

President Aquino's state visit in Canada

On May 7th, 2015, President Benigno Aquino III of the Philippines made a historic visit to Canada on a three-city tour that saw the signing of significant bilateral agreements that will encourage greater trade between Canada and the Philippines, increased security, and development opportunities aimed at reducing poverty in the Philippines.

President Aquino's trip began with a red carpet welcome at Ottawa International Airport, where he was greeted by Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicolson, International Trade Minister Ed Fast, and Citizenship and Immigration Minister Chris Alexander.

The president was then officially welcomed to Rideau Hall by His Excellency the Right Hon. David Johnston, the Governor General of Canada, and the Hon. Jason Kenney, Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism.

In the afternoon, Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed President Aquino to the House of Commons for a joint press conference where they announced key initiatives that will deepen the strong Canada-Philippines bilateral relations, including launching exploratory discussions towards a free trade agreement (FTA) and to work towards upgrading the existing Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA). These initiatives will give Canadian businesses increased opportunities for growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

Minister of International Development and Minister for La



Top, left, welcoming President Aquino upon landing in Ottawa at 12:30 PM, May 7, 2015. Top right: walking in the hall of honor with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, May 8, above left - Governor General David Johnston welcoming President Aquino at Rideau Hall during the State Dinner, May 7, and shaking hands with Filipinos in Toronto, May 8.

Francophonie, Christian Paradis, and his Filipino counterpart signed an important framework that outlines the commitments of both governments toward reducing poverty in Philippines.

President Aquino and the Filipino delegation were joined by Prime Minister Harper and many Parliamentarians and Senators, including Senator Tobias C. Enverga,

Canada's first Senator of Filipino descent, as they continued their visit to

See Page 4 President Aquino



Young workers are being hurt by the rise of insecure jobs, with people of colour most affected, according to new reports. (Eric Risberg/Associated Press)

Precarious jobs holding back young workers, OECD finds Income inequality retards economic growth and robbing a generation of opportunity

CBC News Posted: May 21, New studies from the OECD and the United Way of Toronto are exposing how precarious work is hurting economies and blocking opportunity for an entire generation of young people.

Much of the burden of insecure jobs is falling on youth and they are at greater risk of spending their lives in poverty than the elderly across most developed economies, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

PEPSO: The Precarity Penalty
OECD: In it together: Why less inequality benefits all

Among temporary workers, close to half are under age 30 and almost 40 per cent of young workers in the OECD are in non-standard work, such as contract or temporary work, or involuntary part-time employment.

Opportunity to move out of low-wage, insecure employment as workers get older is becoming increasingly limited,

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Editorial

How do people view the visit of President Aquino to Canada?

Many Filipino-Canadians were happy to see President Benigno Aquino III as he came down the Philippine Airlines ramp to a red carpet welcome laid down for him at the Ottawa International Airport. Everyone jockeyed for the best spot to shake his hands. Some even screamed his name and said "We love you, PNoy. We love you PNoy."

Perhaps, the common feeling was homesickness. Seeing our home country's President reminded us of those days when we used to live in the Philippines. Now that we are living in our adopted country, we are really excited to show that we have not lost our love for our mother country.

President Aquino's state visit is considered to be an important event for several reasons. Canada is the Philippines' 21st largest trading partner, its 6th top source market for tourism, and is home to almost 700,000 Filipinos. In 2014, Canada announced that the Philippines had been designated a Country of Focus for development assistance, and a Priority Emerging Market for Canadian overseas trade and investment. During the three-day visit, President Aquino and Prime Minister Stephen Harper witnessed the signing of bilateral agreements on labor cooperation, development assistance, and infrastructure development, which will highlight the vibrancy of people-to-people relations. According to Prime Minister Harper, Canada and the Philippines enjoy a "close friendship" as they have shared democratic values and strong people-to-people ties."

Although the general reception

of the President is warm and cordial, Migrante BC's Jane Ordinario says her group is planning a rally against Aquino.

"We strongly oppose the visit because Aquino has a poor human rights record. He does not embody the values of human rights that Canada has," says Ordinario.

"He has no respect for migrant workers, as proven by his late response to the appeal to save the life of Mary Jane Veloso," Ordinario adds.

During the visit of President Aquino, another negative fact was brought up in the news in Manila regarding the Canadian garbage shipped to the Philippines illegally in 2013. In view of the friendly diplomatic relations between the two countries, it was decided not to ship the trash back to Canada and had them disposed of in the landfills in the Philippines. instead.

In spite of some criticisms lodged against President Aquino, the success of his state visit cannot be denied. Prime Minister Harper sums it all up in the following words:

"It was a pleasure to welcome President Aquino to Canada. During his highly productive visit we were pleased to announce several important bilateral initiatives in the areas of commerce, development and security that will benefit citizens in both countries. His visit also provided an opportunity to introduce the President to Canada's hard working Filipino communities and highlight some of their major contributions to the fabric of our society."

Zenaida Kharroubi

Letter to the Editor

The Liberal plan to deliver fairness for the middle class

Dear Editor,

For 10 years, Stephen Harper has been ignoring the people who do most of the heavy lifting in our economy. Those who work longer and longer hours for an ever shrinking piece of the pie, and less and less financial security.

Middle class Canadians need to have money in their pockets to save, invest and grow the economy – to bring fairness and to strengthen the heart of the Canadian economy.

But Mr. Harper's unfair system has been giving money to those who need it least. The Liberal Party has a better, fairer plan: we will give a tax cut to the middle class and provide middle class families with more money to raise their kids.

Our plan will make the tax system fairer and cut the middle class tax rate from 22 percent to 20.5 percent. We will ask the wealthiest Canadians – those in the top one percent of incomes – to pay a little more so the middle class can pay less.

This tax relief is worth up to \$670 per year, per person, or \$1,340 per year for a two-income household.

We will also provide one bigger, fair, tax-free, monthly cheque to help middle class and low-income families with the high costs of raising kids.

A typical two-parent family, with two kids, earning \$90,000 per year will get \$490 tax-free every month. Under Mr.



Harper, the same family only receives around \$275 after-tax. Over a year, that's \$2,500 more help, tax-free. We will also provide more help to lower-income families.

All families in the middle class, and those hoping to join it, will receive more in monthly child benefits than under Mr. Harper's system. That is 9 out of every 10 families.

Liberals will continue to present solutions to grow the economy. Our plan will put more money in the pockets of the middle class and those working hard to join it.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Trudeau

Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada

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Dr. John Calder, BSc., DDS

Sarmiento wins libel case against Magallanes

Magallanes ask for amicable settlement.

By W. G. Quiambao

After almost two years, the legal battle between Budz Sarmiento, former columnist of The North American Filipino Star, and Fred Magallanes, publisher and writer of The Filipino Forum, has been resolved. Magallanes, through his lawyer, offered Sarmiento an out-of-court settlement.

According to Sarmiento, Magallanes' reason for offering an out-of-court settlement was the worsening health condition of the latter's wife, Patria. But Sarmiento is unconvinced.

"In my opinion, Magallanes just used his wife's health condition as a convenient alibi for saving his face," scoffed Sarmiento.

The scheduled hearings were postponed a few times. One time was when Magallanes' star witness, Sonny Valdez, went to the Philippines for a vacation. Another time was when Patria was hospitalized after a stroke before Christmas.

The problem stemmed from the false and malicious story that Magallanes published in the July 16-August 15, 2013 issue of The Filipino Forum. Although he had no proof, he wrote that Sarmiento was caught stealing plastic bags from a Montreal hospital and kicked out for sexual harassment. In the wake of this story, Sarmiento consulted a lawyer and immediately filed a libel suit against Magallanes and The Filipino Forum.

"Many well-meaning friends and supporters have advised me not to stoop to



Fred's level by suing him for what malicious and groundless accusations that he published in his paper over and over again," continued Sarmiento. "They further said that spending a lot of time and money on fighting Magallanes was a big waste of my financial resources. I made it very clear to my friends and supporters that I didn't sue him for the money but for my reserve to prove that his accusations were false."

"Two of the most important conditions that I asked before settling for an out-of-court settlement with Magallanes were payment of money and retraction in the April issue of The North American Filipino Star and immediately in the next issue of The Filipino

Forum that I didn't do what was published in the Filipino Forum," said Sarmiento.

In the April issue of the NAFS (page 3) and The Filipino Forum (front page), the following announcement was published:

NOTICE OF RETRACTION IN PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED ISSUE OF THE FILIPINO FORUM

Please note that the following statement which appeared on the July 16th-August 15 2013 issue of the Filipino Forum, and which read as follows: "Bernardo (B.S.) Sarmiento, who was caught stealing plastic bags from a Montreal hospital and kicked out as an orderly for sexual harassment ..." was

false, devoid of any foundation and published with malice to spite and tarnish the image of Mr. Bernardo Sarmiento.

The list of Filipino leaders and well-known people in the community that Magallanes has attacked is long. His irresponsible style of writing has often landed him in hot water. More than fifteen years ago, he was sued by the former Honorary Consul Erlinda Quintos for libel. In 2005, he was found guilty of breaches of journalistic ethics when James de la Paz, who he always maligned, lodged a complaint with the Quebec Press Council. More than a decade, he was investigated and reprimanded by Conrad St. Pierre, Commission on Election representative, for placing unauthorized political ads of former Mayor Pierre Bourque in the Filipino Forum. Last year, he attacked Fr. Jess Dimapilis, St. Kevin's church priest, who was rumoured to have suffered a mild stroke and forced to move to another church.

Before Sarmiento agreed to an out-of-court settlement, he set conditions that Magallanes had to meet.

"One of them is for Fred to publish a retraction in the April issue of the North American Filipino Star and immediately in the next issue of The Filipino Forum," Sarmiento explained. "Another condition is for him to pay me a considerable amount of money." ■

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Minister Jason Kenney named "Honourary Pinoy" By President Benigno 'Noy Noy' Aquino III



(Top left) President Aquino being welcomed by Minister Jason Kenny. (Top right) President Aquino and Jason Kenny exchanging gifts. (Middle photo) President Aquino delivering a speech. (Lower left) Minister Jason Kenny delivering his speech. (Lower, right): Photo of the Philippine flag and gifts from the Philippines.

President Benigno Aquino III was welcomed by Minister Jason Kenney on his arrival in Vancouver, where he presented him with a gift of his favorite traditional Filipino snacks, Chicharon, and designated Minister Kenney an "Honourary Pinoy." Later, President Aquino and Minister Kenney spoke to several thousand Canadians of Filipino descent at a community event.

The previous day in Ottawa, Minister Kenney officially welcomed President Aquino to Rideau Hall for the State Dinner hosted by His Excellency the Right Hon. David Johnson, the Governor General of Canada.

This was President Aquino's first visit to Canada and the first by a Filipino president since 1997.



President Aquino shoveling earth to the red spruce tree that has been planted beside his mother's maple tree in the Rideau Hall garden. (Photo: Cristy Hunter)



President Aquino applauding the Governor-General, David Johnston, who shovelled all the earth to the red spruce tree, during the tree planting ceremony, at 3 p.m. May 7, 2015, at the Rideau Hall grounds. (Courtesy photo: Cristy Hunter).



President Aquino was met by several hundred people, mostly Filipino-Canadians at the Ottawa international airport, May 7, 2015. (Photo by: Cristy Hunter)

From Page 1 - President Aquino

Toronto and Vancouver. President Aquino attended a community event at Roy Thomson Hall where he spoke to several thousand members of Canada's 800,000 strong Filipino community. At this event, Prime Minister Harper announced that Philippines was the number one source country for immigrant to Canada in 2014.

"It was a pleasure to welcome President Aquino to Canada. During his highly productive visit we were pleased to announce several important bilateral initiatives in the areas of commerce, development and security that will benefit citizens in both countries. His visit also provided

an opportunity to introduce the President to Canada's hard working Filipino communities and highlight some of their major contributions to the fabric of our society," said Prime Minister Harper.

Finally, Minister Kenney welcomed President Aquino to Vancouver, on behalf of the Government of Canada. On his arrival, President Aquino presented Minister Kenney with a gift of a favorite Filipino snack, Chicharrón. They then addressed a gathering of the Filipino community to close out this historic visit by highlighting the strong and growing friendship between Canada and the Philippines. ■

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From Page 1 - Precarious jobs

the OECD found. Fewer than half of people on temporary contracts were able to transition to full-time work within a three-year period, it found.

Secure jobs in short supply in Canada's new tough labour market Job quality in Canada at 25-year low, says CIBC

For those in low-wage, part-time positions, precarious work can be a trap. Their earnings remain low and their poverty limits their housing options, ability to form relationships and ability to start a family, according to the The Precarity Penalty, a report from the Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario research group.

Job training

Young workers are being hurt by the rise of insecure jobs, with people of colour most affected, according to new reports. (Eric Risberg/Associated Press)

That report, done for the United Way, found 44 per cent of workers in the Hamilton to the Oshawa, Ont., region are in insecure employment. Younger workers, women and racialized workers are most affected, the report found.

Inequality increased in Canada

The OECD found Canada's inequality has increased in the period between the mid-1980s and 2013, though the gap between rich and poor isn't as wide here as in the U.S. or Mexico, or in developing countries such as Brazil or Russia.

OECD director of labour and social issues Stefano Scarpetta said in most developed countries inequality is rising.

"Canada to some extent is an exception because you're one of the few countries in which inequality has stabilized even during the world recession and the recovery period, but overall in most OECD countries overall inequality is on the rise again," he said in an interview on CBC News Network's The Exchange with Amanda Lang.

Canada's inequality measure is close to the OECD average, with the richest 10 per cent of the population earning 9.6 times the income of the poorest 10 per cent.

The widening gap between haves and have-nots in much of the developed world not only raises concerns about the fraying social fabric — it's also dramatically holding back economic growth, the OECD concludes.

In part, this is because low-income people have less to spend, but there is also a longer-term impact the study found.

Low-income families are unable to take advantage of educational opportunities for their children, nor can they better their situation by investing in new skills for a breadwinner, the OECD found.

Scarpetta argues that inequality ends up being bad for everyone.

"In this report, we find evidence that a high degree of inequality is actually very bad for social cohesion," he said.

"You need effective taxation and benefits to redistribute part of the income inequality, but you also have to work more to help people improve on their opportunities."

Personal toll of insecure jobs

The Precarity Report, which studied insecure employment in the Greater Toronto Area, goes further, arguing that insecure work leads to poorer physical and mental health and high levels of stress for low-income families.

Uncertainty over their work schedules can affect family life and low incomes can limit opportunities for their children to take part in sports, arts activities or school trips, said the report. That affects the quality of life not just for individual families, but also for their communities.

"Precarious employment can be a trap — many people have a hard time moving into better opportunities," the report concluded.

People with insecure jobs don't get benefits, rarely are allowed training and don't have pensions. About 60 per cent of them said their income varied from week to week and almost one third had been up to four weeks without income in the past year.

Both the OECD and United Way recommend policymakers find ways to address the rise of insecure work and income inequality, suggesting both social supports and income redistribution to address a global trend. ■



ON-L-485-2015

21 May 2015

Dear Kababayan:

The Embassy cordially invites you to watch the Philippine entry to the First Asian Film Festival entitled "Ang Babae sa Likod ng Mambabatok." (The Woman Behind the Tattoo Artist) on Saturday, 30 May 2015, from 11:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m. at the Ben Franklin Chamber, 101 Centrepoint Drive.

A flyer with the film's synopsis is attached for your reference. The film documents the art and memories of a living legend, Fang Od, a 95-year old woman known as the "Last Traditional Tattoo Artist of Kalinga."

The festival is organized by the Ottawa Asian Heritage Month Society, in collaboration with the Ottawa Public Library. Aside from the film screening there will be a counter showcasing the Philippine tourism and crafts.

We look forward to seeing you at the film showing.

With my good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Petronila Garcia

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WELCOME MANUEL BALDEMOR

We are honoured to welcome world renowned Filipino artist Manuel Baldemor to Montreal and to support his exhibition and vernissage.

The exhibition will be open to the public June 4 through 11 at the Intercultural Centre, 6767 Côte-des-Neiges. The vernissage will be celebrated June 11 at 6:00 PM at the same location. Please contact our office at **514 872 4863** for information and to confirm your presence at the vernissage as places may be limited.

We are pleased to have worked closely with the Embassy of the Philippines in Ottawa and with local Filipino community organizations to welcome this special event to our city.

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Featured Opinion Editorial

Is the country ready for Grace?

Some people call someone who is in the right place at the right time, lucky. Some say it's destiny. Grace Poe, who was elected to the Senate in 2013 with the most votes in a crowded pack, must either be lucky or destined to be a senator.

A survey taken by Social Weather Stations (SWS) last March showed Sen. Poe in a statistical tie with Vice President Jejomar "Jojo" Binay in popularity. For the first time, Binay's popularity rating went down by 1% to 36% while Grace's popularity rating shot up from 21% to 31%! But with the bombshell that the Court of Appeals (CA) dropped on Binay last May 11 freezing 242 bank accounts and insurance policies belonging to him, his family, and alleged "dummies," Binay would have difficulty convincing his supporters to

for office while his plunder cases are pending, he would not be allowed to leave detention to campaign. But whether he will run or not, Grace would have a good chance of winning the presidential race. However, if Binay dropped out, the number of presidential wannabes would dramatically increase, which would be numerically advantageous to Grace. In a crowded field of seven or more candidates, all Grace needs to win is 25% of the vote, with the other 75% spread among the other candidates.

With only one election to her credit — a senatorial run in 2013 — Grace would need an organization to make sure that she'd retain the support of those who voted for her in 2013. She may also be the benefactor of the "command vote" of her father, the late Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ), who

"urgent," speaks highly of her dedication to the mandate entrusted to her by the electorate.

It's interesting to note that with her personal advocacy for the FOI bill, it easily passed the Senate. However, it's not moving in the House of Representatives because the President's allies wouldn't pass it without the President's endorsement. Cheap shots

Grace's critics — including Binay — were saying that she is not ready for the presidency. The other day, Binay took a cheap shot at Poe, saying: "It is dangerous to pass the leadership of the country to leaders who lack experience and competence



Photocopies of Grace's US and Philippine passports.

The group even claimed that Grace is a U.S. citizen. True. But what they forgot — or choose to forget — is that Grace is a dual citizen just like most of them. And since these were the same people who advocated — and



President Aquino swears in Senator Grace Poe upon her election to the Senate.

stay with him. Speculation is rife that Binay would eventually drop out of the race. With two plunder complaints filed against him and his son Jejomar Erwin "Junjun" Binay Jr. before the Office of the Ombudsman, it's just a matter of time — as early as June? — before the plunder charges are filed with the graft court Sandiganbayan. And at that time, the Sandiganbayan would issue

ran for president in 2004 against then incumbent president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo but lost the election due to massive electoral fraud. With the support of the loyal admirers of FPJ, it would provide Grace with the boost she needs to carry her over the top. Maturity

But what seems to be the difference in next year's presidential derby is that for the second time since



Grace Poe and mother Susan Roces show picture and posthumous National Artist Award to FPJ.

as it would aggravate the problems currently being experienced by the country." But Mr. Vice President isn't it true that the biggest problem in the country today is corruption?

In response to Binay's attack, Poe said, "More than experience and competence, what the country needs

worked — for the passage of Republic Act 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act, they know that a "dual citizen" could run for office in the Philippines. Yes, a dual citizen is as "first-class citizen" as Jojo Binay.

But the difference between Grace and Jojo is that Grace is not tainted with allegations of corruption while Jojo refuses to disclose how he accumulated his "unexplained wealth," which by Philippine law makes him guilty of corruption.

Indeed, it comes down to honesty vs. greed. And which one would you like to lead the 100 million Filipinos: an honest and unseasoned person or a greedy and skilled person? Here's a hint: an inexperienced person can learn to become competent while a greedy and corrupt person will never be honest and an honest person will never be corrupt.

With all the brouhaha about Grace's qualifications for president, Grace has yet to declare whether to run or not. However, there are subtle signs that she is going to run. The fact that she made it known that she's not interested in the vice presidency narrows down her plans for 2016. It's either she is going to run for president or finish her term in the Senate through 2019. And what's in store for her in 2019? Run for reelection or retire. But that would be a waste of her talents. Like they say, strike while the iron is hot. Yes, it's now or never, and Grace is aware of that.

At the end of the day, Grace knows she's ready to lead her country. But the question is: Is the country ready for Grace? ■

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



Grace Poe (right) with Cory Aquino (second, left) and Susan Roces (second, right).

is an honest leader." And this hit a sore spot in Binay because he and his family members are currently being investigated by the Ombudsman for allegations of corruption. Grace urged Binay to face the Senate Blue Ribbon subcommittee and answer these allegations. And when she was asked if she thinks Binay did not possess the quality of an "honest leader," she said that Binay has yet to explain the corruption allegations.

But for a San Francisco-based Filipino-American group, Grace's qualifications for the presidency are questionable. The group even questioned her qualification as chairman of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) to which President Aquino appointed her. Heck, Grace's parents — FPJ and Susan Roces — were rock stars in movieland! Isn't that good enough?

Dual citizenship



Presidential candidates-2016

arrest warrants against them. The plunder cases are in connection with the alleged over-pricing in the construction of the Makati City Hall parking building and the Makati Science High School building amounting to P1.2 billion and P1.33 billion, respectively. And because plunder is a non-bailable offense, they'd be put in detention.

Crowded field Although Binay could still run

the country's independence, there is a female candidate who doesn't fit the mold of the "trapo" — traditional politician — that plays realpolitik at the expense of the public good.

In the two years that Grace has been a senator, she has shown the maturity of a responsible public servant. Her singular effort to press for the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, which President Aquino refused to include in his legislative agenda and certify as

Tagalog Seksyon

Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

Sana ay magkaisa ang mga Pilipino sa Araw ng Kalayaan

Matagal bago natin nakamit ang araw ng kalayaan noong Hunyo 12 1898. Dapat ay ipagdiwang natin ito saan man tayo naroroon at ipakita natin ang ating pagkakaisa.

Ngayong taong ito, ipagdiriwang natin ang araw ng kalayaan sa Mackenzie King park sa ika-28 ng Hunyo. Sana ay magkasama-sama tayo sa araw na ito. Walang pulitika. Ang maganda sa pagdiriwang na ito ay hindi lamang ang mga Pilipino ang magkakasama-sama kundi maging ang mga ibang lahi.

Magkakaroon tayo ng parada at programa sa Mackenzie King Park tulad ng kantahan at sayawan. Noong mga nakaraang taon, may mga ilang Pilipino ang nagtanong kung bakit kasama ang ibang lahi. Araw ito ng ating kalayaan, sabi nila. Isinasama natin ang ibang lahi hindi dahil nalilimutan na natin ang ating kultura at ugaling Pilipino. Sa halip, ipinagmamalaki at ibinabahagi natin sa ibang lahi ang mga ito. At gusto rin ng Lungsod ng Montreal ang magsama-sama ang mga mamamayan nito – Pilipino, Intsik, Amerikano.

Mayroon pa bang kredibilidad na masasabi si Fred?

Marami ang natuwa nang bawiin ni Fred Magallanes sa The North American Filipino Star at mismo sa kaniyang diaryo ang isinulat niya sa The Filipino Forum na si Budz Sarmiento ay nahuling nagnakaw ng plastic bags at natanggal sa trabaho sa isang hospital dahil sa sexual harassment. Ang retraction ay nangangahulugang talo si Fred at ang ipinagmamalaki niyang diaryo sa demandang inihain ni Budz.

Nakatagpo ng katapat si Fred. Sabi pa ng iba, baka ito na ang simula ng pagdedemanda kay Fred ng iba pang tao na sinisiraan niya. Mahaba ang listahan ng mga nasaktan ni Fred sa pagsusulat niya na halos lahat ay kasinungalingan.

Hindi niya muna inaalang kung totoo o hindi ang mga isinusulat niya. Kapag sumalungat ka sa gusto niya o ng kaniyang mga kaibigan, gagamitin niya ang kaniyang diaryo para siraan ka. Magiging obsesyon ka ni Fred. Lagi kang laman ng kaniyang diaryo.

Ang mga inaatake ni Fred ay nagtatatawa na lamang sa mga

kasinungalingang isinusulat niya upang maiwasan ang gulo. Subalit minsan, nadadamay at naapektuhan ang kanilang mga magulang, anak, kapatid at kamag-anak. Nagiging tampulan ang mga ito ng pangungutya at katatawanan. Ang asawa ng isang dating pangulo ng FAMAS ay nagtapat na noong malit pa ang kanyang anak, nagtatanong ito, "Why is it Magallanes writing those lies about about Dad? Ang isa naming dati ring pangulo ng FAMAS ay itinatago sa ama na bukod sa matanda na ay may sakit pa ang kopya ng The Filipino Forum. "Baka magkaroon ng stroke at lalong magkasakit ang Daddy ko kapag nabasa ang mga kasinungalingang pinagsusulat niya,"sabi nito.

Noong Sept. 2005 ay nagreklamo si James de la Paz sa Quebec Press Council dahil sa patuloy na atake ni Fred sa una. Upang mapatunayan ni Fred na may kredibilidad siya at totoo ang mga sinasabi niya tungkol kay James, sumulat si Fred sa QPC ng ganito, "Once a writer is caught lying, that's the beginning of his end as a writer." Nakatatawa dahil ilang linggo pagkatapos sumulat si Fred QPC, nahatulan rin siya nito ng paglabag sa journalistic ethics. Hindi naniwala ang QPC sa mga sinabi niya.

Ang pagkatalo ni Fred at ng Filipino Forum nang magreklamo si James sa QPC at pagkatalo niya nang magdemanda si Budz ay habang buhay nang dadalhin ni Fred. Para itong anino niya na susundan siya kahit saan siya magpunta. Mahirap na siyang magkaroon ng kredibilidad. Siya na rin ang nagsabi: Kapag nahuli na nagsisinungaling ang isang manumulat, iyon na ang simula ng kaniyang katapusan.

Ang nakatatawang karanasan ko nang magpunta ako rito sa Canada

Sa Agosto ay 46 taon na ako sa Canada. Lumaki ako ng Manila pero hanggang ngayon, sariwa pa sa isip ko ang mga nakatatawa at nakahihiyang mga karanasan ko pagpunta sa Canada. Iba iyong nanggaling ang isang tao sa malayong lugar sa Pilipinas at nangibang bansa sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon.

Mga kalahating oras na lamang bago dumating sa Hong Kong ang eroplanong sinasakyan ko ay bumalik ulit sa Pilipinas dahil sa

malakas na bagyo. Pag-uwi ko sa bahay, hindi makapaniwala ang aking ina at mga kapatid dahil naghatid sila sa akin sa airport at nakita nilang lumipad ang eroplanong sinasakyan ko.

Kinabukasan ay lumipad na naman ako papuntang Hong Kong. Pagdating sa Kowloon airport, may nag-alok sa akin na Pilipinong taxi driver para ihatid ako sa ibinigay kong address. Excited ako kaya hindi ko na hinintay ang aking bayaw na susundo sa akin. Pagdating sa aking pupuntahan, siningil ako ng driver ng 20 dollars. Sa pagmamadali ko, hindi ko naisip na 20US dollars ang ibinigay ko, sa halip na 20HK dollars.

Galit na galit ang bayaw ko sa taxi driver pero wala na siyang magawa. Ako rin ang may kasalanan. Nang sumunod na araw ay lumipad ako patungong Los Angeles. May ilang oras na stop over sa airport. Habang naghihintay, bumibili ako ng post cards at magazines. Para hindi halatang bagong dating ako sa Amerika, papel na pera ang ibinabayad ko kapag sinisingil ako ng dimes or quarters. Hindi ako sanay doon. Napapatigil muna ako dahil sanay ako sa cinco, diez o veinte sentimo. Spanish. Mula sa Los Angeles, nagtuloy ako sa Washington kung saan ang kaibigan ng mga kapatid ko ang susundo sa akin. Pagdating sa airport, kaagad akong tumawag sa kanilang kaibigan na hindi ko pa nakikita ng personal. Wala pang sampung minuto, may napansin akong lalakina madalas na nakatingin at sunud nang sunod akin. Tinignan ko siya ng masama. Naalaala ko iyong naging karanasan ko sa Hong

Kong. Tatanungin ko sana siya kung ano ang problema niya nang bigla siyang lumapit at nagpakilala sa akin. Napahiya ako nang sabihin na siya ang susundo sa akin. Pagdating ko sa bahay niya, una kong hinanap ang banyo dahil ilang araw na akong hindi naliligo. Tiningnan ko ang gripo na nagsasabing C. Ang lamig. Sinubukan ko ang H. Mainit nga pero sobra. Lalo kong hindi natiis ito kaya napasigaw ako. Natawa ang kaibigan ng kapatid ko nang malaman ang nangyari. Dapat pala ay tinimpla ko muna ang tubig.

Kinabukasan, lumipad na ako patungong Montreal(Dorval) airport. Dahil turista ang aking visa, na- hold ako sa immigration office. Maraming tanong sa akin tulad ng kung saan ako titira. Bago ako umalis ng Pilipinas, sinabi sa akin ng aking mga kapatid na huwag kong sasabihin na may kamag-anak ako rito. Iisipin sa immigration na hindi na ako uuwi sa Pilipinas. Mga isang oras na akong nai-interview nang makita ko ang aking mga kapatid na papasok sa immigration. Napilitan akong magtapat. Ganoon na lamang ang tuwa ko dahil wala naman palang problema kung my kamag-anak ako rito. Pinapirma lamang ang aking mga kapatid na sila ang sasagot sa akin kung maging pasanin ako ng Canada. Mapalad ako dahil noon, hindi pa mahigpit sa immigration. Pagkatapos ng tatlong buwan, binigyan ako ng working permit. Hindi nagtagal, binigyan ako ng immigrant visa at sumunod ay Canadian citizen card.

CCFAQ to host Philippine Independence Day

Preparations for the Philippine Independence Day celebrations at Mackenzie King park on June 28, Sunday, are underway, the Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec announced. Since the tents will be installed the night before, the tentative time for the restaurant owners to set their equipment at the park is 6:00 a.m. The floats and cars participating in the event will be leaving at about 10:00 a.m. at St. Kevin St., Mackenzie King park. There will be mass, pot luck lunch and multi cultural programs.

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Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon
Hollywood Junkies

Making your own youtube studio

A home studio in a small room will enable a setup for shooting professional quality YouTube videos. Shooting video has become almost totally automated: once the camera has been turned on, it can take over doing many chores a human once had to, such as focusing the image or adjusting the color balance. This has led to the misconception that you shoot inside a room, it can be left "as is" and the camera will take up the slack. But that's erroneous, because the room influences and affects the final video. So does that mean you have to build a home studio in a big room in order to shoot YouTube videos? Do you spend a lot of money to build your studio?

In a small room, the ability to shoot full body shots may not be possible. Half-length may be the norm, for example, a TV newscaster-like MMTV setup where the talent is seated behind a table. So the next step is to create a "dead zone" in the room both for what the microphone can hear and an "on-air zone" for what it will see.

Light Control

Let's look at light control first. Any external lighting must be eliminated: for example, windows must have blinds, curtains or masks that prevent any light from entering. This might require using black velour on a curtain rod that can go in front of the window shades to further cut off light. You might need to apply black fabric directly to the windows with tape to seal around the edges (painter's tape, for example, is a temporary tape that won't pull up paint or damage the material it has been placed against). Doors must also be dealt with, but the majority of light "leak" will be confined to the floor and can temporarily be taken care of by using a thick towel to reduce the draft or for a more permanent solution, make a skirt from a dark, light-trapping material that hangs down from the bottom of the door.

Sound Control

Extraneous items in the room should be removed to lessen sound vibrations in general, although couches and other "dense" items (not wood) will absorb sound rather than reflect it. The number of these required will depend on the volume of the floor in theory, but in reality it will

be a matter of trying different amounts in different locations on the floor while recording, then listening to how it sounds, and repeating with varied placement until the sound quality is desirable. As a matter of course, sounds can be muffled using such means as weather stripping around windows and doors and closing up or blocking any holes or vents.

Removing extraneous sounds from the room can prove more difficult, especially if the person lives in an apartment. Loud noises from neighbors can be dealt with by asking the neighbor making the noise to refrain from what they are doing or by changing one's schedule to avoid the times noises are at their highest. Street noise must also be taken into account, shooting at the time when the garbage truck rumbles down the street makes little sense when another time can be used instead.

With these physical liabilities dealt with, creating an aural "dead zone" can be accomplished through the use of sound absorbing panels. Similar in nature to those that go under a speaker or subwoofer to muffle the sound as it bounces off the walls. Working with sound deadening panels which will go on walls and the ceiling, will require the same kind of trial and error as that of the rugs noted above, but as an inexpensive aid to all this, there are digital sound level meters which provide the means for matching the overall audio response to that of the acoustic environment and seeing how the "noise pollution" is being affected. If possible, the voices or sound sources that are going to be recorded should be those used for the various tests.

Studio Setup

The physical items that will be on-camera should be chosen with care, for example, if a person is going to be seated behind a table, the table shouldn't be one with a highly reflective surface. The chair should be simple and also avoid having reflective and should be of neutral color with no discernible pattern on the fabric. If the on-air zone extends to the floor, then clean, neutral low-pile carpet is best. Plain white or colored photographic rolls of paper that are hung at the back of the set and swept down and extended past the camera's view can provide a floor as well

(requiring replacement after a shoot, as feet/shoes will leave marks and indentations).

Camera

There are two choices here: traditional video cameras and DSLRs. Video cameras come in varying types, but most possess a zoom lens of some magnification. However, these cameras are notorious for not having good wide-angle coverage. What could be more problematic is whether there is enough space between the camera and subject. This can best be determined by creating the setup in the room, aiming the camera and seeing exactly what restrictions the view presents. Niceties such as creating a shallow depth of field with a wide f-stop or tight close-ups are functions of the camera, not the space. Some accommodation between camera and space might be necessary, with filters and creative camera angles taking up the slack, but in general, if there's a problem between camera and the room, first see if there's another room that can be used. Getting a new camera might seem like the last resort, but if it is unable to provide the desired results because it just isn't capable, then it might be time to replace it with a model whose features suit your needs.

Lighting

The basics of good lighting remain the same regardless of the size of the room: for a standard single subject lighting scheme, the 2 point lighting design is desired. You place two lights on either side of your subject at 45-degree angles and the third behind or above your subject. Alternately, if you have one light with a soft box or diffused light source, you can set it slightly to the side near the camera position to create an overall diffused lighting scheme. Both the soft box and individual lights might have good success at being bounced off a wall or the ceiling. Whether this works or not requires trial and error. In any case, the separation of the person from the background must be such that any shadow can be eliminated, such as being "thrown" to the side (this will be evident with green screen). Test your exposure levels, move the lights forward or back, depending on if you need more or less light, then place some gaffer's tape on the floor, marking the lights and camera tripod position for future shows. Incandescent light sources can be purchased locally or online and most producers will find buying a kit that consists of a set of reflectors and stands is better than going a la carte.

Although they cost more, LED lights provide a stable and consistent light source without any of the heat issues of incandescent. Heat can become a serious issue for incandescent lights and should be monitored closely. Changing the intensity of the lights can be done by physically moving their position or through the use of dimmers, which must be rated for the voltage that will

be coursing through them. In either case, do not tax your ac power by having all the lights plugged into the same AC outlet and, if possible, a separate surge protector extension should be used. Additionally, high-quality extension cords are recommended to ensure stability and safety. A decision on which type of lighting to use for the YouTube studio must be made. Tungsten lamps generate greater heat than LEDs, and both types of lighting can be dimmed to alter their intensity. Also there are many LEDs that can be had with dimming built into the product. LEDs have another advantage; they also have a greater shock resistance and are less likely to be damaged from being moved over time. Filters to convert the 3200 K tungsten to 5500K (daylight) are readily available but will require mounting on holders placed in front of the lights. These filter holders will also need accessories, such as barn doors, flags, etc. to allow for control of the light.

Another source of broad lighting for a YouTube studio can come from daylight-temperature light strips. These can be suitable for casting light on backgrounds or from walls to provide ample illumination in small areas. However, unlike stand-based lights, these lighting strips will need to be solidly attached/mounted to the wall and are far more invasive. But when the room has low ceilings that preclude the ability of raising lights up high, having these light strips attached can be an effective solution.

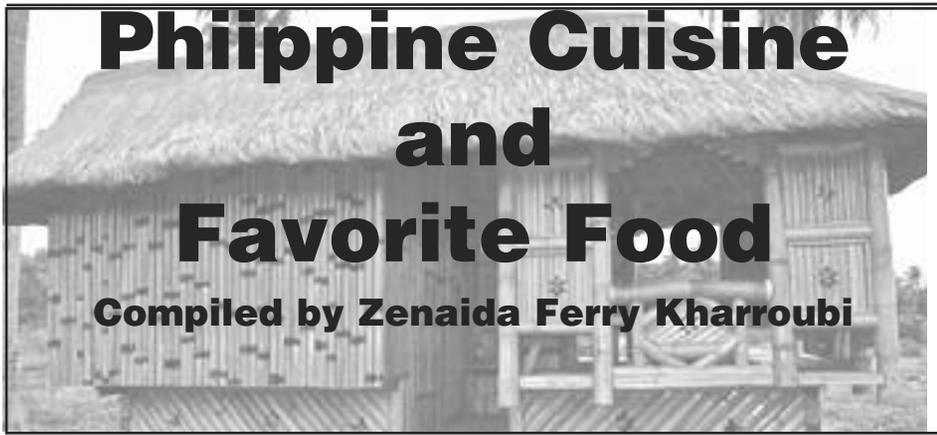
Audio

Sound is as important as video, and since only limited adjustments are possible with a camera's built-in microphone, you should always use an external microphone. As to which microphone to get, it depends on where the mic is to be positioned, for example, Blue Microphone's Yeti USB mic is designed for tabletop use, while Audio-Technica's ATR-6550 provides a shotgun directional mic that can be used out of view, but near the camera's position. Shotgun mics, with a supercardioid pickup pattern are great since it's designed to gather in sound from only one direction and can avoid unwanted sounds. Using a shotgun mic will require a stand so as to control placement, and making sure that it doesn't cast any shadows on the subject is an obvious concern.

Finishing the YouTube Studio

Having a dedicated room to shoot your YouTube videos is a luxury that many will not be able to afford. But even if the equipment's must be assembled and then disassembled each time a video is to be made, there's no getting around the need for creating aural environment that makes what is being shot the center of attention. This can be done by approaching and attacking each of the

See Page 12 Ask the Video Guy



Phiippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Philippine Regional Cuisine



Pinaupong Manok (say 'pi-na-ooh-pong ma-nok') simply means the chicken that sits. And that's how simple it is to cook. Merely make the chicken sit on a deep bed of rock salt, cover and cook. Dinner will be ready before you

know it. This is a classic Filipino dish with the whole roaster chicken and salt as the staple ingredients - simple to do and delicious to taste.

Ingredients:

- Whole roaster chicken - 4 to 5 pounds
- rock salt - 5 to 6 cups
- salt - 1 teaspoon, to rub
- garlic powder - 1 Tablespoon
- onion powder - 1 Tablespoon
- black pepper powder - 1 teaspoon
- onion - 1 whole, chopped
- leeks - 1 bunch, white parts sliced
- boiled jasmine white rice - for serving
- soy sauce - 2 to 3 Tablespoons, for serving
- lemon - juice of 1, for serving

Instructions:

- Wash chicken thoroughly. Pat the chicken dry with a paper towel.
- Mix in a bowl the dry rub: salt, garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper. Rub this all over the chicken well.
- Stuff the chicken with the onions and

leeks.

Pour the rock salt in a roasting pan enough to fit the chicken snugly. Make sure the bed of salt is at least 2 inches deep.

Place the Roast at 35 minutes for every pound of chicken*.

When chicken is done, remove from oven, uncover and serve hot with boiled jasmine white rice. Serve with a side dipping sauce of soy sauce onions and leeks.

Pour the rock salt in a roasting pan enough to fit the chicken snugly. Make sure the bed of salt is at least 2 inches deep.

Place the chicken on its back, on top of the bed of salt. Cover tightly with aluminum foil and oven roast in a preheated oven 375 F degrees.

Roast at 35 minutes for every pound of chicken*.

When chicken is done, remove from oven, uncover and serve hot with boiled jasmine white rice. Serve with a side dipping sauce of soy sauce mixed with the juice of a lemon.

Other more traditional ways of cooking this dish is by placing the whole roaster on a bed of salt in a large pot, cover it and cook it stove-top in the same amount of time required.

Flavory Visayan cuisine



La Paz Batchoy

Serves: 6

Ingredients

- 500 g Miki or Egg noodles
- 300 g pork belly, sliced in small pieces
- 150 g pork liver, sliced in small pieces
- 2 pcs pork heart, sliced in small pieces
- 1 medium sized white onion, finely chopped
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cups pork stock
- 4 cups beef stock
- 4 cups shrimps stock (you can make this by frying then boiling shrimp heads)
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sautéed shrimp paste
- fish sauce
- oil
- Garnishes
- chicharon, crushed
- fried garlic
- spring onion, chopped
- fresh eggs

Instructions

In a pot add boiling water together with pork belly and pork heart, boil for 5 minutes then remove meat from the pot then rinse with cold water to remove any scum.

Using the same pot and water add the pork liver and boil for 5 minutes, drain then rinse with cold water to remove any scum.

In a separate clean pot add oil then sauté garlic and onion, stir fry until onions turn translucent.

Now add the three types of broth, pork belly, pork heart, black pepper, sugar, soy sauce and shrimp paste. Bring to a boil then simmer for 30-40 minutes or until meat is tender.

Now add the liver and season it with fish sauce (use according to your liking), simmer for additional 10 minutes.

Cook the noodles according to instructions. Then once cooked place in a bowl.

Pour hot boiling broth in the noodle bowl together with meat then top it with crushed chicharon, fried garlic, spring onion and raw egg. Serve immediately and stir in raw eggs while broth is still hot.



Puto (Cake)

Ingredients

- 500 g (4 cups) all-purpose flour
- 400 g (2 cups) white sugar
- 15 g (1 tbsp) baking powder
- 6 eggs
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can evaporated milk
- 355 ml (1 1/2 cups) water
- 255 g (2 1/4 cups) Edam cheese, shredded

Directions

Prep:20min > Cook: 3 0min
Ready in:50min

Grease small cake, puto molds, or ramekins for use in a steamer. Mix the flour, sugar, and baking powder together in a bowl. In a separate, large bowl, scramble the eggs with the evaporated milk and water. Fold the dry mixture into the eggs until evenly blended. Fill the prepared molds 2/3 of the way up with the batter and top with shredded cheese.

Fill a wok or a sauce pan that will hold a steamer basket with a few inches of water. Bring the water to a boil over medium-high heat. Place the molds into a steamer basket and place over the boiling water and cover.

Steam until a toothpick inserted in the center of one of the putos comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack and serve warm or at room temperature.



Cassava buko bibingka

Ingredients

Serves: 10

- 2 eggs, beaten
- 400ml coconut milk
- 396g can condensed milk
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 120g grated cheddar cheese
- 500g grated fresh cassava (about 2 cups)

Meat from 1 buko (young coconut) (about 1 cup)

Banana leaves

Directions

Prep:20min > Cook:55min > Ready in:1hr15min

Mix eggs, coconut milk, condensed milk and melted butter. Add half of the cheese. Add cassava and buko and mix well.

Line a baking dish with banana leaves. Pour mixture into the baking dish. Bake in preheated oven at 165 degrees C for 45 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when tested for doneness. Spread evenly the remaining cheese on top. Bake another 10 minutes or until cheese melts. ■

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North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



The Montreal community delegation pose for souvenir with the first Filipino-Canadian Senator, Tobias Enverga, and his wife Rosemer, after welcoming the arrival of President Benigno Aquino III who landed at the Ottawa international Airport on Thursday, May 7, 2015 marking the beginning of his 3-day state visit to Canada. Most of the people in this picture are very active in Montreal, and even without mentioning their names, our readers can recognize them. (Photo by Cristy Hunter)



From left: Desederio Sebellita, MMTV cameraman, Senator Tobias Enverga, Mrs. Rosmer Enverga, and Cristy Hunter, MMTV crew member.



Posing for souvenir with an award winning ABS-CBN broadcast journalist, Ces Drilon, (3rd from left) are D.C. Sebellita, Fely Rosales Carino, and Zenaida Kharroubi



From left: Al Abdon, Rose de la Paz, James de la Paz, Rosmer Enverga, Senator Tobias Enverga, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Tupaz. (Photo by Cristy Hunter)



While waiting at the gate at the Governor General's Residence, an RCMP officer stopped by to pose for souvenir with the MMTV Crew, after witnessing the tree planting ceremony.(CH)



President Aquino shakes hands with the dignitaries in the reception line, some from the Philippine Embassy and others are from the Government of Canada holding different cabinet posts. (Photo by Cristy Hunter)



Welcomers at the gate watching out eagerly for the President to come to the gate so that they can shake his hands. Bert Abiera was one of the lucky ones who was photographed shaking hands with the President, however, this photo was not available at press time. (Courtesy: Cristy Hunter)



In spite of the long wait for the arrival of President Aquino for the tree planting ceremony, Tenne, Zeny, and Fely, smile at the photographer, Cristy Hunter.



Taking a short break from hosting in front of the Parliament Building, Michael Davantes and Tenne Rose Dayandante pose with Zenaida Kharroubi, Executive Producer, MMTV and Remy Monteagudo, MMTV Sales Rep. (Cristy Hunter)

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Filipinos volunteer to clean up Cote-des-Neiges

By W. G. Quiambao

Instead of staying home to relax on a beautiful Saturday morning on May 2, the members of The Order of Knights of Rizal, Ladies of Rizal, Alpha Phi Omega Alumni Association of Montreal and Jesus is Lord Church headed to Mackenzie King Park as early as 8:00 a.m. to clean up the park.

"I'm glad that we were assigned by the city to clean up Mackenzie King Park which is often used by many Filipinos in summer," said Sir Felix de Luna, Commander of Montreal Chapter. "It's here that Filipinos hold picnics, play basket ball and volley ball, hold activities during the Independence Day celebrations and Pista sa Nasyon."

Busy raking the dead leaves and picking up litters in front of the bust of Dr. Jose P. Rizal was Marilyn de Luna, member of The Ladies of Rizal. "We're cleaning this in preparation for the birthday celebrations of Rizal in

June."

OKR, LR, APOAAOM and JLC were working together in collaboration with Eco Quartier, a group that mobilizes the community in CDN to clean up the city.

A bit further from the OKR and LR spot was about 30 members of APOAAOM, a fraternity group. "Every year, we do the cleaning drive in spring" said Ernel Lebario, "president of APOAAOM. "We also do the distribution of flowers at the Macdonald Park, Gatineau and Kent Park.

Facing the St. Kevin Street was the Jesus is Lord in Church whose office is n Queen Mary Rd., "We have been helping clean in up the city for about five years," said Pastora Mercy Gallera. "Last year, we were assigned at the Isabela Park."

The Eco Quartier provides free tools like shirts, rakes, spades and plastic bags to the volunteers that clean up the city. ■



Group photo of Order of the Knights of Rizal, Ladies of Rizal and APOAAOM



Volunteers pose in front of the pile of garbage that they gathered from Mackenzie King Park.



Members of the JIL Church are doing their share of cleaning up the Park.

www.filipinostar.org

From Page 8 Ask the Video Guy

problem areas that video and audio will encounter in the room and solving them in a patient and straightforward manner.

Sidebar
Light Box Use for a Small Room

Controlling incandescent or LED lighting in a small area can be difficult. For this reason, the use of a light box can be the best solution. A light box is essentially a covering that goes over a light with space between the light source and the front of the box to allow for the material to spread the light out. This light has a broader range of coverage and also removes the sharp shadows that direct lighting can produce. Fill lights can be dispensed with in most cases as a result. But on the negative side, contrast is also lowered and must be compensated for. Some light kits include soft-box-like capabilities, and they can also be purchased individually in varying shapes and sizes. Now is the time to test your built-

in studio in the confines of your apartment, basement or even in the garage. The background is not an issue as long as nothing is cluttered with debris. At MMTV we use Gilmore's College classroom and rig it with green screen. The outcome is acceptable but not perfect. Creativity is all that matters.

Good Luck and have fun.
Al Abdon
Hollywood Junkies ■

We are requesting all Association Presidents to let us know about their events so that we can establish a community calendar and avoid overlapping parties in one weekend. Please send your notices of your parties to our e-mails: filipinostar2@gmail.com or zenferry1@gmail.com on the 10th of each month to be included in the month's issue of the N.A. Filipino Star.

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Social Tidbits

By Fely Rosales Carino



Ottawa gave a red carpet welcome for Philippine President Benigno Aquino's state visit last May 7, 2015. "Maligayang Pagdating Pangulong Benigno Aquino" was the blazing caption printed on a post card bearing his picture and that of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

There were strict rules to follow. Welcomers were there by invitation only. Zenaida Kharroubi, Executive Producer, headed the MMTV crew members, namely, Michael Davantes, Derwin Collantes, Al Abdon, Desiderio Sebellita, Remy Montegudo, Tenne Rose Dayandante, Cristy Hunter, and yours truly. Accreditation from the Parliamentary Press gallery was required in order to cover this Presidential Visit.

"This day, May 7, 2015, makes us more proud to be a Filipino," explained the Philippine Ambassador, Hon. Petronila Garcia.

We felt like we were in the Philippines. We saw the Philippine Airlines carrying the President and 25 photographers. The welcome program continued at the Governor General's Residence at Rideau Hall. There were no cars allowed. Everyone was on foot. It was really a test of stamina.

Ottawa gave its best. Every street was decorated with the Philippine flag. I felt nostalgic when I looked up and saw the Philippine flag flying overhead around 4 to 5 meters apart on opposite sides of the streets. There must have been thousands of Philippine flags flying in the nation's capital to honor the Philippine president.

The state dinner highlighted the presidential visit. True to form as Minda Mazzone described, the state dinner was elegant! It really befits a visiting dignitary from start to finish, from wine to water and back to wine

again, just ask Al Abdon. This takes me back 25 years ago when the then President Corazon Aquino (mother of the president) came for a state visit in 1989. I was the Federation president then, so I witnessed everything.

Invited to the state dinner were: Marvin Rotrand, Al Abdon, Aurora Osdon, Shinette Khoury, Minda and Nick Mazzone and Tanya Santos.

Those who came to the airport to greet the arrival of the President in their native costumes were: Epang Nicolas, Svetlana Suarez, Cora Aberin, Marlene B. Shachter, Mercy Sia, Glee Ducyogen and Aris Elumbaring. In their crisp barong tagalog were: Elmer Manila, Dick Dahirroc, Cesar Manuel, Bert Abiera, Fred Magallanes, Ed Tupas, Dante Tabamo, Ray Balansi, William Fabia and Jonathan, Pamana President. Mr. and Mrs. James De la Paz came attired in their very best - James, in light brown barong, and Rose in a fitted dark red gown.

The coronation night of the Munting Binibining Pilipinas Montreal 2015 was held at the Hellenic community center May 9, 2015. This is a Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) project.

Heading the organizing committee was FAMAS president Nida Quirapas. Chairperson and co-chairperson were Cora Santiago and Carmelita Cusion respectively.

Former Munting Binibini title holders from 1957 to 2015 attended. All of the members of the royal court were dressed to the nines. As young as they are, they equalled or surpassed the regal poise of their older counterparts. The royal court included: Patricia Vilda (Munting Binibini, Mindanao - Montreal), Cora Deac (Munting Binibini, Visayas - Montreal), Lauren Solomon (Munting

Binibini, Luzon - Montreal), Elaine Fabia Timbang, (Munting Binibini, Pilipinas - Montreal), Ella Marie Turcmanovic (Munting Binibining Pilipinas - Montreal 2013-2015).

Mr. Anil Lou Penullar and Mr. Joseph Mongales were the very able emcees for the evening.

The United Pilipino Seniors party was held at the St. Kevin's Parish Social Hall on May 10th 2015.

Present were overall Chairman and President, Warlie Basbacio, Pacing Castro, Marilyn De Luna, Remy Lopes and Marita Acosta. Enrique Mohasco, Alicia Rojas, Dario Bucu, Reggie Villamor, Leo Cabusas were in the parade of colors.

After the singing of the anthems, the invocation was done by Linda Agcaoili and this was followed by President Warlie Basbacio's welcome address, and Mr. Salvador Cabugao's Mother's Day message. Highlight of the party was the Santa Cruzan Children's Fashion Show 2015. The little Facionistas in their bouffant gowns showed endurance up to the end of the program

Beaming parents were very pleased with the fashion show. After the presentation of the birthday celebrants (66 Birthday celebrants), Dolly Arjona Brouillette was proclaimed Mother of the Year 2015.

For the children, the "Pabitin" (full of goodies - candies, chips, etc.) made their day. For the adults, they were treated to the melody of "Beautiful in my eyes" sang by Helen Grace Baleray. Amy San Juan was the emcee.

May 16, 2015 marked the 19th anniversary celebration of the Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers (QACFT) which was held at the CDN community center in Montreal. This anniversary was also the Recognition Night for six new members namely Tessie Calica, Esperanza Manaoag, Valeriano Enriquez, Porfiria Miguel, Christine Imperial and Lydia Baluyot.

For this year, the student awardees are Alexi Van Houtte Cachero and Jamie Estopa. Alexi excels in his academic work and athletic prowess. For this reason, he received the Elementary Scholar Award from the Philippine Benevolent Society of Quebec (PBSSQ) in September 2014. For his excellence in sports, he was chosen to represent the province of Quebec at the 23rd

annual Brick invitations Tournament for 10-year old players in North America. At this tournament, Alexi earned 2 Player of the Game honors. Jamie Estopa, being a disciplined and diligent student, received the outstanding Behavior, Best in English and Math as well as Outstanding Award in Music.

The Teacher's Award went to Elvira Estopa and Leah Baldeovar. In judging Elvira's resumé, she is equally adept as a politician and as a teacher. Besides being a Bachelor of Education Graduate at the Bicol University in Daraga, Albay, she is also knowledgeable in Mutual Funds and RRSP, both endeavors she pursued at Vanier College. She is a very active officer in the Bicol Family Club. Just to mention a few of her political involvement: President of the Bicol Association of Quebec 2001-2003; President of Bulan Association of Montreal 2006-2010; and the present treasurer of the QACFT.

Leah Baldeovar's resumé needs a full page to just enumerate them. Even if she graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Fisheries in the Philippines, she has spent a lot of time in teaching.

To attest to this, she has taught at the following: Beaconsfield Montessori School, Garderie le Futur des Enfants, and Garderie Kids at Technopark Albert Einstein.

The community Award belonged to Nancy Karides and Iluminada Azor. For Nancy Karides, reading her achievements is like looking at Who is Who in the field of education. She has degrees of Bachelor of Education at the Central Luzon State Teachers College, and Master in Education at McGill University. She was awarded Best Teacher at St-Thomas Moore School 1993-94 and Presidential Award QACFT 2012.

Last but not the least is the Community Award given to Iluminada Azor. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education at San Pablo College, San Pablo, Laguna. Of her 11 community and church involvements, I will pick 2 as the most rewarding: volunteer lector at the Filipino Catholic Mission, and organizer of the activities on different occasions in the community.

Congratulations to Mr. Joseph Gonzales for a wonderful party, and Epang for being a good emcee. ■

ECONOMIC GOALS MUST BE GROWTH & FAIRNESS

RALPH GOODALE'S REPORT

A commentary by the Member of Parliament for Wascana

May 11th, 2015

Feeble jobs and trade data last week underscore what most Canadians know only too well - the national economy continues to falter and Stephen Harper's long-delayed budget did little to help.

On trade, Canada has just posted a massive monthly trade deficit at \$3-billion - second worst ever. That's on top of 51 previous monthly deficits during the Harper government's tenure. By contrast,

preceding Liberal governments between 2003 and 2006 always ran trade surpluses.

So, for all their boasting about signing a bunch of bilateral deals, the Conservative trade record is disappointing. And it's still not at all clear whether their biggest deal - with Europe - is actually settled. It has not yet been ratified, let alone implemented, and the EU continues to balk.

On jobs, the figures for April were again troubling. Almost 20,000 jobs were lost. The unemployment rate stayed flat at 6.8%, only because

almost 20,000 Canadians dropped out of the labour force. For young people, the situation is twice as bad - their jobless rate is 13.6%. And sadly, this is not just a one-time blip.

The recession (which Mr. Harper blames for everything) ended six years ago, but we're still nowhere near full recovery. There are some 200,000 MORE jobless Canadians today than BEFORE the recession. The participation rate in today's jobs market is down by two points. Canada is showing virtually no economic growth. In two of the past four months, the national economy actually shrank.

In such circumstances, one of the great risks is growing inequality.

Sadly, this is the type of "growth" for which the Harper government is best known. And their budget will make things worse.

It's built around an expensive "income splitting" tax break for wealthier folks. That measure provides no help whatsoever to a single Mom at the poverty line, while those earning a quarter-of-a-million will get a \$2,000 bonus. That's what the late Jim Flaherty meant when he said it was unfair. It worsens inequality - as do several other Harper tax schemes which, according to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, are "increasingly

See Page 18 Economic goals

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

The man who helped pioneer Pinoy Rock



RJ Jacinto

He may not have coined the term but, arguably, Pinoy Rock as we know it today won't exist if not for the pioneering efforts of Ramon Pereyra Jacinto, most commonly known as RJ. In fact, many of Pinoy Rock who's who, including Joey "Pepe" Smith, Heber Bartolome, Wolfgang and The Eraserheads, could be connected to Jacinto, one way or another.

It started with Jacinto allowing the first permutations of Pinoy Rock to be heard on the airwaves when he established DZRJ in the '60s. Apart from playing songs by such groups as The Beatles, The Beach Boys and The Ventures, the station championed up-and-coming local rock acts.

"We were the first to play on air the likes of Juan dela Cruz band and Maria Cafra, among others,"

to establishing the station, he was the leader of RJ & The Riots, a group of young musicians playing private parties all over the metro.

"I wrote our first hit, the instrumental 'Weightless' released in 1961," he relates. "It was quite big. We followed it up with another smash, 'Mashi-Mashi.' None too soon, other bands were gaining mileage as well, like The Electromaniacs and the Hi-Jacks."

Jacinto's rock and roll run almost ended when he married at an early age and eventually managed his family's steel mills. "I got busy with corporate stuff but, of course, music was still at the back of my mind; I still wanted to contribute," he says.

Sadly, it was not meant to be. Martial Law was declared in 1972 and he notes, "Our family went into exile, but the legacy continued with DZRJ still playing music albeit under strict military watch."

Ironically, DZRJ lent a voice to People Power with newscaster June Keithley and Fr. James Reuter, S.J. commandeering the station, renaming it Radyo Bandido. "Well, I envisioned it as the voice of the people; it lived up to it," Jacinto quips.

When he returned after the Marcoses were ousted in 1986, Jacinto didn't waste time going back to his first love, music. "We put up Bistro RJ, hoping to re-establish the band scene. A few years later we also spearheaded concerts, TV shows and the RJ Junior Jam, which had thousands of bands auditioning on its first week alone," he notes.

Notably, among those who



RJ Jacinto with fellow rock icons Ely Buendia and Joey 'Pepe' Smith.

and Denmark to name a few," he shares. "Of course, there were others but they didn't make it as big. That said, I continue to be on the lookout for great talents to this day."

At 69, Jacinto is seemingly not slowing down. He is in fact staging a huge concert in time for his 70th birthday on June 3.

"It is called 'Icons of Pinoy Rock' and it will be held on June 6 at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City. It is meant to benefit the establishment of the Pinoy Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame," he says.

"It's my way of giving back to an industry that has been very kind to me. By establishing the Hall of Fame,

we will be able to honor musicians that helped make Pinoy Rock what it is today," he adds.

Joining Jacinto in the concert are past and present Pinoy Rock heroes including Smith, Ely Buendia, Raimund Marasigan, Basti Artadi, Kevin Roy, Rene Garcia, Resty Fabunan, and Marc Abaya.

What's next?

"I will continue rocking on," he says, adding, "This is just the first. We plan to make this an annual celebration. Every induction year will be as big and grand."

Now, who says Pinoy Rock is dead? ■



RJ Jacinto with his group RJ & The Riots

Jacinto remembers fondly. "At the time, it was considered quite revolutionary because rock was only heard mostly in the underground circles."

Jacinto understood the need to prop up the local music scene because he is a musician himself. Prior

played in the show were then-fledgling rock band that went by the name of Wolfgang.

Jacinto was not confined to supporting rock acts, as he also helped establish other genres, including Pinoy Rap. "I helped establish such rap acts as Andrew E.

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Kris shares 'stressful' incident at Bangkok airport



Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino's recent visit to Thailand proved unpleasant on their way out because of an incident at Bangkok airport involving two Thais.

Taking to Facebook, Aquino related to followers how the two let out cuss words while they were waiting in the check-in line of the PAL Mabuhay Counter at the Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok. The men apparently wanted her and her kids to move so they (the Thais) could swiftly leave the counter.

Although stunned, Aquino shared she simply let the incident pass. "I chose to keep my dignity & didn't reply," she posted.

"People in public life live under a magnifying glass... And it's something I trained myself to live with. My Mom always reminded me 'to whom much is given, much is expected in return,'" she said.

Far from actually blocking the path of the two men, she noted, "Di ko sila hinaharangan, nakapila kami properly."

Kris saw the two men inside the plane and they were seated near her. She shared that by then, she simply prayed, "sana hindi na sila magpaka BASTOS & my sons & I just get back to Manila safely."

Aquino noted, "I was actually

w/in my rights if you think about it na makipagmurahan, since unprovoked 'yung pagmura nila directed at me... But what for? Sobrang daling mabaliktad ang kwento & the 'haters' will find a way to make it appear na ako 'yung masama."

As exasperating the situation was, the mood got lighter when she hobnobbed with the airline crew. "I was asked by some PAL crew to go to the galley to have pics w/ them, I did get up & posed, regardless of my stress be4 boarding & during the flight."

She is proud of her decision to ignore the two men, realizing that "God saw what happened & somehow my turning the other cheek must account for some good girl points."

She continued, "Regardless of all the criticism hurled at me & my family, nobody can ever say nag POWER TRIP kami."

Ending her lengthy post, she explained, "We all have our burdens, we have difficulties, but it is character that defines how we carry them. And it is conducting your life with DIGNITY that will help you live a life of PEACE."

How Melanie Marquez found faith



Melanie Marquez

Beauty queen Melanie Marquez returned to the country last March to recover from her near-fatal accident in 2013 when her car fell into a ravine.

"Lagi naman akong bumabalik pero ngayon medyo matagal ako dito," she told Bulletin Entertainment.

When asked if she has fully recovered from the accident, Melanie shared, "Medyo pero meron pa akong nararamdamang sakit... 'Pag matagal-tagal na akong nakatayo at may ginagawa ay medyo nararamdaman ko na ang pain."

Physical pain, however, seems to just be a test of her unwavering faith. A Mormon for 14 years now, Melanie shared how this religion has given her life a strong foundation.

"Nu'ng namatay ang mother ko, siyempre gusto kong makasama ang mother ko sa kabilang buhay. Naging katanungan ko 'yon sa iba't ibang relihiyon," she shared at the premiere of "Meet The Mormons" recently.

"Walang nagbigay sa akin ng klaro, walang nagsabi... 'yung priest na nakausap ko nagsabi sa akin na 'yung nanay ko pupunta sa langit pati na rin ako pero hindi kami magkakakilala. Ang gusto ko magkaroon ng pamilya, kung ano ang pamilya ko rito ay pamilya ko rin du'n," she related.

Melanie found answers in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, saying, "Lahat ng katanungan ko kahit noong bata ako like ano ang ginagawa ko dito sa mundong ito ay nasagot talaga nang klaro ng simbahang ito. We have the fullness of the Gospel."

Her new belief changed her outlook in life. "Na-overcome ko rin ang takot sa buhay ko sa araw-araw at saka sa security ko. Iba 'yung

nangyari sa akin dito. Kumbaga nagkaroon ako ng pag-unawa nang mahaba..."

Melanie made clear that Mormons are also Christians, noting, "Nirerespeto po namin ang paniniwala ng lahat kasi lahat naman po ay may katotohanan. Ang sinasabi ko, we have the fullness kasi po dinadala po naming ang pangalan ni Hesukristo."

She shared how she accidentally discovered Mormonism when she was invited to watch a "pageant."

"Naimbitahan lang ako na manood ng pageant. Akala ko kasi 'pag pageant ay beauty pageant," she said.

It turned out that the "pageant" was about Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism.

"Naitayo ang simbahan ng Panginoon dahil sa kanta. Katorse anyos siya at naghahanap siya ng simbahan na sasalihan," she related. Melanie noted that she felt different after watching the show.

"Pagbanggit lang ng pangalan niya ay kinilabutan na ako, nakuha ang atensyon ko. Hanggang sa natapos ang palabas nararamdaman ko talaga na siya ay isang propeta ng Panginoon."

With Melanie back in town, she will be busy with activities relating to her faith. She's also mulling the possibility of accepting movie and TV projects.

"Meet The Mormons" examines the very diverse lives of six devout members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Filmed across the globe, the movie features the day-to-day realities of individuals living in the US, Costa Rica, Nepal and beyond. It opens in theaters today. ■

Robert de Niro open to shoot movie in Philippines



Robert de Niro talks to members of the press at the official launch of the Nobu Hotel at the City of Dreams Manila in Paranaque City, Monday May 18, 2015

The country was smitten with Hollywood actor Robert de Niro, who is currently in the country for the official opening of Nobu Hotel at the City of Dreams Manila in Paranaque City on Monday.

The 71-year-old actor, along with other executives of Nobu Hotel, faced members of the media for a brief

press conference following the hotel's ribbon cutting ceremony.

"I'm very happy to be here," De Niro told members of the press.

During the press conference, in between questions about the business operations of the hotel, a magazine editor, who declared her a big fan of the actor, boldly asked De

Niro if she could take a photo with him and the executives of Nobu.

The actor politely obliged.

Asked if he'll be open to shooting a movie in the Philippines, De Niro said: "Of course. I mean there's nothing as of now. But of course I would stay here and film a movie in the Philippines."

He added, "It's just getting the right project, whatever that may be. But of course, absolutely."

This made Iza Calzado, who was hosting the program, ask De Niro if she could audition for a role in his movie in case he does film in the Philippines.

"Mr. De Niro, if that happens, can I audition for a role?" Iza said, which elicited laughter from members of the press.

"I'm actually a working actress in the Philippines ... I did this (hosting job) just for you," she quipped.

A member of press later asked Nobu executive, film producer Meir Teper, if he's open to producing a movie for De Niro to be shot in the Philippines. "Absolutely if you can find an investor," he quipped.

De Niro is also excited to try out Filipino cuisine during his stay in the country.

"No, but I really want to," he said when asked if he has tasted Filipino food. "When I'm in a country, I really want to taste the food of the country that I'm in."

This is De Niro's second time to be in the country for Nobu Hotel. Last year, De Niro made a surprise appearance to announce the opening of the hotel chain in the Philippines. ■

KC Concepcion to take part in Nepal relief operation



KC Concepcion during her visit in Nepal two years ago

Actress KC Concepcion is bound for Nepal to participate in efforts to help survivors rebuild their lives following the series of disastrous earthquakes that slammed the Himalayan nation.

On May 12, a 7.3-magnitude quake hit central Kathmandu, adding to the death toll of more than 8,000

from a 7.9 magnitude quake that hit the region on April 25.

Concepcion took to Instagram to share with followers photos of her meeting with photographer Mark Nicdao and other collaborators at the World Food Programme office in Makati City.

"To the rest of Nepal, our team

is on the field & we will take care of you best we could. Stay strong. Stay gentle, kind, hopeful. God bless you, Nepal. You are beautiful," Concepcion said.

The actress-singer is yet to disclose details of the project, which will be launched in June. Nicdao, meanwhile, hinted in a separate

Instagram post that they will be using photos they took from a prior visit a few years ago to fulfill their mission.

Concepcion has been a National Ambassador Against Hunger for some seven years now. She was recently honored by the Los Angeles-Makati Sister City, Inc. in the US for her charitable efforts. ■

Gerald doesn't regret relationship with Maja, defends Janice anew



Gerald Anderson talks to members of the press. The ABS-CBN actor said he's still currently in the "healing process."

Gerald Anderson echoes Maja Salvador's statement saying he also doesn't regret his relationship with the actress. In a recent interview with Maja aired in "Kris TV" on

Wednesday, Maja said that she doesn't regret her relationship with Gerald, especially since she knows she has been loved.

"Same, same, lalo na po ako," replied Gerald when asked to react on the actress' statement in an interview on Thursday.

Yet he didn't comment on what Maja said about the possibility of straying away if she had known the outcome of their relationship. "Ayaw ko na po mag-react, hahaba lang," he said.

Meanwhile, the Kapamilya actor defended actress Janice de Belen anew as she's repeatedly linked to his and Maja's breakup.

"Ito ang huling beses na magsasalita ako tungkol do'n. Para sa mga hindi pa nakakaintindi or ano, wala pong kinalaman si ate Janice sa kahit anong iniisip n'yo,

sinasabi n'yo," he reiterated. "So sana po 'wag na kayong mandamay ng ibang taong walang kinalaman."

"Please. Kung hindi pa malinaw 'yon, wala pong kinalaman si Ate Janice. Kung hindi n'yo po ako maintindihan siguro kailangan n'yo po si Nathaniel sa buhay n'yo," he added, referring to the inspirational ABS-CBN soap opera he currently stars in.

He also said that he's still friends with Maja, although they haven't gotten the chance to really meet each other up-close.

As for the photo of Kim Chiu, Sarah Geronimo, and Maja together, the "Nathaniel" star doesn't want to comment anymore saying that what matters is everyone's having a quiet and happy life.

Amid all the controversies surrounding his breakup with Maja, Gerald remains positive and even thankful to his family, especially to the series of projects coming his way.

"Marami kasing mga happy na tao sa paligid ko. Everybody's very helpful, very supportive. So sobra lang din po akong nagpapasalamat na busy sa work," he said. "Siyempre kasi you keep yourself busy. Kasi isa rin 'yon sa mga sekreto with moving on with your life, moving forward. But mas importante 'yong personal, e."

Although having a happy and positive outlook in life, he admits that he's still on the "healing process," adding that it's the only choice he has especially since his family depends on him.

"I've made mistakes in my life and I have to take responsibility for that. For every day of my life, I will do the best that I can, 'yon lang po ang magagawa ko," he added.

Gerald is the latest endorser of Cosmo Cee, a non-acidic vitamin C which he says suits his very busy and active lifestyle. ■



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Announcement of the Hon. Irwin Cotler / Annonce de l'hon. Irwin Cotler

It is with bittersweet emotion that I announce the departure of my long-time, trusted and respected Chief of Staff, Howard Liebman, who has been appointed Special Advisor to the Hon. Denis Coderre, Mayor of the Ville de Montreal, with responsibility for international relations.

Howard has been an indispensable and loyal leader of this Office and an exemplary public servant, whose commitment and tireless engagement and advocacy for this constituency - and overall public diplomacy and personal counsel - has been without parallel, these past 11 years.

Bravo Howard on this wonderful legacy - may you and your family go from strength to strength.

Irwin

Hon. Irwin Cotler, P.C., O.C. | c.p., o.c.
Member of Parliament for Mount Royal | Député de Mont-Royal



Howard Liebman is flanked by the Philippine Ambassador Petronila Garcia on the left and Nida Quirapas, FAMAS President, on the right.

Message from Howard Liebman

As I begin a new and exciting professional adventure, I wish to thank Prof. Cotler for an 11-year mentorship like no other.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure supporting Prof. Cotler - and working with all of you. I depart with cherished memories and hope to remain in contact with you.

I can be reached via e-mail at hliebman@hotmail.com

I close with a word of thanks to my dear colleagues in the constituency and in Ottawa - past and present - and all those with whom I have had the pleasure to work in common cause, as well as my beloved family.

I wish to salute my colleague of 15 years, Diane Du Sablon, and my successor Judith Abitan - who can be reached at the Mount Royal constituency office, at this e-mail address.

Yours sincerely,

Howard

Honor...

“Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, its honoring those who lost their lives. Veterans had the fortune of coming home. For us, that's a reminder of when we come home we still have a responsibility to serve. It's a continuation of service that honors our country and those who fell defending it. “

Pete Hegseth

From Page 13 Economic goals skewed toward high-wealth households”.

As a better alternative, Justin Trudeau has announced the beginning of a plan for greater fairness and growth for Canada's middle-class and all those working so hard just to get to the middle-class.

One part of it is a new and more generous “Canada Child Benefit”. It would replace a confusing, unfocused jumble of existing benefits with a single, clean, monthly, tax-free payment that will provide significantly more support to 9 out of 10 families. And that's coupled with a middle-class tax cut - i.e., a 7% reduction in the personal tax rate applicable to

incomes in the “middle” bracket (which runs from about \$45,000 to about \$90,000), saving those taxpayers about \$3-billion per year.

The only tax rate increase proposed by Mr. Trudeau is applicable to the highest 1% of Canadian incomes, above \$200,000 per year. The rate at this level of wealth would rise to 33% from 29%. All the extra revenue raised in this way would be used to pay for the rate cut in the middle bracket.

The Trudeau plan is being welcomed by economic and social policy experts as “... powerful, progressive, fair, transparent and efficient ...” in helping to fight poverty and improve the incomes of middle-class families. ■

Cotler marks National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities, Israel Independence Day in House of Commons

Both days coincided yesterday with the birthday of former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Peace laureate Lester B. Pearson

Ottawa - April 24, 2015 - MP Irwin Cotler, Liberal Critic for Rights and Freedoms and International Justice, today rose in the House of Commons to highlight both the fifth anniversary of the creation of a Canadian National Day of Remembrance and Action on Mass Atrocities, and the 67th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

“It is sometimes said that if there had not been a Holocaust, there would not have been a State of Israel. But it is the other way around: If there had been an Israel, there might not have been a Holocaust or the horrors of Jewish history.”

Cotler went on to note that yesterday was also the birthday of former Canadian Prime Minister and Nobel Peace laureate Lester B. Pearson, in whose memory the National Day was established, and who was an early advocate for the creation of a Jewish state. ■

As both days coincided this year, Cotler addressed the connection between the Holocaust and the establishment of the Jewish State, saying:

Contact: Michael Milech
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Irwin.cotler.a2@parl.gc.ca



Every Spring, APO is requested by the City of Montreal to take charge of distributing flowers to the citizens of the district. Photo shows the volunteers headed by Arnold Ortiz from APO.



People line up to get a share of the flowers being distributed by APO at the park.

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Ethel Tugna (March 2011 graduate)



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