

Aquino says he won presidency on platform of 'open government'

(Philippine Daily Inquirer) NEW YORK CITY, Sept. 20 –President Benigno Aquino III on Tuesday said he won the presidency last year because Filipinos wanted an open government and stressed his administration was serious about achieving this fully.

Aquino said his government was set to implement in January next year an action plan, which is currently a work in progress.

With US President Barack Obama sitting beside him, the President delivered a speech at the launch of the new multilateral initiative called Open Government Partnership (OGP) at the Waldorf Astoria hotel here.

Aquino attributed the Filipinos' toppling of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 to their "collective yearning for what we are discussing today: open and accountable governance."



President Aquino listens intently to U.S. President Barack Obama as the two leaders meet on the sidelines of the Open Government Partnership event in New York on Tuesday prior to the UN General Assembly this week.

It was this same desire that he and land him the presidency. "Last year, it was the idea of said prompted Filipinos to vote for him

an open government as well that, again in another unprecedented act, rallied the Filipino people in droves, not in the streets but through the ballot, to vote for me, then a member of the opposition, so that the Filipino people, and not merely participants in the long-entrenched system of patronage and corruption, could finally emerge victorious," he said.

"This is what democracy is all about: having a government disciplined enough to imbibe in itself the principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen involvement—the necessary preconditions to poverty alleviation and inclusive and sustainable economic growth," he said.

Aquino said his country's participation in the OGP was

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Aquino says

Filipino Solidarity Coop holds 3-day moving sale

Montreal, September 28, 2011 - The Filipino Solidarity Cooperative's store named "Marché Coop" is preparing to move from 5710 Victoria Avenue in the basement of Cuisine de Manille because the building in which it is currently located will be demolished in a few months to give way to new condos. An 8-story building is projected to rise on the corner of Victoria and Cote Ste-Catherine Road by April 2012. The sale will be held from September 28 to 30, 2011, from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Excess equipment, furniture and inventory of merchandise will be sold at discounted prices to make the move easier.

The board of directors decided

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Editorial

Will President Aquino's commitment to combating corruption be the hallmark of his administration?

We have always lamented the corruption, poverty, and economic problems in the Philippines. Thus, when something seems to give us hope that things will be better now that the government seems to be intent on cutting down corruption, we waste no time in calling attention to every bit of news regarding the subject.

President Aquino's speech during the OGP (Open Government Partnership) launch at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York seems to indicate that his government will work on cutting down corruption. We can hardly wait for this to happen as many administrations have come and gone, and the Philippines is still considered one of the most corrupt countries in the world, ranking 134th in the 2010 CPI (Corruption Perception Index) of Transparency International, a world organization that surveys the subject of accountability and transparency in the government of different countries. He announced that his government will implement an action plan by January 2012. He has a mandate to fulfill when he took office to address rampant government corruption. The previous government's failure to do anything substantial to liberalize the economy set back efforts to attract much-needed foreign investment in basic industries and infrastructure, and the Philippines has continued its long slide from being one of Asia's richest economies to being one of its poorest in spite of the overseas foreign workers' remittances that account for 10% of GDP. The question in our mind is whether or not he will achieve the goals he has set himself to accomplish during his term which is now more than a year old, having been sworn into office on June 30, 2010. His inaugural theme was quite optimistic - "Tagumpay ng Taumbayan, Panata sa Pagbabago" (English: The People's Victory, An Oath for Change).

It is quite encouraging to note that the Philippines is one of eight countries that are members of the OGP steering committee. Washington launched the partnership as part of its current efforts to promote transparency and good governance worldwide. US President Barack Obama reportedly hailed anti-corruption efforts in the Philippines. Moreover, some editorial writers in the Philippine media have given President Aquino quite a satisfactory rating as far as unearthing

corruption of the previous government is concerned. But they also remind him of how fragile reforms can be in the Philippines. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was installed through people power on the wings of a major corruption scandal that engulfed the administration of Joseph Estrada. Arroyo was expected to clean up the government. Instead, as her nine years in power came to a close, her critics said Estrada's corruption scandals paled in comparison to hers. Voters picked the candidate perceived to be her antithesis as her replacement, and the one who came closest to Aquino in the vote was Estrada. This came as a big surprise to those who could not believe that people would still trust someone who was convicted of plundering the country.

Anti-corruption programs pushed Aquino's ratings up according to the latest SWS (Social Weather Station) surveys. Although this spells good news for the Aquino administration, it is also recognized that ratings change rapidly and that there is still a lot of work to be done in realizing his election promise from which he coined a famous phrase "Walang corrupt, walang mahirap". But recent history gives little reason to think his approach will succeed. Mrs Arroyo had her predecessor as president, Joseph Estrada, prosecuted for corruption, and the country's special court for trying graft cases, the Sandiganbayan, sentenced him to life in prison. Mrs Arroyo subsequently pardoned him. In last year's presidential election, Mr Estrada came second. Furthermore, the institutions in which President Aquino puts his faith have brought dozens of cases against Imelda Marcos. None has succeeded in putting her behind bars. His critics are skeptical about his efforts to stamp out corruption for they believe that his own family comes from the same class that benefits from the systemic inequalities that exist between the rich and the poor. It might be too difficult to resist making compromises as political power usually lies in the support of the elite.

It is perhaps too early to say whether or not President Aquino would succeed, but we do earnestly hope that in spite of what critics say, we would like to believe that he really means what he says.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Declaration of Dissidents for Universal Human Rights



United Nations, New York, September 22, 2011

We, former prisoners of conscience, dissidents, victims of torture, persecution, and repression, fighters for freedom, democracy and the dignity of all human beings, gathered here at United Nations Headquarters in New York City, on 22 September 2011, do hereby declare:

Seventy years ago this week, in the face of Nazi tyranny, nations gathered in London to proclaim the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter that are the birthright of all human beings and the hallmarks of democratic society: Freedom of speech and of belief, freedom from fear and from want. These four freedoms form the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Two decades ago, the Soviet Union, the other great tyranny of the twentieth century, collapsed amidst the

cry for freedom that first resonated through its satellite states. Today, across the Middle East, we are witnessing that same cry echoing from Cairo to Tripoli to Damascus, as old regimes are swept aside or cling to power through ever more brutal means.

Inspired by the courage and idealism shown by ordinary women and men fighting for basic freedoms across the world; enraged by the continuing evils perpetrated by authoritarian states, including genocide, torture, state-sanctioned violence, rape and starvation as an instrument of political repression, the imprisonment of thousands of men and women of conscience, the silencing of dissenting voices, the xenophobic persecution of minorities, the denial of freedom of thought, belief and worship; we, survivors of

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Most frequently asked questions about the August 14, 2011 FAMAS election

By Budz Sarmiento

1. Q – Who made the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures?

A – FAMAS Committee on Elections (COMELEC) made the rules.

2. Q – Were the rules approved by the FAMAS Executive Board?

A – No. The approval of the Executive Board was not necessary the COMELEC being an independent body as defined in the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws.

3. Q – Some people think that the FAMAS election rules and regulations are undemocratic, are those people correct?

A – No, those people are not correct. The FAMAS election rules and regulations may be anything but undemocratic. A rule is undemocratic if it is tilted in favour of one side over the other. In other words, if there is inequality. There's no inequality in the current rules.

4. Q – Were copies of the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures given, or made available, to the candidates in the last FAMAS election?

A – Yes. It was posted on the FAMAS website and on the FAMAS Bulletin Board. Hard copies were also given to all interested parties. Furthermore, said document long before filing of candidacy was sent via e-mail to both Mabuhay Team and Samahang Makabayan through their respective presidential candidates.

5. Q – Did the candidates agree to be governed by the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures?

A – Yes. When the candidates signed and filed their certificates of candidacy, they agreed to be governed by said rules, regulations and procedures. In addition to that, each candidate also submitted signed "Statement of Candidate" promising to abide by the COMELEC rules.

6. Q – Cesar Manuel got 831 votes and Aurora Osdon 762, why is it then that Manuel still lost?

A – Manuel still lost because 150 votes were deducted from the total votes he received.

7. Q – Why were 150 votes deducted?

A – One hundred and 50 votes were deducted because of the rule violation committed by his running mate Lina Flores.

8. Q – What rule violation did Lina Flores commit?

A – Campaigning during campaign moratorium. While attending an annual community event in Long Sault, Ontario with her running mates and their supporters on July 10, 2011, she handed

out campaign materials to fellow Montreal residents who were also there for the occasion. Since the official campaign period would not start until the following July 16, she violated the rule on campaign moratorium as stipulated in Article VI, Section 11 of the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures.

9. Q – Since the violation was committed in Long Sault, Ontario, should it not stay there and not brought to Montreal?

A – No, it should not stay in Long Sault. Yes, it should be brought to Montreal. Both the violator and the people whom the violator gave campaign materials to were residents of Montreal, and the act that the former wanted the latter to do would be consummated in Montreal. So, it's only fair and justified that the violation was brought to and heard in Montreal. It's all Montreal except the place where the violation was committed.

10. Q – If it was Lina Flores who committed the violation, why was the same amount of votes deducted from Cesar Manuel and the other candidates of the Samahang Makabayan?

A – When Lina Flores' running mates, who were with her, did not do anything to stop the violation, they became accessories, and as accessories, they were equally liable. Besides, they benefited from the transgression by increased support.

11. Q – How did the COMELEC arrive at the penalty of 150-vote deduction?

A – Under Article XXI, Section 2, the COMELEC may deduct between 100 and 300 votes in a manner of its choosing. The 150-vote deduction was a consensus among five members of the COMELEC who were at the meeting.

12. Q – Under Article XXI, Section 2, the penalty for first violation (first strike) is mere written formal warning, why then was Lina Flores, and the others, penalized with a 150-vote deduction when it was only her first violation?

A – It was the opinion of the majority of the COMELEC that Ms. Flores' violation was so grave that it decided to apply Section 1 of Article XXI instead of Section 2 of the same article. That particular section states "The COMELEC reserves the right to issue multiple strikes or non-standard penalties where appropriate."

13. Q – Samahang Makabayan argued that Lina Flores, its candidate for treasurer, should have been acquitted on technicality because the complaint against her was filed outside of the 48-

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COOPERATIVE NEWS

Coop's new location starting October 1, 2011

After consultation with the board of directors, we would like to announce to all members and the rest of the community that we have to move Marché Coop again after staying at the basement of the Cuisine de Manille for the past year. Besides the slow response of members to patronize the Coop at this location due to many factors, we are obliged to move because the building where we are now will be demolished to give way to new condos that will be built on the same site. Cuisine de Manille may also be moving anytime soon as all tenants have already been advised that they are only allowed to stay here until April 2012.

Renting a ground floor, front store location is beyond the ability of the Cooperative for obvious reasons. Hence, the Cooperative's board has agreed to move the Coop to occupy one of the rooms in Gilmore College International headquarters. Besides being in a more visible location and the presence of more pedestrian traffic, the problem of recruiting volunteers to operate the Coop will be solved because Gilmore students can be trained to be cashiers. Not only do they patronize the Coop, they have also shown a keen interest in promoting the cooperative among their friends. By having the Coop under the same roof, I will also be able to supervise the students as I do not have to travel and waste time. Now that the Coop will be in the same building as my office, it is possible to do other work while waiting for customers to come and shop.

A more regular schedule can now be established. This will enable

members to shop more frequently as we plan to open the Coop for seven days a week, 8 hours a day, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Students who are members of the Coop will be trained to be on duty during their class breaks. We will also follow up on members to come and shop at least twice a month.

In order to make sure of a faster turnover of inventory, we will ask our members to let us know what they want to buy and we will keep a sufficient stock of these items.

As we cannot accommodate all the four freezers, and other equipment, we are offering them for sale to members and other interested parties.

We are optimistic about the future, and we wish that our members will feel the same way. They are our hope that they will be encouraged to come and shop even once or twice a month. In fact, some of them have already indicated that they are going to start coming and help us make the Coop to become what it should be - a social economy enterprise that is designed to help the community in countless ways. The potential of economic progress may take some time to realize but it is up to all of us to make it happen sooner.

The general assembly that was postponed due to inclement weather will be held on October 16, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at 5320-A Queen Mary Road, Gilmore College International. We hope to see you all at this meeting in order to elect the new board of directors.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi
President (2008-2011)

The North American Filipino Star

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From Page 2 FAQ about FAMAS

hour period within which to file a complaint, why did the COMELEC refuse their argument when there was indeed such a rule of limitation?

A – In the majority opinion of the COMELEC, Lina Flores' violation was so severe that it would be a travesty of justice if she were found not guilty on mere technicality. A not-guilty verdict would send the wrong message to other candidates or candidates in future elections.

14. Q – Is not the 150-vote deduction too harsh for the violation committed?

A – No, it is not harsh if you are to consider that it could have been the maximum deduction of 300 votes or even disqualification from candidacy. Electioneering is a serious offense in an election because one candidate is taking undue advantage over his or her opponent thereby corrupting the electoral process.

15. Q – Some people argue that the COMELEC has disenfranchised 150 voters of their right to vote, is their argument valid?

A – No, their argument is not valid because those 150 eligible voters were able to vote for their candidates. Disenfranchisement is if they were not allowed to vote at all.

16. Q – Is it true that the chairperson of the COMELEC made all the decisions without the approval of the other members of that committee?

A – No, it is not true. Every decision – big or small – was made by at least a simple majority of the COMELEC, and not by its chairperson alone. To think otherwise is to insult the intelligence of the other members of the COMELEC. It is all in the records. And no business was ever transacted when the meeting did not have a quorum.

17. Q – Who are the members of the COMELEC?

A – The original members of the COMELEC are Dick Ribaya, Tess Calica, Cynthia Puray, Butch Aracenas, Pastora Emma Denny, Sonny Valdez and Budz Sarmiento. Butch resigned even before he could attend the committee's first meeting.

At the first meeting held on May 1, 2011 and attended by four members – Sarmiento, Ribaya, Calica and Denny, Sarmiento was unanimously elected as the chairperson. Please take note that Sarmiento was appointed member of the COMELEC by the Executive Board and elected chairperson by his fellow COMELEC members. The EB did not appoint him chairman as some malicious people want the community to believe.

Butch Aracenas was later replaced by Andi Neufeld. After the August 14, 2011 election, Puray and Valdez resigned from the committee. The two vacancies haven't been filled up as of this writing.

18. Q – What is the real story behind the "Dear Bert" e-mail purportedly sent by mistake to Cesar Manuel?

A – The "Dear Bert" e-mail was sent by the COMELEC chairperson to Bert Abiera and carbon-copied to Cesar Manuel for transparency. It was sent to Manuel on purpose, and not by accident as persistently and wrongly claimed by the Samahang Makabayan.

19. Q – Why did the COMELEC Chairperson send the "Dear Bert" e-mail to Abiera in the first place?

A – The COMELEC Chairperson sent Abiera that e-mail because of the impending decision that the COMELEC had to make on the complaint filed by the Mabuhay Team against the Samahang

Makabayan. The chair simply wanted to be as judicious as possible under such difficult situation.

20. Q – Both Au Osdon and Cesar Manuel were inducted by the COMELEC and Angie Ogerio, respectively, who is then the legitimate president of FAMAS?

A – According to the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures that both parties agreed to be bound by when they filed their certificates of candidacy on June 15, 2011, Osdon is the legitimate president of FAMAS until the next election in 2013.

Under the pertinent election rule, the induction of officers is the prerogative of the COMELEC and any other induction officiated by anyone else shall be deemed for ceremonial purposes only and, therefore, not binding.

21. Q – If the induction of officers is indeed the prerogative of the COMELEC, why has Mrs. Maggie Calcetas inducted the officers when she is a member of the new Board of Trustees and not of the COMELEC?

A – Mrs. Maggie Calcetas, a prominent member of the community, was deputized by the COMELEC as inducing officer, but only for the purpose of the incoming members of the new Executive Board.

22. Q – If either side of the political divide stands its ground and each insists that it is the rightful winner instead of the other, what would happen and what should be done?

A – There would be an impasse and that would not be good for FAMAS and the rest of the community. Whoever feels aggrieved should ask the intervention of the court by filing a lawsuit against the other as soon as possible. Only a court of law can settle the issue once and for all.

23. Q – Is it true that there was a conspiracy between Au Osdon and Budz Sarmiento to assure the former's victory?

A – No. There was never a conspiracy between Osdon and Sarmiento for whatever reason. It is just their mutual detractors' way of alienating those two from the community so that those detractors can advance their evil schemes and nefarious activities.

24. Q – Is it true that the COMELEC always changed the rules to favour certain candidates?

A – No, the COMELEC did not always change the rules, period. The only time it suspended, but not changed, a rule was when it realized that it was impractical to enforce the rule on campaigning with respect to the distance to the polling place. Example: During the Advance Voting at the FAMAS Center, if the rule on distance for campaigning was strictly enforced, no candidate could eat at Chef Foo or Bahay Kubo without violating the rule, particularly with his or her campaign T-shirt on because either of those places is within 100 feet distance from the polling place. He or she had to change her clothes before he or she could be at said restaurants. That's impractical, let alone ridiculous.

25. Q – Is it true that the chairperson of the COMELEC was abandoned by the other members of his committee?

A – No, he was not abandoned by other members of the COMELEC. If he seemed to be working alone most of the time during the last election season, it was because most of the other members were either busy with their own personal business or out of town on work-related assignment.

The Executive Board that appointed them knew about their circumstances prior to their appointments.

From Page 2 Declaration

repression in our own countries of origin, recognize that human beings can be trampled, but their spirit can never be crushed.

At this decisive moment in the struggle for universal human rights, we celebrate the defeat of Libyan dictator Col. Muammar Gaddafi and of other brutal regimes in the surrounding region.

To the remaining tyrants and dictators around the globe, who have systematically violated the rights of their peoples, we give notice: Your time has passed. No more will the world suffer your specious arguments to justify policies and practices of abuse and repression in the name of claimed exceptions to the universality of basic human rights. Belonging to diverse faiths and cultures, and originating from all regions of the world, we, the authors of this Declaration, unequivocally reject such dishonest apologies, which suit the interests of the despots, and not the interests, or ideas, of their peoples.

We assert that the writ of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948 by the General Assembly, continues to run through all societies, and for all times. The talk of tyrants is refuted by the cries of prisoners—who, from the dungeons of Burma, China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Tibet, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, and elsewhere—demand justice and freedom on the basis of these universal laws and eternal truths.

Therefore, in renewing the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we call on the United Nations to make the dream of the four freedoms a reality. We urge the United Nations General Assembly to pursue a new agenda for human rights, and call for the Member States to:

- Remove tyrannical governments from special positions of power in the

Liberal Justice Critic Cotler says Conservative Crime Bill Will Result in 'More Crime, Less Justice'

Liberal Justice Critic Irwin Cotler today characterized the Conservative's omnibus crime bill as one which will result in "More crime, less justice". The former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada – and long-time law professor – identified six principal concerns with the legislation in the following statement:

- "First, even before the legislation was tabled there was a serious problem of prison overcrowding, with some provinces reporting prisons at 200% capacity. We know overcrowding leads to more crime within prisons, and more crime outside prisons. The US Supreme Court has found overcrowding of 137% can constitute cruel and unusual punishment. This legislation will only exacerbate the problem.
- Second, there is the question of

United Nations human rights system. Welcoming the United Nations suspension this year of the Gaddafi regime from the Human Rights Council, and the successful campaigns to prevent the election of Iran and Syria to that body, we call on the United Nations to continue on the path of reform, including by:

- Suspending China, Cuba, Russia and Saudi Arabia from the UN Human Rights Council;
- Removing Iran from the Commission on the Status of Women; and
- Expelling Saudi Arabia from the Executive Board of UN Women.

- Adopt the annexed resolutions on compelling situations of human rights that have hitherto been neglected or ignored at the United Nations;

- Champion the cause of civil society by speaking out against the persecution of human rights defenders and dissidents, and for the freedom of non-governmental organizations to advocate for an end to repressive laws and practices;

- Guarantee the freedoms of speech, the press, and assembly, being the lifeblood of democracy;

- Condemn the ongoing censorship, harassment and imprisonment of Internet fighters for freedom and democracy;

- Demand equality, tolerance and freedom for minorities everywhere;

- Defend women who are victims of state-sanctioned subjugation; and

- Protect children from ideologies of hatred and intolerance that promote contempt for fundamental human rights.

Signed on this 22nd day of September, 2011, at the opening of the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly, for the We Have A Dream: Global Summit Against Discrimination and Persecution.

Submitted by: Howard Liebman

costs. Not only have the costs not been disclosed, but in fact the Parliamentary Budget Officer costed one of the bills alone at \$5 billion. Canadians and Parliament have a right to full disclosure and accountability.

- Third, there is a need for consultation with our provincial and territorial counterparts, who will bear the burden of costs at the expense of services, and that will address the issue of crime prevention and not just crime and punishment.

- Fourth, bundling nine major pieces of legislation in one omnibus bill will not allow for sufficient and differentiated Parliamentary discussion and debate – let alone oversight. This will serve to undermine the Parliamentary process. If you ask the Canadian people if they are in favour of protecting victims and safe streets, of course the answer is yes. The question is how you achieve it. This bill will not achieve it; it will only serve to make things worse.

- Fifth, the omnibus bill is about principles and priorities – at its core it

is about values. If you go ahead and spend unnecessary billions of dollars on building unnecessary prisons while crime is receding, that means do you not invest those billions of dollars on a social justice agenda, on childcare, on health care, on crime prevention, on seniors, on social housing. So at the end of the day we'll probably – as a result of this bill – have more crime and less justice.

• Finally, evidence demonstrates that the use of mandatory minimum sentences – such as would be expanded in this legislation – do not deter crime, have a differential and discriminatory impact on vulnerable groups, and unduly circumscribe judicial and prosecutorial discretion. Indeed, even US Conservatives now regard it as a failed policy that has caused the prison population to skyrocket, while creating expensive mega-jails that effectively become factories of crime."

From Page 1 Aquino says

consistent with his administration's commitment to honest and effective governance as he thanked the OGP for the Philippine's membership because this "acknowledges and further strengthens our commitment to promoting transparency, fostering accountability, and combating corruption."

Aquino said that just as his administration would continue to wage

a campaign "against those who abused power in the past, we are also strengthening institutions through Open Government."

"In fact, we have created a road map called the 2012 Philippine Government Action Plan to ensure that our government institutions are at par with international transparency standards," he said, adding the Action Plan was developed through consultation with networks of Civil Society Organizations as well as business groups engaged in the integrity advocacy and will be implemented in January 2012.

"All these efforts are indicators of how serious we are in transforming our system from one that operates through secrecy, impunity, and collusion, into a government that embodies transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement—a government that truly exists for its people," he said.

The Philippines and the US are among the eight countries making up the steering committee of the OGP which encourages governments to be open and transparent, engage its people and fight corruption, among others.

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-Rev. Ricardo Zabala

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7:00 - 9:00pm – Evangelistic Service

-Rev. Jess Fortaleza

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10:10 - 10:50am - Rev. Allan Diarios

11:00-11:40am – Split Sesions

Men Session - Rev. Jeff Chavis

Youth - Rev. Willie Samoya

12:00pm – FILIPINO BUFFET

6:30 - 7:00pm – Prayer

7:00 - 9:00pm – Evangelistic Service

-Rev. Gordon Mallory

23 Sunday

SAINT LAURENT

10:00am - 12:00pm - Rev. Jess Fortaleza

1:30 - 4:00pm - Rev. Jeff Chavis

4:00 - 6:00pm - Rev. Ricardo Zabala

6:30 - 9:00pm - Rev. Gordon Mallory

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2:00 - 4:00pm - Rev. Jess Fortaleza

MABUHAY!



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E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: I know that polar bears are losing ice cover due to climate change, but what are other ways that global warming affects wildlife around the globe? -- Hanna Bond, Hartford, CT

Although perhaps the best known examples, polar bears certainly aren't the only wildlife species already suffering as a result of global warming. With the sea ice that they depend upon as hunting platforms and places to rest during long swims quickly melting, polar bears were added to the federal list of threatened species in 2008. This contentious listing decision was significant in that it represented the first time the federal government acknowledged that global warming was not only having a noticeable effect on the environment but could also be blamed for the decline of particular species. Environmentalists claimed the listing was reason enough to reign in our carbon emissions sharply, but of course that has yet to happen.

While all organisms on the planet are affected in one way or another by climate change, some are more at risk than others. "Species with small population sizes, restricted ranges, and limited ability to move to different habitat will be most at risk," reports the National Audubon Society. "Similarly, different habitats and ecosystems will be impacted differently, with those in coastal, high-latitude, and high-altitude regions most vulnerable."

Audubon, which is primarily concerned with birds, recently published a report based on 40 years of data that found some 60 percent of the 305 avian species in North America during winter have been on the move in recent decades—shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles, as habitat shifts thanks to warming temperatures. The Brant (a coastal bird), the Ring-necked Duck (a water bird), and the American Goldfinch (a land bird), all moved about 200 miles north over the last four decades. While it's questionable whether some birds will find suitable habitat to the north—we may have paved that piece of land over—the picture looks even more grim for those species not willing or able to abandon old roosts. Also, Audubon reports that the timing of reproductive events (egg-laying, flowering, spawning) across different interdependent species is occurring earlier than ever "in some cases interrupting delicate cycles that ensure that insects and other food are available for young animals."

Another leading conservation group, Defenders of Wildlife, details how a long list of other North American fauna is in decline as a result of global warming. The gray wolf, trout, salmon, arctic fox, desert bighorn sheep, desert



Freight shipments are responsible for about a quarter of all transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. Heavy duty trucks are the biggest villains, accounting for 77.8 percent of freight transportation's total. Running mostly on diesel fuel, they are also major emitters of nitrogen oxides and particulate matter, which are linked to a wide range of human health problems. (Photo credit: Thinkstock)

tortoise, Edith's checkerspot butterfly, golden toad, Hawaiian monk seal, lobster, manatee, painted turtle, penguin, streamside salamander and western toad are just a few of the species on Defenders' list that are negatively impacted by our profligate

use of fossil fuel. Meanwhile, the Wildlife Conservation Society adds the Irrawaddy dolphin of Southeast Asia, the Arctic's musk ox, the ocean-going hawksbill turtle and others to the list of species that are "feeling the heat" from global warming.



Climate change is affecting many more species than polar bears. The National Audubon Society found that 60 percent of the 305 avian species in North America during winter have shifted their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles, thanks to warming temperatures. The American Goldfinch, pictured here, has moved some 200 miles north in the last 40 years. Photo credit: Thinkstock

While it may seem futile given the scope of the problem, everyone can still take steps to be part of the solution. Switch out your incandescent bulbs for compact fluorescents or, even better, the new generation of LED bulbs. Bike, walk and take mass transit more; drive your car less. Telecommute when you can. Try to source as much of your food and other goods locally to cut down on carbon-heavy transcontinental freight shipping. If not for yourself, do it for the polar bears, turtles, foxes and toads.

CONTACTS: National Audubon Society, www.audubon.org; Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org; Wildlife Conservation Society, www.wcs.org. EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com). Send questions to: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Subscribe: www.emagazine.com/subscribe. Free Trial Issue: www.emagazine.com/trial.

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Administration (FHA), heavy duty trucks are the biggest villains, accounting for 77.8 percent of total U.S. freight greenhouse gas emissions. Boat, train and airplane freight contribute 10.8, 8.7 and 2.8 percent respectively.

Besides filling up loads completely and keeping equipment well tuned, shippers can reduce emissions via smarter operations and procedures. Software developed by UPS's Roadnet helps logistics managers re-engineer their fleet routing, preventing tons of emissions and saving millions of dollars and in the process.

Newer Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions standards aim to reduce nitrogen oxide and particulate matter pollution from freight operators upwards of 60 percent by 2020. They are a step in the right direction, but the failure of Congress to pass substantive federal legislation limiting CO2 emissions means that a growing freight sector will continue to pump out more and more greenhouse gases.

A recently released report by the tri-lateral North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA's) Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) lays out a vision for how to make freight—the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in North America after electricity generation—more efficient and less polluting across Mexico, the U.S. and Canada.

The report identifies some scary trends. For example, emissions from freight-related vehicles grew 74 percent between 1990 and 2008—some 40 percent more than emissions growth from passenger vehicles over the same time span. Also, while emissions by light duty vehicles are expected to drop 12 percent by 2030, freight truck emissions are expected to grow by 20 percent. To start turning the freight sector around, CEC recommends that the three countries party to NAFTA start shifting to lower carbon fuels, putting a price on carbon emissions and replacing crumbling infrastructure. These fixes won't be cheap, but CEC claims they will save money in the long run and clean up of North American freight altogether.

CONTACTS: FHA's "Assessing the Effects of Freight Movement on Air Quality at the National and Regional Level," www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/publications/effects_of_freight_movement/; Roadnet Technologies, www.roadnet.com; Commission for Environmental Cooperation, www.cec.org.

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FedEx, UPS and all those 18 wheelers on the highways probably generate a lot of pollution and global warming. Is anything being done to address this? -- Michael Brown, Washington, DC

Freight companies operating in the U.S. and beyond do generate significant amounts of pollution. While transportation technologies and fuels have gotten more efficient in recent years, freight demands have grown considerably over the past two decades. Today, in the U.S. alone, for example, freight is responsible for about a quarter of all transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

Most freight trucks, locomotives and ships run on diesel engines, which are major sources of emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and carbon dioxide (CO2). Repeated exposure to nitrogen oxide-based smog and particulate matter has been linked to a wide range of human health problems, and we all know what CO2 emissions are doing to the planet's atmosphere and ecosystems in terms of global warming.

According to a 2005 analysis by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway

Death and damage - Typhoon Pedring hits the Philippines



A storm surge caused by the confluence of high tide and strong winds from Typhoon Pedring sends waves of sea water over the embankment along Roxas Boulevard in Manila on September 27, 2011. The typhoon made landfall in Aurora province & caused devastation in Luzon.

At least 12 people were killed as typhoon "Pedring" whipped Luzon with heavy rains and forceful winds that wrought destruction, knocked out power and communication lines, paralyzed air, sea, and land transport, and caused a rare storm surge in Manila Bay.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that five people were killed in Metro Manila; one in Catanduanes in the Bicol region; one each in Subic and Olongapo City in Zambales; one in Aurora; one in Cagayan province; one in Pampanga; and another in Camarines Sur.

Four people, including three children, died when a concrete wall collapsed on them in Barangay Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City at the height of Pedring's onslaught yesterday morning.

The fatalities – a 63-year-old grandmother and her grandchildren aged 3, 4, and 6 – were trapped under the rubble.

"We have already sent rescue teams in the area, and that includes a backhoe for extrication operation," said Director Alan Purisima, National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) director.

In Caloocan City, a mother whose house was hit by a fallen tree also died.

Meanwhile, a landslide in Barangay Mabayan, Olongapo at 11 15 a.m. yesterday killed a local resident, said Public Information Agency Region 3 Director William L. Beltran.

The landslide forced a riprap to collapse on a house and killed its occupant, Ryan Anthony Landeza, 19.

Earlier at 1:15 a.m., heavy rains and strong winds caused a vehicular accident on MacArthur Highway in Subic, Zambales, killing 29-year-old Andrew Fallorina, 29, a resident of Botolan.

Chief Supt. Edgardo Ladao, Police Regional Office 3 (PRO3) director, identified two injured in the same accident as Jeffrey Alido, 20, and Elmer Elpos, 25.

In Pampanga, Roselyn Bella, 9,

was crushed to death by a tamarind tree uprooted by strong winds, said Ladao.

In Aurora province, Office of Civil Defense Region 3 Assistant Regional Director Nigel B. Lontoc said the first fatality was a fisherman.

Another landslide happened in Camarines Sur in the Bicol region, killing a child.

The Cagayan Police Provincial Office (PPO) also reported one fatality and six injured victims when a bridge collapsed in Pamplona town, Cagayan province.

Senior Supt. Mao Aplasca, PPO director, identified the fatality as one Delia Cacas, 59.

Pedring's path

The center of Pedring (international name: Nesat) hit the landmass between Isabela and Aurora provinces around 4 a.m. but did not spare most of the provinces in Luzon that were affected by gusty winds and heavy rains.

As of 10 a.m. Pedring" was located 100 kilometers (km) east of Baguio City, said Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) Weather Division OIC Chief Robert Sawi.

Sawi said the cyclone slightly weakened after it made landfall and crossed the rugged terrain of the Sierra Madre Mountain Range. It has maximum sustained winds of 120 kilometers per hour (kph) and gustiness of up to 150 kph.

It is forecast to move west-northwest at 19 kph.

PAGASA lifted storm warning signals in some areas but Signal No. 3 remained hoisted over Ilocos Sur, La Union, Benguet, and Pangasinan last night.

Areas under Signal No. 2 were Ilocos Norte, Abra, Apayao, Kalinga, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales.

Signal No. 1 remained in Cagayan, Babuyan Group of Islands, Calayan Group of Islands, Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan and Metro Manila.

"Pedring" exited the landmass of La Union and was over the West Philippine Sea on Tuesday afternoon.

Sawi said "Pedring" is forecast to move out of the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) by this afternoon but "monsoon rains will prevail, particularly in the western section of Central and Northern Luzon including Metro Manila."

"As the typhoon moves away from the country, gusty winds will slowly weaken but rains will continue to affect Luzon," he added.

PAGASA weather forecaster Buddy Javier said improving weather condition could be expected by Friday.

Meanwhile, the La Mesa, Ipo and Angat dams will continue to receive more water from the rains.

Storm surge

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported that a rare storm surge forced seawater from Manila Bay onto Roxas Boulevard, flooding the US Embassy.

The NDRRMC said the storm surge damaged a 100 meter-portion of the seawall at Manila Bay and was partly the reason why seawater spilled onto the portion of Roxas Boulevard from Quirino Avenue to UN Ave.

MMDA General Manager Corazon Jimenez said floodwaters reached up to waist-deep level at the lobby of the hotel located inside the CCP Complex, forcing rescuers to evacuate hotel guests and some staff.

Tina Velasco, MMDA spokesperson, said rescue teams and several rubber boats were dispatched to the US Embassy and Sofitel hotel as flood waters merged with seawater.

"Roxas Boulevard is now only passable by boat," said Velasco, describing chest-deep flood water in the areas due to the storm surge.

PAGASA plotted high tide at 9:46 a.m. when waves of Manila Bay surged onto Roxas Boulevard.

Wikipedia describes a storm surge as an offshore rise of water associated with a low pressure weather system. It is caused primarily by high winds pushing on the ocean's surface. The wind causes the water to pile up higher than the ordinary sea level.

Aquino in control

In Tokyo, President Benigno S. Aquino III declared he was on top of the typhoon situation in the Philippines as typhoon Pedring roared and dumped heavy rains in Luzon, including the capital.

In between meetings with Japanese business leaders and investors, the President was being updated by Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, Energy Secretary Jose Rene Almendras and Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin for updates of the howling typhoon.

"I have been in touch with Secretaries Soliman, Gazmin, and Almendras. I have instructed the Executive Secretary to compile information from NDRMMC and to inform our people of conditions as well as of government efforts to mitigate the effects of the storm," the President said.

Thousands evacuated

NDRRMC Executive Director Benito Ramos said that as of 5 p.m., at least 113,000 families have been evacuated from their flooded or damaged homes.

In Manila, at least 2,000 families living near the coast line of Manila Bay were ordered to leave their houses and seek shelter to covered

courts and schools, said Jay dela Fuente, chief of the city social welfare office.

Local disaster response units also evacuated families in low-lying areas submerged in floods in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

Ramos said they received information from Meralco that only 31 percent of Metro Manila was without electricity as of late yesterday afternoon.

Ramos quoted field reports that Pedring felled 53 trees, toppled 14 electric posts and nine traffic signages, and tore off billboards in Metro Manila.

In Cavite, Rizal and Quezon, evacuation of hundreds of families began as early as noon.

Evacuation of residents was also conducted in Bulacan, half of which experienced flooding with the highest water level recorded in Obando.

In Pampanga, rubber boats were deployed in low-lying areas of Arayat, Mexico, Sta. Ana, Candaba, San Luis, Minalin, San Simon, Apalit, Macabebe, Masantol, Sasmuan,



Pedring's Fury - Typhoon Pedring caused a storm surge and flooded many areas in Luzon and Metro Manila, forcing the evacuation of people from homes with many wading in hip deep waters to escape the deluge, damaging and leaving malls empty, stalling vehicles, and destroying shanties in coastal communities.

Guagua, Lubao and City of San Fernando City as preemptive measures.

10 CAR roads closed

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), 10 major roads were closed to vehicular traffic due to perilous rains that threaten landslides.

These were the Abra-Ilocos Norte Road; Abra-Kalinga Road; Abra-Cervantes Road; Baguio-Bontoc-Banaue Road in Dantay; Bontoc-Banaue Road in Talubing; Bontoc-Tabuk-Tuguegarao Road; Kennon Road, Acop-Kapangan-Kibungan Road; Baguio-Benguet-Nueva Vizcaya, Mountain Province-Ilocos Sur Road via Tue in Tadian town; Abatan-Cervantes-Mankayan Road; and Gorel-Bokod-Kabayanan Road. (With reports from Raymund Antonio, Anna Liza Villas, Leonard D. Postrado, Ed Mahilum, Anthony Giron, Dexter A. See, Freddie C. Velez and Ferdinand F. Castro) ■

Winner of the Urban Design Competition in the Le Triangle Sector



Marvin Rotrand, Councilor, Snowdon District and Majority Leader

Montréal, September 22, 2011

– Helen Fotopulos, Executive Committee member responsible for Culture, Heritage, Design and the Status of Women and Councillor for the Côte-des-Neiges district, and Marvin Rotrand, Councillor for the Snowdon District and Majority Leader, revealed today the winner of the urban design competition to revitalize and develop the Le Triangle sector: Catalyse Urbaine Architecture et Paysages.

The focus of the winning proposal is the development of a park in the heart of the neighbourhood. This vast green area will promote outdoor activities, foster social exchanges and create a strong identity for the neighbourhood. Several other elements, such as the development of treed squares, shared roads and a marketplace were put forward to transform the sector into a very attractive residential neighbourhood. The massive arrival of new residents in the Le Triangle neighbourhood over the next few years will require quality urban development. The project developed by the Catalyse Urbaine team aims for exactly that by building on this sector's full potential and proposing public spaces that are both functional and pleasant to be in.

"This contest helped us call on the talent and genius of local designers to develop an innovative project aiming to improve citizens' living environment. The urban design competition helped bring new ideas to light and made it possible to explore various approaches to the development of public roadways in this sector. As part of the fifth anniversary of the designation Montréal UNESCO city of design, the City pursues its goal to open up public procurement opportunities to young businesses. In this regard, I want to thank the winning team. The new public space it proposes as the basis for its project will certainly become an exceptional gathering place and forum for local residents," indicated Ms. Fotopulos.

Choosing the winner was a crucial step in the completion of this project, as the development of public spaces in this neighbourhood will help create a sense of belonging and pride among residents. The project's modern vision was a decisive factor in the jury's decision and will transform Le Triangle into a unique neighbourhood in Quebec and even Canada. It will also serve as an example in sustainable development and active and public transportation. If we want this project to strike a chord with communities around the world as a concrete and functional example of a living environment that combines accessibility, sustainability, tranquility and well-being, it is essential that this environment be developed in a way that respects these values," explained M.



Helen Fotopulos, Councilor, Cote des Neiges district, and Executive Committee member

Rotrand.

The jury was swayed by the idea of establishing a large, unifying park. "This project has the ability to prompt a strong attachment to the community and a sense of excitement among local residents and the park's developers, as well as give people the urge to accomplish something meaningful. It is the most optimistic and brings the most hope for the sector. This is truly a forward-looking project," declared president of the jury Ken Greenberg, Architect and Urban Designer for Greenberg Consultants.

Finally, thanks to the development proposed by Catalyse Urbaine, Le Triangle could become a sustainable solution to the urban sprawl of young families. It can offer an alternative to the suburbs and convince families to settle on the Island of Montréal in a living environment that will meet their needs and respect their values.

Now that the winning firm has been announced, realistic and specific timelines can be established over the next few months, along with the investments required to bring this project to life.

We should mention that the jury commended Groupe CHB-IBI on its control of all aspects of the project issues, and in particular the care with which the proposed developments were established.

About the borough of CDN—NDG revitalization project

Launched by the borough of CDN—NDG a few years ago, the Le Triangle neighbourhood revitalization project is moving along well. As a result of the public's interest, the completion of certain projects has even been pushed forward and revised. Over an area of about 40 hectares, the district will now see the addition of a total of 4,200 new housing units, including a large proportion of social housing, in accordance with Ville de Montréal's inclusion strategy, for a property value that will reach an estimated 1.2 billion dollars.

About the Montréal UNESCO city of design worksite

The Montréal UNESCO city of design worksite is an initiative of Ville de Montréal's Design Office and Université de Montréal's UNESCO Chair on landscape and environment. This \$1.2-M project is funded in equal measures by the ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, the ministère des Affaires municipales, des Régions et de l'Occupation du territoire, the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal and Ville de Montréal.

For more information on the contest and the new district, please go to letrianglemontreal.com

From Page 1 Filipino Coop moves

to move earlier than the final deadline set by the building owner because it is more advantageous to operate the cooperative under the same roof as Gilmore College International which is located in a high customer traffic on Queen Mary Road near Decarie Boulevard. Besides, most of the students of the college are the ones who support the cooperative as most of them have become fully paid members. Those who signed up under the old administration have been inactive for the past four years. Attempts to contact them have failed as most of them must have changed their addresses and telephone numbers, while others may have moved too far away and found it easier to shop near their places of residence. However, there are also some members who have expressed a revived interest in patronizing the Coop. They say that if the store is open during their normal shopping hours, they will be able to come more often. What have discouraged them is the fact that the Coop has limited hours and when they come, they always find it closed.

New marketing strategies will be implemented in order to help the Cooperative become the ideal place for members to buy their groceries from. For example, the convenience of ordering by phone will be encouraged, and opening the store regularly from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. everyday may suit the needs of its members. Moreover, only products requested will be kept on stock.

It is hoped to have at least 50 active members that will make it possible for the Coop to start over on the right foot at its new location on

5320-A Queen Mary Road. This place can be accessed by Snowdon Metro which is just about a block away. The bus stop for busses 51,66, and 151 is just in front of the door. The convenience of one-stop shopping is also possible because of the existence of a fruit and vegetable store besides the Coop as well as other types of businesses such as restaurants, bakeries, pharmacy, and banks being on the same block.

Another measure to be introduced is shopping via the internet. Members can order their groceries on line and can have them delivered to their homes. The coop has its own website under its domain name: marchecoop.com. It may take a few months' to prepare and set it up to include information about the products available and a type of point of sale processing in order to encourage members to buy more. For the time being, we can have cash and carry transactions only but if necessary, C.O.D. (cash on delivery) is also recommended.

A market study and customer interest survey will be conducted to give us more information about the shopping preferences of our members. But this survey can only be successfully conducted with the cooperation of more volunteers who will help send communication to people by e-mail, letters or telephone call.

Seminars about the purpose of cooperatives will also be given soon. They will be announced in this newspaper and held at the headquarters of Gilmore College International.

Should members require more information, please call us at 514-485-7861, extension 228.

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President Benigno Aquino III slogan wins Asian award

MANILA, Philippines – President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III bested other heads of state for his communications platform of promoting transparency and accountability.

He received on Thursday night in Hong Kong the Public Affairs Asia's Gold Standard Award for Political Communications.

Aquino won over Lee Kuan Yew, Minister Mentor and first Prime Minister of Singapore; Ambika Soni, India's Minister of Information and Broadcasting; British Prime Minister David Cameron; ASEAN Secretary General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan; and Indonesian Politician Anas Urbaningrum.

PublicAffairsAsia Executive Director Craig Hoy said: “These awards celebrate the achievements of corporations, governments and NGOs and identify those professionals, consultancies and governmental figures who are driving this important process of engagement and partnership in Asia Pacific.”

PublicAffairsAsia is a network of senior government relations, public affairs and corporate communications professionals operating across the Asia Pacific region.

The group gave credence to Aquino's “Kung Walang Corrupt, Walang Mahirap” line that he has been trumpeting since the elections.

In fact, Aquino had made sure that this

would be brought into the public consciousness, it said.

Aquino had even capitalized on different platforms to bring this to the public. His communications team, for example, made sure of the government's presence in the Internet. He also launched recently the Public-Private Partnership Center, a cornerstone of its economic policy.

His nomination was developed by EON, a stakeholder relations firm.

“We nominated President Aquino because we believed that he is the person to drive lasting change within the political landscape of the Philippines. It's a great thrill to see that our efforts have translated in a concrete result not just for the President, but also for the country,” said EON Chief Executive Junie del Mundo.

Last year, the award went to Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono due to his exemplary work in addressing corruption in Indonesia through his Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK)

By Ira Pedrasa
abs-cbnNEWS.com

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Balikbayan Box

Sumapit na naman ang Setyembre, panahon ng taglagas at nalalapit na taglamig. Lungkot sa nag-lahong tag-init at bakasyon, halos linggo-linggo ay piknikan, BBQ, buffet, handaan.

Sa mga Pinoy na may mga mahal sa buhay ay maglalayag at lilipad muli ang isip upang makauwi sa Pinas at makapiling ang mga mahal sa buhay doon.

Pasok.... Balikbayan Box! Karaniwang sukat ay 22" x 20" x 23" Walang takdang bigat at kahit ano ang ipadala. Sino naman ang mag-aaksaya ng pambayad kung angkla lang ng bangka o dinamita ang ilalaman nito. Patungo sa Manila at karatig-pook ay \$65.00 ang bayad.

Ang paboritong laman ay mga de-latang tulad ng corned beef o ham. Ang kape ay laging nangunguna sa listahan at halos buong taon ay inaa-bangan kung saang tindahan mayroong sale nito. 'Ika nga, para sulit naman sa pamasahé dahil kung ganoon din ang halaga sa Pinas ay money remittance na lang.

Manaka-naka ay may masisinop na namimili ng mga gamit sa bahay, kusina, atbp. sa garage sale sa halagang nag-mamera ang kalabaw. Kaya silid sa kahon ang plantsa, bread-toaster, lumang TV, dahil hindi plasma o HD. Bagama't hindi naman pahuhuli sa hi-tech appliances ang Pinas ay marami pa rin sa mga baryo ang wala nito.

Pangkaraniwan ding sinisilid sa kahon ang mga pinagkalakihang damit at hindi na maisuot. Marami dito ang nagpabaya na at lumobo na ang pangangatawan.

Gumagamit na rin ng lampin ang ating mga magulang na umabot na sa edad.

Kung mayroon pang puwang bago tawagin ang kukuha ng kahon ay mading tumakbo sa Dollarama at makakatulong nang malaki kung ano pa ang maaaring isingit at mapapakinabangan sa Pinas.

Nagmamadali kami rito upang umabot sa Pasko ang kahon samantalang naririnig namin ang mga pamaskong tugtugin na laganap na sa ilang estasyon ng radyo at TV.

Mahal kong Pechay (Hailey),

Ang sexy mo naman sa two-piece mo! Pero hindi ako gaanong nagitla diyan. Alam mo bang natuto lang akong maglakad mag-isa ay ipinasok naman ako kaagad ng Tatay at Nanay ko sa day-care?

Eto na ... doon pala nagsisimula ang integration sa pag-aaral. May puti, itim at ako raw ay dapat brown o kayumanggi.

E, kasalanan ko ba kung naging mestisuhin ako tulad ni Lolo Eddie? Ang magandang balita ay co-ed na pala kaagad. Kaya't ang dami ko nang kalarong



'chicks.' Araw-araw ay iba ang damit nila at sari-saring ayos ng buhok ang nakikita ko. Maganda rin pala ang medyo kulot ang buhok. Kahit hindi ako magsuklay bago pumasok ay puwede na rin.

Ang balita ko sa iyo ay nadagdagan ang tawag sa iyo, May naririnig na akong, Flippay at Maracoli. "Yung una ay hawig sa Lelang Pepay natin sa Renton, WA at 'yung sumunod ay medyo ligaw ako. May nakilala ka bang Italyano?"

Salamat pala sa pagdalo ninyong mag-anak sa birthday party ng Tatay ko. Party girl ka talaga, ha? Ika-1:00 n.u. ka na raw umuwi.

Sulat ka agad, ha?

Laging nagmamahal,

Kuya Pichu (Aiden)

ELEKSİYON SA FAMAS

Noong Agosto, 2011 ay ipinahayag ko ang tanong na ito: Sino ang karapat-dapat manungkulan - ang dinaya o ang nandaya? Lumalabas ay kapuwa may paratang ang magkabalang panig at walang katapusang nagtuturuan.

Ang tanong ngayon ay ganito: Sino ang makahaharap sa salamin at usigin ang sarili at walang kurap-matang makapagsasabing hindi ako nandaya.

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TO BE HELD ON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011
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Any Which Way ...

Bernardo "Budz" Sarmiento
bemiesarmiento@hotmail.com.

It isn't the will of the people; it's the will of the cheaters

The people who are sympathetic to the candidates of the Samahang Makabayan have been extravagantly decrying the COMELEC's decision to deduct 150 votes from the total votes that each candidate received in the last FAMAS election. They argue that the will of the people must be respected and those who got the most number of votes should be declared the winners. That's the conventional wisdom, and this writer agrees with that fundamental principle. However, is it really the will of the people when the candidates won only because they cheated their way into victory? Since when winning by cheating the will of the people?

One may ask "How did they cheat?" Let me tell you how. On July 10, 2011, outside of the official campaign period, they jumped the gun on campaigning and handed out campaign materials to prospective supporters to the disadvantage of their opponents. Furthermore, they cunningly registered people from an old database and paid their registration fees. That's, for all intent and purposes, vote-buying. Now, how can their victory be regarded the will of the people? If anything, it is the will of the cheaters that the COMELEC could not, would not and did not condone.

WHY MAKABAYAN LIKES YELLOW – According to Wikipedia, the word "yellow" comes from the Old English geolu, or geolwe which was derived from the Proto-Germanic word gelwaz. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the oldest known use of this word in English is from The Epinal Glossary in the year 700.

In the English language, yellow has traditionally been associated with jaundice and cowardice. Yellow is associated with the word "caution" and is the second light on stop lights. The color is associated with aging as well, for both

people and objects (e.g. "yellowed" paper). Ethnographically, the term "yellow" has been used as a slang term for both Asians ("yellow peril") and, in the early 20th century, light-skinned African-Americans (High yellow).

"Yellow" ("giallo"), in Italy, refers to crime stories, both fictional and real. This association began in about 1930, when the first series of crime novels published in Italy had yellow covers. The term "yellow movie" (????) can refer to films of pornographic nature in Chinese culture, and is analogous to the English "blue movie". Lastly, it is associated with sensational journalistic practices, or yellow journalism, and resistance to militant trade unions.

Etymology– From the Yellow Kid, a character in a wildly popular comic Hogan's Alley that appeared in the New York World, a newspaper owned by Joseph Pulitzer. The Yellow Kid was the object of a circulation war between the New York World and its competitor, the New York Journal that eventually resulted in both newspapers engaging in journalistic practices characterized by hyperbole, melodrama, and even manufactured events.

SPEAKING OF YELLOW JOURNALISM – Let me explain first what "yellow journalism" means. "Yellow journalism" is journalism that employs exaggeration, lies, scandals, and lurid stories to attract readers. It's the kind of journalism that the publisher of there-is-nothing-like-it rival newspaper almost always resorts to for achieving his evil designs or for maligning anyone who gets in his way. That brings us to the fabricated sexual harassment accusation purportedly against me that said self-proclaimed journalist and self-appointed editor-in-chief has maliciously published in his trashy newspaper on mere phone call by a mysterious woman.

Some of the female Filipino

nurses whom I worked with on my floor at the Reddy were Delia Jacinto and her sister Annie; Flora Villapando, then-wife of Mando Villapando, the Asian Leader editor-in-chief whose writing ability the publisher of the Filipino Forum had denigrated; and Nitz Lamsen, a first cousin of my current wife Katherine. I also worked with Eddie Valdez, also a nurse and a die-hard supporter of the Samahang Makabayan. He is also the brother of Lina Fernandez whose version of who should be credited for the Rizal bust now standing at Mackenzie King Park I strongly criticized.

As readers of this newspaper may already know, Reddy Memorial was one of the eight hospitals that the Quebec government shut down in 1997 as part of its austerity and downsizing program. Under the collective bargaining agreement between the unions and the closed hospitals, the displaced workers were given jobs in the hospitals still in operation. One of them is the Jewish General Hospital where the provincial government assigned me in January 1997. I worked there since until my retirement last August.

The NPD-afflicted publisher most probably just wanted to settle the score with me because I mentioned in one of my past columns his wife's alleged adulterous relationship with one of her husband's namesakes and also his son's alleged theft while working in a popular Jewish nursing home for the aged. I considered suing him, but then again I've decided that we are now even.

COMMUNITY'S MOST QUERULOUS WOMAN – Last August 30, I reported his termagant wife Pachochay Magallanes to the police in Station 26 for physical assault she committed against me at the FAMAS Center the day before. The police officer, Sgt. Nolin, wasted no time in calling her at her Aubin St. residence in St. Laurent. It took the good sergeant two requests, one demand, and finally a stern warning that a criminal charge would be filed against her before she ultimately, albeit begrudgingly, came to the phone and spoke to the police officer. She pleaded with him and tried to narrate a different story but he wouldn't fall for that and refused to listen to her tale of woes.

Sgt. Nolin advised me that if Pachochay would physically assault me again, just call 9-1-1 and they would pick her up as quickly as possible.

While at the station, I had some other people in her ragtag group "blottered" so they would know who the persons of interest might be in case I got harmed.

GET WELL WISHES TO MESSRS. FLORESCA, CANDOLETA, SOTERO AND TAPIA – My family and I would like to wish Albert Floresca, the current president of the Filipino Chess and Social Club of Montreal, a speedy recovery from his heart problem. Other than that, he's doing fine at St. Mary's. He was admitted on September 13th.

The same heartfelt wishes go to Albert Candoleta who had a quadruple bypass at the Vic recently; to Dory Sotero whose leg was amputated at the Jewish General due to diabetes; and Joji Tapia, who had a quadruple bypass on September 19th, also at the Jewish General.

AU, JAMES, DEBBIE AND LINDA – People who appreciate a good argument when they hear one were so impressed with Au Osdon's excellent performance during the meeting held in the evening of September 6, 2011. It's worth repeating here how proud and delighted she made them feel when she convincingly trounced her detractors' criticisms of her and her leadership. At long last, they saw and heard the Aurora Osdon that they had long been longing to see and hear. Ms. Osdon was so unequivocal and forceful with her arguments that her critics were compelled to tone down their rhetoric. I wonder if her opponent is up to that kind of task. But I digress.

I particularly enjoyed the part when Ms. Osdon finally abreached and calmly and without rancor told Marlene Birao Schachter, another former FAMAS president, all the feelings that she had been keeping in her chest for so long. Her speech was so matter-of-factly that even Marlene's putative master, who was also at the meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees, was left speechless and couldn't take up the cudgels for her lackey.

From my point of view, the

See Page 15

Any Which Way

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Ask the Video Guy

Al Abdon

Are you shooting in 3D? Understanding 3DTV

Before you shoot 3DTV, you need to understand the basic concept of filming in 3D. Basically, you are shooting two 2D video streams - representing the left and right eye views - that are electronically overlaid and then played through a 3D capable TV/computer to provide a realistic 3DTV experience.

In the broadcast world, they are still figuring how best to do 3DTV. The problem ESPN and other networks are grappling with is depth of field. Here's how it works: The broadcasters put two 2D HD cameras side-by-side on a single support rig, to simulate a left eye/right eye view. The more they want the 3D effect to pop out at the viewer, the further apart they place the cameras from each other; thus deepening the depth of field the viewer perceives. In theaters, they exaggerate this perspective so you feel the object is reaching you.

Here's the problem: While pushing depth of field can make distant shots look convincingly 3D - in real life, they look more 2D because broadcasters are trying to find a balance between the 3D 'wow factor' and video that just looks like you are actually there. It is important to note that so far they have not found this balance; the technology is still too new.

Therefore if you have bought a consumer 3D camera (only 8 cameras so far on the time I am writing this) you are stepping on a new ground.

Remember many years ago, around 1978, I bought my first video

camera. It was a Sony B&W tube camera, very bulky and it is attached to



Aitek

a portable recorder. I watch my self in front of the B&W TV for hours. I was so proud of it becoming the first to have this kind of toy. Today nobody would even use it even as a door stopper. Got my point?

Shooting in 3D



Panasonic HDCSD750K.

The challenges of integrating two 2D video streams into one 3D picture do have an impact on how you shoot in this medium. Simply put, you need to keep things simple when you start out; then push the boundaries slowly as you become more comfortable.

Some rules of thumb:

- resist the temptation to do fast zooms and pans. Keep it slow.
- lighting is very important. Colour temperature of these cameras are very sensitive.
- make sure your focus are good.
- plan your panning to ensure smooth motion
- use a tripod if possible

Unlike the broadcast 3DTV

cameras with their adjustable depths of field, the Panasonic HDC-SDT750 and the DXG 3D pocket camcorder come with fixed 3D lenses. This means that you will not have as many options when it comes to depth of field and control of your 3D image.

Of the two, the HDC-SDT750 is the choice for serious consumer videographers. The reason is that the HDC-SDT750 is basically a Panasonic HDC-TM700 camcorder that comes with an attachable 3D lens unit. Remove the lens, and you have a high quality 2D camcorder that records in AVCHD and

first time ever, you will be able to create home movies in 3D and relive each moment in lifelike detail thanks to the new DXG 3D pocket camcorder and media player" - says a DXG news release - but the specs are not as impressive. Consider: The DXG 3D pocket camcorder's video resolution is "VGA Standard 3D Dual-Lens Technology; H.264 AVI File Format". Unless the rules have changed, VGA Standard means 640 by 480 resolution. Even with 3D added, that's not much. It is like having a stereo music system that uses 1" speakers..



Sony HDRTD10

MPEG4. In short, if you aren't happy with the HDC-SDT750's 3D performance, you haven't wasted your cash. This camcorder's list price is \$1399. It comes with 3D editing software that allows you to edit your 3D video onto DVD, or for the Web.

There are Sony models such as HDR TD-10 & MHS-FS-3. JVC also got their new model, GS-T01. Aitek and DXG models also came out. All of these have an average price of \$1500.

Worth noting: You cannot make a



DXG-5F9VK

camera do more than it is built for. In 2D, the HDC-SDT750 records in 1920 by 1080 pixels. In 3D mode, the first number is divided in half, so you have two 960 by 1080 pixel video streams - which means this is not full HD 3D video.

As for the DXG 3D pocket camcorder? This is a small handheld unit with flip out LCD screen that comes with its own 3DTV 7" media player sold together for \$600. The hype promoting this camera is pretty glossy - "For the

How to Decide?

Well, if performance is your concern, then the Panasonic HDC-SDT750 is a wiser purchase. Well, if performance is your concern, then the Panasonic HDC-SDT750 is a wiser purchase. But if you want to get your feet wet in 3DTV on a budget, then consider the DXG 3D pocket camcorder. "Neither the camcorder or the media player require the consumer to wear special glasses," says DXG spokesperson Darlene Cannon. "They feature 3D dual lens parallax barrier technology, which makes it possible to view the 3D without glasses. You can also play back your 3D video and 3D photos directly on the camcorder's flip out LCD screen as well."

Whatever you choose, be aware that this is very much an experimental field, as far as consumer video technology is concerned. There is no guarantee that the 3DTV footage you shoot using this equipment will stand the test of time; anymore than consumer Betamax or the optical disc storage medium known as the LaserDisc did.

On the positive side, the advent of the Panasonic HDC-SDT750 and DXG 3D pocket camcorder do allow consumer videographers an opportunity to try out 3D for themselves. If your goal is to capture a growing family, then the investment might well be worth it: By the time the 3DTV format settles down, your toddlers might be teenagers.

The bottom line: Feel free to try 3D videography, but do so accepting that you are taking a risk. Still, there's no doubt that your 3D camcorder will be the envy of all your 2D friends!

Buying these 3D camcorders will make you a pioneer in the camera world.

Go out and venture the unknown, maybe you can discover tricks which we have not known.

Happy Shooting Folks!

Al Abdon
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Filipina Attorney



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North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Richelle Contaoe who was born on August 23rd, shown on her father's lap during the celebration of her 4th birthday by her parents, Ethel Tugna and Jun Contaoe. Close family and friends were invited for supper at Cuisine de Manille Restaurant on 5710 Victoria Ave. on Sunday, August 28, 2011.



The blessing of the new headquarters of Gilmore College International, officiated by Father Frank Alvarez, PME, of the Filipino Catholic Mission, was held on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Teachers, some students and guests who responded to the open invitation, pose for souvenir of this important occasion in the College's 22nd year of existence, rendering educational services to the community.



Gilmore College students, family and friends went to the apple orchard in Mont St. Gregoire to have a picnic after picking apples, Sunday, September 25, 2011



Souvenir family photo of Richelle Contaoe's 4th birthday shown with her parents and brother, August 28, 2011.



Jennifer Lachica (seated, in striped shirt) who studies French at Gilmore College was feted by her classmates on Sunday, September 11, 2011 in advance of her real birthday of September 15.



Councilor Marvin Rotrand dropped by Gilmore College International during the open house held on September 17, 2011.



Chicken Afritada



Estimated cooking time: 50 minutes

Chicken Afritada Ingredients:

- * 1 kilo chicken, cut into pieces
- * 5 pieces potatoes, peeled and halved
- * 1 red onion, diced
- * 1 head garlic, minced
- * 1 green bell pepper, sliced into strips
- * 1 red bell pepper, sliced into strips
- * 2 cups pork or chicken stock (broth)
- * 1 cup tomato sauce
- * 2 tablespoons of patis (fish sauce)
- * 3 tablespoons of cooking oil

Chicken Afritada Cooking Instructions:

- * In a cooking pot or wok, heat oil.
- * Sauté garlic and onions.
- * Add chicken and slightly brown.
- * Pour the tomato sauce and stock. Bring to a boil and allow to simmer for 20 minutes or until the chicken is almost cooked.
- * Add potatoes and continue to cook for 10 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked.
- * Add the green and red bell peppers, simmer for an additional minute or two.
- * Salt and pepper to taste
- * Serve this chicken recipe hot with steamed rice.

Paella



Ingredients

- * 2 chicken breasts, skin removed and cut into large chunks

- * 2 Italian sausages, cut into 1 inch pieces
- * 2 onions, peeled and chopped
- * 10 whole cloves garlic, peeled
- * 28 ounces can whole tomatoes
- * 2 cups Arborio rice
- * 3 cups chicken stock
- * 1 cup of your favourite red or white wine
- * 3 bay leaves
- * 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- * 1 red pepper, seeds removed and chopped
- * 1 pound of shrimp, shelled and deveined

Directions

1. Heat a large flat sauté pan or traditional paella pan. Add a splash of oil and begin to brown the chicken and sausages. Once they have browned set them aside on a plate.
2. Add the onions to the hot pan and a small splash of oil, sauté until golden.
3. Add the garlic and stir for a few moments.
4. Add tomatoes, breaking them up with a wooden spoon.
5. Add rice, stock, wine, bay leaves, rosemary, red pepper, the reserved meat and the shrimp.
6. Bring to a simmer and cook over medium heat until the liquid has absorbed and the rice is tender, about thirty minutes.

Meat Loaf



Ingredients

- * 2 pounds lean ground beef
- * 2 eggs
- * 1 1/2 cups dry bread crumbs
- * 1/4 cup ketchup
- * 1 teaspoon monosodium glutamate (MSG)
- * 1/2 cup warm water
- * 1 (1 ounce) package dry onion soup mix
- * 2 slices bacon
- * 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl combine the beef, eggs, crumbs, ketchup, MSG, water and soup mix. Mix well and spoon mixture into loaf pan. Cover with 2

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strips of bacon, then cover with tomato sauce.

3. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour.

Nutritional Information open nutritional information

Amount Per Serving Calories: 523 | Total Fat: 29.5g | Cholesterol: 166mg Powered by ESHA Nutrient Database Nutritional Information Ann's Sister's Meatloaf Recipe

Servings Per Recipe: 6

Amount Per Serving

Calories: 523

- * Total Fat: 29.5g
- * Cholesterol: 166mg
- * Sodium: 1225mg
- * Total Carbs: 28.1g
- * Dietary Fiber: 1.6g
- * Protein: 34.4g

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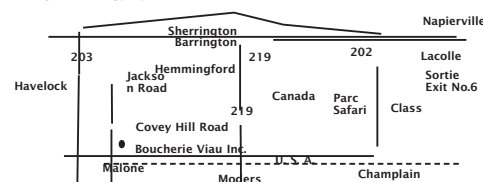
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From Page 8 Any Which Way

next three best speakers in that meeting were Debbie Resurreccion, James de la Paz and Linda Baltazar. Debbie for telling Marlene, the community's answer to the popular TV sitcom Three's Company's Chrissy Snow played by Suzanne Somers, straight from the hip and without any pause what kind of examples she and her group would be to the youth if they would keep on picking nits against Au and the present Executive Board rather than cooperate and help out.

James, for calling the bluff of those who had been threatening the COMELEC and the Mabuhay Team with a lawsuit to file a lawsuit once and for all if they really thought they were treated unfairly. And finally, Linda, for her eloquent and strong defence of the COMELEC's decision.

SV MUST HAVE TOO MUCH TO DRINK – I might have bragged about a few things in the past, but I never said that I was the brightest Filipino in Montreal. That distinction belongs to Felix Reyes, the guy who knows everything. SV must have been referring to him. Or he must have had too much to drink as he often has. I understand that when a person is drunk, he doesn't know what he's saying anymore. That was likely the case in SV's situation.

BALLOT BOXES VS. MY SAFETY – My sense of responsibility is being questioned by my detractors for leaving the ballot boxes behind at St. Kevin's Church Social Hall on the night of the FAMAS election.

Due to my steadfast refusal to announce the result of the election right then and there, the throng of people that was mostly composed of members and sympathizers of the Samahang Makabayan started hurling invectives as they were closing in on me. I felt at that point that there was an imminent danger to my safety. I believed that serious physical harm might occur to me within a short time. So, I left in a huff with my wife and our 12-year old daughter, cognizant that the ballot boxes were still piled up there in the middle of the hall and might be tampered with.

It was a judgment call on my part. Which one must I secure: the safety of the ballot boxes or my safety? Obviously, I decided that my safety and my family's safety were paramount to that of the ballot boxes.

I thought that since Sonny Valdez was also a member of the COMELEC and in charge of the security to boot, he would take it upon himself to secure the ballot boxes. He did not. People from at least two organizations he is associated with have told me that it's typical of him. He never runs out of words to say, but seldom, if at all, translate them into deeds or actions. He is more a fault-finder than anything else.

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UNSOLICITED OPINION (Not a legal opinion)

TACITLY SOLICITED RESPONSE (An informed opinion by Budz Sarmiento)

To the Principals and Accessories as aforementioned and the members of the Executive Boards of FAMAS Montreal, Quebec

Dear Mr. Salvador B. Cabugao,

I have reviewed the statements that were made during the time of my attendance at the FAMAS Executive Board meeting on September 6, 2011, and certain documents and correspondence relative to the events surrounding the FAMAS Elections on August 14, 2011

Before I set sail into the sea of my reply, I would like to take pleasure of telling you how much I appreciate your effort to weigh in on arguably the biggest problem our community has ever faced in at least the last five years.

I wish that you got involved much earlier, but I suppose it isn't so much that your train of opinion has come this late than that the train has finally arrived at the station. What is important now is that you have eventually decided to express what you, yourself, termed "Unsolicited Opinion (Not a legal opinion)."

In my unsolicited opinion as a member of the Canadian Filipino community, the duly elected members of the Executive Board of 2011-13 are those who garnered the most number of votes for their respective position, namely, Cesar Manuel, Dante Tabamo, Gene Santander, Melle Lugod, Ramon Vicente Jr., Cely Dagsaan, Jhun Zapanta, Al Abdon, Gina Medina, Debbie Resurreccion, Mercy Umipig Sia, Joan Junio, and Rose Marie Arellano.

I do respect your opinion whether it's unsolicited or not and although it is quite contrary to the official proclamation that the FAMAS Committee on Elections (COMELEC) 2011-2016 posted on the FAMAS website and the subsequent staggered inductions officiated or approved by the same committee.

The listing of the Principals and Accessories are my own personal choices, as only the prosecuting attorneys of the plaintiffs can name who they are suing in a civil or criminal suit, should there be any. No one of the individuals can use FAMAS funds for costs and penalties, as the suits may be filed against the individuals, jointly and severally, as the dependants did not act in the performance of their duties in FAMAS.

I strongly disagree with your argument, Mr. Cabugao, that "No one of the individuals can use FAMAS funds for costs and penalties." The members of the COMELEC, in particular, must be able to use such funds to defray the cost of litigation in case they, or any of them, get sued in regard to the actions they took in the performance of their duties.

Members of the COMELEC were appointed by the past FAMAS Executive Board and, therefore, they are considered employees of FAMAS. So, when employees carry out their tasks they also represent their employer. That said, it is only just and right that the employer shoulders any legal expense incurred when any of its employees is

sued for doing his or her job. The COMELEC is the alter ego of its appointing body on electoral matters. Thus, when the COMELEC gets sued, so does FAMAS.

I have prepared a "Memorandum of my observations" which the legal counsels may refer to, to investigate the cases, but I assume no responsibility for the contents of this Memorandum.

I'll tell you this much, Mr. Cabugao. You are not only smart, you are also cunning. You want your cake and eat it, too. You have prepared, on your own initiative, a "Memorandum of My Observation" but you voluntarily admit that you will "assume no responsibility for the contents of this Memorandum." With that in mind, I can't help likening you to a man who impregnated a trusting woman, but will not assume any responsibility for the baby in her womb. That is unbecoming of a true gentleman, Mr. Cabugao. From where I come from, it's irresponsibility and cowardice. I don't know what it is where you come from.

As I reminded all parties present at the Executive Board meeting, I quoted Isaiah 56.1, "Do what is right."

Since I am not as fond as you are of quoting from the Bible, I will simply say: STOP PROTESTING, ACCEPT THE COMELEC'S DECISION AND WAIT FOR THE 2013 ELECTION. THAT'S DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.

With that appeal, I am sure Isaiah will be happy wherever he may be, and whether he is for the Mabuhay Team or Samahang Makabayan.

SALVADOR B. CABUGAO

Montreal, Quebec

September 9, 2011

Memorandum of my observations

regarding the events surrounding the FAMAS Elections on August 14, 2011

Rebuttal to "Memorandum of my observation regarding the events surrounding the FAMAS Elections on August 14, 2011"

9 September 2011

10 September 2011

Note to readers: The text in italics is what Mr. Salvador B. Cabugao does not want to assume responsibility for. This is what he says: "I have prepared a 'Memorandum of my observations' which the legal counsels may refer to, to investigate the cases, but I assume no responsibility for the contents of this Memorandum."

1. *The contention of the Executive Board 2009-11 that "the decision of the Comelec is final", is wrong, because only the Executive Board has the power to pass the requisite resolution.*

"The decision of the COMELEC is final" is not wrong, particularly in a legal context. Mr. Cabugao seems to be unaware of the provisions of the new FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws, particularly those pertaining to the COMELEC. I won't cite them all here; it's up to you, Mr. Cabugao, to educate yourself of those stipulations.

2. The "declaration" of the winners by THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS IS NOT BINDING UNTIL THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FORMALLY ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS.

Nowhere in the new FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws can Mr.

See Page 18 Unsolicited Opinion

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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

No 'princess' treatment for FPJ's daughter Lovi upon joining showbiz



Being FPJ's daughter may have had its perks, but Lovi did not get to where she is now riding on the coattails of her famous dad

Unlike other young celebs who come from showbiz dynasties, young actress Lovi Poe relates that she didn't get everything on a silver platter nor was she treated like a princess when she entered the industry.

"No. You know what I didn't grow up with everything like, handed down to me. Kumbaga, I had to work on everything as in, my mom never spoiled me and my dad never spoiled me so I had to work hard to get everything that I want.

"So ayun, there are times pa nga na hindi ko nakukuha kung ano yung gusto ko. So no, definitely not a princess," she shared in a taped interview with "Paparazzi's" host Mo Twister aired on Sept. 11.

In terms of being treated "differently" in school or in the industry being the daughter of the late showbiz icon Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ), Lovi insisted that it was never the case for her.

"Everything, parang the same. Kasi I don't see myself din naman as his daughter. Parang, I know I am, but I think I don't like to put it in my head," she mused aloud.

When asked if boys she's dated treat her as an ordinary girl, or if in some instances they get intimidated by her showbiz lineage, the star of "My Neighbor's Wife" hesitated a bit when she answered, "I think — I'm not sure about intimidated — but I think, I'm actually very thankful nga because of the legacy that my dad left me. I think 'yung respect na nakukuha ko from men, 'yun, I think that's what I get sometimes."

Embroided in numerous controversies of late, starting from her past rumored romance with former

Ilocos Sur congressman Ronald Singson to the daring image she now projects—notably her sexy roles and Billboard photos to being the current cover girl of FHM—Lovi recalled her earlier trials.

"I think, I've gone through so much, eh. I don't wanna elaborate on things but then, the thing that I went through like before, in front of a lot of people, it was really difficult to actually stand your ground and actually show everyone, [to] fight for what you believe in, I think," Lovi intimated.

She added, "There are times na I think na parang this is quite unfair, I mean, I'm just 22 and then I feel like I'm 50 already and everything, but at the same time, I feel blessed because once I grow older I believe I'll experience more hardships in life and I think I can face them na because right now, 22 pa lang ako parang...yeah! Nakayanan ko na, what more pa paglaki ko I think," she shared.

Despite having a facade of strength and being blessed with a curvaceous body that makes her an ideal subject for magazine covers, Lovi revealed in an interview with PEP on Sept. 11 that she still has insecurities like most other women.

For one, she names her biggest physical flaw to be her breasts, but when asked if she's mulling going under the knife to enhance it, FPJ's daughter said, "No, I think, for me, of course, I have nothing against enhancement or anything. I think, [women] have the right to do whatever they want with their bodies to make them feel beautiful. For me ha, I'm just fine with it. I guess, I like it this way." ■

Piolo breaks silence, finally talks about his relationship with KC

by Giselle Sanchez



Piolo Pascual with Giselle Sanchez inside the Qatar First Class lounge

For weeks, Piolo Pascual has been mum about the status of his relationship with KC Conception.

All we know from what we have read and seen on television is that if Facebook was to brand the affair, it falls under "It's complicated."

It has been written, blogged and talked about on national television that Piolo and KC's relationship is allegedly on the rocks. When the latter admitted that they are going through something, Piolo chose to be silent.

When megastar Sharon Cuneta aired her message of encouragement to her distraught daughter, Piolo was still quiet. Even when KC cried and spoke her heart out to the press, Piolo's mouth was still zipped.

Workload afforded Piolo to be elusive. First, he had his Asian Tour and at the moment I am with him for his Middle East tour as we make the Filipinos in Qatar and Kuwait happy.

As the gentleman that he has always been, Piolo obliged and gave me the interview I was begging for.

This might even be the last time he will talk about this issue.

Now, this is the status we have all been waiting for: "It's something really personal that I haven't thoroughly discussed with her (KC). Mas mabuti na kami muna mag-usap. Ang hirap kasi when you're in showbiz, everything gets magnified and everything is talked about. Hindi pa rin ako sanay," Piolo opened up.

"There are just things I wish we could have avoided. There are just things I wish we could have kept to ourselves. Just the same, if this is printed, and people will have their own opinions, para hindi na lang lumaki, I will just settle this between the two of us."

KC, his one true love

Piolo, however, assured that their relationship will be a bed of roses again. When I asked him if he considers KC his one true love, he immediately answered: "Oh yeah! Hindi naman ako papasok sa isang relasyon mapa-showbiz man o hindi if it's not for the long haul or if it's not good for me. I did not wait this long just to waste my time."

There you go. Fans of Piolo and KC need not to worry. Now that we've heard what's on Piolo's mind, we know that both parties are willing to work out their relationship.

Known as Asia's Funny Girl, Giselle thanks all the Filipinos that supported the "Kapamilyas Live" concert with Piolo Pascual, Jovit Baldivino and herself in Qatar and Kuwait. Follow her in Facebook and Twitter by logging on to her website www.gisellesanchez.com where she writes about her Bohol beachfront hotel. ■

Sharon Cuneta says 'no' to politics



Sharon Cuneta

Megastar Sharon Cuneta said she has no plans to pursue a political career.

Cuneta said she wants stay away from the complicated world of politics. "I thank God I have no plans to enter politics. Komplikado na enough as it is ang politika sa bansa natin."

Instead of dwelling on the thought of running for public office, Cuneta said she'd rather stay where she is now and hope for the best for our country.

"Ang ginagawa ko, imbes na

isipin ay idasal na maayos na ang bansa more than anything."

Meanwhile, when asked about her plans of having another baby, Cuneta said that she had actually given it a lot of thoughts.

"Plans, [I have] plenty, but reality won't allow it," she said.

She has already talked about it with her husband Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, but it seems that he too has decided to stop trying.

"Puwede pa sana eh. Pinag-uusapan namin 'yan ni Kiko. [Sabi ko,] 'I want,' [pero sabi niya,] 'Enough na sweetheart.'"

After losing as much as 20 pounds, Cuneta said that her diet continues to maintain her figure. "Cut down lang talaga sa carbo(hydrates) sa sweets, yung mga usual na culprit ng pagpapataba," she said.

When asked about her thoughts on doing a possible television series, on the other hand, Cuneta said she is keeping her doors open.

"Aaralin ko 'yan (paggawa ng television series) baka naman sakaling matuloy dahil interested din ako for the first time in my life." ■

Jinkee offers reward for proof of her husband's 'infidelity'



Jinkee Pacquiao

Probably exasperated over rumors of late that her husband Manny Pacquiao is again being romantically linked to another celebrity, Jinkee Pacquiao offers a reward to anybody who can show her proof.

"Kailangan ko ng proof. Ibigay mo sa akin, any time, anywhere. O, 'di ba? Nandito lang ako, 24/7," she declared on "24 Oras," Sept. 20.

She even offered a "reward" to anyone who can give her such proof.

Asked what the reward could be, Jinkee snapped, "Hermes, gusto niyo?"

Jinky shared that her relationship with the pound-for-pound king has changed drastically.

"Happy ako na confident. 'Yung dati na hindi niya ginagawa, parang iba na ngayon," she said on "TV Patrol" the same evening.

Manny, on the other had, has been very critical of what she wears, she says. In fact, he gave a thumbs down to her pictorial for a billboard where she's clad in a swimsuit.

"Ito ba? Ito ba dapat? Ay naku 'pagka lumabas ito magpapasa ako ng bill na lahat ng mga billboard na mga ganyan hindi na puwede 'yan! Dapat daw hindi gano'n. Tapos, 'Ikaw, buti kung dalaga ka, eh may asawa ka na!'" she said.

"Tapos tsine-check niya kung ano ang suot. 'Bakit ganyan?' Minsan 'pag lipstick... 'pag ano...'Bakit ano, bakit red?"

Jinkee is thankful that nothing was lost when their house in Los Angeles got burglarized recently.

As a precaution, "siguro higgitan 'yung security and then magpalagay ako ng gate kung i-allow ng village namin doon."

Jiny shared that next year, she and her family plan to move into their new house in an exclusive village in Makati.

"Siguro sa birthday ko or birthday ng anak ko magpa-bless na kami," she said on "TV Patrol."

Although she supports Manny's political career, Jinkee feels he should run as congressman, not as governor. In a recent interview, the boxing champ said he's eyeing the gubernatorial seat of Sarangani.

"Para may time siya sa mga bata dito sa Manila. 'Pag governor, parang hands on ka ata sa lugar mo. So 'yung time... kasi dito masaya kami 'pag nandito siya, Monday to Wednesday. Minsan hinahatid niya sa school ang mga bata."

She related how disappointed Manny was with Floyd Mayweather, Jr.'s recent fight with Victor Ortiz.

"Tinawagan niya ako. 'Napanood mo ba 'yung laban ni Mayweather?' Sabi niya, 'madaya grabe,' parang nagtu-tweet siya kumbaga. Parang loser talaga na parang 'yun na lang 'yung strategy niya para manalo."

"Nilinaw ni Jinkee na hindi pa magre-retire ang Sarangani congressman. Balak pa ni Manny na sumabak ng mga dalawang laban pagkatapos kay Marquez," the "TV Patrol" report said. ■

Actor Jericho Rosales sets eyes on having an international career



Jericho Rosales

Setting his sights past local show business, actor Jericho Rosales recently expanded his knowledge about his craft by studying in New York.

"Gusto ko ng international career," Jericho unabashedly admitted on "Showbiz News Ngayon," Sept. 9.

The idea, he said, "all started with 'Subject: I Love You,'" the Hollywood film he starred in that was shown some months ago.

Before he left for the States, he explained why he's bent on taking a course on acting for film.

"Number one, siyempre gusto ko pang mag-improve. Number two, just to prepare myself... para lang ihanda ang sarili ko sa projects here

sa Manila... someday sa labas ng Manila. Ano 'yon, part lang pangarap ko ba."

After shooting "Subject: I Love You", the actor said, "na-open 'yung isip ko sa possibilities na baka lang magkatrabaho abroad. Siyempre the best way to prepare is to study. Ayoko namang umupo lang tapos maghintay ng pagkakataon, 'di ba?"

In completing the Hollywood film, the actor's mindset about making films changed drastically.

"Kailangan talaga na baguhin 'yung way mo para makakuha ng trabaho. Which means talagang kailangang mag-audition ka."

With this new mindset, Jericho also discounts the existence of competition.

"No. Wala ako sa isip ko na iniisip ko ang competition. Normal lang makipag-compete bilang isang lalaki. Ayokong malunod sa idea na kailangan the best ako. Kung magkaroon ka ng award, it's a reward, it's bonus. I'll do my best. I'll give my heart."

Although he's open to working abroad for film projects, Jericho is not completely turning his back on local showbiz.

He clarified, "Mahal ko 'yung industriya natin, 'di ba?"

That said, the host of "I Dare You" feels that "it's the start of a better me."

"I feel that I'm a better person. Natuto akong mas lalong maging simple, mas lalong maging rock 'n roll, mas lalong pursigido sa trabaho, mas lalong maging masipag sa trabaho. It's a new chapter. Tara, sama kayo sa akin." ■

Diether Ocampo explains recent banter with Kris Aquino on TV



Diether Ocampo

Actor Diether Ocampo simply laughed off questions about his controversial TV banter with Kris Aquino during a recent appearance on "Kris TV."

"Wala, normal sa magkaibigan 'yun," he explained in a recent interview on "The Buzz."

Aquino confronted Ocampo about having been dismissing her calls, as seen in a video footage of his guest appearance on the show Sept. 6.

"Kilala mo ako, ayokong ayoko talaga na hindi ako sinasagot sa phone," Aquino told him.

Ocampo replied, "Mahirap mag-shooting [for the ABS-CBN series "Guns & Roses"] puro action kaya hindi ko talaga..."

"Yeah," Aquino interjected. "But then you could have just said, 'Sorry

I'm at work.' Ganun lang 'yun."

Seemingly trying to appease Aquino, Ocampo said, "Di ba nakalagay sa status ko lagi 'Work mode?"

"Hindi dinededma mo eh," Aquino said.

"Pano naman kita magugustuhan kung dinededma mo nga yung ano, 'Di ba kahit magkaibigan lang kayo, dapat pina-prioritize mo friend mo?"

Asked by "The Buzz" co-host Toni Gonzaga if he was avoiding Aquino, Ocampo countered, "Bakit ko naman siya iiwasan? Lubak ba siya?"

"Hindi lang nag-mamatch 'yung schedules namin," he added.

According to Ocampo, such complications are good between friends in that "next time na magkita kayo naglalambingan na."

Then again, it isn't as if Aquino herself isn't guilty sometimes of causing a bit of a rift between them.

"Minsan ako ang nagyaya, busy siya or last minute ca-cancel niya," Ocampo revealed, adding, "Naku, magagalit na naman sa akin 'yun."

Apparently Aquino didn't saw the interview. In a tweet the same day she said, "I missed Diet's interview on The Buzz, was at Minsan ako ang nagyaya, busy siya or last minute ca-cancel niya," Ocampo revealed, adding, "Naku, magagalit na naman sa akin 'yun."

Ocampo has nothing to worry, as she updated in a few minutes, "Thanks D for always having good words for me. And thanks for telling the truth. Saves both of us from needless stress." ■

- Showbiz continued on page 18

From Page 15 Unsolicited Opinion

Cabugao find any stipulation that states what he has wrongly said in his preceding statement. The COMELEC, according to the aforementioned constitution and bylaws, is an independent body tasked to create rules and regulations, and manage and control the conduct of elections without any interference or further approval by the Executive Board. Otherwise, it will run counter to the legislative intent of the framers of the new FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws apropos of the COMELEC's independence.

3. *The "declaration" itself is flawed because it did not state the number of votes for each candidate, and was not signed by the members of the committee on elections.*

Mr. Cabugao must have been so engrossed by numbers and accounting books that he doesn't have any time to visit the FAMAS website or read the latest edition of the Filipino Star. The number of votes for each candidate is stated in the declaration that COMELEC made shortly after the August 14, 2011 election. It is posted on the FAMAS website and published in the August 2011 Edition of the Filipino Star.

4. *The committee on elections has no power other than that which the Executive Board, has approved.*

Again, Mr. Cabugao, you will have a better grasp of the COMELEC's powers and responsibilities if you read and digest every word of the new FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws. Forget about numbers and stay away from accounting for a while. Instead focus your attention to the provisions of said document. And then, after thinking about it long and hard, you may rewrite your memorandum.

5. *The committee on elections was already impaired due to its lack of quorum, and no board resolution was passed to remedy the anomaly.*

There was a quorum in each of the meetings that we conducted. No meeting had taken place or ever conducted when there was no quorum.

6. *No by-laws, nor rules on elections, can circumvent the laws of the land, particularly the Quebec Companies Act and the Charter of Rights.*

It will be highly appreciated if Mr. Cabugao will cite the "laws of the land" that any bylaw or rule on elections has circumvented. As far as our knowledge is concerned, all FAMAS bylaws and all FAMAS election rules are within the purview of any higher law that he is referring to.

7. *That the candidates had read and agreed to abide by the rules on elections is not (sic) an excuse nor argument to validate an illegal rule.*

Since there is no illegal rule in either the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws or the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures, it is better to skip arguing on this one.

8. *The rule that the "candidate will lose from 100 to 300 votes, depending on the severity of the infraction, to be deducted in a manner of the COMELEC's choosing" is in contravention of the Charter of Rights, as this infringed on the constitutional right to vote*

The right to vote of FAMAS members wasn't infringed upon because everyone who participated in the last FAMAS election was able to cast their ballot in an untrammelled manner.

In other words, no voters who came to the polling place were disenfranchised because they were allowed to vote in the first place.

FAMAS is a private and non-governmental organization which has its own set of rules that is not in any way inherently against any law of the land. If its members have agreed that every one of them should pay their membership dues before they shall be eligible to vote, will it be against the Charter of Rights if a member isn't allowed to vote for non-payment of dues? Will it be an infringement on that member's right to vote?

Now, if a certain amount of votes is deducted from the total votes received by a certain candidate because said candidate violated a particular rule, does the deduction contravene the right to vote? Obviously, the COMELEC didn't – and still doesn't – think so for obvious reason.

9. *A committee on elections is hardly the body to judge on the "severity of the infraction".*

Under the present FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws, the Committee on Elections is the body to judge on the "severity of the infraction."

If Mr. Cabugao wants to amend the FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws or the FAMAS Election Rules, Regulations and Procedures, he must re-register as member of FAMAS and then actively work on constitutional amendments he deems necessary. It's much better to be an inside-person looking out than an outside-person looking in. Mr. Cabugao's experience and intellect would be more useful if he takes an active role in FAMAS often and on a consistent basis, not only once in a blue moon or whenever he feels like it.

10. *The candidate with the most number of votes, as a rule of law, is the winner of the elections, and any decision against the will of the people violates the sanctity of the vote.*

In principle, I agree that the will of the people is supreme and inviolable, and the candidate with the most number of votes is, as a rule of law, the winner of the elections. However, the candidate who garnered the most number of votes is not necessarily always the winner of the election. When that candidate cheated, bought votes or violated a rule whose penalty was vote deduction, would you still want him or her to be declared the winner?

To do so is to defy common sense, let alone a travesty of justice.

11. *The Executive Board must exercise due diligence in all its decisions and resolutions, particularly in assuring that due process was conducted in all affairs of the association. The complaints were not addressed to adequately as evidence was not properly examined, and the veracity of the testimonies of witnesses was not proven.*

I wish you were an insider so you didn't have to rely on second-hand and corrupted information. I am afraid to say that you cannot be a good forensic accountant if you keep on depending on people with hidden agenda for information. In journalistic parlance, such information is called factoid.

12. *The Trustees were not consulted on matters which the Bylaws require them to be so. One important matter was the appointment of the members to the committee on elections. Neither did the Executive Board*

investigate the complaint to have the "chairman of the committee on elections" be removed, despite the discovery that the chairman wrote in his e-mail that he might be "impeached".

It is not mandatory to consult the Board of Trustees on matters like the appointment of the members of the Committee on Elections. After all, said board is merely an advisory body and their opinions are not binding. So why consult the BOT when its advice may be overridden by the EB anyway? Doing so will be against logic and common sense.

13. *The same chairman of the committee on elections wrote Cesar Manuel "that the decision may be amended and the penalty eventually substantially reduced but, to be honest with you, will not be completely rescinded". He added phrases like "all bets may be off the table", and "It's your call, Cesar." These statements put to doubt the integrity of the chairman.*

Mr. Cabugao seems uninformed of the e-mail Cesar Manuel sent me asking the COMELEC for reconsideration of its decision. For the sake of peace and unity, the COMELEC decided to open a small window of opportunity to resolve the problem. The committee offered Mr. Manuel for a dialogue but he completely ignored our good intention and did not seize the opportunity. Instead, he and his group arrogantly went on to express their grievance by picketing in front of the FAMAS Center. And you condoned it, Mr. Cabugao.

Offering Mr. Manuel a chance for a dialogue to solve a huge problem is "put to (sic) doubt the integrity of the chairman?" Come on, Mr. Cabugao, give me a break! It seems that with you, it's "Damned if you do; damned if you don't" philosophy.

14. *The "FAMAS Constitution and Bylaws 2011" is full of details, but lacks the requisite provisions to abide by the Quebec Companies Act and the Canada Business Corporations Act. A glaring omission is the lack of provisions on Members' Meetings. Power emanates from the people. The Executive Board is accountable to the Members, and the existence of the committee on elections is subject to the resolutions of the Executive Board.*

You know, Mr. Cabugao, you are only very good in criticizing the Executive Board, but you are very poor in helping them out. You are like an amateur chess enthusiast who knows all the right moves as a spectator, but fails miserably as a player. It's better for the Association, and perchance for your self-respect, if you start to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem. I have heard that you haven't re-registered as a member. Technically, you don't have the right to criticize since only members may. Your being a former FAMAS president doesn't count. The Executive Board will have to pass a resolution first before a non-member may have the right to criticize the Association or any of its officers.

15. *I did not see in "Our Core Values" the "sense of fairness", although I heard a prayer for a "spirit of fairness". If we cannot respect the spirit of democracy, then maybe at least let us have "Decency".*

You didn't see in "Our Core Values" the "sense of fairness" because you always refused to take off your blinders. Your partiality to Cesar Manuel and the Samahang Makabayan has obscured

your vision. You are so blinded by your prejudices that you have forgotten how much Parado and Magallanes had denigrated you in the past. How short can your memory be? Doesn't it matter to you anymore? Have you lost your self-respect, Mr. Cabugao?

You like to have decency? Well, stay away from those indecent people if you like to have decency. Otherwise, you would be guilty by association with a lowly group that includes a travel agent whose license to sell airline tickets was confiscated for fraudulent business practices; a self-proclaimed journalist who is afflicted with narcissistic personality disorder and whose son was accused of stealing from senior citizens; an association president who ran away to Calgary with its funds; people who are allegedly into drugs; people who are fond of drinking alcohol to excess; somebody who always speaks in Tagalog because of his inability to express himself in English; someone who was so obsessed to have her daughter crowned as beauty queen and then scandalized the community when she was not; someone who allegedly habitually pilfers ball pens from her employer's factory and then hands them out as keepsake, and only recently, as campaign giveaways; a know-it-all lawyer-wannabe who always carries a bag in which he surreptitiously puts as much food as he can from buffet restaurants he visits; a self-declared parliamentary procedures expert whose own sister was found guilty of fraud on at least 13 counts; a president of a "provincial" association who was forced to reimburse the more than \$1000 missing from her association's coffer only after warning from the auditor that she would be criminally charged for embezzlement; a self-righteous hypocrite who tries hard to come across that he is more Christian than many and yet was kicked out of a widely-known religious group for some impropriety; and other scumbags too many to mention here all at once.

Is that the group you are so willing to put your good reputation at stake?

Why, Mr. Cabugao, do you want to be associated with that type of people?

Don't you know that there's a saying "Birds of the same feathers flock together?" Come on, Sir, you are much smarter than that!

16. *The "hostility" alleged by one Trustee may be attributed to the "spirit of teamwork" expressed by one EB member that no matter how wrong one teammate was, or how much another was maligned, they stick together as a team irrespective of the truth or the falsity of the situation, and the greater good of the association was sacrificed.*

I don't get the message that you're trying to convey on this one. I suggest that you spell it out and refrain from gobbledygook, Mr. Cabugao. Are you talking about the Samahang Makabayan and its staunchest supporters? I am inclined to think that you are because I cannot imagine of any other people more hostile and more maligning than they are.

**General Assembly of the
Filipino Solidarity Cooperative
Sunday, October 16, 2011
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Gilmore College International
5320-A Queen Mary Road**

Showbiz Gossip Continued from p.17**Hayden Kho already at peace with past sex video scandal**

Hayden Kho, whose license to practice cosmetic surgery was canceled in relation to the sex video scandal that erupted two years ago, has come to accept the things that happened in his life and is eager to move on.

In an interview during a recent public appearance, Kho recalled

hitting rock bottom during the height of the controversy, with people hurling accusations at him and calling him names.

"Parang naipinta na si Hayden [na] ganitong klaseng tao, kulang na lang sabihing demonyo," said he to push.com.

"Actually may mga nagsabi na rin

na masasakit gaya ng pervert, demonyo. Nung time na 'yon, masakit. Wala namang [taong] hindi masasaktan lalo na 'pag pinepersonal ka, lalo na kung pinaniniwalaan mo sa sarili ganito kang tao, tapos pinaniniwalaan ng lahat eh 'yung opposite, lalo na 'pag naapektuhan ang pamilya mo."

The pain brought on by the scandal, said Kho, allowed him to rethink his showbiz career.

"Kaya nga ako lumabas na sa showbiz world dahil parang hindi ako fit for that, hindi ako sanay na ganunin. From the very beginning hindi naman talaga ako dapat papasok," he said in the same interview.

A recent appearance on "Gandang Gabi Vice" seems to belie this, with Kho showing that he has what it takes to entertain audiences albeit in a less risqué manner.

In the show, Kho was made to choose between taking off his clothes and doing a set of challenges by show host Vice Ganda.

"Ayaw ko na nakikita ako ng mga taong nakahubad. Ayaw ko na," he told the host, going on to accept the

challenges that included having to eat chicken liver and cow tongue, among others.

Seemingly referring to the controversial sex videos, most of which were shot in less than appropriate lighting, Vice Ganda retorted, "Hindi naman namin masyadong nakita."

He went on to add, "Pero bongga ang daming hits niyan huh."

Sensing that he might have offended his guest, Vice Ganda said, "Ikaw kasi ni-remind mo ako hindi ko na nga naalala 'yan."

But Kho eventually had to show the whole archipelago his naked self once again after failing to meet the last challenge—touching a large lizard.

Before he finally said goodbye, Kho thanked Vice Ganda for the opportunity.

"Usually natatakot akong magpa-interview at um-attend ng guestings, ganyan. Pero ito, noong nalaman ko na ikaw at fan mo ako, at alam kong magiging masaya ito at mga makakasama natin ay masayahin naman, eh hindi na ako kinabahan," he said. ■

Derek maintains he never has, never will cheat on Angelica

Derek Ramsay: Communication is key to a successful relationship

Unlike his character in "No Other Woman," Derek Ramsay maintained that he has never cheated on his long-time girlfriend Angelica Panganiban.

"Kahit itanong n'yo pa kay Angel, wala. Papatayin ako ng nanay ko!" PEP quoted him as saying.

Engaging in illicit affairs is "the worst thing" one can do in a relationship, Derek deemed.

"I think my parents will disown me if I do that," he added.

On allegations that he wasn't completely faithful to Solenn Heussaff, his girlfriend of three years, and Angelica, Derek said, "I think you guys can see that it took us one year, for Angel and I, to get together."

And even in the future, the Kapamilya hunk-actor doesn't see himself having a mistress.

"Ako kasi, before I sleep, I always talk to Angel. To find out if anything's wrong. Kung may problema man, gusto ko nang ilibing bago matulog. That's some of the advice that my dad gave me.

"And I remember, on his 60th birthday... napaiyak talaga ako. He

said, they (Derek's parents) went through so many things, but if you have the chance to do it all over again, he'll do it with the same woman. So, 'yun, always talk. You need to talk, you need to open up," he said at length.

Derek vowed that he's over the stage of having several relationships including one-night stands.

"Tapos na 'yun!" he said, laughing.

He recalled, "You know, when you are a teenager, you go hanging out, experience a lot of things. Mas lalo na kapag athlete ka, girls threw themselves on you."

Nevertheless, growing up in a household with four women—his three sisters and his mother—taught Derek the value of respecting the opposite sex.

"Hindi ako 'yung tipo ng lalaking mambabastos ng babae even if it's for one-night stand. If you'll gonna tell me, sig, you'll have fun in the evening, the next morning you'll kick her out of the door, hindi ko kayang gawin 'yun. At hindi ko gagawin 'yun," he explained.

He also clarified that the one-night stands he had was during his college days.

"I'll be honest with you, you go out, you get drunk, you have fun, you get a few drinks, and you make out with somebody," said Derek.

Prodded to comment on the perennial question on when he'll walk down the aisle with Angelica, his sweetheart for five years now, Derek said, "We don't have to rush. Things are going so well. For me, kapag nagpakasal ka na, things change, eh."

"I don't want her to go back and say na, 'Sana nagawa ko 'to sa career ko.' Malulungkot ka, eh. I want her to grow. Let her blossom..." ■

Judy Ann Santos reveals Baby Lucho inherited Ryan Agoncillo's 'kadaldalan'

Judy Ann admits it's not easy to balance her career and family life

Actress Judy Ann Santos excitedly related the adorable developments she has observed in her and husband Ryan Agoncillo's first-born son, Juan Luis or "Lucho."

In her interview aired on "The Buzz," Sept. 25, the "Junior Master Chef" host enthused, "Makulit na, maingay na maingay na siya, mukhang mana sa tatay niya sa kadaldalan."

She added, "Meron na siyang ugali na kapag ubos na 'yung pagkain niya at gusto pa niya, sisigaw siya. Magi-ingay talaga siya. At tsaka alam niya pag nasa baba ako, tatawag na 'yan, 'Ma!' Papakarga na siya."

The young superstar admitted that it's not easy juggling career and family life, especially given her mommy duties to Lucho, who's turning one next month, and her eldest daughter, six-year-old Johanna Lois (Yohan).

"Ang sabi ko nga noon, babalik ako sa trabaho pag nag-one year old na si Lucho. [But] since dumating ang offer and kailangan ko na ring magtrabaho—hindi naman kailangan

dahil salat sa salapi or something—I just wanted to do something. Mahirap talaga 'yung... may mga times nga na natutulala na ko dito sa set, gustung-gusto mo nang umuwi... isa man sa dalawang anak ko 'yung may sakit, hindi talaga ako nakakapagtrabaho," she said.

Not only do Judy Ann and Ryan have to focus on Baby Lucho's growth, but to Yohan's swelling curiosity about her true identity as well. Recall that last March, Judy revealed that she has already admitted to Yohan that she's been adopted.

"Habang tumatanda siya, mas lumalalim 'yung mga questions niya na dumarating na ko sa puntong... oh my God, ano pa bang puwede niyang itanong? Naiiyak-iyak ka na sa hirap, pa'no mo sasagutin..." said she.

When it comes to explaining the truth to her daughter, Judy Ann said she and Ryan do so in "a very honest way... na parang magkaibigan, nagu-usap."

She has learned significant lessons in her marriage, noting "submissiveness" as a big factor to its success.

"Hindi kasi puwedeng pareho kayong matigas, o pareho kayong may sariling opinion. Importante rin na bukas 'yung communication ninyo. Hindi naman mawawala 'yung issue, diba? Kami lang ni Ryan, medyo mas madalang ang issue sa'min ngayon, thank you Lord," she said with a chuckle. ■

- Showbiz continued on page 22

Personality profile of the month

Regacho finally recognized for her volunteerism

by W. G. Quiambao

September 17 is a red-letter day for Monica Regacho. That day, she was the Recipient of the 2011 PBSSQ Special Award for Caring, a prestigious award from the association.

"We are recognizing her unique gift of caring through the support she has given to many people in the community," said Hermie Pelausa, president of the Philippine Benovolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec.

Regacho, who obtained her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Philippine Normal College, arrived in Canada in 1984. She worked as a caregiver but after she was given a working permit, she started her own business. She was a couturier and sewing contractor for companies. To augment her income, she worked at a seniors home at night - from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. - whenever she received calls. On Saturdays and Sundays, whenever she was available, she taught newly-arrived immigrants to operate industrial sewing machine at her shop.

But helping the newly-arrived immigrants to learn a new skill was not the first time she did good things to many people in the community. In 1985, she worked as a volunteer for Baron Jewish Heimovics to help big brothers and big sisters with mental disability. Also, she has volunteered for seniors in Cote des Neiges.

"Seniors are close to me because they remind me of my parents in the Philippines," said Monica.

While working and volunteering, Monica managed to graduate from Vanier College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. From 1985 until now, she has



been working at Pascal Baylon School and Simone Monett Ecole as a permanent part-time teacher and at the same time, lunch supervisor. She is handling children from pre-kindergarten to Grade 6. For about twenty year, she has been a volunteer for Project Genesis. Her duties include entertaining visitors while waiting for their counsellors, attending rallies and doing odd jobs. In addition, she has been volunteering for other Filipino associations. Now, she spends more time volunteering for FAMAS because she is semi-retired and she knows the administration is doing a good job. For the past two years, she has been a familiar face at the centre. She is often seen at the kitchen helping prepare food whenever there are occasions or making people comfortable by serving coffee, tea or drinks.

"Whatever I do as a volunteer is coming from my heart," said Monica. "I don't really need a title or recognition. What makes me happy is knowing I am able to help other people and I have good and loyal friends," said Monica.



Annabelle Allosa hosted a get together of her classmates and teachers at her apartment on September 5, 2011. Standing behind are Edith Fedalizo, Annabelle, Annie Signey and Sophie Toledo. Seated: Terry White, Zeny Kharroubi, Amy Manon-og and Ethel Tugna.

Philippine Embassy in Ottawa conducts once-a-month weekend consular services

The Philippine Embassy in Ottawa opens its doors to clients wishing to avail of its once-a-month weekend consular services. This public service is being made available to applicants who are not able to apply for their consular documents during

weekdays.

Following is the schedule of the once-a-month Saturday 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon services:

October 1
November 5
December 3

Let the Court decide the fate of FAMAS

by W. G. Quiambao

The results of the FAMAS election last August 14 is still causing a stir in the community. Aurora Osdon of the Mabuhay Team was declared as winner after the implementation of 150-vote deduction from the total votes of Cesar Manuel of the

before the election, not after, to the COMELEC. And the decision of the COMELEC was made not by Budz Sarmiento alone but also by Dick Ribaya, Andy Neufeld, Tess Calica and Cynthia Puray. Pastora Emma Denny and Sonny Valdez did not offer any



Some supporters of Cesar Manuel are shown here during their picket of FAMAS

Samahang Makabayan Party. Close-knit families are being divided, good friends are being separated and bitter enemies are being reunited. It no wonder why Elizabeth Raquel, a known FAMAS member, is singing Together Again.

Both the SMP and the MT and their respective supporters have their own issues. No one can really say they are right, but then, no one say they are wrong. Their arguments are all based on opinions that they are entitled to.

The main issues of the SMP are: the COMELEC is biased and unfair and the penalty of 150-vote deduction from each candidate is harsh. Of course, the MT has arguments too: the MT is at a disadvantage because of the COMELEC's rules and regulations that no member of the Executive Board or the Board of Trustees, running for an office or not, may use his or her position to campaign for him/her or any other candidate; the five members of the SMP garnered more votes over the MT candidates because of the blatant violation of campaigning before the moratorium period. It is tantamount to cheating. Meanwhile, the COMELEC, who is accused of being in connivance with the MT to discourage the SMP voters from going to St. Kevin's church, explained, "The COMELEC did not make a survey on how many supporters the SMT are boycotting the election because of the move of the venue from the Mackenzie King Park to St. Kevin church. Of the accusation of being biased and unfair, it clarified the issue, "Copies of the COMELEC's Rules and Regulations were given to all the candidates when they filed their Certificates of Candidacy. They read and signed them, meaning they were abiding by the Rules and Regulations. They should have brought the problems

opinion."

What concern the Filipino community members, especially the youth, are the ways that this imbroglio is resolved - daily protests in front of the center that disturb the neighbours and use of emails with carbon copies to uninterested community members and use of black propaganda distributed to Filipino establishments.

James de la Paz, president of Council of Filipino-Associations of Quebec, said: "The decision of the COMELEC should be respected. The COMELEC was appointed by the Executive Board in consultation with the Board of Trustees. If the aggrieved party is unhappy about the decision, it should let the court decide who is right or wrong. That is the best solution."

One observer, who refused to be identified added: "The decision of the judge can not please everybody, whether it's right or wrong. For example, the murder trial of O.J. Simpson, the so-called The Trial of Century, is controversial. The American public knows that he was guilty but he was acquitted. And there is Casey Anthony, the young mother who was accused of killing her child. The American public knows that she killed her child. She was acquitted. The bottom line is that the decision of the judge should be respected.

Meanwhile, we have to move on. Don't let this problem disrupt our normal lives.

Know thyself

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Lao Tzu

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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.19*

Thia, not just Maria, to sing anthem at Pacquiao fight



Thia Megia

Another Filipina is set to sing at boxing champ Manny Pacquiao's upcoming fight.

Fil-American Thia Megia was asked by the pound-for-pound king to sing "Star Spangled Banner," the national anthem of the United States of America before his fight with Juan Manuel Marquez on Nov. 12 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The "American Idol" Season 10 finalist broke the news on "24 Oras" Sept. 19. "I met him (Pacquiao) last Saturday. It was amazing. I got to sing the national anthem for him... He told me that I will be singing in his next fight... I have been watching his fights for years. I'm so happy and I'm so excited," the 16-year-old singer related.

Last Saturday, Thia guested on Pacquiao's GMA-7 show "Manny

Many Prizes," where she got to perform with the boxing celebrity and politician. With her were Al winner Scotty McCreery and finalists Pia Toscano and Stefano Langone.

Because of this development, speculation arose that Fil-Canadian sensation Maria Aragon, who was earlier confirmed to sing the national anthem at Pacquiao's upcoming fight, has been replaced by Thia.

Through a statement sent by Maria's manager, Jeng Guiyab to Yahoo! Philippines, Team Pacquiao has cleared the report: "As of now, no changes for Maria still singing the Philippine National Anthem."

According to Team Pacquiao, Thia will sing "Star Spangled Banner," part of the of the fight's opening ceremonies to recognize the host country, USA. Maria, on the other hand, will sing "Lupang Hinirang," the Philippine national anthem.

Maria just got back to Canada after her brief stay in the country to record and promote her debut album under Star Records.

After having been chosen to sing the national anthem, Maria sought the approval of the National Historical Institute (NHI) on the way she should sing "Lupang Hinirang."

Thia just wrapped up a two-night concert at the Smart Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 20 and 21 along with her fellow Top 11 AI finalists, who are currently on their Asian tour.

■

Pinoys represent



Singer Bruno Mars (L) and 'X-Factor' contestant Ellona Santiago (R)

Pinoys continue to make amazing headway abroad, with Fil-American singer Bruno Mars and local indie-filmmakers leading the list of artists who continue to reap success in their fields.

Bruno Mars

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter Mars' song "It Will Rain" was the first song announced by film studio Summit Entertainment to be part of the upcoming soundtrack for "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1."

According to Reuter's Friday report, the single will be available worldwide on iTunes on Sept. 27, and in the U.K. on Oct. 31. The full "Breaking Dawn - Part 1" soundtrack, meanwhile, will be available on iTunes on Nov. 8.

"Breaking Dawn - Part 1" is hitting the theaters this November.

Dragons & Tigers: The Cinema of East Asia

Filipino independent films are competing abroad for recognition in the Vancouver International Film Festival, to be held in Canada from

Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

Vincent Sandoval's "Señorita" and former Cinemalaya 2011 New Breed category entrees "Bahay Bata" [International title: "Baby Factory"] by Edgardo Roy Jr. and winner "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank" [International title: "Woman in Septic Tank"] by Marlon Rivera will go up against five other films from Japan, China and South Korea for the Dragons & Tigers Award for Young Cinema. This honor comes with a \$10,000 cash prize for the debuting director.

In 2006, Filipino filmmaker John Torres won the award for his indie film "Todo Todo Teros."

Jeffrey Jeturian's "Bisperas" [International title: "Trespassers" or "Eve"] is part of this year's Dragons & Tigers section's other highlights, according to the festival's website.

'X-Factor'

Meanwhile, 14-year-old Fil-American student Ellona Santiago amazed talent show "X-Factor" judges in the show's pilot episode, Thursday.

With Santiago's audition performance of Miley Cyrus' "When I Look At You," she earned herself a unanimous nod from judges Cheryl Cole, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and L.A. Reid.

Cole even commented, "For a 14-year-old, I was really impressed."

In October 2009, Santiago became part of "Handog Sa Bayan" benefit show in Hollywood to raise funds for the victims of typhoons "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." ■

Cesar Montano gives son Diego just the right role in 'Hitman'



Cesar Montano (left) hopes 'Hitman' would help regain moviegoers' interest in the action genre

Award-winning actor Cesar Montano won't overwhelm his son Diego Loyzaga by giving the latter a role that's too big for him in the forthcoming action flick "Hitman."

Instead, Cesar cast Diego in an introductory role that will give him a feel of how movies are shot compared with taping teleseryes that the young man has already experienced on "Mara Clara."

"It's not that I'm putting Diego inside a box pero may mga dapat pa siyang maintindihan sa acting bago siya gumanap sa mas malaking role. Pero darating yung ganong klaseng

role para sa kanya and Diego knows that. Madali na lang mag-create ng character para sa kanya by then," Cesar said in a recent interview.

Contrary to what many would expect, Diego's character in the movie is not even on the side of Cesar's character but with the latter's nemeses. This only shows that when it comes to work, Cesar gives what he thinks is right for Diego as actor, instead of basing his decision on their being family. It's all about pacing and right timing, as Cesar puts it.

Diego, himself, said Cesar is not the type who'd spoil his children. Before entering showbiz, Diego said that his Dad did not discourage him from commuting to and from school. The young actor added that his Dad gave him a car and a driver only recently so that the former would not come late to his showbiz commitments.

Diego enjoys working with his father in "Hitman." He said that Cesar is "masayahin" and doesn't give him any preferential treatment

just the way he [Diego] likes it.

"Pag dating sa trabaho, professional po kami," Diego said.

Mark Herras, also in the cast, disclosed that Cesar thinks of every aspect in the movie—including his co-actors diet. Apparently, only health food is served on set, a lot of brown rice, vegetables and fruits.



Diego Montano

Cesar hopes "Hitman" would help regain moviegoers' interest in the action genre. He describes the film as beyond the usual.

"Kakaibang action ang makikita n'yo rito. Not the usual explosions and all, but very different. There will be a lot of chase scenes, running gun battle and the way the camera

captured all of it is really something else," Cesar is quoted as saying in a release.

"Hitman" is the first time Cesar will be seen in a movie with veteran actor Phillip Salvador. He said that Phillip goes the extra mile by sharing his knowledge in acting and filmmaking unselfishly.

"Kuya Ipe [Phillip] made life easier for me. Hindi ko na kailangan sabihan si Kuya Ipe na, 'Pakisupportahan mo naman ako dito.' Hindi na, talagang si Kuya Ipe tumutulong sa atin. And I appreciate it. Kaya naman I'm so grateful dun sa ginagawang suporta ni Phillip Salvador," Cesar said.

Also in "Hitman" are Ricky Davao, Joko Diaz, Ryan Eigenmann and Sam Pinto.

"Hitman" is under CM Productions and it will be distributed by Viva Films. The movie is slated for a November 11 playdate. Short trailers can already be found on Youtube. ■

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From left: Edith Fedalizo, nursing aide instructor, Vilma Lagonilla, Gisele Arellano, and Mildred Mendoza, students; Terry White, nursing aide instructor. (Not in photo: Joesie Binggayen). Seated (from left) Clarice Mackay, Zenaida Kharroubi, Amy Manon-og and Sophie Toledo. Photo taken July 2, 2011 at St. Margaret CHSLD.



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Students taking French as a second language wear their Gilmore College International souvenir t-shirts during their recent field trip to the apple orchards on Sunday, September 25, 2011. From left: Aldrin Cabanilla, Mayette Danao, Desirée Fernando, Arlene Manalo, Jennifer Lachica, their teacher, Zenaida Kharroubi and Nursing aide instructor, Sophie Toledo. Photo taken on Sunday, September 25, 2011.

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