

# Survey report reveals plight of Filipino caregivers, need for reforms

Montreal, November 20, 2008  
 CTV news aired the release of a study about the plight of Filipino caregivers which brought to the attention of the public what the Live-in Caregiver Program is all about and how it has affected the lives of migrant workers who are mostly women. The study was undertaken through the collaborative efforts of PINAY members and the students and researchers of McGill University's School of Social Work and the assistance of specialists from UQAM. PINAY, an organization of Filipino women in Quebec, founded in 1991, has been playing a key role in the struggle to protect the rights and welfare of migrants and immigrants, especially Filipina domestic workers and their families living and working in Quebec. During a seminar held at 6767 Cote des Neiges, a dramatization of the difficult working conditions of live-in caregivers, was an eye opener to what has long been hidden in the privacy of homes where they work. It



Some members and officers of PINAY pose for souvenir after the seminar held on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at Centre Resources Communautaire, 6767 Cote des Neiges, in Montreal. CTV aired the video of this seminar only on Nov. 20, 2008.

See Page 4 - Filipino caregivers

## No clear winner in leaders debate



Laguna Province TOURISM | PAGE 10

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**Premier Jean Charest**

Liberal Leader Jean Charest fended off his opponents who hammered away at his government's health care and financial record in office in what turned out to be a feisty election debate Tuesday night. Charest launched the two-



**PQ Leader Pauline Marois**

hour televised election debate by appealing to Quebecers to trust him during these turbulent economic times. "The issue of this election campaign is the economy," the Liberal leader stated plainly during his opening remarks.



**ADQ Leader Mario Dumont**

"The question you must ask yourselves on Dec. 8 is who you can trust to handle our economy." Charest, who called a snap election this fall with the hopes of

See Page 9 Leaders debate

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# EDITORIAL

## Let the inspiration for change be the model for world leaders

It was indeed a moving experience - a historical significance of untold proportions. For the first time, the president of the most powerful nation in the world is an African-American, born and raised in a mixed culture, Barrack Hussein Obama. Perhaps, his rich cultural legacy prepared him for this role but until it happened, no one has ever predicted that it is possible to elect the first black president of the United States of America..

What does this all mean? Experts have a lot to say but no one can say yet how this will translate to real changes, however, one thing is certain - Obama inspired the youth to believe in his slogan "Change we can believe in," and they went out and voted in large numbers.

We are looking for a leader like him - powerful, charismatic, intelligent, a man who seems to have brought the world together and transformed people to think that there is hope to make things better. Will he really meet all our expectations? Are we on the way to finding that elusive holy grail of peace and harmony?

From all that has been happening, it would seem that Barrack Obama, besides capturing the imagination of the American people and the rest of the world, is on the right track. Hence, everyone is waiting with eagerness his inauguration on January 20, 2009 as the 44th president of the United States of America.

Beginning with his victory speech, Barrack Obama demonstrated his unique gift of

making an eloquent speech. The gist of his message is memorable - in our diversity we are one, and that he is the president of all, regardless of creed, race, religion, and political affiliation. That speech won again the hearts and minds of people listening and watching him.

Amidst the financial and economic crisis the world is facing, people are counting on Obama to make the proper decisions. They are looking up to his leadership. Perhaps, we will not be disappointed. So far, his appointments of key people to form his cabinet have been logical and conciliatory. He is reaching out to everyone, even to his former opponents. He has shown the true spirit of goodwill and leadership by deciding to work with those who criticized him. He knows that the only way to face the world's problems and find solutions is to work together. He is using his great intellect to choose his economic team first for he knows that the economy is the basic foundation of people's survival. He seems able to put politics aside, choosing the best brains from wherever they are, mixing the new order with the old. When he was criticized that he has not fulfilled his promise of change - he pointed out that "he is the agent of change."

If our community leaders will take his example, and be our own agents of change, we may eventually see the day when we have learned how to work together so that we can look forward to a brighter future.

Zenaida Kharroubi



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# COOPERATIVE NEWS

## It's almost Christmas - we need all members to make it better

It's a continuous struggle to spread the word that the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative membership should be more active in patronizing their own cooperative store. It will be interesting to know exactly how many members really shop every week, however, we know that we are far from the ideal goal of having 90% of the membership buy their groceries weekly from the Coop. In fact, we will be happy to see even 20% of members buy \$10 weekly.

By way of updating our membership list, we are printing all the names of our members under two categories - fully paid and partially paid. But first, we will publish fully paid members in this issue and to be continued in the next issue for there is not enough space to publish all the 600 names. If you believe that you had paid and do not find your name, please contact us immediately and show us your receipt so that we can correct our records. We are hoping that by publishing the names of all members, we will be able to reach as many members as possible and that they will be interested in becoming more active by buying even \$10 of groceries every week.

We will continue to stock new merchandise and buy fresh vegetables if not weekly every two weeks on Friday mornings so that our members can shop during the weekends when they have more time. Fresh meat will probably be available in a few more weeks as we are still getting more quotations from refrigeration companies that will install the cooling equipment properly.

There are still a lot of work to be done in the Coop including the accounting and the establishment of the ID card system. We have only received a few photos from members. We still need to remind everyone to give us their ID size photos so that we can have them prepared. We are hoping to have our accounting done by the end of the year so that we can have the financial statements prepared for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2007. It is beyond our control that the delay is one year again. Our former cashier left in February 2008 consequently, our bookkeeper had to take over the cashier's job, hence, she was unable to do any accounting until she left in

May 2008 when her contract expired.

Our new cashier started working with us last May 15, 2008 and she has been doing a terrific job. Rosa Basilan has been doing everything possible to help out. She volunteers to accompany me in going shopping early in the morning every week. In her desire to increase our sales, she has been reported to be persistent in coaxing customers to buy other things besides the ones they want. Someone was overheard to be complaining to her friend: (Napakakulit naman yung nasa Coop.) We want you to know that we are listening to your feedback. We have therefore asked Rosa to be less persistent and to be more careful with those who may be easily upset. We do not have to do any hard sell as we believe things will work out eventually as we are trying our best to offer our members the best deal they can get in Montreal and everything they need.

We have started our weekly in-store specials and we will continue to do so in order to make our inventory move faster so that our members can enjoy fresh supplies of products all the time.

Before concluding this month's cooperative news, I would like to reiterate my appeal to all those who have yet to become a member. We need everyone to come and be part of the Filipino Solidarity Cooperative. We believe that it is only through our cooperative that we will be able to build a successful business enterprise that will create jobs for the community and help improve our economic life.

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

We hope to have many more members to enlist besides the following people who signed up during the old administration:

- 0181-05 Abad, Julius
- 0267-05 Abella, Dindo
- 0217-05 Abueva, Teresita
- 0121-05 Acurantes, Flor
- 0213-05 Agustin, Conchita
- 0186-05 Alamay, Erlinda
- 0100-05 Allego, Patria
- 0031-05 Almanon, Eugene
- 0316-05 A,mandoron, Enrique
- 0365-05 Amarillo, Domingo
- 0023-05 Andaya, Roberto
- 0101-05 Angeles, Iluminada
- 0314-05 Apattad, Rosemarie

- 0396-06 Araneta, Helen
- 0395-06 Araneta, Peter
- 0333-06 Arevalo, Armando
- 0332-06 Arevalo, Michael
- 0331-06 Arevalo, Milagros
- 0501-06 Arguilles, Herminia
- 0495-06 Ariola, Arlene
- 0369-06 Arlegui, Carlito
- \_\_\_\_\_ Asuncion, Milagros
- 0054-05 Austria, Lerma
- 0476-06 Autentico, Delia
- 0371-06 Autentico, Maximo
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bade, Benjamin
- 0568-06 Balibol, Maryvic
- 0028-05 Banawa, Teodora
- 0016-05 Baptista, Marilou
- 0215-05 Bautista, Rodolfo
- 0517-06 Bertulfo, Lota
- 0521-06 Bianco, Sonia
- 0221-05 Birao, Marlene
- 0364-06 Brillantes, Irene
- 0009-05 Bulaon, Renato
- 0273-05 Cabantugan, Marcelino
- 0139-05 Caisip, Rosita
- 0008-05 Camat, Judith
- \_\_\_\_\_ Camat, Magnolia
- 0189-05 Casayuran, Emelita
- 0019-05 Castillo, Gerardo
- 0256-05 Castro, Erlinda
- 0025-05 Castro, Mike
- 0342-06 Cayanan, Emerita
- \_\_\_\_\_ Celebrados, Marcela
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colloa, Seonita
- 0565-06 Cortez, Artemio
- 0105-05 Cruz, Girlie
- 0190-05 Cubangbang, Analiz
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dacayan, Romeo
- 0471-06 Danzil, Gerry
- 0199-05 Daria, Preciocisima
- 0111-05 Datuan, Cecilia
- 0007-05 De la Cruz, Erlinda
- 0062-05 De la Cruz, Flora
- 0091-05 Dimaala, Ma. Ruth
- 0487-06 Desprez, Salve
- \_\_\_\_\_ Detorio, Nole
- 0177-05 Diaz, Pedro
- 0305-05 Diaz, Rechie
- 0285-05 Dizon, Luz
- 0047-05 Dizon, Romulo
- 0401-05 Doloso, Nieva
- 0319-06 Domingo, Elias
- 0018-05 Domingo, Estela
- 0203-05 Domingo, Isabelito, Sr.
- 0116-05 Domingo, Mercedes
- 0361-06 Dorado, Joyce
- 0146-05 Ehano, Esmeraldo
- 0479-06 Enerio, Nelly
- 0239-05 Escorpizo, Christopher
- 0356-06 Estoque, Modesta
- 0508-06 Eufemio, Leonarda
- 0261-05 Fabia, William
- 0086-05 Fagsao, Lourdes
- 0024-05 Foz, Norma
- 0020-05 Gallano, Marietta
- 0513-06 Gao, Veraruth
- 0415-06 Gascon, Estrella
- 0089-05 Hizon, Rufina
- 0380-06 Iluminado, Reoligio
- 0343-06 Insaideo, Faith Joan
- 0010-05 Javier, Janette

- 0505-06 Juno, Joan
- 0001-05 Kalaw, Carmen
- 0222-05 Kemp, Marlyn
- 0071-05 Kharroubi, Zenaida
- \_\_\_\_\_ Khourry, Shinette
- 0456-06 Labagnac, Jerome
- 0452-06 Lanada, Merien
- 0206-05 Lasin, Aleta
- 0350-06 Lasin, Audificia
- \_\_\_\_\_ Laya, Victoria
- 0200-05 Liganor, Transfiguracion
- 0427-06 Lim, Elma
- 0426-06 Lim, Jim
- 0473-06 Lo, Anita
- 0474-06 Loaquiao, Nicolas
- 0226-05 Loria, helen
- 0090-05 Lorica, Domingo
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loyola, Alicia Bustamante
- 0183-05 Lumingao, Elizabeth
- \_\_\_\_\_ Magallanes, Patria Lourdes
- 0483-06 Mahar, Derek
- 0285-05 Malumbres, Adelina
- 0484-06 Mananquil, Roselle
- 0313-05 Mangubat, Felina
- 0250-05 Mangubat, Virgilio
- 0131-05 Manzanal, Yolanda
- 0571-06 Mendoza, Elma
- \_\_\_\_\_ Michael, Annette
- 9115-05 Mones, Conrado
- 0065-05 Montilla, Frederick
- 0424-06 Nolasco, Joaquina Mary
- 0289-05 Nuguid, Ester
- 0347-06 Ochinang, Remedios
- 0069-05 Ogerio, Angelita
- 0087-05 Olivier, Louis Jacques
- 0376-06 Orbon, Janet
- 0439-06 Oriente, Angelito
- 0438-06 Oriente, Luz
- 0147-05 Paglinawan, Mercydiza
- \_\_\_\_\_ Falcon, Sharlene May
- 0376-06 Paliboc, Ma. Teresa
- 0126-05 Panesa, Teresita
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pantaleon, Mario
- 0070-05 Parado, Julita
- \_\_\_\_\_ Parajillo, Emmanuel
- 0516-06 Paraon, Danilo
- 0312-05 Paroligan, Faustina
- 0464-06 Pascual, Susana
- 0567-06 Penaflores, Lilibeth
- 0171-05 Perez, Jojie
- 0017-05 Perigno, Naida
- 0140-05 Perpugal, Cristita
- 0356-05 Pestillos, Benedicto
- 0238-05 Pestillos, Donnalyn
- 0094-05 Pia, Jocelyn
- 0003-05 Prada, Rosalinda
- 0386-05 Quirapas, Nida
- 0443-05 Quizon, Larabelle Faith
- 0444-06 Quizon, Ligaya
- 0066-05 Rabanera, Sherlita
- 0310-05 Raboy, Michael Don
- 0548-06 Ramos, Luzviminda
- 0500-06 Reglos, Gloria
- 0185-05 Repato, Elizabeth
- 0459-06 Repato, Primicias
- 0235-05 Robinson, Jasmin
- 0169-05 Robles, Alex
- 0218-05 Rogador, Antonio
- 0219-05 Rogador, Lourdes

(To be continued next issue)



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From Page 1 Filipino Caregivers

portrayed the abuses of some employers who do not respect the employment contract and even ask their caregivers to work for other relatives, or do other types of work not covered in the contract. Afraid of being fired, they usually do not complain and they just stick it out no matter how much abuse they suffer from. For most of them, it is better to put up with a bad employer rather than look for another one as it will take them a long time before they can work legally with a new employer.

According to Evelyn Calugay, the government does not even consider domestic work "real work". For this reason, caregivers are not covered by CSST (Commission de la santé et sécurité au travail). Hence, it was important for PINAY to have a better understanding of the work and health conditions of Montreal-based domestic workers for a number of reasons: 1) to have a factual information on which to base PINAY's advocacy work regarding the immigration, labour and CSST policies affecting domestic workers; 2) to reach out to isolated domestic workers, letting them know that PINAY is there to support them and offering them information about their basic rights; 3) to empower the existing PINAY membership by involving them in the development, implementation and analysis of a research that directly touches their lives, and 4) to ensure that PINAY's activities are continuing to answer to the needs and interests of contemporary domestic workers. By having a formal report, PINAY can continue with its advocacy work to ask the government to make some changes in their policies to improve the working conditions of caregivers.

Since 1992, the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) has served as the framework for the international flow of labour within the current context of the shortage of affordable child and elder live-in care. The programme allows individuals, overwhelmingly women, migrate to Canada and complete 24 months of live-in caregiver work in a government-approved employer's home within a three-year period, then these women have the right to apply from within Canada to become permanent residents.

In recent years, criticisms against the LCP have been cited by community groups interested in protecting and improving the lives of domestic workers. There was a successful campaign in 2001 to have domestic workers covered by the same Labour Standards as all other Quebec employees. Now domestic workers have, at least in law, the same minimum standards as all other workers but when it comes to workplace accidents or illness, domestic workers are still excluded.

Since 2006, there has been a "CSST for Domestic Workers" campaign led by PINAY (the Quebec Filipina Women's Organization), the Immigrant Workers' Center (IWC), the

Association des aides familiales du Québec (AAFQ) and the Union des travailleuses et travailleuses accidentées du Québec (UTTAM). The campaign has been frustrated by the reception they keep getting from government officials, responses that amount to the attitude that: "There's nothing dangerous about domestic work ...", "It's not really work. It happens in people's homes."

The reflections and conclusions of the report is quoted hereunder for our readers to appreciate fully the importance of the work accomplished jointly by PINAY, McGill University and UQAM.

"This community based survey serves to document the immigration, working, health and safety conditions faced by domestic workers in Montreal. Having reached nearly 150 domestic workers - a notoriously hard-to-reach population - allows us to paint a portrait which has never been done in Quebec. We see a mixed situation for domestic workers. Many enjoy decent working, health and safety conditions but there are a significant number who do not. And, unfortunately, questions of immigration and the fact of working in a private home makes it exceedingly difficult for those who have problems to seek recourse. Of the issue that have been raised in this survey, the most important include: domestic work is overwhelming the work of immigrant women, domestic workers often have to support not only their family in Canada but also their family abroad on their meager salaries, access to sick days and holidays is sketchy for domestic workers, domestic workers have difficulty accessing or are even excluded from government protections (such as EI, Labour Standards, and CSST), domestic work poses numerous risks to health and safety, and domestic workers have difficulty accessing health services.

This situation motivates PINAY to continue its organising and advocacy work for the rights and wellbeing of domestic workers, especially those under the LCP. The results of this survey will help to orient their work in relation to:

- Demanding that domestic workers be covered by CSST compensation measures

- Demanding that the 3-month delay in medicare coverage for new arrivals in Quebec be abolished and the LCP workers be covered while they are on open work permits and applying for permanent residency

- Fighting abuse by recruitment agencies

Apart from these specific campaigns, there is a basic need to provide information and education on domestic workers' rights and support for them when they face difficulties.

Our study supports the claim that domestic workers' "... status as women, as migrants or non-nationals, and as workers in gender segregated labour markets makes international female migrant workers vulnerable to various forms of discrimination,

exploitation and abuse." Subsequently, policies that are unacceptable to the average Canadian work environments are extended to this population. Domestic workers are often separated from families, underpaid, overworked and trapped within regressive policies. As a result, domestic workers experience a lack of legislative protection and higher incidences of psychological, physical and financial exploitation."

An example of caregivers' problem with some recruitment agencies was demonstrated and coincided with the launching of the results of PINAY's survey. Earlier in the day, a hearing of four caregivers was held at the Regie des Logements. They were sued by their recruiter, Mr. John Aurora, administrator/owner of Super Nanny, an agency that recruits nannies from different countries like the Philippines, Hongkong, Taiwan, and the Middle East to work as live-in caregivers in Canada. One of the lawyers, Mr. William de Marchand, represented two caregivers. He was interviewed by phone for this article.

According to Mr. de Marchand, Mr. Aurora is paid quite a bit of money, US\$4500 to find jobs for these caregivers but when they arrive here in Canada, nine out of ten persons do not have a job. While they are waiting for an employer, they stay in Mr. Aurora's office, for one or two weeks, sleeping on the floor. Then, Mr. Aurora would offer them one of his housing and ask them to pay an average of \$200 each. But first he makes them sign a lease. He has also been reported to have made an addendum to the leases but the women do not know what they are as they are not even given a copy of the lease in most of the cases. Considering that the rooms are overcrowded and are not really very nice, the rent is too expensive. When the women find a job, they leave his housing to live with the employer, or they leave because his place is too far from their work. Besides, they do not feel comfortable living in crowded rooms. Then Mr. Aurora would sue them for breaking the lease. In previous cases, some of the women reported they know of some caregivers who had to pay him out of

court because they did not know that they had a recourse. Others paid because Mr. Aurora obtained a judgement against them and they were unable to defend themselves, either because they did not know about the hearing on time, or they decided not to fight the case at all. This time, some of the women learned about tenants rights and they went to see Mr. Arnold Bennet who referred them to two lawyers, Miki Harrar and Ewa Gerus. At present, there are 13 caregivers who have been sued by Mr. Aurora but this time, they decided to fight back. They hired three lawyers who agreed to join together in arguing the case in front of the Régie des logements in order to show a pattern of Mr. Aurora who has been able to collect more money than what the caregivers owed him. The nine cases remaining will be heard at a later date which is not yet known at press time. If anyone who missed the CTV news report is interested to hear it, the link to the website is as follows: [http://montreal.ctv.ca/cfcf/video\\_popup?news\\_id=27529](http://montreal.ctv.ca/cfcf/video_popup?news_id=27529). A French Radio Canada reporter, Gino Harel, interviewed some of the caregivers for their testimony about what happened to them. You may listen to this radio show by going to the website of Radio Canada, and search for November 13, 2008 show of Mr. Desautels. The report was in French but some parts are in English, as the caregivers reply in English.

For more information about caregivers and their rights, contact PINAY at 514-364-9833, Evelyn Calugay, Chairperson.

The North American Filipino Star is interested in hearing from caregivers, live-in or live-out, to tell us about their own experiences, both good and bad. They can write to the Editor, 4950 Queen Mary Road Penthouse, Montreal, QC H3W 1X3, or by e-mail to: [filipinostar2@gmail.com](mailto:filipinostar2@gmail.com).

Any new developments in the advocacy for caregivers will be published as they become available. Organizations and other groups involved in presenting briefs to government agencies are welcomed to send their press releases to the North American Filipino Star. ■

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# Fight over Philippines island paradise turns ugly

Boracay, with its crystal clear water, white powder sand and constant sunshine, presents itself as a slice of paradise but scratch the surface and the island is seething with discontent.

The bone-shaped, 1,000-hectare (2,470-acre) island in the central Philippines has been transformed in 40 years from a sleepy limestone outcrop without electricity into one of the country's priciest chunks of real estate.

A fifth of the country's tourist traffic, mostly big-spending Americans and Europeans, winter along its 4.5-kilometre (2.8-mile) stretch of pristine beachfront that is drenched in year-round tropical sunshine.

havens.

But the scramble to secure ownership of some of the most valuable real estate in the country has led to violence including tear gas, fires and allegations of kidnapping, as well as prolonged court action.

Recently a 1.5-hectare (3.6-acre) warren of tourist shops, restaurants and inns was burnt to the ground ending one family's long, legal fight to keep the property they had spent years developing.

The Supreme Court has since awarded the property to a major developer.

Police reported finding "molotov

Hutchinson is still barricaded in the top floor of the 6,000-square-metre (1.5-acre) Sand Castles resort after his landlord canceled his lease and seized the ground floor with the help of armed private security.

The glass facade was shattered in the takeover skirmish. No one was hurt but the hotel guests fled, leaving fibreglass kayaks scattered in the yard.

"If these things (property disputes) continue no one in his right mind would want to come and visit this place," Superintendent Arnold Ardiente, police chief of this tourist island told AFP as his men brought food and toiletries upstairs to Hutchinson and his family.

"It's not good for the island," Steve Murray, a burly Australian shopkeeper who doubles as his country's consular warden for the area, said of the property disputes.

He has seen a few during his eight years here, but "many of them are kept quiet" so as not to upset the tourists.

Ardiente said: "There have been several incidents involving land disputes that turned violent. People would shoot at each other and people would die, but all these cases are now in the courts."

The local resort owners' association, called Boracay Foundation, is steering clear of the controversies and refusing to comment.

Still, with the peak tourist season just a month away, the locals are up in arms over a 2006 government edict that declared 40 percent of the island a forest reserve.

The Supreme Court recently upheld President Gloria Arroyo on the

issue, throwing out private claimants' bid to secure legal titles to land on which hundreds of millions of dollars have been sunk into tourist-related building improvements.

Only 10 percent of the area has land titles, with the rest of the resort owners and residents essentially leasing space by paying real estate taxes.

"While it's not really a major irritant because people have a way of settling these, it has remained an irritant because of the untitled nature of properties here on the island," said Florencio Miraflores, the congressman for the district.

Miraflores, who also owns land here, is pushing a bill that would allow families who have been in Boracay for 30 years to apply for legal titles to their plots.

With Philippine tourist arrivals projected to break through the four million-mark this year despite a global economic slowdown, three top hotel chains are expected to open within a year.

Filipino-American hotelier Ariel Abriam, who is buying up rights to beach-side property here, accepts that, like in Cancun or Waikiki, Boracay businesses would undergo consolidation with only the big players left standing as the tourist destination matures.

"All these little shops on the beachfront are going to disappear. It's just a matter of time," said the ex-US navyman, who spent his pension to build the 30-room Boracay Beach Club hotel that is favoured by Filipino movie stars and retired US servicemen. ■



**Flames engulf several disputed beachfront establishments on Boracay on November 5th. The resort island, with its crystal clear water, white powder sand and constant sunshine, presents itself as a slice of paradise but scratch the surface and the island is seething with discontent.**

Kite-boarders, sailboats, banana boats, swimmers and scuba-diving parties jostle for space along the clear, turquoise-tinged waters that are a few yards (metres) from hotels, tattoo parlours, bistros and other tourist

cocktails and an unknown flammable substance" among the ruins -- and despite rumours, no one seriously believes, the owners would burn down their own possessions.

Nearby, Australian hotelier Gregory

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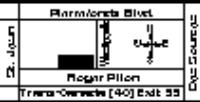
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The West Island's Largest

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From 7:30 PM to 9 PM

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From 9 AM to 5 PM

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# TOURISM LAGUNA PROVINCE

*Resort Province of the Philippines*

Laguna is a haven of fresh and pristine bodies of water such as hot springs, lakes, and waterfalls. Most notable is **Pagsanjan Falls**, formerly called Magdapio Falls, referred to as "shooting rapids." It is found in Cavinti, starting from Pagsanjan town. Another is **Lake Caliraya**, which is located between Cavinti and Lumban. The strong mountain breeze that blows from the Sierra Madre Mountain Ranges and the distant **Mount Banahaw** makes the lake an ideal place for aqua sports like wind surfing, water skiing, sailing as well as game fishing. Approaching the province is one of the most pleasant 1 1/2 hour drive in all of Luzon.

Innumerable hot springs abound in the province, including the famous **Hidden Valley Springs** which is located in a secluded part of Alaminos

town. A trip to Dalitwan River, located in Botocan, Majayjay, is an exciting adventure because the terrain is rugged, as mountain lands go, and the cool water or river gushes through the rocks and boulders along the watercourse in sweeping currents. The mystical **Mt. Makiling in Los Baños** is an inactive volcano, rising to about 1,109 meters above sea level. It is indeed endowed with nature's beauty, making it ideal for all types of nature tripping, from trekking to bird and butterfly watching and even camping.

Laguna is not only endowed with natural wonders. It also plays an important role in the country's history as the birthplace of Dr. Jose Rizal, the country's national hero, whose infancy and early manhood were spent in the towns of Calamba and Biñan. A number of churches of Spanish-influenced architecture in intricate Romanesque and Baroque design, mostly restored to their original elegance, are also found in the province.

The province is one huge showcase of Southern Tagalog craftsmanship. The town of Paete is famous for its woodcarvings, papier mache, and handmade paper



Buruwisan Falls in Famy Sinoloan, Laguna



A row of the sturdy, rustic Nipa Huts, famous in the tropics because its structure allowing the interior to remain breezy and cool even during the hottest months of the year. It is made of dried coconut leaves, woven together by abaca. 8 such Nipa Huts line the lakefront of Villa Escudero



Lake Caliraya - The man-made lake was built by American engineers in the 1930s in order to provide hydroelectric power in the region. Lake Caliraya is situated at 1,200 feet above sea level. It is endowed with cool winds, clear water, and the surrounding greenery.



Hidden Valley Springs, a popular family outing & picnic spot



The Nagcarlan Church was built during the mid 1800s, and is one of Nagcarlan's historical structures. The other famous structure in town is the Underground Cemetery.



The Grand Carousel in Enchanted Kingdom, the largest amusement park in the Philippines. Grand Carousel, located in Victoria Park (one of the Park Zones in EK), welcomes you into the age of Victorian elegance. One can meet and greet the park's mascot, the Wizard, and take a magical ride on the zone's centerpiece attraction.

products. Tree seedlings, sampaguita flowers, orchids, and exotic plants are big business. Cut flower farms are found mostly in towns of Calamba, Los Baños, and Bay. Sweet tropical fruits abound, such as the lanzones from Paete, pineapple from Calauan, chico, banana, mango, rambutan, and avocado. Add to these Laguna's embroidered garments. Jusi cloth

made from banana fiber is painstakingly, albeit deftly, transformed into beautiful pieces of clothing worthy of being tailored into the Philippine national costume, the Barong Tagalog. Shoes made from abaca hemp is a growing industry in the town of Liliw.

Owing to its nearness to Manila, Laguna is presently becoming the

center of economic activity in the Southern Tagalog Region and the Calabarzon area. Business in the area is bustling as shown by the presence of several industrial estates designed for handling large scale firms engaged in textile manufacturing, electronics, food processing, industrial machines, and car assembly. Today, Laguna is a thriving province. Its fertile lands produce millions of pesos' worth of coconuts, rice, sugar, citrus fruits, lanzones, and other agricultural products. Its tourist spots attract a multitude of foreign and domestic tourists. Other spots not to miss include:

- **Pagsanjan:** The town of Pagsanjan is blessed with natural wonders – the awe-inspiring gorges, the roaring rapids, and the Pagsanjan Falls, a plus factor that made Pagsanjan one of the premiere tourist attractions of the country.
- **Mount Makiling:** The mystical Mount Makiling is an inactive volcano rising to about 1,109 meters above sea level
- **Enchanted Kingdom:** Linger in one of the Philippines' finest theme parks, located in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where you can indulge in themed activities and fun rides for hours at affordable rates. ■



The province owes its name to this body of water that forms its northern boundary which, in turn, was named after the first provincial capital, the town of Bay. Laguna de Bay is known to be Southeast Asia's largest fresh water lake. It stays pristine throughout the year as the area is blessed with regular rain showers.



Lumot Lake



Majayjay Church



Pakil Church

[ Top & Above ] Built in the 18th century by the Franciscan Missionaries, the Underground Cemetery is enclosed by a circular structure. A red-tiled walk leads straight to the small chapel, where an altar-like structure is located. The tombstones are embedded on the brick walls of the cemetery and the basement. At the crypt of the cemetery, is where the local Katipuneros, plotted against Spanish rule.



Pagsanjan, Laguna - a great place to go rafting



Bunga Twin Falls, Laguna



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Cotler introduces Accountability Act

Liberal MP and Opposition Human Right Critic, Irwin Cotler, today introduced the Sudan Accountability Act, the first-ever legislation aimed at enhancing the role of Canada and the international community in combating the genocide by attrition in Darfur.

In introducing the Bill, the founder of the Save Darfur Parliamentary Coalition noted that, "It is only appropriate that on the eve of the 60th Anniversary of the Genocide Convention legislation be introduced to combat the first genocide of the 21st century."

The proposed legislation provides for targeted Government divestment from Sudan and requires that Government contactors certify they do not conduct business in Sudan. In particular, the legislation instructs Canada to act in concert with the international community - and the UN - to pursue initiatives aimed at ending the genocide, including the effective deployment of the joint UN-AU mission, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and the surrender of Sudanese genocidaires to the International Criminal Court.

"We know that more than 400,000 have died in this genocide by attrition, that 3 million have been displaced and at least four million are on a life-support system," said Cotler, adding: "As the student posters at Darfur rallies ask, 'If not us, who?' and 'If not now, when?.' This legislation alone will not end the genocide, but it is a vital and necessary step. The time to act is now." Contact: (613) 995-0121

## Philippine Airlines reports \$114M loss in 1st half

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The national carrier Philippine Airlines said Wednesday an unprecedented surge in fuel prices left it with a loss of \$113.8 million during the fiscal first-half.

The company said the average price of aviation fuel nearly doubled from \$83.73 per barrel in July-September 2007 to \$157.03 during the same period this year. As a result, the company's total comprehensive income of \$45.8 million in April-June was "more than erased" by the fuel price increases in the following quarter.

The revenues for April-September — the first half of

the company's fiscal year — rose by 16.5 percent to \$848.7 million as the airline increased its passenger load by 11.2 percent from a year ago to 4.19 million passengers.

However, total expenses ballooned 37.3 percent during the same period to \$971.8 million, with fuel — the biggest expense item — accounting for \$386.8 million, the company said. Additional income from changes in valuation of outstanding derivative assets amounting to \$9.3 million reduced losses to \$113.8 million.

## FAMAS Info Capsule

FAMAS is pleased to announce a collaboration with the Filipino Canadian Teachers' Association of Quebec in offering its Philippine Heritage Programme.. We invite parents to register their children by either sending me an e-mail or calling FAMAS at 514-341-7477.

FAMAS Philippine Heritage Programme

\* Sundays, 2 pm to 4 pm

\* A public service offered for free by FAMAS and the Filipino Canadian Teachers' Association of Quebec

\* Students will participate and present a cultural presentation at FAMAS' Children's Christmas Party, December 14, 2008

\* Students will also be awarded certificates at FAMAS' Graduation Day in June 2009  
FAMAS Computer Literacy Programme by Jim Balanga

\*Sundays, 4 pm to 6 pm

\*Class is limited to 5 participants at the moment; Register early or request to be included in the waiting list.

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From Page 1 Leaders Debate

securing a majority after heading up a 20-month minority government, said the Liberal party is best prepared to handle challenges arising from the global financial crisis.

ADQ Leader Mario Dumont promises to help middle-class Quebecers. ADQ Leader Mario Dumont promises to help middle-class Quebecers. Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois, appearing in her first leaders' debate, said Quebec needs a "government that takes decisions, and that tells Quebecers the truth."

Voters in the province didn't want an election, she said, accusing Charest of calling an election to avoid coming clean about Quebec's financial health.

"Mr. Charest has a new slogan – Elections Now, the Truth Later," said Marois.

Action Démocratique du Québec Leader Mario Dumont, who drew third place for the debate's opening statements, said middle-class Quebecers need more cash flow, and an ADQ government would help them with that.

Dumont, who is suffering from dismal poll showings in this campaign, played up his recent stint as Opposition leader in Quebec's legislature, saying his team "is readier than ever to work for you."

Both Dumont and Marois pressed Charest on Quebec's pension fund, suggesting it has bled more money than the government is ready to admit.

Leaders clash over health care

Charest and Marois traded barbs about Quebec's health care system, accusing each other of damaging the system while in power.

The Liberal leader said Marois was behind waves of nurse and doctor retirements in the 1990s when she was health minister under PQ premier Lucien Bouchard. Her decision back then precipitated the current staff shortages, Charest said.

Liberal Leader Jean Charest was the main target in Tuesday night's debate. Liberal Leader Jean Charest was the main target in Tuesday night's debate. (Jacques Boissinot/Canadian Press) Marois said she'd "never do that again," reminding Charest that when Bouchard and the PQ took power late last decade, "we faced a deficit, and we saved the health care system."

The Liberals, on the other hand, have created a "fiasco" in their efforts to improve the health care system, Marois said.

"You haven't even been able to build a hospital," she quipped, referring to the repeatedly derailed and bloated master plan to build a CHUM mega-health centre in Montreal.

Charest attacked the ADQ's

private sector-friendly health-care proposals, accusing Dumont of comparing health care to going to a restaurant when he talks about creating "à la carte" services.

Dumont shot back later, saying, "If I understand correctly, you don't have any solutions," referring to long pediatrician waiting lists.

When a viewer's question about caregiver support was broadcast, Dumont paid subtle tribute to popular Quebec singer-songwriter Chloé Sainte-Marie, who has singlehandedly campaigned on the issue while caring for her ailing partner, filmmaker Gilles Carle.

Polls suggest health care remains a top priority for Quebec voters. National question loses some fervour

The two-hour French-only debate at the national assembly focused on four separate topics: health, the economy, education and family, and Quebec's future.

PQ Leader Pauline Marois says Quebecers want a government that 'tells the truth.' PQ Leader Pauline Marois says Quebecers want a government that 'tells the truth.' (Jacques Boissinot/Canadian Press) The new debate format, with leaders sitting around a round table, did not discourage anyone from interrupting or talking over the other. The debate frequently burst into cacophony, which prompted

moderator Stéphane Bureau to interject several times in an attempt to restore order.

But when it came to Quebec's perennial core issue – sovereignty – the discussion was more subdued than in any recent election campaign.

Marois and Dumont both indicated their intention to eventually relaunch constitutional talks, while Charest underscored the urgent need to address economic matters instead of sovereignty.

The Liberal government won more powers for Quebec by brokering agreements with the federal government on key issues, including health, Charest said.

Dumont stressed the importance of negotiating a new place for Quebec in the Canadian Constitution, while Marois reiterated the PQ's ultimate goal of achieving sovereignty to improve the province's future prospects. ■

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Isaac T. Goodine

## Global Perspectives



### On reinventing oneself again & again

One year ago the heading for my article on Global Perspectives was 'On reinventing one's self.' Now, I have added to the title 'again & again'. Why so?

I have been extended the position of Director to serve on the board of directors for the New York-based Global Alliance for International Advancement (GAIA). So I am reinventing myself yet again, and will work with GAIA over the next two-years to help promote international advancement.

A year ago I wrote that a large and growing number of people are now in a state of "retro-retirement"; meaning they still work either on fixed-term or part-time assignments in their area of expertise. I am one such person and know many others, particularly in the arena of international development where I have worked for many years. In my own state of retro-retirement I have welcomed the creation of GAIA and appreciate this new opportunity to contribute to international development as a logical extension of my career.

As with all international undertakings, the success of GAIA will depend heavily on our ability to build a corporation based on sound professional ethics, solid academic qualifications, a track record of successful experience, effective interpersonal skills, with well developed cross-cultural communications ability. GAIA's stakeholders are its members, the clients they serve, and the agencies that provide financial and technical assistance for international development. GAIA is not beholden to 'shareholders' so its success depends on meeting the expectations of all its stakeholders. This makes transparency and effective communications of paramount importance in dealing with stakeholders. My proposition is to build on experience and draw on individuals that we already know, and include others that we will soon come to know, so that we can promote the development and use of 'English as a global working language (EGWL)'. This is different from English as a Second Language (ESL) that currently relegates participants to 'second level' competence in the language of their career field. To communicate across cultures it is often necessary to learn, or re-learn, to listen, to speak, to read, and to write. Factors such as accent, body language and cultural mores can

be more readily learned thereafter.

I am currently working to establish an "A-Team" to develop a program to incorporate different ways of communicating in English—so called, from different regions. Here is some background to the scheme. During my career in international development the economy has become global and, belatedly, education and training have only started to be internationalized. As the need to unlock cultural resources became more apparent we gained a better understanding of the importance of learning to communicate more effectively cross-culturally. I had extensive experience in Zambia as the leader of a team of professionals from over 20 countries and to work in Kenya with a team who had more than seventy 'person-years' of collective experience in 15 countries and in each case we instituted team-building programs for faculty members that included language development based on using a common approach to 'English as the language of instruction'. Three specialists in teaching English as a second language applied their skills in the context of career and technical education ---and it worked. They were, Peter Bonsey, of England, Ron Balsdon, of Canada, and Lucy Turinitsa, of the Ukraine, and I regret that they are no longer available but their methods have been documented as a guide to develop a 'working language' based on business and technology as the path to career success in transcending national boundaries. This is in contrast to the present approach of teaching English as a second language (ESL) that is in isolation from the job market and fails to advance the career prospects of immigrants and international workers.

When I first joined the World Bank I had to learn a new language—related to human development. It was euphemistically called 'Bankeeze'. Fortunately I was able to write in the manner required by the Bank and its clients and, those writing skills account for much of my success at the Bank. It is particularly important to be able to incorporate input from various sources and present a coherent report that the Bank and its client can act upon. Also early on at the Bank, I had the benefit of attending a 'Mission Leaders' course that included a stated objective to arrive at 'a common language' as our working language, and I benefited

greatly from a course in cross-cultural communications that was designed and delivered by Pierre Casse, Author of Training for the Cross-cultural Mind. Later on he became a contributor to by my book, Leaders Leading Leaders. While in the Philippines, I worked with Violeta A. Laraya, Author of Working in a Cross-Cultural Environment, and later she was the Editor of my book on Leadership. While living in Barbados I became associated with Junior Campbell a linguist with special expertise in Caribbean English, especially the 'Bajan variety which includes a special Dictionary for Barbados. He is now publisher of 'Tides Caribbean' from his current home base in England. For the past few years, I have worked with Zenaida Ferry-Kharroubi, Chief Editor and Publisher of the Filipino Star, and owner of Gilmore International College, in Montreal, Canada. She was a recent winner of a distinguished award for Filipinos Abroad presented to her in Washington DC, The latest 'recruit' to my network of distinguished cross-cultural communications practitioners is Forte Gerardo. Author of 'Ka-initindi' han (Mutual Understanding) Canadians' Practical Guide, Dealing With Today's Global Filipinos.

Forte is the incoming President of the Canada Filipino Business Council and is prepared to add his expertise to the growing demand to find a better way to communicate throughout the global workforce and to serve immigrant communities already established and destined to continue growing in several as remittances to the home country have become the mainstay of the economy for several countries who

have nationals working abroad.

There are about nine million 'Pinoys' (Filipinos) using English while working abroad and in the case of the Cayman Islands they form the largest component of the labor market outnumbering 'Citizens' in the workplace of several establishments. There are more people in China using English as their main working language now than there are working in English in the USA, Canada and Mexico combined. Several years ago, a school boy in Korea won an English language prize that included a trip to the USA and when he visited the UN he decided to become a Diplomat and now he, Ban Ki-Moon, is Secretary General of the United Nations. His Countryman Dr Man-Gon Park, became Eighth Director General of the Colombo Plan Staff College, and upon assuming the position declared 'For the next five years I am no longer Korean'—that was his way of saying he represents the 20 member countries and not just his homeland. Both men still speak with an 'accent.', but who cares? Many 'Canajuns' (Canadians) also have funny accents 'Eh' according to speakers-of-other-languages who have trouble understanding what a "Canuck" (French-Canadian) means when he is referring to the 'Arsseyempe' (RCMP) and their musical ride. Most Australians, with funny accents, would have no trouble understanding someone from the Solomon Islands who would comment about 'Number one pickinen for missus quinn' meaning (First born child of the Queen), Prince Charles, who had a birthday bash (party) last week when

See Page 14 Global Perspectives

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# Philippine Cuisine

## Bistek (Philippine style Beef Steak)



**Ingredients:**

- 2 pounds sirloin steak, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper salt to taste
- 1 cup thinly sliced onion rings
- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- 1/2 cup water

**Instructions:**

Marinate the meat in lemon juice, soy sauce, pepper and salt for 3 hours or more. Cook onion rings in oil until transparent. Transfer to a serving dish, leaving the oil in the skillet. Add the meat to the skillet and cook over high heat, stirring often, until tender. Transfer the meat to a serving dish. Add marinade and water to the skillet, simmer for 10 minutes and pour over the meat and onion rings.

## Chicken Apritada

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pound chicken
- 1 pound pork -- fat removed
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 clove garlic -- minced
- 1/4 cup onion -- diced
- 1 stalk celery -- sliced
- 1/4 head cabbage -- chopped
- 1 each carrot -- peeled and chopped
- 8 ounces vermicelli
- Accent seasoning mix -- to taste



salt and pepper -- to taste

**Instructions:**

Boil the chicken and pork in small amount of water. Cook till done. Remove chicken from bones and cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Cut pork into 1/2-inch cubes. Save broth meat was cooked in. Saute garlic and onion in butter till onion is tender. Add meats to pan. Add some broth and Accent and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer and add carrots. Cook for 5 minutes then add celery and cabbage. Cook for 5 minutes more or until vegetables are tender. Boil water for the vermicelli. Cook according to package directions then add to mixture in pan. Add more broth to mixture if necessary and cook until heated through. Adjust seasonings to taste. Other noodles may be used in place of the vermicelli as long as it is thin.

**Pork Sarsiado**

**Ingredients:**

- 1 lb. pork
- 1/2 lb. peas

## Pork Sarsiado



3 medium-sized bell peppers (2 red, 1

green)  
 2 tbsp. flour  
 2 sliced tomatoes  
 1 sliced onion  
 3 cloves garlic, crushed  
 salt to taste  
 2 tbsp. cooking oil  
**Instructions:**  
 Sauté garlic, onions and tomato in oil (gisa). Add pork and cook until done. Add 2 cups water and boil for 5 minutes. Add peppers and peas and cook for 5-10 minutes. Add flour, stirring occasionally.

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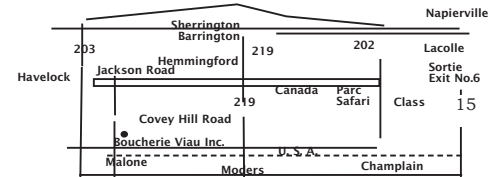
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<p><b>Half or Whole pork Cut &amp; Wrapped</b>  <b>1.<sup>35</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Front quarter of beef</b>                  Approximately 200 lbs  <b>2.<sup>09</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Boneless leg of ham</b>  <b>3.<sup>99</sup> lb</b></p>
<p><b>Home smoked meat</b>  <b>8.<sup>79</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Pork Spare Ribs</b>  <b>2.<sup>99</sup> lb</b></p>	<p>1 litre of fresh blood with purchase when available 1/2 pork  <b>Regular smoked bacon</b>  <b>4.<sup>89</sup> lb</b>                  10 lbs &amp; over  <b>4.<sup>79</sup> lb</b></p>
<p><b>Fresh Belly with skin</b>  <b>3.<sup>29</sup> lb</b></p>	<p><b>Beef short ribs</b>  <b>2.<sup>49</sup> lb</b></p>	

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# The North American Filipino Star PHOTO GALLERY



Cubs and Scouts busy making their parol under the supervision of the Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebe, Saturday, November 22, 2008, at Appleton Center. May Virola, chairperson of the activity, is shown helping a Cub Scout.



Elenita Belgica (at left) president of the Philippine Folk Art Society of Quebec, poses with the parents, members, and the Laging Handa Scout Group after the parol making workshop, November 22, 2008.



New Cubs, Scouts and adult volunteers were inducted into the Laging Handa Scouts Group, November 15, 2008. Souvenir photo taken after the investiture ceremony held at the Famas Building on Van Horne Avenue in Montreal.



Marivel and Martin Riendeau with their one-year old son, Emilien.



Happy grandparents are holding Emilien Riendeau for a souvenir photo during his first birthday, November 16.

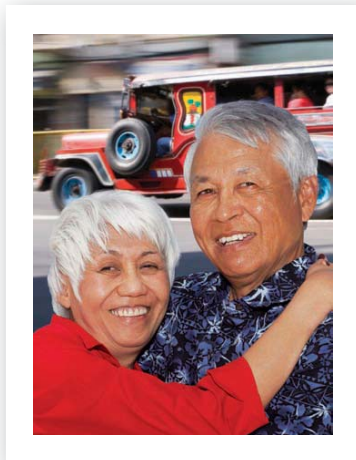


Romeo Valenzuela (center in blue shirt) celebrated his birthday on November 22, 2008 with his family and friends. Party was held at the Famas Building.



(Foreground, from left) Leo Miranda, Remy Balmes, Marivel Riendeau. Second row: Nestor Miranda, Jr., Zenaida Kharroubi, Esmeralda Roldan, Maricel Fonacier, and Martin Riendeau. Photo taken at the first birthday party of Emilien Riendeau in St. Remi, Quebec.





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SA BUHAY SA PILIPINAS...**



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Many of you have expressed an interest in starting your own home-based business. The following are articles of Inspiration from real-life people who have volunteered to tell a little about themselves and their home-based business experiences.

As a child, Nicole Simon's mom would make her special walnut recipe for friends during the holidays.



Friends asked for their delectable walnut treats that making it and giving it as a holiday gifts became the mother-daughter tradition in their household.

In December 2002, Nicole was urged to find her way to make their nuts more accessible to everyone. She sold her special walnuts—which she describes as a “little bit of sugar, a dab of salt and a whole lot of love.”—to the public at the Jean Talon Market, in Montreal. The nuts came in Chinese take-out boxes with fortunes messages, and they were a huge success. Since this humble beginning, Fortunuts has become a successful gourmet food item, with assorted sizes, new unique packaging and made-to-order fortunes. Nicole's Fortunuts now come in three varieties: Sweet & Salted Walnuts, Mesquite Walnuts and Sweet and Salted Pecans. Today, Fortunuts is available in up scales stores and at online fortunuts.com and in gourmet gift baskets.

I chat Nicole Simon, founder of Fortunuts about her successful gourmet nuts business and the challenges she faces.

The walnuts have been your mother's recipes. When did you start thinking that the nuts can be a viable business. What was the specific instance that made you realize the business potential of the nuts?

I stated to think that the nuts would be viable business when I work at the Nordstrom. I would bring them in as a holiday gift and all my co workers would urge me to try sell them in the stores “Gift Gallery Dept. and we're sold out. In addition they would start asking me for the “holiday nuts” in October

When did you officially launch Fortunuts.com? How long was the preparation to launch the business

I launched Fortunuts.com about 6 months after selling at the farmer's market consistently and gaining a bit of a following customers. People would not want to wait to get their nuts a whole week, or if they could not make it to the market etc... it took me 6 months of research to get it together. I wanted to make sure that I have a perfect logo and package design that spoke about our product. The photography was amateur at first but once I got it up there, I was able to generate some income and hire a product photography.

What is the concept behind Fortunuts? How do you differentiate your nut products from others in the market?

First and foremost we offer the highest quality delicious healthy tasting product on the market and at the same time giving customers a savvy, unique and sophisticated gift idea. Not only packaging but a fortune as well. We also offer custom fortunes for the corporate, wedding and other special occasions. You can eat a great

snack and find inspiration while doing so. My product is fresh and handmade to order. We use no preservatives and simple ingredients that taste incredible. Out packaging is high end, clean and looks great on the shelf next to most anything.

What was the most difficult part of starting Fortunuts? How do you describe your early days?

The most difficult time of starting Fortunuts was dealing with the Food Aspect. I could not find a commercial kitchen. There are million FDA laws that I never thought about when all of this nut stuff popped into my head. I thought you could just cook in your own kitchen “lol”. That was my first Aha! Moment. My early days were half living the “dream” creating something in half “oh my goodness what have I done”. When you do something like this where it takes so much creativity, you always have a ton going through your head. At times, you are not sure where to draw the line to stop exploring. For example, I decided on what the logo looked like and then for days I would still be looking for the right thing. I really had a hard time trying to focus without a regular structured day as I was used in the corporate world. You really have to schedule everything out. I would stay up for hours doing research and more research on similar products. I would then get caught up on the minute details and forget that I had a bigger picture to deal with. I truly went with the flow of how things came to me. In retrospect, I would certainly have done some better planning on building the business rather than flying by the seat of my pants.

How did you finance the business? What were the challenges you faces during the financing stage?

I only have one thing to say-VISA and my FAMILY!!! And of course word of mouth. Things happened so fast that I really had no choice. I did not ever have a business plan—although I'm not sure how many people are successful just because they had one. Everyone tried in every way to help us whether it was with their physical labor or money to invest. We have so many fans who have become supporters and angel investors.

How are you balancing the demands of a successful business, family and other interest? Its called breathing deeply. As a mom of two toddlers I have to really break thing up into bite size pieces. That has taken some thing used to and still is a struggle to this day. When September hits – my life goes overdrive and everything is “NUTS!” We really do most of our business in 4th qtr since we are such a great unique item. I have learned to organize myself better and to try to take on only what I can handle. In all honesty, I am not a role model on balancing to take care of myself. I have to be forced to go and get mani/pedi and do thing for myself. Having two little boys has been very challenging and I am putting their need as first (as most moms do). Its my friends and family who remind how much people loved our product and that is always a nice injection of

motivation. Also do know as women we tend to be superheroes and it's key to step away and replenish self to step back into the arena and be not only a better mom but a smarter and focused business owner.

How do you see your business 5 years from now?

Our other focus is to expand our hotel/liability industry business. I think that is where we can get the best bang for our buck. We think this is a huge growing market for our product and we have a handful of partners in this industry who have demonstrated the demand for this product in various areas within hospitality.

What lesson do you wish to share to entrepreneurs?

Firstly I think my not spending so much time obsessed with what my plan was actually a gift. I followed and trusted my instinct and really created a product that is unique to me. ?

Surround yourself with the right PEOPLE – it is #1 important thing.?

Keep you feet in the water as to what is going on in your industry and the latest news on all areas of your business, research and more research!?

Keep it interesting, keep changing a bit, add flavors, tweak you website to always appear to be fresh and on the front lines of what's is going on trend. ■

#### From Page 10 Global Perspectives

he turned 60. When a Texan says he wants to ‘visit’ with you he means by telephone and when an East Indian says he is ‘fed-up’ he means that he has had plenty to eat; and when a hotel clerk in England asks a lady guest if she would like to be ‘knocked up’ in the morning he means would she like to be awakened—that's all.

However accents, and word sounds are only part of the fun of learning to communicate across-cultures. Body language is also important and must be learned. As far as learning on the job is concerned, there are few examples to rival the Colombo Plan Staff College as a place to develop the ‘soft skills’ of interpersonal relations demanded in an Inter-governmental international learning institution. Mrs. Laraya captures so much of the obvious and more of the subtleties involved in such an environment in the book already mentioned. On the matter of protocol and proper respect in matters of human relations she offers much insight.

“The CPSC staff members were drilled in the protocol of each of the member countries, especially if they differed greatly from what was generally accepted etiquette of polite Philippine society. A familiarization seminar was conducted at the College about each of the member countries using materials generously provided by the embassies. The staff learned to bow from the waist with hands on the side before the Japanese Ambassador. They learned to bow with their heads, hands clasped together and thumbs placed against the lips, to the Thai Ambassador. They learned to



bow from the shoulders with hands hands clasped and placed against the chest before ambassadors from countries of the Indian sub-continent

CPSC ladies also learned not to offer their hand first to the gentleman for a handshake or the shake hands with the representatives of the Iranian Embassy. They likewise learned not to sit at table with the Moslem gentlemen, unless they were invited to do so (which was not often). Generally, they learned with whom they could make small talk and not be rebuffed nor ignored entirely. More importantly, they learned by trial and error, what topics were safe enough to talk about. They learned that most of the time the seeming snub was nothing personal. It was just that in their culture THAT was how things were done or not done."

The College has also developed custom designed modular training programs in international

business and management (IBM) that can be used to help people enter of expand their role in international organizations. In regard to reinventing one's self again & again, it is a sign of the times. Some educational planners believe that the generation now in school in developed countries will change jobs a dozed times and change careers five times. A feature of my own 'retro retirement' is the fact that I am still called on from time to time by former employers the Colombo Plan Staff College and the World Bank Group and this enhances my ability to contribute to the development of GAIA and its growing network, including Interns and experienced senior members.

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**DUMANDAN ENTERTAINMENT SERVICES**

## Impeachment complaint vs GMA junked

The House Committee on Justice today junked the fourth impeachment complaint filed by businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III against President Arroyo.

Voting 42-8, the committee ruled that the complaint was "insufficient in substance."

"I move that this committee resolve to dismiss the Jose de Venecia III impeachment complaint for being insufficient in substance," Rep. Edcel Lagman said.

Lagman also moved that the statement made by Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casino be removed from the record. "I would like to remove from the record the statement of the honorable Casino that we are here like bulag (blind), pip (mute) and bingi (deaf). That's an insult to the members of this committee. Those are unparliamentarily remarks," he explained.

Before the House voted to junk the impeachment complaint, both pro- and anti -impeachment groups presented summaries of their stands on the issue.

In favor of an impeachment proceedings, House Minority leader Ronaldo Zamora said it would give Mrs. Arroyo the chance to answer all allegation hurled against her. On the other hand, Lagman, who spoke in behalf of the anti-impeachment group,

said the complaint merely contained "recycled facts".

In an interview over ANC after the House votation, former House Speaker and Pangasinan Rep. Jose

de Venecia said that what transpired this morning at the House of Representatives is "a temporary defeat for truth and justice."

"Our legal scholars will tackle the

possibility of a legal challenge at the Supreme Court," he said.

The elder De Venecia had endorsed the impeachment complaint filed by his son Jose III in San Francisco, California on Nov. 4. The original endorsers of the complaint were Casino, Satur Ocampo, also of Bayan Muna, and Liza Maza of Gabriela.

The most recent impeachment raps against the President was the fourth filed against her since 2005. Under De Venecia's leadership, the House dismissed the impeachment complaints against Mrs. Arroyo in 2005, 2006 and 2007 for lack of merit. This was during the time when he was still allied with Mrs. Arroyo. He fell from her good graces after his son's revelations on the irregularities in the ZTE-National Broadband Network deal and was eventually ousted as House Speaker.

Philippine law allows only one impeachment bid each year against the president. The younger De Venecia's complaint was filed last Oct. 13, or a full year after the last impeachment complaint was junked.

The most recent complaint consolidated previous and new allegations of corruption and other violations against Mrs. Arroyo as well as charges of misconduct in the controversial ZTE-NBN deal. ■



**Jose de Venecia J., a congressman and former Speaker of the House of Representatives address the media after an impeachment hearing in Manila November 26, 2008. A Philippine parliamentary committee dismissed an impeachment complaint against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, almost certainly ending the latest attempt to unseat her.**



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## Empowering the people

By Jerry O. Estrada

### Strengthening the organization

There was an international cooperative forum conducted in South Korea some time in 2004. Three coop volunteer leaders stayed together in one training center room. They were from the Philippines, Seoul and Thailand. Before the forum started, they had a friendly talk, introduced each other by their names but never mentioned what country they came from.

They compared their own coop assets and annual financial reports (coop leaders usually do this when they meet.) The Filipino was amazed how come their cooperatives were bigger several folds in terms of services and in assets despite the Philippine coop movement started ahead than the two countries. He then asked - "Where did you learn cooperativism?" The two replied and uttered, "Why don't you go to the Philippines at The Southeast Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN), one of the outreach units of the Jesuit-run Xavier University located in Cagayan de Oro, and learn cooperativism there!"

This story reminds me again that our neighbors in Asia learned so many things from us including agriculture technology. They learned from the Philippines how to plant a seed and nurture it but now overtaken us, and worse, we even buy (import) rice from them now.

This is true also to organizations either economic or social in purpose. We create a lot of associations either in our country or abroad. One of the intentions of these organizations is to uplift the lives of its members and that is a good cause. This applies also to cooperatives. We built one, hoping that this will help and make its members' life better, but some times we forget to continually nurture it once it's there. This is one of the reasons why poverty is still with us.

#### SOCIAL IMPACT.

The social impact of the cooperative project is twofold: improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the coop toward their members and its effect on their families.

Successful coops generate additional employment and become

equal opportunity employers providing sufficient wages and benefits to their employees. In fact the coop employees have a key advantage: being members themselves, they receive dividends and refunds, thus, giving them the opportunity to earn more than regular workers. However, we oftentimes we think there will always be failures. Rather worse we always think we won't succeed and give up trying. In fact, we leave our farms and barrios (villages) and seek wages outside our own country since capitalism has taught us not to employ ourselves but to find an employer. We don't notice that we become more wasteful than the rich people because most of us give up trying.

LEARNING FROM A FEDERATION (NETWORK).

Let's learn from the success of NATCCO (National Confederation of Cooperatives), which is the largest federation network in the Philippines today. Coop pioneers in the Philippines formed it in 1977. These leaders believed in self-help, in the idea that unless people do something to solve their own problems, their situation will not get any better. Moreover, these leaders believed that to succeed, cooperatives have to be driven, capitalized and patronized by the members themselves rather than depend on the government. They believed in membership responsibility.

The Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions (ACCU) and National Credit Union Federation of Korea (NACUFOK) have adjudged NATCCO as the 3rd biggest federation network in Asia. NATCCO now has combined assets of Php30billion with over 200 individual cooperative as members all over the Philippines with businesses like: funeral care, coop mart, housing, health insurance, trainings, money transfer, coop accounting software, legal services, loans and many more. LINKAGES.

Nowadays, many businesses and organizations are linking together to make them more viable, stronger and competitive. By linking together, we can make our voices heard in government. We can prevail upon our political leaders to make decisions and

take actions that are favorable to the greater majority of our people.

With a network of support, we enjoy a certain degree of "institutionalized protection" to be able to more aggressively pursue our advocacy for social reforms with other sectors of society. This system can be applied to all Filipino associations to be part of one federation. Every individual Filipino association should choose from its officers or board of directors who would run as officers of the federation. This way the federation will be equally represented and managed by every association officers.

PATRONIZING OUR OWN ENTERPRISE.

This column has been reinforcing awareness of individuals in our community to patronize the Filipino Coop on Van Horne. If this Filipino business endeavor will succeed, it will create jobs and make a difference in peoples' lives.

We all understand that as a consumer we want to buy all our needs from one store and that's normal to save time. But, could we visit and try to shop even \$10 a week at our own Filipino Coop? The members should patronize it because even if the coop officers are equipped with knowledge, practical skills and commitment to run the coop, without any grassroots support, it will not succeed.

It's worthwhile mentioning that even the Cuisine de Manille Restaurant owners (Rafael Dayo, Ricky & Dado Contaoe) on Victoria are buying some coop products to help it. The owners even said, "It's good to patronize, not only one Filipino business enterprise, but all Filipino businesses because they create jobs for us. Likewise, if the coop will succeed it will be our legacy to the next generation, and soon it will return back to the community and Filipino organizations to help build

better societies."

Likewise, one of the successful and longest-running Filipino businesses in Montreal is the Fiesta-Pilipino Boulangerie on Victoria, owned and managed by entrepreneurs, Ed Vasquez and wife, Connie. It has been providing jobs to Filipinos for so many years now. Ed is very active in helping both in sports and Filipino organizations. In fact, Ed had just won the election as the new President of the Alpha Phi Omega (APO), Montreal, which was conducted in November 8, 2008.

There are a handful of Filipino entrepreneurs here in Montreal. These unheralded business people are the backbone of our economy. The two things they all have in common are a great idea and a burning desire to succeed.

Some grocery stores of other nationalities are always busy and full of Filipino customers, while our own Filipino cooperative store is not. Isn't it time that we should patronize our own store like a serious business? We've got a plan, we've got our Filipino-owned business, and we've got to have faith in it. Isn't it time now to nurture and strengthen our own organization? ■

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## Support wanes for de castro

Vice-president Noli de Castro is losing his advantage over other potential presidential candidates in the Philippines, according to a poll by Pulse Asia. 18 per cent of respondents would vote for de Castro in next year's elections, down four points since July.

Former president Joseph Estrada and Senate president Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party (NP) are tied for second with 17 per cent, followed by Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) senator Francis Escudero with 15 per cent, and NPC senator Loren Legarda with 13 per cent. Support is lower for former police chief Panfilo Lacson of the Genuine Opposition (GO), Liberal Party senator Mar Roxas, president of the United Opposition (UNO) Jejomar Binay, Fernando Bayani of the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, and televangelist Eddie Villanueva.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over as president in January 2001, following Estrada's resignation. Arroyo won a six-year term in the June 2004 presidential election, garnering 39.99 per cent of all cast ballots. De Castro—running as Arroyo's running mate, but not as part of a single ticket—received 49.79 per cent of all cast ballots in the vice-presidential election, defeating Legarda.

In May 2007, voters in the Philippines renewed the House of Representatives and one-half of the



Vice-president Noli De Castro

Senate. Final results gave seven of the 12 upper house seats at stake to GO candidates, followed by the pro-government Team Unity (TU) with three, and two independents.

On Nov. 20, de Castro commented on his chances, saying, "For me, I use surveys as inspiration to work harder, especially now that we are facing these problems, not only climate change, [but] what's bigger is the global financial crisis."

The next election is tentatively scheduled for June 2010. Arroyo is ineligible for a consecutive term in office. ■

## Philippines fiscal deficit soars in October

The Philippines posted a fiscal deficit of P9.0 billion in October 2008, the government Treasury Bureau said Tuesday. This compares with the smaller deficit of P1.5 billion recorded in the same year ago period. The total deficit in the ten months to October was P62.3 billion, while the deficit was lower at P41.5 billion in the January to October period of the previous year.

Revenue collections grew a solid 10.7% annually to P92.6 billion in October. The Bureau of Internal Revenue collected P56.9 billion, while the Bureau of Customs accounted for P25 billion in collections. Expenditures soared 19.3% to P101.6 billion. The Primary surplus, measured by netting out interest payments came in at P8.6

billion in October.

In the January to October period, revenue collections expanded 8.5% to P972.6 billion. Revenue collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue amounted to P644.8 billion, while the revenue collected by the Bureau of Customs was P218.2 billion. Treasury income came in at P53.1 billion, while other offices collected P56.47 billion in revenue. Expenditure in the period increased 10.4% on an annual basis, to P1034.9 billion. Stripped of interest payments, expenditures climbed 12.4%, to P782.6 billion, while interest payments grew 4.6% to 274.7 billion. In the ten months to October, the Primary surplus dipped 4.9% to P190.0 billion. ■

## Workers remittances rise despite crisis

The millions of Filipino workers abroad sent home \$12.3 billion in the first nine months of this year, a 17.1 increase despite a global slowdown that economists warned Monday (17 Nov) may bite the local economy in 2009.

Remittances \_ a key contributor to the Philippine economy \_ reached \$1.3 billion in September alone, 16.9% higher than a year earlier, the central bank reported.

Central bank Gov. Amando Tetangco said the continuous stream of remittances remains a source of strength for the economy during the ongoing global financial crisis. He attributed the rise to strong overseas

demand for Filipino skills, and the greater availability of expanded money transfer services.

Nearly 10% of the country's 90 million people work overseas. The money they send home is equivalent to about 10% of the country's gross domestic product.

A research head at PCCI Securities Inc., James Lago, warned that the 2009 outlook remains bleak because overseas workers may return home from crisis-affected countries.

Remittances last year totaled \$14.45 billion, and the government projected 2008 remittances to hit \$15.7 billion. ■

## Climate change may be causing disease outbreaks in Philippines

Global warming may have contributed to a recent spate of outbreaks of deadly diseases in the Philippines, a senior minister said Thursday.

"Clearly what was predicted about the impact of global warming is already happening," Health Secretary Francisco Duque told reporters.

"The temperature is increasing leading to more diseases.

"There's going to be propensity for more cholera, dengue, typhoid and malaria," he warned.

Duque added that the diseases are all "manageable" as long as people practise proper hygiene and sanitation and those afflicted are swiftly brought to hospitals for immediate treatment.

The Philippine Red Cross meanwhile confirmed Thursday that three people had died and 2,235 others had been treated in three towns in the southern province of Misamis Oriental for an outbreak of gastroenteritis.

The Philippine Health Department had earlier said the outbreak was believed to be cholera but the Red Cross said tests showed it was gastroenteritis.

Both illnesses have similar

## Foreigners hiring 10 locals to get permanent visa

Foreign businessmen who hire more than 10 Filipinos are now allowed to stay in the Philippines indefinitely, according to a new government order aimed to boost domestic employment in global economic slowdown.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo today signed into law Executive Order (EO) 758, which will provide legal ground and mechanism for the Special Visa on Employment Generation (SVEG). At least 100,000 jobs are expected to be generated in the wake of enactment of EO 758, immigration officials told local media.

The special visa will be granted to a "qualified, non-immigrant foreigner who

symptoms and are spread through contaminated drinking water.



Afflicted children are placed on a table as patients wait at a hospital in Tagoloan town in Misamis Oriental province, located in the southern Philippines island of Mindanao following a suspected outbreak of cholera. At least two people have died and more than 1,500 are in hospital following a suspected outbreak of cholera in the southern Philippines, health officials said.

Doctor Eric Tayag, head of the government's National Epidemiology Centre, also confirmed that a typhoid outbreak had hit Real town, northeast of Manila, affecting 109 people. However there have been no deaths from typhoid so far. ■

## Cebu Pacific looking to grow its business despite downturn

Philippines' leading budget carrier, Cebu Pacific, is looking to grow its business amid the global economic slowdown. Profits this year have shrunk considerably, but the airline is still optimistic.

The carrier lost about US\$37.5 million from January to September this year. That was a huge turnaround from the US\$50.6 million profit it made in the same period last year.

Lance Gokongwei, president and CEO, Cebu Pacific, said: "Our revenues continue to grow very strongly over thirty per cent. The number of passengers we carry still continues to grow very strongly."

That is why the budget carrier is not giving up on its expansion plans. Despite the global economic downturn,

Cebu Pacific is still confident that it will be able to expand its passenger base from five to seven million passengers by the end of 2008.

It recently launched its 15th international destination to Osaka, Japan, making Cebu Pacific the only low cost carrier in ASEAN to serve the major North Asia markets of Japan, China, and South Korea.

The Philippines tourism sector also remains bullish about hitting the five million mark in tourist arrivals by 2010.

Joseph Ace Durano, Tourism Secretary, said: "Even with the global financial crisis, people with money will still travel. Leisure travel is already a lifestyle need. So it's just a matter of making sure that they come to Philippines." ■

# FILIPINO STAR SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

## Fely Atienza: Kim's biggest catch



From killer crocs to venomous snakes, there's nothing too big or too dangerous for everyone's beloved Pinoy politician-turned-TV-personality, Kim Atienza. However, even all these species combined cannot compare to Kuya Kim's biggest catch—his wife. Fely Hung-Atienza is the wind beneath our favorite animal lover's wings. The two met in 2000, just as Fely was to fly for London to work as a director in top finance management firm Merrill Lynch International. "We both understood that it was over, until Kim followed me to London two weeks later. Merrill Lynch soon offered me an opportunity here in the Philippines, and we were married before we knew it," narrates Fely, now 39. "Kim also has his own 'version' of how he did it," she jokingly adds.

Seven years and three kids later (Jose, Eleana, and Emmanuel), Fely admits that their whirlwind courtship was just the start of one heck of a ride. "I married into a political clan and Kim has always been slated to run for office. During the early part of our marriage, our house was always full of guests, strangers, and innumerable sachets of 3-in-1 coffee," she shares. Then pregnant with their second child, Fely also had the privilege and burden of accompanying Kim to never-ending campaign activities (yes, including wakes) when he ran for Congress in 2004.

However, constantly accommodating thousands of people on a daily basis were child's play compared to the most challenging task she was yet to face at that time. "To everyone's surprise, Kim lost out on his congressional bid. It was a very

hard time for all of us, especially Kim," she shares. Being a firm believer of pursuing one's passions in life, Fely encouraged her husband to accept defeat and start chasing the dreams he left behind for politics. "When our daughter was finally born, Kim and I named her Eleana, a symbolic name that means God has answered me," she explains.

Free from the clutches of politics, Kim began building his momentum with his passion for wildlife and fame. Kuya Kim soon became a household name, thanks to his hosting stints in ABS CBN's Umagang Kay Ganda, and Matang Lawin. Fely, who never really liked politics in the first place, was very happy with her husband's newfound career. "It was a very welcome change for me. But I do worry that he gets bitten sometimes," she adds.

Their newfound space gave Fely more time to ponder on things that she has to do, not only as a wife, but also as a mother. "My eldest son just turned two and I started to think about his education," she says. Being of Chinese descent, Fely wondered why there weren't any internationally accredited schools in the Philippines that offered dual immersion in both English and Chinese. Never settling for less, she soon ventured in one of her biggest projects to date — creating an ideal school for her children.

In 2001, Fely became the president and founding member of Chinese International School Manila (CISM) Foundation, a fund-raising entity that envisions the establishment of a

leading international school that pays homage to Chinese language and traditions. This gave birth to the first CISM campus which opened in Fort Bonifacio in August 2007. "It's a dream come true. Our school is officially the first institution here in the Philippines to offer an internationally-recognized curriculum in English and Chinese," tells Fely. The school also offers scholarship grants and seminars for students and teachers who want to experience a different kind of top-of-the-line education.

Despite having her own school, Fely still epitomizes the age-old adage of education starting in a child's home. Her stern yet loving nature as a mother helps her raise her babies to become responsible children. "I'm a very strict mom. My kids never whine even if they want something so bad," Fely shares. For instance, she never bribes her children with gifts and rewards just to encourage them to do well in school, or any other activity for that matter. "They'd even finish my line whenever I say, 'You only receive two gifts every year, one for Christmas, and one for your birthday,'" proclaims Fely.

Aside from being a supportive wife, a strict mother, and a successful businesswoman, Fely also shares Kim's love for exotic pets, and nature. "We have 18 mini-pinchers, two kalaws, bearded dragons, and

designer pythons. I'm also very hands-on when it comes to taking care of them," she says. So hands-on in fact that she'd personally go to the market to buy meat for their pets' raw food diet. Now that's something you don't see from school owners, finance firm head honchos or socialites every day.

But of course, even being an animal lover and wife to a self-proclaimed wildlife ranger cannot curb Fely's hunger for high-fashion. "I always tell my husband 'Honey, when those designer pythons die, they're reserved for me,'" says Fely, with an animated glint in her eye.

So what does it take to be as good as Kuya Kim's biggest catch? Well, if you take Fely's word for it, you'd probably think that there's a surefire formula. "As a wife, I make sure that Kim and I never take each other for granted. As a mother, it's about raising your kids in a way that's upright," she explains. Fely also makes sure that her life is a constant balance of pressure and pleasure—always making time for leisurely activities such as having lunch out with friends, going to the salon, and having romantic dinners for two. "I'm a very stark believer that every individual has to pursue her passions and do only the things that she's zealous about. That for me, is the secret to being happy," concludes Fely. ■

## Cherie Gil: difficult to have a long distance marriage



Cherie Gil

Cherie Gil is so slim she looks like much younger than her real age. She turned 45 last June but looks more like someone who's only in her late 20s. She usually plays glamorous contravida (Remember her as Lavinia Arguelles in "Bituing Walang Ningning" and as the ice queen villain in "Lastikman"?), but she's now totally deglamorized as Amanda, the grieving mother of a wayward son (Ryan Agoncillo) who gives her so many heartaches in the remake of Carlo J. Caparas' "Pieta."

"Making 'Pieta' is meaningful for me as I'm doing the role originally played by Tita Chato (the late Charito Solis)," she says. "She was my mentor when I was starting in showbiz in such films as 'Beerhouse' and 'Sugar Daddy.' I really learned so much from her. I'm also happy to be doing another novel of Direk Carlo Caparas as it's also in a novel of his, 'God, Save Me,' that I won a best supporting actress award when he turned it into a movie."

Since "Pieta" is now a teleserye, directors Toto Natividad and Don Cuaresma expanded it and gave a back story to the character played by

Cherie, Amanda. She's shown as a young woman (Alessandra de Rossi) who had sad experiences with two men, Miguel (Baron Geisler) and Delfin (Joross Gamba). One of them could be the father of her son Rigor (Paul Salas as a boy, Ryan A. as a man). Later on, when Amanda becomes Cherie, Miguel and Delfin are played by John Regala and Jestoni Alarcon, respectively.

Cherie sat at our table to have lunch and she admits she and violinist husband Roni Rogoff have separated after 14 years. They were married in 1994. "I tried my best to be a dutiful wife and I lived with him wherever he was working, like New York and Venice," she says. "He also tried to live here in Manila for a while, but we have drifted apart and we were moving into different directions since I can't leave my work here as an actress. It's hard to have a long-distance marriage. There's no third party involved. We parted amicably. Our children, Bianca (12) and Raphael (10) are currently staying with him in Israel where they study in an American school. I can visit them anytime I wish to and they can also come here as they please. My son, Jamie (21), is with me here. May kumukuha sa kanya sa showbiz but he doesn't like it. He's more inclined to music."

Cherie says their petition for divorce has been officially granted by the courts abroad last August. It will be recalled that Cherie and Roni had a harrowing experience when they were caught by the killer tsunami in December, 2006 in Thailand, which they mercifully survived with their kids. ■



## Oprah 'managing' Charice



Charice & Oprah

Do you know that outside the Philippines, it is Oprah – yes, the Oprah Winfrey, the popular international TV host and said to be the richest among her TV peers – who is managing the international career of Charice Pempengco?

For those of you who do not know it yet, Charice is the 16-year-old runner-up of Sam Concepcion in ABS-CBN's singing search "Little Big Star."

Charice became internationally known after she guested in the show of Ellen Degeneres. Then, Oprah invited Charice to grace her show.

Very recently and obviously due to Oprah's influence, Charice was able to sing a duet with her idol, Celine Dion – yes, the Celine Dion – at a show held in New York.

In any case, that Charice has Oprah for her talent manager was accidentally discovered by Gelo Serrano, the owner of the advertising agency Infinite Ideas with Icel Argana. Gelo, who is also a promoter for shows abroad, wanted to get Charice for a performance in the US.

So Gelo approached an executive of Star Records, the recording firm in the Philippines with which Charice is connected. He was told that for any negotiation regarding Charice's presence and performances outside the Philippines, the person to talk to is Oprah.

Star Records is a sister firm of ABS-CBN and Star Cinema. ■



Erik Santos with ex-girlfriend Ruffa Mae Quinto

## Beautiful 'boy'



Iza Calzado & her favorite doll

Believe it or not, the svelte and gorgeous Iza Calzado once wished she were a boy.

"When I was younger, I was chubby and lacked confidence. I didn't appreciate my being a girl. Only recently did I started enjoying it," the actress told Living Stars.

Now she's very much into girly

going on between them. I'm not affected though about the issue between Sam and Peachy (Ruffa's pet name) because I know it isn't true," Erik said.

So is he jealous about the rumored romance?

"It's OK. Sam is single and Peachy is single. There's no problem if she's linked to someone. It's all part of showbiz. If someone gets linked to you, there's nothing wrong with that. No hurt feelings," he said.

Santos said that he and Quinto remain friends and that he is in no hurry to get into another relationship. ■

items, like her favorite Wonder Woman T-shirt and Marilyn Monroe lunch box. "I've always felt that, in some way, I'm like Wonder Woman. I'm not physically strong like her, but people say I amaze them with my ability to juggle various commitments," Iza explained. "Monroe symbolizes beauty, femininity and sexuality."

My favorite doll is called Shy Violet, after one of the characters of the animated TV series "Rainbow Brite." I once had a doll exactly like her that my parents gave me one Christmas when they were still together. For some reason, tumatak sa utak ko 'yun ... I have a picture opening the gift. I don't remember what happened to that doll. But when I told the story to my fan group, Izadotation, they gave me this. They bought it on eBay. My fans give me things that are really special.

I sleep with Leo, my stuffed lion everyday. I love hugging him—malambot kasi. He's always on my bed. He's my guardian when I sleep. ■

## Echo, Anne Curtis comfort each other



Anne Curtis

Jericho Rosales and Anne Curtis doubt if a feeling other than friendship will develop between them, even if they both admit that they have never felt closer until they were paired in a movie.

Echo (Jericho's pet name) and Anne are together in "Baler," the Metro Manila Film Festival entry of Viva Films. The film, directed by Mark Meily, also stars Phillip Salvador, Michael de Mesa, Joel Torre, Bernard Palanca, Leo Martinez, Baron Geisler, Ryan Eigenmann, Jao Mapa and Rio Locsin.

Echo and Anne admit they are still hurting. Echo is still reeling from the loss of Heart Evangelista, who broke up with him through e-mail.

He relates: "Naka-kabigla din kasi. I was in Malaysia for the taping of 'Kahit Isang Saglit' (his teleserye with Malaysian actress Carmen Soo) when I got her e-mail.

"I didn't know why it happened. Nang umalis ako, there was nothing wrong between us.

"Until now, Heart and I haven't talked. I must admit I have yet to move on."

Anne, for her part, revealed that it was Sam Milby, with whom she went steady for three-and-a-half years, who initiated their break-up. And when she remembers it, she admits that she cannot help but cry.

She must love him that much, we told her.

"Ganun nga siguro," she said.

"Kaya, for those who think na puwede kaming ma-in-love ni Echo before we wrapped up work on 'Baler,' will they please give us a break," she continued.

"I have to thank Echo for being around when I sorely needed a shoulder to cry on. Pero, ganun din ako sa kanya. Dinadamayan ko siya when he feels low." ■

## Angel Locsin and Sam Milby to do a "Lovers in Paris" remake



Angel Locsin is not going to have a restful vacation all along. After her busy scheduled shooting in Bukidnon

for the movie "Land Down Under" with co-star actor Piolo Pascual,

Angel Locsin will again be busy with another new ABS-CBN project for the year 2009. Angel will be teaming up with Sam Milby for a Philippine Remake of the Korean tv series "Lovers in Paris." Angel will be playing the role of Vivian (or Jodi) while hopefully, Sam Milby plays the role of the rich and snobbish businessman Carlo (or Tristan). This will excite a lot of fans although the ABS-CBN management has yet to release the final casting of the upcoming television series. It was in Maalaala Mo Kaya episode in 2007 where Angel Locsin and Sam Milby first teamed up and their chemistry thrilled a lot of viewers ever since. So the television series is really a very good news. After My Girl, "Lovers in Paris" is only the second Korean novel to be localized by ABS-CBN. ■

More Showbiz Gossip - SEE PAGE 20

## Erik Santos OK with Sam Milby-Ruffa Mae rumors

Pinoy pop artist Erik Santos's relationship with Ruffa Mae Quinto may be over but that doesn't stop the singer from giving his opinion about Ruffa's rumored romance with

matinee idol Sam Milby.

"First of all, I don't believe the rumors because I know Ruffa personally and I know Sam as a friend. I don't think there's anything

## Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.19*

### Richard Gutierrez concentrates muna sa environmental advocacy



**Richard Gutierrez**

After Codename: Asero, Richard Gutierrez is taking a very short break from making television serials. However, while on vacation from acting, the young actor will be busy hosting GMA-7's newest program on "Bilib Ka Ba Nights" block, Full Force Nature, which will premiere on December 2 after GMA Telebabad.

The program immediately appealed to the young actor when the network presented to him the idea of the show. Although its original version in the United States shows original video clips of unbelievable weather moments, the Philippine version changes it a bit by choosing Richard, an advocate of environment, as the host.

As a Greenpeace celebrity spokesperson, the 24-year-old actor will now have a wider venue to fulfill his role of spreading awareness about problems and issues concerning the environment. In between the video clips that will be shown, Richard will give simple but very helpful tips in saving mother earth.

The young actor said that Full Force Nature will definitely show the other side of Richard Gutierrez.

"I'm an active environmentalist and I wanna help also the group of Greenpeace and the other environmental groups. I think this is my calling, to create awareness for the people regarding global warming and other environmental problem," said Richard during the presscon of Full

### Game for anything



it's no secret that Richard Gomez has been longing to host a game show for a while now. So when the first day ratings came out for his debut as the newest Family Feud host, he says that

Force Nature last night, November 25.

He added, "Full Force Nature, ang kaibahan nito is you really feel the wrath of nature and mga hindi natin nae-experience dito, mga puwede ring mangyari sa atin dito, makikita mo sa TV kung ano talaga ang nararamdaman ng mga taon nakaka-experience no'n. So, 'yon pa lang, entertaining and exciting na for the audience. At the same time, it cuts to me giving ideas and pointers on how we can avoid these matters."

### Greenpeace advocate

The young Gutierrez said that it was really his idea to help groups that supports environmental causes such as GreenPeace.

"Yon ang naging calling ko, e," he said. "I mean, for me, maraming different problems na nangyayari sa mundo—number one is hunger, number two is overpopulation, number three is global warming. For me, global warming ang napili ko dahil talagang ever since I was a kid I love nature. Siguro, I just had a calling for it. Siguro kanya-kanya tayong purpose dito sa mundo and siguro 'yon ang purpose ko."

As a celebrity spokesperson, Richard said that he helps the group with its non-violent moves in saving the environment. One example of this is creating informative videos that will reach a lot of people around the country, like his past documentary Signos.

Within the next few weeks, Richard will go to Boracay to shoot a video for the tourists who visit the place. Then, by next year, GMA-7 will be doing another documentary similar to Signos.

He reiterated, "Ang goal ko talaga is to create awareness sa youth, sa kabataan. So we're gonna go to different schools, that's one of my projects next year. Signos was something informative. Signos, by the way, is now out on DVD. Hopefully, schools can watch that." ■

he was quick to check the score.

"I looked at the survey posted doon sa [may] elevator," the host shares, pertaining to the television ratings that are posted at the GMA lobby. And he says he is not disappointed with the ratings that his newest show delivered. "Not bad for a start!"

But he adds, "I hope it would get better in the coming days."

The host is definitely having fun with his newest gig, and he's not the only one. Rufa Mae Quinto, a contestant in the show's second episode, chimes in, "Actually sasali ka na lang sa saya, hindi [para] manalona ng prize."

And she adds that during the episode, even her grandmother would

text her about the game, saying "sayang, sana nanalo kayo."

Back to Richard, he takes note of Rufa Mae's excitement and comments: "Ang saya nga." He listens as she talks about trying to convince her Bubble Gang castmates to join the game

against SOP.

With celebrities getting excited with the game as well, Richard hopes that more people will tune in to watch them every weeknight. ■

### Charice shines at Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York



**Charice**

International young diva Charice once again made her country proud as she performed for Macy's Thanksgiving Parade in New York City on Thursday, November 27.

Before her performance, Charice, on top of the "Good Housekeeping" float, was introduced by NBC's host as "The Internet Phenom from the Philippines."

The NBC had exclusive broadcast rights for the parade.

Charice, meanwhile, wowed the crowd as she sang "Because You Love Me", as proof of her admiration for her music idol, international performer Celine Dion.

### A new Cristine Reyes in 'Eva Fonda'



**Christine Reyes**

From sexy to heavy drama. This is what's sexy actress Christine Reyes is excited about her "liberating" role in ABS-CBN's upcoming TV series "Eva Fonda."

"Heavy drama. Super thak you sa nakaka-appreciate ng gawa namin pinghirapan namin ang Eva Fonda hindi lang siya sexy at ipapakita ko dito ang acting ko so ponoparin niyo ang Eva Fonda," Reyes said.

Reyes said she is overwhelmed and honored to be given a chance to prove her talent in acting.

She said she worked hard and waited for so long for the series to be aired and finally, the "Eva Fonda" film remake will start airing December 1 (Monday).

The actress admitted that she's pressured of how will the Kapamilya viewers will react to her acting and of the fact that she is finally leading in a soap, but with the help of her family, supporters and friends she said she can overcome everything.

"Siyempre nandoon ang pressure pero as long as nandiyan 'yong prayer at suporta ng mga kaibigan at mahal sa buhay makakaya 'yan," she said.

Reyes said she felt humbled with the previous plan that the soap will be part of the afternoon shows, but she was caught by surprise when she was told that "Eva Fonda" will be aired on primetime.

"Noong nalaman ko sa afternon okay siya sa akin pero noong binalita sa akin na primetime na nga mas natuwa ako kasi makakapanood 'yong mga nagtatrabaho sa mall pag-uwi nila. So I'm happy na marami ang makakapanood ng Eva Fonda," explains Reyes.

The original version of TV series (Eva Fonda, 16) was released in 1976 by Sampaguita Pictures. It was the movie that launched the career of then upcoming star Alma Moreno.

Eva Fonda is one of the films that sprang up the popularity of "bomba" films in the country. ■



# Karylle admits difficulty in maintaining friendship with ex-BF



**Singer Karylle with ex-beau Dingdong Dantes**

With only a few days left before she takes center stage at Manny Pacquiao's anticipated boxing bout against Oscar de la Joya at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 7, singer-actress Karylle is busy wrapping up pending commitments here in the country.

Last night, November 26, Karylle attended the 21st Awit Awards held at the Eastwood Central Plaza in Libis, Quezon City, to participate in the tribute number given to this year's Dangal ng Musikang Pilipino Award recipient, Lea Salonga.

Minutes before the performance, Karylle excitedly talked about her thoughts on the upcoming Pacquiao-Dela Joya match, where she will sing the Philippine National Anthem in front

of a global audience.

"It's a very big honor for me to do this," said Karylle. "Number one, siyempre I'm so proud na nakilala ko si Manny Pacquiao. Alam mo na nakakausap mo siya, na tinatanong niya ako nagpi-prepare ba ako, 'yong mga ganung bagay, ipinagmamalaki ko 'yan sa mga kaibigan ko. I'm very honored that he picked me."

Making the event even more special for the singer is the fact that the sport means so much to her and her family. Karylle's grandfather, Carlos Padilla Jr., was a ring referee whose career took off enormously after officiating the \$20-million world heavyweight championship match between legendary boxers Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. The mammoth boxing event dubbed as the Thrilla in Manila was hosted by the Philippines and was held at the Araneta Coliseum on October 1, 1975.

"This is something that connects me with my grandfather. 'Yong great grandfather ko naman, isa siyang Olympic boxer. So, kahit papaano, I may not be on the ring like them or referee, but I'm gonna be there to sing," Karylle fondly said.

### Feeling much better

It is no secret that Karylle still nurses a broken heart following the collapse of her relationship with actor Dingdong Dantes. Karylle cited the upcoming boxing match as a big help in diverting her attention away from whatever emotional concern she's currently experiencing.

Dingdong has been very vocal in expressing his desire to maintain a good friendship with Karylle. The

daughter of singer Zsa Zsa Padilla, however, opted to be more pragmatic with the suggestion by saying, "Well, as of the moment, I don't think that's really possible, sadly."

Building a solid friendship, of course, would take time and there's a proper time for it to happen as what she enthused: "Someday we will be friends and it will all work out."

Incidentally, the two former lovers were together a few hours before Karylle graced the Awit Awards ceremony.

Dingdong and Karylle personally attended a charity activity organized by the Kapuso Foundation for cancer patients.

"It was very, very moving. We had a lot of guests that turned up. Actually kasi, Wednesday ngayon so a lot of my friends, they couldn't make it so I

# Willie Revillame's Corinthian home got robbed



**Willie Revillane**

TV host-comedian Willie Revillame's home in Corinthian Hills in Quezon City was robbed last Saturday, November 1, 2008. The host at that time was on vacation in Tagaytay and went directly to Subic afterwards and just found out the incident early this morning at 3 am.

According to the actor, his very

expensive watch is gone together with his other personal belongings. Though he did not mention the total amount of what was lost, we assume that it's a big amount considering that his vault was also open.

Willie find it very disappointing that despite of his home's value being it located in a gated subdivision, it is still not safe for a homeowner like him. It's very hard to point fingers at this time according to Willie but he's wondering how the robber would have known where his keys to the vault are hidden.

During this morning's interview with "Umagang Kay Ganda," the SOCO [Scene of the Crime Operatives] were at the scene to investigate the said robbery incident.

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## Miss Philippines Patricia Fernandez made it to semi-finals of Miss International 2008



**"I feel very fulfilled that I made it to the semi-finals, and it wouldn't be possible without the prayers of my countrymen. I already feel so blessed, and having the chance to represent the country is already a victory in itself," said Bb. Pilipinas-International 2008 Patricia Fernandez in a statement following her stint in the pageant held last November 8 at Venetian Hotel in Macau, China.**

Despite failing to clinch the 2008 Miss International Pageant title, Patricia Fernandez of the Philippines still managed to make her countrymen proud after making it to the semi-finals of the beauty pageant. The recently concluded event was staged last November 8 at the Venetian Hotel in Macau, China.

Patricia was joined in the semi-final round by other representatives coming from Japan, Ecuador, Lebanon, Turkey, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Poland, Colombia, Czech Republic, Spain and China.

Alejandra Andreu of Spain bagged the coveted crown while Miss Colombia, Maria Cristina Diaz-Granados Dangond emerged as first runner-up.

### Beauty and brains

Patricia graduated from the University of the Philippines where she obtained a degree in BA Speech Communication. As for her hobbies, the pretty lass cited swimming, singing, and playing the piano as some of the activities she enjoys doing.

Before going to Macau to compete, a send-off party was organized exclusively for Patricia at the Mandarin Suites at Gateway Mall in Cubao, Quezon City where she asked everyone to pray for her. During the occasion, Patricia brandished her piano-playing skills before the guests while singing kundiman tunes.

She's also adept in speaking Mandarin and Niponggo, and had months of extensive training at the Dale Carnegie Training—the celebrated UK-based personal and management development institute.

Curiously, Patricia's interest in beauty pageants only intensified after she wrote a thesis on the subject. "It opened my eyes to this industry. Now I really want to get the chance to represent the country," she revealed during an interview conducted by the Bb. Pilipinas committee.

Patricia made known her intention to become a teacher someday by pursuing inter-cultural communication studies. "I think communication plays a big role in bridging the inter-cultural gap. If only we would be able to resolve this, people will be able to understand each other better," she stated in her profile.

The Philippines has produced four winners in the Miss International pageant since its inception in 1960: Gemma Cruz-Araneta (1964), Aurora Pijuan (1970), Melanie Marquez (1979), and Precious Lara Quigaman (2005). ■

## Arroyo heads to Peru after emergency landing for husband



**Philippines President Gloria Arroyo flew to a summit in Peru as scheduled Saturday after her husband fell ill en route, forcing an emergency landing in Japan**

Philippines President Gloria Arroyo flew to a summit in Peru as scheduled Saturday after her husband fell ill en route, forcing an emergency landing in Japan, officials said.

Jose Miguel Arroyo, 62, "is now stable and okay" after the unscheduled landing at Osaka's Kansai International Airport shortly after midnight, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno told reporters.

In Japan, airport authorities said

that President Arroyo's plane left there again at 9:02 am (0002 GMT), leaving her husband behind.

The hospital where her husband was being treated declined to comment on his condition.

Senior Filipino officials at first said the president's husband, who had heart surgery last year, had suffered a heart attack in mid-air, but Puno made no mention of cardiac problems.

He "had experienced stomach cramps and back pain during the flight of the Philippine delegation bound for the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit," Puno said.

"This was the same thing the first gentleman experienced before he was rushed to (a Manila hospital) in early 2008, that's why doctors on board decided to do an emergency landing in Japan so that First Gentleman Mike could be given special medical attention."

Puno earlier said "the president's entourage will continue its flight but First Gentleman Mike Arroyo will remain in Japan for further analysis from his personal doctors who were sent to Japan to see his condition."

He said Arroyo's husband would fly back to Manila as soon as his doctors clear him for travel.

Arroyo is on her way to a two-day APEC summit in Peru that begins on Saturday ■

## Citigroup to expand in the Philippines

While American financial giant Citigroup is streamlining across the globe, it expects to create about 1,000 new jobs and triple its workforce in the Philippines next year, picking the country as a regional hub for business process outsourcing (BPO).

"Citi is repositioning in Asia-Pacific but we remain focused on growth. As we review our operations and where we can be more efficient, something which we have been doing even before the downtrend in the global financial markets, we in the Philippines are optimistic that instead of reducing head count, we will be growing," Citibank country business manager Mark Jones said.

Jones said Citibank had a staff of about 500 in the country and would likely hire an additional 1,000 in the coming year as part of plans to build processing centers and expand its domestic banking business.

"We expect the Philippines to be a preferred location for regional hubs or center of excellence because of superior skilled workers and attractive labor costs," Jones said.

"From call centers to financial reporting and service centers, there's a whole lot of activity moving to the Philippines," he said.

Citigroup announced in New York last week plans to cut more than 50,000 jobs or about 14 percent of its

workforce to weather the lingering global financial market turbulence.

Jones said the bank obviously could not keep all of its existing staff in the Philippines, where the bank was investing heavily in systems and processes to make operations more efficient.

"Inevitably, if you go through change as we upgrade our systems, as systems get automated, that happens," he said when asked about potential lay-offs.

But overall, he said the bank would hire more people in the Philippines as Citigroup's global restructuring would require the expansion of regional BPO hubs.

"We are repositioning globally, doing what we have to do now that the markets are not functioning normally," Jones said.

Asked about the bank's outlook for next year, he said: "It's going to be a tough year globally. In the Philippines, it doesn't feel it's safe yet but we're certainly preparing for it."

"We haven't really seen it impact the consumer but we're preparing for it," he added.

Wall Street was filled with speculation on Friday that the New York-based Citigroup may now consider selling part or all of its shares to hurdle the global financial turmoil. ■

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# 'This one's for history,' Pacquiao says of fight vs de la Hoya



**DON'T UNDERSTIMATE ME ... four-weight world champ Pacquiao has warned De La Hoya**

But Manny Pacquiao values one important thing that will endure the test of time once he beats Oscar de la Hoya.

He will secure his place in boxing history.

"It's definitely a huge honor to be able to be inside the same ring as Oscar de la Hoya. If I beat him, it'll be

more than special to me. People will never forget who Manny Pacquiao is 50 years down the line and my name will be mentioned among the greatest," said Pacquiao as he rounded up an exhausting day of training on Wednesday at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles.

While Pacquiao has already etched his name among the sport's elite with wins over the likes of future Hall of Famers Eric Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera and Juan Manuel Marquez, defeating de la Hoya is an altogether different level.

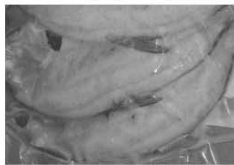
The Golden Boy is one of boxing's larger-than-life personalities, with an Olympic gold and 10 world titles in six weight divisions tucked under his belt. He is acknowledged as the king of pay-per-view boxing and one of the world's most recognizable names and faces.

Pacquiao, however, is fast catching up to de la Hoya's stature. With Pacquiao becoming the darling of boxing aficionados and fans alike, the Dream Match appears to be a symbolic passing of the torch from the "Golden" reign to the era of the Pacman.

The moment isn't lost on Pacquiao. "This is so much different than anything I've ever done, face, seen and fought before," the reigning world lightweight champion said. "This is easily the biggest of my boxing career, of my life." ■



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**Galungoong**  
5 pcs \$2.99 / bag



**Thai Jasmin Rice**  
8 kg / \$12.99 18 kg / \$26.99



**Barrio Fiesta Fish Sauce**  
750 ml \$1.99



**Beef**  
\$5.99 kg



**Buenas Rice Sticks**  
454 g \$1.79 / bag



**Porc Legs**  
\$2.99 / kg



**Picnic Porc**  
\$2.49 kg



**Chicken Legs**  
.99¢ lb

# EDUCATION RAISES THE BAR

BUT LOWERS THE BARRIERS TO A REWARDING CAREER.



Daycare Assistant



Administrative Assistant



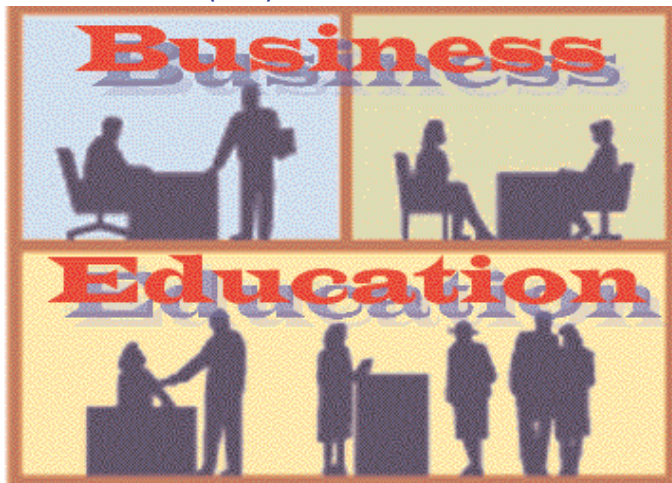
Certified International Trade Professional (C.I.T.P.)



Personal Support Worker (Nursing Aide)

## COURSES

- Languages - English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Tagalog
- Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Keyboarding (Touch Typing)
- Computer Literacy
- Microsoft Word, Excel, Access
- Personal Support Worker (Nursing Aid, PAB)
- Early Childhood Education Assistant
- Office Technology
- International Trade (C.I.T.P.)
- Integration of Foreign Graduates of Nursing (Permit Pending)
- Daycare Management



P.A.B. students (standing behind) from left: Adelia Lascano, Melanie Bangit, Salvacion Battad, Leilani Galsim, Concepcion Dupali, Joyce Liwaliw and Milet Daquioag with their teachers (from left) Clarice Mackay, and Nina Schiff, and Director-General, Zenaida Kharroubi. Another teacher, not in photo is Amy Manon-og. The students have just completed their theory courses and are ready to do their practicum at St. Margaret CHSLD Residence starting on November 30.

### Seminars:

- Writers Helping Writers
- Intercultural Communication
- Leadership Training
- Human Resources Development (on request)

### Tutorials:

- English • French • Math/Science
- (Private or semi-private)



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**Fax: 514-485-3076**  
**Website: gilmorecollege.com**  
**E-Mail: enquiries@gilmorecollege.com**



**To register by appointment,**  
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**We have an on-going enrollment.**  
**New classes start as soon as**  
**minimum enrollment is achieved.**

**SNOWDON**