

CCFAQ celebrates 118th Philippine independence



Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre delivers a speech while other dignitaries wait for their turn during the celebration of the 118th Philippine independence day celebration held at MacKenzie King Park on Saturday, June 25, 2016. (Reported by W. Quiambao - see page 4)

PM Trudeau says Canada will work to fight terrorism

The Canadian Press

Published Friday, July 15, 2016

CALGARY -- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Canada is thinking of "our friends in France" and will work to fight terrorism.

"We had a terrible attack last night and our hearts go out to the victims and their families," Trudeau said Friday while in Calgary to attend the Stampede.

"Canada stands with France as a steadfast ally and we will work with the international community to fight terror to ensure that we live in a peaceful world."

At least 84 people were killed when a truck full of weapons plowed into a crowd of Bastille Day revellers in the French resort city of Nice late Thursday.

There were no reports of Canadian casualties.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said the federal government has no information that would necessitate a change in Canada's terror threat level, which is currently at medium.

See Page 4 PM Trudeau



PM Trudeau speaks at the Calgary stampede, where he expresses his condolences for Taliyah Marsman and her mother and the victims in France.

EDITORIAL

What's going on in the world today?

Everyday we hear all kinds of news, but it seems that lately, we have more bad news in many parts of the globe - France, Germany, Turkey, Louisiana, Florida, We feel very sad that people are dying for no apparent reason but just being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Besides natural disasters, we are faced with man-made tragic events that make us wonder where is the world going to. Most people's natural reaction is fear and worry - it seems as if there is no safe place to hide.

In the face of all the negativity, pessimism, hopelessness, and despair, how do peace-loving people of all faiths react to all these massacres, senseless shootings of innocent civilians ?

How do we solve the problems that lie underneath a complex layer of cultural, religious, political, racial conflicts? Currently, in the election campaign in the U.S. we have two opposing approaches on how to solve America's problems. Hillary Clinton and the Democratic Party's solution is working together and uplifting the people's lives while on the other hand, Donald Trump, without including the Republican Party's view of what should be done, proposes being tough, building walls, rejecting Moslems and immigrants from countries plagued by terrorism. Majority of Americans who have been influenced by Trump's so-called "outsider" point of view seem to like his idea as he is leading in the current polls but they may change as there are still a few months to go before the November elections.

In the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte, dubbed the "Trump of Asia," has promised to get rid of criminals in six months of his administration. This sounds very appealing to the population, hence, he won handily against his closest rival, Grace Poe. The people had put their hopes in his hands. Will he deliver? But in the process of doing so, what happens to the weak people who have been used by criminals to do their deeds?

From a distance, we are relying on the news, opinions of experts and non-partisan observers but we wonder, if using a tough, and brutal method of eradicating criminals will be effective without hurting people who may have been misled, exploited by the

strong and organized crime syndicates. It is good to hear that we will be eliminating the number one problem - drugs and vices that promote criminality. Is there really no other way except to kill all criminals involved in the drug trade? Perhaps, the legal system is so crooked that persecuting the brains of most crimes committed are not punished because of their connections and wealth while those who are poor are the only ones who end up in jail or killed by the police. In other words, the solution proposed seems to be an immediate one but perhaps will only have a temporary effect if no other measures are adopted to solve the economic problems that resulted in a lopsided ownership of the country's wealth.

If one is interested to find the true causes of violence and terrorism, there are many articles that can be enlightening and may offer insights into why we have this kind of world today. The most interesting and seems to be logical explanation of the root cause of terrorism is ideology, besides poverty that makes people easy to be convinced to commit crimes. We cannot win the fight against terrorism if we do not first understand what it is and how it is propagated. It would appear that there are many misconceptions about terrorism as being due to Islam. This is what can be gleaned in the following quote:

"Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, having studied Islam from its original sources—the Quran and Hadith—says with certainty that this political interpretation of Islam is an innovation and the real Islam, as followed by Prophet Muhammad and his early followers, is based upon peace, compassion and tolerance.

Peace is not prevalent in the world as people the world over are acting intolerantly and indulging in acts of violence, saying, "Give us justice and peace will ensue". But when people, ostensibly seeking justice, stoop to violence, peace can never prevail. Peace is always desirable for its own sake, and every other desirable state comes after peace, not along with it. ..."

Undoubtedly, we are all facing a challenge to live without fear and to do our part in working along with our leaders to achieve peace in the world by starting with our own backyard.

If Proposed Laws Are Passed, Nine-year Old Children could be Hanged

July 18, 2016 | Opinion

By Fr. Shay Cullen
PREDA Foundation

A few weeks ago, the Philippine nation and the world that cares for children's rights and human dignity learned that the new speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippine Congress has filed two proposed laws that will lower the age of criminal liability for children in conflict with the law to nine years old and reintroduce

If it is true that they are being used (there is no research data or evidence to support it), the children are controlled, used and exploited by criminals and cannot act with free will or be held liable for wrongdoing. So, what's the point of criminalizing them? The children are scapegoats of uncaring authorities and an indifferent society.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) through the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, has strongly opposed such a move to criminalize children and the civil



the death penalty by hanging.

society is also adamantly against it.

This is draconian and oppressive for children and not worthy of the Duterte administration and the Philippine people. The children are innocent, most are illiterate, abandoned, neglected and failed by society and government. The children younger than 15 are being used by criminals to commit crimes because they cannot be prosecuted, proponents of the law say. This is baloney.

The Catholic Church has strongly spoken against the death penalty and we wait for a statement from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines to support the retention of the 15-years-old age of liability for children. It is very wrong to blame children for the crimes of adults.

It is anti-poor and anti-child welfare laws and violates international conventions. If adult gangsters do use



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children to further their crimes, they are guilty of child abuse and exploitation and they ought to be arrested and tried for child abuse and drug possession. The children with help and support can easily testify against the criminals.

The courageous police should arrest the drug lords, not the children. If children are ever used as drug "mules" or carriers of illegal drugs as some law enforcers contend, then children at nine years old could be facing the death penalty. It is not likely but the implications are that children and teenagers could, according to the proposed laws, face the death penalty. This attitude sees them as pests to be eliminated.

This deplorable attitude gave rise to the death squads in Davao City in the past twenty years and the use of vigilantes and assassins has spread to other cities and many youth and minors were assassinated. (See Human Rights Watch report "You Can Die Anytime" and also Human Rights Watch report "A Shot to the Head: Death Squads in Tagum")

In 1999, the Preda Foundation social workers and this writer opposed the killing of the street children by death squads. I wrote articles about it in the press and ran a letter-writing project that called on the then mayor of Davao City to take the responsibility to stop the killings. I was branded a suspected criminal and charged with libel and had to defend myself.

No lawyer in Davao volunteered to help me. After two years of legal battles, I finally appealed to the Department of Justice in Manila for a reconsideration of the charges brought by the Davao prosecutor. There was no answer and I was to be arranged in court in Davao City. I flew into Davao with some fear and trepidation of the notorious death squads that might be waiting for me at the airport to greet me with a shot to the head.

When I arrived at the airport and walked out the exit, I was met by a

"If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart."

— Nelson Mandela

"The boy who is going to make a great man must not make up his mind merely to overcome a thousand obstacles, but to win in spite of a thousand repulses and defeats."

— Theodore Roosevelt

group of about fifty cheering boisterous street children and their community workers. They had made welcome posters and placards. They blew wildly on plastic bugles and beat tin cans as drums and they surrounded me as a guard of honor and protection.

With great noise and fanfare, I made it safely across the car park to a waiting jeepney and to safety in a secret location. It was a great moment. On the day of the arraignment, I appeared in the courtroom filled with media and TV cameras. I explained to the media that I had libeled no one but had asked the government to protect the children from the death squad. The official line then was that the death squad did not exist. Claiming that it did was not acceptable.

The authorities had no explanation for the alleged one thousand dead other than to say they killed each other in a gang war. I told the media I would not pay bail and I would fight from behind the bars of the jail for the children's right to live and for everyone's freedom of speech.

The mayor at the time (not President Rodrigo Duterte) chose to withdraw the charges at the last minute in a courtroom drama as I was about to be arraigned. Six months later, the decision from the Department of Justice in Manila stated that I was innocent and there was no case to answer and formal charges were dropped.

But now the death squads have reappeared and police are given shoot-to-kill orders. The bodies are piling up. We all have to speak out without fear and call for a society that respects human dignity and the rights of all. www.preda.org

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Opinion Editorial – Canada Child Benefit

On July 20th, families across Canada will receive their first Canada Child Benefit cheque. While certain families will receive more assistance than they have in the past, others will receive less and perhaps most concerning, families who are counting on this assistance will be shocked to learn that they potentially don't qualify for the level of support they had been lead to believe.

That's because the Canada Child Benefit (CCB), unlike the Universal Child Care Benefit which provided stable support to all families, is based on your previous year's income. Canadians who have been laid off in the last six months or had their hours reduced won't qualify for the maximum benefit this year, regardless of the fact that their families are struggling to make ends meet.

As the Toronto Sun reported on June 30th, "The mismatch between income and the brand new Canada Child Benefit is one of the new plan's biggest defects." For the past eight months, the Liberal government's 'solution' to every economic issue in Canada has been "the brand new Canada Child Benefit." Canadians looking for work, families struggling to pay for childcare or extracurricular activities, and parents trying to save for their children's futures are expecting the government to deliver.


The sad reality is though, that

far too many families are not going to get the financial support they need when it matters the most. Statistics Canada studies indicate that as many as 2.4 million families will see their household income drop this year by 10% or more compared to last year. Unfortunately, the Liberal government's plan doesn't take that into account.

Conservatives believe in supporting hardworking Canadian families and ensuring that they get to keep more of their hard earned money to spend on their priorities. That is why we increased and expanded the Universal Child Care Benefit, introduced the Family Tax Cut, increased the Child Care Expense Deduction, doubled the Children's Fitness Tax Credit and established the Children's Art Tax Credit. Sadly, the Liberal government cancelled all of these initiatives.

Canadian families deserve better. Karen Vecchio Official Opposition Critic for Families, Children and Social Development Member of Parliament for Elgin-Middlesex-Lond

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CCFAQ celebrates 118th anniversary of the Philippine Independence by uniting people from various ethnic groups through dances

By W. G. Quiambao

Changing the traditional celebrations of the Philippine Independence from Sunday to Saturday did a miracle. June 25, Saturday, was sunny and warm, unlike last year when the celebration was dampened by the incessant rain and cold weather.

The Filipino and non-Filipino revellers enjoyed watching the colourful parade, feasting on sumptuous food, listening to the variety of music and watching the festival of unique dances presented by the local talents and various cultural groups.

Gerry Danzil, the newly-elected president of the Council of Canadian-Filipino Associations of Quebec, said, "Today, June 25, 2016, we celebrate the 118th anniversary of the Philippine Independence. It is a great pleasure and honour to lead the annual assembly of the Philippine Independence celebration of our community. Permit me to thank our distinguish guests, supporters, officers of our community leaders of various associations, performers from different ethnic socio-cultural heritage, kababayan."

The parade, which featured floats decorated with flowers and banners

and exuberant people walking on the streets, started at 11:30 a.m. from the Mackenzie King Park, Van Horne St., Lavoie St., Westbury, St. Kevin St. The parade was led by a mobile patrol escort, followed by Grand Marshal (Anthony Housefather, MP), (Flag Bearers (Ramon Posadas, Jojo Villa, Edgard Ujvary) Banner Bearers (Orly Villanueva and Ben Balas), various associations and businesses that included Knights of Rizal, Black Watch Pipes & Drums, Ladies for Knights of Rizal, Kababaihang Rizalista, Bb. Maria Clara, Gng. Maria Clara, Float of Pangasinan, Float of FAMAS. The Japanese and Bulgarian groups, wearing their national costumes and waving their national flags, also joined the parade.

"It's a pretty long parade," says one observer who woke up early to watch the parade. "The weather has something to do with it.

Among the prominent people and politicians who graced the occasion were: Minister and Consul Eric Tamayo, Dominique Anglade (St. Antoine/St. Henri MNA), Denis Coderee (Mayor of Montreal), Mitchell Brownstein (Cote St. Luc Mayor), Pierre Arcand, (Mont Royal MNA), Helene David, (Outremont MNA), Jacques Daoust (Verdun MNA), Russel



After the parade, all participants assemble in preparation for the ceremony of singing the national anthem, the gun salute, and speeches by the dignitaries..

Copeman (Borough Mayor, NDG), Marvin Rotrand, Snowdon District Councillor. Some of the local talents who performed were Adiva, Mark Simbulan, Michelle Lao, Jennifer Duda, Joy Duca and , UPS, Seniors in Motion, Tamara Solatin. The cultural groups from Iran, Japan, Chile, Bulgaria, Russia, Bangladesh, Mexico and the Philippines contributed largely to the success of the program. Dressed in their eye-catching costumes, they wowed the audience with their unique dances.

"I salute the Filipino community for

doing a splendid job of putting together a show that features people from different countries," said Cindy Thomas, a photographer related to the Iranian group. She was busy taking photos of the performers. "After the massacre in Orlando, Florida, you can prove that we people in Montreal can have fun despite the differences in our color, religious affiliation, sexual orientation. You did a wonderful job."

The winners of the float contest were: 1st prize, Circle of Friendly Filipinos of Quebec, 2nd prize, FAMAS, 3RD prize, UPS.

From Page 1 - PM Trudeau

Still, Goodale urged Canadians to stay vigilant and alert.

"Canadians can rest assured that when the security and intelligence sector receives credible warnings on a specific threat, they work with the appropriate government partners to ensure the safety of Canadians," Goodale said in a statement.

Goodale noted that while in Paris in January, he signed a declaration with his French counterpart, Bernard Cazeneuve, to work together on terrorism, organized crime and irregular migration.

MEDIA, HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS URGE TRUDEAU TO CALL FOR CHARGES AGAINST TURKISH JOURNALISTS TO BE DROPPED

CJFE has joined media and human rights organizations in a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau ahead of the NATO summit in Warsaw, Poland, July 8 and 9. The letter ask for the Prime Minister to call for charges to be dropped against Reporters Without Borders Turkey representative Erol Önderoglu and his two colleagues, Sebnem Korur Fincanci and Ahmet Nesin, as he prepares to meet with Turkish President Erdogan at the summit. The letter was also sent to President Barack Obama by seven other media and human rights organizations.

Dear Prime Minister,

Canadian Journalists for Free Expression (CJFE), along with the undersigned organizations, would like to draw your attention to the ridiculous terrorism charges being brought against three journalists in Turkey – Erol Önderoglu, Sebnem Korur Fincanci and Ahmet Nesin.

As you are about to travel to Poland July 8 and 9 for a NATO summit, we ask that you urge Turkish President Erdogan to call for all charges against Önderoglu, Fincanci and Nesin to be dropped, to reform Turkey's anti-terrorism laws that are being used to prosecute journalists and human rights defenders who are merely doing their job, and release all remaining journalists in prison.

A leading defender of freedom of information in Turkey, Erol Önderoglu has been RSF's Turkey representative for the past 20 years. He has written many of our organization's reports and he covers Turkish free speech issues for the Bianet news website. A valued council member of IFEX, the global network defending and promoting free expression, he is often consulted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and many other international organizations. He is also very well known in his country.

Sebnem Korur Fincanci is a journalist, writer and professor of medicine, and she heads Turkey's leading human

rights NGO, the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (TIHV). Ahmet Nesin is a well-known journalist and writer who heads the Nesin Foundation. Created by leading author and playwright Aziz Nesin, it helps children in difficulty.

Önderoglu and his two colleagues were arrested and placed in pre-trial detention on June 20 because they showed support for the Kurdish daily Özgür Gündem by symbolically acting as its editor-in-chief for one day. They have been charged with "terrorist propaganda," "incitement to commit a crime" and "praising a crime or a criminal" on the basis of articles published on May 18, May 30 and June 7 about power struggles within the various Turkish security forces and about the ongoing military operations against Kurdish rebels affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in southeastern Anatolia.

They spent more than ten days in pre-trial detention until Önderoglu and Fincanci were released on bail on June 30. Their colleague Nesin was released the following day. None of the charges against them have been dropped and they are still facing prison terms of up to 14.5 years. Önderoglu and Fincanci's first trial hearing is set for November 11.

The legal proceedings against them are a direct continuation of the aggressive approach to the media seen in the proceedings against well-known journalists Can Dündar and Erdem Gül launched in June 2015. They are indicative of the way the authorities are

cracking down on Turkish civil society and are misusing the country's draconian anti-terrorism law.

Ranked 151st out of 180 countries in RSF's 2016 World Press Freedom Index, the Turkish government is intensifying its repression of journalists. After his release on June 30, Önderoglu told RSF "our arrests show that the traditional harassment of journalists is being progressively extended to all civil society critics. At a time when the Turkish authorities are trying to restore their credibility with European institutions, their respect for international legal standards of freedom of expression is long overdue."

There is still much more that must be done for Önderoglu and his colleagues. While they never should have spent a single day in detention to begin with, we strongly believe that the international outcry caused by their arrest played a role in their release.

Since becoming Canada's Prime Minister you have re-affirmed your country's commitment to human rights. Now we are counting on you to demonstrate this commitment to freedom of expression and information in Turkey alongside your friend and ally, President Barack Obama of the United States of America, whom we have also contacted on this matter.

I thank you in advance, Prime Minister,

See Page 5 - Media, Human Rights

Air Miles expiry deadline: How to get the best value before it's too late

Jeff Lagerquist, CTVNews.ca
Published Thursday, July 14, 2016
4:37PM EDT

If you've been collecting Air Miles for more than five years to bankroll a dream vacation, you need to start booking sooner rather than later.

The company announced in

received in January 2014 would expire on March 30, 2019.

The clock starts ticking soon, and travel takes time to plan. Here's what you can do to make sure you get the most out of all those times you swiped your blue or gold card at gas station, liquor store, or grocery checkout.



2011 that miles would disappear from accounts on a quarterly basis once they hit the five-year mark, starting on Jan. 1, 2017. From then on, whenever you use your miles, the oldest ones in your account get used first.

Air Miles says its quarters will end on March 31, June 30, Sept. 30, and Dec. 31. So, an unused mile you

Check your balance

Log onto AirMiles.ca to find out how many dream miles (used towards traveling, merchandise, event tickets, prize ballots, etc.) and cash miles (used in place of cash at sponsor locations for everyday shopping like groceries or gas) you've racked up.

You can request an expiry statement that will break down when your older miles will expire to get an idea of how urgently you need to use them. Air Miles says they can provide this information within 12 to 24 hours, but many users have complained on Facebook and Twitter about technical issues and slowdowns.

Transfer your miles to turn back the clock

If you have a lot of miles but no plans to travel or make other redemptions, transferring your balance to a different account could be your best option. The company will reset the expiry date on any transferred miles to five years from the date of the transfer. Of course, there is a fee for doing that.

Redeem Air Miles cash at sponsor locations

It's not as exciting as planning a trip, but taking advantage of in-store and online cash rewards are practical

ways to eat up excess miles. Ninety-five cash miles gets you \$10 off your purchase at several major grocery store chains, Shell gas stations, as well as Cineplex theatres, the Gap, Hudson's Bay, Starbucks, and The Keg, just to name a few.

Getting the best value

The dollar value of one Air Mile is \$0.121, according to Ratehub.ca.

Their research found that when it comes to booking flights, the best value is travel to the U.S. Midwest, Manitoba, and the East Coast, especially during peak travel times. For example, a flight to Minneapolis or Kansas City averages out to \$0.231 per mile, while Seattle or Portland costs \$0.041 per mile. And forget about redeeming your Dream Miles for merchandise if you're looking for value. Ratehub.ca says those fancy blenders and Bluetooth speakers average out to just \$0.0715.

From Page 4 - Media, Human Rights

for the careful attention you give to this letter.

Sincerely,

Christophe Deloire, Secretary General, Reporters Without Borders (RSF)

Eylem Delikanli, Founding Co-op Member and Researcher, Research Institute on Turkey

Annie Game, Executive Director,

IFEX

Tom Henheffer, Executive Director, Canadian Journalists for Free Expression

Lise Millette, President, Quebec Professional Federation of Journalists

Susannah Sirkin, Director of International Policy & Partnerships, Physicians for Human Rights

Nick Taylor-Vaisey, President, Canadian Association of Journalists

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Cancer changes Canivel's view in life

By W. G. Quiambao



Joseph Canivel

a trade show coordinator at MoroccanOil, has been a jogging and yoga enthusiast. Cancer does not run in the family. That's why, when he had a bump in the neck, it didn't bother him. But in 2009, he had it checked.

diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, a rare type of cancer that occurs in the salivary glands," Canivel said. "Initially, I was chocked. I was scared."

During his ordeal, he got

workers. But he did not want them to treat him differently. "My friends and co-workers wanted to visit and cheer me up but I refused. I didn't want them to pity me. In fact, my boss suggested that I take a 3-month leave

be busy. I wanted to be distracted. I didn't want to mope around the house."

Canivel underwent 30 radiation therapy treatments at the Jewish General Hospital for about a month and a half. Although he is cancer free now, he still has to see his doctor every two years for the rest of his life. He is more busy and active now. In 2011, he joined the Embridge Ride to Conquer Cancer. Its objective is to take 300km from Montreal to Quebec City. He used his creativity and determination to raise a significant amount for a cause dear to his heart. In 2012, he decided to team up again with his colleagues at MoroccanOil. So far, they raised \$30,000 altogether.

Having a cancer changed his view in life. He learned not to take anything for granted and he learned to live his life to the fullest. "When I hear people get worried for nothing or complain about anything, I tell myself that their problems are nothing compared to mine. They shouldn't waste their time worrying or complaining."

Canivel, whose motto in life is "If there's a way, there's a will," considers his fight to beat his cancer his biggest achievement in life. ■

Ugen island: Lifestyle of the ultra rich and very private

By Tanya T. Lara



A rendering of a Ugen grand villa home designed by Budji+Royal Architecture and Design. Ugen is a private luxury island in the Bicol region.

They had him at spicy food. For luxury real estate developer Andrew Sparrow, that's all it took to come down to Bicol. He has headed firms that develop five-star hotels, luxury resorts in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, and mixed-use communities worldwide, so when someone tells him, "You have to acquire this place," well, it's something he's been hearing regularly for the past 25 years.

But it was an architect friend that told him about the island, which belonged to a family that was "land-rich but cash-poor." Andrew said, "But

it's so far away, how do I even get there?"

"They have really spicy food down there," the architect said.

Bicol had him at spicy laing and chili prawns — and to top it all, a beach with sand that turned pink when the sun rose.

This island — two islands, in fact — is now called Ugen, a name inspired by a key concept in Japanese aesthetics and East Asian art called *yuugen* or profound beauty.

"I said, what can we do with this island? I went back several years ago to a time when we were

developing in the Caribbean. We went across an island called Mustique and that's the inspiration of Ugen."

Lifestyle Feature (Article MRec), pagematch: 1, sectionmatch: Mustique is a private island in the eastern border of the Caribbean Sea, where the rich and famous vacation, including Prince William and Kate Middleton, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

Andrew says, "We weren't the developer of Mustique, but I went over and found that Mick Jagger, Shania Twain, Tommy Hilfiger and other celebrities had homes there. What made this island different is the way they've integrated to the local population. They've educated them, trained and given them jobs and connected the entire community together. I said I'd love to do this in Asia."

That was eight years ago. The timing for such a project wasn't right and he didn't have an island. He had both those things last year — except an investor, "one that didn't think piling concrete and playing with environmentalism was the way to go."

Enter Katsumasa "Katz" Aikawa, a Japanese businessman who was in the Philippines from 1998 to 2009. His decision to invest in the Philippines is a fulfillment of his

father's dream. "My father wanted to invest here before he died in 2009. He had a business in Cebu and he told my wife that when he died, he wanted his ashes to be spread in the Philippines. So I came back in 2010 to Cebu to do that."

With Katz as Ugen CEO and Andrew as director of development, Ugen was now ready to be developed. Also coming on board were Katz's Enveron Realty, a property firm under the Japan-based Aikawa Group, Budji+Royal Architecture and Design, and Blue Development Inc.

"Today is the time to do something like this — a luxurious private island surrounded by pink beaches, coves, caves, an unparalleled marine system, and a sustainable master-planned community," says Andrew. "We started reaching out to the ultra-high net worth of the Philippines in January this year and got the most incredible response."

The price started at USD\$1 million and today it starts at \$1.5 million.

"The people we approached said that's not a problem. Quality, privacy, exclusivity and sustainability are the things they want and that's exactly what we're going to deliver."

Tagalog Seksyon

Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

KAHIT ANO MANG PROPESYON, MAY BULOK NA MIYEMBRO

Noong June 25, nalathala sa Montreal Gazette na isang doktor sa Gatineau ang napatunayang lumabag sa Quebec's Code of Ethics of Physicians dahil sa pananampal, pananakot at pang-iinsulto sa lasing, suicidal, HIV-positive na babaeng pasyente. Ang paghatol ay ginawa noong May 25 pero naipahayag noon lamang June 22.

Ito ang napatunayan ng disciplinary council of the College des medecins du Quebec : Dr. Luc-Philippe Lacroix was found guilty of breaching Article 17 of the Code of Medical Ethics by "failing to have irreproachable conduct by attacking (his patient) physically and verbally.)

Dumating ang pasyente sa emergency room ng Hopital de Gatineau noong gabi ng Jan. 31. Sinabi niya sa nakatalagang nurse na binugbog siya ng mga pulis. Dahil sa nangyari, uminom siya ng vodka, ininom lahat ang kaniyang medikasyon (haldol) at gusto niyang magpakamatay. Sinabi ng nurse na lasing siya at may mga pasa sa katawan. Napagalaman na ang pasyente ay HIV-positive, may Hepatitis C, may sakit sa utak at may rekord ng pang-aabuso sa alkohol at bawal na gamot. Habang nasa hospital ay nawalan siya ng malay. Dinala siya sa "shock room" kung saan pinakakalma ang mga pasyente pero nagpilit siyang umuwi. Nang pigilan siyang muwi, naging balisa siya at uminom ng mga pill na galing sa kaniyang bulsa. Dito dumating si Dr. Lacroix upang tignan ang kaniyang kalagayan. Nang malaman ni Dr. Lacroix na uminon ang pasyente ng pills, nag-issue ang una ng "Code White" bilang hudyat ng madaliang tulong ng security. Nagtulung-tulong ang tatlong security guards at doctor na ilagay sa examining table ang pasyente. Sapilitang nilang alisin ang kaniyang damit at pinasuot ng hospital gown. Nang magtangkang umupo ang pasyente, dito siya pinilit na hilahin sa buhok ng doktor. Dahil sa ginawa ng doktor, gusto siyang kagatin ng pasyente.

Dinuraan pa ng pasyente ang doctor. Sa galit ng doktor, sinampal niya nang malakas sa dibdib ang pasyente at tinawag pa itong "bitch" at "slut. Minura at binantaan pa ang pasyente, "Kapag lamabas na HIV positive ako, mabibilanggo ka." Nang magkaroon ng imbestigasyon, inamin naman ng doktor ang ginawa niya.

Minsan, may mga propesyonal tulad ng reporter, doktor, abogado, o pulis na lumalabag sa Code of Ethics ng kanilang propesyon. Naalaala ko nang maraming taon na ang nakalilipas ay bumagsak ako sa snow at tumakbo sa emergency room ng malaking hospital sa Montreal. Nabali ang aking braso. Nang malaman ng isang Pilipina kung sino ang doktor ko, napailing na lamang siya. Hindi nagtagal ay nalaman ko ang dahilan. Nilagyan ng cast ang aking braso at isang beses sa isang lingo ay nagpupunta ako sa hospital upang tingnan kung gumagaling na ang braso ko. Makalipas ang isang buwan, nagpunta akong muli sa hospital upang alisin na ang cast pero wala ang aking regular na doctor. Nagulat ako nang sabihin ng pumalit na doktor ba hindi naituwid nang mahusay ang aking braso. Itinanong niya sa akin kung gusto kong lagyan uli ito ng cast. Tumanggi ako at sinabing pagkatapos nang isang buwan kong pagpunta sa hospital, bakit hindi ito natuklasan ng regular na doktor ko. Kinuha ko ang kopya ng x-ray at nagpunta sa ibang doktor para sa ikalawang opinyon. Alam ng hospital ng may kasalanan sila kaya inalok ako ng maliit na halaga upang hindi na ako magpunta sa midya. Dahil nangangailangan ako ng pera noon, napilitan akong tanggapin ang alok ng hospital.

Kung nagkaroon tayo ng hindi magandang karanasan sa propesyonal, - reporter, doktor, abogado, o pulis - huwag tayong matakot magreklamo sa kinauukulan kung palagay natin ay tama tayo. Katulad din natin na tao kamang ang mga propesyonal na ito at nagkakamali rin sila. Ang iba naman, talagang pabaya lamang sa trabaho. Sa ganitong situasyon, ipaglaban natin ang ating karapatan.

NAKALIGTAAN NA YATA NATIN ANG MALIIT NA PARK NA IPINANGALAN KAY RIZAL

Kamakailan ay may lumabas na sulat mula sa isang grupo, sa pangunguna ni Mario Rimbao, tungkol sa binabalak nito na imungkahi na pangalanan ang Mackenzie King park ng Weilder/Rizal park. Naisip ito ni Mario dahil sa artikulong lumabas sa The Surbarban noong July 14. May isang grupo na gustong ipangalan ang Mackenzie King park ng Ben Weider park, isang dakilang Canadian mula sa Jewish community. Maganda ang binabalak ni Mario. At hanga rin ako sa Knights of Rizal dahil sa tuwing Araw ng Kalayaan, kapanganakan at kamatayan ni Rizal, ginugunita rin nila ang ating bayani sa pamamagitan ng pagtitipon-tipon sa Mackenzie King park at pag-aalay ng mga bulaklak sa harap ng kaniyang busto.

Nagkataon noong pagkatapos ng Araw ng Kalayaan at bago lumabas ang sulat ni Mario, naitanong ko kay Bert Abiera kung bakit sa busto lamang ni Rizal sa Mackenzie King park nakatuon ang ating pansin. Ano ang nangyari sa maliit na Rizal park sa Clanranald, St. Mary Rd? Ilan Pilipino lamang ang nakaaalam ng park na ito na ibinigay ng City of Hall dahil sa kahilingan natin, sa panguguna ni James de la Paz. Ito ay noong panahon ng dating alkaldeng si Pierre Bourque at konsehal na si Saulie Zajdel.

Ang magkakaroon ng park na ipinangalan kay Rizal ay malaking karangalan sa mga Pilipino. Pero paano natin maipakikita ang pagpapahalaga at pagpapaalaala sa mga kababayan natin na may park tayo rito. Inilalagay ba ang inpormasyong ito sa souvenir program ng Knights of Rizal kung may pagtitipon? Nakilala at nakausap ko noon July 16 si Evelyn Calusa, isang aktibong miyembro ng komunidad at sinabi niyang nagpunta siya sa Claranald nang malaman niyang may park pala roon na ipinangalan kay Rizal. Nabigo lamang daw siya dahil marami at maagiw. Nalimutan na nga natin ito.

Tulad ng sinabi ko, maganda ang binabalak nating imung kahi na ipangalan ang Mackenzie King park ng Weider/Rizal. Pero ipakita rin natin na pinahalalagan natin ang isang park na ibinigay sa atin sa Clanranald.

HINDI NAGKUNWARING AMBASSADOR SI ERIC TAMAYO

Noong Independence Day sa Mackenzie King park, masaya

kaming nag-uusap ni Minister at Consul General Eric Tamayo nang may apat na babaeng masayang lumapit sa kaniya at nakiusap, "Ambassador, puede ho bang magpakuha ng litrato na kasama kayo? Malugod namang nagpaunlak si Eric at nakangiting itinuwid ang itinawag sa kaniya ng grupo, " Consul General ho." Pag-alis ng grupo, hindi ko napigilan ang magtawa nang malakas. Nagtawa ako hindi dahil sa pagkakamali ng grupo. At lalong hindi ako nagtawa sa pagpapakumbaba ni Eric. Ipinaliwanag ko sa kaniya na naalaala ko lamang ang isang kakilala sa Montreal na matagal nang tapos ang kaniyang titulo ay iyon pa rin ang ginagamit. Pero sabi ni Eric, "Hindi niya dapat gawin iyon dahil lalabas at lalabas ang totoo." Tama si Eric. May nagsumbong sa Ottawa at sa Pilipinas sa ginagawa ng taong ito na nabubuhay sa nakaraan. Ang akala niya ay hawak niya pa ang dating titulo.

ANG KAALAMAN AY HINDI LAMANG SA PAARALAN NAKUKUHA

Bukod sa paaralan, nakakukuha rin tayo ng mga kaalaman o gintong aral na nagsisilbing gabay sa ating buhay sa pamamagitan ng pagbabasa at pakikipag-usap sa mga ibang tao. Kalimitan, marami ang nahihiya sa kanilang pagiging mahirap o pagkakaroon ng mababang pinag-aralan. Sa librong nabasa ko noon, sinabi ng sumulat na hindi kasalanan ang mga ito na dapat ikahiya. Wala silang pineperhuwisyong tao. Ayon sa sumulat, marami pang bagay sa buhay ang dapat ikahiya tulad ng pagnanakaw, pagsisinungaling o pananakit sa kapwa na wala namang ginagawang masama sa kanila. May natutuhan din ako kay James de la Paz. Noong bago ako sa komunidad, may ilan tao akong nakilala na kung tawagin ay smart alecky o Mr. Know it All. Minsan, kung hindi ko mapigilan, sasabihin ko sa kausap ko ang aking opinyon. Kapag naririnig ako ni James na nakikipagtalo, sasabihin niya, "Huwag ka nang makipagtalo. Kapag hindi ka na kumibo, hindi nangangahulugang talo ka. Alam mo naman na tama ang sinasabi mo." At isa sa mga hindi ko malimutan ay ang pangaral ng aking ina noong bata pa ako na sana ay magawa ko ngayon ay ito, "Anak, huwag kang pumatol sa taong sira ang ulo. Kapag pumatol ka sa kaniya, ang ibig sabihin ay mas sira ang iyong ulo."

Mother knows best.



Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by
Al Abdon

visually isolated from their background. The subject is sharply in focus, while the background is blurred out. This isolation is achieved through selective depth of field with the use of faster wide aperture fixed focal length lenses, not zoom lenses. A traditional HD camcorder may have a good zoom, but its widest f stop or aperture (typically f/5.6) cannot compete with a fixed focal length lens- typically f/1.8 or better.

are still limitations to using DSLRs. More specifically there are three on my list: maximum record time, manual zoom control, and lack of good audio recording control. Starting with record time, you can get up to about 29 minutes at the highest 1080 resolution, depending on the DSLR manufacturer. This is a self-imposed DSLR limitation, which could take another blog just to get into the reasons why! Traditional HD camcorders don't have this limitation, with record times of about 2 hours, depending on the HD record quality, and the media storage used. For example, my 1- year old Sony 3D TD10 camcorder can record over 2 hours continuously at the highest resolution on a 32GB SDHC card! The same record time can be had for all other standard HD camcorders as well. Zooming for all of us camcorder enthusiasts is a feature we take for granted. Its there when we need it, but always automatic, usually with variable control on speed. Unfortunately, when shooting with a DSLR, only manual zoom control is generally available. Many of you might be able to zoom manually, but it does take considerable practice before that zoom is smooth with no stop and start bumps. Manual audio control is a must-have feature for traditional videographers. However on many DSLRs that feature is either not available, or its got clumsy controls. Better DSLRs offer a stepped audio setting that achieves better results. If you're shopping for a DSLR, make sure its got manual audio level control.

HOW ABOUT THE CONS?

While the benefit of a large variety of lenses is tempting, there

WHY USE A DSLR?



Samsung
www.samsung.com



Canon
www.usa.canon.com

Sony
www.sonymstyle.com



We often heard the term DSLR – which stand for Digital Single Lens Reflex. It is similar to your standard camera but it has an ability to shoot high quality video. Is it better than your HD camcorder? It all depends on the model of your camera. I have recently discovered that many event videographers are using DSLR. Here is why:

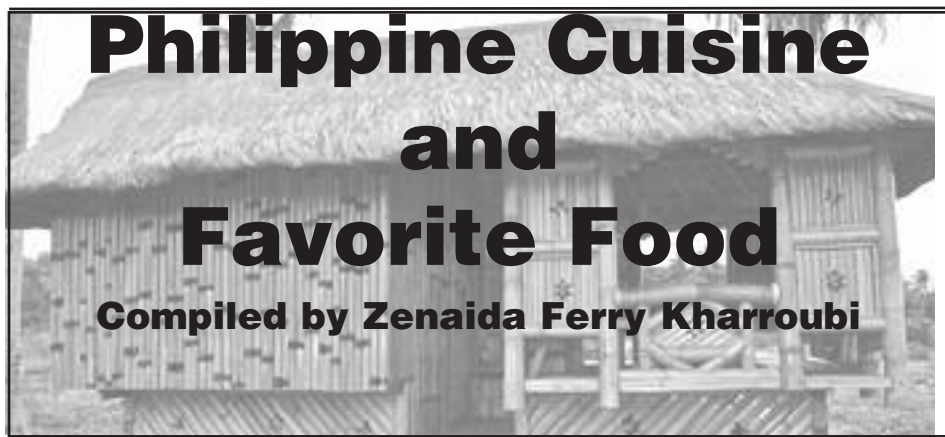
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Hands-down, the greatest benefit of a DSLR is that of interchangeable lenses, and with that, the control they can bring to the look of the video you are shooting. And by control, I don't mean just in the dazzling variety of focal lengths from super wide angle, to long telephoto that are available to achieve different film looks. I was referring to subject isolation. Look at any major film release and notice how in many scenes the subjects are



OUR EXPERIENCE AT MMTV.

MMTV uses a Canon 5D Mark III. The learning curve for this camera is easy. The problem is the skills of using and handling the camera. When our cameraman is assigned for an event, he should bring a tripod and lights for obvious reason. It's the weight and settings that are required before operating and shooting a scene. The tripod is there to support the camera while adjustments are made. They are ISO settings, white balance settings, Audio adjustments, Back-up recorder settings, Batteries check, Light adjustments, exposure settings and focusing. All of these procedures takes at least 5 minutes or more. ■



Philippine Cuisine and Favorite Food

Compiled by Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Filipino Menudo



INGREDIENTS

- 1 kg pork tenderloin, cubed
- 3 medium potatoes, cubed
- 2 medium carrots, cubed
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 medium red bell pepper, diced
- 1 medium green bell pepper, diced
- 500 ml tomato sauce
- 100 g pork liver
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 50 g grated romano cheese (Parmesan is also good)

- Marinade
- 2 bay leaves
 - 1 cup Sprite (Yes, Sprite.)
 - 4 tablespoons soy sauce
 - 2 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1 lemon, zest of, only
 - ground black pepper

DIRECTIONS

Combine all marinade ingredients. Divide the marinade in halves. Save half. Add pork cubes on the other half with the bay leaf and marinate for at least 30 minutes. Remove pork from the marinade, drip dry. Sauté garlic and onion, add pork and the unused half of the marinade and bay leaf, simmer uncovered, reduce the liquid to half. Add fresh pork liver if you prefer the fresh ingredient, cover and cook. Add tomato sauce, liver paste (if this is what you're using), carrots, potatoes and raisins, simmer stirring occasionally. Add peppers and adjust the seasoning. Add the grated cheese, let it melt, stir and distribute evenly. Serve hot.

- 1/4 cup ginger, cut into strips
- 1/2 cup carrot, julienne cut
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, cut into strips
- 1/2 teaspoon cornstarch, mixed in water to a paste

Fish:
Use a large frying pan and put enough oil to cover the bottom with about 1/4 inch. Pan fry the fish in the oil on medium heat. If you are using a fillet start with the flesh side down. You may need to score the skin of a whole fish in order to allow it to cook through. Once the fish is fully cooked set aside some of the cooking oil and arrange the fish on a serving plate.
Sauce:
Stir the water, vinegar, soy sauce, sugar, salt and pepper/pepper corns together in a mixing bowl. The mixture should have a strong flavor of balanced sweet, sour, and salty. Add additional sugar, vinegar and/or soy sauce until you achieve this balance. Then set aside. Saute garlic in the reserved oil in a wok on medium-high heat until golden. Add onion and saute until it is also golden. Add ginger and saute until flavors blend. Add carrots, stir briefly then add liquid mixture. Mix sauce until flavors blend nicely. Simmer approximately 1 minute. Taste again and re-balance the flavors. Add bell pepper and corn starch mixture and stir together. Simmer until reduced to about a cup. Ladle the sauce over the fish and serve.

GINISANG UPO (Sauteed gourd)



- Ingredients**
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
 - 100 g lean ground pork
 - 4 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 pc small onion, medium diced
 - 2 pcs tomato, medium diced
 - 1/2 kg diced upo (gourd)
 - 1 cup water
 - 1 sachet 8G MAGGI MAGIC SARAP®

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat vegetable oil in a pan. Add ground pork and sauté until light golden brown.
2. Add garlic, onion and tomato and cook for 2 minutes. Add upo and cook for 2 minutes.
3. Pour water and simmer for 5 minutes. Season with MAGGI MAGIC SARAP®. Transfer into a servings plate and serve.

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ESCABECHE (Fish in sweet sour sauce)



INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium salmon fillet
- oil, for pan frying
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons vinegar
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon peppercorns or 1 teaspoon ground pepper
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil (reserved from frying the fish)
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup sweet onion

The North American FILIPINO STAR PHOTO GALLERY



Warm-hearted Bicolanos and Bicolanas invite people to their tents to share their delicious food for the fiesta during the Philippine Independence Day celebration, June 25, 2016.



MMTV Global crew pose for souvenir from left: Jackie Sebellita with Samia, Robin & Cristy Hunter, Jovy Narvas, Jamielyn and Edward Ujvary, Zenaida Kharroubi, and Tenne Rose Dayandante.



Members of Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble pose with friends and family during the Pista sa Nayon. They even have roasted pig (lechon) for lunch. What a sumptuous fiesta!



Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble in their beautiful and colorful costumes, after their performance at the Pista sa Nayon, July 17, 2016



Desiree Sato Fernando with her son, Klyde Bryant Fernando who arrived here in Montreal last May 5, 2016. Welcome to Montreal, Canada. Desiree is a former Gilmore College student in French.



Annabelle Alloso, (center) a Gilmore College alumna introduced her son to her former French teacher, Zenaida Kharroubi, during the Philippine Independence Day celebration, June 25, 2016 at MacKenzie King Park. He just arrived on June 5, 2016. Best wishes and welcome.



Panday Tinig Choral Group with Edith Fedalizo and Paul Imperial



D.C. Sebellita and his friend are at their post to provide sound services

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SUUL celebrates its 43rd anniversary August 20

SUUL is the acronym of the Fraternal Order of the Sigma Upsilon Upsilon Lambda International Service Fraternity and Sorority whose motto: "We are seekers of Oneness Unity" was founded on August 16, 1973 in the heart of Central Mindanao University

in the islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao including CAR Regions in Asia, Europe and North America.

The gala anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at Ruby Foo's Hotel, 7655 Decarie Boulevard in Montreal.



Souvenir photo of previous anniversary held at Ruby Rouge.

(CMU), in Musuan, Bukidnon, Philippines by 52 freshmen students but only 16 young gentlemen hurdled and survived the initiation considered the founding patriarchs of this fraternity, namely, Sir Knights Marfori Agus, Eugene Agus, Ephraim Abonitalia, Bonifacio Calfoforo, Vicente Acedillo, Jose Acera, Jr., Peter Banatao, Benecio Maligon, Jr., Allan Dampal, George Acapulco, Ricardo Martinez, Romeo Mondigo, Dioscoro Ratunil, Jr., William Viado, Antonio Casalmir, and Lyle Aledo.

This organization has evolved into a solidarity of Knights and Ulphans who hold common interests in academics, stimulation of scholarship, services to humanity, brotherhood, sisterhood and fellowship. SUUL, its brief name, is a non-profit organization that is duly registered at the Securities & Exchange Commission, Sec. No. CN200766289.

Sigma Upsilon fraternity brothers are called "Knights" - defenders of human rights and lovers of peace and order, Upsilon Lambda sisters are called "Ulphans" - holders of the brilliant of the of the organization. Their main objectives are to promote wellness, unity, brotherhood, sisterhood, fellowship and service to all races regardless of their religious affiliation synonymous to the "Bayanihan" (community spirit of helping one another) or expression of "Damayan" (expression of sympathy). Knights and Ulphans have continued to practice their values such as sponsoring scholarships, helping anyone in need particularly those who are victims of natural disasters to alleviate their sufferings. Some members had passed away but their legacy still lives on NON OMNIS MORIAR". Since 1973, Sigma Upsilon, Upsilon lambda mission still prevails. Membership has spread to various Philippine schools, universities, colleges

The keynote speaker is Mrs. Amy Manon-og who will share her wealth of knowledge and inspirational ideas that will encourage and motivate the newly elected officers of the organization including the members, their friends and guests. This year's theme is: "GIVING SEEDS OF MAGNANIMITY TO HUMANITY IS AN INFINITE LEGACY TO ETERNITY...NON OMNIS MORIAR".

Part one of the celebration will be cocktails starting at 6:30 p.m. Part Two will be the gala dinner at 7:30 p.m. followed by the program and dancing.

It is hoped to make the evening an enjoyable one which will be full of music, Oriental and Jewish food, ecstatic laughter and lively party chatter.

To all our SUUL brethren around the world, may it be known that the Knights and Ulphans of Montreal, QC, Canada, support the International Supreme Council headed by Sir Knight Lyle Aledo, SUUL Supreme Knight International. Long Live Sigma Upsilon Upsilon Lambda International Fraternity and Sorority, Mabuhay ang matatag na kapatiran ng Sigma Upsilon Upsilon Lambda Knights and Ulphans sa buong mundo. May the flames of SUUL keep burning with pride and admiration.

To all our Brothers and Sisters around the globe - "In unity we stand, divided we fall."

By MOC Supreme Knight
W. B. Gomez

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Stars gather for Vibrant Brampton Sarabjit Cheema, Fateh Doe, Sabrina, Avengers, Shiamak dance troupe

BRAMPTON, ON: The non-profit group Arts and Culture Initiative of South Asian (ACISA) is bringing its first ever event – Vibrant Brampton – to Garden Square, The Rose Theatre Brampton on July 23. The event includes an exciting lineup of artistes that will appeal to all – young and the young-at-heart. From upcoming local stars to well-known names in the entertainment industry, downtown Brampton is all set to party.

Event headliner, internationally renowned singer and actor Sarabjit Cheema will bring his brand of Punjabi Bhangra music. He is known for his Boliyan and Gidha beats. His smash hit Punjabi song Rangla Punjab from his album Mela Vekhdiye Mutiyare was released in 1996. His hits are billo teri tor vekh ke, Dhol Vajda, Rang rara riri rara, Bhangra, Nacho-Nacho, Khatta

International Kathak star Ishane Sathe, will showcase this classic Indian style made famous in many Bollywood films by the likes of Madhuri Dixit and Rekha. Featuring young talents of the future, Rasika Jog's Akhil Music Academy students will present a couple of classical music compositions.

The event also includes performances by Shiamak Davar Dance Troupe; Panwar Music and Dance—Indian Classical-Kathak; Prima Group—Tollywood/Tamil Dancing; Taekowndo demonstration; Natya Tapasya Dance Academy; Sukanya Nrittanga – Bangladeshi dance troupe; Nritya Kala Mandir; Extreme Bhangra and more.

With support from the City of Brampton, Vibrant Brampton, a free event, aims to promote cross-cultural understanding with the hope of bringing



Doria, Chandigarh Shehar di kudi, Boliyan. Cheema also has two religious albums and 12 studio albums.

Much Music artiste Fateh Doe, a local Bramptonian will be showcasing his talent in combining Punjabi and rap music. Fateh has been featured in many tracks with Dr Zeus. He has also sung the song "Lovely" from 2014 Bollywood film Happy New Year. In August 2015, he released his debut solo single 'Naiyo Jaan De'. Fateh received four nominations for 'Breakthrough Act', 'Best North American Act', and 'Best Urban Asian Act' at 2015 Brit Asia Music Awards. Some of the other artistes performing at the event include:

Parag Ray and Nadeem Ali and the Avengers, a high-energy group bringing the best of taal and sargam. Nadeem Ali is a well-known composer and singer from Pakistan who established Avengers band in 2000 to meet the rising need of new immigrant South Asian community in Canada, for their traditional music and songs. Parag Ray is a classically trained and accredited vocalist from Kolkata, India. Parag launched her first album in Kolkata in 2010 and her second album in Sufiyana music, is currently in post-production for this year 2015.

a diverse community together in celebration of life, culture, art and tradition. Dance to the beats of Bollywood or sway to the diverse music from India or get a taste of the mouth-watering cuisine from South Asia or buy a souvenir, it will be a day to remember.

Free parking is available at the Rose Theatre, Brampton City Hall and Brampton City Hall West Tower. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @VibrantAcisa. Visit www.vibrantfestcanada.com for more information.

About ACISA: A non-profit organization promoting cross cultural understanding with the aim to bringing a diverse community together in celebration of life, culture, art and tradition. Our purpose it to promote the diversity of South Asian art forms, break cultural barriers, imbibe the evolving cultural values of Canada and communicate and share the philosophy of diversity.

"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."
Harry S. Truman



Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Carino



June is a month of community association celebrations. First to submit a report of their activities was the Federation of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec (FFCAQ) President Mr. Edgrado Tupas and Internal VP Mrs. Minda Mazzone. Top on their agenda was the induction of the 2016-2018 FFCAQ Board of Directors. The Inducting Officer was Honorable Petronila P. Garcia, the Philippine Ambassador to Canada. This was held at 6767 Community Center, Cote de Neiges, Montreal P.Q. The ambassador had an important message regarding the Philippine elections. "Economic prosperity is expected," she said. She also advised the inductees to diligently perform their duties. Included in the program was the awarding of membership certificates to the following 2016-2017 member associations: Aklan Association of Montreal, Canadian Association of Filipino Seniors of Quebec, Canadian Association of People Helping People from the Philippines, Filipino Canadian Sports Council of Quebec, Montreal Marquis Basketball Club, Quebec Council on Philippines Canada Business & Trade, and the United Pilipino Seniors of Quebec.

The FFCAQ 2016-2018 Board of Directors Inducted were: Edgardo Tupaz (President & Chairman of the Board), Luzviminda Ogerio-Mazzone (Vice-President, Internal Affairs & Vice Chairman of the Board), Zenaida Manaog (Secretary), Josefina Faustino (Assistant Secretary), Shinly Gattoc (Treasurer), Haydee Trinidad (Assistant Treasurer), Ella Reyes (Auditor), Cristy Hunter (Director of Communications), Alfonso Abdon (Director of Education & Leadership), Warlie Basbacio (Director of Human Rights), Nenita Licayao (Director of Philippine Studies & Library), Lorenza Tolentino (Director of Seniors), Edwina Cedilla (Director of Social Services & Philippine Relief), Arwin Allana (Director of Sports), Remedios Monteagudo (Director of Trade & Commerce), Ellison James Pila (Director of Youth).

Filipinos of Montreal gathered in droves to McKenzie King Park on June 25, 2016. This day we celebrated the 118th Anniversary of the Philippine Independence. This celebration is always sponsored by

the Council of Canadian Filipino Association of Quebec (CCFAQ). This association was founded by Mr. James De La Paz, a well-known beloved figure in the Filipino Montreal local leaders' circle. At the present time, Mr. Gerry Danzil is the president.

A parade around the Cote-des-Neiges borough started the celebration. Grand Marshall was MP for Mount Royal, Honorable Anthony Housefather. He was followed by the Black Watch School of Pipes and Drums. There were nicely decorated floats representing the following: Pamanda ng Luzviminda Dance Company of Montreal, Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas-Montreal2014, Munting Mutya ng Pilipinas-Montreal2016, Famas Miss Teen and her Court, Miss Gay Montreal, United Pilipino Seniors, Circle of Friendly Filipinos of Montreal, Pangasinan Association of Quebec, Sea-Farers, and Ahmon Institute de Montreal.

Some of the participating folk dancers who joined the parade were from Chile, Russia, Iran, Mexico and Bangladesh.

The day was dotted with entertainment numbers provided by the Fil-Can Coaches with Joy Meshia, Mark Simbulan, Mishael Tea de la Cruz, Ross Etinozo and Christine Toca as members. Song and dance was performed by Famas Miss Teen Tamara Rade-Gonde and friends. Other dances were provided by Visaya Women's Group of Montreal and Seniors in Motion.

As usual, there were booths occupied by different Filipino associations and various businesses. Not to be missed were a row of Filipino-owned restaurants that provided breakfast-lunch-supper menus! Pork BBQ and Halo Halo topped the crowds choices.

More importantly, before lunch, city dignitaries arrived to grace our Independence celebrations. Mr. James de la Paz (CCFAQ Founder) introduced the following: Mr. Anthony Housefather (MP,TMR), Mr. Marvin Rotrand (Snowdon City Councilor), Mr. David Lamett (MP Lasalle), Mr. Pierre Arcand (Minister of Energy and Natural Resources), Mrs. Helen David (Deputee, Outremont), Mr. Russell Copeman (Mayor, Cote-des-Neiges-Notre Dame), Mr. Eric Tamayo (Philippine Consul), and Mr. Denis Coderre (Montreal Mayor).

In his speech, Mayor Coderre

said, "I would like to extend my best wishes to Filipino Montrealers as the Republic of the Philippines celebrates its 118th Anniversary. These members of the community are well-integrated into Montreal life and contribute to our cultural, economic and artistic scene." CCFAQ President Mr. Gerry Danzil welcomed everyone.

I need to include something I missed in my past column - Mr. Benny Bote received a meritorious award from SWIS chairman Roger Ajero during the SWIS Independence party last June 3, 2016. Congratulations Benny !

The Living Waters International Fellowship Family Camp 2016 was held July 2-3, 2016 at 1950 Montreal Road, Cornwall, Ontario. This time around the church retreat was held at a hotel and enjoyed by all! For those interested, look at Facebook to see the various activities. The group, led by Pastor Rene Saquing, kept with them this spiritual reminder: "Leave a spiritual legacy in your family, or you leave no legacy at all."

A grand celebration for the Gift of Life was held last June 10, 2016 at the Diamond Hall, Holiday Inn, Montreal Airport. That evening included the birthday celebrations of Pierre Candalaft, Nida Quirapas and Mark-Anthony Quirapas. In other words, it was, in the words of the party's vivacious emcee Cynthia Purray Pacheco, "A milestone celebration of life's thanksgiving for many years of fulfillment." At this juncture, Cynthia presented the celebrants to Mrs. Natalie Pelausa who delivered her blessings with a touching prayer. Following Mrs. Pelausa was TMR MP Anthony Housefather who offered the traditional toast.

This birthday bash had entertainment numbers and the audience had a worthwhile time watching. To begin with, the Salinggawi Dance Troup performed several Philippine folk dances. Their costumes, their grace, their smiles elicited raves from everyone. Then the following singers interpreted their songs the way the original artistic singers did: Remelyn Remigio's "All of Me", Nerriza Kaye Mentos' "At Last", and Angie Penollar's "The Greatest Love of All". Heather Mondoux choreographed and performed a Belly Dance, while Nida and her friends Lisa, Ruby, Cora, Espie, Glenda, Jeanet, Imelda, and Leah performed a beautiful medley of hip-hop, zumba, Hawaiian, and rhumba all merged into one. That was a sight ! A wonderful highlight of the party was the arrival of none other than the Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Hon. Petronila Garcia. She conveyed her delightful greetings to the celebrants and some good news about our country, the Philippines. Nida, Pierre and Mark - thanks for a memorable and an enjoyable evening.

The Filipino Association of Montreal and Suburbs (FAMAS) continued the yearly tradition of celebrating the Pista Sa Nasyon last July 17, 2016 at Mckenzie King Park, Montreal. This event was well publicized and well organized. This time too, the weather was in full cooperation. Filipinos and their guests enjoyed the decorated booths around the Mckenzie quadrangle. More associations were in attendance. Those who didn't bring their potluck Even SWIS members led by chairman Roger Ajero were quite impressed by the sights and noise generated by folk dancers, the traditional games, and the Fil-Can singing preliminary contests. It was a real fiesta where one can find food in every booth! No potluck? No worries! Simply visit any of the Filipino restaurants (they put up their own tents) and enjoy Filipino cuisine, especially the well sought-after barbecue on a stick! Tremendously popular, you could see the lineup ten people deep waiting for their turn to be served. Event chairman Mr. Ernel Librario, and with the enormous help from President Cora Aberin and Vice President Svetlana Suarez, didn't leave any stone unturned when it came to the program. And kudos goes to three very able and exciting Emcees of the day: Mr. Freddie Espinosa, Ms. Svetlana Suarez and Mr. Ed Vasquez.

The program started with a zumba session followed by the parade of colors with Mr. Dick Dahiroc, Mr. Claro Bermudez, and Mr. Flor Rillo as flag bearers. They were followed by the 2015-2017 Executive Board: Mrs. Cora Aberin (President), Mr. Cesar Manuel (VP Internal), Ms. Svetlana Suarez (VP External), Ms. Kathleen Rebugio (Secretary), Mimi Gasapo (Treasurer), Ernel Lebario (Auditor), Aristia Elumbaring (Accountant), Lourdes Fabia-Mariano (Public Relations Officer), Babylyn Gonowon (Education Minister), Ray Balansi (Youth and Sports Director), Lily Vasquez-Ramos (Membership Director), Ruben Matienzo (Outreach Director), and Mercy Umipig Sia (Special Projects Director). And congratulations to the Hermano Mayor Harry Seedihal & Hermana Mayor Evelyn Calusa, Hermano Mayor Pepito Carbon & Hermana Mayor Norma Carbon, and lastly, Hemano Mayor Nestor Chantengco and Hermana Mayor Amelia P. Chantengco.

A shout out also goes to the following first-time performers: Raz D. Torrado (Ms.Philippines 3rd Runnerup, Miss Congeniality), Axl Hernandez (Ms. Venezuela 2nd Runnerup, Miss Popularity), Jerriewel Mark (Ms. Brazil 1st Runnerup Miss Charity, Miss Photogenic, Best in Talent Tie) and 1st Ewver Miss Gay Montreal 2016 Joseph Dadua with Adiva Blow Powers. Well Done FAMAS ! ■

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

The accidental phenomenon named Maine Mendoza



Alden Richards and Maine Mendoza

Maine Mendoza, one half of the popular Aldub loveteam, has become a showbiz phenomenon just a year after appearing on “Eat Bulaga.”

While others reached such status after years of striving, Maine made it in one. She actually marked her first anniversary in showbiz last July 4.

Now a household name along with reel partner Alden Richards, Maine is among the reasons viewers look forward to watching “Eat Bulaga.” Fans are likewise looking forward to her and Alden’s launching movie, “Imagine You & Me,” which was filmed in Italy no less.

Maine has already won some awards including the 2015 MMFF Best Supporting Actress plum for her performance in “My Bebe Love #KiligPaMore.”

She was also named Best Promising Female and Breakthrough Female Star in Philippine Movies and Television at the 47th GMMSFI Box-office Entertainment Awards.

She also received the Gintong Kabataan Award sa Larangan Ng Sining at Kultura; Best New Female Personality at the 29th PMPC Awards for Television; and the Favorite Pinoy Personality at the Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards.

Maine’s other awards are: Favorite Young Actress at the 5th OFW Gawad Parangal and Makabatang Alagad Ng Telebisyon (Child-Friendly Artist on Television) Seal by Anak TV.

In 2015, Maine became the Philippines’ Most Googled Female Personality. She also got a star at the Philippine Walk of Fame in Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

Born Nicomaine Dei Capili Mendoza on March 3, 1995 in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, she studied at St. Paul – Sta. Maria and then at St. Paul – Bocaue. She went to college at De La Salle-St. Benilde taking up Hotel and Restaurant Management major in Culinary Arts. She took her internship in New York, USA. ■

Anne Curtis trains with Scout Rangers



Actress Anne Curtis joined the Scout Rangers in their activities over the weekend as part of her preparation for “Buy Bust,” her first action film.

According to the Philippine Army’s official site, the Scout Rangers, popularly known as “Musangs,” is among the country’s elite military units.

On Instagram, the actress posted a photo of herself standing in front of the Scout Ranger Training School arc.

“Hindi po biro ang ginagawang ating Scout Rangers. Napakahirap. Saludo po ako sa inyong lahat. Stamina and Skill. Stalk like a Panther,” she wrote.

Anne also posted a 15-second video of her run with the Scout Rangers, extending gratitude to the

people she met in training. She urged “Buy Bust” co-star Brandon Vera to join the next session.

“Running whilst carrying an extra 12 kgs. on your body is so painful but they keep the morale high with the running cadence. Masarap na masakit. Sobrang sakit. Salamat po ulit sa lahat ng babae at lalaki na kasabay ko sa training kanina,” she said.

Anne previously expressed desire to do her own stunts for the film. She has been doubling her efforts to prepare for it.

“Buy Bust” will be directed by Erik Matti. No other details about the movie have been revealed as of this writing. ■

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Chip off the old block



Tacloban Mayor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez

Former singer-actress now Tacloban Mayor Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez may have won the elections but she still has a “rival” in the hearts of Taclobanons: Her daughter Sofia.

At the Sangyaw Festival a few days back, Bulletin Entertainment heard Sofia sing live for the first time and before a big audience at that. Indeed, here’s one budding talent not merely riding on her famous last name. She did several numbers but the ones that got people raving were her versions of Adele’s “Someone Like You” and an alt-op work on Britney Spears’ “Toxic.” She even accompanied herself in the guitar. Sofia has style of her own.

“Her passion is music,” Cristina said in an interview right after her oath-taking. “Baby pa lang siya, kumakanta na yan. It’s all

ouido, ‘yung pag-play niya ng guitar at piano. She also writes music. Minsan nagiging yan tapos may song na siyang naisip.”

The public servant believes music runs in Sofia’s veins. After all, Cristina’s father was a musician and Cristina herself recorded a hit single in the ‘80s, remember?

Anyway, the mother added she’s neither preventing nor pushing the daughter to enter show business.

“She wants to be in music, she doesn’t use the word ‘show business,’” Cristina clarified. “She has a computer and I think she’s working on her album. She posts videos on YouTube. Sofia has fans especially here in Tacloban. Ayoko siyang pakialaman, only to support her.”

Has Sofia ever talked about joining talent searches on TV?

“No, she won’t, mahiyain siya,” the mayor said. “Pero she has her own style. She’s a good girl.”

Performance level

As for Cristina, she will be running the show, so to speak, as mayor. She’s more than confident of delivering on the job having had “practice” for nine years as councilor. Her husband, Alfred Romualdez, the former mayor from whom she took over the reins, will be right beside her though as private citizen, of course.

“I’m excited with my new job,” she said. “Being mayor means you are more in touch with the people kasi executive ang trabaho meaning you can implement right

a couple of years ago. So far, she said, 1,000 people have been relocated. But she wants to do more, so much more.

“I want to help solve problems,” she said. “I want to give sustainable livelihood to the people, rebuild the city even more. May ‘holistic’ plan tayo dyan.”

These also include planting more trees, reviving and fortifying mangroves, an improved disaster-preparedness plan, trainings for key persons in case another calamity comes, launching a text message program which will inform people of possible weather disturbances days even before they happen, and enjoining all sectors in nation-building, including the LGBT.



Sofia Romualdez

away.”

She wants to help the rest of the 16,000 displaced families who are still homeless after super typhoon “Yolanda” struck the region

“We haven’t totally healed from Yolanda but the important thing is we continue moving forward.” ■

Rhian Ramos is spreading her wings



Rhian Ramos

25-year old awarded actress Rhian Ramos was launched as FHM cover girl recently.

Today, her latest afternoon soap, “Sinungaling Mong Puso” will start airing on GMA-7.

No doubt, she is busy. Rhian described her new

show as sexy. She will have two leading men in the soap, Rafael Rosell, whop lays her character’s womanizing husband, and Kiko Estrada, a young man her character will fall in love with.

“First episode pa lang magpapakilala na kami kung ano ba

talaga ‘yung show at dun makikita agad na going towards sexiness siya talaga. Kailangan siya kasi part siya ng kwento. It’s also needed para maramdaman talaga ‘yung intimacy ng mga characters at saka ‘yung chemistry and trust nila sa isa’t-isa,” opined Rhian.

She has been preparing mentally and physically for her love scenes with both Rafael and Kiko.

Since her recent trip to Europe, Rhian has gotten into running to stay fit.

“Lahat challenging,” expressed Rhian of her show. “Iba siya para sa akin kasi may pagka-sexy nga ‘yung role. Challenge na ‘yun para sa akin. Feeling ko ‘yung buong cast na ito nag-da- diet. Pangalawa siyempre ‘yung kwento kasi medyo nagkaroon naman ako ng experience na in-love na sa isang tao pero pwede pa palang ma-in- love ulit. Mahirap pumili kung ano ba talaga ‘yung dapat. So ‘yun ang magiging struggle ko sa show.”

Knowing that it was Vilma Santos who played Clara in the movie

the series was based on added pressure to her as an actress.

“Very intimidating siya for me kasi alam ko naman na hindi ako si Vilma Santos. I know those are shoes I can never fill, I have to play the role my own way,” admitted Rhian.

The actress hopes that Kapuso viewers will appreciate her own interpretation of her role.

Show director Ricky Davao praised her acting during the press conference.

“Ang galing niya rito. Ang puso niya rito hindi sinungaling, bukas na bukas and totoong-totoo sa mga performances so far sa mga seven days na ginawa namin. I’m so amazed and I think kakaibang drama ng ‘Sinungaling Mong Puso’ ang ibibigay niya rito,” remarked Ricky.

Managed by the GMA Drama group, also in the cast of “Sinungaling Mong Puso” are Michael de Mesa, Glydel Mercado, Cheska Diaz Sherilyn Reyes, Stephanie Sol, Gee Canlas, JC Tiuseco and Gab de Leon. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Pia Wurtzbach meets President Duterte



Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach meets President Rodrigo Duterte.

Reigning Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach paid a courtesy call on President Rodrigo Duterte at Malacañang on Monday.

The 26-year-old beauty queen arrived in Manila on Saturday July 16 hoping to discuss with the newly-elected president, the possibility of

on social media.

New Tourism Secretary Wanda Teo, who joined the meeting, has been supportive of the plan to host the coronation night in the country. The president, for his part, has "approved" the proposal in principle, Teo said.

In an exclusive interview with



holding the next Miss Universe Grand Coronation Night in the Philippines.

"Fingers crossed! Hoping for the best! Please, Lord!", Pia tweeted (July 15, 2016)

Wearing a jumpsuit in hue of pink, the video showed the two have an exchange in a local language.

the STAR, Teo said hosting the pageant would boost the tourism industry of the Philippines.

"We will be broadcasted all over the world; we expect more tourists to come to the Philippines and that's the benefit that we will get," she said in a text message.



Wurtzbach is a native of Cagayan de Oro making Visayan her first language.

After the meeting, Wurtzbach shared a snap of her and the president

It was in 1994 when the country last hosted the prestigious pageant. ■

J Lo performs in Michael Cinco creation



Jennifer Lopez was again spotted wearing a Michael Cinco gown during her performance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on Tuesday.

JLo sang her new single Love Make The World Go Round with Lin-Manuel Miranda. The song was written for the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

The popstar wore a 20-foot hand painted crystallized stained

glass cape made by the Dubai-based Filipino designer.

The spectacular cape is part of Cinco's The Impalpable Dream of Sainte Chapelle Collection Spring-Summer 2016.

The hand painted features 10,000 colorful Swarovski crystals on hand-made silk embroidery. Cinco said that it took six months to complete the creation. ■

The inimitable style of Luis Manzano



Luis Manzano

It's amazing how Luis Manzano can handle several ABS-CBN shows without getting the audience bored and restless on their seats with his hosting style or, to put it in the vernacular, hindi nakakaamay. You see, he has become a familiar face on TV since he started hosting ASAP in 2003 and became a VJ on MYX that same year.

He, too, hosted such reality shows as Star Circle Quest, Qpids and Pinoy Big Brother. His first Kapamilya game show was Panahon Ko 'To with Billy Crawford. Of course, the more recent ones were Kapamilya Deal or No Deal and Celebrity Playtime.

These days, weekends are never the same without seeing Luis does hosting chores for ASAP, Family Feud and The Voice Kids Philippines. As if that's not enough, Luis will be seen even on weekdays starting tomorrow, July 18, for the new season of Minute To Win It.

Seeing a lot of the audience's smiling faces from the stage all the more inspires Luis to do better every single day. "Ibang klaseng sense of achievement and fulfillment to know that your audience is happy, your client is happy and your team is happy from the start 'til the end of the show especially when people tell you, 'Uy, napatawa mo kami sa (Family Feud) or 'Ay, ang kulit mo sa The Voice.' So para sa kin, it's the best part of my job."

However, Luis knows there are times when he has to tone down the humor in order for the audience to pay attention to what is happening on stage. He pointed out one particular part of The Voice as an example.

"When we're doing blind auditions, it was okay for me to make kulit to the contestants because I know that was what they were expecting from me. But when the semi-finals started, and same thing with Pilipinas Got Talent, I became a bit formal since I knew then that the kids were in a more challenging stage (of the contest) and I wanted the spotlight to be on them. When I was doing Deal (or No Deal), I was a bit more on the serious side also but basically, I would like to think and I hope they get me for that same particular reason what I have to offer when it comes to my style is 'yung

kulit ko; may humor 'yung approach ko. That's why, sometimes I don't want to change my style because my being makulit is what they want for a certain show so it might not work if I shift to being serious."

Luis shares that he has easily learned the ABCs of hosting by watching his dad Edu Manzano's hilarious approach to such game shows as Pilipinas, Game Ka Na Ba?, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and 1 vs. 100.

"I am a big fan of my dad's hosting (skills). I watched how he works his magic on stage. That's why I'm very fortunate that I don't need to look for different hosts in order for me to learn. All I have to do is watch my dad and I'll be more than fine sa mga natutunan ko sa kanya."

What is surprising to learn is that, until now, Luis has to deal with stage fright.

"Even up to now every single time that I step on stage with a mic or lapel, I get nervous. I had to host one of my friends' wedding before and to think it's very personal, nanginginig pa ako and I know for a fact that there are times that I talk too fast; I stutter ang dami ko pang ginagawang mali kaya nga sinasabi ko nahihiya akong magpa-workshop kasi alam ko rin ang dami kong mali so I still get nervous every single time whether it be a simple event or something na pang MOA Arena, kinakabahan pa rin ako ng sobra."

And unlike other Kapamilya talents who accept every hosting assignment there is, Luis believes every host has his own strength and therefore, he has no reason to feel

threatened when he deems himself not fit for the project.

"I believe we have a different forte and that's one reason why I don't host beauty pageants even if I have received offers countless times to host like Binibini because it's not my specialty. It's tough to host beauty pageants; I'll be bashed the very next day. I would say something I think appropriate but some people might find it inappropriate for that kind of event so iniwasan ko na.

"Like in Q&A, baka magtuloy-tuloy ako o di kaya basta hawak ko yung mic magbato ako ng punchline. At jackpot ako the next day with the headline, 'Luis Manzano 'di gentleman; bastos.' So why would I put myself in that predicament? That's the reason why I believe we have our own specialty or ability to offer to people."

Meanwhile, Luis can't wait to start working for the new season of Minute to Win It which, according to him, is the most successful franchise of the Kapamilya network "because there were a lot of people who enjoyed the first season where the contestants were not just celebrities but also regular players and there's the Kids Edition. And the best part of it is we're using ordinary things for the game na ang daming gumagawa sa mga bahay nila. I even hosted a lot of Christmas parties before and most of the games were from Minute kaya nakakatuwa."

Playing in the show's pilot episode are Richard Yap, Jericho Rosales, Maja Salvador, Coleen Garcia, Melai Cantiveros, Eric Nicolas and Kapamilya player Marjan Nassiri.

Benjamin Alves denies alleged romantic relationship with Lovi Poe



Benjamin Alves

Benjamin Alves denied being in a romantic relationship with actress Lovi Poe.

At the recent launch of Yes Magazine's Most Beautiful Stars 2016 issue, he maintained they're just good friends.

"My very first project in

showbiz when I came back was with Lovi in 'Guni Guni.' That was four years ago. Then I worked with her in different projects. Every time na nagka kasama kami mas naging deeper ang relationship namin," he explained, noting they're quite close.

Benjamin and Lovi also worked in the film "Sana Dati" and the soap opera "Beautiful Strangers." The latter also appeared in Benjamin's sitcom "A1 Ko Sa Yo" recently.

"Bihira kasing magkaroon ng kaibigan na opposite sex na babae eh. So we both understand na rare 'yun so we don't want to ruin it," he added.

"I guess it comes with the maturity and territory that you've experienced that before. And you can never get the friendship back," he said. "It's hard. Even I find it rare na ganun yung relationship. I mean you'll never know, you might be good friends but bad in relationship. That happens all the time and when you find out na hindi pala kayo compatible wala na yung friendship."

Benjamin is currently busy with a new soap opera, apart from the

sitcom "A1 Ko Sa Yo."


He is also in the 12th Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival entry entitled "Dagsin" by filmmaker Atom Magadia.

Benjamin is open to doing more indie films.

"Basta if a script lands on me, and I'm able to audition for it and they want me, okay. Ako any opportunity to be able to act you know, especially

me I'm relatively new, if I'm able to hone it and get better at it, then yeah I'll do it," remarked Benjamin.

With regards to making it in Yes Magazine's Most Beautiful Stars 2016 list, he said, "I'm just glad I'm here. The other people who were selected are my friends. But there are new faces too na nakikilala ko rin, I'm just glad to be part of it again this year." ■




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Farmer charms with Bee Gees hit, wins 'Tawag' crown



MANILA - A rice farmer from Negros Occidental who sang the Bee Gees' classic "To Love Somebody" is the newest "Tawag ng Tanghalan" champion.

Noven Belleza from Victorias City, got an average score of 96 percent, beating defending champion Babylyn Mauhay, who got 92.2 percent after singing Shirley Bassey's "I Who Have Nothing."

It was the third time in as many days that the title switched hands.

Belleza, whose family is living off a weekly income of P1,000, said

he joined the singing contest to pay for home repairs. Touched by his story, comedian Vice Ganda promised Belleza that he would pay for the tuition fee of his four younger siblings next year.

"Para masaya ka at lagi ka lang naka-smile kasi iyong ngiti mo ay naging dahilan para ngumiti din ang maraming tao ngayon," Vice Ganda told Belleza.

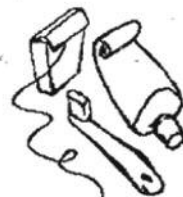
As the new defending champion, Belleza will return to the "It's Showtime" stage on Monday. He will need five straight wins to secure an automatic place in the semifinals. ■

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Charisma is invisible energy with visible effects

By Bong R. Osorio



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's charisma brought him to the highest office in the land, cursing and all.

When you capture the popular imagination and inspire loyalty, you are gifted with an extraordinary quality called charisma. You have an admirable talent or compelling allure distinctly marked as "charismatic."

Charisma is more than sex appeal that captivates, as in the case of Piolo Pascual or Jessy Mendiola. Its influence upon others is more than charm, but a powerful force that can bring victory and recognition.

Viewed on the spiritual plane, charisma is communicating through your core, set ablaze by a higher being, a trait that enables a leader to touch the hearts and minds of people. Some people are born with it, and it comes out naturally. However, psychologists believe that all humans have hidden reserves of charisma

raring to come out, grow and be nurtured. Even better, many facets of charisma, like other human behaviors, can be learned. If you have it, you become more successful than those who don't, and, as top positions in any public or private organization are scarce and competition is more cutthroat, a lack of charisma leaves you nowhere.

There are countless reasons why, for example, one political candidate beats another in an election, or one company vice president gets promoted to the presidency over another. All things being equal, the intangible yet forceful supremacy of charisma is one factor that spells distinction. It is not, however, a foolproof building block for success, since charisma alone will not transform an uninformed, unintelligent person into a Nelson Mandela or Oprah Winfrey. However, a healthy dose of personal passion, self-confidence, insight, vision, ambition and dynamism can enhance and multiply the effectiveness of every person who wants to run for public office.

We live in a celebrity-driven society, where Kris Aquino, Anne Curtis, Sarah Geronimo, John Lloyd Cruz, Maine Mendoza and Alden Richards get to endorse multiple brands simultaneously because of their unique power to pull in needed shares and sales; where a boxing champ can get the chance to enter and manage the affairs of national government; where an action star can

embellish his image to the point of getting elected governor of a major province; where celebrities become political candidates and the candidates themselves become celebrities.

US President Barack Obama delivers his speeches with such conviction that his audience moves from passive listeners to actively engaged participants.

Charisma rules, and its muscle cannot be underestimated. It is one constant in Philippine politics. Politicians are now deeply conscious of its value. How else can one explain the rise in popularity of candidates who sing and dance at rallies; kiss babies at campaign sorties; shake the hands of fish vendors in busy public markets during provincial excursions; or appear as part of the cast of a popular sitcom or widely followed soap opera? It has been proven that charismatic leaders can harvest abundant returns, like enhanced rapport with people who generally like to be identified with victors or who gravitate towards champions, thinking that their energy and motivating power can radiate in their direction.

A case in point is US President Barack Obama. No matter what his critics say, he delivers his speeches with such unmatched conviction that his audience instantly moves from passive listeners to actively engaged participants experiencing something perceived as greater than themselves. His message of hope, Bernadette Evans reports,

reminds people that America on its worst day still has more to offer the planet than the rest of the world can on its best day.

"He resurrected that muted dormant enviable attribute of optimism that is indicative of the American self," Evans explains. "That optimism, buried over the past seven years under the rubble of terror attacks, vicious partisanship, and demoralizing hurricanes, has been stirred up as it ushers us towards our best days, which Obama assures are ahead of us." That's honest-to-goodness charisma in action.

Locally, there is the much-talked-about Duterte charisma — cursing and all. During the last national election, he created a relentless upsurge of support that brought him to the highest office in the land. His charisma comes from a cocktail of words and actions — simple, no-nonsense, straightforward — endearing elements that allowed him to get an excellent trust rating of 91 percent one week after assuming the presidency.

Charisma brings self-confidence to a higher level. The more people like you, the more they will admire you and share good things about you to others. The power of positive word of mouth is surely a booster for self-respect. Charismatic leaders share personality traits and behavioral skills that allow them to succeed where others fail. ■

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PAB-PSW Nursing aide graduates, Batches 8 and 9. Ceremony held at La Cucina on Sherbrooke West, October 7, 2012. First row: From left to right: Annabelle Alloso, Ethel Tugna, Teachers: Terry White, Amy Manon-og, Director-General, Zenaida Kharroubi, Teachers: Edith Fedalizo, Josefina Toledo, and Lourdescita Lubang. Standing: Grace Calvo, Vilma Lagonilla, Mildred Mendoza, Giselle Arellano, Marilou Hechanova, Edison Taguba, Anne Signey and Joesie Bingayan.