

Thousands join March for Our Lives
anti-gun protests around the world



Protesters fill Pennsylvania Avenue during the March For Our Lives in Washington DC
Photograph: Shawn Thew/EPA (See story on page 4)

Mark Zuckerberg apologizes for Facebook's
'mistakes' over Cambridge Analytica

Following days of silence, CEO announces Facebook will change how it shares data with third-party apps and admits 'we made mistakes'

The Cambridge Analytica saga is a scandal of Facebook's own making Facebook is changing the way it shares data with third-party applications, Mark Zuckerberg announced Wednesday in his first public statement since the Observer reported that the personal data of about 50 million Americans had been harvested and improperly shared with a political consultancy.

The Facebook CEO broke his five-day silence on the scandal that has enveloped his company this week in a Facebook post acknowledging that the policies that allowed the misuse of data were "a breach of trust between



Facebook and the people who share their data with us and expect us to protect it".

Why have we given up our

privacy to Facebook and other sites so willingly?

"We have a responsibility to

protect your data, and if we can't then

we don't deserve to serve you," Zuckerberg wrote. He noted that the company has already changed some of the rules that enabled the breach, but added: "We also made mistakes, there's more to do, and we need to step up and do it".

Facebook Twitter Pinterest

Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, shared Zuckerberg's post and added her own comment: "We know that this was a major violation of peoples' trust, and I deeply regret that we didn't do enough to deal with it."

Zuckerberg also spoke to a handful of media outlets on Wednesday, including a televised interview with CNN in which he

See Page 4

Facebook

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OPINION ED.

The Powerful Silence of the March for Our Lives

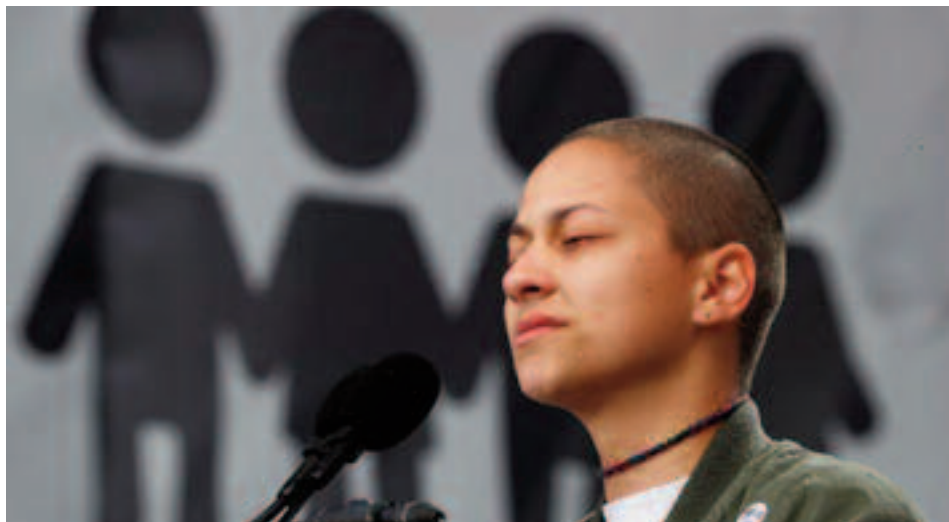
MEGAN GARBER MAR 24, 2018 CULTURE, The Atlantic

Three of the young women who spoke on Saturday made silence awkward. And shameful. And, in all that, striking.

Emma González, a student

"have you heard? / all across the nation / we are going to be / a great generation."

People have heard that—at least, they are starting to hear it. And they are hearing it in part because the rising generation in question—



Emma González, a student and shooting survivor from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, addressing the conclusion of the "March for Our Lives" event in Washington, D.C.

and shooting survivor from the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, addressing the conclusion of the "March for Our Lives" event in Washington, D.C. Jonathan Ernst / Reuters

Political marches are typically meant to make noise: voices raised, anger articulated, struggles for justice made loud and unavoidable. The March for Our Lives, held on Saturday in Washington, D.C., and in satellite events across the United States, followed, in that sense, activist tradition: It included speeches, rousing and passionate. Its participants carried signs, their messages clever and biting. Yolanda Renee King, the 9-year-old granddaughter of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King, made a surprise appearance on the march's main stage: a symbolic passing of the torch of political activism to the next generation of American leaders. "Spread the word," King said, inviting the crowd to speak along with her,

Generation Z, a cohort of Americans who came of age in the era of cable news and social media and an omnipresent internet—is extremely savvy about the workings of the American media. The March for Our Lives was, in the best ways, a testament to that. It offered, in its official programming, a series of set pieces: moments serving not only as political activism, but also as tailor-made soundbites for CNN, as snippets of video perfect for sharing online. Moments that, through the alchemy of the internet, become transformed into sharable speech. Moments that, in a sentiment repeated by many of the marchers on Saturday, help to make a movement.

What the March for Our Lives presented at the same time, however, was ... the opposite of all that. The

See Page 6 The Powerful Silence

THE NORTH AMERICAN FILIPINO STAR

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

7159 ch. de la Cote des Neiges
Montreal, Quebec H3R 2M2

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KEYNOTE

LUISA BLUE



SEIU International Executive VP Luisa Blue is one of the highest-ranking Asian Pacific Islander union leaders in the US. She has dedicated four decades of her life to organizing and advocating for workers' rights and has been at the forefront of making racial and immigrant justice a priority.

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Come, be Empowered by the Holy Spirit ... Healed by The Word of God

Liberal plan to legalize pot survives Senate

By Amanda Connolly National Online Journalist Global News

The government's plan to legalize marijuana by this summer remains on track.

After a tense day of uncertainty over whether the Liberals could garner enough support from independent senators to defeat a Conservative effort to kill the bill, Bill C-45 passed second reading on Thursday night.

It is now headed to committee, where it is expected to face scathing reviews by Conservative senators.

The vote came down to a thin 44-29 margin of victory.

While Liberals had the numbers to pass the legislation in the House of Commons even if the NDP had not voted with them to support the bill, the same was not true for the situation in the Senate.

Senate of Canada

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau kicked Liberal senators out of his caucus in 2014 and has appointed only independent senators since his election in 2015.

While there are still 11 senators who call themselves Liberals, they are not formally aligned with the party and the other 43 members of the Independent Senators Group cannot be whipped into supporting or even attending a vote on a government bill.

The 33 Conservative senators, however, generally vote in a bloc and with roughly a dozen mainly Independent senators travelling for committee work at the moment, it was unclear up until the vote happened whether the government would be able to get enough votes to move the bill forward.

That has now happened – but things may only get messier from here.

C-45, which was introduced in



A man is shown smoking a joint at the Fill the Hill marijuana rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sunday, April 20, 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Justin Tang

April 2017 and referred to the Senate in November 2017, would be a fulfilment of one of the Liberal government's core campaign planks.

However, Conservative opposition to the proposal to legalize marijuana has been fierce and senators from the caucus are expected to hammer the bill and attempt to introduce significant amendments as it

moves through examination by committee.

The deadline for the Senate to pass the legislation, as agreed upon by Senate leaders and the government, is June 7.

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Just For Laughs sold to Howie Mandel and American company

CTV Montreal

Published Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Howie Mandel is leading a team of investors that has bought the Just For Laughs comedy festival and its related tours, TV specials, and more.

Mandel and ICM partners announced the purchase on Wednesday morning, saying they have no plans to change the obviously successful company.

"I have always been a big fan of Montreal and the Just For Laughs festival. I have performed at JFL many times over the last 10 years, and I have nothing but love for this event. I consider it to be a cultural treasure," said Mandel in a statement.

Chief Operating Officer Bruce Hills said he believes the group and its statement that Just For Laughs and its French counterpart, Festival Juste pour rire, won't be affected.

He's also a big fan of Mandel and is looking forward to working for him.

"He's been our biggest cheerleader forever. He's the biggest cheerleader of Canadian comedy. He's a big cheerleader of the city of Montreal and the province of Quebec and that's really important to him. Our operations are going to stay here, the Montreal festival will stay here, the current management team will stay in place," said Hills.

Just For Laughs was founded in Montreal in 1983 and has since expanded to have festivals in Vancouver, Toronto, and Sydney, along with TV shows based on the gala presentations at the Montreal festival, along with a comedy TV show seen in more than 130 countries around the world.

Financial terms of the deal announced Wednesday were not divulged.

Mandel said he's always felt frustrated that the event isn't even bigger or get the "props it deserves."

"What Woodstock was to rock and roll, this is bigger to comedy and



Comedian Howie Mandel, along with ICM Partners, has bought Just For Laughs

television in every language."

Mandel said he hopes he can be a strong voice promoting it to comedians around the world.

"I just want to be loud and entertaining and get the message out that if you want to be anything of any value in comedy you have to come to Montreal," he added.

The company had been owned by founder Gilbert Rozon, but he decided to sell after he was accused of sexual harassment and assault by multiple women last year.

Rozon's planned sale was challenged in court by Quebecor, which had the right to first refusal, but declined to match the price offered by Mandel's consortium.

Mandel et al are reassuring Quebecers that Just For Laughs will not leave Montreal.

"We see a great opportunity to work with them to grow the global comedy brand, in both French and English speaking comedy, while allowing the team on the ground in Montreal to continue to produce the festival as they have so successfully for all these years," said Chris Silbermann, the managing director of ICM partners.

Festival chairman Pierre-Marc Johnson said the strategic alliance with Mandel and ICM ensures it has the resources to thrive.

See Page 4 Just for Laughs

Coderre named special adviser for multi-platform company Stingray



Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre walks through the paddock at the Montreal Formula ePrix electric car race, in Montreal on Friday, July 28, 2017. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Ryan Remiorz

Former Montreal mayor Denis Coderre has found a new gig.

Coderre was named special advisor on business strategy and international development for Stingray, a Montreal-based company that works in multi-platform music and video services.

In a statement released Friday,

Stingray said Coderre provides extensive experience in government relations, regulation, issues management and strategic planning.

Stingray President and CEO Eric Boyko said more than 50 per cent

See page 9 Denis Coderre

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March for Our Lives draws huge numbers of protesters

Demonstrators in Washington, London, Tokyo and elsewhere will demand US Congress pass sweeping change on gun control

Lois Beckett and Oliver Laughland in Parkland, Florida
Sat 24 Mar 2018 05.00 GMT Last modified on Sat 24 Mar 2018 15.39 GMT

American students make signs calling for stricter gun control before a solidarity rally with March For Our Lives in front of the US embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel Friday.

American students make signs calling for stricter gun control before a solidarity rally with March For Our Lives in front of the US embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel Friday. Photograph: UPI / Barcroft Images

Hundreds of thousands of marchers are expected to descend on Washington DC on Saturday for a landmark gun control rally as calls for reform reach a fever pitch following the Parkland school shooting last month. March for Our Lives events led by young people in over 800 locations around the world – including London, Sydney, Tokyo, Mumbai, plus hundreds of places in the US – will also take place as demonstrators demand that the US Congress, for decades dormant on gun control, pass sweeping legislative change.

The rally, organized by teenaged survivors of the 14 February school shooting that left 17 students and teachers dead, marks a shift in America’s gun control debate. All of the featured speakers at the rally will be teenagers, a spokeswoman for the

march said, reflecting the frustration of the young gun control activists, who say the death of their classmates has forced them to tackle a crisis that adults have failed for decades to prevent.

Donald Trump, who has flip-flopped on his support for gun control measures and vowed to support the NRA, which spent more than \$30m to back his campaign for the White House, left town on Friday evening and flew to Mar-a-Lago, his Florida resort.

The rally organizers say that they support Americans’ basic right to own guns, but they are demanding that Congress ban the military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines often used in high-profile mass shootings, as well as close loopholes in the nation’s background check requirements for gun sales.

A new survey of American teenagers and young adults found that gun violence was at the top of the list of issues they found most worrying. Americans under 18 were especially concerned, with 53% of them describing gun violence as a major worry.

The USA Today/Ipsos poll found that more than one in three young people were planning to join the March for Our Lives protests, either in person or via social media. Sheryl Acquaroli, a 16-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas in Parkland, said she knew immediately she would travel to Washington to join the march. “It’s going to be very revolutionary,” she said. “We are going

investigations and regulation from lawmakers in the US and UK, the company appears to be acknowledging that blaming users for not understanding its byzantine terms of service will not suffice.

Quick guide
How the story unfolded

The company will investigate apps that had access to “large amounts of information” prior to the 2014 changes, Zuckerberg said, and audit any apps that show “suspicious activity”. A Facebook spokesperson declined to share how Facebook was defining “large amounts of information” or how many apps would be scrutinized. Zuckerberg said in his interviews that the number of apps was in the “thousands”. The company will also inform those whose data was “misused”, including people who were directly affected by the Kogan data operation.

An online petition calling for just such disclosure for people included in Kogan’s data set had garnered more than 15,000 signatures since the weekend.

Facebook also promised to further restrict the amount of data third-party developers can access when users login to their sites with their Facebook profile, turn off data sharing for apps that haven’t been used for three months, and move the tool that allows users to restrict the data they share from the Settings menu to the



Credit: AP. DEMANDING CHANGE: Protesters rally against gun violence .

to change laws there, and I want to be part of that change.”

Jon White, 47, whose daughter Katrina fled the school during the shooting, said: “I don’t have a lot of confidence in my generation. I believe in millennials. They’re going to make a difference.”

Among the performers at the Saturday rally are Lin-Manuel Miranda, Miley Cyrus, Jennifer Hudson and Ariana Grande.

As hundreds of students from Stoneman Douglas make the 1,000-mile journey to the nation’s capital, the Guardian announced an editorial collaboration with the school’s award-winning newspaper, the Eagle Eye.

On Friday, student editors took

control of the Guardian’s website and published an array of articles, including an interview with independent Vermont senator Bernie Sanders, who told them he believed the NRA’s grip on Congress “may be breaking a bit” because of their campaigning.

The Eagle Eye also published a manifesto of demands, including a call to ban the sale of high velocity semi-automatic weapons, expand background checks, and raise the minimum purchase age of rifles to 21. Members of the Eagle Eye’s editorial staff will also travel to Washington to cover the march as special spondents for the Guardian.

News Feed.

David Carroll, a US design professor who is challenging Cambridge Analytica through the UK courts to access his data profile harvested from Facebook, called the reforms “inadequate”. “Users should be notified, and not have to know to go and find out,” he told the Guardian by email.

Zuckerberg’s statement notably did not offer any explanation for why Facebook did not make any effort to inform affected users when Guardian reporters first told the company of the data misuse in December 2015. He did address the question in his press interviews, acknowledging to CNN that it was “a mistake” to rely on Kogan and Cambridge Analytica’s certifications that they had destroyed the data.

“I don’t know about you, but I’m used to when people legally certify that they’re going to do something, that they do it,” he said. “We need to make sure that we don’t make that mistake ever again.”

“With Mark Zuckerberg’s response, they are trying to convey that they are taking this seriously, but they are reacting to furore rather than facts,” said Jeff Hauser of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. “The facts are not new to them.” Jonathan Albright, a research director at the Tow Center for Digital Journalism, said that while he welcomed Zuckerberg’s explanation of how

Cambridge Analytica gained access to the data in question, he was disappointed that the CEO did not address why Facebook enabled so much third-party access to its users’ personal information for so many years.

“This problem is part of Facebook and cannot be split off as an unfortunate instance of misuse,” Albright said. “It was standard practice and encouraged. Facebook was literally racing towards building tools that opened their users’ data to marketing partners and new business verticals. So this is something that’s inherent to the culture and design of the company.” Olivia Solon and Edward Helmore contributed reporting.

From Page 1 Facebook

apologized for the “breach of trust”, saying: “I’m really sorry that this happened.” In similar conversations with the New York Times, Wired, and tech website Recode, Zuckerberg expressed qualified openness to testifying before Congress and said that he was not entirely opposed to Facebook being subject to more regulations.

The crisis stems from Facebook policies that allowed third-party app developers to extract personal data about users and their friends from 2007 to 2014. Facebook greatly reduced the amount of data that was available to third parties in 2014, but not before a Cambridge University researcher named Aleksandr Kogan had used an app to extract the information of more than 50 million people, and then transferred it to Cambridge Analytica for commercial and political use.

On Saturday, Facebook’s deputy general counsel, Paul Grewal, appeared to defend the lax policies that allowed data harvesting from unwitting friends, writing in a statement: “Aleksandr Kogan requested and gained access to information from users who chose to sign up to his app, and everyone involved gave their consent.”

But after five days of outrage from the public, and calls for

From Page 3 Just for Laughs

The new owners also said they are in talks with prominent unnamed local Quebec players to join the investment group.

Mandel said he hopes French-language comedians who have distanced themselves from the festival will return since it’s vital that it has a French component.

Montreal’s Just For Laughs festival runs from July 14 to 28, 2018.

With files from Ross Marowitz and Julien Arsenault of The Canadian Press

China says to have 'prudent' oil exploration with Philippines

Updated March 22, 2018, 4:46 PM
By Reuters

China will prudently advance cooperation with the Philippines on joint oil and gas exploration in the South China Sea, China's top diplomat State Councillor Wang Yi said on Wednesday after meeting his Philippine counterpart.

Any potential deals between Manila and Beijing on energy exploration in the disputed waterway should be agreed with a company and not the Chinese government, a senior Philippine official said earlier this month.

China claims most of the South China Sea, a key trade route and home to areas that are believed to hold large quantities of oil and natural gas. Along with China, parts of the South China Sea are subject to competing claims from Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines.

The two countries in February agreed to set up a special panel to work out how they can jointly explore offshore oil and gas in areas both sides claim, without needing to address the touchy issue of sovereignty.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing after meeting Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter



Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano, left, shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi before their meeting, Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China. (Parker Song, Pool Photo via AP/MANILA BULLETIN)

Cayetano, Wang said the South China Sea will be turned into a source of friendship and cooperation.

"We will enhance maritime dialogue and pursue equal footed and friendly consultation and in a prudent and steady way advance cooperation on offshore oil and gas exploration," Wang said, without giving details.

However, pursuing a joint project would be extremely complex and sensitive, as sharing oil and gas reserves could be seen as endorsing the other countries' claims.

The Philippines and China are finding a common legal framework to conduct joint exploration and surveys. And with our discussions today I'm

confident that we will find a suitable legal framework for our differences," Cayetano said.

President Rodrigo Duterte has said China has proposed joint exploration that was "like co-ownership" and better than the two fighting over it.

The Philippines suspended exploration in the Reed Bank in 2014 to pursue a legal challenge to China's territorial claims.

Included in a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague was a clarification of Manila's sovereign right to access offshore oil and gas fields, including the Reed Bank, within its 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Philippines, China's CNOOC Ltd (0883.HK) and state-owned Petro Vietnam jointly surveyed the Reed Bank from 2003 to 2008.

The Philippines' ties with China have warmed under Duterte, who has put aside territorial disputes in exchange for trade opportunities and pledged financing for infrastructure projects.

Cayetano said Duterte would visit China next month to attend an economic forum on the southern island province of Hainan and meet Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Senators cross party lines, okay bill banning political dynasties

By Mario Casayuran
Updated March 22, 2018, 5:58 PM
MB FILE / MANILA BULLETIN

Thirteen senators crossed party lines and signed Wednesday a consolidated bill banning political dynasties.

The Senate electoral reforms and people's participation committee endorsed Senate Bill No. 1765, or the Anti-Political Dynasty Act of 2018, after conducting public hearings on the measure. Sen. Francis Pangilinan is the committee vice chairman.

The measure defines political dynasty as the "concentration, consolidation, and/or perpetuation of public office and political powers by persons related to one another within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity."

This covers spouses (legal and common-law), siblings (full or half-blood), parents, and children (legitimate, illegitimate, and adopted) and the spouses of these second-degree relatives.

The measure was signed by Senate Minority Leader Franklin M. Drilon, Senators Risa Hontiveros, Loren Legarda, Panfilo M. Lacson, Grace Poe, Joseph Victor (JV) Ejercito, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, Nancy Binay, Juan Edgarda Angara, Ralph G. Recto, Leila de Lima, Sherwin Gatchalian, and Francis Pangilinan.

The bill, under Committee Report No. 367 of the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation, said any person with political dynasty relationship with any incumbent elective official shall not be allowed to run for or hold public office

under the following circumstances: to immediately succeed or replace the said incumbent;

if the incumbent is an elective barangay official, the spouse and the above relatives are prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the same barangay as well as in the barangays in municipalities or cities within the same legislative district; if the incumbent is an elective official of the municipality or city, legislative district or province, the spouse and above relatives are prohibited to run for or hold any elective office simultaneously with the incumbent within the same barangay, municipality, city, legislative district or province;

if the incumbent is a national elective official, the spouse and the above relatives are likewise prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national or local level as barangay captain, mayor, governor or district representative in any part of the country; and,

if the incumbent is a barangay captain/mayor/governor or district representative, the spouse and the above relatives are also prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national level.

Persons who are not holding any public office shall also be prohibited from running in the same election if their election will result in a political dynasty relationship.

Under the bill, the Commission on Elections may deny the application for a certificate of candidacy on any candidate found in a political dynasty relationship.

De Lima and Pangilinan each

www.filipinostar.org

conducted a hearing on political dynasties and drafted the report.

The lady legislator has been under detention for more than a year on an alleged violation of illegal

drugs-connected cases. She had vehemently denied any participation.

See Page 18 Political dynasties



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Tagalog Seksyon

Opinyon/Komentaryo ni Willie Quiambao

MAY SARILI NGA KAYANG WIKA ANG MGA PILIPINO

Kamakailan, nagbasa ako ng mga balitang Pilipino sa internet at pagkatapos ay nanood din ng balita sa TV Patrol. Napuna ko ang mga salitang ginagamit ng mga reporter at mga announcer ay Pilipino na may halong English at Español. Naitanong ko na naman sa aking sarili kung may tinatawag ngang pambansang wika ang Pilipinas. Ayon sa Saligang Batas noong 1987, Pilipino ang ating Pambansang wika. Subalit may mga salita tayong mahirap isalin sa Pilipino. Kahit ang mga purista (purists), hindi gagamitin ang salong-puwit sa silya o salong- suso sa bra.

Malawak nang kaunti ang aking bokobularyo sa wikang Pilipino pero minsan ay hindi ko maiwasan sa pagsasalita at pagsusulat ang gumamit ng English at Español. Maraming taon na ang nakalilipas nang magkaroon ako ng sideline na trabaho bilang court interpreter sa Montreal courthouse. Halimbawa, sa pangungusap na “He punched me on

the face on Jan. 16, 2017.” Hindi ko ito maisalin ng “Sinuntok niya ako sa mukha noong Enero labing anim dalawang libo at labimpito” o “Sinuntok niya ako sa mukha noong Enero dieciseis dos mil diecisiete.” Maiiwanan ako ng ini-interpret ko. Wala akong ibang magawa kundi ang isalin ang pangungusap na ito sa Pilipino at English na “Sinuntok niya ako sa mukha noong Jan. 16, 2017.” Mabilis iyon. Kung tanungin ko ang isang tao ng “Anong oras na?”, sasagot siya sa Español ng “Alas doce” o sa English ng “12 o'clock”. Minsan naman ay nag-interpret ako ng mga technical term tulad ng steel beam para sa isang architectural firm. Hindi ko ito maisalin sa Pilipino kaya pinabaya ko na lamang sa English.

Tuwing Agosto ay ipinagdiriwang sa Pilipinas ang Buwan ng Wika upang mapalaganap ang wikang Pilipino. Sinasabi na ang wika ay siyang kaluluwa at pagkakakilanlan ng isang bansa. Subalit paano tayo makikilala na galing sa bansang Pilipinas kung ang ginagamit nating

salita ay Pilipino na may halong Amerkano, Español at iba pa. Sabi nga ni Dr. Jose P. Rizal, “Ang taong hindi marunong magmahal sa sariling wika, mahigit pa sa hayop at malansang isda.” Kung buhay pa siya, ano kaya ang sasabihin niya sa atin kapag naririnig niya tayong nagsasalita ng Pilipino na may halong English at Español?

KRIMEN BA O HINDI ANG PAGSUSULAT NG FAKE NEWS?

Napiling salita ng 2017 ang fake news. Ito ay ang tinatawag na pekeng balita na pinasikat ni Pangulong Donald Trump noong eleksiyon. Tuwing may isusulat na balita laban sa kaniya isisigaw niya kaagad na fake news ito. Maging sa Pilipinas ay madalas na rin gamitin ng Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte and mga salitang ito. Ang fake news ay ginagamit na rin hindi lamang upang siraan ang mga politico kundi maging pangkaraniwang mamamayan sa buong mundo. Krimen nga o hindi ba ang fake news? Maraming nagsasabi na wala nang kalayaan sa malayang pamamahayag dahil marami ang tumututol sa pagsusulat at paglalathala ng fake news. Sa aking opinyon, hindi ang kalayaan sa pagsusulat ang inaalís. Ang inaalís ay ang pagsusulat ng mga hindi totoong balita upang siraan ang isang tao. Sa madaling salita, ang isyu ay ang layunin ng nagsusulat ng balita. Bakit nagkaroon pa ng salitang libel? Upang paalalahanan ang isang reporter na mag-iingat siya ng pagsusulat na maaaring makasira sa reputasyon ng kaniyang kapwa. Sa Pilipinas ay nilakdaan na ng Pangulong Duterte

ang batas na maituturing nang krimen ang pagbabalita ng fake news na parang sedition at treason. Ang nakalaang parusa ay depende sa pinsalang naidulot ng reporter sa kaniyang isinulat. Ang parusa ay simula sa 40,000 pesos hanggang 200,000 pesos.

Malimit kong sabihin na ang kalayaan sa pagsusulat ay ibinagkaloob sa atin upang gamitin sa magandang bagay at hindi para sa kasamaan. Nakalulungkot isipin na maraming reporter ang gumagawa ng fake news. Sila ang mga nagdadala ng kahihiyan sa kanilang propesyon.

BUWAN NG PILIPINO HERITAGE ANG JUNE

Magandang balita para sa mga Pilipino sa Quebec ang pagkakaroon ng Heritage Month sa June. Pagpapatunay ito ng kinikilala na tayong mga Pilipino saan mang dako ng mundo. Magkakaroon daw ng miting sa ikatlong lingo ng buwang ito ang mga opisyal mula sa city hall kasama si Marvin Rotrand upang pag-usapan ang gagawing pagdiriwang. Ngayon pa lamang ay may usap-usapan na kung ano ang mangyayari. Marami ang mag-aagawan na sila ang maging pinuno ng isang komite, lalo na sa finance kung may fundings. Magiging masaya at matagumpay lamang ng pagdiriwang kung may pagkakaisa at koordinasyon tayo.

Tulips Festival coming soon - join us on May 19, 2018 - call 514-485-7861

From Page 2 The Powerful Silence

event served up, as part of its speech, silence—simple silence. Striking silence. Solemn silence. Participants in the march took the convened attention of an international audience and used it not only to advocate for gun control, but also to advocate, more broadly, for people who had been deprived of speech. And to offer a solemn reminder that, for some things—even in this most classic of First Amendment contexts—words will never, can never, be enough.

During her time on the March for Our Lives stage, Emma González, 18, who has been one of the most prominent of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas survivor-activists, allotted herself six minutes and 20 seconds for her speech: the amount of time, she noted, that it had taken for Nikolas Cruz to slaughter 17 of her schoolmates and injure many more. “No one could comprehend the devastating aftermath or how far this would reach or where this would go,” González said. “For those who still can’t comprehend because they refuse to, I’ll tell you where it went: right into the ground, six feet deep.”

González then listed her slain classmates by name: a tragic poem, read to and for America, each line representing a life cut short. “Six minutes and 20 seconds with an AR-15,” González said, “and my friend Carmen would never complain to me again about piano practice.” There were many more no-mores: “Gina Montalto would never wave to her friend Liam at lunch,”

González said. “Joaquin Oliver would never play basketball with Sam or Dylan. Alaina Petty would never. Cara Loughran would never. Chris Hixon would never. Luke Hoyer would never. Martin Duque Anguiano would never. Peter Wang would never. Alyssa Alhadeff would never. Jamie Guttenberg would never. Meadow Pollack would never.”

And then: González stopped talking. For a moment, and then another one. And another. She breathed. She cried. She stared at the crowd—and at the cable-news camera, transmitting it all to the world—her face marked with both sadness and defiance. She was giving them dead air, in every sense. She knew it. She knew, too, that the cameras would not turn away. González kept the silence—continuous, insistent—until six minutes and 20 seconds were up.

Silence, politicized. Silence, made meaningful. It was an approach that was evoked, as well, in another of the most striking moments of the March for Our Lives: the speech given by Naomi Wadler, an 11-year-old fifth-grader from Alexandria, Virginia, who had led a walk-out at her elementary school on March 14. Wadler, too, was on that stage to give voice to those who had been silenced. “I represent the African-American women who are victims of gun violence, who are simply statistics instead of vibrant, beautiful girls full of potential,” Wadler said. “For far too long, these black girls and women have been just numbers. I am here to say ‘never again’”—a reference to the march’s

#neveragain hashtag—“for those girls, too. I’m here to say that everyone should value those girls, too.”

The crowd, at this, went wild. Wadler’s words were, like King’s



I am here today to represent the African American girls whose stories don't make the front page,' says 11-year-old Naomi Wadler

appearance on the March for Our Lives stage, and like González’s moments of meaningful muteness, a declaration of a quiet revolution. (“My friends and I might still be 11, and we might still be in elementary school,” Wadler said; but “we also know that we stand in the shadow of the Capitol, and we know that we have 7 short years until we too have the right to vote.”) Saturday’s march presented itself not only as a mass demand for gun control, but also as an activist event for the young, by the young. Adults, by design, followed the young people in the march’s path down Pennsylvania Avenue. “Today adults

have literally been pushed to the side,” CNN’s Alex Marquardt noted of the symbolism.

The march was also a recognition of all those who weren’t



Video thumbnail. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Yolanda Renee King --9-year old granddaughter of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott .

there: the people who have been slain by gun violence. The people who have been ignored—silenced, literally and figuratively. The March for Our Lives featured, as such events often will, high-profile performers: Jennifer Hudson, Andra Day, Demi Lovato, Ariana Grande, Miley Cyrus. They made music. They made a scene. They celebrated the political power of noise itself. But it was the silences that were the most striking: silences that were strategic and symbolic. The young—the very young—women who spoke on Saturday made the silence awkward. They made it shameful. They made it powerful. They made it, above all, speech.

NATO expels 7 Russian officials, praises response to Salisbury poisoning

Ireland, Australia follow over 20 other nations in announcing banishments

The Associated Press · Posted: Mar 27, 2018 11:05 AM ET |

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg says the military alliance will expel seven staffers from the Russian mission due to the nerve-agent poisoning of a former Russian spy in Britain.

He said NATO will also deny the pending accreditation request of three other workers at the Russian mission.

Russia, which is not a member of NATO, will still have a diplomatic mission of 20 people at alliance headquarters in Brussels, and that will allow Russia to keep essential contacts with NATO members, Stoltenberg said.

He said "we will continue to work for meaningful dialogue" with Russia, but the measure announced Tuesday will "send a very clear message" to what he called the first incident of a nerve agent being used inside a NATO territory. After more than 20 nations, including Canada, expelled Russian diplomats on Monday in response to the nerve agent attack on a former Russian military intelligence officer and his daughter, Ireland and Australia followed suit with similar measures on Tuesday.

On Tuesday Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said his



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia will still have a diplomatic presence at NATO headquarters in Brussels, despite the expulsions. (The Associated Press)

country was expelling two Russian diplomats whom he described as undeclared intelligence officers. They have been given seven days to leave Australia.

Turnbull slammed Russia for "reckless and deliberate" conduct that harms global security and violates rules against the use of chemical weapons.

Ireland also announced it was ordering one Russian diplomat to leave. Foreign Minister Simon Coveney called the nerve-agent attack on Skripal and his daughter a "shocking and abhorrent" use of chemical weapons.

Britain had expelled 23 Russian officials before the co-

ordinated international response. Some 140 Russian officials have been censured overall, according to Stoltenberg, representing 25 nations. **No Russian retaliation yet**

The Skripals remain hospitalized in critical condition after they were found unconscious on March 4 in the English city of Salisbury, where the former spy lived. Britain says they were poisoned with a Soviet-made military-grade nerve agent known as Novichok.

Officials in Moscow, who deny responsibility for the attack, condemned the expulsions again on Tuesday but have not yet announced steps of retaliation.

Speaking at a conference in

Uzbekistan, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters that a reaction will follow, because Russia "will not tolerate such rude behaviour."

Lavrov also speculated that the United States might have coerced some of the European countries into expelling Russian diplomats. The U.S. announced some 60 officials would be forced to leave, as well as the closing of the Russian consulate in Seattle. Earlier on Tuesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said Moscow was working on a "tough response" to the expulsions.

Top EU lawmaker Guy Verhofstadt wants the European Union to sharpen sanctions on the Kremlin if necessary but also insists on a broader strategy to reach out to Russians in general.

The leader of the liberal ALDE group in Belgium backed the expulsions of diplomatic staff by EU nations but said "that's not enough."

In an interview with The Associated Press, he said that economic co-operation and visa liberalization were just as important as a clampdown on President Vladimir Putin and his closest allies.

He compared it to the Helsinki detente process during the Cold War when channels were being kept open despite the fact that both sides had hundreds of nuclear warheads pointed at one another.

Trump announcement on talks with North Korea gets mixed reactions

Russia and China, which joined years of sporadic talks with Pyongyang, welcome the development

Thomson Reuters · Posted: Mar 09, 2018 1:17 PM ET | Last Updated: March 9

Trump and Kim prompted jitters around the world last year as they exchanged bellicose insults over the North's attempts to develop a nuclear weapon capable of hitting the United States, which it has pursued in

policy gamble for Trump since he took office in January last year.

"A meeting is being planned," Trump said on Twitter after accepting an invitation to meet from Kim. There was no date or venue yet for the meeting although it could take place in May.

'Diplomatic solution'

A spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland's

said in a statement that Canada has "always believed that a diplomatic solution to the North Korean nuclear crisis is essential and possible."

Canada and the U.S. recently co-hosted a summit in Vancouver to discuss efforts to find a peaceful path to deal with North Korea's nuclear and ballistic weapon programs.

In a phone call on Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping told Trump that he appreciates his desire to

See Page 8 Talks with North Korea



World leaders welcomed prospects for a possible thaw in the long standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program on Friday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he was prepared to hold an unprecedented meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

But tension eased around last month's Winter Olympics in South Korea, laying the groundwork for what would be the first meeting between leaders from North Korea and the U.S., and the biggest foreign

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Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon

Manual Flash Modes vs TTL

It is no secret that the popup flash which comes built-in to your digital camera simply isn't enough in most situations. For a variety of reasons, shooting using just the popup flash is not a feasible option. That is why you will find photographers everywhere you look, going for an external flash and using it increasingly during their shoots. External flash, also known by the term "speedlight" provides many benefits and advantages to photographers, even while shooting in extremely low light conditions. They allow us to have a far superior control over the lighting of an image. Flashes are available in the market from a variety of manufacturers including camera makers like Canon and Nikon and third party manufacturers like Nissen, Strobo etc.

If you step out in the market to buy your first flash, you will come across two variants, a fully manual flash, and a TTL (Through The Lens) flash. You may end up getting confused over which flash will suit you the best and which one you should invest your money in. Both the Manual and TTL flash have their own plus and minus points which appeal to photographers. What is important is to properly understand their systems, functionalities, advantages, and disadvantages.

Understanding Manual Flash

On a fully Manual flash, there is no control (either by the camera or the flash) over the intensity or duration of the light emitted from the flash. Instead, it is the photographer who controls the output of the flash by adjusting the settings, either in-camera or on the flash itself.

While using a manual flash,

there are four controls you can use to set your flash output manually as per your requirements:

Adjust the ISO of the camera

Raise or lower the level of output from your flash (1/2, 1/4, 1/8th power, etc.)

Alter the distance between the subject and the flash (light source).

Adjust the APERTURE VALUE (AV) on the camera.

Not all flashes are equal

An important point to remember and consider is that the majority of flashes can shoot in manual mode, but not every flash can shoot in TTL mode. A manual flash also gives you specific control over the light and exposure, and allows you to set it exactly to your requirements. You do not have to use exposure compensation while using a manual flash as your composition, frame, etc., does not have any effect on the overall exposure and lighting of the scene.

Pros and cons of manual flash

In situations where the distance between the flash and the subject is constant and fixed, you can opt to use manual flash settings. A manual flash is extremely useful in situations where you have to fire away a series of shots of the subject repeatedly, under similar exposure conditions. The power level is fixed, and it remains the same, which ensures that the exposure does not vary from shot to shot.

One of the main drawbacks of using a flash in manual mode is that you still need to figure out the optimal power output needed to obtain the correct exposure, which can be a time consuming process. And thus, a manual flash can mainly be used while shooting

portraits, headshots, and fine art. In other words, in situations where you can take time to setup the scene.

Many also believe that manual mode is the best to use to learn about external flash photography. You choose the output, click the picture and then review it. If it does not come out the way you were expecting and wanted it to, then you can tweak the settings and try again. So you end up learning more in the process.

Understanding Automatic or TTL Flash

When the flash output is directly controlled by your camera, it is called Through-the-Lens metering or TTL. In the case of an Automatic or TTL enabled flash, the flash output is directly controlled by the flash or by the camera's exposure metering system. Thus, using a flash in TTL mode will give you varied flash output.

The only method to control a TTL enabled flash is to use the flash



exposure compensation function on the flash or through your camera settings. Also, while using a TTL flash, your chosen Aperture and ISO levels do not affect the flash output because the camera tells the flash to emit a particular output based on the camera's readings. If the settings change, so will the output to compensate automatically.

When you half-press your shutter release button on your camera to focus, your camera not only focuses, but it also takes a metering of the scene and its exposure. It measures the amount of ambient light which is being returned to the sensor.

How it works

A TTL enabled flash fires a "pre-flash" before the actual shot is taken. The camera then measures the pre-flash with the ambient light level to calculate the power needed from the actual flash to make a correct exposure. This pre

time was not right for such talks. He mocked U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in October for "wasting his time" trying to talk to North Korea.

Tillerson said earlier on Thursday during a visit to Africa that, although "talks about talks" might be possible with Pyongyang, denuclearization negotiations were likely a long way off. No missiles tests'

"Kim Jong Un talked about denuclearization with the South Korean Representatives, not just a freeze," Trump said on Twitter on Thursday night. "Also, no missile testing by North Korea during this period of time. Great progress being made but sanctions will remain until an agreement is reached."

A meeting between Kim and Trump, whose exchange of insults had raised fear of war, would be a major turnaround after a year in which North Korea has carried out a battery of tests aimed at developing a nuclear-tipped missile capable of hitting the U.S. mainland.

flash happens really quickly, only microseconds before the main flash, and thus cannot be seen by the human eye. Based on the model of your flash, this pre-flash can be an actual white light flash or an infrared one.

Using a TTL enabled flash is extremely helpful in situations when you are moving around a lot, shooting in different or changing lighting settings, etc., and do not have the time to fire a series of test shots before the shoot.

One of the drawbacks which accompany the use of a TTL flash is less control and less precision over the lighting. If you get an incorrect exposure while using a flash in TTL mode, it is really difficult for you to know the power setting which was used for that shot.

Conclusion

If you have recently purchased your first digital camera and plan to buy an external flash, then you have two options.

Either go for a manual flash, as it will urge you to learn more about how to control and adjust the lighting in various situations. But if you want to take up professional assignments and cannot afford to experiment with a manual flash, then go for a TTL enabled flash.

The QACFT (Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers) is giving workshops in Basic Photography for those who need to improve their skills in capturing landscape, people and events. There are 5 sessions, 2 hours each session and an outdoor group activity. One of the sessions is entirely about flash photography. The course begins in May 2018. Call Gilmore College for details about the course.

What is new isn't the proposal. It's the response.

- Daniel Russel, former U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific

Trump's aides have been wary of North Korea's diplomatic overtures because of its history of reneging on international commitments and the failure of efforts on disarmament by previous U.S. administrations.

South Koreans responded positively to the news, with online comments congratulating Moon for laying the groundwork for the Trump-Kim talks. Some even suggested Moon should receive the Nobel Peace prize, although scepticism over previous failed talks remained.

North and South Korea, where the U.S. stations 28,500 troops, are technically still at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a ceasefire, not a truce

'Wiith files from CBC News

From page 7 Talks with North Korea

resolve the North Korea issue politically, Chinese state media said.

Xi said he "hopes the United States and North Korea start contacts and dialogue as soon as possible and strive to reach positive results," the report said.

China is North Korea's largest trading partner and sole major ally, though overall trade has fallen in recent months as UN economic sanctions take effect. Trump has frequently tried to enlist Xi's help to rein in Pyongyang. Trump has derided the North Korean leader as a "maniac," referred to him as "little rocket man" and threatened in a speech to the United Nations last year to "totally destroy" Kim's country of 26 million people if it attacked the U.S. or one of its allies.

Kim responded by calling the U.S. president a "mentally deranged U.S. dotard."

South Korean President Moon

Jae-in, who led the pursuit of detente with North Korea during his country's hosting of the Winter Olympics, said the summit would set a course for denuclearization, according to a presidential spokesperson.

Trump had agreed to meet Kim without any preconditions, another South Korean official said.

Asian stock markets rose on the news, with Japan's Nikkei ending up 0.5 per cent and South Korean stocks more than one per cent higher. The U.S. dollar also rose against the safe-haven Japanese yen.

"It's good news, no doubt," said Hong Chun-Uk, chief economist at Kiwoom Securities in Seoul. "But this will likely prove to be only a short-lived factor unless more and stronger actions follow."

'Pressure campaign will continue,' Tillerson warns at North Korea summit in Vancouver

Trump had previously said he was willing to meet Kim under the right circumstances but had indicated the



Bopis

Bopis is a spicy Filipino dish made from minced pig’s lungs and heart. This can be served as an appetizer for beer and alcoholic beverages; it is also considered as a main dish and is best served with steamed white rice.

Ingredients
1½ lbs pig’s lungs, boiled in lemon grass and pandan leaves until tender and minced
1 lb pig’s heart, boiled in lemon grass and pandan leaves until tender and minced
½ cup annatto seeds diluted in 1 cup

of water
1 small carrot, minced (optional)
4 to 6 tablespoons white vinegar
2 tablespoons bird’s eye chili, minced
2 tablespoons ginger, minced
1 medium onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
3 to 4 pieces dried bay leaves
1 cup water
3 tablespoons cooking oil
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:
Heat a frying pan or wok and pour-in cooking oil.
Sauté ginger, garlic, and onion.
Add the bird’s eye chili and cook for 30 seconds.
Put-in the minced pig’s lungs and heart then cook for 3 to 5 minutes while stirring once in a while.
Pour in annatto water (water from the diluted annatto seeds) and stir.
Add the dried bay leaves and pour-in 1 cup of water. Simmer for 30 to 35 minutes or until almost all the liquid evaporates.
Put-in the minced carrots and stir. Simmer for 3 minutes.
Season with salt, and ground black pepper then stir.
Pour-in the vinegar and cook for 8 to 10 minutes more under medium heat.
Turn-off heat and transfer to a serving plate.
Serve. Share and enjoy!



Bulalo

Ingredients
2 Beef marrow bones (cut to expose marrow on one end)
1 pound Beef shank
1 Onion quartered
3 cloves Garlic
1 teaspoon Black peppercorns
2 tablespoons Patis (fish sauce)
Salt (to taste)
2 cobs Corn (cut into 2-inch segments)
1 Chayote (peeled and cubed)
3 Baby bok choy (leaves separated)

Directions:
1) Boil a large pot of water. Add the marrow bones and beef shank and return to a boil. Continue boiling until you don't see any more red blood coming from the meat or bones (about 10 minutes), then remove the meat and bones with tongs and scrub under cold water to remove any scum. Dump the water in the pot out and rinse the pot. This process rids the meat of excess blood and will ensure your soup is nice and clear.
2) Return the cleaned meat and bones to the pot then add the onion, garlic, peppercorns and patis. Cover with water then bring it to a rolling boil and skim off any scum that accumulates.
3) Reduce the heat to medium low. If you are using a pressure cooker, afix the lid and let it cook for 1 1/2 hours. If you're not using a pressure cooker, simmer until the meat on the shank is fork tender (4-5 hours). Skim off any excessive fat from the top but do not remove it all (remember, fat=flavour).
4) Transfer the meat and bones to a bowl, then strain the stock through a fine mesh sieve, discard the solids then return the meat and bones to the strained stock.
5) Add the corn and chayote and simmer for another 20 minutes or until the chayote is tender. Salt to taste, then add the bok choy at the last minute. Serve with rice.

12 teaspoons black pepper
1 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup shrimp paste (bagoong alamang)
1/4 cup vinegar
2 cups water

Directions:
Heat oil in a medium-sized pan. Render the fat from the pork belly, saute until a bit browned.
Add garlic, black pepper and onion saute for 5 minutes then add the tomatoes.
Pour in the shrimp paste and saute for 5 minutes.
Add the vinegar and let it simmer for 5 minutes.
Add water and let it boil until the liquid has decreased by half. Check for the tenderness of the pork.
Add sugar and adjust seasoning (if needed) and let it simmer again for 5 minutes. Best served warm with rice.

Ingredients
2-3 tablespoon canola oil
1 medium onion chopped



Beef Picadillo

2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 teaspoon cumin
1/2 -1 tablespoon smoked paprika
1/2 teaspoon or more cayenne pepper (adjust to taste)
1 teaspoon or more oregano (adjust to taste)
1 small green or red pepper
1 cup tomato sauce
1 pound ground beef
2 cups potatoes optional
1/2 cup olives chopped
1 green onion diced
1/2 cup or more raisins
1 tablespoon or more cilantro (adjust to taste)
1 packet Sazon to taste or use beef or chicken bouillon

Instructions
Add about 2 tablespoons oil in a skillet followed by onions, garlic, cumin, smoked paprika, cayenne, oregano, sweat for about a minute.
Then add bell pepper, tomato sauce, bring to a simmer, add ground meat , potatoes (if using potatoes) and cook for about 7-10 minutes or more , while stirring frequently to prevent burning burn add about broth or water as needed. Until potatoes is soft and tender . Season with salt, chicken bouillon or sazón.Finally add olives , green onions, raisins, and cilantro, adjust for seasoning.
and set aside.



Pork Binagoongan

Ingredients:
2 to 3 tablespoons oil
1 kilo pork, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 clove garlic, minced

From page 3 Denis Coderre

of the company’s revenue comes from outside Canada and Coderre’s reputation in established markets will provide Stingray with a significant competitive advantage.
Coderre served as Montreal’s

mayor between 2013 and 2017. Prior to that, he was a member of Parliament for the Bourassa riding from 1997 to 2013 and served as minister of citizenship and immigration and was also the minister responsible for La Francophonie.



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The North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Peek a boo photos: From left: Heidee Locanas and Marydel Celis at La Goudrelle, Mar. 24/18



Gilmore College International annual sugaring off party with the Panday Tinig Choral group posing for souvenir before departure from La Goudrelle, March 24, 2018.



Sitting around a long table and being served all you can eat brunch buffet at La Goudrelle are members of the Panday Tinig



Tasting maple syrup "la tire" from left: Edith Fedalizo, Marydel Celis, Tessie Calica and Heidee Locanas.



Family get together, part of the Panday Tinig group, having brunch at La Goudrelle, March 24, 2018



Taking a selfie with Heidee Locanas, Zenaida Kharroubi, Marydel Celis and Tessie Calica at La Goudrelle while waiting for the ballade.

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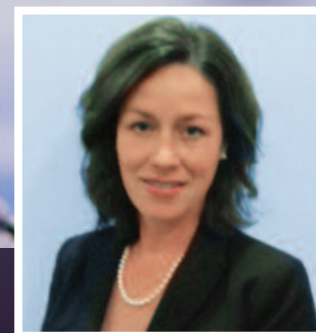
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For immediate release

Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot Program extended

Government of Canada will work with stakeholders to strengthen their settlement and integration services for LGBTQ2 refugees

March 23, 2018 – Ottawa, ON – The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced today that the Government of Canada has renewed a cost-sharing agreement with Rainbow Refugee Society until March 31, 2020. As of April 1, additional funding of \$100,000 will be made available to support refugees sponsored under the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot.

The goal of the pilot is to increase awareness of the unique needs of LGBTQ2 refugees amongst Canadian sponsors, and to strengthen overall sponsorship of this vulnerable group. Through the pilot program, the Government of Canada and private sponsors have increased the number of LGBTQ2 refugees Canada has provided protection to in recent years.

A letter from the IRCC Minister on the Parents and Grandparents Program / Un message du Ministre d'IRCC au sujet du Programme de parrainage des parents et des grands parents Info / Info (IRCC) <IRCC.Info-Info.IRCC@cic.gc.ca>
Mar 20 (2 days ago)

Parents and Grandparents Program Reuniting Canadian citizens and permanent residents with their parents and grandparents helps to strengthen Canada. That is why this country has one of the world's most generous sponsorship programs for parents and grandparents, and why we continue to improve it.

As many families who are working to sponsor parents and grandparents probably know, on February 1, access closed to the online Interest to Sponsor form. Following on this, on March 20, 2018, we began to notify potential sponsors whose submissions were selected that their confirmation numbers have been posted on our website.

Our government realizes that helping people reunite with their parents and grandparents is an important issue for many families in this country. As a result, we've made the Parent and Grandparent Program more fair and transparent, and we are working with potential sponsors to ensure they are informed and aware of what they need to do in this process.

For 2018, we are using the new selection process that we introduced last year. It gives all potential sponsors equal access to the application process and it is fairer in than past years, when applicants had to submit applications by courier and mail on a first come, first served basis.

This revised program aims to better inform potential sponsors about their applications, because it ensures that only those sponsors who will be included in the annual allotment of PGP applications need to take the time to submit sponsorship applications. I want to also stress that

The Government will collaborate with Rainbow Refugee Society and LGBTQ2 stakeholders to increase the resettlement of LGBTQ2 refugees in Canada, along with developing a longer-term strategy to support the resettlement of this vulnerable group.

The Government will continue to work with LGBTQ2 stakeholders and key partners to help ensure the necessary supports are in place to make refugees' integration in Canada as smooth as possible.

Quotes

"Our commitment to providing protection to the world's most vulnerable people is fundamental to our identity as Canadians, and I'm proud of what we have been able to accomplish through the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot Program. LGBTQ2 refugees face unique settlement and integration challenges. Our Government is committed to working with the LGBTQ2 community and private sponsors to ensure that the necessary supports are in place for those that we are resettling and welcoming to Canada."

– The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is doing all it can to receive up to 10,000 complete parent and grandparent sponsorship applications this year. For example, the department has shortened the period of time for applicants to submit complete sponsorship applications from 90 days to 60 days.

These kind of actions are yielding results. Between 2011 and last year, we reduced by more than 80 % the inventory of parents and grandparents applicants.

Finally, it's worth noting that families can also consider the Parent and Grandparent Super Visa. It allows holders to stay in Canada for up to two years on an initial visit, compared to six months for a regular visa. The improvements we have made to programs, such as the PGP, demonstrate our commitment to keeping families together. Through them, we will continue to help newcomers to integrate, build stronger ties and to contribute to the future of Canada.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
Minister Gould announces improvements to the Senate appointments process – applications open now!

OTTAWA, February 21, 2018 – Keeping with her mandate to restore Canadians' trust and increase participation in Canada's democratic processes, the Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Democratic Institutions, today announced a series of improvements to the independent Senate appointments process, making it easier for Canadians to apply for a seat in the Senate.

Improvements to the Senate appointments process include:

- keeping applications open year-round, so Canadians are able to apply for a Senate appointment at any time;

Citizenship

"LGBTQ2 rights have no borders, and in this respect Canada is seen as a champion of human rights protection around the world. Canada strives to be a country where people feel safe and free to be who they are. The extension of the Rainbow Refugee Assistance Pilot Program is another concrete example of the Government of Canada listening and responding to the needs of the community. I am proud of the progress that we are making to ensure that LGBTQ2 refugees are welcomed to Canada."

– Randy Boissonnault, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on LGBTQ2 issues

Quick facts

• The funding provided through this initiative by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada supports refugees' initial costs when they first arrive in Canada. This includes start-up funds to buy clothes and basic household items. It also provides privately sponsored refugees with three months of income support for their first year; private sponsors provide the remaining nine months.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada currently funds 10 service

- retaining submitted applications for two years, so that individuals can be considered for appointment to the Senate throughout the two years following the submission of their application; and,
- adding the ability for organizations or individuals to nominate potential candidates.

In order to make the Senate less partisan in its role to provide "sober, second thought" and represent regional and minority interests, the Government of Canada opened the selection process for Senators in 2016, to allow all Canadians to apply. The Government of Canada established the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, an independent and non-partisan body mandated to provide non-binding, merit-based recommendations to the Prime Minister on Senate appointments.

Quotes

"The strength of our democracy depends on Canadians from all backgrounds actively participating in our democratic institutions. I am pleased that the Government of Canada is improving the Senate application process in order to ensure that we can reach the highest calibre candidates for appointment. I encourage all qualified and interested Canadians to take advantage of this opportunity by applying for a Senate seat themselves or by nominating a potential candidate."

The Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Democratic Institutions

Quick Facts

- Canadians can now apply or nominate an individual for a Senate appointment year round.
- For the next applications review cycle, the Independent Advisory Board will review applications that are submitted by April 3, 2018. The Board will retain applications received after this date for consideration for future opportunities.
- Under the Canadian Constitution, the Governor General

provider organizations that give specialized support to LGBTQ2 refugees.

• Although the department does not track refugees by ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation, we are aware of at least 7 sponsorship agreement holders who are currently active in resettling LGBTQ2 refugees. They also help to educate and raise awareness of refugee protection needs within the LGBTQ2 community.

• Budget 2017 announced an investment of \$3.6 million over 3 years to establish an LGBTQ2 Secretariat within the Privy Council Office. This secretariat supports the Government-appointed Special Advisor to the Prime Minister in developing and coordinating government initiatives on LGBTQ2 issues.

Associated link LGBTQ2 refugees

613-954-1064

Media Relations

Communications Branch

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

613-952-1650

IRCC.COMM Media Relations - RelationsmediasCOMM.IRCC@

appoints individuals to the Senate. By convention, Senators are appointed on the advice of the Prime Minister.

• Since 2016, the selection process for Senators has allowed all Canadians to apply. Candidate submissions are reviewed by the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments, which provides the Prime Minister with recommendations. The Prime Minister selects the individuals he wishes to recommend to the Governor General for appointment to the Senate.

• The Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments is guided by public, transparent, non-partisan and merit-based criteria to identify highly qualified candidates.

• Since the establishment of the new Senate appointments process in 2016, 32 independent senators have been appointed.

• There are currently 12 vacancies in the Senate.

• At present, we are looking for Canadians to fill current and upcoming Senate vacancies in the following provinces and territories: Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

More Information

• More information about the Senate appointments process and the Independent Advisory Board for Senate Appointments.

• More information about the Senate of Canada.

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Contact

For more information (media only), please contact:

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Social Tidbits Fely Rosales Cariño

Now should be the beginning of Spring, but winter wants to stay more. Right now, there is a whirlwind of chaos brought about by the past unrelenting cold and biting winds. Most feel they are bundled up for so long that now everyone should just push break out and soak in the sun either in their backyards or in sunny beaches. In fact, many went home to the Philippines for their winter break. But for those who are still enjoying their "staycation" (staying home), just try to imagine, or create a scenario of breathtaking mountains watching the glistening waves below.

The Philippine Benevolent and Scholarship Society of Quebec (PBSSQ) held its St. Patrick Dinner Dance at St. Kevin's Social Hall, Cote des Neiges, Quebec last March 17, 2018. The Hall was transformed into a sea of green balloons atop the green-covered tables. The officers also decided to wear green blouses paired with black pants. All of them wore green hats. Most of the guests came in either green tops, green scarves, green shoes, green hats, and green blings. Lilia Avendanio bought necklaces for John, for Adoree, for Hans, and for me. You should have seen the entire hall posts and the stage – all embellished with many shades of green. The newly elected president, Nilo Valenzuela, welcomed the guests. Josefa Nicolas gave the acknowledgement. In between the welcome and acknowledgement were a lot of line dancing, raffles, door prizes, good dinner, and the search for

Disco King and Queen.

Eventually, the search ended with the selection of Nilo's and Edith's daughter and son-in-law as the PBSSQ /disco King and Queen.

The following are the PBSSQ Executive Council 2018-2020:

Natalie Pelausa – founder; Nilo Valenzuela (President); Josefa Nicolas & Rose Pabalinas (VP for Benevolence) Joseph Gonzales & Nancy Karidis (VP for Scholarship); Gerry Baquiran (Secretary); Cora Baquiran & Sylvia Bulacan (Treasurers); Jeanette Perignon (PRO); David Lam (coordinator for scholarship); Princess Elegado (assistant coordinator for scholarship); Tess Pascual (coordinator for scholarship), Monica Regacho (coordinator for membership); Carmen Caro, Edith Valenzuela & Dolly Lelina (Coordinators for Board of Trustees); Ermlinda Pelausa (ex-officio).

The Association of Filipino Seniors of Montreal (AFSM) held their Valentine's Party last Feb. 25, 2018 at St. Kevin's parish social hall in Cote des Neiges, Quebec. The hall was bedecked with cut-out red hearts, almost all over the place. The array of guests dressed to the nines visibly invaded the place. Their fully loaded program began with the parade of colors with flag bearers, Mariz Cesar, Erlinda Alberto, Johnny Ecurito, Clement Fadoul and Jason Regis. Susan Gowdy and Alain Charbonneau sang the National Anthems. The chairman of the Kalihukang Bisaya, Montreal, Reynold Omictin gave the

invocation after which the AFSM president, William Fabia delivered his welcome address. Thanks to the Mutya ng Pilipinas – Montreal (Princess and Plexie kids) for the very entertaining numbers, inserted among a slew of line dancing, numbers was the presentation of birthday celebrants for January and February by Mila Ministerio (January celebrants: Marilyn Mendoza, Melania Anore, Rose Sumonod, Lucing Bulchand, Noel Pinas, Amy Malt, Helen Estopa, Clement Fadoul & Rhea MMea Avila. February celebrants: Dorie Francisco, Elvira Balagot, Remy Poquiz, Gloria Castiloo, Nerilla Taoingan, Melania Cotiangco, Gloria Diaz, Aurora Penida, Svetlana Suarez, Zenaida Dillania & Cesar Castro.

After the presentation, Mark Simbulan's and Jonathan Santander's famous baritone voices came out of St. Kevin's airwaves to serenade the celebrants. In appreciation of the honorees, there was a very elegant dance performance by the KBPA. The party wouldn't have been a successful without the decorations done by Elena Fabia Timbang, the cup cakes for the celebrants by Fe Fabia Poquiz, the raffle prizes donated by Amy Chantengco, Dorie Francisco and Elvie Balagot. DJ Denis Mayuga and Bernie Santos unleashed their best dancing music which made guests eager to dance some more. They did so until closing time. And you know what? Recognition should go to the over all chairman, President William Fabia and co-chair, Mel Anore, Rose Sumonod, Elvie Balagot and members: Lucing Bulchand, and Dorie Francisco. Lastly but not the least, Svetlana Suarez, always the adorable host, displayed her commanding voice. This issue does not have the winner's names. (Mr. and Miss Valentine, I apologize) Their pictures and names will appear next issue. And do you know who were the busiest during the entire afternoon? They were President William Fabia and AFSM first lady Nene Fabia. They never sat down. Did they even sit down

to eat? I wonder.

The Filipino Golden Agers Association of Montreal and suburbs (FILGA) held their election of officers at FAMAS Center last March 18, 2018. The evening was focused mainly on the election. However, since there were no other nominee, nomination committee chairman Bert Abiera called for the group to nominate their choices, if they had any. There was already a line-up prepared. The candidate for presiden, Lilia Esguerra, rallied the crowd to acclaim her line up. President-elect Lilia Esguerra outlined some of the objectives of the association. Acclaimed members of the Executive board 2018-2020 are: Lilia Esguerra (president); Rolando Salvador (1st VP), Carmelita Cuizon (2nd VP); Josefa Nicolas (Secretary); Marieta Vimas (Assist. Sec.) ; Sylvia Lemaire (Treasurer); Dodie Ravanzo (Assist. Treas.); Lily Vasquez-Ramos (Auditor); Carrie Jusua (Assist. Auditor); Valent Lloyd Hughs (PRO); Roberto Salazar (Assist PRO); Lea Musa (Bus. Mgr.). Cathy Escano (Assist. Bus. Mgr.); Arturo Nicolas & Sheldon Cohen (Directors).

This is a cordial invitation to all kababayans to join the ISRAEL DAY PARADE, honoring the Rebirth of a Nation. This will be held Thursday, April 19, 2018. The venue is at the Philip Square across the Bay Dept. Store. There will be a free shuttle bus to and from the parade ground. Those taking the Metro can go to FAMAS Center for car pools. Departure time will be 9:30 a.m.. Participants in the Parade are qualified to a raffle draw prize: 2 X PAIRS OF ROUND-TRIP TICKETS TO ISRAEL sponsored by Air Transat & 2 X 500\$ VISA GIFT CARD sponsored by Israel Bonds. For particulars, contact: Bert Abiera tel. 438-350-3495, Amy Manon-og Tel. 514-365-9294; Joseph Gonzales Tel. 514-344-9247; Al Abdon Tel. 264-8706; Pastor Orlan Racacho Tel. 450-466-6711, FAMAS Tel. 514-341-7477. GOD BLESS EVERYONE!

Marvin Rotrand: CUTA Individual Awards 2017

March 22, 2018 Between 2001 and 2017, Marvin Rotrand served as Vice-chair of the Board of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM), Canada's second largest transit system. Marvin has taken pride that his years of championing transit on the STM Board, at City Council and in the media, have resulted in many accomplishments for STM and its customers. At the CUTA York Forum 2017, Marvin was recognized with a CUTA Distinguished Service award.

One of Marvin's proudest achievements lies with his success in working with others at CUTA to build the Transit Board Members Committee and transform it into a powerful instrument aimed at engaging with decision makers in Ottawa and provincial capitals. Marvin was the STM's representative on the Transit Board Members Committee (TBMC) from its formation in 2005 until 2017, serving as Vice Chair from 2010 to 2014, then as Chair from 2014 until

2017. TBMC was able to successfully interact with all federal parties, convincing them that making transit a priority in the 2015 election was vital to success. Marvin leveraged a lifetime of relationships and employed social media to spread the message. He invited each TBMC member to actively engage with federal and provincial politicians. The TBMC team reached out formally to each federal party, contacted candidates directly and explained the economic and environmental benefits of transit. Under Marvin's guidance, TBMC spoke with one voice and maintained a united front promoting transit's benefits for large and small communities.

In Montréal during Marvin's tenure on the STM Board, annual ridership increased from 356 million to 416 million, transit priority measures increased from zero to 375 km, and the general level of customer satisfaction grew from 77% to 89%. Nationally, the CUTA Transit Board Members



Councilor Marvin Rotrand (center) holding the Distinguished Service Award he received from CUTA. Others from left to right are Rob Bryans and Chris Campbell from RouteMatch, a corporate member of CUTA.

Committee was a vital part of a collective effort to demonstrate the importance of public transit. Many advocates worked together on this, including FCM and provincial groups, resulting in federal transit investment growing from zero in 2001 to approximately \$1 billion annually in 2015, and overall transit infrastructure investment from all sources rising from \$676 million in 2001 to \$5.9 billion per

year in 2015. The role of CUTA and the TBMC – through Marvin's leadership and in collaboration with CUTA staff – was instrumental in achieving these results.

The CUTA Individual Leadership Awards honour notable achievements by transit personnel in the categories of Distinguished Service, Excellence, and Heroism.

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Miss Monochrome

by Regina Mae Parungao



Catriona Gray, Binibining Pilipinas 2018 Universe

In the final stretch of what's turning out to be a history-making turn, Catriona Gray locks her gaze at the biggest crown in the Universe where only black or white colors the finish line.

Ever humbly, Catriona embraces the fruit of her hard work and persistence.

"I didn't feel comfortable at first pursuing Binibining Pilipinas but I did and I worked so hard because I had so much to lose eh, not only the other people's expectations but also the journey that I'd been on," she said in an exclusive interview.

Catriona made sure her whole Binibini journey would show "something that is worth doing is worth doing well."

While she acknowledges that competing in the Miss World pageant proved to be an advantage, Catriona pointed out the flipside and that is the humbling experience of going back to being a candidate.

"It feels like a whole journey," she said. "People think that it is already a walk in the park because I'm a queen already but it was not. They don't realize how humbling it is for me to being a queen back to being a candidate, let alone competing with people that where in my batch in the beginning."

Catriona was a crowd favorite to win any of the six crowns in the

pageant. But she only aimed for one: the Miss Universe-Philippines crown or bust.

"I really went all out because I know it's going to be my last hurrah. I don't want to come back and join again," she said. "So from the very beginning I joined Binibini, I said to myself that this is mine. This is my dream and I still can't believe that I've actually done it. Thank God for the opportunity." Amen.

'Thank you'

Catriona expressed gratitude to those who supported her bid to represent the country once again in the international pageant scene.

According to the 24-year-old Filipino-Australian, she is blessed to be surrounded with people so positive and trustworthy.

"They are able to give me the feedback that I need. Sometimes kasi the public tend to scrutinize in a way that's not really constructive," she explained. "So I think it's important to have people around that you can trust their opinion, that they deliver it in a way that will build you up I, not turn you down."

As an only-child, Catriona has her parents' approval in whatever endeavor she wants to pursue. Another good thing is that they treat her the same regardless of the crowns she has won.

"They had been with me since day one and I don't feel like I'm a different person even though I have the title, I have the following. I don't feel that I'm a hugely important person (around them)," she said.

She has a handsome boyfriend namely Clint Bondad. They have been together for six years now prior to her being a beauty queen.

Above everything else, Catriona thanks her fans for their "unconditional love" that makes her "emotional all the time."

"To see these legions of fans who come out to see me, to make banners, to just go there and cheer, it makes me cry. It just makes me emotional seeing their passion, dedication and support. It is something I've never experienced before and it's something that touches my heart talaga," she said, eyes getting wet.

Past the crown



Catriona helps the kids of Tondo

Catriona did not just bag the most coveted crown. She also won, take note, the major awards including the Pitoy Moreno Best in National Costume, Best in Swimsuit, Best in Long Gown, Jag Denim Queen and Miss Ever Bilena. Woah!

"Sobrang blessed, sobrang grateful. Like, I didn't expect to bag that many awards but I can proudly say that I did my best in all aspects of the pageant," was how she put it.

She even nailed the question and answer portion of the competition. Recall that she was asked by US ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim: "After the devastating war, Marawi is now on its way to recovery. What is your message to the young women of Marawi?"

Her answer: "My answer and

message to the women (of Marawi) is to be strong. As women, we are the head of the household. And, we have amazing influence not only (on) our own families – as mothers, sisters, and friends – but also (on) our community. If we could get the women to stay strong and be that image of strength for the children and the people around them, once the rebuilding is complete, the morale of the community will stay strong and high."

The 5'10 stunner advocates free education for children as well as HIV/AIDS awareness.

"I'd been working with the young folks of New Manila for about three years now. We're focusing on not only providing school sponsorship but free education for the younger children along with the other programs like getting the teenagers off the streets and kinda giving them environment where they can learn. We also influence them to get back into school," she disclosed.

Catriona is an active member of LoveYourself, a community of volunteers that propagates ideas, attitudes and practices that encourage loving oneself – to dare to be oneself, to care for oneself and to share oneself as a way of multiplying joy.

"I am particularly drawn to this because someone close to me past away. He was so young and when I saw the statistics in the Philippines incredibly high, it's like 140 percent and majority of them are 15-24 year old, I felt so sad," he said of the HIV/AIDS statistics in the country though she didn't cited her basis.

"I just feel the need to spread awareness about this kind of issue. I guess that's what being beauty queen is all about." ■

Gerald Anderson wants to take Bea Alonzo home to GenSan



Gerald Anderson & Bea Alonzo

If it were up to Gerald Anderson, he would want to take rumored girlfriend Bea Alonzo home with him to General Santos City.

The actor opened up about his recent trip to his hometown, as his mother expressed he missed him so much. This he told talk show host Boy Abunda in a “Tonight with Boy Abunda” episode which aired last night.

Anderson revealed that her mother wished to give him a feast, complete with lechon. It also led him to the idea of giving everyone a block screening of his new movie “My Perfect You” starring Pia Wurtzbach.

When Abunda asked the actor how much of his hometown is still with him, he replied “Umiikot ako kung saan ako tumatambay dati, yung katapat ko kung saan ako na-discover ni Joross (Gamboa)...” (I roam around where I used to hang out, right in front where Joross discovered me.) Gamboa has been

his friend even before they both entered show business.

But when Alonzo was brought up in the conversation, the actor admitted that he has not yet taken her to his province. He said: “Natatakot ako sa nanay niya kasi di ba medyo hotspot yung GenSan?” (I’m afraid of her mom, because isn’t GenSan a bit of a hotspot?)

Would he take her there, given the chance? On this question, his reply was, “Oo naman, gusto ko ma-expose siya sa ganun. Gusto ko makita niya yung provincial life, kung paano kami sa probinsya, ‘yung ganun ka-simple... kung saan ako galing,” (Of course, I want her to be exposed to that. I want her to see the provincial life, how we live in the province, how simple it is... where I came from.)

Anderson proudly said that Alonzo has seen the movie last week. In fact, he shared that she text-messaged him, praising the movie.

While Anderson still shows affection towards Alonzo, the two made headlines recently after Alonzo unfollowed him and Wurtzbach on Instagram. She also deleted previous posts of photos of them together, including the poster for “My Perfect You” which she promoted. The actress’ hair stylist also posted a quote about infidelity, which led to fans pointing their fingers at Anderson. ■

Keeping the faith: Jennylyn Mercado, Christian Bautista and KZ Tandingan

While many celebrities see the Holy Week as a brief respite from the hectic, and often unpredictable, nature of show biz, they make sure not to lose sight of what the occasion truly means—a time to reflect and honor the sacrifices of Jesus Christ.



Jennylyn Mercado

I don’t get to hear Mass every Sunday, but I make it a point to pray every day, before sleeping and upon waking up. I know that the Lord is always there, watching over and protecting me...Having faith is important to me; I don’t have a lot of people to turn to. My parents aren’t with me, I don’t have siblings. I’m raising my child alone on top of working as an actress. So, I find comfort in knowing that I can always talk to Him.

We usually go diving every Holy Week. But we make it a point to be at home during Easter Sunday, which we usually celebrate. We do egg hunts, which my son, nephews and nieces truly enjoy.



Christian Bautista

In the beginning, when I lost in the contest “Star in a Million,” I thought nothing good would happen in my career. And when I do a show with a meager crowd or release a single that’s not well-received, I question myself if I’m doing the right thing. But having faith has strengthened me.

In whatever line of work you’re in, there are trials, temptations and changes you have to adapt to.

And as a human being, I fail. There are times when I don’t know what to do. It’s in those times when you realize that it’s important to have something infinite to hold on to; to have someone you can always talk to....

It’s always good to believe in ourselves, but we do have shortcomings, too.

My family and I usually go to church during Holy Week. And on Easter Sunday, we really celebrate. We used to do egg hunts when I was young.



KZ Tandingan

I see myself as an imperfect person, who nevertheless tries to keep an intimate relationship with God. I’m a Christian, but for me, having a personal relationship with God has more weight than merely being part of a religion.

It’s my faith that keeps me sane in this industry, where it’s hard to know who’s real or not; where it’s hard to know if you’re doing the right thing.

It’s important to have spiritual guidance, because it helps dictate your moral compass.

Every year, I spend the Holy Week in Davao. Otherwise, my mom will get sad because it’s the only time in the year, aside from Christmas, when I can get some rest.

Before entering show biz, I used to fast. But I don’t think I can do it now, because I need all the energy I can have for work.

Perhaps I can do social media fasting and reflect about everything that has been going on in my life, my family and career. It’s a perfect time to pause for a moment, look at everything from a distance, then ask for God’s guidance. ■

RESTAURANT

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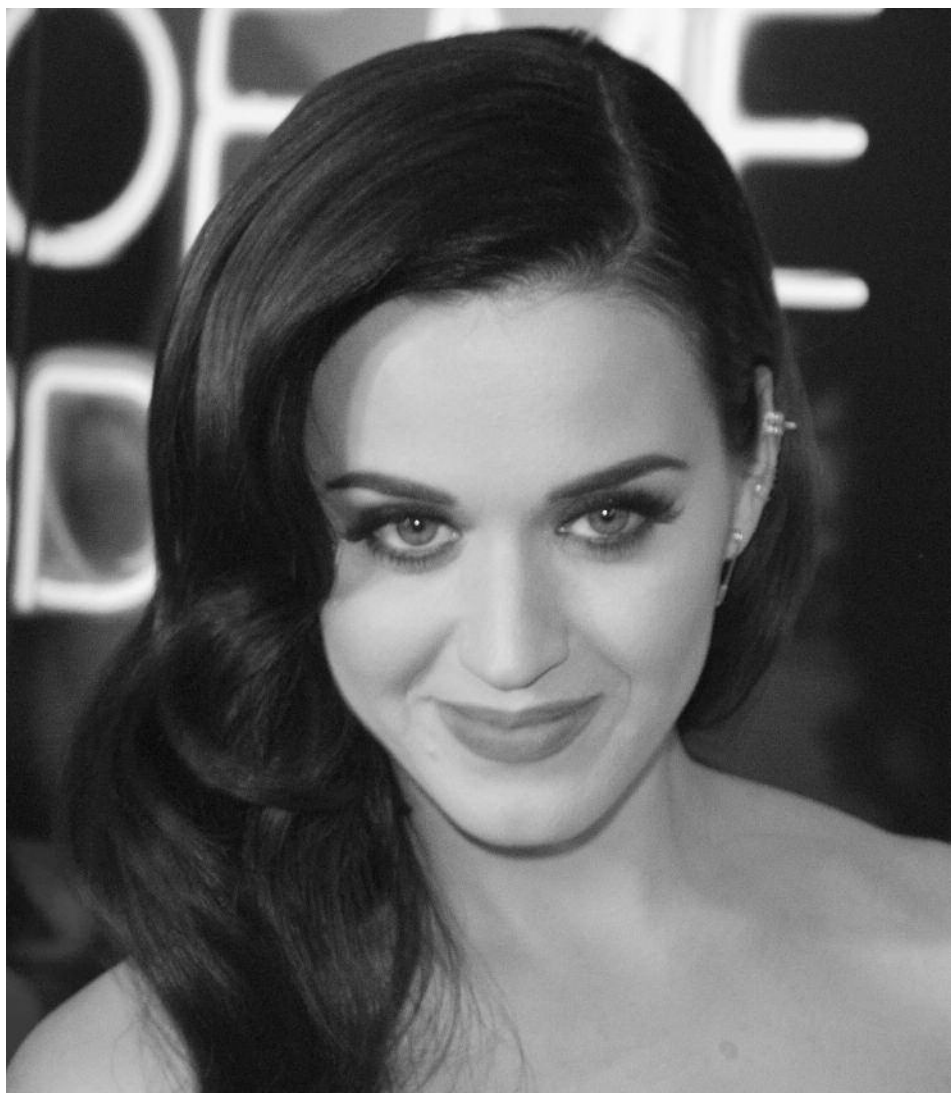
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Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15***Katy Perry wants Manila to witness 'The Tour'****Katy Perry**

Singer-songwriter Katy Perry makes her comeback to Manila on April 2 at the Mall of Asia Arena. This is part of the Asian leg of "Witness: The Tour" after several added shows in South America and Europe as well as in New Zealand and Australia.

Katy's concerts have received exceptional reviews from U.S.A Today, the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe and Billboard, among others.

It's been said that "Witness" attempts to artistically reveal a more authentic persona, not as Katy Perry, but as Katheryn Hudson. The album "wanders along the shores of riskier territories, exploring new sound, distancing Perry from the animatedly sweet chart-topping hits that made her the pop superstar that she is in this day and age."

This latest tour is Katy's first run since the sold-out, 151-date "Prismatic World Tour," which concluded in 2015 and was hailed by Rolling Stone as "a show to damage retinas and blow minds."

Two rising pop vocalists Hailee Steinfeld and Tove Styrke would also be witnesses, as they will be opening for her in the

coming shows in Europe and the UK.

"One Of The Boys" was Katy's Capitol Records debut after signing with the label in 2007. She cemented her status as a global superstar with her first No. 1 hit, "I Kissed A Girl," and the release of the groundbreaking record, "Teenage Dream (2010)," making Katy the first woman in music history to gain five No. 1 hits in a single album.

"PRISM," her 2013 album, debuted at No. 1 on iTunes in 100 countries and has sold more than 12.5 million adjusted albums worldwide. With the singles "Roar," "Firework" and "Dark Horse" each surpassing the 10 million threshold. Katy is the first female artist to earn three RIAA Digital Single Diamond Awards. In her 10 years with Capitol, she has racked up a cumulative 18+ billion streams alongside worldwide sales of more than 40+ million adjusted albums and 125+ million tracks. She is the most-followed person on Twitter, and the first to surpass 100 million followers.

"Katy Perry's Witness: The Tour Live in Manila" is presented by AEG Presents and Ovation Productions. ■

Richard Gutierrez, Sarah Lahbati welcome second baby**Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati with their new born son**

Couple Richard Gutierrez and Sarah Lahbati is a picture of proud parents as they welcomed the newest addition to their family.

Sarah gave birth to their second child Kai on Wednesday, March 21.

The parents took to Instagram to share the good news, posting a photo of Sarah carrying the baby in her arms as Richard looks on him. They captioned it with "Kai. March 21, 2018."

It was July last year when Sarah and Richard announced their engagement, which happened in Switzerland. This happened four years

after having their firstborn Zion. Their wedding preparations took a back seat as the couple shared in September last year that they are expecting their second baby.

In previous interviews, Sarah revealed it's timely to have their second child as Zion has also been wanting to have a sibling.

Their family and fellow celebrities congratulated the couple on social media.

"Omg congratulations! So happy for you both! Can't wait to meet Kai," Richard's sister Ruffa said on his post. ■

'Never a dull moment with you!' Kim, Xian tour South Korea**Xiam Lim with Kim Chiu (From Kim's Instagram)**

Rumored couple and former on-screen partners Kim Chiu and Xian Lim are currently enjoying their Holy Week break in South Korea.

On Instagram, the two shared photos of their newest adventure abroad.

"Never a dull moment with

you!" Chiu said in one of her posts, which showed her holding hands with Lim.

Last year, Chiu and Lim spent Christmas in Denmark and experienced the Northern Lights in Finland. ■

Kris Aquino rules out politics - at least until December 2019



Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino indirectly announced through a social media post Tuesday that her entry into the political arena is not going to happen soon -- at least until December 2019 or after the 2019 midterm elections.

In a lengthy Facebook post, Aquino categorically said she has signed several "no political participation waivers" for several contracts with some of them expiring by the end of next year.

"Nakapag-joke na nga 'ko on our way back to the hotel na Tarlac politicians no longer have to fear me buying property and establishing residency there," she wrote.

"I am highly allergic to trees, grass, weeds, and pollen. So that

rules out living anywhere that isn't an urban area for me. So I cannot start public service from our home province."

The former "Kris TV" host is the youngest daughter of democracy icons Ninoy and Cory Aquino. She is the sister of former President Benigno Aquino III.

Meanwhile, Aquino revealed in the same post why she went to the United States without her sons.

"I flew all the way to San Francisco because this was where they had my most comprehensive records from Dec 2016, BUT also to protect my privacy because we were getting a thorough diagnosis about my frequent allergic reactions," she

wrote, unedited.

After a series of tests, Aquino feels fortunate that all her fears were unfounded because her allergies are mostly environmental and not from food, fragrances or any skincare or makeup products.

Following her checkup, Aquino will return to the Philippines

on Wednesday.

"Our prayers have been answered because we already know my medical issues and we have the correct prevention information as well as the emergency medication I'll need. God bless all of you with a peaceful Holy Week," she ended. ■

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Liberal MPs, advocates want to legalize fees for surrogate moms and sperm donors



Liberal MP Anthony Housefather is pushing to make it legal for surrogate mothers and sperm donors to be paid for their services. (iStock)

Chair of Liberal women's caucus says current ban is 'criminalizing women's bodies'

Kathleen Harris · CBC News · Posted: Mar 27, 2018 3:23 PM ET | Last Updated: 7 hours ago

A Liberal MP, backed by his party's women's caucus, is pushing for a legal change to allow surrogate mothers and sperm donors to be paid for their services.

Anthony Housefather, chair of the House of Commons justice committee, said Canada's current law is out of step with modern families — with same-sex couples, single mothers and women choosing to have children later in life.

He said the ban on fees creates a grey zone which leaves potential surrogates anxious about breaking the law.

Housefather, who held a news conference on Parliament Hill today with fertility lawyers, doctors and clinicians, plans to table a private member's bill in May after hearing input from constitutional lawyers and other experts. He said he hopes the government will endorse it, though he has received no commitment to date.

As demand for surrogates increases, support companies remain scarce

OUT IN THE OPEN

The pain and pleasure of being a surrogate mother

Tax credit for fertility treatments expanded, made retroactive for 10 years

"I'm hopeful this is in line with the government's agenda and, in the end result, they will support the initiative," he said.

The Canadian law, which came into force in 2004, prohibits paying a surrogate mother for her services, but does allow reimbursement for certain medical and maternity costs when the surrogate mother is performing the service for altruistic reasons.

Costs that may be covered include maternity clothes, travel for medical appointments, medications and, in some cases, lost work wages.

"Exploiting the reproductive capabilities of children, women and men for commercial gain is strictly forbidden for health and ethical reasons," reads the government website on the Assisted Human Reproduction legislation.

The law does not criminalize a woman who agrees to be or becomes a surrogate mother. But paying for surrogacy, or offering to pay, is illegal.

Contentious ethical issue Commercial surrogacy has long been a contentious ethical issue, with opponents saying babies should not be treated as commodities and comparing paid surrogacy to prostitution and physical exploitation.

But Housefather said adult women are competent to make their own decisions, calling it "paternalistic" to ban surrogacy on those grounds.

Anita Vandenberg, chair of the Liberal women's caucus, said her members unanimously support Housefather's initiative. She said it's

democracy.

Political dynasties cause poverty and inequality.

Political dynasties destroy fairness. Political dynasties don't allow others to serve as the way of picking leaders is biased toward political dynasties. Younger, more able leaders are kept from joining politics due to political dynasties.

People can't exercise control over the elected.

Elections dominated by fat dynasties are abusive (not democratic/dictatorial).

"vital" to update the laws to ensure all Canadians have the right to use modern reproductive technologies.

"Assisted human reproduction is the one area in law where we are still criminalizing women's bodies," she said. "This has to change."

Alana Cattapan, an expert in reproductive ethics and biotechnology at the University of Saskatchewan, said what many surrogate mothers want is better patient care and clear-cut regulations on what is eligible for reimbursement.

Money secondary?

"Receiving money on top of that is secondary. All of the other parts are more important," she said. "So I'm not sure why there's such a move to commercialize this practice when there are so many additional ways that surrogates want to be taken care of [that] might improve the number of people who would volunteer to be surrogates."

She said the number of reported surrogates in Canada has been increasing in recent years, from 285 in 2010 to about 700 last year.

When it comes to egg

exploitation and coercion.

"Canada ought not to allow the commercialization of the human body," she said in an email. "Ultimately, this is about a world view grounded in the belief that the world is a better place if we have some valuable things (e.g., body parts) kept out of the marketplace."

Housefather said he sees the potential legal change as a "modernization" of current laws. The opposition parties say they want to carefully consider the details of any bill before taking a position.

"When the Liberals table legislation in this area, we will carefully review any proposals put forward to make sure it is in the best interests of Canadians," said Conservative justice critic Rob Nicholson.

Consultation required

Don Davies, the NDP's health critic, said his party also will not take a position until it studies the issue.

He said the NDP has opposed any move to commercialize sales of organs or tissues, but understands that fertility issues are profoundly important for many Canadians.



It is currently legal to serve as a surrogate mother in Canada, but not for profit.

donations, Cattapan said she believes it's wrong to pay people for access to their body parts. She said there are other ways to encourage people to donate, along the lines of blood and organ donations.

It is currently legal to serve as a surrogate mother in Canada, but not for profit.

Françoise Baylis, a bioethics and philosophy professor at Dalhousie University, said she objects to the sale of sperm and eggs because it's a "commodification of the human body" that brings with it the risk of

"We come at this from the point of view that we believe in a public, non-profit health care sector, so that will be a general value that I think we bring to the discussion. But I do know that there's Canadians who are in need of reproductive health services," he said.

"That's why I think it's really important to see exactly what's being proposed by Mr. Housefather, and talk it through in our caucus and hear from stakeholders and Canadians before we come to any firm conclusions."

From Page 5 Political dynasties

Pangilinan is the chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes and while De Lima is chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation.

In a hearing last February 15, resource persons from the academe enumerated the reasons for the need to ban political dynasties:

The Constitution bans political dynasties. Congress needs only to define it.

Political dynasties are killing

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Your lifestyle is making blue box recycling unsustainable

Recycling costs are rising as communities struggle to adapt to more plastics, fewer newspapers

Emily Chung · CBC News · Posted: Mar 27, 2018 4:00 AM ET

Reduce, Reuse and Rethink is a CBC News series about recycling. We're exploring why our communities are at a turning point and exploring ways to recycle better. You can be part of the conversation by joining our Facebook group

Do you read your news online? Enjoy takeout? Live in an apartment?

Our changing lifestyles over the past few decades have dramatically altered the types of materials we put in blue bins.

And that's led to flatlining recycling rates and ballooning costs for municipalities across Canada that are struggling to cope with the changes.

"It's a really a perfect storm of crazy stuff going on that means that the blue box has huge challenges that it did not have 10 years ago," says Maria Kelleher, principal of Toronto-based Kelleher Environmental, a consulting firm specializing in waste reduction and recycling research, strategy and program design.

The problem is that we're now throwing out a huge variety of new types of packaging — mostly plastics, sometimes glued to other materials like metals — that recycling programs were never meant to deal with. Meanwhile, the materials that they were designed to collect, sort and resell make up a shrinking proportion of what comes in.

Newspaper, for example, used to be the backbone of the recycling program, Kelleher says, "because it's easy to recycle and it's worth a good bit of money."

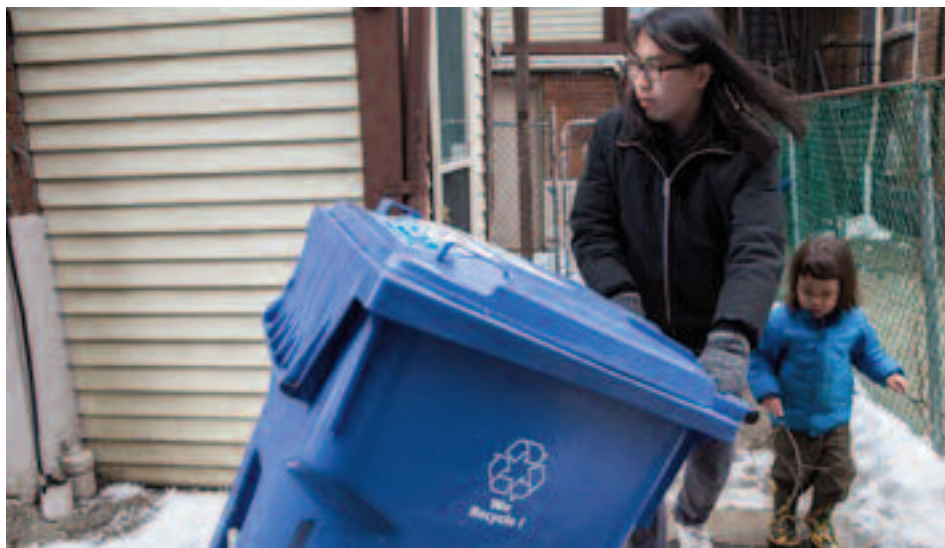
Newspaper, formerly the backbone of recycling programs, has been replaced by plastics, which are more difficult for recycling plants to handle. (David Donnelly/CBC) Now, it's being replaced with plastics, which are typically more difficult and expensive to collect, sort and recycle, and worth less money when they can actually be resold.

This problem, dubbed "the evolving ton," threatens to make many blue box programs unsustainable.

Making things even more challenging, China, the world's biggest importer of recyclables, closed its doors in January to all but the cleanest and purest recyclable materials from places like Canada. Some municipalities like Halifax are resorting to burning their recyclable plastics or burying them in landfills.

Plastic revolution

Canada's first blue box programs launched in Ontario a little over three decades ago, so many younger Canadian adults like Bruce



Bruce Lai and his son, Chester, take out a recycling bin for their three-storey apartment building in Toronto's west end. (David Donnelly/CBC)

Lai, who is 30, have been recycling their whole lives. The benefits of the blue bin have been ingrained in Lai since childhood.

"If you care about sustainability," he says, "why wouldn't you just reuse a resource that otherwise is just going to go in the landfill somewhere?"

Growing up, Lai lived with five other family members in a house in Toronto's east end and ate almost exclusively home-cooked meals. Their blue box was filled with bottles, cans and mountains of newspapers — his father had multiple subscriptions.

Three decades later, Lai shares a two-bedroom apartment with his wife Katrina Lagacé and three-year-old son Chester in a three-storey walk-up in the city's west end. They're expecting another child in May.

The dishpan-sized blue bin in the cupboard under the kitchen sink contains no newspapers; Lai gets his news online. The most common items inside are Chester's small plastic yogurt drink bottles. The fridge is also full of plastic, including containers of yogurt and cream cheese, and squeeze bottles of ketchup and hot sauce.

Lai's family tries to cook as often as they can, but both Lai and Lagacé work, and lately Lai has been working six days a week, so the family is relying a lot on takeout.

They're not alone. Kelleher says consumers' busy lifestyles have fuelled a growing appetite for takeout, ready-to-eat food, and small, individualized packages like coffee pods — typically packaged in plastic.

Because of the way recycling plants are designed, many small items are harder to sort than fewer large items. Lighter materials, like plastic, are also less efficient to process because materials are sold by the tonne but the capacity of trucks and processing plants is limited by volume. And recyclables can't be compacted like garbage because that makes sorting too challenging.

The consequences of all these changes are ballooning costs and flatlining or even declining

recycling rates in many cities. In Ontario, the cost of recycling has more than doubled since 2002, while recycling rates have barely budged, says Calvin Lakhan, a post-doctoral researcher in waste management at York University in Toronto. He says jurisdictions across Canada, Europe



Workers sort blue box contents at a material recovery facility in Winnipeg run by Emterra Group. Adding extra technology to such facilities could make them more adaptable to new kinds of packaging and reduce contamination in the recyclables that are recovered. (Brett Purdy/CBC)

and the U.S. have the same problems.

A further complication is that many newer types of plastic packaging, such as the resealable flexible pouches used to package frozen vegetables and baby food, for example, aren't recyclable in conventional plants but often find their way into blue bins.

Increasing contamination

That's contributed to another big problem: Growing levels of contamination. Non-recyclable materials ranging from some types of plastic packaging to globs of peanut butter are finding their way into blue bins, further hiking costs, complicating logistics and making it harder to sell the material so it can be turned into new products and offset the cost of recycling.

Toronto's recycling contamination rate has soared to an average of about 25 per cent in recent years.

Jim McKay, the city's general manager of solid waste management services, says every percentage point increase in contamination costs an extra \$600,000 to \$1 million a year.

That's largely because it requires extra time and labour to collect contaminated material and dispose of it in the landfill.

Part of the problem is that household sizes are shrinking and more and more people are living in apartment and condo buildings in cities like Toronto.

Many buildings require residents to go all the way downstairs and outside to empty and sort their recycling into common bins. That discourages recycling and increases the likelihood that a bin will be contaminated.

"Participation is low and then for people who participate, they don't always get it right," Kelleher says.

But the biggest factor might be that most people aren't clear on what's recyclable — something that varies from community to community and is constantly changing.

"My belief is that there's some genuine confusion," says Mark Badger, executive vice-president of Canada Fibers, a company that sorts and processes recyclables for 14 communities across Ontario, amounting to roughly 60 per cent of the province's blue box waste.

Solutions to the 'evolving ton' So what to do?

Obviously, the onus can't be on the public to adapt their lifestyles to suit the recycling system. So it's governments and recycling systems that are going to have to adapt.

The most obvious solution is technology.

Badger says deploying new technology at plants that process recycling can both:

Clean up contamination so the recovered materials are pure enough to sell to both domestic markets and importers like China that have raised their standards.

Adapt to new kinds of packaging.

Of course, cutting-edge recycling technology doesn't come cheap, especially at a time when recycling costs per tonne are rising.

That means municipalities need to look for creative solutions for funding recycling programs. One solution is what's known as extended producer responsibility, where the manufacturers that produce the packaging are also responsible for recycling it. Producers share the cost of recycling with municipalities in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, P.E.I. and Quebec.

In B.C., the first province where producers are fully responsible for recycling costs, they're also responsible for every other aspect of recycling, from collection to processing to finding markets for the recycled materials, through an organization called Recycle BC.



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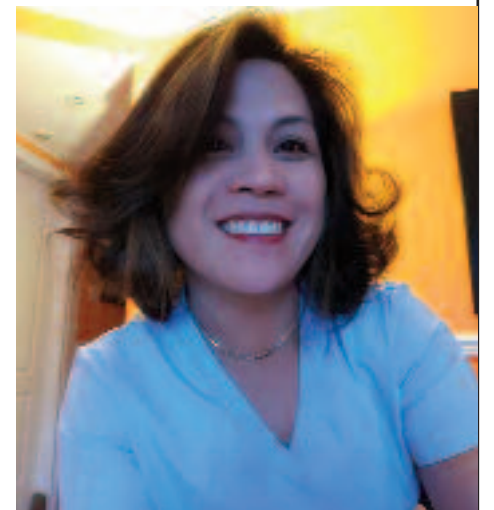
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