

Harper visits the Philippines



Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife Laureen ride a jeepney during a visit to Fort Santiago in Manila, Nov. 10, 2012, accompanied by Senator Tobias Enverga.

Announces support for economic growth in the Philippines

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES – November 10, 2012 Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced support for an initiative that will promote economic growth and employment in the Philippines. The announcement was made during the Prime Minister's visit to the country. “

The Philippines is making real progress towards achieving sustainable economic growth and our Government remains committed to helping them reach this goal,” said Prime Minister Harper. “The initiative being announced today will help facilitate private investment in the country's infrastructure and promote economic opportunities for young people in the Philippines – especially in the tourism sector.”

The Fostering Inclusive Growth initiative will be managed by the Asian

Development Bank and will help national and local government agencies in the Philippines improve tourism and labour regulations. It will also promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development, and assist youth in gaining employable skills that meet industry requirements.

The Fostering Inclusive Growth initiative complements previous Canadian initiatives in the Philippines, such as the Canadian International Development Agency's Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development, which addresses the tourism sector, as well as the Improving Business Climate project, which is improving business

See Page 4 Harper visit

Filipino Youth Center celebrates 1st anniversary

Michael Applebaum newly elected interim Mayor of Montreal



At the 1st anniversary celebration of the Friendship & Fellowship Youth Center on November 11, 2012, Pastor Orlan Racacho presented to Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum a wall plaque of the 12 Tribes of Israel by Marc Chagall. During the opening and inauguration of the Youth Center last year, Mayor Applebaum was presented with another wall plaque of a panoramic photo of Jerusalem as seen from the Mount of Olives. (Courtesy: Bernardo Sarmiento)

By W.G. Quiambao & Z. Kharroubi

Within a week, two important occasions in our community transpired. First, we witnessed the first anniversary celebration of the Fellowship & Friendship Filipino Youth Center at 3737 Van Horne Ave. on November 11, 2012 which was attended by about a hundred members, friends and guests. Then on Friday, November 16, 2012, our

Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum was elected the new interim Mayor of Montreal. He was the guest speaker of the anniversary celebration where he delivered a brief speech in which he acknowledged not only the excellent work of Pastor Orlan Racacho but also the indispensable support of his wife

See Page 5 Filipino Youth Center

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Editorial

How much transparency can we expect from City Hall in a year?

Transparency in government is certainly an ideal that we can all agree is desirable to have but it is often difficult to see how it can be achieved after all the testimonies we have heard from the Charbonneau Commission. The allegations of corruption that has gone on for decades in the City's infrastructure have made us aware of the need to be more involved in keeping both our elected officials and bureaucrats honest. Needless to say, it is not an easy thing to do for it requires a thorough understanding of a complicated system of bidding for government contracts and how they are approved by different departments which are primarily run by bureaucracy. Mr. Gerald Tremblay, being the mayor, was blamed for having failed to prevent the anomalies from happening under his watch. But could he have really prevented them from happening?

Mr. Michael Applebaum as the new Mayor of the City of Montreal until the next election on November 3, 2013, has his work cut out for him. In his speech, he promised to promote transparency at City Hall, and do what is needed to restore the confidence of the people. This is a big job to do in such a short time of less than a year. Will he be able to achieve his goal of transparency in government? Where will he start? Will he get the cooperation of all the parties?

According to what Mr. Applebaum has proposed, he would like to form an executive committee that is representative of all parties. He also plans to review the budget and build a consensus to approve a 2.2% tax increase that is more in line with inflation. These are certainly not the only things he will be doing to achieve his goals of transparency and credibility in the city government. It will be interesting to follow the progress of his work because it will show us if our elected officials will put politics aside and work with him. Many observers are willing to wait and see what happens next but they all agree that it seems like an uphill battle to make all the changes needed to achieve the two important goals of his administration that he stated in his acceptance speech.

Having known Mr. Applebaum for the length of time he was a councilor of NDG, and the Borough Mayor for several years, we are inclined to believe that he will do his utmost in achieving the goals he stated. We have no reason to doubt him for we have seen that he has done a good job for the CDN-NDG

's 170,000 constituents. His colleagues who joined and supported him in his bid for the position of interim mayor also believe in his ability to lead Montreal to a new beginning.

As McGill Professor Gil Troy said in a speech he delivered recently, we should really welcome the election of Mr. Applebaum for it means that Montreal will probably see changes that will better serve the second largest city in Canada. Mr. Troy stated: "As with all such milestones, I look forward to the day when we can simply welcome a Mayor Applebaum for what Montreal most needs in a mayor, an honest, efficient, effective leader, rather than focusing on where he prays, who his people are, or which of the two 'official languages' he speaks," he said.

We note the optimism in Mr. Troy's words. We agree in his concept that Montreal needs a leader who can make the city great. It does not have anything to do with language, nor religion, for Mr. Applebaum's election offers a lot of possibilities for change. We are glad to see that we seem to have deviated from the traditional way of electing only a French-speaking leader. It is heartening to note that probably other ethnic groups can also hope to be elected, not because of their names but because of their abilities.

It may be too early to say much about Mr. Applebaum's chances of success but we are willing to give him the support he needs to do the work he must do in order to develop a code of ethics among our public servants. We ask that all parties put politics aside and fulfill their mandate they have sworn to do when they were elected.. Mr. Applebaum, being an independent mayor, may be an advantage for he cannot be accused of partisanship. He will now be able to say that he is guided purely by his constituents' needs.

On the other hand, we cannot deny our concerns about the extent of transparency in the administration that will only last for a few months. How much can Mr. Applebaum do to make transparency last longer than his term? Will he be able to make the important changes that will begin to eradicate corruption?

Indeed, to be the mayor of a big city is not an ordinary job. We wish Mr. Applebaum more power and God-speed. ■

Zenaida Kharroubi

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

November 9, 2012

A Successful Poppy Campaign in 2012

As we approach the final hours of our national Poppy Campaign, and on behalf of the millions of Canadians who have had the opportunity to wear a Poppy this year, I want to thank our more than 330,000 Legion members in more than 1,500 Legion branches across Canada, the United States and in Europe for their support and dedication for this campaign.

With an estimated 18 million Poppies worn this year, our efforts to remember the more than 117,000 servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice have been recognized. By making a donation and wearing a Poppy, Canadians of all ages support Canadian Forces and RCMP Veterans and their families as well as the many the communities where we live.

The Poppy Campaign makes it possible for the Legion to operate a Service Bureau which acts as an advocate for Veterans and RCMP members and their families to ensure their quality of life is the best it can be. Every year, the money collected through the Poppy Campaign is used to provide direct assistance for Veterans and their families who are experiencing financial distress.

The funds are used to pay for food, accommodation, utilities, hospital comforts and dental and optical services. The Legion truly cares about all Veterans, not just by advocating on their behalf, but by engaging in everyday activities to make their lives better. In fact, our most recent records show more than \$13 million were disbursed as benevolent awards to Canada's Veterans and serving personnel.

Again, thank you to the thousands of Legion members who helped with our Poppy Campaign and to the millions of Canadians who have proudly supported our campaign this year. We are truly grateful.

We Will Remember Them,

Gordon Moore
Dominion President
The Royal Canadian Legion

For further information please contact Bruce Poulin at Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion at (613) 591-3335 ext. 241 or by cell at (613) 292-8760.
File: 44-13 091112

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HARPER GOVERNMENT ABOUT TO PASS THE SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS ACT

OTTAWA, November 20, 2012 – Canadian families have a stronger food safety system with the anticipated passage of the Safe Food for Canadians Act, S-11, by Parliament, announced Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

“Canadian families will be better protected by the passage of the Safe Food for Canadians Act,” said Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz. “The Canadian Food Inspection Agency will have stronger modernized tools to better protect Canadians and enhance industry compliance.”

Tabled in the Senate last June, the Safe Food for Canadians Act would improve food oversight by:

- Instituting a more consistent inspection regime across all food commodities;
- Implementing tougher penalties for activities that put the health and safety of Canadians at risk;
- Giving inspectors an enhanced ability to compel food producers to provide information in a timely manner and standardized format;
- Giving the CFIA the authority to require traceability systems for food producers and processors by way of regulation;

Minister Aglukkaq announces new rules to address prescription drug abuse

OTTAWA – Nov. 19, 2012 To launch National Addictions Awareness Week, today the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and Shelley Glover, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, announced tough new licencing rules that aim to clamp down on the diversion of controlled release formulations of oxycodone products – prescription drugs that are at a high risk of abuse.

In a letter to her provincial and territorial counterparts, the federal Minister of Health called upon provincial and territorial governments, as well as medical professionals, to look at what they can do within their areas of jurisdiction to tackle the serious problem of prescription drug abuse.

“Our Government is taking action to tackle prescription drug abuse,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “This is a serious issue that destroys the lives of individuals and families, and I believe we have the responsibility to work with the provinces and territories to address it head-on.”

Under the authority of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), Health Canada will now impose tough new conditions on the licences of dealers who manufacture and distribute products that contain the controlled release formulation of oxycodone. For example, dealers will be required to report spikes in sales and changes in distribution patterns, in addition to Health Canada’s current requirements to report loss and theft. If evidence of abuse is uncovered, action can be taken, up to and including the revocation of their licence to deal in certain types of medications. If required, matters could be referred to legal authorities.

“Real action is required at the provincial and territorial level, too,” added Minister Aglukkaq in the letter.

- Providing better control over imports and exports; and
- Strengthening food traceability throughout the value chain.

Together, these measures would help find products faster in recall situations so they can be removed from the shelves quicker and in a more comprehensive way.

The new legislation, if passed, would also implement tougher fines for activities that could put the health and safety of Canadians at risk. Previously, anyone convicted of a serious offence could have been fined up to a maximum of \$250,000. Under the proposed legislation, penalties could be as high as \$5,000,000, or in the case of the most serious offences, even higher at the court’s discretion. New penalties would also be added for recklessly endangering the lives of Canadians through tampering, deceptive practices or hoaxes.

The proposed legislation is the result of extensive consultation over a number of years with industry, consumer groups, provincial and territorial governments, and other stakeholders. It builds on the Harper Government’s commitment to address recommendations from the Weatherill Report and the commitments made in the 2010 Speech from the Throne.

Federal action is only one component of tackling prescription drug abuse. Medical practitioners who prescribe drugs fall under provincial and territorial jurisdiction. Accordingly, Minister Aglukkaq strongly encouraged provinces and territories to speak with their local medical associations about the topic, and to strengthen provincial and territorial practices to fight prescription drug abuse, which include establishing training requirements, setting scopes of practice for physicians and other practitioners, and monitoring prescription practices. Similar controls, including a prescription monitoring program, have been applied by Health Canada in recent years to the Non-Insured Health Benefits program for First Nations and Inuit, which is administered by the federal government.

There is no basis in the Food and Drugs Act for the Minister of Health to withhold approval of a drug where the drug is otherwise considered safe and effective for its recommended use. The law does not permit approval to be withheld on the basis of misuse. In the letter, Minister Aglukkaq confirmed that she would not politically interfere with Health Canada’s scientific review process concerning generic controlled release formulations of oxycodone.

“It should not be up to politicians to determine which drugs should be approved for medical use,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “The issue of prescription drug abuse is bigger than one specific pill, and I want to make sure that legitimate patients have access to drugs that Health Canada scientists determine are safe and effective when used as directed.”

The Minister concluded the letter by stating that if provincial and territorial governments agree they are unable to control this issue within their own jurisdiction, she is open to considering additional oversight at the federal level to further combat the risk of drug diversion. However, the Minister cautioned that requiring doctors, dentists and pharmacists to



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jump through extra federal bureaucratic hoops could create challenges for patient care.

“I want to make sure that whatever we do to crack down on prescription drug abuse does not have unintended negative consequences on those who need this medicine to maintain a reasonable quality of

life,” said Minister Aglukkaq. “Instead of a band-aid solution, I believe we can apply the law as it currently exists to help make meaningful changes to the overall system, and make it harder for people to abuse prescription drugs.”



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From Page 1 Harper visits registration at the national and local levels.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting the Philippines to achieve sustainable economic growth.

To this end, during a visit to Manila, Philippines, on November 10,

initiative will support the Philippines Government in its efforts to reduce poverty and create jobs by helping them improve the regulations governing investment in infrastructure projects and increase economic opportunities for youth by providing training in market-ready skills.

Managed by the Asian Development Bank, the initiative will

the Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program.

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PMO Press Office: 613-957-5555
This document is also available at <http://pm.gc.ca>

Backgrounder

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting women's rights at home and abroad.

To this end, on November 10, 2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced support of \$10 million

among formal and informal justice sector institutions of the UN CEDAW commitments, and strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms for their implementation.

The project builds on the achievements of the Government of Canada's Support to the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) initiative in Southeast Asia (2004-2009). Also implemented by UN Women (formerly UNIFEM), it successfully raised awareness among governments and civil society on the UN CEDAW obligations, and supported major legislative reforms on domestic violence and laws protecting



Visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, second from left, and Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, second from right, witness the signing of documents by Canadian Minister for International Trade Ed Fast, left, and Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, in a ceremony Saturday, Nov. 10, 2012 at Malacanang Palace grounds in Manila, Philippines. The signed documents involves the transaction in defense and military-related equipment by Canada to the Philippines. It was the first visit by a Canadian head of state in 15 years which was aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries. Canada is home to hundreds of thousands of Filipino immigrants. Photograph by: Bullit Marquez, AP Photo



Prime Minister Stephen Harper being welcomed by Philippine President Benigno Aquino III

2012, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced support of \$15.5 million over four years, starting in 2013 and ending in 2016, for a project that will promote economic growth and employment in the Philippines.

The Fostering Inclusive Growth

also provide technical assistance to selected Philippines government agencies at the national and local level, helping develop their capacity to adopt and implement key tourism and employment policy and program measures.

Prime Minister Harper announces support for women's human rights in Southeast Asia

PRESS RELEASE

November 10, 2012

MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES – Prime Minister Stephen Harper today announced support for an initiative that will promote the empowerment of women in eight Southeast Asian countries. The announcement was made during the Prime Minister's visit to the Philippines.

"Canada is a world leader in the promotion and protection of women's rights and equality," said the Prime Minister. "We must ensure that women all over the world are given every opportunity to succeed in a society that encourages them to reach their full potential. The initiative announced today will help a number of Southeast Asian countries make their

justice systems more equitable and help to create regional standards with respect to equality between men and women."

The initiative, which is being implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, will help Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam to improve access to equitable justice systems for women and strengthen their capacity to develop and implement legislation that is respectful of the United Nations Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Support is being provided over five years (2011-2016) through

(2011-2016) through the Canadian International Development Agency's Southeast Asia Regional Program for a project aimed at promoting the empowerment of women in eight Southeast Asian countries. The announcement was made during Prime Minister Harper's visit to Manila, the Philippines.

This initiative – implemented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) – aims to assist a number of countries in Southeast Asia to comply with the United Nations Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Countries that will benefit from this project are Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

This initiative is aimed at helping government officials and civil society experts to develop and monitor new and revised legislative frameworks. The project is also assisting in increasing awareness

women's rights.

Canada was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the CEDAW, which set international standards for eliminating discrimination against women. In 2002, Canada ratified the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2000. The Protocol provides an international remedy for violations of women's human rights through a communications and an inquiry procedure. ■

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From Page 1 Filipino Youth Center

Lucy in making the youth project possible. Applebaum also officiated and cut the ribbon during the inauguration and opening of the Filipino Youth Center last year. After his short speech, he was presented by Pastor Racacho a memorial plaque, "The Seven Tribes of Israel" by Marc "Moish" Chagall, an international accredited artist in the 20th century.

A few years ago, Pastor

Filipino youth in the community to be successful and to focus their academic studies on other options rather than be involved with the wrong crowd; to inform and educate them on the consequences of delinquent choices that could affect their mental health and to encourage them to concentrate on constructive and wholesome activities.

To guide the youth in their daily lives, issues that concern them are regularly discussed by facilitators



Newly elected mayor of Montreal Michael Applebaum (centre) remains emotionless, while councillor Marvin Rotrand (left) celebrates Applebaum's victory over Richard Deschamps on Friday November 16, 2012. Photograph by: Pierre Obendrauf, The Gazette

municipalities.

The following is the calendar of events concerning the mayorship of the CDN-NDG Borough:

November 19, 10:30 A.M. - Oath taking ceremony of the Interim Mayor of the City of Montreal, at the Place d'Honneur, City Hall

November 21, 4:00 P.M. - Posting of notice of vacancy for the position of Borough Mayor, as well as the rules and procedures regarding the election to be followed during a special session of the Borough Council at 5160 Decarie Boulevard, 4th floor

November 22, - 8:30 AM to 4:30 P.M. Presentation of candidacy to the post of Borough Mayor at the Borough's office. At the end of this period, if there is only one candidate, he or she will be elected by acclamation.

November 26 - 7:00 P.M. (reserved) Élection by "cooptation (vote by 5 elected councillors of CDN-NDG exclusively) during a special session of the Borough Council which will take place at the Cummings Center, 5151, Cote St. Catherine Road. If only one candidate to the Borough Mayor position is presented, this session will be cancelled.

Lionel Perez, Councillor of the Darlington district is the acting mayor for the current period before the election of the official replacement of Mr. Applebaum who has been sworn in today as the new Mayor of the City of Montreal until the next election in 2013.

Source : Arrondissement de Côte-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Grâce Information : Isabelle Lord, 514 868-4231 (Translated English version of the Press Release in French by Zenaida Kharroubi)



The ladies choir sang hymns to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the Fellowship & Friendship Youth Center. Conductor: Arlo Pecolados.

Racacho, who has a B.A. in Psychology, and his wife, Lucy, a retired nurse, held a community lecture in Cote des Neiges for the young students cutting classes. During that lecture, they found out that some students were involved in drugs. The couple could not blame the students who had no place to go for help. It was during that time that they decided to found the Fellowship & Friendship Filipino Youth Center.

"Impacting the Youth for a Better Tomorrow" is the theme of the Youth Centre which can be expressed in specific objectives: to encourage the

who are all volunteers. Some of the topics that have already been discussed during the end of the month consultative meetings are: How to Become a Successful Student, and The Top Career Opportunities for the 21st Century by Zenaida Kharroubi in March and in April, The Youth and the Law by Joe Calugay, in September, Health is Your Wealth by Amy Anam Manon-og and Sophie Toledo in the month of October.

For more information, email oracacho@yahoo.com or call (450) 466- 8711.

Borough Mayor Michael Applebaum elected interim Mayor of Montreal

Montreal, 16 November 2012 – Elected to the position of Mayor this morning, Michael Applebaum remains the mayor of the borough of NDG-CDN while waiting to be sworn in as Mayor of the City of Montreal. In the interim, the mayor's position in the Borough will be assumed by Mr. Lionel Perez,

councilor of the Darlington district and substitute mayor for the current period, and this, until the election of a new Borough Mayor.

The election of a new mayor of the Borough of CDN-NDG will take place in conformity with the Laws on Elections and Referenda in



Mayor Michael Applebaum delivering his speech after being sworn into office by the chairman of the Executive Committee, Harout Chitilian and La Ville de Montreal Greffier, Me Yves Saindon, November 19, 2012, Place D'Honneur, City Hall. (by City Hall photographer)



Mayor Michael Applebaum poses with his parents, his wife and children after the oath-taking ceremony, November 19, 2012, at City Hall. (Photo courtesy by Bernardo Sarmiento)

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Dear EarthTalk: What are the new nutrition standards for school lunches that have some students boycotting their cafeterias and discarding the food?

-- Melissa Makowsky, Trenton, NJ

Indeed, some 31 million American kids participating in the federally supported National School Lunch Program have been getting more whole grains, beans, fruits and vegetables in their diets—whether they like it or not. The change is due to new school meal standards unveiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last January, per the order of 2010's Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The new standards are based on the Institute of Medicine's science-based recommendations, and are the first upgrade to nutritional standards for school meals since 1995 when low- and no-fat foods were all the rage.

The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) believes the new standards represent an important milestone in efforts to improve the dietary habits and health of increasingly obese American kids. "Schools' misguided reliance on processed foods for speedy, low-labor cost production, industry's \$1.6 billion in child-targeted advertising and a lack of faith in our children's dietary curiosity [have] created a generation of 'picky eaters' with dull palates," reports the group. "With nearly 17 percent of America's children now clinically obese and a staggering 32 percent overweight, the time is long past to address the unhealthy food environments our children live in."

The new standards limit calories per meal to 850 for high school meals, 700 for middle school and 650 for elementary and more than double the mandated minimum servings of fruits and vegetables while reducing the sodium, saturated fats and trans fats in school kids' diets. Whole-grain foods, beans and dark green and orange vegetables such as broccoli, spinach, carrots and sweet potatoes have replaced things like pizza and French fries as staple items in schools that follow the program.

Of course, not everybody likes the changes. Lunch strikes, Facebook protest pages, Twitter campaigns, YouTube parody videos and other means have been utilized coast-to-coast to voice opposition to the healthier meals. Some affected cafeterias blame the new smaller portions and healthier fare for causing as much as a 70 percent drop-off in school lunch program participation since the new standards took effect.

Psychologists understand that kids may not come around to new foods right away but will eventually eat them—so the federal government and most participating schools are sticking to their guns. And the USDA says that if a school

"encounters significant hardships employing the new calorie requirements, we stand ready to work with them quickly and effectively to remedy the situation with additional flexibilities."

The benefits of the new standards far outweigh the costs. "School meals can help children develop healthy eating habits—or they can prime them for a life of poor health and unnecessary suffering," says EWG.

EWG lauds the new standards for significantly expanding access to and appreciation of nourishing food. Whether they can help shift eating norms across the country remains to be



New school meal standards hope to sway American children away from unhealthy foods, which have led to 32 percent being overweight and 17 percent obese. Whole-grains, beans and dark green and orange vegetables now replace things like pizza and French fries as staples in schools that follow the program. Credit: iStockPhoto/Thinkstock

seen, but regardless millions of American kids will likely now get their healthiest meals of the day on a tray in their school cafeterias.

CONTACTS: EWG, www.ewg.org; National School Lunch Program, www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/lunch/; Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010,



The U.S. government kills 100,000 carnivores each year under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Wildlife Services program, mainly to protect livestock. However, the USDA's own statistics show that most livestock losses result from weather, disease, illness and birthing problems—not predation. Credit: iStockPhoto/Thinkstock

www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/governance/legislation/cnr_2010.htm.

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Dear EarthTalk: A friend of mine told me that our government kills thousands of wild animals like bears and wolves every year in the name of protecting livestock. How can the government, which is supposed to protect dwindling numbers of animals, instead be killing them?
-- Amy Pratt, Troy, NY

Actually, the federal government kills some 100,000 carnivores every year

under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Wildlife Services program. While the program does much more than so-called "predator control"—threatened and endangered species conservation, invasive species mitigation, wildlife disease monitoring, airport bird strike prevention, rabies and rodent control—killing bears, wolves,



coyotes and mountain lions to protect livestock does take up \$100 million of the federal budget each year.

Animal advocates say it's not fair to kill animals owned in essence by the public trust and indispensable to ecosystem health just to protect privately held livestock, let alone spend millions of tax

dollars doing it.

"Working directly with commercial operators and state and local governments, Wildlife Services uses a combination of lethal control methods, like trapping, aerial gunning, poisoning, and denning (killing young in their dens), and some non-lethal control methods," reports the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). "But driven by narrow agricultural interests, these predator control activities often ignore the greater public need for a healthy environment, fiscal responsibility, and safe public lands."

NRDC cites USDA statistics showing that most livestock losses result from weather, disease, illness and birthing problems—not predation. They also argue that the lethal methods employed by Wildlife Services have led to dozens of human and pet injuries and deaths and degrade ecosystems that rely on healthy predator populations to function. Also the two most commonly used poisons, Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide, go beyond killing animals and wreak havoc on entire ecosystems.

Predator Defense, another group committed to ending federal predator control efforts, says that it is important to maintain healthy populations of the very predators Wildlife Services works to kill. When, for instance, predators are around to keep deer and elk populations in check, more and varied kinds of plants are given space and time to grow, in turn preserving and creating habitat for many different species.

"Wildlife Services' predator control work cries out for reform," says NRDC. The group recommends bringing more transparency to the process so the public can assess how tax dollars are being used; taking a more scientific approach instead of centering the program around the demands of commercial interests; holding the program to higher environmental standards; ending the cruelest, most hazardous and environmentally harmful killing methods; and requiring non-lethal methods when possible.

There has been no decisive legislation to stop predator control efforts, but a bill introduced into the House by California Republican John Campbell III calls for amending the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the use of Compound 1080 and sodium cyanide for predator control. The bill (H.R. 4214) was referred to committee and may or may not see a floor vote this year.

CONTACTS: NRDC, www.nrdc.org; Predator Defense, www.predatordefense.org; H.R. 4214, www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr4214.

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Beyond the Pale

with Bernardo Sarmiento

Marvin Rotrand: 30 Years of Meritorious Public Service

It is my profound pleasure to congratulate Councilor Marvin Rotrand on the 30th anniversary of his election to the Montreal City Council in 1982. He currently serves as the Majority House Leader in the Council. He is also the city councilor representing the district of Snowdon. Since 2002, he has also served as the vice-chair of the Montreal Transit Corporation (MTC), and as the president of its finance committee and of its customer service committee.

As a gesture of appreciation for the untiring support he has received from a great many people who believe in his competence and integrity, he rented a movie theater last November 14 at Cine Starz at Plaza Cote des Neiges for them to watch Skyfall, a blockbuster movie poised to become the best and most lucrative James Bond movie to date. See, even in the choice of a movie, Councilor Rotrand is an indisputable winner. I'm pleased and proud that he's on our side, and we are on his.

Thanks to Councilor Rotrand's finely tuned sense of gratitude to his staunch supporters and his pleasurable way of expressing it, my friend and fellow staff writer W. Quiambao and I, among many others, got to see that smash hit for free.

TEMPEST IN THE UPS' TEAPOT

There's a tempest brewing in the United Pilipino Seniors' (UPS) teapot. And it's all about money, the root of all evils as the cliché goes.

Several members of UPS decry the alleged refusal of said association's leadership to release a veritable annual financial report. Worse yet, those who were adamant to see a financial report were removed from their positions like what the leaders in communist countries, such as Russia and China, do when their opponents question their actions. Canada is not a communist country, but why does the UPS leadership seem totalitarian or dictatorial in their behavior?

Anyway, I am hard pressed to find one good reason why the leadership of UPS is justified in refusing to issue a financial statement, particularly when members demand to have one. I am sure that the leaders will agree that it is every member's inalienable right to know where his or her money has gone. In point of fact, they should not have waited for the members to ask for a duly accomplished financial report. They should have presented one on their own as a matter of policy. Failure to do so will no doubt lead members to think

that their leaders are hiding something. Actually, there are some members who are already thinking that. The leaders' words that they have nothing to hide are never enough to satisfy the members' curiosity about their association's financial standing. They should also back it up with hard evidence, like receipts of all the business transactions that they did in a given fiscal year.

While still talking about the UPS, I can't help commenting on its system of block-voting. Why on earth is my vote for a particular presidential candidate also my vote for all the other candidates on the same ticket? Why can't I choose some candidates from one ticket and some candidates from the opposing ticket? What if I think that one particular candidate is better than his or her opponent? Kung tungkol lang sa president at vice-president ang block-voting like it is in US presidential election, puwede ko pang sang-ayunan. Such a system would likely redound to a more harmonious working relationship between the two highest officers in the organization if both of them come from the same party.

From my point of view, the electoral system that UPS uses at present is very hilarious and patently undemocratic. It may not be necessarily illegal, but certainly, very undemocratic. Under that system, a voter virtually chooses between parties, and not among candidates. Furthermore, why is there an assistant for every position? What's so hard and complex in or about those positions that there's a need for assistants? At saka bakit meron pang sergeants-at-arms? Ano ba ang gagawin nila, bubuntalin nila ang kapwa nila matatanda kung nanggugulo?

I think the UPS needs to amend its constitution and bylaws as soon as possible, make its voting-system significantly democratic and its leaders' financial dealings in and on behalf of the association more transparent and more business-like so that any perception or suspicion of wrongdoing is greatly minimized if not completely eliminated. Simply saying "Alam ng Diyos ..." every time there's a suspicion of wrongdoing, say embezzlement of the association's funds, is never enough to dispel the rumors and allay the concerns of members. There has to be genuine and hard evidence to substantiate the leaders' words. There must be a duly accomplished financial statement at least once a year whether or not members ask for it, period.

MICHAEL APPLEBAUM: FIRST ANGLOPHONE CITY MAYOR SINCE 1912

His supporters applauded the integrity and conviction that Borough Mayor Applebaum had shown when he made a Solomonian decision to resign as the chairman of the Montreal Executive Committee following the resignation of then- Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay over allegations of corruption at City Hall.

While I don't have any doubt whatsoever that Applebaum's decision was out of integrity and conviction, this writer intuitively thinks that there was more to it than that. In my view, he, an Anglophone, resigned as chairman of the Executive Committee and subsequently bolted his party, the Union Montreal, because he was bypassed by his party mates who nominated Richard Deschamps, a Francophone, to be the interim mayor

instead. As the chairman of the Executive Committee, Applebaum was second-in-command at City Hall, and therefore next in line to succeed the then- Mayor Tremblay.

In the end, last November 16, fairness and justice prevailed when Applebaum was eventually elected the interim city mayor when he strategically coalesced with Louise Harel and Richard Bergeron to gain the coveted mayoralty. The first Anglophone mayor of Montreal in one hundred years, he is to serve in that capacity until the regular municipal election in 2013.

Already mayor of the city's Cote-des-Neiges/Notre-Dame-de-Grace borough, Applebaum defeated rival Richard Deschamps 31 to 29. Three ballots were rejected.

Filipino-Montrealers, except for a very few, welcome Mr. Applebaum's promotion. This writer does.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Quebec-born de la Paz preserves Filipino culture by promoting folk dances

By W. G. Quiambao

Sherling Rose de la Paz recalls the day her mother brought her to the Kalinangan Dance Troupe workshop, and registered her in a dance class without her knowledge. After attending a few lessons, she wanted to quit. Her mother, however, advised her to give dancing lessons a shot and assured her that she would eventually enjoy it.

Her mother was right. After almost fourteen years, de la Paz is not only dancing but working as an artistic director and a resident choreographer of LuzViMinda Philippine Folkloric Dance Company of Montreal.

"I've no regrets with my decision to stay with the group," said de la Paz. "I like the idea of training people like what I'm doing in the my regular job now in a shipping line."

In 2002, de la Paz left Kalinangan and joined Salinggawi Philippine Art Organization founded by Letty Bulotano. She started as a dance instructor. Her work included casting and staging productions.

Three years later, Bulotano, de la Paz, together with some of the dancers of the group and their parents, founded Pamana where she has been working as the artistic director and resident choreographer. Her responsibilities include choosing costumes, music, and props. She had a chance to be the president of the organization in the past but she opted to be its artistic director and resident choreographer. In addition to her job, she is responsible for establishing and maintaining the group's standard of quality and professionalism on and off the stage.

"I enjoy the creative aspect of my job than the administrative part," explained de la Paz.

To learn more about Filipino folk dances, de la Paz does a lot of extensive research. She, together with the other members of the group, even travelled to the Philippines to attend a workshop in 2008 at the Philippine High School of Arts in Laguna (Mount Makiling). The group stayed there for three and a half weeks. She met Edwin Duero, a nationally known choreographer from Iloilo, and Victor Flor, a dance teacher.

Pamana, which is one of the most widely recognized dance groups in Quebec, has performed locally and internationally. "We are often invited to perform in various Canadian provinces like Quebec, Ontario and Alberta. In 2010, we went to Slovenia, Croatia and Czech Republic. We performed in front of 7,000 people in the Czech Republic although its population is only 6,000, because people from other towns came to watch the show. We received positive reviews. Many of them had never seen the kind of dance we performed like Tinikling, Singkil and Binasuan. Next year, Pamana is going to

FAMAS, together with the Lions Club and other organizations, holds Christmas party for children and seniors

By W. G. Quiambao

In an effort to bring joy to the children and seniors (65 and over), FAMAS, in collaboration with the Lions (Montreal Westward), will hold its annual Christmas party on Dec. 16, Sunday, at 6767 Cote des Neiges. The party promises to be a lot of fun and surprises for everybody. Santa Claus and a magician will definitely delight the



Spain and Portugal to perform for three weeks."

Last Nov. 7, de la Paz went to Paris and stayed there for ten days to attend a conference in which she represented the Canadian Youth involved in cultural work called Council of International Organization of Folklore Festival.

"Pamana isn't just about dances. It's about training Filipino-Canadian youth and giving them the skill to be reputable and capable leaders in our community. We've lots of dancers that have been with us since they're eleven years old. They're being introduced to people in the government to build their self-confidence, assertiveness and self-assurance. They're successful in their respective jobs, because a large part of it is due to what they learned in Pamana. As an organization, we're teaching the youth of today to take pride in our beautiful culture. People well-versed in culture recognize the uniqueness of Filipino dances."

Although de la Paz has been very busy with Pamana, she still maintains her academic excellence. She just completed her Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Women's Studies from Concordia University. She graduated with distinction in university, college, high school and elementary. She was a finalist in the city-wide Montreal Board of Trade Outstanding Student in high school. She received scholarships from three different institutions upon enrolling at Concordia University. Prior to this, she received a scholarship from the Philippine Benevolent Scholarship Society of Quebec. In addition, she is a recipient of several awards including One of the Most Outstanding Young Filipino-Achievers in North America (Toronto) and Lakandula Award (Montreal). ■

children.

"The party will be an opportune time for us to be with the members of the community, especially the children and the seniors," said Au Osdon, FAMAS president. "We want them to know that we don't forget them. We also want to discuss the projects that we want to do for them starting in January. Perhaps,

Fil-Can Chess and Social Club throws a three-in-one party

By Bernardo Sarmiento

Members and guests of the Fil-Can Chess and Social Club of Montreal had three times the fun when said association threw a party on Friday, November 16, 2012, at 6767 Cote des Neiges Road. The club gave out trophies and medals to the winners of the Team Tournament that ended last November 4, sworn into office its

welcomed everyone to an evening of enjoyment and friendship.

Peter McQueen, councillor for NDG, spoke next praising the association for bringing unity to the community through the game of chess. Councillor McQueen would later help in handing out trophies to the club's best chess players while his assistant,



Councillor Peter McQueen (on the left) officiating the swearing in of the new president, Adolfo Nicolas (on the right) while his assistant Ms. Sujata Dey looks on.

newly-elected president and celebrated the birthdays of those who were born in September, October and November.

After the traditional playing of the Philippine and Canadian national anthems and the usual invocation, Club President Adolfo Nicolas

Ms. Sujata Dey, put medals around the necks of some of them. The Team Tournament was held in memory of its late founding president, Alberto Floresca.

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inviting professionals at the center to discuss health issues or maybe showing Filipino movies at the center once a month are things we can do for them. We just want to hear what else they need."

The idea of holding a Christmas party for the children and seniors was broached by Danny Ganas, officer of the Lions Club, to Osdon. He asked her for the use of the Famas Center because of his plan. Osdon thought Ganas' idea was good but since FAMAS will also beholding a Christmas party at 6767 Cote de Neiges, she suggested that FAMAS, the Lions and other organizations work together for the children and seniors. Ganas gladly agreed. The Pangasiinan Association of Montreal and the Candonians are two of

the associations who immediately agreed to participate in this activity.

Two programs will be held, one for the children in the morning and one for the seniors in the afternoon.

Children and seniors will dance, sing and perform any talent they have. A raffle will be done to determine the lucky winners who will receive gift baskets, courtesy of FAMAS, Lions Club, other associations and volunteers.

"My wish is for the Filipinos to be united not only on Christmas Day but also throughout the year," said Ganas.

For more information, call FAMAS at (514) 341-7477 or Danny Ganas at (514) 738-2034.

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Ama ng Himagsikan at Katipunan (KKK)

Ang Pilipinas ay marangal na ipinagdiriwang ang kapanganakan ni Andres Bonifacio tuwing sasapit ang ika-30 ng Nobyembre. Ito ay pista opisyal sa buong bansa. Ipinanganak si Andres Bonifacio noong 1863 sa Tondo, Maynila. Sina Santiago Bonifacio at Catalina de Castro ang kaniyang ama't ina. Panganay si Andres sa magkakapatid na Ciriaco, Procopio, Troadio, Espiridiona at Maxima.

Labing-apat na taon pa lamang si Andres nang maulila silang anim na magkakapatid at binalikat niya ang kanilang pamumuhay. Napilitan siyang lisanin ang pag-aaral sa mababang paaralan sa ilalim ng patuturo ni Don Guillermo Osmena.

Gumawa sila ng tungkod na kawayan at abanikong papel at itinitinda sa lansangan para may kainin sa araw-araw. Hindi sapat na ikabuhay ang maliit na kinikita kaya napilitang mamasukan si Andres sa Fleming and Co. bilang isang klerk-mensahero. Hindi pa rin sapat ang sahod niya rito kaya't lumipat siya sa malaki-laking *Freshell and Co.*

Ginawang puhunan ni Andres ang mahalagang natutunan niya sa mababang paaralan. Ginamit niya ang halaga ng karunungan dulot ng malawak na pagbabasa para maunawaan ang mga nangyayari sa kaniyang paligid. Sinasabing sa tahanan niya ay makikita ang mga aklat tungkol sa Rebolusyong Pranses. Nandoon din ang *Les Miserables* na sinulat ni Victor Hugo at ang *The Wandering Jew*. Sabihin pang nandoon din ang *Noli Me Tangere* at *El Filibusterismo* ni Dr. Jose P. Rizal. Isinalin din niya sa Tagalog ang tulang *Mi Ultimo Adios* ni Rizal na pinamagatan niyang *Huling Paalam*.

Nagkaroon ng kaalamang pandigmaan si Andres na nagbunsod sa kaniya na itatag ang Katipunan. Bandilang puti na kinasusulatan ng pulang-pulang tatlong titik na KKK ang sagisag ng Kataas-taasan, Kagalang-galangang Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan. Layunin ng samahang ito ang pag-aalsa ng bayan laban sa mahabang panahon ng panankop ng mga Kastila. Itinatag ang Katipunan kasama sina Deodato Arellano, Valentin Diaz, Ladislav Diwa, Jose Dizon at Teodoro Plata noong ika-7 ng Hulyo, 1892 sa 72 Calle Azcarraga (ngayon ay Claro M. Recto).

Kasama sa pakikibaka sa buhay si Gregoria de Jesus, ang naging maybahay ni Andres Bonifacio.

Ipinakita ni Andres and kaniyang tapang sa pamumuno at pakikipagdimaan at tinagurian siyang Ama ng Himagsikan at Ama ng Katipunan.

Matapos mabunyag ang Katipunan ay nagkaroon naman ng hidwaan si Andres Bonifacio at Emilio Aguinaldo sa Cavite. Tila nawalan ng halaga ang mga pagsisikap ni Andres bilang rebolusyonaryo. Pinadakip siya ng Pangulong Aguinaldo para iharap sa isang korte militar. Nahatulan siyang mamatay at binaril sa Maragondon, Cavite sa pamamahala ni Koronel Lazaro



Macapagal noong ika-10 ng Mayo, 1897 kasabay ng kaniyang kapatid na si Procopio

Pechay at Pichu ... sa Pioneer

Pechay: Kuya Pichu, kailan natin ibabalita kay Peras na magkaklase na tayo ngayon?

Pichu: Hoy Pechay, very misleading naman ang salita mong magkaklase. Baka akalain ni Peras ay sa McGill na tayo pumasok.

Pechay: E Sabi ni Twinkle tuwing Biyernes ang pasok natin.

Pichu: Oo nga at ang tawag doon ay Pioneer Class sa simbahan. Kailangang buo ang pagbalita. May natutunan ka ba naman?

Pechay: Natutunan? Ako ang nagturo kung paano ang pagtakip ng ilong kapag umuubo. Hindi ko na sinabi na puwede ring magtakip ng ilong kapag may 'mahogany' sa tabi. Pino naman ako, siyempre.

Peras: Ate Pechay narinig ko ang sinasabi mong 'mahogany.' Ako ba ang pinag-uusapan ninyo? Kapapalit ko lang ng lampin, hoy!

Pichu: Maramdamin ka naman, Peras. Mahal ka namin ng Ate Pechay mo at hindi ka namin maaaring pag-usapan nang nakatalikod. Hindi magandang asal 'yon.

Pechay: Bayaan mo, Peras, mabilis ang takbo ng panahon at aabot ka rin sa klase namin. Sabay-sabay tayong tatlo papasok.



Si Pichu at Pechay kasama ng Lola

Security Discussions at the 2012 Halifax International Security Forum Conclude -

November 18, 2012

HALIFAX, N.S. - The fourth annual Halifax International Security Forum concluded today in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Honourable Peter MacKay, Minister of National Defence, declared the Forum a resounding success.

"Once more, the Halifax Forum has brought the world's top thinkers and decision-makers together on Canadian shores to discuss the issues affecting the security of the world today and in the future," said Minister MacKay. "The Forum's unique format has encouraged dynamic and open debate and improved our understanding of pressing international security challenges."

The three-day event brought together over 300 prominent defence and international security experts and practitioners from around the world to discuss ideas and share insights on important global security challenges. Topics discussed included current trends in international security, the crisis in Syria, the rise of China, dynamics in the Middle East, the impact of technological change on modern warfare, and the special responsibilities of democratic nations.

"Once again, Atlantic Canada and in particular, Halifax, has proven to be an excellent host city for North America's premiere defence and security summit, opening the door for comprehensive discussions and solutions on key issues", said Associate Minister of National Defence and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, the Honourable Bernard Valcourt. "I am confident that the ideas shared this weekend will set the tone and help shape this upcoming year's international security agenda."

This year's international participants included Senators John McCain, Barbara Mikulski, John Barrasso and Mark Udall and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Dr. James N. Miller from the United States, Special Advisor to the President Abdul Rahim Wardak from Afghanistan, Minister of National Defence Juan Carlos Pinzón Bueno from Colombia, Secretary for National Defence and Security Francis Delon from France,

Parliamentary State Secretary for Defence Christian Schmidt from Germany, Deputy Director General for Strategic Affairs Jeremy Issacharoff from Israel, Chief of Defence Staff Major General Antony Anderson from Jamaica, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation General Jean-Paul Paloméros from NATO, State Secretary for Defence Eirik Øvre Thorshaug from Norway, Minister for the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction Mohammed Shtayyeh from the Palestinian Authority, and First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Aleksandar Vučić from Serbia.

During the Forum, Minister MacKay also signed a Defence Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding with Colombia, which will provide a strategic framework for our growing defence relationship.

Furthermore, during a defence bilateral meeting, Minister MacKay took the opportunity to present General Abdul Rahim Wardak, Special Advisor to the President of Afghanistan, with an honorary degree from the Royal Military College of Canada. The honorary degree was awarded to General Wardak for his dedicated cooperation with Canada and for his commitment to building Afghanistan's security forces and supporting its development in the long term.

The Forum was supported by the Government of Canada which, since the Forum's inaugural conference in 2009, has provided approximately \$2.5 million each year in financial support.

-30-

For further information, especially on the Forum's participants, please consult the following background: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/news-nouvelles/news-nouvelles-eng.asp?id=4506>

For more information on the Forum please go to: <http://www.halifaxtheforum.org>.

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Al Abdon

Christmas Shopping

Christmas is just around the corner and in one point you have been pondering whether you are going to replace your old digital camera or worst, your analogue camcorder to a

High Definition camcorder.

With so many camcorder options available, it can be difficult to pinpoint which one rules supreme. Truth be told, the best camcorder out there is the one that's best for you.

For some, the act of shopping is a thrilling experience. For others, the mere thought of the activity is enough to cause an frustration and anxiety in case you made a wrong decision in selecting a camcorder. Regardless of which category you fit in, shopping is inevitable. As a beginner, or even a seasoned videographer, shopping becomes a necessary function since it provides an opportunity to acquire the gear you need to make a video.

Preparation: Knowing Your Budget

If you've attempted to do shopping online, for a video camera you might already know that a simple Google search for "camcorders" will turn up countless retailers, brands, models and price points. The abundant search results can leave some feeling overwhelmed. One way to narrow the results is to figure out your budget ahead of time.

When budgeting for a new camcorder there are several things you may want to take into consideration - for example, the cost of extra batteries, additional memory (i.e. SD or CF cards), and a camcorder bag to keep your new camera protected. Also consider whether your budget is only for a new camcorder, or if other gear such as microphone, tripod, etc. you must have will need to be covered by the same budget this factor alone will make the available funds for a camcorder shrink significantly. If budget is your number one determining factor, the process of

elimination should start here. Take a look at the accompanying buyer's guide grid and cross out the camcorders that exceed your budget. This will reduce the time it takes to research camcorders that will satisfy your needs while fitting within your budget. Additionally, including a price in a Google search (e.g. camcorders under \$500) can help narrow the search results.

Knowing Your Needs

Asking someone which camcorder you should buy can be helpful, but it can also be misleading. Not everyone uses a camcorder in the same way or for the same type of work. For example, someone who makes commercial, corporate or wedding video may suggest a higher-end camera due to the fact that these cameras come equipped with lots external manual controls, which can lend to increased flexibility in a wide range of shooting environments. Indeed, these are great camcorders, but they're not for everyone.

For many beginner videographers and hobbyists, consumer cameras are completely

acceptable to use. They are generally compact, easy to use and have settings that will allow you to shoot in several types of environments. If you're new to making videos, consumer cameras are a great way to learn what you like and what you need in a camcorder without having to invest a lot of money right away.

An important step in finding a camcorder that will suit your needs is to ask yourself, "What is the main purpose of this purchase?" Determining what type of videos you plan to make will help you decide what type of camcorder you will need. If you're looking for a recommendation from someone, ask people who are making the same type of videos you would like to make, whether it's professional or just a fun video to commemorate your favorite pastime. Research: Knowing Your Camcorders Knowing what you're looking for in video equipment is half the battle. Decide what features you absolutely need and which features you'd like, but aren't completely necessary. Make a list. As you look at the accompanying buyer's guide grid you can easily see which cameras have the features you desire. If you come across a camera function you aren't familiar with, research it. Take this opportunity to educate yourself on the gear you will be buying and using.

Reading camcorder reviews can also be helpful since they provide valuable insight to the functionality and real world usability of the video camera you are looking to purchase.

What Features Will Your Budget Allow?

Once you have prepared a budget and list of needs, shopping for

a camcorder should be a much smoother and time-efficient activity. At this point, you should already know what you're looking for. Now you just need to find it. Let's take a look at some of the camcorders that are available.

The Low Budget Range (Less than \$500)

If you have said things like, "I want to find out if I like making videos before I spend a lot of money" or "I don't have a lot of money to spend, but I have a desire to make video as a hobby, then this is probably the price range you will want to look at initially. The Panasonic HCV100MK is a light, intuitive, and powerful camcorder. Using the BSI MOS sensor system and 32.5mm 34X optical zoom lens, it allows for crystal-clear HD video capture in almost any environment. It's also equipped with great features like the POWER O.I.S. image stabilization system, a 2.7-inch LCD display, and Panasonic's iA (intelligent Auto) technology.

It captures beautifully crisp Full HD 1080p video. It has a powerful optical zoom (up to 42x with Intelligent zoom) F1.8, 32.6mm wide angle lens ensures you capture high-quality video in numerous shooting environments. The POWER O.I.S (optical image stabilizer) suppresses hand-shake, ensuring clear, beautiful images across the entire range from wide-angle to telephoto. Approximately 155 minutes of continuous record time per charge. Ultra-compact size is easy to take along with you anywhere. It sell \$299 at the moment at Furtureshop.

The Mid Budget Range (\$500 - \$1,500)

If you have said things like, "I



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|---|--|---|

need a camcorder that will give me better image control, while being moderately priced," this could be a good range to shop in. At this price range, you'll start to find larger image sensors than in the lower-priced camcorders. Additionally, camcorders in this range will tend to have more features allowing for more flexibility. Canon VIXIA HF M52 - \$750 One of the newer camcorders in the Canon VIXIA lineup, the HF M52 comes equipped with 32GB of internal memory and an additional SD/SDHC/SDXC memory card slot. The 1/3-inch CMOS image sensor will help you maintain image quality in a lower light setting than smaller sensors. The HF M52 records 1920x1080/60i video with options to shoot in 30p and 24p, which are great settings for Web video or a more cinematic feel, respectively. And since one of the first steps to a more professional video is professional sound, a plus on this camcorder is the 1/8-inch input with manual controls, and a headphone jack to monitor the incoming signal. Manual control of exposure, as well as a wide range of white balance adjustment is also available.

Panasonic HC-X900M - \$1,200 ?Unlike many similar looking camcorders, the camera contains three 1/4-inch MOS sensors (3MOS). 3MOS allows for better color reproduction at lower light levels, which improves the overall image quality. This camcorder comes equipped with 32GB of internal memory and the option to use SD/SDHC/SDXC memory cards for additional recording time. Video can be recorded at 1920x1080/60p/60i. Manual controls like focus, zoom and exposure settings can be set using a manual ring, much like the higher-end camcorders. The camera features a built-in 5.1ch mic that allows audio to be recorded in surround, zoom and focus. When an external mic is desired, the X900M also provides a stereo 1/8-inch audio input and a headphone port for monitoring.

The More Budget Range (\$1,500 - \$5,000)

If you have said, "I would like to upgrade my existing camcorder, so I can take my videos to the next level" then this is probably the price range you are looking at. Camcorders in this range tend to have features that lean more towards professional equipment. These camcorders will give you more

control over the audio and visual aspects of making videos, as well as features like multiple image sensors, XLR inputs and dual memory card slots.

Sony HXR-NX30U - \$2,300 This camera is compact, yet offers many desirable features. The camera touts 96GB of internal memory with room to expand with an SD card slot, a large 1/2.88-inch CMOS image sensor, two detachable XLR inputs with manual audio controls, and it records 1920x1080/60p video with additional frame rate options including 60p, 60i, 30p and 24p. While the large 3.5-inch LCD monitor is nice, the icing on this cake is the built-in projector that will allow you to shoot-then-show your video by projecting it onto any flat surface for an image size as big as 100 inches diagonal.

JVC GY-HM600 - \$4,700 ?This camera was featured at NAB 2012. This camcorder is great for independent productions as it is still relatively affordable and will give you the control you need to produce professional-looking and sounding video. The HM600 features three 1/3-inch CMOS sensors, three built-in ND filters for added control of exposure, two XLR inputs with phantom power supply along with one input for a wireless receiver and two SDHC/SDXC slots for a dual-backup or continuous recording. It can record in a vast amount of resolutions including 1920x1080/60i/30p/24p, 1440x1080/60i, and 1280x720/60p/30p/24p. It also has several options for media format compatibility including MOV (FCP), MP4 (XDCAM EX) and AVCHD, as well as multiple encoding formats (HD MPEG-2, AVCHD, SD H.264). Video can be output via HD/SD-SDI or HDMI. You can buy these camera on-line or at Lozeau in St. Hubert St in Montreal.

A Match Made in Heaven

At the end of the day, buying a new camcorder is exciting. Once you set a budget and realize your needs, finding a video camera that will help you accomplish your goals should be a snap. Take a look at the accompanying buyer's guide grid - we've already done half of your homework for you. Good luck and happy shopping!

Al Abdon
Hollywood junkies Video

“S” FOR SWIS

by Fely Rosales Carino

The first year of existence of the SENIORS OF WEST ISLAND AND SUBURBS is marked with SUCCESS (S). Not only are the members enjoying the calendar of events, but also enjoying the increase of membership.



The elected officers were (L to R): Sonny Macalanda, Asst. Event Planner; Lucy Salazar, Asst. Auditor; Cely Dagsaan, Auditor; Pina Palma, Asst. Treasurer; Connie Fabro, Treasurer; Lito Catuncan, Vice Chairman; Roger Ajero, Chairman; Fely Bisares, Secretary; Mary Bangalan, Asst. Secretary

The induction of officers for the year 2012-2014 was held at the Tamashi Restaurant in DDO last September 23, 2012. Mr. Rogerio Ajero was re-elected as Chairman. The following officers were also elected. Vice Chairman - Lito Catuncan, Secretary - Fely Bisares, Asst. Secretary - Mary Bangalan, Treasurer - Connie Fabro, Asst. Treasurer - Pina Palma, Auditor - Cely Dagsaan, Asst. Auditor - Lucy Salazar, Asst. Event Planner - Sonny Macalanda.

The inducting officer was Mr. Jim Beis, Division Head of Sports and Recreation of the City of Dollard des Ormeaux. Mr. Beis extended the SWIS a venue, Coolbrook Chalet, for their meetings and social activities.

The first year saw the SWIS members' trip to Gaspé for several days. And the year was dotted with every Wednesday social activities – bingo, karaoke and line dancing. Mrs. Paz Vilorio, one of the advisers, is organizing a bowling tournament. Mr. Roger Ajero is negotiating with Mrs. Caring Tabunlar for Tai Chi and Zumba.

The recent Halloween Party

was held at Coolbrook Chalet last October 31. Everyone came in with authentic costumes. Someone who caught the audience eye was Mr. Greg Guerzon, who was dressed as a soldier and carried a real gun (no bullets perhaps) all night. The winners for the costume contests though were Mrs. Edith Valenzuela (Geisha), first prize; Mrs. Tita Jipos (Arab costume), second

prize; and Mr. Ed Vergara (Flintstone), third prize.

The social evening was dominated by Mr. Benny Bote's karaoke singing (together with some volunteers), his gangnam style dancing and jokes.

One sad note for SWIS members was the untimely passing of Mr. Vito Marcelino, Connie's husband, and one of the very active members of the association -- RIP Vito -- from the membership.

SWIS' next social event will be a Christmas dinner-dance party to be held at Tamashi Restaurant, DDO on December 9; followed by a Children's Christmas Party at Coolbrook Chalet, DDO on December 16.



During the Induction Ceremony held October 28, 2012 at St-Kevin's Church Hall(L-R) Rebecca Losloso, Josie Velasquez, Puring Abeleda, Isabel de la Piedra, Nora Balantac, Estelita Torio, Ruby Capule, Esphe Manaog, Portia Madriaga, Leah Baldeovar, Joe Calugay (behind), Helen Racuya, Claire Boco, Remy Ramos, Delia Daniel, Cherry Palmos, Marilyn de Luna, Wendy Cedilla, Freddie Baculina, Regie Villamor, and the Inducting Officer Rey Balansi. Not in photo:Amparo Vidal, Lucy Piccio & J. dela Paz

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North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Photo taken after the picnic on the grounds of the St. Benoit du Lac Abbey
)Courtesy photo of: Manny Cea)



Gilmore College students and friends at the door to the Abbey of St Benoit du Lac, during their trip on October 20, 2012.



Dominic Minier, a monk at St. Benoit du Lac, poses with the visitors to the Abbey - L to R: Julie Ramos, Zenaida Kharroubi, Armie Tula, and Amalia Edralin.



Fall colors at Magog park cannot be resisted, hence, the girls pose for souvenir



Halloween Party of Ballroom Dance Sport, Thursday, October 25, 2012.



Halloween Party of Edouard Dance Studio, Friday, October 26, 2012.



Souvenir photo of Gilmore College's evening French class taken on November 12, 2012. From left: Joseph Cempron, Siv Er Lim, Solin Pal, Sokun Soy, Zenaida Kharroubi (teacher), Armie Tula, Zenaida Garcia, Remy Amila, Sovy Kouch, and Lynn Solis. (Photo by Edna).



Annabelle Allosso (holding the cake) held her birthday party, November 10, 2012 at the new Academy of Martial Arts on Queen Mary Road. L-R: Terry White, Edith Fedalizo, Sophie Toledo, Chris Bautista, Zeny Kharroubi, and Angelita

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Flores-Vohra made it into the NY Stanford Who's Who Black Book

by W. G. Quiambao

The inclusion of Norma Flores-Vohra in the 2012 edition of Stanford *Who's Who Black Book* is undoubtedly a validation that she is at the top of her game. Stanford *Who's Who* is a social network of selected executives, professionals and entrepreneurs from all over the world. *Who's Who Black Book* is highly coveted and offered only to individuals who complete the Stanford process. It serves not only as a reference and a guide but also as a symbol of achievement and status.

"Believe in yourself, no matter what other people say," said Flores-Vohra. "You must have courage, determination and positive attitude in life to achieve your goals."

Who would expect that a country girl from Callao, Penablanca with big dreams will succeed?

Flores-Vohra dreamed of becoming a nurse but naysayers said she would not make it because of the financial requirement. The second of eight children, her father died when she was just twelve years old. But against all odds, she finished a nursing education at the Far Eastern University and St. Rita College.

In 1966, looking for a greener pasture, she immigrated to Canada and worked as a nurse at Winnipeg General Hospital. She served as a director of the Kayumanggi Filipino Association and a member of the Kayumanggi Dance Troupe in Manitoba. In 1968, she organized the first Miss Philippines-



Manitoba to raise funds for the association.

"Beauty pageants have always fascinated me," she recalled. "My first exposure to beauty pageants was at home because my sisters and nieces had always been involved in it."

She moved to Montreal in the early 70s. While working as an assistant head nurse at the Jewish General Hospital, she took post graduate courses at McGill University. At the same time, she was active in the community. Unknown to many Filipinos in Montreal, she is one of the founding members of FCAWI and the organizer of the first Miss FCAWI pageant. Furthermore, she served as the director of FAMAS. Only

few Filipinos too know that the first Miss Philippines of Montreal is her brainchild. For the first few years, she helped organize the pageant.

In 1984, she left her job at the Jewish General Hospital and became less active in the community to devote her time to her growing family. But her life is destined to be in the world of beauty pageants. In 1997, she became the first FAMAS Mrs. Philippines. That was the beginning of her involvement again in beauty pageants, not only locally but also internationally. She was appointed as the international director of Miss Philippines of the World (Toronto). In 1999, she co-founded the first Miss Global Beauty Queen international pageant in Montreal. The following year, she accompanied Miss Global Canada to Helsinki as part of the Miss Millennium. As a regional director for the Canadian Search for Miss Universe, T-era Productions appointed her as the official chaperon of the Miss Canada- Universe in Puerto Rico during the pageant's 50th anniversary. Currently, she is affiliated with the Miss Earth-Canada pageant.

Flores-Vohra, hailed as the doyenne of beauty pageants in Canada, has earned the respect of not only of the Filipinos but also ethnic groups in Canada who often invite her to judge or grace their pageants. She has served as beauty pageant judge in Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver and New Jersey.

She was featured in the Gazette a few times and in a documentary film entitled *Tiara*. "She is instrumental in reviving the interest of people in Canada, especially Asian women," said Monica Mah, founder of Shohan Production.

In her January 5th letter to Flores-Vohra, Joan Jeanne Hart,

president of N.S.E.W. Canada Pageant Management Strategy (Sudbury, Ont.) wrote: "Congratulations on your effective promotion as Executive Director of the N.S.E.V. Canada Pageant Management Strategy. Your dynamic style as Communication Specialist will be a major asset for that position because of the many years of your repertoire of commitment."

Despite the glamour and glitter of beauty pageants, Flores-Vohra has kept her feet on the ground and found time to volunteer for the community. For example, she organized activities for the seniors, like fashion shows at the Maimonides Hospital before retiring. Presently, she is one of the founders of the Philippine Center Foundation of Greater Montreal.

Flores-Vohra's efforts to promote beauty pageants, work at the hospital and services to the community brought her plaques of recognition from the Bb.Pilipinas of the World (Toronto) for being one of the Outstanding Filipino-Canadians, T-era Productions (Toronto), Canadian Search for Miss Universe (Edmonton); Kayumanggi Filipino Association (Manitoba); Knights of Rizal (Vancouver); Maimonides Hospital (the first Prix Meirelle Ducois Award in recognition of an exceptional nurse committed to nursing excellence). She also received Certificates of Appreciation from various Filipino groups and associations including FAMAS and Philbecan.

Flores-Vohra is married to Satish, an engineer, and has two children who are both professionals in their respective fields..

"I'm pleased to have the kind of life I'm enjoying," said Flores-Vohra. ■

Rotrand celebrates award from the Black Coalition of Quebec and 30th anniversary as councillor

By W. G. Quiambao

Snowdon Councillor Marvin Rotrand has every reason to celebrate the past two months. Last October 20, the Black Coalition honored him with Mathieu da Costa Prize at a hall in Pare St. He was honoured for his commitment to social justice and his efforts to foster social equality.

Then, on Nov. 14, Rotrand, believed to be one of the longest serving councillor in Montreal, marked his 30th year as a councillor by renting a movie theatre at Plaza Cote des Neiges for a private screening of "Skyfall" and inviting his friends and supporters to watch the movie.

"It's a milestone that a few elected people have in any level of the government, especially municipal," said Rotrand. "It's certainly an indication that I'm close to people. I know my constituents for a long, long time."

Rotrand, who holds two degrees (Bachelor of Arts, major in History from Sir George Williams University and a Bachelor of Education from McGill University), was approached several times in 1974 to run for councillor in Cote des Neiges. Although his staunch supporters promised to support him, he refused to accept the offer. He was only twenty three years old and he had other priorities. As a teacher, he wanted to establish his career and improve the system of education.



In 1978, however, he was approached again to serve as a volunteer for the party. He agreed with the condition that he would do the job only for a year. But during that time, he felt and saw something wasn't right. For example, ordinary citizens didn't have the ability to participate in public consultations. It didn't exist then, unlike now. Citizens had no influence in decision making. councillor had to know the experience of the citizens on a day-to-day basis.

"I found out that questions of many people were being taken for granted," said Rotrand.

He was first elected in 1982 with Montreal Citizens. His focus as a councillor from the very first day was to make sure people were included in the decision making. He wanted the people

to have an equal opportunity for social housing and a job, and make sure their complaints with the police were heard.

"Most people didn't want to go to the city hall," said Rotrand. "They wanted to go to their neighbourhood. I was the first to give them that chance."

Furthermore, Rotrand was able to articulate the concerns of the citizens. "I was able to put into effect the hiring of minorities," said Rotrand. "I was able to work with minorities and Quebec ethics committee. I made sure people had a right to have and promote dialogue."

In 2002, he became the vice president of Montreal Transit Corporation, then president of its finance committee and its customer service committee. Since becoming the vice president of the transit commission, significant accomplishments have happened.

"We're able to rebuild the city of Montreal, keep fares affordable, boost ridership, get rid of older vehicles and replace them with new ones," said Rotrand.

"When I ask people why they take public transportation now, they tell me that the services have improved. It's nice to hear that."

"Our future plans include making bus quicker, buying cars that consume less fuel and installing special traffic signals. We also want to boost our ridership to 540 million rides annually."

Meanwhile, Rotrand explained the challenges like economic development, linguistic squabbles and promotion of harmony, that his party faced. Another one is welcoming minority groups to Montreal. "We want to make sure that people coming from other groups are welcomed and able to participate. They can ask questions if they want. Another problem is bringing the minorities into power. So far, we're successful in attracting minorities because we believe in diversity. For example, we work with the Philippine Embassy. We support FAMAS, Pista sa Nayon, Independence Day. We had the bust of Dr. Rizal installed at the McKenzie King Park."

"I used to be a history teacher," continued Rotrand. "I was always interested in struggles against colonialism. Rizal is ahead of his time. He believed in equality. He was always a hero to me. He talked about equality."

Rotrand has no plan to retire soon.

"People ask me if it's hard to be a councillor. I say it's easy to work nine days a week," Rotrand cracked a joke. "Seriously, my wife tells me that I no longer have privacy. For me, it doesn't matter. What's good is that I enjoy the job. I'm being able to promote things that I like, say minority hiring, I'm able to do the things I like best and I'm able to make new friends." ■

Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Pata Tim (Pork Hock)



Pata Tim Ingredients:

- 1 kilo pork's leg (pata); cut in chunks
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 onion; chopped
- 1 tablespoon garlic; minced
- 1 tomato; chopped
- 2 tablespoon banana blossoms
- 1 tablespoon star anise
- 1 can tomato sauce
- Cooking oil

Broth
Pata Tim Cooking Instructions:

In a saucepan, brown pork pata in oil, then add the garlic, onion, and tomatoes. Stir fry for 3 minutes, then add the broth to cover, soy sauce, and sugar. Cover and simmer until the pork is tender. When little sauce is left, add the tomato sauce. Simmer for few minutes until sauce thickens. Season with salt, pepper, and oyster sauce to taste. Drop the banana blossoms and star anise. Cook until done are done and serve.



Filipino Beef Adobo with Coconut Milk

Ingredients for Filipino Beef Adobo

- 3 lbs chuck (stewing beef, cubed)
- 3/4 cup white vinegar
- 1 head garlic (peeled and crushed)
- 12 cup soy sauce
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 1/2 tbsps black peppercorns
- 1 tbsp black pepper (fresh ground)
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 4 tbsps vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp salt (patis)
- 12 ozs canned coconut milk

Preparation

- In a large pot combine the first 8 ingredients: beef, vinegar, garlic, soy sauce, bay leaves, peppercorns, ground pepper and sugar.
- Let stand for 2 hours (traditional method is room temperature, I put in in the refrigerator).
- Bring mixture to a boil then simmer about an hour or until the meat is tender.
- Heat oil in a large skillet. Use a slotted spoon to spoon out garlic from beef mixture. Add garlic to skillet and cook until brown. Use slotted spoon to add the beef to the skillet with garlic and continue to cook, stirring, until it is browned on all sides.
- Add salt or patis to taste and the coconut milk. Add the sauce from the pot that the beef simmered in. Cook for 5 more minutes.
- Good served with rice.

- calamansi
- carrots – 2 medium-sized; cut into strips
- chicken bouillon cubes – 2 pieces
- chicken meat – 1 cup; cooked and shredded
- chicken stock or water – 1 cup
- cooking oil – 4 tablespoons
- garlic – 1 cloves; minced
- onion – 1 medium-sized; chopped
- oyster sauce – 2 tablespoons
- pork – 1/2 cup; cooked and sliced into small cubes
- red bell pepper – 1 small-sized; chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- snow peas – 1/2 cup
- sotanghon – 1 big pack
- soy sauce – 2 tablespoons
- spring onions – 1 bunch; cut into one-inch parts

Steps for Cooking Pancit Sotanghon

- In a large pot, pour in chicken broth. Simmer.
- Place the noodles in the simmering chicken broth for 10 minutes.
- Drain the noodles and save the chicken broth.
- Set aside the noodles and the broth. In a pan, pour in cooking oil. Heat. Sauté garlic and onions.
- Place pork and chicken. Cook. Add snow peas. Stir fry.
- Add bell pepper, cabbage, and red bell pepper. Cook.
- Set aside everything that is in the pan.
- In a pot, pour in chicken broth. Boil. Put in chicken bouillon cubes. Stir. Add cooked noodles. Stir.
- Add salt and pepper to taste.
- Pour in soy sauce.
- Add in oyster sauce.
- Simmer everything for a few minutes. Mix everything thoroughly.
- Place the cooked noodles on a large platter.
- Garnish with green onions and serve with calamansi.



Sotanghon Guisado

4 Good Things to Remember When Cooking Pancit Sotanghon

A good rule that clever Filipinos follow when cooking pancit sotanghon is to cook the noodles in rich chicken broth, extracted from flavorful whole chicken with bones. They avoid cooking sotanghon in plain water, where it would likely stay bland and unappetizing to the palate.

To add a bit of color to the otherwise transparent sotanghon noodles, it would also be good to use annatto water that is made by soaking annatto seeds in water for about 20 minutes and then removing the seeds. Annatto will give the sotanghon a brownish and reddish shade without altering its original taste.

Also, adding in lots of, not a little of, minced garlic can make the flavor of the dish really rich. The garlicky flavor goes very well with the sour taste of calamansi, which is used to flavor the dish shortly before serving.

Pancit Sotanghon is also cooked with its signature tenga ng daga or wood ears, mushroom-like edible fungus that is generally small in size and a shape like that of a mouse's ears.

- Ingredients for Cooking Pancit Sotanghon
- cabbage – 5 leaves; chopped



Filipino Dessert Biko (Glutinous Rice)

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

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FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Anne Curtis spreads wings, set to embark on world tour



Don't look now but Anne Curtis is about to regale the world with her singing.

The actress-TV host, who discovered her singing abilities late last year via several brave outings in the hit noontime show "It's Showtime," is kicking off a world tour starting with a live performance at Chater Garden in Hong Kong on Sunday.

concert schedules, Curtis maintained that "there are inquiries as early as now for next year from [other cities] abroad."

Curtis went on to thank her fans for their continued support, which allowed her to establish herself as a bankable performer of note, particularly with her debut album released in September last year already certified platinum.



Curtis is no doubt thrilled over the new development in her career.

"I don't know how long this is going to be, but I'm just so happy," she told ABS-CBN News recently. "I just feel really, really blessed."



According to the actress, the concert is an offshoot of her first solo concert, "Annebisysa" held at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in January this year, which proved to be a hit.

The concert was followed by several others held in Davao, Cebu, Iloilo and Baguio.

Though hesitant to bare future



Anne is considered one of the more bankable actresses of her generation

"The year 2011 was already an amazing year. But this year, 2012, is even better," she said.

With her numerous high-profile endorsements, blockbuster movies, a successful TV show and a Hollywood film underway, the actress said that she just couldn't "wish for anything else."

"Because it'll be super selfish," she explained. "Of course I still have goals and dreams that I want to pursue, but I don't want to wish for it."

Not that she's about to rest on her laurels.

"I'll [continue to] make it happen by myself [through hard work]," she said. ■

Alyssa Alano now recuperating at home



KC in Paris with her French boyfriend

It looks like KC Concepcion's French suitor has been going the extra mile to win her heart.

During the TV host-actress' recent European vacation, French filmmaker and photographer Pierre Emmanuel Plassart joined KC in Italy for dinner.

"He was kind enough to come for a dinner sa Italy...," she told "The Buzz" on Nov. 19.

An apparent proof that she had spent some quality time with her ardent admirer was a photo collage of a group dinner which she posted on Instagram three weeks ago. Pierre is seen all smiles beside KC in the bottom-right photo.

"Night out with FRIENDS in Paris, OLD & NEW! Discovered restaurants Verjus & Hotel Amour + nice drinks at Le Fumoir," the caption read.

Pierre and KC also visited the Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome with her aunt Ciara Sotto and husband Jojo Oconer, as seen on Ciara's Instagram post two weeks ago.

KC has nothing but positive words

for Pierre.

"Napakabait na tao. Talagang nagpu-pursue siya and hindi ko akalaing may isang taong puwedeng mag-pursue nang ganun," said she.

Although she seems delighted with the current state of her personal life, KC would rather not comment on queries about meeting Pierre's family.

"Ayaw ko na po muna pag-usapan 'yung love life. Gusto ko pong i-keep muna ito at i-enjoy muna mag-isa, well hindi naman mag-isa pero ishe-share ko rin naman sa inyo," she said.



KC posted this Instagram photo collage of her 'night out' with friends and Pierre

As for her mother Sharon Cuneta's fondness for Pierre, KC related, "Yung nanay naman usually kapag masaya 'yung anak, mas masaya sila. Kapag malungkot 'yung anak, mas malungkot pa sila." ■

Diet did not do Regine in



Regine Velasquez said it was when she stopped dieting that she became more prone to viral attacks

Right after news spread that singer Regine Velasquez had cut short her 25th anniversary "Silver" concert due to illness, some have speculated that her immune system must have suffered from the diet she was on prior to the weeks leading to the show last Nov. 16.

But in a report aired on "24 Oras" Nov 20, the songbird said it was when she stopped dieting that she became more prone to viral attacks.

"Tsaka ako na-hit nung virus talaga. I should have continued with the diet," said she who had lost a lot of weight after giving birth a year ago.

Nutritionist Nadine Tengco bolstered Regine's theory, saying that the diet the singer was on actually gave her high quality nutrients that could only have made her stronger and more energetic.

"Pero wala po tayong laban sa virus," said Nadine, referring to the viral infection in the throat that Regine contracted.

Regine is still recuperating from illness as of this writing. She shared in a hoarse voice that her doctor advised her to have "complete voice rest."

"Right now I'm really just concentrating on getting well kasi 'yung body ko 'yung tinamaan, hindi lang naman 'yung boses ko eh so I'm concentrating on getting well," the singer said.

A this point, Regine still can't say when she'll hold the free concert she promised after what happened at "Silver."

"Wala pa kasi inaayos pa lahat, siyempre yung availability ng lahat ng mga involve. Kasi siyempre hindi lang naman ako..."

She also pointed out in the interview that though many who were involved in "Silver" had pledged their services for free when the concert is restaged, it still would mean dipping into her pocket.

"Kasi syempre it's a free concert so meron, like the orchestra, hindi mo naman puwedeng ilibre 'yun. The suppliers, the sound system...I mean, marami ka nang mase-save pero mayroon ka pa rin malaking gagastusin." ■

Gerald Anderson on his love affair... with cars



Gerald purchased his Dodge Charger RT a year after 'Tayong Dalawa' concluded

Gerald Anderson's perseverance and hard work have enabled him to fulfill many of his dreams including collecting cars.

At age 23, the actor already has five cars in his collection, one of which is a posh white Dodge Charger RT. He purchased it years back after the success of his drama series with Kim Chiu and Jake Cuenca, "Tayong Dalawa." He even had its license plate customized to "BOK," his and Jake's nickname on the show.

"It's a four-door sedan kasi kapag lumalabas ako kasama ko 'yung friends ko... kasya kaming lahat," he was quoted as saying in an abs-cbnNEWS.com report.

The cost of the vehicle, which he calls his "fun car," is the same as some house and lot properties: P3.2 million.

It's not surprising, then, to see how much Gerald takes care of his car, tending to it like a baby.

"Dapat lagi chine-check 'yan lalo na kapag galing sa long drive, dapat ipapa-change oil. Ang sarap din kasing alagaan ng mga kotse kasi pinaghirapan ko ang mga 'to eh," said he.

He has loved cars even as a kid, often telling his parents that he wanted to buy a car every time he would see one. His father taught him how to drive at age 14.



Gerald's Dodge Charger RT

"Yung family car pa namin iyon na SUV na manual pa. Buti nga na natuto ako sa manual muna kasi naging mas madali," he said.

So, does a posh car grant him additional "pogi points"?

Chuckling, Gerald said, "Okay lang. Ang sarap i-drive eh." ■

Derek Ramsay offers reward for missing dogs



Friend posts photos of Derek's pets on Twitter

Hunk actor Derek Ramsay has turned to Twitter to ask for help in finding his two dogs.

"I will give reward for my dogs to be returned. Pls pls pls. I love my dogs very much," Derek tweeted Monday, Nov. 12.

"Pls pls pls help me guys. My dogs beyonce and lowfat are missing," he said, offering netizens an idea where his dogs could have wandered.

"They got lost in la posada village. Pls if anyone in the area knows where they pls tweet me. :("

He then went on to describe his missing dogs.

"Beyonce is a English bulldog and lowfat is a pom (Pomeranian). My dogs are trained and always come home. I have searched the entire village and I still can't find them." ■

"Pls if anyone has seen my dogs pls inform me. :(tnx guys," he said.

To give the public an idea on what his missing dogs look like, the Kapatid star posted photos of Beyonce and Lowfat.

Other friends also posted the dogs' photos on their account. Even Mo Twister has said on Twitter that they had made an announcement about the model/actor's missing pets on their online radio show, "Good Times," which also airs on Magic 89.9 WTM.

"Thanks so much for your help guys. My dogs mean so [much] to me. I really hope they will be returned," the actor said, hoping that by calling out to his Twitter followers, his canine pets will be returned by a Good Samaritan.

Dingdong more about getting 'appreciation' than award



Actor Dingdong Dantes is more concerned on how people would appreciate his role in the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) entry "One More Try" than nabbing another Best Actor trophy as in last year's "Segunda Mano."

"Ako kasi, ang ine-aim ko lang, sana mapanood ito ng mga tao... 'yung kung sino talaga ang target namin na gustong makapanood nito," he said in a report on ABS CBN News.

"One More Try" is described as an adult-themed romantic drama.

Aside from Dantes, it features Angelica Panganiban, Angel Locsin and Zanjoe Marudo.

In a separate interview, Locsin revealed that she considers her love scenes with Dantes in the movie her most "daring" yet. But Dantes somewhat downplayed the notion, describing the scenes simply as "okay."

"Magaling ang interpretation ni Direk Ruel Bayani at nandoon naman ang tiwala namin sa kanya. [But] more than daring, kumbaga, it is [all about] 'yung morality [of the

characters]...nothing physical."

He added that, "Gaya nga ng sabi ko, kung anuman ang interpretation ng manonood eh, salamat." ■

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP continued p.18

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17*

Christian proud to be known as 31-year-old virgin



Christian Bautista

Wearing the "31-year-old virgin" tag more as a badge of honor than a coat of shame, Christian Bautista has directly said he has not done "the deed" just yet.

In a recent interview, however, Bautista dodged the question about his virginity. He dismissed rumor that he and girlfriend Carla Dunareanu live under one roof.

"Hindi po kami nagli-live in.

Sharon and Kris on good terms after parody interview glitch



Sharon and Kris quickly put the issue behind them by talking about... carrot cakes!

Veteran stars Sharon Cuneta and Kris Aquino have cleared the air between them following the former's not-so-pleasant comment on an online interview featuring the latter's parody Krissy.

The Megastar related via Twitter, Nov. 14, that she's "glad that Kris & I are ok na with the misunderstanding."

"Sana peace na lahat," she added.

The Queen of All Media, meanwhile, expressed her gratitude to Sharon. As apparent proof that they've laid the issue to rest, she added, "Will look forward to the carrot cake!"

"Thanks, Kris! I'm following you na! I'll send the cake to you sooner than Christmas since I'm making a couple for the Gomezes! Take care!:" read Sharon's reply.

In a seeming attempt to thrust the two into online hostility, Sharon was earlier sent a screenshot of a part of Krissy's interview with popular humor blogger Professional Heckler, posted

We're separate..." said he in an interview with PEP.

Despite being of age, the international singing sensation maintained that it's his "personal conviction" not to succumb to the seeming trend of couples living-in prior to tying the knot.

"For me, I believe na mas okay kung hindi muna i-blur yung line by living together. I think it's better to grow apart and then grow together in a different setting," the "ASAP XV" mainstay said.

If they're not living together, where does the Romanian-Chinese actress-TV stay?

"She's in Manila. Of course I can't say kung saang condo. Pero malapit sa pinagtrabahuan niya."

Christian's "The Kitchen Musical" co-star has decided to try her luck in the country. She works as a deejay of Magic 89.9.

When does he plan to marry his girlfriend?

"Dati kasi, sabi ko thirty. Thirty-one na ako, so i-reset naman uli natin sa thirty-three," he replied. ■

Nov. 9 on his website. The latter brought up Sharon's controversial tweets, to which Krissy replied, "I don't follow her."

"Ayokong ma-stress aha-ha-ha But I follow KC," she added, referring to Mega's daughter, KC Concepcion.

Sharon then directed to a follower, "Yaan na natin. Di ko rin naman sya finafollow ever. Sasakit ang ulo ko."

She was eventually enlightened on the matter by Kris herself via text message.

Apparently, Kris was already aware of the parody interview, as seen in this tweet to a netizen:

"I don't understand y u want to create animosity? It was the parody 'krissy' who commented about @sharon_cuneta12," she wrote.

In light of what happened, Sharon, who already had more than a handful of nasty experiences on Twitter, has learned "another important lesson."

"We should really be careful who we believe here on Twitter. There are lots of people pretending to be us artistas, & we should make sure that we know who's talking before we react, especially if what we read hurts us. Sorry about that, Kris. And sorry, everyone. Thanks!" she posted.

Professional Heckler (Loi Reyes Landicho in real life) also clarified via the social networking site that he "did NOT interview Ms Kris Aquino!"

"Sana lang bago magsumbong sa mga idolo n'yo, magbasa at unawain muna. Been doing KRISSEY interviews for 5 years. Ngayon lang ako nag-explain!" he added. ■

Willie Revillame sets 'last day' on show



Willie has managed to keep away from intrigues these past several months

Where is Willie off to this time?

Leaving many hanging with a promise of a mystery announcement soon, this is one of the many questions in people's minds now with Revillame's puzzling statement Tuesday night on the TV5 program "Wil Time Bigtime" regarding his future plans and the fate of the show.

Come Jan. 5, 2013, Willie said, "Mag-a-announce na ho ako ng desisyon ko sa buhay kung ako'y magtutuloy pa sa programang ito."

"Kung walang ganito, kung walang programa, sa'n kayo pupunta? Pumunta kayo sa mga ibang programa na matutulungan kayo... Abangan n'yo," he noted.

While some thought him to be joking, the veteran entertainer proved

that he wasn't when he asked the "Wil Time Bigtime" performers and staff members to begin scouting for another work.

He has already sought blessing from the TV5 management, and according to Willie, they respect his decision.

Curiously, at one point, he referred to Jan. 5 as his "last day."

"Talagang i-a-announce ko na kung ano ang gusto kong gawin," he stressed.

Willie opted to give a teaser of sorts of his grand announcement as early as now because "ayoko ko kayong biglain."

"Basta magmula ngayon, enjoy lang tayo. Kalimutan niyo muna 'yan," he related, adding, "Hindi ko alam kung aabutin pa ako ng January 5."

The entertainment and the prizes will remain a-plenty for the Christmas season, Willie nevertheless assured.

Willie was one of the big shot talents who transferred to TV5 two years ago following his high-profile, legal battle-preceded exit from ABS-CBN network, where he hosted one of its most successful yet controversial variety-game shows, "Wowowee."

His first TV5 show, "Willing Willie," was launched on Oct. 2010, but was eventually reformatted to "Wil Time Bigtime" in May 2011 after it drew criticisms and legal complaints for the alleged maltreatment of a 12-year-old boy who participated in one of its segments. ■

J Lo greets pinoy fan on air



Jennifer Lopez enjoyed resurgence in popularity when she became a judge on US talent search 'American Idol'

International singer Jennifer Lopez has brightened up the day of one of her Filipino fans by mentioning his name during a radio broadcast abroad.

"Ok, first, hi to you Von Jorelle, hope that's how you say it..." said J Lo as reported by "24 Oras," Nov 14. The complete name of the fan is Von Jorelle Castaño, a digital marketing officer. He sent the request to J Lo on February 2011.

"Like inabangan ko talaga siya, madaling araw dito around 2 o'clock ng madaling araw, so parang meron lang dun, ah, you just type your message, anong gusto mong sabihin kay J Lo and possibly ikaw yung mapili niya, basahin niya. So very fortunate naman na parang, I think pangatlong

question that was, for a star para batiin ka, overwhelming talaga," he gushed without specifying if J Lo's greeting was recent or around the time he sent the message.

The Pinoy fan is all agog over J Lo's upcoming concert in the country. He has already bought two tickets for the most expensive section at the venue, pegged at about P26,000 a piece.

"Since 1999, I've been waiting for her," he said.

Von's collection of J Lo memorabilia dates back from as early as year 2000. Posters, perfume, CDs, magazine articles about J Lo---Von has them all.

And Von's message to his idol?

"Hi Jennifer, I hope to meet you in person. You don't know how inspiring you are to me. Thank you for being a blessing to everyone."

Some of Jennifer Lopez's biggest hits are "Waiting For Tonight," "If You Had My Love," "All I Have," "On The Floor" and "Dance Again." J Lo enjoyed resurgence in popularity when she became a judge on US talent search, "American Idol."

Jennifer Lopez enjoyed resurgence in popularity when she became a judge on US talent search 'American Idol'. ■

Ogie recalls panic, pain over Regine's ordeal



Ogie Alcasid cried with Regine when he heard her rehearsing with a hoarse voice inside a comfort room

The press conference held Nov. 20 was tendered for the release of Ogie Alcasid's latest album that marks the start of the celebration of his 25th year in show business. But it was the first time he faced media after his wife, singer Regine Velasquez, cut short her concert last Friday due to illness so it

wasn't surprising that Ogie found himself talking about the incident as soon as the question and answer portion opened.

"The ordeal was most difficult the night before and when we woke up on the day of the concert. Nung gabi, when she fell ill, nagtext siya [Regine] sa kin 'Hon, wala akong boses.'

"So sabi ko, 'Magdasal na lang tayo.' Sold out na kasi ang mga tickets so madaming madisappoint. 'Hindi bukas lalabas ito [voice],' sabi ni Regine. Pero tumawag na din ako ng doctor that night.

"The next day, yun nga, wala pa ding lumalabas. I called up Cacai [Regine's sister in charge of the concert] to give her a heads up about the situation. Then punta ulit kami sa doctor to get advice. Pinakita niya sa amin using a machine na puno talaga ng mucus ang vocal cords.

"Pero sabi nga ng doctor, mahirap magdesisyon about the concert kasi nga ang economic ramifications of canceling ay malaki. Si Regine na ang nagsabi, 'Tuloy na natin yung concert [for the fans].' But I was so scared."

Ogie said that whenever his and Regine's eyes would meet that day,

she had that look as if pleading, "Can you do something about this?" In the afternoon, Ogie heard Regine trying to rehearse the song "Shine" inside a comfort room but she just couldn't hit the high notes. Regine was crying and so was Ogie.

"But when I saw her about to mount the stage that night, dun ko na



Regine Velasquez

napansin na she was floating, that she was going to be OK. I think sa nangyari, dapat natin siyang palakpakan. I am proud of Regine."

Pending doctor's clearance, it is said that the repeat of "Silver" is tentatively set on Dec. 8 at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Only the Biggest and Brightest

Ogie is also proud of his new release that features the country's top singers breathing new life into some of his best compositions. Apparently, Universal Records spent no effort or expense in getting only the most accomplished singers even those from other labels. These include Martin Nievera ("Pangako"), Gary Valenciano ("Kailangan Kita"), Kyla ("Why Don't We Give Up"), Sarah Geronimo ("Tanging Ikaw Lamang"), Angeline Quinto ("Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka"), and Arnel Pineda ("Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw"), among others.

"The Singer and the Hitmakers" also has a duet between Regine and Ogie titled "Tayong Dalawa."

Asked what his most important achievements are so far, Ogie cited the time he first won as Entertainer of the Year at the Aliw Awards. He would win the same many times over until he became a hall of famer.

The singer-songwriter is also proud of his Gold and Platinum awards, saying that these indicate fans' approval of his music. ■

Angelica Stuns Twitterverse with revelations on split with Derek

Apparently fed up with the malicious intrigues that have continuously hounded her months-ago breakup with Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban took to Twitter on Tuesday to set the record straight on some issues.

The ever-candid Kapamilya actress launched a Twitter press conference of sorts, urging her over two million followers to ask her anything because "pagod na pagod na kong manahimik!!!!"

From more than a dozen of her responses, here's Angelica's side of the story:

The "real reason" of the breakup—which was reported in May—was "Napagod na ko magtiis." It was Angelica who initiated the split, and has no regrets leaving behind the six-year relationship she had with the hunk actor.

Contrary to Derek's earlier statement that he has communicated with Angelica via email, the latter maintained that they "never" talked after the breakup.

"Ayoko," Angelica added.

As expected, there were a lot of queries on whether her current boyfriend, John Lloyd Cruz, had anything to do with the separation. "Malayo," was her terse response.

But was there a third party? Ever playful, Angelica responded, "6th party."

If she had any insufficiency during her relationship with Derek, it was, according to Angelica, "respeto sa sarili."

Asked if Derek was "treating you like alalay, taga prepare all of his stuff," Angelica responded, "Ok naman yun dati."

The 26-year-old Angelica answered in the affirmative when asked if Derek did not like her gay friends.

Her ex-Fil-British boyfriend also supposedly did not inform her of his decision to transfer to TV5.

"Nagulat na lang ako nasa 5 na sya," Angelica said.

Angelica reserved answering questions about Derek's alleged marriage to another woman and alleged unfaithfulness, tagging them as "pang the buzz." She's likewise mum on whether her former flame had purportedly said "nasty things" to her mother.

Curiously, though, she responded "Ex?" when asked, "db may ex wife sya.. Naging issue ba talaga yun sa nyo?"

A netizen argued, "...knowing u know he was married so why speak bout it now when u were ok with it," to which Angelica admitted, "hindi ko alam yun :) uso kasi gulatan noon :)."

Last year, news broke that Derek purportedly married a certain Mary



According to Angelica, she 'never' talked to Derek post-split

Christine Jolly, a Filipino-Indian model, about a decade ago. The Kapatid star maintained then that it's "over and done with."

On whether she's willing to get back with Derek if he has his supposed marriage annulled, Angelica said "Haha! hindi :)"

Another one of her intriguing responses was to fellow actress Michelle Madrigal's question, "pwede na po ba tayo maging friends now na waley na kayo no kuya??? Chos!!"

"Puwede na :) at si @heart021485

(Heart Evangelista)," said Angelica.

The flood on Angelica's Twitter timeline was seemingly fueled by a recent blind item which many believe is about her, Derek, John Lloyd, and his ex-GF Shaina Magdayao. Angelica refuted the alleged confrontation between her and Shaina which was mentioned in the said item, maintaining, "Never. Desenteng tao si Shaina."

"Halos mamatay na ko kakatrabaho.. Dudumihan nyo lang pangalan ko?" she lamented.

In spite of the seeming drama, Angelica still knows how to poke fun at herself, make light of the situation.

"Pupusta ko ang nakalagay sa headline sakin 'angelica,d maka move on' or 'angelica, bitter' naks! #sanabukas haha!" she posted.

She turned quite serious, however, in this tweet: "Ayuuun... Nagsumbong na.. Sumasagot lang naman ako ng mga tanong nyo diba? Lahat naman ng ito may warning noon pa :) ayaw nyong tumigil."

Her parting words were, "Sana napasaya ko kayo sa the buzz on a tuesday ko. :) 9months na ang nakalipas. Wag na kayong manira at makisakay. Nang hindi ako magsalita."

Meanwhile, Derek has not issued a statement on this development as of this writing. ■



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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.17***Village People performs In Manila****The Village People**

Beginning their 35th year as the "kings of disco," Village People performs on Nov. 17 at SMX Convention Center.

The band, in recent years, performed a full schedule of fairs, festivals, universities and casinos throughout the United States as well as Canada, Brazil, France, Japan, Finland, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Romania, Australia, Mexico and Poland and now, they happily return to the South Africa.

Selling more than 100 million recordings, Village People were an

instant phenomenon in the '70s and '80s with hits "San Francisco/In Hollywood," "Macho Man," "YMCA," "In The Navy," "Go West" and more.

Village People are Ray Simpson (Cop & lead singer), Alexander Briley (G.I./Military), Felipe Rose (Native American Indian), David Hodo (Construction Worker), Jeff Olson (Cowboy) and Eric Anzalone (Biker).

Village People are on the Internet at www.officialvillagepeople.com, and Facebook (officialvillagepeople).

Tickets are now available at Ticket World and SM Tickets. ■

Nora deserves better TV projects

TV5 has not been using Nora Aunor's ample gifts as an actress wisely.

Nora has been wasting away in useless roles thrown her way at kapatid network shows such as the part she plays in the now-showing "Enchanted Garden." Previous to this, the superstar guested back-to-back in TV5 programs "Untold Stories" and "Third Eye." Both featured run-of-the-mill material that did not do justice to Aunor's thespic talents.

Now comes the even more disenchanting news: Nora's featured role in "Enchanted Garden." Any actress worth her salt-and-pepper hair can do the part of Nana Sela, whose inspiration might have been either character actresses Naty Santiago or Naty Mallares from those golden days of Sampaguita Pictures.

Worse, Nora is pictured in an unflattering Augustinian monk-like costume when she could have been portrayed as the queen of the forest. A more discerning design

department surely could have done something to her wardrobe.

TV5 can probably just come up with occasional TV drama specials wherein Aunor's gifts as an actress can be better and fully tapped. The network's drama producers are encouraged to look into memorable periods in Philippine history or dive into the wealth of unfiled stories culled from Philippine literature, past and present.

These specials can air perhaps quarterly or just in time for Philippine celebrations, such as Christmas, New Year, Valentine, Easter, Independence Day, whatever.

I understand that in the absence of a regular series that can pose a threat to ratings, TV5 has to use Nora in its productions as part of her contract package. These projects, however, have to be judiciously thought out and presented in a manner befitting Aunor as the most widely known and decorated Philippine actress worldwide. ■

Bea and Zanjoe discover more about each other's quirks on set**Bea Alonzo**

Working on their first full-length movie together has been a fun experience for couple Bea Alonzo and Zanjoe Marudo.

Initially, Bea revealed she was hesitant to act opposite her beau in "24/7 In Love."

"Noong narinig ko lang na magkakatrabaho kami, noong una ay kinakabahan ako. Parang naisip ko baka mailang ako," Bea shared during the press conference of the movie.

While filming, though, Bea started to enjoy the experience. "Noong nandoon ako ay wala naman [akong naramdamang ganoon]. Natuwa pa nga ako kasi meron kaming limang araw na magkasama buong araw," she shared.

"Parang ang sarap din pala na somehow ay katrabaho mo 'yung boyfriend mo tapos wala kayong issue kasi ang tagal naming hindi nakikita ang isa't-isa. Kasi noong time na 'yon ay kakagawa ko lang ng 'The Mistress.' Ang sarap ng lagi ko siyang kasama," said she.

Zanjoe, on the other hand, felt it was quite a challenge to act out a scene with his real-life love. What's even more challenging is that, in the movie, he plays a gender-bender.

"Habang inaaral ko 'yung character, dagdag pa 'yung kasama ko si Bea, ay medyo nagkaroon ng konting problema sa umpisa," Zanjoe revealed.

"Actually, yun pong mga unang araw namin hindi ko alam kung ano ang gagawin ko," he said. Later, he admitted that he took inspiration from up close,

as "doon po sa set [ay] maraming bakla," even citing Bea's make-up artist as among his many pegs for the role.

Discoveries

The two may already know a lot about each other, but working together led to a few more discoveries. Bea, for one, learned that her boyfriend sweats a lot.

"Pawisin pala siya 'pag eksena na niya. Para siyang kinakabahan lagi. Nakakatuwa na hindi siya nagre-relax, ganyan. So parang pati tuloy ako kinakabahan. [Sabi ko,] kinakarir niya so kailangang karirin ko rin. Hindi naman competition. Parang ang feeling ko lang ay pinapaganda niya ito [so] kailangang pagandahin ko rin 'yung episode namin," she said.

**Zanjoe Marudo**

The hunky actor explained, "Mainit lang talaga sa location kaya ako pinapawisan."

Meanwhile, as co-actor, he describes Bea as very professional.

"Na-discover ko nga na sa tagal niya sa industriya ay parang alam na alam na niya kung ano ang gagawin niya pagdating sa trabaho. Alam mong actor na talaga na any time, 'pag kailangan na 'yung mga emosyon, nandoon na agad. Hindi katulad naming baguhan na..." he said, letting the thought trail off.

Bea countered, "Oy, hindi totoo 'yan. Ang galing-galing niya sa isang eksena. I was expecting na somehow ay mawawala 'yung pagka-bading kasi 'di ba sarili mo nang emosyon ang papaganahin mo pero siya, hindi nawala 'yung pagiging bading niya doon sa character niya kahit emotional na siya." ■

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An Iron Fist in a Velvet Glove

By David White

Napa Valley accounts for less than 4 percent of America's total wine production. Yet it's the country's best-known wine region.

Napa rocketed to the forefront of American winemaking in 1976, when British wine merchant Steven Spurrier organized a wine competition in Paris to pit California's best Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon against the best wines France had to offer.

Everyone assumed that France would win. After all, the nation had been making wine for thousands of years and was widely regarded as the world's top wine region. But with both its whites and reds, California won.

The white wine, produced by Chateau Montelena, came from Calistoga, a city at the north end of Napa Valley. The red, produced by Stag's Leap Wine Cellars, came from the southern Napa town of Yountville. The outcome shocked the world. Ten years later, the red wines were re-tasted at the French Culinary Institute. Once again, California came out on top. This time, the Cabernet Sauvignon was

produced by Clos Du Val, a winery located down the road from Stag's Leap.

Ever since, the world has recognized America's ability to produce world-class wine.

The portion of Napa Valley that stretches from just north of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars to Clos du Val is now known as the Stags Leap District, a one-mile-by-three mile stretch of land that comprises just 1/100th of Napa Valley. The federal government recognized this district as an official American Viticultural Area in 1989.

If it weren't for this stretch of Napa Valley, America might not have its reputation for producing some of the world's best wines.

In early October, I spent a week in Stags Leap learning about the region, its history, and its wine producers.

Grape growing in Stags Leap began in 1878, when Napa Valley was little more than sleepy towns and horse paths. That year, an entrepreneur named Terrill Grigsby built Occidental Winery, the region's first winery. Fifteen years later, Grigsby was joined by another entrepreneur, Horace Chase, who founded Stag's Leap Winery. By 1895, Chase's winery was producing 40,000 gallons of wine each year.

Grape-growing in the region took off. But around the same time, a pest called phylloxera was spreading - and it soon destroyed half the area's vineyards. Most vines that survived were ripped up during Prohibition, as vintners planted walnut trees and other legal crops.

Grapes returned to the region in 1961, when a gutsy farmer named Nathan Fay planted several acres of Cabernet Sauvignon near the now-shuttered wineries. Fay's grapes quickly gained a reputation among Napa Valley's vintners, including Warren Winiarski, an intrepid winemaker who was quickly gaining a

reputation as one of the best. In 1970, Winiarski decided to buy land next to Fay and establish Stag's Leap Wine Cellars.

The rest is history. Today, the Stags Leap District is home to 19 highly praised wineries.

The wines from the region are unique for two main reasons.

First, there's the soil. Most of it is coarse and volcanic with good drainage, which is perfect for Cabernet Sauvignon.

Then, there's the geography. At the southern end of Stags Leap, low-lying flatlands extend all the way to San Pablo Bay, an extension of San Francisco Bay. The eastern side of Stags Leap is marked by dramatic, cliff-like hills, which serve two purposes. In the mornings, they reflect heat onto the vineyards below, enabling temperatures to rise more quickly than they otherwise would. In the afternoons, they help funnel cool air in from San Pablo Bay, resulting in low nighttime temperatures. These swings help the grapes attain complex

flavors and achieve balance.

These factors result in wines that display not just richness and ripeness but vibrant acidity and soft tannins. Especially when young, Cabernet Sauvignon from the Stags Leap District is more approachable than other Napa Valley wines.

It's no wonder that Cabernet Sauvignon from Stags Leap District is sometimes described as an "iron fist in a velvet glove." The wines from this region aren't cheap - few wines from Napa Valley are - but they're worth seeking out.

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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Ex-Imelda aide charged in New York art conspiracy

The former personal secretary to Imelda Marcos, wife of deposed Philippines ruler Ferdinand Marcos, was charged Tuesday in New York (Wednesday in Manila) in an alleged conspiracy to sell a Monet painting that had belonged to the first lady.

Vilma Bautista, 74, was one of three people accused of "illegally conspiring to possess and sell valuable works of art acquired by" Imelda Marcos, and "keeping the proceeds for themselves," the Manhattan district attorney (DA) office said.



Vilma Bautista

They are also accused of seeking to hide the gains from the US tax authorities.

The Monet, which sold for \$32 million in 2010, was part of Imelda Marcos' hoard of artworks and other luxuries accumulated during her husband's rule, which was brought down in 1986. The Philippine government moved to recover the property in the aftermath of the revolution, but much of it vanished.

"A significant amount of artwork and other valuables disappeared from Philippine government property, including from the Philippine

Consulate townhouse in Manhattan," the DA's office said.

Beginning in 2009, Bautista and her two nephews allegedly began trying to sell the Monet water lily, "Le Bassin aux Nymphes," and three other valuable works that the Philippines government was trying to repossess.

They succeeded with the Monet, selling it to a London gallery and dividing the \$32 million, with Bautista "keeping the largest share of the money herself," prosecutors said.

Meanwhile, the Philippine government is eyeing to recover several paintings of significant international value that the New York District Attorney's (NYDA) Office has recovered from Bautista.

At least three valuable paintings that Bautista and her nephews, Chaiyot Jansen Navalaksana and Pongsak Navalaksana, illegally possessed and attempted to sell were included in the Presidential Commission on Good Government's (PCGG) list of missing paintings and are claimed by the Republic as ill-gotten wealth.

The publicly missing artworks include Claude Monet's L'Eglise at la Siene a Veutheuil, also known as "L'Eglise a Vetheuil," 1881; Albert Marquet's Le Cyprès de Djenan Sidi Saïd, also known as "Algerian View," 1946; and Alfred Sisley's Langland Bay, 1887. They are also recorded with the Art Loss Register, the world's largest private database of lost and stolen art.

The NYDA has seized the three paintings from Bautista and her

relatives in July 2011 following the sale of Claude Monet's "Le Bassin aux Nymphes," also known as "Japanese Footbridge Over the Water-Lily Pond at Giverny," 1899, or the "Water-Lily" in September 2010.

Bautista was employed as a Foreign Service Officer assigned to the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York from the early 1970s until 1986. Bautista acted as Mrs. Marcos' New York-based personal secretary until her husband was ousted from the presidency.



Monet's water lily est.worth \$32 Mil

According to the NYDA, approximately \$28 million was deposited to Bautista's bank account in Sept. 14, 2010 following the accomplished sale of the "Water-Lily" painting. A separate \$8 million was wired to brokers as commission for the sale of the artwork.

But after the sale, NYDA said Bautista and her co-conspirators "continued to take steps to ensure that the 'Water-Lily' sale and their receipt of the proceeds remained secret."

NYDA said Bautista and her cohorts failed to disclose any information on the sale of the artwork and their receipt of the proceeds when the time came to file income tax returns.

"The conspirators not only achieved their goal of continuing to avoid detection, but illegally avoided millions of dollars in state taxes," the NYDA said.

The suspicious sale prompted the NYDA to investigate and contact the PCGG. Chairman Andres Bautista said "the NYDA sees the Philippines as a victim and wants to return the ill-gotten wealth to the country."

The official said the government can recover at least \$25 million for the estimated value of the remaining paintings, including the sales proceed of the "Water Lily" painting. But Chairman Bautista said that "we will have to wait for the outcome of the trial" before the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth commences.

"But we are confident as the evidence of the assets being ill gotten is strong," Chairman Bautista added.

The PCGG maintained that it will recover the paintings and the seized contents of the defendants' bank accounts as part of its mandate to recover Marcos' ill-gotten wealth.

"This criminal trial in New York will serve an important pedagogical purpose as it would highlight the point that 'crime does not pay' and eventually the long arm of the law will catch up with you," Chairman Bautista added. ■

Cebu dancing inmates-inspired web series bags award in Toronto Reel Asian Int'l Filmfest



Following the footsteps of the YouTube phenomenon Cebu dancing inmates and their videos that have gone viral, the web series of the Filipino-Canadian transmedia production titled "Prison Dancer: The Web Musical" has begun to make waves outside the internet.

The first feat of the now defunct 12-series web musical directed by Romeo Candido is bagging the Reel Asian Best Canadian Film award at the recently concluded Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival last week.

Touted as the "largest Asian film festival in Canada," the 15-year-old award-giving body bestowed \$2,000 to "Prison Dancer" for its "unique showcase of contemporary Asian cinema and work from the Asian diaspora."

"Prison Dancer" recounts in faux

documentary style the "personal, poignant, hilarious, and universal" story of six Filipino prisoners whose lives were forever changed by the dancing rehabilitation program that eventually became a worldwide viral sensation on YouTube.

Among the production's cast are YouTube stars and emerging Filipino-Canadian talents in North America like Mikey Bustos, who plays the role of Christian in the web musical. Broadway star Catherine Ricafort is also a cast member, taking on the role of Cherish, the warden's daughter's who harbors a secret love towards Bustos' character.

Completing the cast are Jeigh Madjus, Nicco Lorenzo, Normal Alconce, and Canadian music and pop culture reporter Matt Wells who played himself in the series.

During the sold out live performance of "Prison Dancer" for the film fest last Nov. 9 (Canadian Time), the cast wowed the crowd with their so-called "performative cinema," which involved a "combination of video, live performance and audience participation."

The production encompasses several media platforms, hence the term "transmedia". ■

Passage of sin tax bill fulfills govt's revenue objectives



Cigarette vendor Alex Santiago waits for customers on a street in Manila on November 21, 2012

The passage of the sin tax bill fulfilled the government's objective of reaching P40 billion in incremental revenues in the first year and collecting funds to help finance Universal Health Care, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement on Wednesday.

"We congratulate and thank our partners in the Senate, especially our sponsor Senator Frank Drilon, for passing the sin tax bill on third and final reading. We also thank all advocates who have tirelessly pursued this urgent reform, especially those who have done so the past 15 years," Purisima said.

He added that the version of the bill also provides moderate tax increases

to protect the young and the poor from the ill effects of smoking and excessive drinking, achieving a unitary tax rate at P26 per pack with an excise tax burden of 60 percent on tobacco products in the fifth year, close to World Health Organization and World Bank recommended levels.

"While we would have wanted higher tobacco tax increases to maximize our health gains, we understand that we work within the rigors of the legislative process to achieve our reforms," the Finance secretary stated.

Purisima also said that the Finance department will continue to work closely with its partners in the Congress in the bicameral conference committee to ensure that they optimize the health and revenue gains from this urgent reform agenda of President Benigno Aquino 3rd.

The final version of the sin tax bill was approved by the Senate on Tuesday. On the third reading, 15 senators voted in its favor.

The senators agreed that P23-billion of the total revenue to be collected from the sin tax measure would be allotted annually to the health care program of the government. ■

Multilingual National News Series Voices of Canada Explores the Rise of Canada's New Mother Tongues, Beginning Oct. 24 on OMNI Television

- OMNI News series features in-depth stories examining the latest findings of Statistics Canada's 2011 Census data on Canada's national language identity -

- Five-part series airs within OMNI Television's six multilingual newscasts, OMNI News: South Asian, Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Italian editions -

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 TORONTO, Oct. 23, 2012 /CNW/ - The face of Canada is changing, and as Canada's multilingual broadcast news leader, OMNI Television goes beyond the statistics with the five-part special series Voices of Canada. Coinciding with the latest Statistics Canada report on Canada's new language identity, Voices of Canada explores the country's diverse communities and shines a light on the local and national impact of these new rising languages. Voices of Canada airs from October 24 to 30 within OMNI Television's six multilingual newscasts, OMNI News: South Asian, Punjabi, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, and Italian editions.

"With our multilingual reporters deeply rooted within Canada's diverse ethnocultural communities, we're able to bring a unique perspective and wide range of stories to this national topic across all of our language newscasts," said Madeline Ziniak, National Vice-President, OMNI Television.

Reporting on national stories, Voices of Canada examines the growth of Asian languages spoken in Canada, as well as the shift of mother tongues in certain mature communities and its impact on preserving the culture within these groups. Voices of Canada also explores the new rising phenomenon of multi-language households as a result of inter-marriage between different cultural groups.

With reports from OMNI News bureaus in Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, Voices of Canada also features regional stories that delve into the impact the rapid rise in Chinese languages and Punjabi have on business, schools, and government services. Highlights include the increase of non-Chinese students studying Chinese language classes in Alberta, and the expanded offering of Punjabi in both government and business services in Calgary, Surrey, and Brampton.

Voices of Canada five-part series airs within the following newscasts, daily from Wednesday, Oct. 24 to Tuesday, Oct. 30:

- OMNI News: South Asian Edition at 8 p.m. ET/MT on OMNI.2 and

OMNI Alberta

- OMNI News: Punjabi National Edition at 11 p.m. ET/MT on OMNI.2 and OMNI Alberta, and 9 p.m. PT on OMNI BC

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SOURCE: OMNI Television

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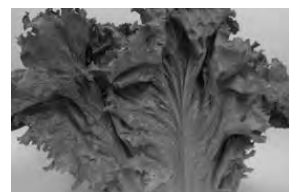
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Photo taken during the PAB/PSW graduation ceremony on October 7, 2012. From left (front row) Annabelle Alloso, Ethel Tugna, PAB instructors Terry White and Amy Manon-og, Director-General Zenaida Kharroubi, PAB instructors Edith Fedalizo and Sophie Toledo, and Lourdescita Lubang. Standing (left to right): Grace Calvo, Vilma Lagonilla, Mildred Mendoza, Giselle Arellano, Marilou Hechanova, Edison Taguba, Annie Signey, and Joesie Bingayen.

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