (reynas) honoring, the "Accolades of Our Lady," in lavishly decorated arches accompanied by dashing escorts and lovely angels.

Ending this wondrous event, the 40 sagalas regally walked towards the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer bouquets of flowers in celebration of the Holy Mother's piety and to celebrate the month of flowers. ■

## Lea glad Willie won't file libel case



**Willie Revilla**

Actress Lea Salonga admitted that it was a relief to know that controversial TV host Willie Revillame changed his plan to file a libel case against her and other celebrities who expressed their opinions about the controversial Jan-Jan issue.

In an interview during the party for Avon's 125th year, Salonga said although she's relieved to hear about Revillame's change of heart, she stressed that she was just expressing her opinion.

"I mean, obviously that's a relief. However, I don't know if you can file a case against someone who's just expressing his opinion," Salonga said.

"My thing is, you know what, you are in showbiz. You are and I am an open target... So you know what, anybody can say anything they want. Just don't make me mura and I will respect what they say. Huwag nila akong murahin. Rerespetuhin ko ang opinion nila," she added.

Last April 8, Revillame lashed at some of his fellow entertainers for

posting negative comments about him on the web, mainly through Twitter.

He particularly accused Jim Paredes, Agot Isidro, Mylene Dizon, Bianca Gonzalez, Tuesday Vargas, Aiza Seguerra and Salonga of "prejudging" him, and announced he was considering filing libel cases.

Revillame and TV5 drew flak from various sectors after a 6-year-old boy named Jan-Jan tearfully performed a lewd dance during the March 12 episode of "Willing Willie" in exchange for P10,000. The DSWD and other agencies called it abuse.

The incident has also prompted government agencies to conduct an investigation.

Last Wednesday, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) sued Revillame for violating Republic Act No. 7610, or the Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act, before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Atty. Nancy Quimpo of DSWD said the Jan-Jan incident was a clear violation of RA 7610 since it involves "emotional and psychological cruelty to a child" including debasement and humiliation.

Sought for her reaction now that a government agency finally filed a case against Revillame, Salonga replied: "I wish every side the best of luck. At this point, let's just see what happens. I honestly don't know how I feel about all these things right now," Salonga said. ■

## Toni Gonzaga clarifies 'no-show' issue at Guillermo Mendoza awards



**Toni Gonzaga**

Multimedia personality Toni Gonzaga dispelled allegations that her absence at the Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Scholarship Foundation (GMMSF) awards held May 10 was borne out of her resentment towards the organization.

"May mga awards night po talaga na hindi ako nakakadalo dahil meron po tayong prior commitments. Nagkataon lang na nasabay lang sa issue. Other than that wala naman po," said Toni in an interview with "Showbiz News Ngayon (SNN)."

Toni was the recipient of the "Princess of Philippine Movies" award for the box-office success of her first team-up film with John Lloyd Cruz last year, "My Amnesia Girl."

The Kapamilya star is grateful to those who made the project a success.

"More than anything else, siguro ang pagpapasalamat ko talaga ay sa Star Cinema at sa lahat ng tao na tumangkilik sa pelikula," said she.

Toni had earlier gotten into a "box office queen" controversy following rumors that her mother and manager, Pinty Gonzaga, as well as her fans, allegedly protested the supposed announcement that 2010 Metro Manila Film Festival Best Actress Ai Ai delas Alas will be crowned Box Office Queen.

Although the initial announcement was branded a "false alarm," Ai Ai eventually snagged the title after the GMMSF's deliberations.

Ai Ai and Toni were also quick to refute a purported "box office queen" rivalry which was spawned by the controversy. And as an apparent proof that all is well between them, Toni is said to have hugged and congratulated Ai Ai before the latter's interview on "The Buzz" last April 10 where she talked about her latest feat with Toni's co-hosts Boy Abunda and Charlene Gonzales. "The Buzz" head writer Darla Sauler also posted photos of Ai Ai and Toni together in her official website. ■

- *Showbiz continued on page 18*

## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

### Cherry Pie forgives Baron



**Cherry Pie Picache**

Veteran actress Cherry Pie Picache has finally forgiven actor Baron Geisler after the actor allegedly touched her breasts during the taping of the ABS-CBN TV series "Noah" last January.

In an interview with "Showbiz News Ngayon" on Monday, Picache said: "Forgotten hindi ko pa alam. Forgiven of course. Forgotten in the

sense na it's too soon to forget. We'll see."

Picache said she is happy to know that Geisler is helping himself and that the actor is showing efforts to make himself better.

Geisler recently decided to stay in a rehabilitation facility for alcohol dependency even after already completing the recommended 3-month program.

He said the decision to stay longer in the facility is voluntary as he needs to learn more things at the center.

Geisler explained that 3 months is not enough for him to learn things especially about himself. ■

### Mommy D on raising Manny



**Dionisia Pacquiao**

Dionisia Pacquiao, known to most as Aling Dionisia or Mommy D, attributes her success in raising boxer Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao to perseverance but more so to her absolute faith in God's love.

In an interview with "Paparazzi" last May 15, the Pacmom revealed that she never did once lose hope amid trials in her life, specifically mentioning the time she almost lost the two-year old Pacquiao to illness.

Mommy D also shared that she is not one to hit her children.

"Hindi ko paluin pero paluhod ko sa bigas para hindi na ultin pag may ginawa silang hindi maganda," she explained.

Mommy D admitted to disapproving of her son's entry into boxing as a profession at 13 years old, and that the Pacman had to literally run away just to be able to pursue his dream.

"Hindi nagpaalam, umalis," Mommy D narrated. "Wala akong

magawa kagustuhan ng anak ko eh. 'Yan ang pangarap niya, suportang na lang ako.'

As a rule, Mommy D never watches her son fight, this, she said, started from when his son was almost disqualified after she charged the ring.

"Nakapanood kasi ako one time tapos muntik ma-disqualify siya. Maakyat man ako ng ring. Naawa ako. Gusto ko tulungan siya," she explained.

Numerous times, she tried to stop her son from fighting. One instance she remembers vividly was his loss to boxer Rustico Torrecampo.

"Nalungkot, nagalit ako, sabi ko, 'Stop na kayo ha, uwi na kayo,'" she said.

But her son convinced her to take the loss with indifference.

"Mang, kailangan marunong tayong tumanggap ng pagkatalo," she quoted her son as saying.

Another memorable moment for Mommy D was when 19-year old Manny announced his plans to marry his now-wife, Jinkee.

"Dinala niya sa bahay. Sa totoo lang, noon ayoko talaga dahil sabi ko maaga pa, bata pa sila," she said.

But all's well that end's well. With the Pacman enjoying success as the richest Filipino boxer ever, Mommy D is more than thankful that her sacrifices had paid off.

"Ay naku, talagang pasalamat ako sa Panginoon dahil dininig niya talaga ang mga asal ko," she said.

Still, one thing hasn't changed: Her wish to eventually see her son retire from boxing.

"Gusto ko na talagang tumigil na siya. Kausapin ko na ng one on one, hilingin ko talaga na mag-retire na siya," she said. ■

### Macau-based Pinoy singer inspired by Kris



**Clifford Allen Estrala**

Macau-based Pinoy singer Clifford Allen Estrala (photo) has a crush on Kris Aquino, that's why on his YouTube and Facebook, he's dedicating the song Just A Smile Away to her.

The name may not ring a bell among fans in the Philippines but it soon might.

Clifford, who almost joined Pilipinas Got Talent just to be closer to his crush, is currently performing regularly in Macau, Malaysia, Singapore and other Asian countries.

Clifford is recognized as an artist of the Filipino community.

He used to work as student assistant to priests in La Union, during which his singing talent got honed.

After college, during a gig at Puerto Galera in 2001 Clifford was invited to Macau to sing with a band.

"While singing with the band," said Clifford, "I had to find a job to get a working visa. Fortunately, I was hired by the Venetian in Macau as a casino employee. I performed with the band on the side until Kara David featured me in OFW Diaries. This led to my becoming a stringer for TV show."

He then became part of the Philippine Independence celebrations of the Philippine Consulate in Macau.

His life story was also dramatized in Maalaala Mo Kaya, with Eric Santos portraying him.

Last March 27, Clifford successfully mounted a homecoming concert titled Voices From Asia at Metro Bar, West Ave., Quezon City. During the June 12 Philippine Independence Day celebration in Macau, he will serenade the 2011 Bb. Pilipinas-Macau candidates. ■

### Sharon speaks on weight problem



**Sharon Cuneta**

said.

The primer will also include testimonies from six "heavy" Pinoyos who struggle with their weight problems. The list includes seven-year-old child star Karl Camo of "Goin' Bulilit."

Danica, 14, has to deal with greater pressure growing up because of her weight. Twenty-two-year-old Alvin, on the other hand, has been rejected over and over during job applications.

There is also Lorie, 33, who can't bear a child because of excessive fat in her body.

Forty-year-old Rowena, meanwhile, is a mom but can't attend her children's graduation in fear that they will be teased by their classmates because of her.

Finally, get to meet Reinnier, who at 25 already has a memorial plan due to the health risks of his obesity.

Though they struggle with health and weight problems, the megastar still believes that they can improve their lives and make the most out of everything.

"The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition" can be a source of inspiration to people like them, and even those who are perfectly fit and healthy."

"Kayang-kaya iyan. Pag nakita niyo yung journey ng mga contestant to lose weight, I think representation din yan ng kaniya-kaniyang problemang pinagdadaanan natin, kahit hindi siya obesity," she reiterated. ■



## Pacquiao says yes to 'Glee' guesting



**Manny Pacquiao**

Boxing champion Manny Pacquiao said that he is open to the idea of appearing in the hit TV show "Glee" as a guest.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News reporter Gretchen Fullido, Pacquiao admitted that he was invited to guest on Glee but had yet to receive confirmation about the offer. Pacquiao, who counts singing as one of his many passions, said he wants to guest on the musical show.

Even Pacquiao's wife, Jinkee, and friend, Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, are all in favor of

Pacquiao's Glee guesting.

Reports of Pacquiao's guesting on US hit series started after one of the show's cast Darren Criss shared his dream to work with the boxing champion.



YouTube sensation and fellow Filipino Charice has also guested on the show as Sunshine Corazon, an exchange student from the Philippines. She has been nominated at the "1st Annual Glee: The Music Awards" hosted by Hollywood blogger Perez Hilton.

## Jake to 'obsessed' fan: 'I will never forget you'



**News footage of Cuenca talking to his fan, Elizabeth Aquino-Suarez**

Meeting an "obsessed" fan proved quite memorable for actor Jake Cuenca who, on May 13, met one in the person of 51-year-old Elizabeth Aquino-Suarez.

The Iloilo City-based Suarez had been camping out at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) for days waiting for the actor whom she deemed her "soul mate." She stubbornly refused to leave the premises saying that she would only do so if asked by Cuenca.

According to Cuenca as much as such intense adulation is "flattering," he also couldn't help but be a bit bothered about the condition she set.

"Siempre I was worried. Seven

days siya doon," said he in an interview with absbnnews.com.

Prior to the meeting, which was arranged by the actor's handlers, Cuenca said he prayed that he'd be able to convince Suarez to finally go home.

"Hiningi ko na, 'Lord bigyan ninyo ako ng lakas na makumbinsi ang taong ito na umuwi kasi kailangan siya ng pamilya niya,'" he said.

His prayers were answered. After the meeting with Cuenca, Suarez said she ended her vigil.

"Kung ano 'yong sinabi niya [Cuenca], sundin ko na lang," she said.

Suarez said she was very happy to have finally seen Cuenca in person. "Parang nabuntan ako ng tinik... Hindi natatanggal sa isipin ko 'yong the way he smiled at me.'"

Cuenca admitted that it was the first time that he encountered such a fan. Addressing Suarez he said, "Hindi kita makakalimutan. Tulad ng sabi ko, sulatan mo lang ako at susulatan din kita."

## Gretchen Barretto never closes door of reconciliation with sister Claudine



**Gretchen Barretto**

The saying "Blood is thicker than water" seems true for warring sisters Gretchen Barretto and Claudine Barretto, as the former expressed willingness to reconcile with her younger sister in due time.

"You know Claudine is my sister. Imposibleng hindi kami magkakaayos. Maybe we had our differences but I never doubted our love for each other. I think it should end there," came Gretchen's reaction on reports that she has recently rekindled her relationship with Claudine.

A tabloid report said the controversial sisters were seen in at least two instances together, proving to all and sundry that all's well that ends well between them.

Recall that more than a year ago, the sisters' relationship got strained

after Claudine backed out of the soap she was to star on with Gretchen. The TV project was "Magkaribal," a story about, well, warring sisters. Claudine was replaced by Bea Alonzo.

Claudine allegedly felt slighted when Gretchen still continued with the soap even without her. She was thinking that her elder sister will also back out from the project, but that did not happen. After that, Claudine shocked showbiz denizens by moving to the Kapuso

network, a decision she never discussed with Gretchen.

Moving forward, Gretchen is excited about her new soap with a formidable cast composed of KC Concepcion, Angelica Panganiban, Zanjoe Marudo, Luis Manzano and Sam Milby.

"I'm really ready. I'm really hungry to work and really hungry to give my best to the audience. I know that they're also very excited to see the three girls together, KC, Angelica and me," Gretchen enthusiastically said on "Showbiz News Ngayon," May 16.

Gretchen's last soap with ABS-CBN, "Magkaribal," was shown six months ago, and coming back to TV after the lull explains her excitement.

"Six months kaming nag-prepare for this teleserye. Six months akong nag-iipon ng mga damit para sa teleseryeng ito," she enthused. ■

## Last 'American Idol' finalist bootied before finale



**Haley Reinhart**

"American Idol" finalist Haley Reinhart won't be growling on this season's final showdown.

The bluesy 20-year-old vocalist from Wheeling, Ill., best known for her signature singing snarl, was revealed Thursday to have received the fewest viewer votes on the Fox talent contest, leaving deep-voiced 17-year-old singer Scotty McCreery of Garner, N.C., and soaring 16-year-old songbird Lauren Alaina of Rossville, Ga., to compete on next week's finale.

"I rocked it out, and I had a blast," Reinhart said after her elimination.

Reinhart had always seemed doomed on "Idol." Unlike her remaining rivals, cherubic country crooners McCreery and Alaina, the wavy-haired Reinhart had been less definable and garnered fewer votes.

landing at the bottom as one of the show's low vote-getters four times after weak performances of such songs as LeAnn Rimes' "Blue" and Blondie's "Call Me."

This season's femme fatale found recent success by boldly tackling classic rock tunes. She earned a standing ovation from the judges two weeks ago for a rousing rendition of The Animals' version of "The House of the Rising Sun," and she was lauded again Wednesday for her performances of Fleetwood Mac's "Rhiannon" and Led Zeppelin's "What Is and What Should Never Be."

It was apparently too little, too late for Reinhart after 95 million viewer votes were cast Wednesday. While she was finding her groove throughout the finals, McCreery and Alaina had been delivering consistent country and pop performances since their attention-grabbing auditions. McCreery never appeared at the bottom, and Alaina only did once two weeks ago.

The duo will face off Tuesday, with the 10th season "Idol" champion crowned on Wednesday. It will mark the youngest finale matchup in "Idol" history. Producers lowered the minimum age requirement to 15 years old this season, which allowed Alaina, who's been compared to fourth season "Idol" winner Carrie Underwood, the chance to audition last year. ■

## Aquino receives Pacquiao in Malacanang Friday



President Benigno Aquino holds a boxing glove while WBO welterweight champion and congressman Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao (L) autographs the other one during his courtesy call at the presidential palace in Manila May 20, 2011. Pacquiao gave the pair, which were similar to the ones he used recently to defeat Shane Mosley in their World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight title bout, to Aquino

President Benigno S. Aquino III met with Filipino pound-for-pound king and Sarangani Representative Manny Pacquiao at the Premier Guest House in Malacañang Friday.

The courtesy call of Pacquiao occurred 6-days after the Filipino ring idol came back home from Las Vegas, Nevada where he successfully defended his WBO welterweight crown against American boxing veteran Sugar Shane Mosley.

Reproductive Health Bill pending at Congress.

In that meeting, Valte said, the President reiterated to Pacquiao that the RH Bill is against abortion and it was based on his 5-point stand that will educate married couples on the importance of responsible parenthood.

She said the President also shared to Pacquiao the stories of a 16-year old young mother from Basco compound in Tondo,



The meeting of Aquino and Pacquiao became controversial due to the different stand of the two on the RH Bill. The boxing champion, who is also a representative of Sarangani province, is a staunch critic of the RH Bill, a measure that the President was supporting.

Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda earlier said the presence of Pacquiao in Malacanang shows that democracy is still active and alive in the country. It also shows that the President respects the decision or choice of each individual to support or to become critic of the RH Bill.

During the call, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Abigail Valte said the President and Pacquiao had an opportunity to talk and discuss the

Manila and a young boy patient that he met during the inauguration of the 6th and 10th floor facilities of Sta. Ana Hospital in Sta. Ana, Manila.

During the photo opportunity, Pacquiao handed over the pair of yellow boxing gloves he used in his fight against Mosley, DVD copies of the fight, a 'Pacman' souvenir gray hoodie jacket and yellow T-shirt.

As a token for his new victory and another honor for the country, the President gifted Pacquiao with his coffee table book "The Inaugural: The Inside Story of the Aquino Presidency" and a decorative box.

Joining Pacquiao in his visit to Malacanang were Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson and some members of Team Pacquiao. ■

## Binay: Decision on Marcos burial by June



Vice President Jejomar Binay will make a decision by first week of June on whether former President Ferdinand Marcos should be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Binay said Monday they received numerous text messages on the survey that they conducted asking the public if

they are in favor or not of burying Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"Yun survey na ginagawa namin is not about the numbers, ang tinitingnan namin dito ay yun mga dahilan nila kung bakit gusto o ayaw nila, and that will be a part of the basis we would use when we decide. Ang importante makagawa ng desisyon kung tanggapin yan o hindi ng karamihan, nasa kanila na iyon, basta sa akin kailangan may ilabas na desisyon."

Thousands of Filipinos have responded to a survey on whether or not former President Ferdinand Marcos should be given a hero's burial.

As of April 15, the OVP received 3,115 replies of which 2,139 were sent through text message and 976 were through email.

Marcos's body remains in a refrigerated crypt in the family mausoleum in Batac, Ilocos Norte.

Some 216 members of the House of Representatives have signed House Resolution No. 1135, initiated by Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero, which is urging President Aquino to allow the burial of the remains of late strongman at the Libingan. ■

## Metro Manila workers get P22 hike in daily pay

The wage board on Monday approved a 22-peso increase in the daily take-home pay of 2 million minimum wage earners in Metro Manila in the form of cost-of-living-allowance, bringing the daily compensation of non-agricultural workers in the metro to P426 a day.

"The new wage order will be published in at least one newspaper of general circulation and will become effective 15 days from its publication, Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz said.

"The wage hike will cover all minimum wage earners in the private sector regardless of position, employment status, or salary scheme. Of the 4.2 million workers in Metro Manila, 2.18 million receive the minimum wage."

The increase in their cost-of-living allowance will somehow help workers cope with rising costs, but it's excluded from the computation of their wage-related benefits like overtime and 13th-month pay.

As a result, the moderate Associated Labor Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines criticized the increase.

"The [wage board] just missed this important opportunity to raise workers' standard of living in the National Capital Region and to help improve equity as mandated by law," the group said.

"The [cost-of-living] allowance is not included in the computation of the overtime pay and 13th-month

pay," said George San Mateo, a national council member of the left-wing Kilusang Mayo Uno [May First Movement] and secretary general of a jeepney operators and drivers group.

The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines had filed a 75-peso increase in the minimum wage, saying workers needed that amount to cope with rising commodity and transport prices.

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said any increase in the workers' wages would be welcome if justifiable.

"The more important issue is, we should make the purchasing power of the peso stronger, because if we increase the wages but the peso is weak, it will just result in inflation, group president Francis Chua said.

Wage board chairman Raymundo Agravante said the board considered the workers' need to cope with high commodity prices and the employers capacity to pay when it decided on the increase and its form.

The board also considered the impact of the increase on inflation, Agravante said. ■



## Arcie Mallari speaks at the "Living Your Legacy" conference

Montreal, April 28, 2011 - Arcie Mallari, who was featured in the North American Filipino Star in the March issue for his outstanding achievement, having been selected a scholar of the Jeanne Sauve Foundation among thousands of candidates, was one of the youth speakers selected to present



Arcie Mallari delivering his speech

his project during the "Living your Legacy" conference held at the Palais de Congrès. The day-long activity, opened only to students and alumni, was worth attending for it showed the great work being done by young people not only locally but also internationally.

I attended the conference specially to cover the appearance of Arcie Mallari, founder of "Silid Aralan" (a Learning Room) who won the competition sponsored by CJAD entitled "Share the Stage." for his project that was put on the internet where people were asked to vote. He received a \$1000 cheque. Mallari was quite eloquent and funny as he explained his project in a very dynamic way. He also implemented an environmental education program that is now being practiced in a Montreal private school. Mallari's pleasant demeanour was intertwined with an important message. "Ask yourself, how many families would you be willing to bury with your trash?"

Mallari's focus was on the environmental issues of dump sites and their effect on surrounding communities in the Philippines.

There were many speakers, some not well-known to the community but only within their closed circles. Most noteworthy to mention are speakers who gave the conference prestige like Dr. David Suzuki, a noted environmentalist, and Mr. Stephen Lewis, the former UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, who many would argue, needs no introduction. He walked onto the stage to the sound of thunderous applause. Lewis, who is renowned for his speeches, did not disappoint. His focus as per his specialty was on HIV and Aids in Africa, more specifically on how they spread from what he called the ugliest weapon of war, rape. Another noted



Arcie receives a \$1000 cheque from CJAD representatives.

speaker was Craig Kielburger, the man who began his international development at the age of 12. He was also a founder of *Free the Children Foundation*.

The conference was organized by the Youth Action Montreal, a student organization of Concordia University.

By: Zenaïda Kharroubi

## Tarlac's most famous mom honored with giant mosaic



A 40-by-22-foot mosaic portrait of former President and democracy icon Corazon 'Cory' C. Aquino is rolled out at the center of the SM department store in Tarlac City on Sunday, May 22, 2011

There is no belated celebration of Mother's Day.

Two weeks after the country celebrated the occasion, Tarlac on Sunday paid tribute to its mothers and to its most famous mom, the late President Corazon Aquino.

Amid a shower of yellow balloons and confetti, a 22-by-40-foot mosaic portrait of Cory Aquino, printed on a tarpaulin, was unveiled at the atrium of SM City Tarlac. The tarpaulin stretched to a height that spanned the mall's three floors.

The mosaic is composed of 6,000 photographs of mothers, which were gathered from shoppers through the mall's "Kababagi Ako" campaign. It was designed by students of Tarlac State University's College of Fine Arts and will be on display for a month.

Darrel Ramos, SM City Tarlac assistant mall manager, said the mosaic was a tribute to the mother of President Aquino, as "mother of Philippine democracy" and to all mothers. Her daughter, Viel Aquino-Dee, and grandson, Josh, represented the family in the event.

Dee said that before anything, Cory Aquino was a mother.

"She was a good mother to her children and her grandchildren... though she tended to spoil her grandchildren," she said.

Dee remembered how loving and caring her mother had been. "Whenever a member of the family gets sick, we will call her before the doctor. We are fortunate to have a mother like her."

Cesar Bondoc, SM City regional operations manager, gave Dee a replica of the mosaic portrait.

Dee said she would turn over the replica to the Aquino Museum inside Hacienda Luisita here, a sugar estate owned by the Cojuangco family.

Dancers from Little Steps Ballet School honored Cory Aquino with a performance to the tune of Jose Mari Chan's "I Have Fallen in Love with the Same Woman Three Times."

The song was based on a poem written by Cory's husband, the slain former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., as an anniversary gift to her.

Lourdes Joy Baysa, 9, brought the audience close to tears with her rendition of "Mama," "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" and "You Raise Me Up."

Mothers in the audience were given flowers during the program. ■

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## Personality profile of the month

### Norm Anthony Zabala: Epitome of a true artist

By: W. G. Quiambao

Norm Anthony Zabala is at the top of his game. As a professional singer-musician, he has performed in many events such as: Vancouver Olympics, 2010; Montreal Jazz Festival, 2009, 2007, 2006; Bermuda Music Festival, 2008; Isle of Wight Festival, UK, 2008; France Tour with Quebec artist Bernard Lavilliers, Oman, 2007.

Zabala, whose, whose genres are folk rock and pop, plays guitar, debro, Cuban tres, bass and mandolin.

"To be successful in life, you have to love what you are doing," said Zabala.

Born in Manila, Zabala moved to Montreal when he was six. Even at an early age, he knew he wanted to be a musician. In his teens, he would hang around in the local music stores watching people play the guitar because he could not afford to pay for lessons. When he thought the salesmen were not looking, he would casually pick a guitar from the wall and



try to do some of things he observed them doing. He did not get too far with the method but it got him far enough to play in the high school choir.

When he was sixteen years old, Zabala fondly recalls, he played guitar and sang Johnny B Goode for the first time on live television. It was for CBC Disabled Children's Telethon of Stars.

"I was a bit nervous but since they dressed me up in really rock and roll leather jacket for the part, I kinda forgot about the lights, camera, action," said Zabala. "For another

number of the show, they dressed me up in owl costume and made me do a dance with Quebec star Veronique Beliveau. For a strange reason, I was more nervous as a dancing owl."

Zabala was also sixteen when he became a musical director for the eclectic group of young artists, the National Youth Talent Association. Through NYTA, he was able to perform at the World Expo in Vancouver and several Canada Day festivals at Parliament Hill.

"I can't forget the Parliament Hill Canada Day concerts in front of thousands of people," said Zabala. "It was a regular job back then. Imagine, as a bunch of kids being funded by the government to play music all over Canada."

It did not take long before he made a living playing music in bars, weddings, hotels and studios. The money he earned from his gigs paid for his tuition as he was pursuing his music lessons from McGill Conservatory of Music where he studied music theory and ear training, then obtained his degree from Concordia University.

Zabala's determination to succeed paid off when he became a guitarist and co-composer and band leader for World music artist Florence K. Through her, he had the honor of

playing in many events abroad.

Zabala composes songs while jogging, driving, eating, waiting in line or at social gatherings. Sometimes, he gets ideas from his experience - sad and happy. A wise man once told him, "If you shut your mouth, but open your ears and eyes, you'll have plenty of materials to write about."

That piece of advice helped him finish his current project, the Woodstock Sessions, a self-produced CD with some of his songs which he started working onto disc during a break in his tour. The Woodstock Sessions which is self-produced and recorded is the name of his home studio where he writes and arranges his songs.

"My plan now is to promote my own record and to be a successful solo artist, said Zabala. "Someday, when I have children and grandchildren, I'd like to leave a nice memory for them."

Norm is performing on June 12, Independence Day celebrations, at the Mackenzie King park where his CDs are available. They are also available at Marche Coop, 5710 Victoria (basement of Cuisine de Manille restaurant)

For guitar lessons, contact Norm at (514) 862-3870 or email normzabala@gmail.com

## 'Hidden fees add to Filipino students' woes'

From separate energy and air-conditioning fees to Internet and e-mail fees, college enrollment charges seem to be getting longer and more burdensome in the Philippines.

A youth group monitoring colleges and universities nationwide noted that in addition to the rising tuition in private colleges and universities, miscellaneous fees have been padding education costs with "hidden fees" that the government has no power to regulate.

Kabataan party-list Representative Raymond Palatino said certain colleges and universities have been charging students "redundant and unnecessary fees," taking advantage of government's lack of authority to regulate miscellaneous charges.

"Library, medical, dental and guidance [counseling] fees might be reasonable... But it's a different matter when you talk about air-con fees or energy fees for students who charge their cell phones in school," Palatino said.

"Others have separate sports fees, athletic fees and--if your university has a UAAP team--a separate UAAP fee," said the lawmaker at the close of an education forum at the University of the Philippines in Diliman,



Quezon City. Loophole

While it is the approving authority over tuition hikes, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has no power to regulate or evaluate miscellaneous fee increases in private colleges and universities.

Such fees "can be regulated reasonably," but CHED Executive Director Julito Vitriolo said "it is not subject to consultation because the law only [covers] tuition."

"We are drafting regulations to rationalize these fees," he said when reached for comment.

This loophole gives private schools full discretion regarding miscellaneous charges, which are at times as much--if not more--than the basic tuition

rates, said Palatino.

"For example, there are schools that display banners saying 'no tuition increase.' That's true. But what they are not telling you is that there is an increase in miscellaneous fees. So they can forego tuition increases because of miscellaneous fees," he said.

Other schools also do not provide details on the kind of miscellaneous fees they are charging students, he said.

Palatino has filed a resolution in the House of Representatives calling for an inquiry into the collection of "questionable" fees in colleges and universities in hopes of passing a law that would regulate such charges.

"It has become apparent that school owners and administrations have become

more creative in imposing absurd and superfluous fees in order to effectively exploit the nonregulation of miscellaneous fees to profit immensely without having to go through the process of increasing tuition," read Palatino's resolution.

Declining performance

CHED approved an average 10-percent tuition hike for 281 private tertiary schools in the coming school year.

As tuition continues to rise, enrollment in private institutions has been decreasing in the last decade, from a 68-percent enrollment share in 2000 to 63.9 percent in the last school year, Palatino said.

Students have also shown declining performance in licensure exams, with consistently less than 50 percent of takers passing their tests across different disciplines.

In 2009, only 36.09 percent of 415,190 college graduates who took licensure exams in 44 disciplines made the cut.

Meanwhile, the plan to add two more years to basic primary and high school education is underway.

Parents and teachers have already expressed concerns over the higher overall cost of education in the Philippines. ■



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Photo taken during the opening of Marché Coop on September 7, 2010, after having moved two times in six months, and closing for the month of August 2010 in order to renovate the basement. Guests and coop members attended the simple ceremony led by Pastora Emma Denny of the International Christian Fellowship (4th from left, seated, newest Coop member).



Coop volunteer-members on specific days: From left: Magnolia Camat (Saturdays) Jerry Estrada (delivery service), Zenaida Kharroubi (Wednesdays & Fridays, and Sophie Toledo (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Not in photo: Ben Bade (Sundays) and Erlinda de la Cruz who also volunteers on Saturdays with Magnolia.

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