

FAMAS' 2012 Miss Philippines Montreal - Ambassador of Goodwill pageant a success



Photo shows the judges posing with the new Miss Philippines Montreal - Ambassador of Goodwill 2012, Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga (5th from the left) and the first runner up, Sharonrose Deshmukh (7th from left). The other candidates are: Jilliene Araja (in white), Melanie Cardinal (in light purple), and Marjorie Miranda (in black gown). Photo taken after the crowning ceremony. (Photo: ZFK).

Dimayuga bags FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill 2012 title

By W. G. Quiambao and Z. F. Kharroubi

May 5, 2012, Montreal – Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga, a 19-year old dental coordinator and an aspiring singer from the West Island, was crowned the new FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill 2012 during a pageant held at Ecole St. Luc's auditorium "La Decouverte" in Montreal. "This is a whole new experience to me," said Dimayuga, who was beaming with joy. The first runner up was 22-year old Sharonrose Deshmukh, a third year student at the Richard Ivey School of Business (University of Western Ontario). Other candidates were: Melanie Cardinal, first year student in athletic therapy at Concordia University, Marjorie Miranda who studied nursing at St. Augustine School of Nursing in the Philippines and currently working in a nursing

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Obama wants Fil-Am lawyer to be federal judge

LOS ANGELES (April 26, 2012) —US President Barack Obama on Wednesday nominated Filipino-American trial attorney Lorna Schofield to serve as a federal district court judge for the Southern District of New York.

If confirmed by the United States Senate, Schofield would become the first Filipino-American federal judge.

Fil-Am groups lauded Schofield's nomination, saying it was a big win for diversity. "Given that Asian-Americans are significantly underrepresented in the federal judiciary, Ms Schofield's addition will greatly enhance the judiciary's diversity," said Ed Navarra, national chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA).

"It's long overdue," said lawyer Arnedo Valera, executive director of the Migrant Heritage Commission based in Washington, DC. "It's good for America to have diverse perspectives, whether it's national origin, gender or ideology."

Schofield, 56, is the daughter of a Filipino woman who immigrated to the United States during the post-World War II reconstruction of the Philippines.

Scholar at NYU
 She grew up in a blue-collar community in the US Midwest where she earned a full scholarship for her undergraduate education at Indiana University. She double-majored in German and English, graduating

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Editorial

An excellent example of what young people can do

The 2012 PMAG pageant organized by FAMAS recently is an example of what young people can do. In fact, all the five young women who participated are certainly all winners, even though only one was given the title as tradition dictates in any contest. They showed their individual talents, unique beauty, and brains. It made us feel that indeed the youth is the hope of our country. What they gave us was a wonderful evening of pure pleasure. There was never a dull moment. It was not too long nor too short and every minute counted. The success of the show certainly showed that there was a good team that worked together.

Another aspect of this pageant that is worth mentioning is the use of the title "Ambassador of Goodwill" which reminds us of the great potential of mobilizing the idea of promoting peace and harmony in our community. Whoever thought of changing the title of the annual beauty pageant from "Miss Philippines Montreal" to "Miss Philippines Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill" must be thinking that there is a need for this title to remind us about the importance of having an attitude that promotes unity instead of conflict and controversies. The new title was used in 2010 and was held by Andrea Neufeld. She exemplified in a certain way the role of goodwill ambassador when she was sent by FAMAS to go to conferences and other events. Now that she has passed the title to the new Miss Philippines Ambassador of Goodwill, Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga, it is hoped that she will carry on with the mission of promoting peace in the community.

It is common knowledge that many other organizations use the title of "Ambassador of Goodwill." The Wikipedia has a comprehensive information about this title which is defined as a collective term sometimes used as a substitute honorific title or a title of honor for an Ambassador of Goodwill; but, most appropriately for a generic recognition, it is a job position or description that is usually indicated following the name of the individual recognized in the position. Goodwill ambassadors generally deliver

goodwill or promote ideals from one entity to another, or to a population. A goodwill ambassador may be an individual from one country who resides in or travels to another country, in a diplomatic mission (or international friendship mission) at a peer to peer level; that is: country to country, state to state, city to city; or, as an intermediary representing the people at the other extreme of an organization.

Goodwill Ambassadors have been an official (or unofficial) part of governments and cultures for as long as diplomacy has existed; to exchange gifts and presents; humanitarian relief; or development aid, using well known celebrities, scientists, authors, known activists, and other high society figures. Goodwill missions of countries are usually carried out or overseen by the head of state, and do not necessarily involve diplomatic credentials outside of a letter of presentation (or letter of credence). However some states do issue credentials that include diplomatic immunity for their goodwill ambassadors such as Haiti.

Many governmental, multilateral, nongovernmental, and nonprofit organizations utilize goodwill ambassadors to promote their programs and reach out to others with programs that are based on good relations that are usually secular and apolitical. Among the organizations that use goodwill ambassadors to deliver agendas include Sister Cities, the United Nations, organizations of the United Nations, the African Union, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Rotary International, and many others including the government of the United States of America as seen in 2009 when former President Bill Clinton traveled to North Korea on a special goodwill mission.

Evidently, the title of Miss Philippines Montreal - Ambassador of Goodwill is derived from a great tradition of promoting world peace. Will the idea of promoting goodwill in our community be vigorously supported by everyone?

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

23 May 2012

Disappointed At DND's Cuts to Operational Health Research

At the same time that DND has admitted that the numbers of suicide incidents in the Canadian Forces have risen, how is it possible that the department is eliminating the jobs of medical professionals involved in suicide prevention and monitoring of post-traumatic stress disorders? They are actually reducing the number of epidemiologists and researchers who analyze mental health issues.

This government has previously asserted that dealing with such health issues is a priority. How can the government announce on the one hand that it appreciates the sacrifices made by our veterans and then turn around and cut the services and research efforts needed to treat those same men and women, at a time when they need it most?

The Legion is extremely concerned with this move, especially with the increase of suicide incidents in the Canadian Forces. The full extent of the cases of mental illness, arising from the heavy operational tempo in the Balkans and Afghanistan, has not

likely been felt yet.

The government and Canadians have sent these men and women to deploy and serve in these missions abroad and therefore have a moral obligation to ensure they are properly cared for once they return. The announced cuts give the government a failing grade. Without operational research in this area, Canada will be forced to resort to reactive treatment while abandoning the proactive education and prevention of mental illness to our troops.

It is unacceptable that these cuts been made on the backs of our most vulnerable and mentally ill soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen. There is no better way to demonstrate their commitment to support the men and women who serve their country than by not making these cuts.

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

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

OPINION

For a moment, as a member of the press, I'm depressed

W. G. Quiambao

No, it's not the full moon or a fantasy to be a "drama king" for a day that triggered my mood swing.

It was simply the experience I encountered during the FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill 2012 pageant last May 5 in Cote St. Luc.

When Rose Marie Arellano, chairperson of PMAG 2012, told me to save May 5, I knew she wanted me to attend the pageant. I told her that I'd be there if I were not busy. I even volunteered to write about the pageant - before and after. It was true that the pageant was posted on the FAMAS website but how many Filipinos check it regularly. Some don't even have any computer, some don't have computer knowledge at all. For me, our community paper is still the effective media to publicize important events.

My intention was good. I volunteered to write about the pageant for the April issue of the North American Filipino Star to help promote the sale of tickets, and to write about it after May 5 to please the parents, relatives and friends of the five candidates. Of course, parents would be happy and proud to see their daughters featured in the paper. Indeed, I told a FAMAS director about a friend whose niece was crowned Binibining Munti more than a decade ago. My friend was upset. Her family brought a lot of money to FAMAS by selling tickets but there was no coverage in the paper of her niece winning the title. I couldn't blame her.

A few days after my conversation with Arellano, it dawned on me that the pageant would be held in a school auditorium. It wouldn't be at Hellenic Community Centre or Holiday Inn. Since the pageant would be held in the auditorium where no food would be served, I asked a member of the organizing committee if the press had to pay too. The answer was a firm, "Yes. It's a fundraising."

Well, that was still ok with me. No problem. For the sake of the community and "pakikisama" (going along with others), I reserved a ticket. A week before the pageant, I personally went to the center to pick up my ticket and pay. I wanted to make things easier for FAMAS. Some associations are still running after the people who have not paid their tickets after their event.

The moon was full last May 5 but I was unusually in good mood when I arrived at the auditorium. At least I could say that true to my words, I delivered my promise to write about the pageant. The write up was published in the April issue of the North American Filipino Star. Now, although I could have stayed home and watched television, I was at the auditorium to cover the pageant for the May publication of the same newspaper. But when I asked for a copy of the souvenir program, I was told to pay \$2.00. That policy, according to the ladies in charge of the programs, applied to everybody. Of course, charging me for a souvenir program changed my mood. The incident reminded me of Rodney Dangerfield, the American comedian known for his catchphrase "I don't get respect." Two dollars is a drop in the

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Corona leaving fate to God'

Manila, May 21, 2012 -Chief Justice Renato Corona skipped a key meeting with his lawyers Sunday, telling them to make it a "family day," a sign, they said, that he "wants to prepare on his own" for his much-anticipated appearance in his impeachment trial tomorrow.

Corona has been sifting through documents and "recalling facts" for his defense on the main charge of nondisclosure of assets, including an alleged \$12 million in bank accounts, said Rico Paolo Quicho, a spokesperson for the defense.

When the Chief Justice takes the witness stand, expect him to be "candid, forthright and truthful," Quicho said.

Corona will also invoke his right against self-incrimination, if necessary, the lawyer said, adding that the Chief Justice also was preparing himself "physically, mentally and spiritually."

"He'll be guided by God. He's ready to face his fate," Quicho said by phone.

"We're hoping for the best and expecting the worst," said another defense lawyer, Tranquil Salvador III.

On Monday, the senator-judges are set to meet in a closed-door caucus to tackle administrative matters, according to Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III.

Sotto said these include, among others, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's motion to subpoena bank officials for the verification of Corona's alleged dollar accounts; Sen. Francis Pangilinan's proposal to hold a hearing on Friday, usually an off-trial day; and scenarios on the closing arguments of the prosecution and defense panels.

"We hope his testimony will be finished in two days," Sotto said, but he acknowledged that the length of testimony would depend on the questions.

After Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales last week dropped the bombshell that Corona allegedly kept \$12 million in 82 accounts in at least five banks, his lawyers have been prepping him up on "possible questions" to be raised on this score. "He's studying the facts, recalling the facts. He will just say what he thinks is right, and what he knows about the whole thing. It will be an honest-to-goodness testimony. Nothing more, nothing less," Quicho said.

"He'll be candid, forthright, truthful. No secrets. That's what we're

preparing for." Humiliation expected

Quicho said the lawyers expected that Corona would be subjected to ridicule and humiliation despite statements by Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the presiding judge, that he would be accorded due courtesy.

"We can object to the questions of the prosecutors. We won't back down. But it's a different story when judges start asking questions," he said. "He'll be ready for it. This will be the greatest performance of his life. This will define his character."

Of course, the Chief Justice would invoke his right against self-incrimination "if compelled by circumstances," like being asked questions unrelated to the verified impeachment complaint, Quicho said. And he's aware of the implications if he invoked this too often, he added.

"Only the Chief Justice can invoke that. When we feel it would not be good for us, we'd adjust," he said.

But definitely, Corona is not facing senator-judges and the prosecutors on Tuesday just to clam up, according to Quicho.

"Definitely not. Let's wait for him. Let's give him a chance. He requires a modicum of respect, too," he said.

As for comments that Corona would likely admit to owning a few bank accounts but claim that these came from legitimate sources, Quicho said the public should await his testimony, and not preempt him.

Fodder for future

Reminded of observations that the main issue was not the number of accounts Corona kept, but whether the Chief Justice declared these in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth, Quicho said: "Then impeach him. If they have enough knowledge of the facts, why don't they testify?"

He said the call of some senators that Corona issue a waiver on his dollar accounts was premature.

"They should not second-guess the Chief Justice. They have to wait before they give their comments. He should be given a clean slate. He's offering himself as a witness. We should wait for him," he said.

Corona is well aware that once he starts talking, everything he says will be a fodder for the filing of a future criminal case against him, the lawyer said.

"When he testifies, it's open

season. He can be attacked; he can also attack," Quicho said. "Everything is on the line. But he's optimistic. He feels composed, collected. He's going for the jugular."

President Aquino's spokesperson, Edwin Lacierda, said the Palace's expectation on Corona's testimony was no different from that of the people.

"The whole Philippines is also ready to hear his testimony and also the prosecution and the senator-judges are also ready to hear his testimony and ask further questions on his testimony," Lacierda said on state radio dzRB.

What's good for country?

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said Sunday that regardless of the verdict, Corona still had to deal with the issue of whether he was still fit to preside over the Supreme Court amid the effort by the entire government machinery of the Aquino administration to demonize him.

"If he's found innocent but the Filipino people feel that he's culpable, he will find it difficult to preside with moral ascendancy over the highest court of the land," Honasan said by phone.

On the other hand, "if he's pronounced guilty, but in the eyes of the Filipino people, the primary audience, he's innocent, he can walk among his people with his head held high," he said.

"Ultimately, it will be the people who will decide the Chief Justice's case," Honasan said. "Ultimately, at the end of the line, it's inconsequential whether he's pronounced guilty or innocent. Ultimately what has to be answered is, what is good for the country?"

Honasan, who has been poring over documents of the past months to prepare for Corona's testimony, said he would ask clarificatory questions that would not be raised by his colleagues.

"His testimony should be able to bridge the gap and what was presented in court," he said. **With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Marlon Ramos (Philippine Daily Inquirer)**

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bucket. I could afford it. But it was a matter of principle. I wanted the souvenir program to get the information I needed to cover the pageant.

I wanted to leave the auditorium after the incident which I took as a personal affront to me. However, I managed to stay cool. "Relax, Willie. Relax," I told myself.

To stay cool, I focused my attention on the show and decided to enjoy it. When Ambassador Leslie B. Gatan was introduced, he thanked FAMAS for inviting him and giving him a complimentary ticket. He deserved it. But all of a sudden, questions hovered in my mind: What about the five members of the panel of judges, the five auditors, the three performers from Toronto, the Ving Tsun Montreal? Are these people more important than the press? Has FAMAS forgotten the value of what the press can do? The American President Barack Obama needs the press whenever his approval ratings go down.

The thought that FAMAS values these people more than the press was the last straw that broke the camel's back.

For the past three years, I've been a staunch supporter of FAMAS and its incumbent Executive Board. I know that being a volunteer, especially if you're doing your job, is a sacrifice. That means less time to spend with your family and work. I know it because I was once the PRO of the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec when James de la Paz was its president.

Despite the incident, I don't blame the volunteers in charge of the souvenir programs. They were just doing their job that night. And I don't completely blame the Executive Board. Like us, they're not perfect but I know they're competent and hard working.

The incident doesn't change my respect for them. That's why I still believe that what happened was just an oversight.



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home, and Jilliene Araja, a graduate of Batangas State University and currently studying at the Place Cartier Adult School.

Rose Marie Arellano, FAMAS director and chairperson of the pageant, said, "The goal of the pageant is for the Miss Ambassador of Goodwill to participate in activities that promote cultural and social awareness. She will serve as a spokesperson for FAMAS to share information about community

the candidates was done through a video clip presentation entitled "Up Close and Personal." Each candidate answered on video interesting questions such as "How important to you is your Filipino heritage? What does it mean to you? Is it part of your daily life and in what way? This video clip was recorded by Al Abdon, and photographed by Jean-Noel Quilatan. The candidates were very eloquent in their answers, and appeared to be speaking from their hearts. Jilliene



The performers pose for souvenir with the 2012 PMAG candidates and winners. L-R: Jennifer Uy, classically trained singer, Lilac Cana, Soprano vocalist, and Jonathan Bondoc, concert pianist.

Deshmukh's theme of "A Different Perspective on Math" showed her talent with numbers. Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga's talent was her powerful rendition of two melodies, Beyonce's "Listen" and Ciara Soto's "Dakilang Lahi." The last to perform her talent was Jilliene Araja who did "The Banga" (pot) dance, a folk dance of Kalinga of the Mountain Province.

The five candidates walked into the stage one by one wearing their beautiful evening gowns to the tune of classical music being performed live by two accomplished opera singers, Jennifer Uy, and Lilac Canac, accompanied by a concert pianist, Jonathan Bondoc, a musical scholar from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Ottawa. They performed the Flower Duet (Sous le dôme épais) from Léo Delibes' opera Lakmé. and Belle Nuit, also known as Barcarole from Jacques Offenbach's opera Les Contes d'Hoffman (The Tales of Hoffmann).

A prejudging score sheet was shown to the audience before the final part of the competition which consisted of the question and answer period. The questions were not given to the candidates ahead of time and they all had to answer extemporaneously. By mere coincidence, the candidates happened to pick questions from judges 2 and 4 only. Their questions were: How do you promote Canada to Filipinos? How do you feel being from a visible minority while growing up in Quebec? What makes you unique? If you can be a hero, what will you do? If you can change something, what will you change? Based on their answers, the scores were finalized to determine the two winners - the title holder and the first runner up.

There were five judges, namely, Chito Gozales, Country Development Manager for Western Union Canada since 2004; Lateesha Hector, Miss Earth Canada 2009; Louise Marzinotto, former high school teacher and guidance counsellor, Mohammed El-Tagi, Division Director, Investors Group; and Atty. Maria Luisa L. Diaz, President & Director, and founding member of Fiesta Canada, a non-profit organization that promotes cultural diversity. The auditors were Ravi Chandok, Marketing and Strategy Consultant; Suzanne Schnob, Senior Staff Accountant for Telesat Canada, and Jack Kaladjan, accountant.

The organizing committee of the Pageant was composed of the following: Rose Marie Arellano, Chairperson; Elizabeth Darauay, Executive Producer; Co-Producers

were: Meredith Sarmiento, PMAG 2010 Candidate, Andrea Neufeld, Miss PMAG 2010, and Shinette Khoury and Maricar Romero, Event Advisors.

The FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill has replaced the former Miss Philippines Montreal. It was started in 2010 by Shinette Khoury to celebrate the beauty of young Filipino women of today. This year's pageant is the second time it has been held with the new title.

Names of people who contributed their time and expertise to the success of the pageant are mentioned in the souvenir program : Stage, Make-up, Logistics and Souvenir Program: Veraida-Lyn Bermejo, President of PAMANA ng LuzViMinda.; Graphic Designer and Clothing Designer for Opening Performance: Mark Sy; Dance Choreographer: Joline Nelson, 1st Runner up PMAG 2010; Technical Director: Debbie Resurreccion.; Host & Hostess: Brian Lester Morales and Lorie Ann Joyce Feliciano, PMAG 2010 Candidate; Videographer: Al Abdon; Photography: Jean-Noel Quilatan, Ian Quilatan, Phil Chapman, Fabian Encarnacion and Frances Bruno; Make-up Artist : Tracy Bonyad; Hair Stylist : Catherine Tapia. Floral Bouquets: Mrs. Valentina Lee; Ticket Booth: Shirley Carrera, Jean Borjal, Eugenia Magalit; Refreshments & Snack Booth: Pag-SIBOL;66 Backstage hands & runners: Anthony Bermejo, Anna-Marie Lavallée, Marie Nolasco, Karyn & Leslie Gamay; The All-around Helpers/Supporters: Monica Regacho, Nely Sy; Offical PMAG Caterer: Bahay Kubo (Alex & Nely Sy); Salle La Decouverte Support: M. Robert Jodoin & School staff; Printer: Digi-Press (Karl Godazgar), Sashes: The Sash Company.

The "mock judges" who played the parts of offering words of wisdom and advice to the candidates were mentioned in the souvenir program: Cathy Sojak, Jeannie Riel, Derek Ficham, Sergio Pellecchia, Tess Nepomuceno, Aret Chamil, Emmanuel Flores, Leina Flores, Ronaldo Rosotro and Sophie Toledo.

For the love, support and understanding of their families during the production of the show the following people were also listed in the souvenir programme: Gino Khoury, Tony Khoury, Claudio Cervini, Massimo Darauay-Cervini, Mr. Gaspar & Mrs. Carmen Darauay and Sergio Pellechia.

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The production crew pose for souvenir with the 2012 PMAG, Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga (at the center wearing her crown) and 2010 PMAG, Andy Neufeld (2nd from left)

issues and development and most important of all, be a positive role model for the youth." She delivered a short speech acknowledging the invaluable support and services of people who made the pageant a success.

Hundreds of people were entertained by the evening's wonderful presentations. The pageant started with the theme of the evening, "Breakthrough." All five candidates wore outfits designed by Mark Sy that showed them like being in a cocoon signified by coats which they took off and then were seen wearing colorful gowns, just like butterflies flying out into the air. The audience applauded

Araja stood out from the rest of the candidates for having answered the questions in Filipino (Tagalog). The audience expressed their approval by their loud applause.

A martial arts presentation by Ving Tsun I Montreal was performed by Solino Alphonse, Christian Betancour, Ricky Chu, Arlen Dawlatian, Andy Felix, Charles Fillion, Anne Gilliot, Joelle Jeremie, Ricky Lew, Tien Nguyen, and Danu Safatli. It was enjoyable to watch the precise and synchronized movements of all the participants.

After a 15-minute intermission, all five candidates presented their talents in different ways. Melanie



FAMAS Executive Board with the Philippine Ambassador and the new PMAG 2012 . From left: Rose Arellano, Alex Sy, Mira Joan-Lee Junio, Gina Medina, Ambassador, Leslie Gatan, Candidate No. 1 Melanie Cardinal, Candidate No. 5 Jilliene Arraja, the new PMAG 2012 Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga, Candidate No. 2 Marjorie Miranda, 1st Runner up Sharonrose Deshmukh, Famas President Au Osdon, Dr. Gene Santander, Melle Lugod, Ramon Vicente, Jr., Debbie Resurreccion, and Al Abdon.

them warmly for their flawless and graceful rendition of the choreography by PMAG 2010 first runner up, Joline Nelson. This was followed by welcome speeches of FAMAS President Au Osdon, and the guest of honor, the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Mr. Leslie Gatan.

A unique way of introducing

Cardinal demonstrated a 5-minute CPR by pretending to help someone on the street who had lost consciousness. It was quite humorous to see her perform CPR to the music in a rhythmic fashion. Marjorie Miranda sketched a mother and child image on white paper canvas on stage and the finished drawing was passed on to the judges. Sharonrose

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magna cum laude in 1977. Schofield went to New York University Law School, where she was a Pomeroy scholar and became editor of the NYU Law Review.

Schofield worked at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP as litigation partner for nearly 20 years. In 1991, she became the firm's first minority partner.

She also served as an assistant US attorney in the criminal division of the Southern District of New York. She became the first Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) to chair the Litigation Section of the American Bar Association, and the National Law Journal named her one of the nation's 50 most influential minority lawyers.

'Extraordinary'

"We are proud and delighted that our friend and colleague Lorna Schofield has achieved this highly deserved recognition," John S. Kiernan, cochair of Debevoise & Plimpton's litigation department, said in a statement sent to the Inquirer. "She is an extraordinary lawyer and person," Kiernan said.

Lawyer Jason T. Lagria, KAYA national cochair, said he hoped Schofield's nomination would inspire

members of the Fil-Am community "to follow in her footsteps."

"It is exciting to finally see a Filipino-American serving as a federal judge," Lagria said. "Growing up, [I had not seen] many Filipino lawyers I could look to as role models."

Lagria praised Obama for pushing through an unprecedented diversification of the federal judiciary system. When Obama took office, there were only eight AAPI Article III federal judges out of 874, Lagria said. Article III judges are nominated by the President, confirmed by the Senate, and given lifetime tenure.

"In just over three years Obama has doubled the number of AAPI federal judges," Lagria said. "His nomination of Attorney Schofield affirms his administration's commitment to the Filipino-American community and to have a judiciary that reflects the nation it serves."

Rosie O'Donnell's lawyer

Schofield was thrust into the limelight when she led the defense team of celebrity talk-show host Rosie O'Donnell in a \$100-million lawsuit brought against the TV celebrity in 2003.

She once more gained wide attention after US Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) recommended her to the White House on Jan. 23 as a candidate for federal district court

judge in the Southern District of New York.

Essential values

Schofield described the lawsuit against O'Donnell as her "most memorable and most fun case," according to The College Magazine, a publication of Indiana University.

The publisher of Rosie Magazine brought a \$100-million lawsuit against O'Donnell for abruptly pulling out of their business partnership. The case was thrown out, and Schofield was quoted by a newspaper as saying: "The judge's comment that this was an ill-conceived case was very gratifying to us. Rosie never wanted to get into this. They picked the fight and Rosie feels vindicated."

After the trial, Schofield was interviewed on several TV programs, including "The Today Show." On "Sixty Minutes II," Dan Rather interviewed her on corporate confidentiality agreements and sealing orders.

Schofield told The College Magazine that her mother, a pharmacist, "stressed achievement, independence and self-sufficiency as essential values."

"My mother came to the United States because of her idealism

about the country that had saved her during World War II, and remained here, I believe, because of the stigma and shame she would have suffered had she returned to the Philippines as a divorced woman," Schofield said.

Sharing her thoughts on diversity, she said it's important for people who are involved in the justice system—lawyers, litigants and judges—"to see lawyers of every type leading the profession."

"The message is that our legal system is open and accessible to all, whether they come as advocates or litigants. Because the world we live in is diverse, and becoming increasingly so. We can learn from each other," she said. "Every unique perspective brings something valuable to the table."

(Reprinted from the Global Reporter)

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EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

The World's Waters Are Becoming Corrosive to Critical Marine Life.

Is Time Running Out to Save our Oceans?



The oceans do a lot of the Earth's dirty work. On a given day, they will absorb 22 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a third of the global output. In doing so they help to keep climate change in check, but they also pay a heavy toll as a result.

Increasing levels of carbon in the ocean are making the water more acidic, and that's beginning to have an impact on shellfish, corals and some of the tiniest shell-making marine organisms that are essential to the ocean food web. The June 2012 issue of E - The Environmental Magazine (now posted at www.emagazine.com) takes a closer look at the phenomenon of "ocean acidification," the process by which levels of CO₂ are rising, changing the chemistry of the ocean, and the ways this is impacting sea creatures on which mankind depends.

Shellfish farmers in Washington and Oregon were some of the first to sound the alarm about ocean acidification. In 2006, hatchery-produced oyster larvae began to die off, despite their controlled and monitored environments. The two largest oyster hatcheries -- which supply seedling to the majority of West Coast oyster farmers -- lost between 60% and 80% of their larvae. Through ocean monitoring, the farmers discovered that the pH had fallen enough to make the water too corrosive for the oysters to form shells.

Once the problem was identified, shellfish farmers were able to take precautions -- such as waiting to fill tanks following a north wind when upwelling causes corrosive water to rise to the surface. But in the open ocean, there are no quick fixes

for ocean acidification.

"A lot of things we like to eat have these calcium carbonate shells and they're very sensitive to acidification," says Richard Feely, Ph.D., a senior scientist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and its Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL). "Just a small drop in pH can cause the shells to begin to dissolve. It turns out that for many of these species, the larval and juvenile stages are much more sensitive than the adults. And we're finding that they can die off quite rapidly even with the kinds of changes that we're seeing right now."

One of the most serious threats posed by ocean acidification is to corals -- marine animals that need carbonate ions to form their skeletons. During ocean acidification, CO₂ sinks into the water and releases hydrogen ions which combine with carbonate ions, making them unavailable to the shell- and exoskeleton-making creatures that need them.

"There have been a lot of studies showing that under ocean acidification scenarios corals and other organisms on the reef calcify at a slower rate," says Davey Kline, Ph.D., a coral reef ecology expert at the University of Queensland in Australia. "Even with just a little less growth, the corals can be tipped into these situations where they're getting eroded faster than they can grow and the reefs start to dissolve."

Coral reefs are already at risk from pollution, development, overfishing and warming waters as a result of global warming. Ocean acidification may be the final stressor that pushes them into extinction. The most recent report on reef health -- Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2008 -- found that 19% of coral reefs were already lost, 15% were in a critical state with loss possible within a decade or two, and 20% could be lost in 20 to 40 years. "If we continue on the trajectory that we're currently at," says Kline, referring to unchecked global emissions, "we will lose reefs as we know them."

The impacts of a world without reefs would be profound. The estimated net global value of reefs is \$29.8 billion per year, and reefs provide essential work in protecting shorelines from storm damage, providing a home to one million species and offering new sources of medicine to treat everything from cancer to arthritis.

There are certainly local solutions, including designating marine protected areas to at least minimize the stresses on coral reefs in light of global warming and ocean acidification. But any major solution to keeping ocean acidification from further threatening our oceans and its inhabitants needs to involve a global agreement for keeping emissions in check -- something that, despite the warning signs, seems oceans away.

E - The Environmental Magazine distributes 50,000 copies six times per year to subscribers and bookstores. Its website,

www.emagazine.com, enjoys 150,000 monthly visitors. E also publishes EarthTalk, a nationally syndicated environmental Q&A column distributed to 1,850 newspapers, magazines and websites throughout the U.S. and Canada. Single copies of E's May/June 2012 issue are available for \$5 postpaid from: E Magazine, P.O. Box 469111, Escondido, CA 92046. Subscriptions are \$19.95 per year, available at the same address.

Dear EarthTalk: I've seen a lot of warm and fuzzy TV ads, some sponsored by BP Oil, urging me to vacation in the Gulf of Mexico. But are things really "back to normal?" -- Paul Shea, Dublin, OH

The Gulf of Mexico may be open for business and eager to attract tourists, but it's still unclear whether or not marine and coastal ecosystems there are healthy two years after BP's offshore drilling rig exploded 40 miles off the Louisiana coast, eventually releasing 205.8 million gallons of oil into the water column.

Five months after the April 2010 disaster the Obama administration released a detailed recovery plan, calling for spending up to \$21 billion--most which would come from BP's civil penalties--on clean-up and long-term ecosystem restoration. With much of this work--designed to complement the restorative powers of Mother Nature--well underway,



It is still unclear whether or not marine and coastal ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico are healthy two years after BP's offshore drilling rig exploded 40 miles off the Louisiana coast, eventually releasing 205.8 million gallons of oil into the water column. Credit: U.S. Coast Guard

some observers are pleased with the results so far.

"The natural recovery is far greater than what anybody hoped when it happened," says James Morris, a University of South Carolina biologist and a member of the National Research Council committee tasked by Congress to assess the effects of the spill on the Gulf's ecosystem. "The fears of most people--that there would be a catastrophic collapse of the ecosystem in the Gulf--never materialized."

"The fisheries have come back like gangbusters," Morris reports. "One of the interesting findings was that after the oil spill, bait fish populations collapsed, and predator populations boomed. The reason was that there was no fishing pressure on the top predators because people stopped fishing after the spill. So the predator fish populations rebounded, and they grazed down their prey."

Not everyone shares such a rosy view. The international environmental group Greenpeace reports: "Throughout the food chain,

warning signs are accumulating. Dolphins are sick and dying. Important forage fish are plagued with gill and developmental damage. Deepwater species like snapper have been stricken with lesions and their reefs are losing biodiversity. Coastal communities are struggling with changes to the fisheries they rely upon. Hard-hit oyster reefs aren't coming back and sport fish like speckled trout have disappeared from some of their traditional haunts."

Still other observers argue that two years is not enough time to tell whether the region's ecosystems will be severely damaged long term. "We really don't know the effects the Deepwater Horizon spill had in the deep sea because we know little about the ecosystem processes there," reports Gary Cherr, director of UC Davis' Bodega Marine Laboratory and a lead author on a recently released paper published in the journal *Bioscience*. Cherr and his fellow researchers, including leading oceanographers, ecotoxicologists, and ecologists, conclude that scientists need more time to study how to contain damage from such accidents, especially given the trend to seek new sources of oil in off-shore regions around the U.S. and beyond.

"The deep sea is not a dead zone. It's not a desert. There's a lot of life down there," adds Cherr. "Unfortunately it's not until a disaster happens that we try to piece together the impacts. That's difficult to do when you don't have a complete--or even partial--understanding of the ecosystem."

CONTACTS: James Morris, ww2.biol.sc.edu/~morris; Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org; *Bioscience* paper, www.aibs.org/bioscience-press-releases/resources/Peterson.pdf.

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LITERARY CORNER

New Novel Examines Modern Life Through the Lens of Character

Modernism, post-modernism – Gaasenbeek eschews labels to “tell it like it is”

Paul Gaasenbeek’s new novel *Purging Matters* (published by iUniverse) is a tongue-in-cheek story that will hit close to home, as one man takes an unforgettable journey through reality and the challenges of living in the fast-paced, unfair world.

Jamie is haunted by his nightmares, anxiety and stress. He hates his profession and entertains a dysfunctional relationship with himself. “Jamie is important,” Gaasenbeek writes, “because in a way he is like you and I – a person who is caught in one of life’s many webs and is facing the difficult task of having to endure his existence.”

While he lets the labels and generalizations reign over his lost

identity, Jamie attempts to uncover the truth about himself while taking shots at big business, organized religion, governments, and just about everything else that gets in his way. Gaasenbeek uses his book to ponder the “... plight of the individual. *Purging Matters* is a more than a story; it is a unique how-to guide for surviving in the biggest jungle of them all – your mind.”

As he struggles on through the forest of thought, Jamie discovers that within the grand plan for his life, nothing is as it seems.

Purging Matters, according to the author, is “... thought-provoking, entertaining and funny; it takes no prisoners and makes no excuses for what it is: a very unique self-help book that tells you like it is.”

for the emergency humanitarian assistance extended to flood-affected victims of Typhoon Washi in late 2011. In response, Minister Oda further praised the Philippine government for “responding quickly” and for having developed “a good system of civil defense up to the grassroots level.”

Following the Ambassador’s briefing on PHL-Canada two-way trade as well as the positive developments in and challenges to Philippine economy, the Minister applauded the performance of the Philippines as a development partner of Canada relative to other beneficiary countries of CIDA. She also noted the significant contribution of Fil-Canadians to the Philippine economy in terms of money transfers comprising about 20% of the total US\$20.1 Billion in remittances by overseas Filipinos.

The Ambassador underscored the importance of aligning CIDA priorities with the Philippine Development Plan (2011-2016) to create more synergies leading to projects with greater impact. Minister Oda manifested openness to other areas of cooperation besides the traditional focus on governance and sustainable economic growth. Among the possible areas accordingly explored were demand-driven curricula for a more productive workforce, food and agriculture (e.g., cold storage for

Philippine produce), support for PHL participation in trade fairs abroad, capacity and technical training relative to an enabling environment for economic growth as well as planning to offset urban migration. Minister Oda assured the Ambassador that CIDA will work on developing new initiatives in the Philippines after a review of the country program.

The idea of a “Philippine Fund” was also put forth given the large Filipino diaspora in Canada which could be tapped as a source of both venture and angel funding. Minister Oda explained that, while CIDA itself cannot build railways, roads, and bridges, Canadian companies may do so and looks to more public-private partnerships to accomplish the task.

Minister Oda looked forward to future projects in the Philippine in furtherance of governance, accountability and transparency. In helping partner countries create growth and jobs, CIDA assists governments with their own policies and enforcing regulations. By doing so, CIDA hopes to help enhance the business environment and provide the added credibility and accountability that would be bound to attract more foreign investment into the Philippines. END

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY NEWS ... continued



Ambassador Gatan with the Honorable International Cooperation Minister Beverley Oda (Center) flanked by the Hon. Chungsen Leung, Parliament Secretary for Multiculturalism ((Left) and Hon. Lois Brown, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for International Cooperation (Right)

10 April 2012 – The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that Philippine Ambassador Leslie B. Gatan called on the Honorable Beverley J. Oda, Minister of International Cooperation on 3 April 2012 at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in Gatineau City, Quebec, with the end in view of strengthening bilateral development cooperation in sustainable economic growth, governance and other priority areas aligned with the Philippine Development Plan.

“How can Canada help?” was both the question and offer posed by Minister Oda that set the tone for the meeting

between the Embassy and CIDA. Despite federal budget cuts ahead of the renewal of CIDA’s programming for the Philippines, Minister Oda affirmed that Canada was a “strong supporter of the Philippines” and remains open to helping the country. Government efforts to maintain democracy and to address accountability issues, she said, have given rise to a favorable Canadian disposition towards the Philippines. Minister Oda welcomed government efforts to build capacity and believed the Philippines to be on “the right track” towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

For his part, Ambassador Gatan conveyed the Philippines’ gratitude

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PHILIPPINE EMBASSY NEWS

Philippines commended for competent ACO Chairmanship



Ambassador Gatan leads the ACO in engaging Mr. Ron Hoffmann, DFAIT Senior Advisor for Asia. Posing with them in the photo are Deputy High Commissioner Umardin Mutalib (Malaysia), Amb. Kyaw Tin (Myanmar), Amb. Dienne Handianti Moehario (Indonesia), Amb. Le Sy Vuong Ha (Vietnam), High Commissioner Rakhia Haji Abdul Lamit (Brunei Darussalam) and Amb. Udomphol Ninnad (Thailand).

09 May 2012 – The Philippines received commendations from resident Heads of Missions representing ASEAN countries as it wound down its chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee in Ottawa (ACO).

Ambassador Leslie B. Gatan steered the 231st ACO meeting, the last under Philippine chairmanship, on 9 May 2012 at Tahanang Rizal, the Philippine ambassador's official residence. On the agenda were commemorative programs for the 35th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada relations, Canadian high-level visits to ASEAN member states and ASEAN

between ASEAN and Canada.

Left: Ambassador Gatan leads the ACO in engaging Mr. Ron Hoffmann, DFAIT Senior Advisor for Asia. Posing with them in the photo are Deputy High Commissioner Umardin Mutalib (Malaysia), Amb. Kyaw Tin (Myanmar), Amb. Dienne Handianti Moehario (Indonesia), Amb. Le Sy Vuong Ha (Vietnam), High Commissioner Rakhia Haji Abdul Lamit (Brunei Darussalam) and Amb. Udomphol Ninnad (Thailand).

Right: Amb. Gatan presents an ACO plaque to Mr. Hoffmann during a luncheon hosted by the Philippines at



Ambassador Gatan presents an ACO plaque to Mr. Hoffman during a luncheon hosted by the Philippines at Tahanang Rizal.

community-building activities in Ottawa. The ACO also took the time to discuss the suspension of Canadian sanctions on Myanmar and the Philippine position on Bajo de Masinloc.


The ACO acknowledged Indonesian efforts to promote ASEAN markets in Canada by way of a business mission from Saskatchewan to the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. Promising results from potential Saskatchewan-Philippines partnerships were seen insofar as trade in chicken, beef, tuna and grains are concerned.

The ACO also thanked the Philippines for organizing the first-ever ACO luncheon with members of parliament on 14 March 2012 with a view to deepening the dialogue

Tahanang Rizal.

Philippine chairmanship of the ACO culminated in a luncheon on the same day with Mr. Ron Hoffmann, newly-appointed DFAIT Senior Advisor for Asia. Lunch conversation focused on concrete manifestations of how the ASEAN region has emerged as a top geographic priority for Canada as well as bilateral and trilateral linkages that could strengthen ASEAN interconnectivity.

"Although our chairmanship officially ends 30 June 2012, the Philippines will continue to be an active builder of the ASEAN community in Ottawa and an ardent supporter of a forward-looking relationship between ASEAN and Canada," Ambassador Gatan affirmed. END



Dasuguan ng Pilipinas Embassy of the Philippines
Ottawa

NEW GUIDELINES ON EXTENSION OF PASSPORT VALIDITY

Effective immediately, applications for the extension of the validity of the Machine Readable Ready Passports (Philippine passport booklets with green cover) will no longer be accepted by the Philippine Embassy and any of its offices in Canada and worldwide in compliance with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

Following an advisory from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, the validity of Machine Readable Passports (Philippine passport booklets with maroon-colored cover) that are expiring within the six (6) months period or has expired may be granted a one-time two-year extension not beyond 31 October 2015, subject to the following conditions:

1. Death in the family requiring the OFW and members of his/her dependent family to urgently travel to the Philippines;
2. Medical emergency requiring the OFW and members of his/her dependent family to urgently travel to the Philippines or other country for medical treatment;
3. OFWs returning to their employers abroad with valid employment contract processed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA);
4. Application for an ePassport has been filed at the Embassy or any of its offices in Canada and worldwide prior to the application for extension of the passport validity;
5. Presentation of proof of urgency such as death certificate, medical certificate, valid employment contracts processed by the POEA or Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Toronto or Vancouver together with plane tickets with confirmed flight details; and
6. Payment of consular fees for the extension of the passport validity.


Qualified applicants may download the *Passport Amendment Form* and requirements directly from www.philombassy-ottawa.com.

In the case of OFWs returning to the Philippines for good and whose work contracts were completed, residence visas were cancelled by their employers or immigration authorities of the host country, and if it is no longer necessary for them to file an application for ePassports, a one-way Travel Document may be issued, with pay, instead of extending the validity of their passports.

All applications for the extension of the validity of passports of persons who will be traveling for vacation and other non-emergency purposes shall not be given due course.

For queries, please contact the Embassy's Consular Section during office hours at 613-2331121.

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Ang matapat na kaibigan, tunay na maaasahan. - - - *You will know a true friend in time of need.*

Naghangad ng kagitna, isang salop ang nawala. - - - *He who takes a lot of risks loses more than he can gain*

Pulutin ang mabuti, ang masama ay iwaksi. - - - *Emulate what is good, ignore what is bad.*

Walang lumura sa langit na di sa kanyang mukha nagbalik. - - - *Nobody who spits upward does not spit on his face.*

Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo. *Of what use is the grass when the horse is already dead.*

Maraming salita, kulang sa gawa. *A man that talks too much accomplishes little.*

Madaling sabihin, mahirap gawain. *Easier said than done.*

Ubos-ubos biyaya, pagkatapos nakatunganga. - - - *Spend lavishly and you end up with nothing.*

Habang may buhay, may pag-asa. *While there is life, there is hope.*

Ang lalagyang walang laman ay maingay. - - - *An empty container makes a lot of noise.*

Ang lakas ay daig ng paraan. *Strength is defeated by strategy.*

Ang mabigat ay gumagaan, kung pinagtutulungan. - - - *Anything that is heavy can be light if we put our resources together.*

Lahat ng gubat ay may ahas.

In every forest, there is a snake.

Bago ka bumati ng sa ibang uling, uling mo muna ang iyong pahirin. *Before you point out other people's shortcomings, correct your own first.*

Ano man ang gagawin, makapitong iisipin. - - - *Whatever you do, think it seven times.*

Hangga't makitid ang kumot, matutong mamaluktot. - - - *While the blanket is short, learn how to bend.*

Mahirap gisingin ang nagtutulog-tulugan. - - - *It is hard to wake up someone who is pretending to be asleep.*

Kung pukulin ka ng bato, tinapay ang iganti mo. - - - *If someone throws stones at you, throw back bread.*

Matibay ang walis, palibhasa'y magkabit. - - - *A broom is sturdy because its strands are tightly bound.*

Pag may tiyaga, may nilaga. - - - *If you persevere, you will reap the fruits of your labor.*

Kung may tinanim, may aanihin. *If you plant, you harvest.*

Walang naninira sa bakal kundi sariling kalawang. *Nothing destroys iron but its own corrosion.*

Pagkahaba-haba man daw ng prusiyon, sa simbahan din ang tuloy. *Eventhough the procession is long, it will still end up in church.*

Magsisi ka man at huli wala nang mangyayari. - - - *There is no need to cry over spilt milk.*

Mga Salawikain

Ang paborito kong hiyas ng ating wikang pambansa ay ang salawikain (proverb). Sa diksiyonaryong Filipino, isinasaad na ang salawikain ay isang maikli ngunit makabuluhang pahayag, karaniwang matulain at nagagamit na patnubay sa buhay. Ang mga aral na nilalaman ng mga salawikain ay gabay sa pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay.

Nasa ibaba ang mayamang kalipunan ng mga salawikaing may salin sa Ingles.

Ang taong nagigipit, sa patalim kumakapit.

A desperate person will grab the sharp blade of a knife.

Ang taong walang kibo, nasa loob ang kulo.

A quiet person has anger boiling inside.

Sa taong walang takot, walang mataas na bakod.

To a person without fear, there is no such thing as a high fence.

Gaya-gaya puto maya, ipakain sa buwaya.

Copycats should be fed to alligators.

Taong di marunong sumangguni, may dunong ma'y namamali.

A person who does not seek advice will make mistakes though wise.

Walang mahirap gisingin gaya ng nagtutulog-tulugan.

No one's harder to wake up than someone pretending to be asleep.

Ang manamit ng hiram, sa daan hinuhubaran.

If you wear something borrowed, you can be stripped naked on the streets.

Kung nagbibigay ma't mahirap sa loob, ang pinakakain ay di mabubusog.

Giving grudgingly will not appease the hunger of the one you're feeding.

Kung sino ang unang pumutak, siyang nangitlog.

Whoever cackles first is the one who laid the egg. (Guilty!)

Kung sino pa ang anluwage ay siyang walang itak. *It is the carpenter who has no bolo knife.*

Malakas ang loob, mahina ang tuhod. *Bold of heart, but weak-kneed.*

Ang pili nang pili, natatama sa bungi. *The choosy one ends up with the worst.*

Batong-buhay ka man na sakdal nang tigas, sa patak ng tubig lamang

naagnas.

The hardest stone you may be, but you will only be eroded by drops of water.

Ang kalusugan ay kayamanan. *Health is wealth*

Ang buhay ay parang gulong, minsang nasa ibabaw, minsang nasa ilalim. - - - *Life is like a wheel, sometimes you're up sometimes you're down.*

Ang hindi lumingon sa pinanggalingan, hindi makarating sa paroroonan. - - - *A person who does not remember where he came from will never reach his destination.*

Ang karukhaan ay hindi hadlang sa pagtatagumpay. - - - *Poverty is not a hindrance to success.*

Ang hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika, ay mahigit pa sa mabaho at malansang isda. - - - *He who does not love his own mother tongue is worse than a rotten fish.*

Ang palay ay parisan, habang nagkakalaman ay lalong nagpupugay. *Imitate the rice stalk, the more grains it bears, the lower it bows.*

Ang umaayaw ay di nagwawagi, ang nagwawagi ay di umaayaw. *A quitter never wins, a winner never quits.*

Walang tiyaga, walang nilaga. *No pain, no gain*

Magsama-sama at malakas, magwatak-watak at babagsak. *United we stand, divided we fall.*

Masakit ang katotohanan. *The truth hurts.*

Ang sakit ng kalingkingan, dama ng buong katawan. *The pain of the little finger is felt by the whole body.*

Huli man daw at magaling, naihabol din. - - - *Better late than never.*

Kapag and dagat ay tahimik, asahan mo at malalim. *Still waters runs deep.*

Ang tulog na hipon, tinatangay ng agos. - - - *A sleeping shrimp is carried away by the current.*

Ang pag-aasawa ay hindi biro, 'di tulad ng kanin, iluluwa kung mapaso. *Marriage is not a joke. It is not like food that you can spit out when it is too hot to chew.*

Walang palayok na walang kasukat na tungtong. *Every pot has a matching lid.*



Pechay: Happy Birthday, Kuya Pichu. Magandang balita ang regalo ko sa iyo. Sa Setyembre ay may darating pa tayong kalaro. Ang dinig ko kay Lelong Bert ay Peras ang pangalan kaya batang babae siya.

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Do you love taking pictures? Shooting the same subject over and over? Seeing the same people, the same streets, the same scenery day in and day out?

How about an exotic, inspiring, stimulating vacation to perk up your pixels! Not an option right now? Well, you can still change the way you see your familiar surroundings and get excited about your regular photo walks by giving yourself a photo assignment!

A photo assignment is a self-driven project that can require one hour or several months – it's your assignment, so it's up to you! It's a way to get out with your camera and improve your skills by challenging yourself. Most importantly, it's a way to keep your passion for the craft fresh and alive!

Several photo assignment ideas come to mind. The first is to simply pick a different theme for each photo walk. This is a great idea if you get bored easily or need help staying focused, even for a short time. You might shoot only textures or patterns one day, people with their dogs another day or situations that bring a smile to your face! The list is endless! Your photo walks will soon become a treasure hunt, whether you are alone or with a photo friend.

I would recommend walking along the Old Port in Old Montreal. There are lots of old buildings, historical statues and people. The cobblestones add values to you scene because of the redundant lines and textures. Take your time to study the buildings or the facade. You may not be able to walk all through out the Old Port and may want to come back for more.

Then there is the 365 day project – a big commitment which can be a lot of pressure. A good way to ease into that would be a 52-week project. These always seem like "a good idea at the time," but both

options are a year-long commitment. Be sure you want to take that on and that you don't set yourself up for failure. Remember – these assignments are supposed to be fun!

If you've done the themed photo walks and maybe a year-long project, then consider a challenge on a different level – a photo-journalistic assignment. This can be a one-day event project or a story told over time. An example subject would be a street musician you've seen many times on the same bridge. Start a conversation. Watch folks passing by. Create a photo essay by including environmental portraits as well as detail shots. You can make a simple project more in depth by following an important or touching story for a few days. Again, the options are limitless. Maybe it's the story of a lost dog you meet at the animal shelter who finally finds a new home. Or a landmark that is being torn down to make space for new developments and the impact that has on the local community. Or tell a simple but fun story with a series of images from your local farmer's



market. Arrive early, document the merchants setting up their stalls for the day, their interaction with the customers and closing up. You will catch an interesting variety of lighting throughout the day plus wide shots of the trucks coming and going and activity in the stalls. There will be much to shoot – details of the produce, hands exchanging money, children's smiles and so on.

The goal of the photo assignment exercise is to see your familiar environment with new eyes, and to fall in love with being a story teller with your camera all over again. Oh, and to have fun, too!

Have a nice summer shooting!

Al Abdon

Is the outside of your home vulnerabel to theft this summer?

Security tips for safeguarding items stored in garages, sheds, and the backyard

Oakville, ON, May 23, 2012 – Almost 200,000 break-ins happen in Canada each year, according to Statistics Canada. Of those thefts, more than 21,000 take place in non-residential, non-commercial locations, which include sheds and detached garages. Summer can be high season for thieves, as valuable items like bicycles, ATVs, motorcycles, barbecues, and lawnmowers are brought out of storage and often left unattended during out-of-town weekends and vacations.

Most people take the necessary steps to ensure that their homes are

protected from break-ins, but might pay less attention to protecting valuable items stored outside the house - in garages, storage sheds, or the backyard. Not only can the replacement cost of these items be significant, but police say that thieves may return, speculating that stolen items have been replaced but that security measures haven't been upgraded. To make matters worse, burglars often find tools or ladders stored outside that they will use to get into your home.

The majority of thieves and vandals will choose the easiest, fastest, and most vulnerable targets. A few simple precautions can keep property safe and secure regardless of where it's stored.

GARAGES: PUT THE BRAKES ON THEFT

- Locks that come with garage doors are often easily destroyed or pried open. Replace with a heavy-duty padlock, choosing one with an octagonal boron-carbide shackle and a heavy steel or laminated body.
- For garages with overhead doors that roll up, install padlocks or bolts in the centre of the tracks, one-quarter inch above a roller with the door closed. This will prevent rollers from moving if the outer lock is tampered with.
- Ensure that the connecting door between the garage and your house is always locked.
- If you park in the driveway, don't leave your garage door opener remote in the car. Replace large remotes with a small keychain version to carry with you.

RESTAURANT	
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SAFEGUARD STORAGE SHEDS AND OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

- Keep storage sheds locked – to prevent theft and to avoid giving thieves a place to hide.
- Secure bicycles, gas barbecues, lawn mowers, and snow blowers with a chain and padlock.
- Lock up tools, gardening implements, and ladders that thieves can use to break into your home.

INSTALL GATES AND FENCING WISELY

- Beware a too-tall fence – while it provides privacy, it can also provide an opportunity for burglars to break in unseen and hide suspicious activity from neighbours and passersby.
- Check for gaps where a thief could slide through or under.
- Make sure your gate is strong and securely installed, and lock it with a weather resistant type padlock.
- Keep the padlock locked, even when your gate is open. Thieves have been known to replace an open padlock with their own lock, then return to rob you.

USE PREMIUM PADLOCKS

- Not all padlocks are created equal - premium or specialty padlocks can better withstand threats from thieves or vandals. Padlocks like Master Lock's Magnum line are extra strong to resist multiple attempts at cutting or prying.
- Choose a padlock with weather protection for outdoor use.
- Look for padlocks that secure freestanding items like bicycles, ATVs, motorcycles, barbecues, lawnmowers, and snowmobiles directly into the ground.
- A padlock is only as good as the chain or hasp it's fastened to. If thieves have no success violating the padlock, they will attempt to violate the hasp or chain. Double your protection with a high quality hasp or chain if required.

Harper Government Welcomes Mental Health Strategy - A call to action for all Canadians

OTTAWA - May 8, 2012- The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, today welcomed the release of the Mental Health Commission's Mental Health Strategy for Canada. The creation of the strategy was a key part of the Commission's mandate, and is based on the different experiences of over 2,500 people-including the general public, individual stakeholders and organizations across Canada. "Improving the mental health and well-being of Canadians is important to our Government and a priority for Canadians," said Minister Aglukkaq. "The Harper Government is proud to have created the Commission, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank MHCC Chair Dr. David Goldbloom, his predecessor, Senator Michael Kirby;

About Master Lock Magnum Padlocks

Magnum padlocks by Master Lock deliver unprecedented levels of security to protect valuable property, including garages, sheds, tool boxes, gates, and residential or self storage lockers. Constructed with dual ball bearings, reinforced body protection and an octagonal boron-carbide shackle, Magnum locks offers maximum pry and weather resistance and are nearly impossible to cut. The Magnum line of padlocks is regularly priced at \$25-\$50; through mid-June, many retailers will offer in-store savings of up to \$15 on the Master Lock Magnum M1BLCQLFHC 4-pack. For more information, watch http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxQ5K21LWos&list=PLE7BE889C192E5727&index=5&feature=plpp_video or call 1-800-227-9599.

About Master Lock

Master Lock is the world's largest manufacturer of padlocks and related security products, providing innovative security solutions for home, automotive, campus, power sports, bike and storage security needs for consumers and contractors alike. Master Lock Canada is located in Oakville, Ontario. Established in 1921, Master Lock has earned and maintained the trust of customers by delivering strength and quality while continually setting new standards for lock design, application and performance. Master Lock continues to build its founder's passion for innovation, quality, and compelling value into constantly expanding lines of security solutions. With a dedicated bilingual customer service and sales and marketing team, Master Lock Canada is committed to providing a wide range of security and safety products and solutions to Canadians. More information is at www.masterlock.com.

Louise Bradley, President and CEO of MHCC; and their dedicated team for developing Canada's first ever mental health strategy."

Later in May, Minister Aglukkaq will attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva. Mental health will be a significant item on the agenda of the Assembly this year, and Minister Aglukkaq has invited Dr. Goldbloom to attend as part of the Canadian delegation.

On behalf of her colleague, the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Minister Aglukkaq also announced a call for research proposals about the prevention of homelessness for those with mental health issues.

"Homeless people who live with a mental illness are among those most in need of improved services and supports," said Minister Aglukkaq. "By working in close collaboration with

See Page 14 Mental Health

Xpress Money Launches its Online Money Transfer Portal in Canada

Canada Customers will now be able to make payments on the portal via 4 major bank gateways ~ ~ Money Transfer made convenient, quick and easy for customers ~

Ontario, Canada, 27th March 2012 – Xpress Money, one of the leading global money transfer brands recently announced the launch of its services through an online portal for its customers in Canada. Accessible through the website www.xpressmoney.com, customers need to complete a simple registration procedure before proceeding to use the online services. At the moment, account holders of 4 leading Canadian banks - RBC Royal, BMO, Canada Trust and Scotia Bank can access this service to send money across the world; Xpress Money has plans of expanding this reach further in the coming months.

To avail of this service, customers need to sign up online and provide the receiver's information. They also get to choose the mode of payment from three options– cash pickup, door delivery or direct account credit, which the receiver can then make use of. Customers will also be

conducted a major consumer research in Canada where we found that people who transfer money across the world and specifically to India, Pakistan, Philippines and the CIS region preferred the option of online money transfer from the convenience of their home or office. Based on the feedback we received, we launched this online money transfer service which helps our users transfer money from anywhere in Canada to the rest of the world. We are sure that our customers will be very pleased with the platform."

About Xpress Money:

Xpress Money is a global money transfer brand with a thriving presence in more than 125 countries in 5 continents across 135,000 agent locations across the world. Working towards the goal of Bringing Home Closer to millions of migrants residing away from their homes, Xpress Money has come to be known as the most dependable international money transfer brand. Xpress Money provides



able to track their transaction every step of the way, with the dedicated 24X7 customer support provided by Xpress Money.

The system has been designed to enhance the user experience and be customer friendly. Using the Debit Way Portal to make payments, this gateway is an immediate and effective way of transferring money online, across the world.

Talking about the portal Mr. Debanshu Majumdar, Director & Vice President – Xpress Money Services (Canada) Limited, said, "Xpress Money

its customers with a simple, fast & safe way to transfer money anywhere in the world through innovative technology, superior customer service and its extensive worldwide network. For more information, visit

www.xpressmoney.com
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Gala Night

DINNER - DANCE

celebrating

114th Philippine Independence & 49th Anniversary of FAMAS

June 9, 2012 Saturday 6PM
Hellenic Community Centre
 5757 Wilderton Avenue Montreal, Quebec H3S 2V7
 for info, please call: 514•341•7477

WATCH OUT FOR PHILIPPINE WEEK AND FAMAS OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITIES:

- June 9** - start of Philippine Week with the annual Independence Gala and 49th anniversary of FAMAS (Kick start of a year-celebration building up to the 50th Anniversary)
 - June 10** - Launching of Computer Literacy Program
 - June 11** - Healthy Life Style Day with the FNAQ - Nurses' Teaching Health Clinic
 - June 12** - Flag-raising ceremony at the FAMAS Center
 - June 16** - Bake Sale (Filipino delicacies)
 Graduation - Filipino Heritage Class and French Language Course;
- and many more other activities being finalized with partner associations**
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Arts & Craft Exhibits | Philippine History 101 |
| Musikang Pinoy Evening | FAMAS Pa-Sine |
| Play or Learn Chess | Zumba Fitness Session - Kung Fu |
- July 15** **Pista sa Nayon - Reserve your tent now.**



Organized by:
Filipino Association
of Montreal & Suburbs
(FAMAS)



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No Purchase Necessary. Contest starts May 15, 2012 at 12:00:01 pm Eastern Time ("ET") and ends on September 15, 2012 at 11:59:59 pm ET ("the Contest Period"). Full Contest Rules are located online at www.westernunioncanada.ca. The Contest is open to individuals who are legal residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence at the time of entry into the Contest. To enter via SMS text messaging, a mobile phone with text messaging capabilities is required. You must send a qualifying money transfer to the Philippines via Western Union and text the word "happy" and the last 4 digits of the 10-digit MTCN to 88898 during the Contest Period. Standard message and data rates apply. Void where prohibited by law. There will be five (5) prizes consisting of a Getaway vacation package good for 3 people including an overnight stay at a hotel with 2-rooms standard double occupancy, ground transportation costs, meal allowance of \$100 per day per person and travel insurance, with total prize value of \$3,500 CAD. The odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. To claim your prize, correctly answer a mathematical skill testing question and complete a Declaration and Release form. Total prize value is \$17,500 CAD. Employees, representatives and agents of Western Union Financial Services (Canada) Inc. ("Western Union" or the "Contest Sponsor"), and their immediate families, respective affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotional agencies, licensees, including the independent judging organization (the "Contest Judges"), and any persons domiciled with any of the above are not eligible. Any litigation respecting the conduct or organization of a publicity contest may be submitted to the Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux for a ruling. Any litigation respecting the awarding of a prize may be submitted to the Régie only for the purpose of helping the parties reach a settlement. © 2012 Western Union Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Gilmore College students - L-R: Desirée Fernando, Remayette Danao, Edna Lorenzo, Marie Edna Escoto and Jennifer Lachica feted their teacher, Zenaida Kharroubi, on Mothers' Day.



Dual celebration of a birthday and Mothers' Day: Standing (L-R) Remayette Danao, birthday celebrant and Desirée Fernando. Seated (L-R) Marie Edna Escoto, Jennifer Lachica, Zenaida Kharroubi, and Arlene Manalo. Photo taken on May 13, 2012 at a buffet restaurant.



Career Day, May 5, 2012 at the Filipino Youth Center, with Zenaida Kharroubi as lecturer. Photo shows students and some parents with Pastor Orlan Racacho after the lecture.



Remayette Danao (seated on the left) hosted a small party on the occasion of her birthday. Others in the photo (L-R) Arlene Manalo, Desirée Fernando, Jennifer Lachica, Edna Lorenzo, and Marie Edna Escoto. Photo taken on May 13, 2012 at a buffet restaurant in Montreal.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Dimayuga uses her voice to entertain people and share her pain and experience to inspire teen agers

W. G. Quiambao

"As a young adult, proud Filipina, I would love to be an inspiration to others in my own way. I would love to share my talent and to be a voice for the Filipino community. With my experience in life so far. I may be young but my eyes have seen many and my heart has felt pain. I would love to help those in hard situation and show them to just believe and you will make it through. Never give up. God bless!"



These are quotes of Mariel Urrutia Dimayuga, the newly crowned FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill 2012, in the souvenir program of the pageant. These quotes - coming from a woman who has seen and experienced pain when she was young but has never given up - are probably what caught the attention of the judges and touched them.

Dimayuga, 19, who was born and raised in Montreal, has a dental assistance degree from CDI College.

Like her famous cousin, actor-singer Ariel Rivera who is in the Philippines now making movies, she loves to sing. Singing has been her passion since she was young.

"I remember my mom bringing me to Orlando, Florida when I was 12 to see Fashion Rock, a singing competition," said Dimayuga. "At school, I always participated in talent and musical shows to raise funds for organizations. I sang in the church choir in St. Thomas de Becket in the West Island where I live. The choir consisted of children and adults."

Dimayuga's other passion is beauty pageants. Although she has not competed in other beauty pageants, she enjoys watching them. She has been offered to compete in the Miss Earth to be held soon in Indonesia.

Her life would probably change now. As FAMAS Miss

Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill, she will represent the association and the community in many functions. She will meet a lot of people and friends and she will have lots of fun. It's a life that would be different from the life she had when she was young.

Dimayuga and her younger brother, Paolo, were raised by her single mother, Estrella. "I've seen and experienced a lot of pain as a young girl growing up," confessed Dimayuga.

"I had only my mother to turn to when I had problems. It was difficult."

She went to CAVAC (Centre d'aide aux victimes d'actes criminels) to seek help. CAVAC is a center that meets that needs persons of all ages who are victims or witnesses of crimes. It was there where she found spiritual healing that she was looking for. Because of the help provided to her by the center, she decided to become a volunteer.

"As a young lady, I hope my story helps not only adults but also young children," said Dimayuga. "Even though I'm only a dental assistant, I still have a dream to become a singer. That's my passion. You should not stop to get what you want in life. You have to study. You have to work and study hard."

Dimayuga explained that the pain and experience she had is what makes her wiser, stronger and closer to her family.

"I could talk about anything, and everything with my mother. She is a friend, advisor and most of all, a mother. She worked hard to support us, to send us to school and provide everything we need. My mom made me and my brother what we are today."

Dimayuga discussed light and controversial issues when she was asked. She said she does not go on diet to keep in shape. "I like food, I love to eat. I'm just lucky that I'm not gaining weight. But I like to exercise."

When asked about her stand on the transgender who was allowed by Donald Trump to compete in the coming Miss Universe Pageant, she said, "If they want to be transgender, it's up to them. I'm not judging them. That's their choice. However, I don't want them to force their belief on the community that has been established."

The FAMAS Miss Philippines-Montreal Ambassador of Goodwill 2012 candidates spent 5 to 6 weeks, 4 hours a day on the weekend, to prepare for the pageant. During that short period, Dimayuga and the other candidates became close friends.

"I wish we could work together again to be volunteers for FAMAS and for the community."

From Page 11 Mental Health

the Mental Health Commission, this program will generate projects that will build on the Mental Health Strategy for Canada launched today."

This funding is being provided through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a unique community-

Third annual Stride to Turn the Tide national walk in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation-

Toronto, ON - During the first three weekends in June, thousands of Canadians will take part in the third annual Stride to Turn the Tide national fundraising walk. Participants from over 100 Stephen Lewis Foundation grandmothers groups in 60 communities across Canada will walk as an act of solidarity with grandmothers raising children orphaned by AIDS in Africa. Stride to Turn the Tide aims to surpass \$1 million this year in funds raised for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

"At the grassroots, on the front lines, African grandmothers are turning the tide of AIDS one child, one family, and one community at a time," states Carole Holmes, Co-Chair, of Stride to Turn the Tide. "We Canadian grandmothers stand in awe, inspired by the strength, resilience, and resolve of our sisters in sub-Saharan Africa."

Since the inaugural walk in 2010, \$780,000 has been raised through Stride to Turn the Tide. This year, Canadian grandmothers aim to surpass the \$1 million mark to benefit grassroots organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, where an estimated 14.8 million children under the age of 18 have lost one or both parents to AIDS. Funds raised from the national walk will be used to provide thousands of African grandmothers with critical support such as nutritious food, housing, and school fees for their grandchildren.

"A million dollars transforms countless lives," says Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). "I cannot adequately express what an historic and powerful contribution Canadian grandmothers are making to the lives of grandmothers and children turning the tide of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in this time of austerity imposed by the world's wealthiest nations."

Walks will take place June 2/3, 9/10 and 16/17. Donations can be

based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to communities across Canada.

For more information, please visit the HPS and the call for proposals.

For more information, please visit Mental Health Commission's Mental Health Strategy for Canada.

made directly to participants or online at www.stridetoturnthetide.ca. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Media Contacts:

Keely Wallace, SLF, 416-533-9292 ext. 306,
news@stephenlewisfoundation.org
 Carole Holmes, Stride to Turn the Tide, 289-837-0521, cjholmes46@gmail.com

About the Stephen Lewis Foundation

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) works with community-level organizations turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa by providing care and support to women, orphans, grandmothers and people living with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003 we have funded over 700 initiatives, partnering with more than 300 community-based organizations in 15 countries.
www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

About the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign

The Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign seeks to build solidarity, raise awareness and mobilize support in Canada for Africa's grandmothers. Since 2006, some 240 groups of Canadian grandmothers have taken up the call to action. To date, the campaign has raised more than \$13.5 million for African grandmothers and the children in their care. SLF has directed these funds to partners - community-level organizations in 15 sub-Saharan African countries that provide grandmothers with much needed support, such as nutritious food, adequate housing and bedding, school fees and supplies for their grandchildren, grief counselling, support groups and HIV awareness training.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec will celebrate the Independence Day on June 17, Sunday at the Mackenzie King Park. Assembly time for the parade is 7:30 a.m., corner of Westbury & Victoria.

Father Frank Alvarez will hold a mass at 1:30- p.m.

Program starts at 2:00 p.m.

For more information to rent a tent, please call James de la Paz (514) 577-7787.

Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Vermicelli and Mixed Seafood balls make a tasty soup for any hearty meal of the day



Seafood Sotanghon Noodle Soup.

Sotanghon (vermicelli) noodle soup is one of the favourite merienda for a lot of Pinoys. This noodle is quite versatile as it can be mixed with other kinds of ingredients such as pork, chicken, and seafood.

First of all, vermicelli noodles should not be soaked too long to avoid their disintegration. In fact, it should only be rinsed with warm water and drain. The soup is to be served immediately as the

vermicelli noodles will absorb the broth as it cools down then it disintegrates.

Ingredients:

- 1/4 kilo sotanghon noodles (vermicelli noodles) rinsed
- 1/4 kilo fresh mixed seafood
- 1/2 head small cabbage, shredded
- 1 small size carrot, cut into strips
- 1/2 cup achuete (red coloring extract)
- 1/2 head garlic, chopped
- 1 medium size onion, chopped
- 1-2 tbsp. dried parsley flakes
- 1 small bundle spring onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup fish sauce
- 2 cups fish broth
- cooking oil
- salt and pepper

Cooking procedure:

In a sauce pan, sauté garlic and onion until fragrant. Stir in mixed seafood, add the fish sauce and stir cook for another 2 to 3 minutes. Remove the

seafood from the pan and keep aside. Add in the parsley flakes, broth and 3 to 4 cups of water, let boil and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes. Add vermicelli noodles and achuete, simmer for 5 to 8 minutes or until al dente soft. Add in vegetables and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes add in the seafood and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes or until vegetables are just cooked. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Garnish with spring onion and serve immediately.



CHICKEN SOTANGHON SOUP WITH AMPALAYA (Bitter melon)

cooking oil

6 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed

4 medium onions, peeled and sliced

250 grams vermicelli noodles (sotanghon)

250 grams chicken breast

1 1/2 liter water

1 medium ampalaya, seeded and sliced

2 tbsp. patis (fish sauce)

salt

pepper

Soak vermicelli/sotanghon noodles in water. If strands are already soft, cut the strands into desired length and drain. Set aside.

Place chicken breast and 1/2 liter water in a small soup pot. Add salt and pepper. Add 3 cloves of garlic and half of sliced onions. Bring to a slow boil, covered, until chicken is cooked. Use a large spoon to skim any foam or scum off the top of the soup. Remove the chicken breast and put on a plate and cool completely. Reserve chicken stock. When chicken breast is cool enough to handle, remove the skin and take the meat off the bone; chop the meat into bite-sized pieces. Set aside.

In a medium soup pot or large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Saute the remaining garlic and onions. Add chopped chicken, saute for about 2 minutes. Add the remaining 1 liter water and the chicken stock. Bring to a full boil, covered.

Add the vermicelli/sotanghon noodles. Cook over medium heat for 5-8 minutes, covered.

Season with patis, salt and pepper.

Add the sliced ampalaya and serve while hot with white rice.

Biko Recipe (Filipino Sweet Sticky Rice)

Makes one 9x13 pan
You need to use sweet rice or sticky rice (sometimes called glutinous rice) for this recipe. Coconut cream is



Glutinous rice cake topped with caramelized coconut (latik).

found in most Asian and ethnic stores but if you can't find it, just use the thick cream from the top layer of a good quality can of coconut milk. Don't worry if you end up with less coconut milk to use with the rice—simply add enough water to reach the desired amount of cooking liquid.

This recipe can easily be halved. If you like crunchy rice edges, cook the biko in muffin pans or brownie bar pans. Be careful when you pull it out of the oven; the caramelized brown sugar is very hot and can burn you if you try to taste it immediately.

Ingredients:

- 3 cans (14 oz. can) coconut milk
- 4 cups sweet rice
- 2 cups brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 cup coconut cream



Kalamay - same ingredients except use sticky rice flour instead of glutinous rice. Top with almonds or shredded coconut.

Pour coconut milk and add about a cup of water into a pot and let it come to a simmer over medium heat. When simmering, add in the rice and stir constantly to prevent burning. Lower the heat if necessary. Preheat oven to



Common version of "biko" or glutinous rice cake with brown sugar and coconut milk. 350F.

When rice is sticky and almost dry (it will look like risotto), about 10-15 minutes, add 1 cup brown sugar. Stir well and take off heat. Pour into a lightly buttered 9x13 pan and smooth the top. Mix the remaining 1 cup brown sugar and coconut cream until smooth and pour it over the rice. Bake for about 1 hour or until topping is dark brown and has thickened. Cool slightly before serving.

BUSINESS HOURS

Mon. Tue. Wed.	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Thu. Fri.	8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Pork loin
Approximately
15 lbs

2.69 lb

**Half or Whole
pork
Cut & Wrapped**

1.69 lb

**Fresh Pork Belly
with skin**

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**Beef
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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Heartbreak loss for Jessica Sanchez as Philipps takes Idol title



Ryan Seacrest asks for applause standing next to the season 11 winner Phillip Phillips and runner-up Jessica Sanchez.

American Idol did not hand the crown to Jessica Sanchez on Thursday May 24, but in this seaside town north of Manila she is "second to none," and in the worldwide net she is the "World Idol."

Thousands of people watching the show on a huge TV screen at the town plaza clapped their hands and stomped their feet as host Ryan Seacrest named Phillip Phillips, 21, the new American Idol who hugged Sanchez, 16, whose mother is a member of Samal's Bugay clan.

"She may not be the American Idol, but she will always be our idol," said Carina Nanasca, a government employee.

"We will still be celebrating. We are so proud of her," said Samal Mayor Gene Malibiran de la Fuente.

Phillips, a bluesy Georgia guitar man, was the fifth male "Idol" winner in a row. He appeared stunned after the host announced his name.

Phillips received the winning share of the record-high 132 million votes cast after Wednesday's finals showdown with Sanchez. The vote count was not announced, which was typical for the contest.

In their showdown on Wednesday, Phillips, a pawnshop worker from Leesburg, Georgia, sang Home by Billy Joel, the song that could be his first single. Sanchez sang the pop ballad Change Nothing.

Minutes after Seacrest announced the result, the Internet was swamped with messages of support for Sanchez from all over the world. One message said she did not need the American Idol title because she was the "World Idol."

"If Phillip Phillips is season 11's American Idol, then I guess Jessica Sanchez is the World Idol of all seasons," one net blogger said.

They told Sanchez to come home to the Philippines "and feel how much love there is for her."

"Come home soon. The entire Philippines is waiting for you," one tweeter said.

Malacañang said Sanchez had gained the loyal and enthusiastic support of Filipinos worldwide, and that people considered her "a



Jessica Sanchez final idol performance

performer imbued with an extraordinary gift of music and heart."

"This is only the beginning for Jessica Sanchez whose incredible talent has been recognized and appreciated the world over," said deputy presidential spokeswoman Abigail Valte said.

Vice-President Jejomar Binay said: "Jessica's amazing journey on American Idol showcased not just her talent but the spirit of bayanihan shown by every Filipino who supported her."

At the House of Representatives, legislators praised Sanchez, and Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia filed a resolution congratulating her for her exceptional achievement.

"She has shown innate Filipino talent," the resolution says.

"She stunned the whole world and earned the adulation of millions. She is a beacon of inspiration for Filipinos everywhere." ■

Jessica Sanchez defends 'American Idol,' says protest 'not necessary'

Reporter: Elton Lugay



Jessica; A wave and a tired smile. (Photo Elton Lugay)

"It was completely fair. Phil deserved to win."

With those words, "American Idol" runner-up Jessica Sanchez brushed aside a protest by a Filipino-American community group. Migrant Heritage Commission, which is based here in D.C., is asking Fox TV to disclose "in the interest of transparency" how the voting was counted and how much of the 132 million votes went to the young singer.

Jessica, a close second to winner Phillip Phillips, told The FilAm: "I don't think it's necessary. I think Phil deserves to win, I think it was all fair. They wouldn't ever cheat or anything like that. I think it was completely fair."

I caught up with Jessica at a rehearsal of artists scheduled to perform at the May 27 National Memorial Day Concert to honor soldiers and veterans. With Jessica in the program are fellow Idol Chris Daughtry and Grammy-winning singer Natalie Cole.

"It means the world," the 16-year-old was gushing. "My dad is part of the military and so is my grandfather. I'm excited, I feel like I'm really part of this and it's an honor to be singing for everybody here today."

Jessica's Mexican father, Gilbert, is a Navy veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mother Editha is Filipino. Her maternal grandfather is a retired U.S. Navy man.

"I'm excited because my grandfather is a big part of the military, and he's here to celebrate this time with me," she said of the PBS program dedicated to active duty soldiers, veterans and their families. "It's like I'm singing not only to him but to everybody else here."

Wearing tight black jeans and an airy gray top that bared her belly, Jessica arrived here in late morning and took her place at the stage directly across from the Capitol's west lawn. She looked

drained and a wee bit cross. I was looking for the toothy smiles that became her endearing Idol trademark, but they did not flash naturally across her face. Maybe the post-Idol schedules are now taking their toll on her disposition.

She listened to a briefing by the PBS production crew then proceeded to belt the "Star-Spangled Banner." There were moments when her voice cracked, but she would pause and continue to sing as if in a whisper. Seemed to me she was saving her big voice for the big night.

From two songs, PBS decided that Jessica will be singing three — the national anthem, "The Prayer" and "America, the Beautiful," which is the finale song. After rehearsal, she took a 30-minute break to rest, freshen up, retouch her makeup and settle down for her interview.

"I think Philip deserves to win," she told me, flashing what appeared to be a forced grin. "I worked hard and it got me to the Top 2 so I'm happy about that and I'm content with it."

She said she was eternally grateful to her Filipino-Mexican background which formed the backbone of her overwhelming support. "I had a lot of support and it doesn't necessarily mean voting-wise, I just had support from my people, and I appreciate it so much."

Jessica, the oldest of three children — she has two younger brothers — said she speaks only English at home, but is looking forward to learning Tagalog in the future. "I grew up with my grandma and so is my mom who are from the Philippines, they make Filipino food and dishes for us all the time."

Jessica said she plans to pursue her music career wherever it takes her, but will definitely go to college "as a back-up."

"Music is pretty much my number one priority, next to family. I'm going to be working on some songs pretty soon," she said. The latest word is that Tommy Mottola has offered to produce her first album for his Casablanca-UMG label Jessica was mum about the details.

"I'm definitely working on some things right now," she said. "I'm at this event and we all worked it out and definitely trying to keep myself busy and I'm excited for the future." ■

Dr Vicki Belo reviews Jessica, PNoy On Grace: We Are Friends Philipp at American Idol finals



Dr Vicki Belo

Would the presence of Manny Pacquiao have helped sway the vote for Jessica Sanchez had he shown up on time at the Nokia Theater where the American Idol grand finals was held Wednesday last week?

crowd's heart na mostly babae. Our group was maka-Jessica but when we heard Phillip sing Home, we got so carried away that we stood up with the rest of the audience and we applauded."

Conceding that Jessica's voice is perfect for the songs by David Foster, who with his wife are Vicki's best friends, Vicki said that she hoped that Foster would help Jessica like he did Charice. ("Foster was never Charice's manager," clarified Grace Mendoza, Charice's Philippine manager, in a separate interview. "Oprah, Charice's godmother, only asked Foster to help Charice.") "I'm sure that David would love to meet Jessica, if ever."

Before coming home, Vicki met up with Willie Revillame who arrived during the weekend in L.A. for the TV5 launch on May 26 with his show Wil Time Bigtime (with another starting this weekend, June 2, in San Francisco).

"But as far as I'm concerned,"



Jessica Sanchez supporters outside of the Nokia Theater in LA where the American Idol finals were held.

"I really doubt it," said Dr. Vicki Belo who was there. "Most of Manny's fans/followers are men and it was mostly women who did most of the voting. But for sure, Manny could have given Jessica moral support."

Manny was in the thick of pre-fight (with Timothy Bradley on June 10, Manila Time, in Las Vegas) workout at the Wild Card gym in L.A. and he did go to Nokia only after the show.

"I fetched him at Wild Card but he couldn't cut short his training, so I went ahead to Nokia," said Vicki who was seated at the seventh row. "But had Manny been with me, we would have been put on the first row."

Vicki estimated that Phillip Phillips, the winner, had more supporters inside the venue than Jessica, second-placer, did – approximately 60 percent for Phillip and 40 percent for Jessica.

"Two of Jessica's songs, I Have Nothing and The Prayer, were by David Foster," noted Vicki. "Her third song, Change Nothing, was parang not bagay sa voice niya although she admittedly did them beautifully. Phillip scored high especially with his third song, Home. His style was medyo hindi tumatawa. He started the song medyo slow but when he reached the chorus, he began to smile and that won the



Vicki with Will Time Bigtime host Willie Revillame

added Vicki, "Jessica is a winner in her own right," with a possible recording contract with Sony Music, as reported by Thalia herself, wife of Sony boss Tony Mottola, in her Twitter.

Incidentally, could it be true that Vicki is dissociating herself from the group that put up a Belo Medical Clinic in Glendale, California, last year because she couldn't practice her hands-on style of management (as she does with her local outlets) since she couldn't be in California as often as she wanted to?

Henceforth, Vicki's name will be removed from the clinic's name. ■



No wedding bells for PNoy this year

President Benigno S. Aquino III has finally broken his silence over the status of his relationship with TV host Grace Lee describing her as a friend.

"Kaibigan natin," said he in a recent interview with Bomboradyo.

It was the first time the President spoke about the relationship following rumors that he and Lee have already broken up.

Prior, Lee declined to answer questions pertaining to the matter,

urging media to ask the President himself about it. When told about Lee's stance during the same Bomboradyo interview, Aquino said: "O, [eto] two words [ko]: '[mag]kaibigan kami."

Aquino and Lee were last seen together in public last month during a Sergio Mendes concert. Rumors about their supposed breakup surfaced early this month when the President was heard once again cracking jokes about his love life in his speeches.

Grace Lee 'happy' being 'friends' with PNoy



Grace Lee feels she can marry a guy in God's time

Korean TV personality Grace Lee said she is happy with the current state of her relationship President Aquino.

Lee, who is rumored to have stopped dating the president, on Wednesday said she hopes to stay friends with the country's bachelor-leader.

"I haven't really given it much thought yet," Lee said, when asked how she feels about the relationship.

"I'm very, very happy," she told ABS-CBN News when asked about being friends with Aquino. "Yes [we're friends], hopefully [it will stay that way]."

Lee said she continues to appreciate Aquino for being a gentleman and being protective of her

The 52-year-old bachelor also took to making mention of the presence of beautiful women in the gatherings that he has been attending – something he has stopped doing after being publicly linked with Lee.

At one point, Aquino even hinted at joining the priesthood as a "late vocation."

A report on a news website added fuel to the fire by saying that they have already confirmed the breakup with "sources" close to the President. Malacanang has not issued an official statement about the matter.



The President's last known girlfriend is Councilor Shalani Soledad (Seen here on the left in 2010), who is now married to Pasig City Representative, Roman Romulo

Aquino met Lee at a function in Cebu last year. He admitted to dating the Korean beauty a few months later. ■

whenever he is made to comment on his personal life.

"You know, from the very beginning until very recently, every comment he's made about his private life is [about] me," Lee said.

"He's always been a gentleman, so I really appreciate na he always tries to protect me. So I think it really shows the kind of man that he is, the way he has been, how he has stepped out of his comfort zone to talk about his private life, for me," Lee said.

Aquino recently commented on the status of his relationship with Lee following reports that they have stopped "seeing each other." ■

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP continued p.18

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17* Heart believes in recycling, but not recycling boyfriends



Heart Evangelista

In all the seriousness of the environmental advocacy to which she has lent her support by way of an appearance at the "Save the Earth, Share Happy" event at SM Megamall on May 18, Heart Evangelista is asked if her belief in recycling also applies to her love life.

She smiles and answers, "Recycling when it comes to love life is something that you really need to think about, because once it ends, it must end for a reason at ayaw mo nang balikan 'yung reason na 'yon. So, hindi na siguro pwede."

Heart, of course, has been showbiz news fodder lately following the breakdown of her relationship with Brazilian-Japanese model Daneil Matsunaga. As such, when asked if she's ready to touch base with him now, perhaps over a friendly dinner, she responds, "I think I need my time away from that first. We both need our time away from that."

"Of course a break up is, you know... goodbyes are always sad. But then again, there's a saying that some people come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. So hindi ko pa nahahanap 'yun," she says, adding, "So dinner, maybe not so soon yet."

But Heart also tells the media, "[Ang] puso ko? Okay na okay ang puso ko. I'm very inspired with my job, tuloy-tuloy—one soap after another, and then I have two movies coming up, endorsements... so I'm good."

She also notes, "I'm actually happy na ganito ang state ko kasi less complications, 'di ba? And then kung may mga nag-iinvite, okay, why

not, 'di ba?"

The Sid factor

Heart also rebuffed all insinuations that something brews between her and "Legacy" co-star Sid Lucero, who has even previously expressed excitement over working with the actress.

Asked if he's introduced her to his family, Heart replies, "Actually I've known his family for a while. I've met Max [Sid's sister Maxine Eigenmann] a long time ago. And Sid and I are



Heart Evangelista in a Don Cristobal creation at the SM, Unilever and Selecta event 'Save the Earth, Share Happy'

very good friends, too. We hang out a lot. So nakilala ko na sila dati pa."

She clarifies that she has not been invited to a family dinner with them. "I bumped into his family, Mother's Day, when I was doing grocery in Rockwell," she says.

"We're really good friends and it's so funny kasi when you do a show

and you're with this person, right away you're romantically [linked], you know? But it's nice kasi at least naniniwala sila sa acting," she laughs.

As for dating again, Heart points out, "I wouldn't really call it dating, but I've had dinner with some friends or I get to know new people, ganyan. Siyempre, you know, you're single, and it's always nice to see what's out there.

"I go out with sina Sid all the time; not just Sid alone but we'd go out [as a] group... Actually the whole cast, we're very, very close. We all go out."

Mother Earth calls

For now, Heart has opted to focus on other concerns, like lending support to SM's Greenbag advocacy, a program launched in 2007 that has transformed shopping into a nationwide movement that infuses the green lifestyle among the mall's patrons.

"Save the Earth, Share Happy" was held at the Activity Center in SM Megamall, graced by guests and top-level executives from both SM and Unilever, as well as their partners from Selecta Ice Cream. Highlighted by a fashion show with candidates of the Miss Earth beauty pageant, the event was a push for shoppers to lessen the use of plastic bags and promote eco-shopping. It also marked the introduction of the Red Chiller Bag, the latest evolution of the SM Greenbag advocacy that shoppers can avail of when they purchase Selecta products.

In the main segment of the fashion show, Heart played muse to local designer Don Cristobal, along with several Miss Earth candidates. They came on stage wearing innovative dresses and gowns made from various household materials like plastic bags, bubble wrap, shower curtains, straws and other plastic material.

"It's about recycling, being nature-friendly, being more friendly to Earth because of everything we've been doing to it; we've been abusing it," Heart explains after the show. "So this is why we're promoting 'reuse, recycle'... it's a great way to do it. Because SM has a lot of customers and they'll be able to spread the word din," she notes.

Aside from supporting such advocacies, Heart does her share for the environment as well. "I make sure that when my garbage gets picked up, sine-separate ko 'yung plastic sa lahat ... I try to be as eco-friendly as possible."

As GMA's "Legacy" ends its run, Heart notes she will begin taping for the network's new series "Luna Blanca," which starts on Monday. "I'll also be doing movie by June, I don't know if I can say anything yet but, end of the world naman 'to... so may connection sa 'reuse'," she adds with a smile. ■

Charice happy she can now show off 'the real me'



International singer Charice has changed her look drastically and she's proud of it.

"I'm extremely happy. Unbelievable! Like I could cry! Showing my tattoos, showing my hair, showing my outfit, I feel more free," Charice said on "TV Patrol," May 14.

The singer's latest tattoo was done in Los Angeles and reads, "I never knew true love until someone broke my heart."

But, when pressed about the story behind her newest tattoo, Charice clammed up. "Pag naglalagay ako talagang may meaning, may meaning. Kasi ayoko na naglalagay nang basta-basta na lang. Bakit ganyan kasi gano'n," she said.

"Actually it's a true story but I'd rather not tell the story. I know a lot of people kapag nabasa nila 'yan makaka-relate," she was quoted by abs-cbnnews.com on the same day.

"It's part of the look and everything. Let's just say it's an accessory," she said of her tattoos. Her first one, on her forearm, says "love eternally."

The interview posted on ABS-CBN news website also delved on Charice's sexuality.

Seemingly unaffected by rumors about her sexual orientation, she explained, "I don't care whatever you think. As long as my fans love me and support me forever, I'm good with that."

She added, "Whoever stays with me until the end of my career or whatever, those are the people [who trust me]. The others that still have doubts, questions, who are confused... I will understand."

Charice feels she never changed her image, stressing that what she has become is her true persona.

"What you see right now is the real me. What you see before wasn't me. A lot of people around me like in the US, like in here, they didn't know what I really want. They were deciding for me. Like they were deciding, 'Let's do this, let's gonna do that, do the curly hair.' I didn't get the chance to decide for myself," she said.

"Now that I'm being so independent, while it's early, I really, really want to tell all the people that I don't care if you hate. I don't care if you don't like it," she explained.

Charice is the youngest judge in the newest reality show of ABS-CBN, "The X Factor Philippines" hosted by KC Concepcion. Other judges are Pilita Corrales, Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera.

As for the bad joke that Mo Twister instigated, making up the hashtag #charicepempengcosextape on Twitter, Charice only hinted that things may end up in court.

"I can't talk [about it]. My lawyer told me," she said.

Magic 89.9 slapped Mo and his two other fellow DJs with a two-week suspension without pay. ■

Claudine Barretto apologizes to airline employees



Claudine Barretto

Actress Claudine Barretto personally extended her apologies to Cebu Pacific ground crew members Charise Cid Bocboc and Kristine Anne Ilagan in a meeting on May 17.

Alex Avisado, Claudine and Raymart Santiago's legal counsel, shared that the actress initiated the meeting.

"Siya po (Claudine) ang nakiusap at siya po ang nag-see nitong meeting na ito para lang ho maibigay 'yung personal na kanyang kapatawaran," Atty. Avisado said on "24 Oras," May 17.

"I humbled myself. Nag-apologize ako sa pagtaas ng boses ko sa kanila habang nagko-complain ako sa Cebu Pacific noon. Tinanggap naman nila 'yung apology ko so talagang thankful ako pati sa pamilya nila dahil sobra silang warm at tinanggap ako," Claudine said.

Although the two ground personnel refused to face the camera because they don't want to compromise their work and personal lives, they belied earlier reports that the actress cursed at them during the fracas. While it was true that Claudine raised her voice, her attack on them was not personal, the report noted.

Even their parents were surprise

Richard Gutierrez supports mom's bid for congress

Kapuso actor Richard Gutierrez fully supports his mom Annabelle Rama's plans to plunge into politics.

"Kung ano man ang desisyon niya of course hundred percent nasa likod niya kami," Richard enthused on "24 Oras," May 23.

Annabelle has made public her intention to run as congresswoman in Cebu, something that somehow "divided" her family.

"Divided nga," said Richard, who learned about his mom's political plans while taping in Batangas. "May iba ayaw, may iba naman na okay din kasi it would be a new avenue for my mom and

over reports that they plan to sue the actress because of the incident.

Elizabeth Bocboc, mother of Charise, explains there was no truth to reports that they plan to take legal action against Claudine.

"Wala naman akong sinabi na magdedemanda kasi nga sabi ko, nakaka-stress lang kasi 'yan, eh, kapag magdedemanda ka. Natural lang sa akin na i-express ko 'yung feelings ko noong time na 'yon kasi siyempre nasasaktan talaga ako being a mother," Mrs. Bocboc said.

Susan dela Cruz, the mom of Kristine, was "very thankful" for Claudine's show of humility and that "we are accepting the apology of Ms. Claudine para peace lahat, happy lahat."

Recall that on May 6, Claudine fumed when their luggage were left behind after arriving at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 via a Cebu Pacific flight. Reportedly, Claudine tongue-lashed the ground attendant out of her rage. The scenario prompted veteran columnist and broadcaster Ramon Tulfo to shoot photos of the altercation, which resulted in a brawl. ■

she's very excited."

But just the same, "Nandito nga kami right now to tell her and guide her and make her think sa mga puwedeng mangyari."

If Annabelle wants to try politics, Richard, on the other hand, wants to explore the air.

"Pingarap kong mag-aral bilang piloto," says Richard, who now endorses an aviation school.

"Nakabisita na rin ako ng ilang beses sa ibang aviation schools sa Plaridel. Gusto ko sana i-pursue 'yon so ngayon matutuloy na ang pangarap ko at naging part na ako ng isang aviation company." ■

Lady Gaga before controversial Manila concert : 'I respect all kinds of culture'



Lady Gaga cancelled her concerts in Indonesia due to religious protests and Islamic extremists threats.

Without protesters holding a prayer vigil against her during the second night of her concert at the SM Mall of Arena on May 22, Lady Gaga gave a more spirited performance---and squarely addressed the issues that have been raised against her.

She spoke her mind out just before she sang a slowed down version of "Hair." While accompanying herself in the piano, Lady Gaga said that she is not oblivious to the issues surrounding her music and image. Nevertheless, she stressed that she respects all kinds of religion, people and culture---including Filipino culture---and that even if some don't agree with what she does, she acknowledges that everyone is entitled to his own opinion.

"What I don't respect is homophobia and hatred...I reject intolerance to the gay community," she declared drawing loud cheers from the audience.

It was the only time Lady Gaga had clearly touched on the controversy that preceded her concert here. Note that

she did not hold a press conference for her "The Born This Way Ball" unlike the first time she came a few years back.

Apparently, the line she mouthed during the first night of her concert here that goes "I am not a woman, I am not a man, I am not a creature of your government, Manila..." is part of the script which she also utters in other countries including Japan. "The Born This Way Ball" is a theatrical presentation of her music that cast her as an escaped rebel whose aim is to liberate people so they can be who they are "and be proud of it."

Aside from reiterating her pro-gay stance, she said on May 22 that she is aware of people using her name to spread hatred. Still, she said she will continue to counter this by spreading "positivity" in her own way.

As in the first night, Lady Gaga sang all of her hit songs including the controversial "Just Dance" and "Judas." On the second night, however, she strayed from the script to personally lead the audience in singing "Happy Birthday" to two of her backup dancers. The American singer-songwriter also mentioned that one of her guitarists is Pinoy.

"I will miss you guys and I will be thinking of you until I come back..." she said.

Throughout the show, Lady Gaga changed a word or two in the lyrics of some of her songs in order to incorporate "Manila" and "Philippines." She also hung what seemed to be the Philippine flag at the back of her customized motorbike. The costume she wore while performing "Born This Way," appeared to many as deconstructed Filipiniana.

Lady Gaga is said to be working on her next album. Rumors abound that she will release the first single off it by year's end. She will also be putting out a new fragrance soon. ■

Rufa Mae Quinto is new 'Will Time Bigtime' co-host



Rufa Mae Quinto

It's official: Rufa Mae Quinto (left) will be a permanent co-host of Willie Revillame (right) on the TV5 early-evening gameshow Wil Time Bigtime starting on Monday, May 14.

'She's perfect for the show,' Willie told *Funfare Update*. 'She will blend with us very well.'

Rufa Mae's 'unique' wit and humor

will blend beautifully with the reserved charm of Camille Villar and the 'sweet-sexy' style of Mariel Rodriguez.

After her contract with GMA has expired and was not renewed, Rufa Mae resigned as co-host of the network's Sunday show *Showbiz Central* and guested as co-host of *Wil Time*.

'That's when I saw na bagay siya sa show,' added Willie.

Could it be true that Rufa Mae politely turned down an offer from ABS-CBN to co-host a noontime show (*Showtime* or a rumored new one?) in favor of the TV5 contract?

Incidentally, Willie is set to leave for the TV5 promo-launch shows in Los Angeles on May 26 and in San Francisco on June 2. He's bringing along 48 dancers whom he's treating to a shopping spree as bonus. ■

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP continued p.20

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.19***Juday on upcoming major film, teleserye projects**

Despite being an exclusive ABS-CBN teleserye contract artist, Judy Ann is free to make guest appearances on husband Ryan Agoncillo's and close friend Sharon Cuneta's shows on TV5, as well as on GMA-7

Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo has hinted on a "very big" movie project in the works, one that could be an entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

"Hindi pa po ako makapag-announce kasi hindi ko pa rin nakakausap first-hand ang mga producers. But definitely it's gonna be a very big project, at least for me, with a big company [and] with big stars as well..." the actress told Bulletin Entertainment and other members of the press during Lactum's 100% Panatag World event held at SM Megamall on May 19.

Pressed for details, Judy Ann shared, "Parang tatlong production [companies] eh, magsasama-sama. I think ha. I'm not sure kasi hindi ko pa rin sila nakaka-meet rin ng maayos.

"Pang-film fest? Maaari. Pero, kasi nga n'ung una sabi ko... ang hirap n'ung film fest eh! Ngarag!" she said, laughing.

Later on, it was revealed through the information mentioned by other members of the media during the huddle that the movie project will supposedly topbill Vic Sotto, Sen. Bong Revilla and Ai Ai delas Alas. Apparently, Judy Ann was reportedly being considered to replace the comedienne.

"Actually, natanong ko na si Ai Ai about it. Siyempre hindi ko naman pwedeng i-divulge kung ano 'yung napag-usapan namin, pero nabanggit nga niya sa akin na, 'Kino-consider ka, bakla.' Tapos, 'yon. Sabi ko, 'Ay, bongga!' Tingnan natin, sana maging maganda..." she said.

Judy Ann said that she has no problems should this push through, but explained, "Ang sa 'kin lang gusto ko lang makausap muna 'yung company para malaman ko kung ano 'yung timeline ng shooting kasi para hindi mag-overlap sa taping. Kasi siyempre lahat ngayon

nakasalalay na sa pamilya, sa mga anak, sa akin mismo. Hindi ko na kaya 'yung araw-araw, oras-oras."

Aside from the movie, the actress said that she is set to co-star with Sam Milby on an ABS-CBN TV series.

"Malalaman ko this week kapag halimbawang may natuloy 'yung story con and look test, 'yun na siguro 'yung magiging final casting," she said.

In the latter part of the interview, she further disclosed that the series would run from 12 to 13 weeks and that taping might begin next month in time for the release either on the last week of July or first week of September. More, one of the directors is said to be Malou Sevilla.

Judy Ann said that she made no demands to ABS-CBN for the serye other than the 12 midnight cut-off time, especially since she personally prepares her daughter Yohan for school early in the morning, and the "for airing" shooting system.

"Kasi parang buong buhay ko na-experience 'yan ['for airing' na taping]. Memorized ko na 'yan kahit tulog ako. Kasi kapag may airing na mamayang gabi, hindi mo na rin mapupulido 'yung trabaho kasi iniisip mo, 'Naku, kailangan take one lang 'to.' Kakaisip mo nang kakaisip, hindi mo na natatawid ng maayos 'yung trabaho.

"Actually, ang request ko nga sana, hangga't maaari kung pwede canned siya. Kasi para hindi ngarag 'di ba? Pag-uusapan kung hanggang anong month pwedeng mag-can. Kasi sabi ko, 'Baka pwedeng ayusin na muna natin 'yung 'storya. 'Pag okay na sa management, saka natin i-shoot para hindi rin tayo re-shoot nang re-shoot. Kasi 'yan 'yung nangyari sa 'min sa 'Habang May Buhay.' Sabi ko i-can natin, pero 'wag naman dalawang taon," she said.

In any case, Judy Ann admitted that her mother network "guaranteed me na it's not gonna be as hectic as before noong dalaga pa ako kasi sabi ko rin sa kanila, sa tunay na salita wala namang pag-aarteng namumuo sa akin."

"Hindi ko lang hinahanap 'yung puyatan, 'yung schedule na araw-araw na halos hindi ka na makauwi at hindi mo na nakikita 'yung mga anak mo," she added.

Meanwhile, Judy Ann admitted feeling nervous over this project, which she described as, "hindi siya 'yung tipikal na teleserye na walang kapatid, walang nanay, may balat 'yung anak, walang gano'n. It's gonna be different. Women empowerment. Maganda siya... Nakaka-encourage siya sa mga nanay, actually." ■

Sam explains she has nothing to do with Derek-Angelica breakup

Sam Pinto

With the news confirming that Derek Ramsay and Angelica Panganiban have formally separated, many are looking at a possible third party that caused the collapse of the couple's six-year-old relationship.

The kapamilya-turned-kapatid actor announced on his Twitter account (@IAmDerekRamsay) on May 14: "Guys we truly appreciate all ur concerns. Even though angel and I are no longer together we still have the utmost respect for one another."

He added, "There was no wasted time. I loved every minute we had together."

Earlier, Derek admitted that he and Angelica were on a "cool-off stage." Angelica had been linked to her leading man John Lloyd Cruz, while Derek was rumored to be with model-actress Sam Pinto.

The "Bubble Gang" star said she was shocked upon hearing reports pinpointing her as the third wheel who caused the breakup. Sam was more than willing to clear her name.

"Number one, I only worked with Derek once, for San Miguel. It's for the Oktoberfest commercial. Number two, I was interviewed na parang where will I go for Holy Week. I said, 'I might go to Australia,' which I never did. I never went to Australia and Derek and I never met there because I was here in the Philippines," she told Bulletin Entertainment in an interview during the Kapuso Night held in Boracay over the weekend.

Derek was in Australia last Holy Week, where he chanced upon and played golf with Hollywood actor Zac Efron.

Sam claims that she didn't know

Derek personally. "Not at all. I never hang out with him. I think I can count with one hand how many times I met him," she added.

According to Sam, she did deal with fans who keep on bashing her through social networking site Twitter.

"Ang daming nag-bash sa akin because they were all assuming it was me. And they were like telling me, 'Oy ikaw pala yung dahilan bakit nag-breakup sila Angelica,' ganyan-ganyan," she said.

Despite the "third party" allegations, Sam revealed that there had been no confrontation.

"None of those two (Derek and Angelica) talked to me. For me, there's nothing really to talk about because nothing really happened," she said.



Former star power-couple Angelica Panganiban & Derek Ramsay are in a cooling off stage as according to Derek

Upon confirming the breakup, Derek was also bombarded with negative comments on Twitter. To this, Derek maintained: "Walang may kasalanan dito."

"Stop with the assumptions and pls respect our decision," he pleaded.

Meanwhile, Sam revealed that "I'm actually very single and very happy," dismissing any romantic involvement with anyone at the moment.

The former "Pinoy Big Brother" housemate is gearing for an upcoming film "Boy Pick Up The Movie," where she will reprise her role as Neneng B from "Bubble Gang." ■

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For Value, Look to South Africa

By David White

Value-conscious wine consumers know to avoid marquee regions like Napa Valley and Burgundy.

Those who are comfortable with the obscure find value in places like Spain, northern Italy, and France's Loire Valley. Those who are more comfortable with easy-to-pronounce locales stick to places like Argentina, New Zealand, and California's Central Coast.

All value seekers should add South Africa to their lists.

South Africa's wine industry can trace its roots to 1650s, when the Dutch East India Company established an outpost at the Cape of Good Hope to provide its merchants, who were constantly voyaging from Europe to East Asia, with fresh food and supplies. The settlers were urged to plant vineyards, as wine could defend against scurvy.

Over the next 300 years, South Africa's wine industry experienced all manner of ups and downs. But by and large, local vintners were more interested in quantity than quality, primarily producing cheap wine for local consumption.

South Africa's modern wine era began in 1973, when lawmakers created the "Wine of Origin" system to regulate labeling. A number of quality brands soon launched, but even then, South African wine remained a local beverage. Because of Apartheid -- the system of institutionalized racial segregation -- most Western nations refused to trade with South Africa.

When South Africa's last remaining Apartheid laws were abolished in the early 1990s, the world suddenly opened up. And a young entrepreneur -- Andre Shearer -- made it his mission to share South Africa's finest wines with the world.

Twenty years have passed, and Shearer is still on that mission. Today, his company, Cape Classics, is the largest importer of South African wines to the United States. And Shearer hasn't yet tired of promoting his nation's wines.

"The value of South African wines is extraordinary," Shearer explained over breakfast one recent morning. "The past few years have actually been very good for us, because Americans are seeking value. Retailers and sommeliers are looking for good wine that's affordable -- and American consumers are open minded and willing to try wines from unfamiliar places."

To most Americans, South Africa remains an "unfamiliar place." That's why Shearer understands his job is far from over.

Consider a basic question. Is South Africa a New World or Old World wine region?

At first blush, the answer seems obvious. South Africa is still finding its footing in the global market, so obviously, it's a New World region.

Then again, South Africa has been producing wine for nearly 350 years. When Napoleon was exiled to Saint Helena in 1815, he found solace in "Constantia," a South African dessert wine that's still produced.

So it's a trick question.

Over the past year, I've tasted hundreds of wines from South Africa. With virtually every classic variety -- Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, and Cabernet Sauvignon -- the best wines bridge the gap between the Old World and the New World. In other words, South African vintners don't try to hide the sunshine, yet they don't go overboard. South Africa's top wines are unabashedly ripe but also show finesse.

For these varieties, some labels to look for include Glen Carlou, Kanonkop, Thelema, De Morgenzon, Rust en Vrede, and Mulderbosch.

Then there's South African Chenin Blanc, which is both stunning and affordable -- yet somehow remains under the radar.

Although the grape's ancestral home

is France's Loire Valley, more than half the world's plantings of Chenin Blanc are in South Africa. Just like vintners in France, South African producers make the wine in a variety of styles, from bone dry to lusciously sweet.

For my palate, fresh Chenin Blanc is unbeatable as an everyday white wine. When well crafted, Chenin Blanc is bursting with fresh fruit and delicate floral aromas, and backed by crisp acidity.

Raats Family Wines and Ken Forrester both make delightful Chenin Blanc for around \$13 per bottle.

Andre Shearer doesn't expect South African wine to "explode" in popularity anytime soon. He's seen slow but steady growth over the past twenty years, and expects that trend to continue. Yet his nation is consistently producing many fantastic wines, and virtually all are good values.

Americans are eager to try new wines, and we're more price-conscious than ever before. So I'm expecting an explosion.

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

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.20*

'Kapuso' stars clean up Boracay



Mark Herras and Bela Padilla clean up Boracay

A handful of Kapuso stars gathered for a meaningful yet enjoyable weekend in one of the Philippines' favorite summer destinations – Boracay Island.

GMA Network has partnered with the Boracay Foundation and the Municipality of Malay in Aklan in treating residents and visitors with a fun-filled two-day event dubbed "Kapuso Weekend."

Kicking off the celebration on May 11 was the "Kapuso ng Kalikasan: Walk for a Cause and Coastal Clean-up." In its mission to preserve the world-renowned beach, a clean-up drive along the Boracay shoreline was lead by Kapuso artists Arthur Solinap,

Rochelle Pangilinan, Mark Herras, Victor Aliwalas, Geoff Eigenmann, Bela Padilla, Carl Guevarra and Carlo Gonzalez. More than 300 participants gathered in the early morning event, hosted by Jolina Magdangal. Pledges were also made by some participants to extend more help in preserving the island.

As way of giving back, stars of the network's top-rating shows proceeded to Station 1 of the famed white-sand island to bond with Aklanons.

Actors Geoff Eigenmann and Arthur Solinap (both from "Legacy") and Mark Herras ("Hiram na Puso") were the team leaders in the beach games.

R&B singer JayR ("Party Pilipinas") showed off scratches and blisters he obtained from the games. "Enjoy naman yung bonding with the stars, yun yung masaya," he said. Isabel Oli, on the other hand, regretted having missed some of the games because she had a delayed flight in the morning. "Masaya naman. Nag-games kami dito kanina pero konti lang nasalihan ko kasi delayed ang flight namin," she lamented.

Other stars who participated on

Day One's beach games were Michelle Madrigal, Rachele Ann Go, Pancho Magno, Krista Kleiner, LJ Reyes, Sam Pinto, Bubbles Paraiso, Isabel Oli, Dennis Trillo and Bianca King.

Sexy bodies LJ, Rochelle and Bianca led the "Zumbaracay with the Stars." Zumba is a Latin dance-inspired fitness workout.



From left: LJ Reyes, Rochelle Pangilinan and Bianca King groove to the booty-shaking beat in Zumbaracay

Capping the night was the first "Kapuso Night with the Kapuso Stars," Beauty-queen-turned recording artist Krista Kleiner, JayR, Gabby Eigenmann, Sam Pinto, Mark Herras, Dennis Trillo and Rachele Ann Go performed at the event.



From left: Geoff Eigenmann, LJ Reyes, Pancho Magno, Bianca and Krista Kleiner greet the crowd during the Kapuso Night

Day Two (May 12) continued with "Beach Yoga with the Stars," and "Kapuso Beach Volleyball Invitational Games." "My Beloved's" Dingdong

Dantes hosted the afternoon event.

Sunset at the Kapuso Beach Lounge featured reggae performances,



Mark Herras takes the challenge in the beach game

followed by the Kapuso Dancer's Fire Dance Exhibition by the beach.



Dennis Trillo sang the night away

Wrapping up the "Kapuso Weekend" was another "Kapuso Night with the Kapuso Stars," which had "Legacy" stars Mike Tan, Solenn Heussaff and Lovi Poe, Ehra Madrigal, Will Devaughn and Isabelle Daza in attendance. ■



Dennis Trillo, Bianca King and Bela Padilla

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'Lone Ranger' eyes Olympic gold

MANILA, Philippines, May 9, 2012 - Based on numbers, Filipino shotgun expert Brian Rosario has a decent shot at the gold in the coming London Olympics.

The 29-year-old Rosario has been shooting so well lately that if he holds on, he could nail that elusive gold

to the shooting competitions in London, and this early he's being branded as the "Lone Ranger."

He told yesterday's PSA Forum at Shakey's UN Avenue that he's ready to do battle with the best in the world, and he's confident he'll do well.

"I will do everything to win the

Olympics via the IOC quota scheme.

Being a wild card entry, however, doesn't mean that it was given to him on a silver platter by the International Shooting Sport Federation.

Rosario deserves to be there because he has met the minimum qualifying score (MQS) for the coming Olympics six times since the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

He's been hitting 122 out of 125 targets in the skeet lately, during the 2011 World Cup of Shotgun in Belgrade, and recently in a local tournament.

Vincent Hancock, a sergeant in the US Army, won the gold in the Beijing Olympics with 121 points in the shoot-off before hitting 24 of 25 targets in the finals

"It means that statistically there is a chance. Brian has hit 122 a couple of times. And I believe he can do it in the Olympics," said the Philippine National Shooting Association president Mikee Romero.

"As long as you shoot in the 120s anything is possible. Of course, there's pressure, but you must learn how to control them. Just mind yourself, and not the others, even if he's the world champion or the Olympic champion. Just be yourself," said Rosario.

"Brian is at his peak. With 80 days to the Olympics, we will now focus on polishing his shooting. We can send him to the Middle East or Europe to train until the Olympics."

For his part, Romero has already donated P100,000 from his own pocket to help Rosario in his training.

In London, the 50 skeet entries will shoot 125 targets (25 per shoot) with the top six making it to the finals, where they will be made to shoot 25 targets each. In case of ties, shoot-offs will be staged. "Matira matibay ito. You cannot miss one target in each of your shoot (25 targets)," said Romero.

The PNSA named four candidates for the quota place, including Tac Padilla, Hagen Topacio, Jason Valdez and Rosario, but the ISSF awarded it to the skeet 125 event.

But Romero said even if the choice fell in their own hands, they would have awarded it to Rosario, the hottest shooter in the country today.

"If there was any bet we ourselves would choose for shooting, there was no one else but Brian. He's the best ranked shooter among all the good shooters we have," said PNSA vice president Gay Corral.

Retired Col. Danilo Gamboa, the PNSA secretary-general, said it's time to rally behind Rosario.

"This is our chance to win the gold in the Olympics. Let's back him up," said Gamboa, adding that Rosario, a double-gold winner in the 2005 Manila SEA Games, is just as deserving.

"The scores speak for themselves, and they speak very loudly. We did not choose him but we all agreed he should be it. Nobody even came close to his scores. There was no question," he said.

(Reprinted from Philippine Star)



Shooting president Mikee Romero (right) hands over the International Shooting Sports Federation letter to Brian Rosario, who earned a berth in the London Olympics via the IOC quota scheme. JUN MENDOZA

for the Philippines.

Rosario is the only Filipino entry

gold," said Rosario, who learned just three days ago of his entry to the



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PAB students pose with the staff and administration of Gilmore College International. L-R Ethel Tugna, Annie Signey, Janet Haydock, Lourdescita Lubang, and Annabelle Allosa. Not in photo: Joesie Bingayen. Teachers & Administrator: Edith Fedalizo, Amy Manon-og, Zenaida Kharroubi, Clarice Mackay, Sophie Toledo. Not in photo: Terry White.

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



The knowledge and skills I have learned at Gilmore College gave me the edge to work in the health care field where one needs to show the willingness to render service to the sick and the elderly. (Ethel Tugna - March 2011 graduate)



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



Gilmore College gave me the opportunity to start a new career. I got a job easily because I learned new things from the course which focuses on how to care for the elderly. I'm proud to be part of this college. (Giselle Arellano Oct. 2011)

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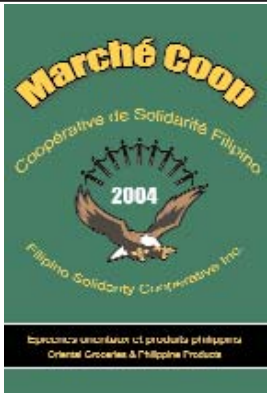
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Vermicelli (sotanghon) with mixed seafood balls & vegetables see p. 15



Products used in this month's recipes see page 15 - Philippine Cuisine



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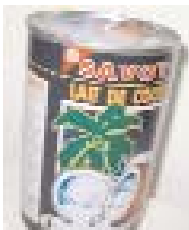
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