

Gender parity but little diversity in Plante’s executive committee



Mayor Valérie Plante stands with the 12 members of her executive committee Monday morning. All but one are members of her party, Projet Montréal. (Lauren McCallum/CBC)

Prince Harry to marry Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle in May

Palace aides predict a ‘happy church wedding’ at St George’s Chapel for prince, 33, and American TV star, 36

(From The Guardian) Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are to marry at St George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle next May and will go on their first public walkabout on Friday in Nottingham, the palace has announced.

The couple are planning to involve members of the public in the proceedings in some form yet to be determined.

“It will be a moment of fun and joy that will reflect the character of the bride and groom,” said their spokesman.

Markle, 36, who is American, will also become a British citizen and will be baptised and confirmed into the Church of England before the wedding, Kensington Palace announced.

And it said the royal family would pay for the wedding, including

the church service, the music, the flowers and the reception.

Wider security costs, policing and public order arrangements will be covered by the public purse, however. The palace declined to comment on whether the bride’s parents would contribute.

The service is expected to draw a star-studded congregation. Markle’s friends include the tennis star Serena Williams and the Made in Chelsea star Millie Mackintosh.

The chapel usually holds about 800 guests compared with the 2,000 capacity of Westminster Abbey, where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge married in 2011.

Profile

Who is Meghan Markle?

The engaged couple’s spokesman said: “Harry and Meghan



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, November 27, 2017, after the announcement of their engagement - Daniel Leal-Olivas - AFP

Markle are extremely grateful for the warm public response following yesterday’s announcement of their engagement. In a happy moment in their lives, it means a great deal to them that so many people throughout the UK, the Commonwealth, and around the world are celebrating with them.

“The couple of course want the day to be a special, celebratory moment for their friends and family. They also want the day to be shaped so as to allow members of the public to feel part of the celebrations too and are

Interim opposition leader Lionel Perez says partisanship prevailed, calling it broken electoral promise

CBC News Posted: Nov 20, 2017 6:30 AM ET Last Updated: Nov 20, 2017 5:32 PM ET

During the election campaign, Valérie Plante promised her executive committee would feature gender parity, diversity, and even a place for some members of the opposition.

But Montreal's newly elected mayor did not hit all those targets in revealing members her 13-person executive committee this morning.

There are seven men and six women, including Plante. There are not, however, any visible minorities.

"It's a shortcoming, clearly, the [lack] of cultural diversity, in the city council in general," Plante said, pointing out that while visible minorities make up 30 per cent of the Montreal

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Plante’s Executive

currently working through ideas for how this might be achieved.”

The last royal wedding at the chapel was for Harry’s cousin, Peter Phillips – the son of the Princess Royal – who married the Canadian Autumn

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Prince Harry to marry

Erratum: We regret the error on the caption of the headline photo where we incorrectly identified Jean Fortier of Coalition Montreal as Jean Fournier. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience or confusion it may have caused. Zenaïda Kharroubi, Editor

Opinion Ed

As an actor, Meghan Markle comes from a long line of trailblazing women

(Editor's Note: We find this opinion very relevant to our modern times as it makes current events historically relevant from which we may acquire a deeper understanding of what happens at this time of our life. This is reprinted from the Guardian, a website based newspaper which appears to have interesting news and columns worthy of readers' support.)

By Rebecca Rideal (The Guardian)

Prince Harry's fiancée is carrying on where Nell Gwynn left off, advancing the cause of women and redefining what it means to be part of the British royal family

Meghan Markle is to marry Prince Harry. While many might argue that the monarchy is an outdated institution, we cannot ignore the long-overdue sea change that the engagement of a prince to an American actor has wrought. Alongside the fact that Markle is a Roman Catholic, she also, as the BBC put it, "brings something different to the British royal family. She is American, divorced, an actress and mixed race".

There is significance in every one of these points. Yet, as a historian of Restoration England, I find the penultimate fact most fascinating. As an actor, Markle comes from a long line of trailblazing women, and in this post-Weinstein climate we should acknowledge the huge impact female actors have had in furthering the cause of women and breaking down societal barriers.

Until painfully recently, acting was one of the few avenues open to women from "humble" backgrounds in which they could channel their creative talent, trade in the drudgery of everyday life and escape into the glittering world of the elite. Long before the suffragettes, it was female actors who pushed the agenda of women to the forefront of cultural conversations. In England, almost as soon as female actors were allowed to perform onstage, they publicly fought for creative freedom. Whether that was women like Rebecca Marshall, who in 1667 called out a member of the aristocracy for threatening and demeaning her, or women performing the proto-feminist monologues of Aphra Behn, which stated: "I value Fame as much as if I had been born a Hero".

Some early female actors used their newfound status to attract the attentions of the nobility, and even monarchs: Nell Gwynn famously



Gemma Arterton as Nell Gwynn with David Sturzaker as Charles II in *Nell Gwynn* at the Apollo Theatre in London. Photograph: Tristram Kenton for the Guardian

became the mistress of Charles II, while Dorothea Jordan bore the future William IV 10 illegitimate children. Those who remained on stage honed their craft and created a valuable space for women in the public arena. Theatres would be filled with people from across the social spectrum, and in the 18th century these women became celebrities, crucial to the setting of fashions and trends. As the theatre historian Felicity Nussbaum has argued, female actors "animated the stage with regular reminders of women's right to claim a public presence". What's more, acting represented one of the few professions where women were valued as much as men. Nussbaum has pointed to the use of contemporary grading scales that ranked female actors alongside male ones – in 1765 the highest-ranking three were women. They provided the masses with a vital living, breathing, laughing and crying

manifestation of a successful and socially mobile woman.

Over time, some female performers branched out into business and ran their own theatres. Drew Barrymore's English-born great-great-grandmother, Louise Lane Drew, for example, travelled to America in the 1830s to pursue her profession. She acted alongside John Wilkes Booth, before becoming a Philadelphia theatre manager. With the onset of film and cinema, women such as Mae West reimagined the parameters of womanhood. And as the 20th century progressed, Katharine Hepburn popularised the wearing of trousers,

come without its faults and there are plenty of examples of iconic roles thrusting the quest for equal rights down a retrograde route. There are also plenty of examples in the archive of women being taken advantage of – Dorothea Jordan ended her life in poverty after being ill-used by William IV. All told, however, female actors have perhaps done more than any other profession to keep a sustained female narrative in the public eye.

Of course, getting engaged is not the same as eradicating smallpox or splitting the atom, and minor royals have married actors before. But what Markle has done – through an accident of the heart – is redefine what it means to be part of the British royal family in the 21st century. Not only is she a welcome breath of fresh air, but she is part of a rich history of trailblazing performers. This year marks 350 years since Charles II began his relationship with Nell Gwynn, and we have finally reached a point where his descendant – an extraordinarily popular prince in close proximity to the British crown – is to marry an actor.

• Rebecca Rideal is a historian, and author of *1666: Plague, War and Hellfire*



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Pope Francis fails to mention Rohingya in Myanmar speech

Pontiff calls for unity and tolerance speaking after Aung San Suu Kyi address but avoids naming Muslim minority

Tuesday 28 November 2017 12.47 GMT
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Pope Francis failed to mention Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority as he shared a stage with the country's civilian leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, saying the country was suffering from civil conflict and hostilities "that have lasted all too long and created deep divisions".

Speaking in the capital, Naypyitaw, on Tuesday afternoon, the pontiff talked of the need to "respect the rights of all who call this land their home".

His visit to Myanmar comes after an exodus of more than 620,000 Rohingya from Rakhine state to the southern tip of Bangladesh after a military crackdown that the UN, US and UK have described as ethnic cleansing.

The trip is, however, so delicate that some papal advisers warned him against even saying the word "Rohingya", lest he set off a diplomatic incident that could turn the country's military and government against minority Christians.

"The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect of the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity," Francis said, speaking after Aung San Suu Kyi had made an address.

"Religious differences need not be a source of division and distrust, but rather a force for unity, forgiveness, tolerance and wise nation-building."

Myanmar does not recognise the Rohingya as citizens or as members of a distinct ethnic group with their own identity, and it rejects the term "Rohingya" and its use.

Phil Robertson, the deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, said the pope had missed an opportunity, adding that the "Rohingya have been stripped of so many things but their name should never be one of them".

Mayyu Ali, a Rohingya refugee who recently fled the violence and lives in a camp in Bangladesh, said he was disappointed the pope did not speak more directly.

"He should keep speaking up for the truth as he did before. Last year, he cited 'Our Rohingya brothers and sisters'. And he said more about our suffering," he said.

"If he avoids speaking up for persecuted Rohingya during his visit to our country, it would be something like he also is a bystander of the suffering we have [had] since decades."

However, the EU's ambassador to Myanmar, Kristian Schmidt, praised the speech, saying it was unnecessary for Francis to talk directly about the crisis.

"He didn't need to. It was written all over the speech, between the lines," he said. "It doesn't have to be about specific words. It was all

about values. And on values it was absolutely eloquent and strong."

The meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi



Aung San Suu Kyi applauds as she sits next to Pope Francis. Photograph: Max Rossi/Reuters

was the most anticipated of the pope's visit, given the international outcry over the crackdown on Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority.

Q&A

Who are the Rohingya?

The operation against the minority was launched in August after Rohingya militants attacked security posts. Rohingya fleeing into neighbouring Bangladesh have reported that entire villages were burned and looted, and women and girls were raped.

On Monday evening, Oxford city council stripped Aung San Suu Kyi of the freedom of the city award it gave her 20 years ago, saying those who turn a blind eye to violence tarnish its reputation.

On Wednesday, Francis will preside over a mass service in the commercial capital, Yangon, which tens of thousands of people are expected to attend, before flying to Bangladesh on Thursday.

Myanmar's 650,000-strong Catholic community has been eagerly anticipating the visit, but the excitement has been tempered by fears that bold remarks by the pope could spark nationalist anger towards them.

Speaking shortly before the pope flew into Naypyitaw, Father Gregory, a priest from northern Myanmar, said attitudes were divided on the issue.

"Some people want him to say about Rakhine state and some people don't want to say about this," he said. He declined to express his opinion, citing the extreme sensitivity of the issue. "Kind of a dilemma, so I cannot say," he said.

Myanmar's Catholic leaders have stressed that Aung San Suu Kyi has no voice to speak out against the military over the operation, and have urged continued support for her efforts to move Myanmar towards a more democratic future that includes all its religious minorities, Christians in

particular.

During talks on Monday evening, the country's powerful army chief told Francis there was "no

religious discrimination" in Myanmar.

Hours after the pontiff landed and was welcomed to the country by thousands of Catholics, Gen Min Aung Hlaing told the pope the military "performs for the peace and stability of the country" and there is "no discrimination between ethnic groups in Myanmar".

Before delivering his speech on Tuesday, Francis spoke to interfaith

leaders at the archbishop's residence and separately met a prominent but controversial Buddhist leader.

The pope stressed a message of "unity in diversity" in his 40-minute meeting with Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders. He told them they should work together to rebuild the country and that, if they argue, they should argue like brothers, who reconcile afterwards, his spokesman, Greg Burke, said.

His meeting with the Buddhist monk Sitagu Sayadaw was "always in an effort to encourage peace and fraternal coexistence as the only way ahead", according to Burke.

Reuters and the Associated Press contributed to this report

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From Page 1 Plante's Executive

population, that number is not reflected in the city council.

Of the 65 members, only four are members of visible minority communities. Plante said while there are people on the council who come from diverse backgrounds, racialized communities are not represented.

"My commitment is to make sure that in the coming years, within the structures that I have some power over, my own party, our staff, and even the city, we need to do better."

Plante had already indicated that Southwest borough mayor Benoit Dorais will chair the committee. Benoit Dorais



Southwest borough mayor Benoit Dorais is the president of the executive committee. (Pascale Fontaine/Radio-Canada)

Only one member of the opposition was named — Verdun borough mayor Jean-François Parenteau, who is responsible for the citizen services file.

Parenteau ran with Équipe Denis Coderre. According to Radio-Canada, he was told he had to leave the party and sit as independent in order to obtain a position on the committee.

Plante denied those were conditions for getting a place on the committee, saying opposition members were given the choice to either recuse themselves from their party's caucus or sit as an independent.

Parenteau wasn't the only member of the opposition who was approached to join the committee. Plante said some people didn't want to leave their party caucus or sit as independents, and others didn't want the positions they were offered.

The team also includes five associate councillors who will assist the members of the committee in various files. Plante said it is possible there will be more people named to those positions in the future.

Valérie Plante sworn in as mayor of Montreal

Here's the full list of the executive committee members and the associates:

Valérie Plante, mayor.

Benoit Dorais, chair

Magda Popeanu, vice-chair responsible for housing, real estate planning and management and diversity.

Sylvain Ouellet, vice-chair responsible for water and water infrastructure management, infrastructure and electrical services.

Éric Alan Caldwell, responsible for urban planning, transit and files related to Office de consultation publique de Montréal.

Christine Gosselin, responsible for heritage, culture and design.

Luc Ferrandez, responsible for large parks, sustainable development and green space.

Nathalie Goulet, responsible for public security.

Robert Beaudry, responsible for economic and commercial development and intergovernmental affairs.

Rosannie Filato, responsible for social and community development, homeless, youth, sports and leisure.

François William Croteau, responsible for smart city, information technology and innovation.

Laurence Lavigne Lalonde, responsible for transparency, democracy, governance, citizen life and Espace pour la vie.

Jean-François Parenteau, responsible for environment and citizen services.

The five associate councillors are:

Sophie Mauzerolle, who will assist Plante directly.

Alex Norris, who will assist with the public security file.

Marianne Giguère, who will assist with the active transit file.

Craig Sauv , who will assist with the mobility and citizen services files.

Suzie Miron, who will assist with the infrastructure file.

Opposition unimpressed

Plante said in choosing her executive committee, she tried to strike a balance between choosing people with experience and making sure the different boroughs are well-represented.

Plante and Dorais say they are trying to change the way the executive committee works.

Various files will be grouped into trios, meaning three members will work together with the goals of being better organized, making sure more information is shared among them and having elected councillors with experience offer support to rookies.

 quipe Denis Coderre interim leader Lionel Perez criticized the idea of having the members work in threes, saying that, for example, if three people are attending meetings regarding three different files, they will end up being in meetings all the time and will never get anything done.

He said six members of his party, including two who are visible minorities, were approached with an offer to sit on the executive committee but refused because they were told they would have to eventually leave

their party.
Lionel Perez
Opposition leader Lionel Perez



said by placing conditions on joining her executive committee, Plante missed an opportunity to have more experienced people working with her. (Radio-Canada)

The fact that there are so few opposition councillors on the committee, Perez said, amounts to a missed opportunity and a broken promise to electors.

"She said she wanted to reduce and put aside partisanship. She failed from the get-go," he said.

Perez said the result is that people who have never been in politics have important files, and those who have knowledge about important files are being relegated to lesser roles. No new borough mayors

There are no newly elected borough mayors on the committee. Plante said she wanted to make sure those 11 people could focus on their responsibilities at the borough level.

Some new mayors said they didn't want an executive committee position, such as the mayor of C te-des-Neiges—Notre-Dame-de-Gr ce, Sue Montgomery.

"It interests me but not right now," Montgomery said last Thursday.

The committee is expected to have its first meeting Wednesday morning.

FromPage 1 Prince Harry to marry

Kelly in 2008. Harry's father, the Prince of Wales, and stepmother, the Duchess of Cornwall, had their televised religious blessing there in 2005, after their civil ceremony down the road in the town hall.

Harry was christened in the chapel in December 1984 when he was three months old, which, according to Church of England rules, means he can also marry there.

After the wedding Markle will also become the fourth patron of the Royal Foundation, the main charitable arm of the Kensington Palace royals – the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. It has so far launched initiatives such as the Invictus Games and the Heads Together mental health campaign.

Markle's belongings are currently being shipped from Canada to Kensington Palace and she plans to travel back to North America to see friends and family in the months before the wedding.

The palace confirmed that she was leaving behind one of her dogs, Bogart, who is staying with friends in

North America. Guy the Beagle is now at Kensington Palace, they announced.Asked about how she had decided between them, their spokesman said: "I can't speculate. Miss Markle is very fond of her dogs and any decision about moving a dog over the ocean will have lots of complexity to it."

Markle divorced her first husband, Trevor Engelson, a film producer, in 2013. Her parents are Thomas Markle, an award-winning TV lighting designer, and Doria Ragland, a yoga instructor who lives in Los Angeles.

Markle was educated at a Catholic school, but her father is reported to be a member of the Episcopal Church of the United States, which is part of the Anglican communion. Her mother is reported to be of the Protestant faith.

In a TV interview on Monday Markle described the engagement as a transition "out of my career, but into the role". She said she wanted to focus more energy on the causes that she had already championed. Markle has been an ambassador for UN Women and a global ambassador for World Vision, including driving a clean water

campaign in Rwanda. She will withdraw from those roles.

"She wants to start a clean slate getting to know this country and travelling round the Commonwealth," their spokesman said.

"Once you have access or a voice that people are going to listen to, with that comes a lot of responsibility, which I take seriously," she said. "I think in these beginning few months and now being boots on the ground in the UK, I'm excited to just really get to know more about the different communities here, smaller organisations who are working on the same causes that I've always been passionate about."

On their visit to Nottingham they will visit the Nottingham Contemporary art gallery for the Terrence Higgins Trust World Aids Day charity fair, where they will meet people including those living with HIV. Markle's first taste of the day job of a royal will also include a visit to the Nottingham academy to meet schoolchildren and youngsters who attend a Friday night youth club.

Couillard's Liberals prepare voter pitches as 2018 election nears

Published on: November 26, 2017 | Last Updated: November 26, 2017 6:10 PM EST
The Canadian PressTHE CANADIAN PRESS

QUEBEC — More paid time off for workers, better services for English-speakers and a rapid transit line between Montreal and Quebec City were all part of Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard's pitch to voters as his party met in Quebec City this weekend.

With an election planned for next October, Couillard appeared to be in campaign mode as he addressed voters and his party faithful at a Quebec Liberal party convention.

In a closing speech to 1,400 party members, he alluded to the weekend's workshops where party members discussed measures to

Allison Hanes: Valérie Plante's diversity deficit was avoidable

Crafting an executive committee, the municipal equivalent of a cabinet, is a delicate exercise.

It's a political balancing act that must weigh representativeness against competence, reward loyalty and provide inclusiveness. It's a bit like assembling a giant jigsaw puzzle, except the image that emerges is the face an administration wants to put forward to the public. It offers a message about its vision, ideals and priorities. Courage is sometimes required and compromises must be made to get all the pieces to fit.

As such, Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante's newly minted executive committee tells us she is deeply committed to equality. The city's first female mayor made good on her promise to share power positions equally between men and women, a first for Montreal since the early days of the Jean Doré era. And she has struck an equilibrium between energy and experience among the members of her fledgling Projet Montréal brigade.

But what her inner circle has in energy, enthusiasm, ideas and expertise, it is lacking in diversity. To her credit, Plante is the first to admit it, calling the shortage of cultural, religious and racial representation "disappointing" and one of her fledgling team's weaknesses.

A look at the new power brokers at city hall shows a group that is overwhelmingly white and francophone. A sprinkling of anglophones here and a Montrealer of Italian descent there doesn't cut it in 2017 as representative of the racially and religiously diverse metropolis that is Montreal.

Plante says she was only playing the hand she was dealt. But that rings a bit hollow given the circumstances.

While it's true most of the candidates of different ethnic backgrounds Projet ran didn't get elected and there are only a handful of visible minorities on council as a whole, all in opposition, Plante doesn't seem to have tried hard enough to bring any of them on board.

Plante reached out to at least half-a-dozen opposition councillors to join her, on the condition that they withdrew from their own party's caucus. Lionel Perez, who is now leading the remnants of Équipe Denis Coderre, said six of his group's councillors were approached but were told they'd have to resign from their party if they wanted to sit on the executive committee. Diverging accounts, but same difference.

By demanding such a steep price, Plante seems to have put affiliation ahead of representation.

Only one opposition member took her up on her invitation: Verdun borough mayor Jean-François Parenteau, who is now in charge of services to citizens, procurement and the environment. He will sit as an



Verdun borough mayor Jean-François Parenteau was the only opposition member named to the executive committee by Mayor Valérie Plante. DAVE SIDAWAY / MONTREAL GAZETTE

independent on council.

Which raises another issue about Plante's inner circle: save for Parenteau, all are members of Projet Montréal. She would hardly be the first mayor to stack her executive committee with loyalists who march to the same drum. But Plante promised to govern differently.

During the campaign, she vowed to give independents and other parties a bigger voice in an increasingly partisan and divided city council. In doing so, she won the endorsement of Jean Fortier, who was running for mayor as a third option under the Coalition Montréal banner, among others. He withdrew from the contest to back her.

Coalition Montréal, led by veteran city councillor Marvin Rotrand, was pushing the idea of a more collegial council in its doomed bid to seek the balance of power at Montreal city hall. Voters instead handed Projet Montréal a majority and hence a mandate to move forward with her party's vision for the city. But in putting their faith so strongly behind Plante, Montrealers didn't necessarily absolve her of the pledge to play nice with others.

Thus the requirement that opposition councillors abandon their party's caucus to be part of her executive committee seems like an unnecessary stumbling block to greater inclusivity. The stated reason is to maintain confidentiality, but cabinet secrecy didn't preclude members of rival factions from holding decision-making roles in the past.

Coderre's executive committee included members of Coalition Montréal — and even former Projet leader Richard Bergeron, although those appointees eventually joined his party.

Plante may have the luxury of demanding more from those she is calling on to serve in her administration. She has a majority on council whereas Coderre did not, which made reaching across the aisle a necessity for him to get his policies

adopted.

But the excessive secrecy requirement has ended up being one more reason there are so few minorities and only one party outsider around the decision-making table — and it's an entirely avoidable one. Plante put the onus on the councillors she tried to recruit to pass what sounds an awful lot like an obedience test. She can now say she tried, yet leave the reins of power in trusted and like-minded hands.

In this regard, it seems like business as usual at city hall. Projet is a grassroots party with a detailed platform and an ambitious agenda that it is no doubt eager to put into action. However, it may not be the big-tent party it was recently professing to be.

So, more women will have a chance to put their stamp on Montreal during the Plante era, a long overdue step that should not go unheralded. But minorities will have to wait.

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From page 4 - Couillard's Liberals

support parents who still in school and bring in child-care that is better adapted to parents' needs.

"We will make a difference to the lives of family members," he promised.

He also alluded to his government's recent fiscal update, which included income tax cuts and a decision to send parents a \$100 cheque to help pay for school supplies.

Speaking to reporters, Couillard explained that his party's decision to switch from belt-tightening measures to spending less than a year from the election was possible because his party had restored order to public finances.

"(At first) we concentrated on putting our house in order, which we did," he said.

"Everything I'm talking about — health care, education, road traffic,

work-life balance — if you don't have sound public finances and a prosperous economy, it's nonsense, it's nothing, it's wind."

During the convention, Couillard's party adopted a resolution to ensure that any bills passed by his government would be assessed to determine their impact on the English-speaking community.

The premier also proposed the Montreal-Quebec City rapid transit line, without offering specifics of what it might look like.

Couillard also traded barbs with rival party leader Francois Legault, whose Coalition for Quebec's Future (CAQ) party held its own convention in Sherbrooke, Que. over the weekend.

The premier had harsh words for Legault's plan to offer money or tax credits to women who choose to have more than one child, describing it as "something out of last century."

Rather than offering monetary compensation, which he said amounts to "telling families what to do," Couillard said his own party would like to offer more paid time off to workers in order to make it easier for them to care for parents or relatives.

But earlier on Sunday, it was the Liberals' turn to be accused of living in the past.

CAQ justice spokesperson Simon Jolin-Barrette and other party members criticized Couillard's decision to invite former premier Jean Charest to address the Liberal convention, despite current investigations into allegations illegal party financing that occurred during Charest's time as leader.

Charest, who left politics in 2012, has never been charged, although his name occasionally resurfaces in connection with the anti-corruption unit's investigation.

In his speech, Charest reprimanded UPAC for leaking information to the media and failing to respect the principle of the presumption of innocence.

"It affects me. It affects my family. It affects people close to me," Charest said in the rare public appearance.

At one point he also joked about the public attention he gets, saying he checks the newspaper to find out what he himself is up to.

On Sunday, Jolin-Barrette accused Charest of "laughing" at the anti-corruption unit and thus disrespecting the work of police and the province's institutions.

He said Charest's appearance at the convention is also proof that nothing has changed in the Liberal party in recent years, despite Couillard's claims to the contrary.

"It's back to the future," he said. "They have nothing new to offer Quebecers."

— With files from Caroline Plante in Sherbrooke, Que.

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“KAILANGANG MAIBALIK ANG TIWALA NG KOMUNIDAD SA FAMAS, “AYON KAY DAHIROC

Ang FAMAS financial turnover ng nakaraang administrasyon ay ginawa noong Oct. 28 lamang, sa halip na Sept. 1 pa. Marami sa mga dumalo ang nagsabi na may ibinigay ngang financial statement pero hindi masyadong natalakay ang mahahalagang bagay tulad ng membership fees (breakdown ng students, adults, seniors' fees), donasyon ng mga politiko at grants sa Pista sa Nasyon. Maraming katanungan ang hindi nasagot dahil nauna pa ang sigawan. Dahil nakalipas na halos ang dalawang buwan bago nailabas ng nakaraang administrasyon ang financial statement, nagpa-alala si Dick Dahirot na huwag na sanang maulit ito.

“Tumakbo kayo para maglingkod sa komunidad, hindi para sumikat o kumuha ng mga pangalan para gamitin sa negosyo. Mga

personal na interest iyon.”

Sa aming pag-uusap, nasabi rin ni Dick na karamihan sa tinawagan ng nakaraang administrasyon upang dumalo sa general assembly ay mga kaibigan lamang nila. Dapat ay tinawagan din ang mga miembro ng FAMAS na nakatira sa South Shore at West Island. Tinatawagan lamang sila kung eleksyon.

Sang-ayon ako sa mga iba pang sinabi ni Dick. Maraming pagbabago ang kailangang gawin ng kasalukuyang administrasyon, lalo na ang pagpapakita ng transparency pagdating sa pera, upang maibalik ang tiwala ng komunidad,

HINDI RAW ALAM NI MAGALLANES ANG JOURNALISM ETHICS

Mahigit nang sampung taon ang nakaraan nang i-reklamo ni James de la Paz sa Quebec Press Council ang mga paninira sa kaniya ni

Fred Magallanes. Nang mahatulan ng QPR si Fred ng paglabag sa Journalism ethics, ganito ang katwiran niya, “I did not take Journalism which was not taught that time at the University of Santo Tomas. I did not know anything about journalism ethics.” Kamakailan ay nahatulan uli si Fred ng QPC ng paglabag sa Journalism ethics nang hindi niya mapatunayan ang mga isinusulat niyang kinuha ni Felix Reyes ang \$250 na pera ng Tri-city. Halos isang taon niyang isinulat ito. Sabi nga ng QPC, relentless harassment ang ginawa niya kay Felix.

Pinayuhan ng QPC si Fred na ilathala sa Filipino Forum ang hatol nito sa kaniya pero sa halip na gawin iyon, ipinagmamalaki niya pang isinulat, “Filipino Forum rejects demand to retract statement on missing \$250 from Tri-city Picnic.” Dahil nagsampa ng demanda si Felix laban kay Fred, nagkaroon ng hearing noong September. Isa sa mga itinanong ng abogado ni Felix kay Fred ay kung bakit hindi niya sinunod ang utos ng QPC. Ayon sa balita, hindi makahanap ng magandang isasagot si Fred kaya ito na naman ang sagot niya, “I did not study journalism and I don't know the ethics of Journalism.”

Ang sabi ng iba, “Bakit nagsusulat pa si Fred ay hindi niya naman pala alam ang sinasabi niya. Tumigil na sana siya para hindi siya nai-dedemanda.”

ANG ETIKA SA PAMAMAHAYAG

Totoo na may kalayaan sa pagsusulat. Pero mayroon ding mga

gabay na sinusunod ang mga reporter. Ang mga ito ay tinatawag na journalism ethics o principles upang magawang mabuti ng isang reporter ang kaniyang trabaho. Halimbawa, kailangang tama ang isinusulat niya. Hindi niya basta maisusulat na magnanakaw ang isang tao ng wala siyang katibayan. Kailangang sabihin niya kung saan at sino ang pinanggalingan ng balita. Maraming reporter ang madalas gumamit ng “according to my source” kapag nagsisinungaling lamang siya. Pero kung minsan, kailangang gamitin ito upang proteksyonan ang kapakanan ng source lalo na kung nanganganib ang kaniyang buhay. Dapat ding malaman ng reporter ang pagkakaiba ng balita at opinyon. Ang balita ay isang bagay na nangyari. Kung nakita niyang nasagasaan ang isang tao, balita iyon. Kung hindi siya sumang-ayon sa ginawa o sinabi ng isang tao, opinyon iyon. Hindi niya na kailangang humingi ng paumanhin sa kaniyang isinulat. May tinatawag din na Right to Privacy. Kung public figure ang isang tao, ang ginawa o sinabi niya ay tinatawag na public interest. Pero hindi sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay sinusulat ang mga ganitong bagay. Halimbawa, kung nalaman ng reporter na sugarol o lasenggo ang isang pare at isusulat niya ang balitang ito upang makaganti lamang sa personal nilang alitan, mali ito. Malawak ang journalism ethics na kung minsan ay hindi nakasulat sa libro. Kailangan common sense o judgement ang gamitin ng reporter.

De Lima receives ‘beautiful rosary’ from Pope Francis

By: Jhoanna Ballaran - Reporter /
@JhoannaBINQUINQUIRER.net / 03:46
PM November 26, 2017

Leila De Lima

Sen. Leila De Lima (File photo by LYN
RILLON / Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Detained Senator Leila de Lima said
on Sunday she had received a
“beautiful rosary” from Pope Francis

the Philippine National Police (PNP)
chaplain personally handed her the
gift.

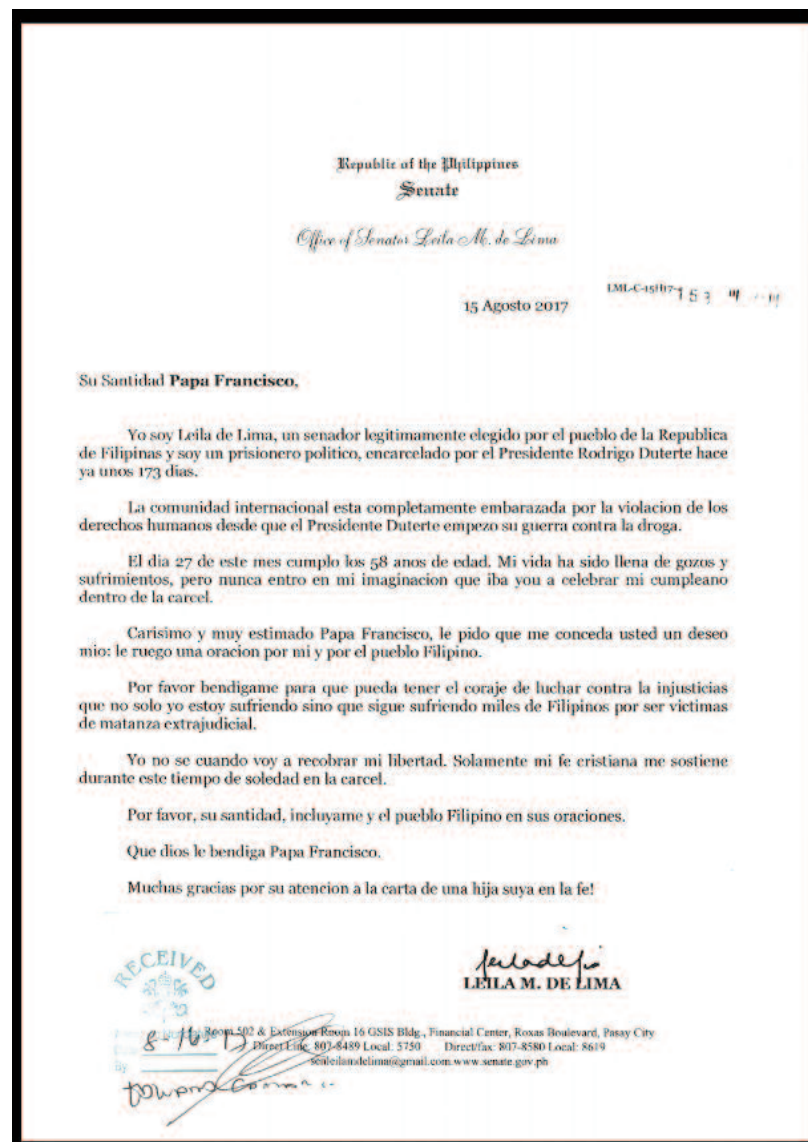
“I cannot thank Pope Francis enough
for his thoughtfulness. I'm deeply,
deeply touched by the Pope's
gesture. This gift will constantly
remind me that, despite the political
persecution I am experiencing right



three months after writing to the
Pontiff for prayers for herself and the
thousands of victims of extrajudicial
killings in the country.

In a statement, De Lima said she had
received the rosary, enclosed with a
letter from the Pope, on Nov. 22 when

now at the hands of a vengeful
President. I should keep the faith and
fight tirelessly for the welfare of the
Filipino people,” De Lima was quoted
as saying during the Sunday Mass at
the PNP Custodial Center attended by
family members, friends and
supporters.



Justin Trudeau apologizes for Canada's program targeting LGBTQ civil servants

From the 50s to the 90s, the government monitored and interrogated civil servants in what the prime minister calls 'state-sponsored, systemic oppression'

Tuesday 28 November 2017 21:42 GMT Last modified on Tuesday 28 November 2017 22:21 GMT

Justin Trudeau has apologized for a decades-long campaign by previous governments to rid the military and public service of LGBTQ people, calling the cold war crackdown a "collective shame."

From the 1950s to the early 1990s, the Canadian government monitored and interrogated civil servants who were believed to be gay or transgender. Thousands in the public service, military and Royal Canadian Mounted Police were fired or intimidated into leaving their jobs.

Speaking in the House of Commons, the Canadian prime minister said the thinking gay people would be at increased risk of blackmail by Canada's adversaries was nothing short of a witch-hunt.

"This is the devastating story of people who were branded criminals by the government – people who lost their livelihoods, and in some cases, their lives," Trudeau said.

"These aren't distant practices of governments long forgotten. This happened systematically, in Canada,



Trudeau delivers an apology speech in Ottawa, Ontario on Tuesday. Photograph: Chris Wattie/Reuters

with a timeline more recent than any of us would like to admit."

Trudeau said the public service, the military and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police spied on their own people, inside and outside of the workplaces. He said Canadians were monitored for anything that could be construed as gay behavior, with community groups, bars, parks and even people's homes under watch. He said when the government felt that enough evidence had accumulated, some suspects were taken to secret locations in the dark of night to be interrogated.

He said those who admitted

they were gay were fired, discharged, or intimidated into resignation.

"It is with shame and sorrow and deep regret for the things we have done that I stand here today and say: We were wrong. We apologize. I am sorry. We are sorry," Trudeau said to a standing ovation.

"For state-sponsored, systemic oppression and rejection, we are sorry."

The apology was the latest in a series of statements by the two-year-old Liberal government seeking to make amends for historical wrongs. Trudeau used a speech to the UN general assembly in September to

acknowledge Canada has failed its indigenous people.

The government also introduced legislation that would allow people to apply to have their criminal convictions for consensual sexual activity between same-sex partners erased from public record.

It has also earmarked more than \$100m Canadian (US \$78m) to compensate members of the military and other federal agencies whose careers were sidelined or ended due to their sexual orientation, part of a class-action settlement with employees who were investigated, sanctioned and sometimes fired as part of the so-called "gay purge".

"Those arrested and charged were purposefully and vindictively shamed. Their names appeared in newspapers in order to humiliate them, and their families. Lives were destroyed. And tragically, lives were lost," Trudeau said.

The government earlier on Tuesday also proposed legislation that will allow the criminal records of those convicted of sexual activity with same-sex partners to be permanently destroyed.

Reuters and the Associated Press contributed to this article

Duterte bringing PNP back to drug war

By Alexis Romero (The Philippine Star) | Updated November 24, 2017 - 12:00

MANILA, Philippines — President Duterte is bringing the police back to the government's war on illegal drugs because he is not satisfied with the accomplishments of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Malacañang said yesterday.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said he is giving back to the police the lead role in the anti-drug campaign to prevent the problem from deteriorating.

"Because the President returned it (to the police), he must not be satisfied. He wants more," Roque said in a press briefing.

"I think a decision will soon be made. But like you said, he did make the statement that, 'I may have to return it to the police to avoid the problem from worsening,'" he added.

Roque said Duterte has given PDEA enough time to address the drug menace.

A total of 117,268 drug personalities were arrested and 78,619 anti-drug operations were conducted from July to November, according to PDEA data.

Some 2,525.77 kilos of shabu or methamphetamine worth P18.9 billion were seized in the same period.

The agency has also declared 4,295 barangays drug-cleared since July.

Duterte barred the Philippine National Police (PNP) from interfering with the drug war after two teenage

suspects died at the hands of Caloocan policemen last August.

Policemen claimed that Kian delos Santos, 17, was a drug runner who fought with arresting officers but witnesses said the teenager was executed.

Carl Arnaiz, 19, was shot dead after robbing taxi driver Tomas Bagcal, who later disowned the affidavits attributed to him.

Duterte has said PDEA may not be able to address the drug problem because it lacks personnel.

The PNP was the lead agency in the drug war since President Duterte assumed office in July 2016.

Last February, however, the President removed the power from the police to go after drug suspects after some policemen were linked to a series of "tokhang for ransom" and the murder of Korean Jee Ick-Joo right inside Camp Crame in October 2016.

After a month, the President again tapped the PNP, claiming the drug problems continued.

Duterte again ordered the PNP to keep off the drug war after the killings of the teenaged drug suspects that were seen as a factor that caused a significant drop in his trust rating.

PNP deputy spokesman Supt. Vimelee Madrid said the police is already updating its watchlist on high-value targets in the illegal drug trade. "On the drug war, the PNP is always ready, always ready to embrace any task given

by our Chief Executive," Madrid said in a press briefing yesterday. President Duterte said on Wednesday that he has no choice but to bring back the PNP to his drug war.

Madrid said the PNP has started plans to revise the war on drugs, but refused to elaborate pending the actual announcement of the President. He said the PNP will try to implement a less bloody drug war, though police operatives have to defend themselves in case they are attack by drug suspects.

Since President Duterte ordered the PNP off the war on drugs last month, Madrid said the PNP has resolved 1,000 of the 10,000 cases in six weeks. "We really mean business in the investigation so we can give justice to whom it is due," she added.

PDEA welcomes order

PDEA Director General Aaron Aquino welcomed the return of the PNP to anti-drug operations.

"There is a possibility that drugs will worsen without the other law enforcement agencies," he said.

Aquino said he does not view Duterte's pronouncements to bring back the PNP as dissatisfaction with PDEA's performance, but rather a president's action as he knows the limitations of the agency.

"I can prove to the President that the PDEA did not fail based on our accomplishments and what we have done in the past month. We never failed but it is good to hear that the PNP is getting back because the PDEA is undermined," the PDEA chief said.

Since Duterte issued the order designating PDEA as the sole agency in

the drug war last month, Aquino has always said that he prefers that the PNP and other law enforcement agencies join the fight against drugs.

However, Aquino, a retired police general himself, advised the leadership of the PNP to sit down and "reconsider strategies" in the implementation of their anti-illegal drug operations amid allegations of abuse and extrajudicial killings.

He noted that the allegations of extrajudicial killings were the reason why the President issued the order last Oct. 11, which directed the PNP, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Customs, Philippine Postal Corp. and other agencies to refrain from spearheading drug operations to avoid conflict.

International human rights advocates yesterday warned the people of more extrajudicial killings in the country once President Duterte orders the police to resume the lead the government's deadly war against illegal drugs.

Phelim Kine, deputy director of Human Rights Watch Asia Division, said the resumption of police anti-drug operations was not unexpected.

Duterte didn't specify when he might order the police to resume anti-drugs operations that Human Rights Watch research has linked to numerous extrajudicial executions by police and their agents. -

Cecille Suerte Felipe, Rhodina Villanueva, Romina Cabrera



Ask the Video Guy

Technological Tidbits
by

Al Abdon

Shotgun or Lav?

Shotgun or Lav?

For those trying to decide to buy either a Lapel microphone or Shotgun Mic, here are my advice. On a typical video shoot, my suggestion is to use both a boom-mounted shotgun mic and a lav mic, but if you are just beginning to build your audio arsenal, then purchase the shotgun mic first. It can be either handheld or mounted to a boom pole. Run-and-Gun

In run-and-gun celebrity



interviews such as a visiting actor from the Philippines, you won't have time to pin a lav mic on the talent. It will be up to the producer whether they want you to use a stick mic or a boom pole. Unless the talent knows how to use a stick mic, talking into it



and not waving it around and generating inconsistent sound—a nightmare for the editor — the shotgun on a boom pole will be a better bet. You, the human C-stand, will position it out of the camera frame



and try not to cast any shadows on the face of the talent. If there is unavoidable lighting that would cast a boom shadow on the talent's face,

then come from underneath the talent with the boom.

Corporate Interview

In a recent shoot involving corporate interviews, the client asked for the boom only and no lav. He was concerned that the interviewee would touch or brush the lav with his hands, or that if the interviewee moved, you would hear the static sound of fabric. These are valid concerns, so I positioned the boom on a C-stand and sat at a conference table where I panned the levels so that channels one and two both received the audio feed.

Smartphones are becoming



increasingly more capable, so take advantage of the device in your pocket and learn how to capture great footage with this exclusive training vid Broadcast Interview

With broadcasting interviews, there is no doubt that a lapel mic is a must. In MMTV interviews, we mic



both the talent and the host. In other broadcasting stations, they use two lapels in case one malfunctions. In Conclusion

You will be able to get away with using only your shotgun mic on many shoots. Purchase the best one you can find, because it can serve you throughout your entire career. And when you can, get yourself a good lavalier mic system simply because it's the professional thing to do.

Al Abdon
MMTV Global Program Manager

Three startups that wowed Jack Ma and won Alibaba's backing

Startup competition whittled down 600 entrants to three winners (who'll share US\$3M) and three finalists

Bloomberg NewsBLOOMBERG NEWS
Published on: November 23, 2017 |
Last Updated: November 23, 2017 1:1

After hearing 600 pitches spanning from fintech and robotics to healthy aging, three startups will share US\$3 million in backing from an entrepreneur's fund set up by billionaire Jack Ma.

associations.

En-Trak Hong Kong Ltd.

This four-year-old startup targets commercial buildings with a connected device platform to help manage power use. En-Trak says it can pull in data from existing meters to manage consumption and lower costs while also lowering carbon emissions, with customers already including Hong Kong Stock Exchange and Fuji Xerox.

Why holding on to equity can be more strategic than raising startup



From left, Lindy Lau, co-founder of En-Trak Hong Kong Ltd.; Gordon Tam, founder of Farm66 Investment Ltd.; Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive; Jack Ma, chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.; Wang Defeng, chief technology officer and founder of CuttingEdge Medtech Ltd.; and Vincent Chow, chief executive officer and founder of En-Trak Hong Kong Ltd. at the Jumpstarter pitch event in Hong Kong this week. Vivek Prakash / Bloomberg

Jumpstarter, a competition for new ideas and products similar to TechCrunch Disrupt, has the backing of Ma's Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., which unveiled its HK\$1 billion (US\$128 million) fund in 2015 to support startups.

A shortlist of six candidates made the final pitches on Tuesday, getting eight minutes to talk about their products and then four minutes of questioning by the judging panel. Among the criteria used to decide winners were innovation, community impact and market potential.

Here are their ideas.

The winners:

Cuttingedge Medtech Ltd.

Robot doctors may not be science fiction anymore. A team of robotic and medical imaging graduates is building specialized surgical robots for orthopedics, neural surgery and oral implants. The vision is personalized care with minimal invasive surgery.

Farm66 Investment Ltd.

The company is joining the increasingly hot field of hydroponics and vertical farming as companies try to alleviate a global food crisis with sustainable agriculture. Combining indoor farming with fish ponds, this startup has already won a couple of awards from local industry

investment

Top three ways for startups to present a perfect pitch deck
The other finalists:

BeelInventor

Trying to bring a technology solution to an old-fashioned industry, BeelInventor has built a cloud-based platform for communication among construction workers. Its Dasloop product fits over the helmets worn on building sites and monitors body temperatures, warns of potential collisions and provides video feeds. It can also connect to gas detectors or a flashlight.

Viewider

This startup aims to help merchants on e-commerce sites pick the best site to sell on. Viewider builds search and market research tools that help online merchants suss out global e-commerce services such as eBay or Amazon, register products for sale and price their wares accordingly.

Human Washer Ltd.

Like a car wash for people. This startup offers the Sit & Shower, a device that enables the elderly and mobility impaired to bathe with automated soaping, temperature control, 13 surrounding water jets and air drying. The company says Sit & Shower also cleans itself.



Recipes compiled for you from different sources by Zeny Kharroubi

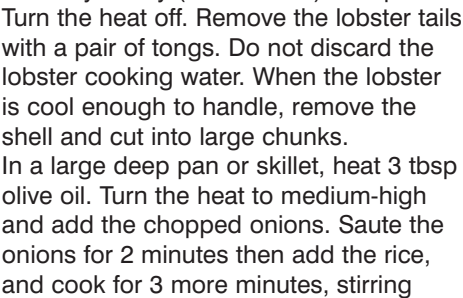
Delicious dishes for the holidays



Seafood Paella

Ingredients:
4 small lobster tails (6-12 oz each)
Water
3 tbsp Private Reserve Extra Virgin Olive Oil
1 large yellow onion, chopped
2 cups Spanish rice or short grain rice, soaked in water for 15 minutes and then drained
4 garlic cloves, chopped
2 large pinches of Spanish saffron threads soaked in 1/2 cup water
1 tsp Sweet Spanish paprika
1 tsp cayenne pepper
1/2 tsp aloppe pepper flakes
Salt
2 large Roma tomatoes, finely chopped
6 oz French green beans
1 lb prawns or large shrimp or your choice, peeled and deveined
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

Directions:
In a large pot, bring 3 cups of water to a rolling boil. Add the lobster tails and let boil very briefly (1-2 minutes) until pink. Turn the heat off. Remove the lobster tails with a pair of tongs. Do not discard the lobster cooking water. When the lobster is cool enough to handle, remove the shell and cut into large chunks.
In a large deep pan or skillet, heat 3 tbsp olive oil. Turn the heat to medium-high and add the chopped onions. Saute the onions for 2 minutes then add the rice, and cook for 3 more minutes, stirring regularly. Now add the chopped garlic and the lobster cooking water. Stir in the saffron and it's soaking liquid, paprika, cayenne pepper, aleppo pepper, and salt. Stir in the chopped tomatoes and green beans. Bring to a boil and let the liquid slightly reduce, then cover (with lid or tightly with foil) and cook on low heat for 20 minutes.



Leche Flan (Cream Pudding)

Ingredients:
2 cups sugar
12 egg yolks
2 cups evaporated milk
2 cups sweetened condensed milk
a pinch of salt

Directions:
In a heavy thick-bottomed pan, melt the sugar over medium heat until it liquefies and turns an amber color. There is no need to stir the sugar but swirling the pan occasionally helps make a smoother and crystal-free syrup.

Once the syrup acquires the color of amber, quickly remove it from the heat and pour into the ramekin (or ramekins) to cover the bottom. Caramelized sugar hardens as it cools and you need to work fast to transfer the syrup to the ramekins before it hardens in the pan.
Start heating water in a steaming pot. In a mixing bowl, lightly stir the eggs yolks. Pour in the evaporated milk and sweetened condensed milk. Add the salt and lemon zest. Stir until the mixture is evenly blended. Stir, do not beat nor mix too hard, to avoid forming air bubbles in the mixture.

Pour the egg yolk-milk mixture into the ramekin (or ramekins). Steam over simmering water for 20 to 40 minutes depending on the size of the cooking vessel. The leche flan should be set and firm to the touch.
Remove the ramekin (or ramekins) from the heat. Cool the leche flan then chill. Use a butter knife to loosen the sides of the flan then invert onto a serving plate or individual dessert plates. Note that some of the syrup will flow down the sides of the flan and form a pool on the plate. That is how it should be.
Leche flan is perfect by itself but it can be served in many other ways. It is a popular topping for iced desserts like maiz con hielo and halo-halo.

“Why do we close our eyes when we pray? When we cry? When we dream? Or when we kiss? Because we know that the most beautiful things in life are not seen, but felt by the heart.”

— Unknown

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Beef Blade steak SPECIAL

6.⁹⁹ lb
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Over 20 lbs 4.99 lb

Beef Round Steak
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Uncover and spread the shrimp over the rice, pushing it into the rice slightly. Add a little water if needed. Cover and cook for another 10-15 minutes until the shrimp turns pink. Finally, add the cooked lobster chunks. When the lobster is warmed through, turn heat off. Garnish with parsley.
Serve the paella hot with your favorite white wine.



Embutido (Filipino meat loaf)

Ingredients:
2 to 3 lbs. ground pork
•13 pieces Vienna sausage or 5 pcs hotdogs, cut in half lengthwise
•4 hard boiled eggs, sliced
•½ cup sweet pickle relish
•½ cup tomato sauce
•2 raw eggs
•2 cups cheddar cheese, grated
•1 cup red bell pepper, minced
•1 cup green bell pepper, minced
•1½ cup raisins
•1 cup carrots, minced
•1 cup onion, minced
•salt and pepper

Instructions
1. 2 Cups Bread Crumbs (made by placing 4 slices of tasty bread in a food processor. If not using any food processor, just tear the bread.)

North American Filipino Star Photo Gallery



Photo from left: Fely Rosales Carino, columnist of the North American Filipino Star, Mayor Alex Boutausci, Mrs. Kim Singerman, DDO first lady, Minda Mazzone, Nick Mazzone, avid supporters of the Mayor.



The new CDN-NDG Borough Council - standing from left to right: Christian Arseneault, Loyola, Conseiller de la Ville - Projet Montréal; Marvin Rotrand, Snowdon, Conseiller de la Ville. Coalition Montréal; Peter McQueen, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Conseiller de la Ville, Projet Montréal; Lionel Perez, Darlington, Conseiller de la Ville, Equipe Denis Coderre; and Magda Popeanu, Côte-des-Neiges, Conseillère de la Ville Vice-présidente du comité exécutif, Projet Montréal. Seated: Madame Sue Montgomery, Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, Mairesse d'arrondissement, Conseillère de la Ville, Projet Montréal.



V.I.P. ladies who served as ushers during the Manila Trail event pose with the guest speaker, center, Dr. Sharon Delmendo who gave a very informative account of how the Philippines saved 1 300 Jews with the open door policy of the then Commonwealth president, Manuel L. Quezon. The event was held at the Congregation Beth-el, 1000 Lucerne Road on November 7, 2017 at 7 p.m.



Dr. Sharon Delmendo, left, poses with MMTV Global reporter, Fely Rosales Carino, who interviewed her after the speech during the Manila Trail event, November 7, 2017.



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cordially invites all alumni, students, teachers, MMTV crew, North American Filipino Star contributors, Coop members, business associates, their family and friends to a



Pot Luck Supper



to celebrate the coming holidays and renew our friendships and cherish our network of relationships. Let us cherish our wonderful fellowship and goodwill to all mankind!



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Social Tidbits

Fely Rosales Cariño

Congratulations to Dollard des Ormeaux's brand new mayor, Mr. Alex Bouttausci. He is the declared winner of the November 5, 2017 municipal election. His youthful drive, energy, enthusiasm, accomplishments as a DDO councilor for 12 years, and the policies he stands for had everybody predicting him to win, and he did! The new mayor is a genuine DDO resident, born and raised in DDO. For sure, there will be new initiatives and DDO will be a better place to live in. Supporters who spearheaded his successful campaign was led by his father-in-law Larry Singerman. Also, it is said that behind a successful man is a woman. In this case, the woman is Kim Singerman Bouttausci, Alex's young and beautiful wife. To sum up Mayor Alex's win, one 92-year old voter said, "I will vote for Alex. Man, he looks goood! I like young men. I tell you, he is hoot (hot)!"

Thanks to the following members of Mayor Alex Bouttausci's campaign: Kim Singerman, Larry Singerman, Hugh Lachance, Bruce Calder, Maya Menahaus, Pulkit Kantarvala, Luis Diaz, Minda Mazzone and Fely Rosales Carino.

A "Spooky Night Dance Party" sponsored by the Quebec Association of Canadian Filipino Teachers (QACFT) was really spooky! Almost all the guests came in ghostly attire complete with gory masks. It was held October 29, 2017 at the Fabrique de la Paroisse on Notre Dame des Neiges. This event honored the Class 4 Shutterbugs graduates. Mr. Al

Abdon, their teacher, awarded the Certificate of Completion. Graduates are: Lucia Latugat, Almer Villamin, Pinky Maghari, Remi Monteagudo, Rebecca Aguilkar, Grace Doremi Minas, and Fely Bisares. Each displayed their Entry for the Photography Contest and the winners were Pinky Maghari (3rd place), Grace Doremi Minas (2nd place), and Lucia Latugat (1st Place). Congratulations on your captivating pictures!

The Silangan Shrine Club under the leadership of its president Flor Rillo held a Fall Dance 2017 at the Karnak Shrine Temple located at Sources Boulevard, DDO last October 21, 2017. In attendance were Shriners' officers from Toronto, Ontario led by Grand Masters Marc C. Davis. This fundraising event's proceeds went to the Silangan Shiners Charity. Among those who attended were Seniors of West Island and Suburbs (SWIS) line dancers led by Connie Fabro and Nita Advincula. Other dancers were Nora Arcalas, Nards (RIP), Elvi Maximo, Gary & Luz Smith, Dr. Jean & Paz Vioria, Benny & Lita Bote, Roger & Neri Ajero, Cesar & Emy Bayan, Andy & Lolit Odulio, Nilo & Edith Valenzuela, Eddie Isada, Pete & Perla Ison, Al & Cora Abdon, and yours truly.

The Panday Tinig Chorale Ensemble staged a free concert on November 7, 2017 at the Oscar Peterson Hall on Sherbrooke West. They were chosen by the City of Montreal to partner with them to celebrate the 375th founding of

Canada. The seasoned professional singers blended their sweet voices and lulled the audience into a nostalgic remembrance of our native songs and dances. With every song they rendered, some recalled where they were, what they were doing, who they were with, how young they were... etc. As the songs Kundi Lang Ikaw, Ako ay Pilipino, Ngayon at Kailanman were sung, an elderly Filipina said, "I closed my eyes and felt like I was back home in the Philippines." Edith Fedalizo in an attractive yellow Philippine terna (so with Amy Manong-og) set the The sopranos of the Panday Tinig are: Marina Ocumen, Marivic Aplaon, Magnolia Camat, Ramayette Taguba, Danao, Carmina Franco, Anita Lo, Theresa, Pasiolan Mynia, Penaranda Jacqueline, Uy, Mary Ann Vincenzo, Aptos Minerva, Barriga Gelyn Gao-ag, Erlyn Glascon, Jamie, Michael Marina, Ocumen, Gian Padua, and Carmela Raquipo. The tenors are: Ruel Arevalo, Jake Calizar, and Edison Taguba. The basses are: Peter Apelo, Eldy, Garcia Jun, Lorico Gildo Manon-Og, Dick Ribaya, and Dante Tabamo.

Through the initiative of Nina and Lou Schiff and the Manila Trail Committee, The Jewish National Fund (JNF) presented and sponsored a symposium entitled (Manila Trail." It was held last November 7, 2017 at the Congregation Beth-el, Lucerne St, Town of Mont-Royal. In short, Manila Trail is a historic account and a precious treasure trove of recollection of how the Philippines rescued 1,300 Jews during the Second World War. Rabbi Steven Schwarzman stated that "even before the outbreak of the war, countries around the world slammed their doors shut so Jewish refugees had nowhere to go! But the Philippines welcomed 1,300 Jews as part of a plan to bring even more." As important as the story is the featured speaker of the evening. She is Dr. Sharon Delmendo (PhD), author, historian, and professor of St. John Fisher College, Rochester, New York, USA. The Manila Trail program stated

that Dr. Delmendo is an American of Philippine ancestry. She did an extensive research on the role undertaken by the Philippines saving Jewish lives during the Holocaust. She is, at present, completing two more books, also depicting how the Jewish refugees found the Philippines a haven.

RIP Leonardo Alberto! We, your loved ones and friends, bereft of your physical presence, are in mourning. We are all puzzled why you've gone ahead, ahead of others who do not exercise like you do, who do not take care of their diet like you do. You walk at the Fairview Mall every morning for exercise. You do zumba at the Chalet with other SWIS members every Wednesday. You personify an athlete with strength. You are neither old nor sick. You oozed youthful exuberance to the brim. Why? Why? Why? To us, we can only say, "when God calls, we go." Nards, we'll miss you and may you rest in peace.

Last but not least,



Councilor Marvin Rotrand who won his 10th term this past election on November 5, 2017

congratulations are in order to Mr. Marvin Rotrand who won re-election as councilor for Snowdon district. He won the confidence of voters due to his excellent work ethic. He can boast of followers from different ethnic groups.

God Bless!

Experts: ASEAN Summit helped revive U.S.-PH relations

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 16) — Experts claimed the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Summits helped revive the relationship between the United States and the Philippines.

Political analyst Dindo Manhit told CNN Philippines' On The Record that the recent bilateral talks between President Rodrigo Duterte and U.S. President Donald Trump strengthened U.S.-Philippine ties.

"The Summit created an opportunity to do a reboot of this U.S.-Philippine relationship. Remember October of the last year... right after the China trip of the President. Some statements came out that could've affected not only the nation-to-nation relationship but also



Donald Trump met Rodrigo Duterte in Manila and said he 'really enjoyed being her

possible investment decisions done by American companies because the fear of... a falling apart of the relationship," Manhit said.

ASEAN 2017 National Organizing Council Director-General for Operations Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr. said there was rapport between the two leaders during their bilateral talks on Monday, due to shared interests.

"I feel that what had been discussed were common issues of interest, mainly terrorism, things that are flashpoints, actually. North Korea, and issue of that nature, mostly on security. There were quite a number of discussions of course on the economic side of things," Paynor Jr said.

Trump was in the Philippines to attend the ASEAN-East Asia Summit on November 14 and hold bilateral talks with the Philippines, but had to See Page 13 Asean Summit

Spies more free to use cellphone surveillance tech without warrant, under court ruling

CSIS technique deemed 'narrowly targeted, highly accurate and minimally intrusive'

By Matthew Braga, CBC News
Posted: Nov 28, 2017 7:45 PM ET
Last Updated: Nov 28, 2017 7:45 PM ET

A federal court judge has ruled that Canada's domestic spy agency can continue to use contentious cellphone surveillance devices without a warrant, in some cases.

For several years, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has used a device it calls a Cell Site Simulator (CSS) to collect information about cellphones and other cellular-capable devices — such as some laptops or tablets — during its national security investigations.

The devices are perhaps better known as IMSI Catchers or Stingrays, and pretend to be legitimate cellphone towers in order to collect information. Privacy advocates have long criticized the technology for how it indiscriminately gathers data, not merely on the subject of an investigation, but on all of the cellular devices in its operating radius.

How an IMSI catcher works.

Depending on the device and surveillance approach used, an IMSI catcher can cast a wide net designed to harvest data transmissions from any cellular device within range, rather than target only the person of interest to law enforcement. It functions by fooling cellphones into believing it is a legitimate cellphone tower. (CBC News)

According to CSIS, the technology is used for two reasons: to link a cellular device with the subject of an investigation whose identity is often — but not always — already known; and to pinpoint a subject's location. It is not used to capture communications.

But after mounting questions from federal court judges, who only learned the devices were being used by CSIS last year, a recent top-secret warrant application was used to weigh in on the lawfulness of the technique's use. CSIS said previously it sometimes applies for warrants to use such devices and sometimes, for reasons that remain unclear, it has not.

When does CSIS need a warrant?

In his decision, made public on Tuesday, Chief Justice Paul S. Crampton concluded that:

CSIS does not need a warrant to use the technology to link a cellular device with the subject of an investigation — in other words, by collecting the unique subscriber number (IMSI) and device number (IMEI).

CSIS does need a warrant if it wants to use the technology to determine the location of a device. Use of the cellular surveillance technology was suspended in January while CSIS awaited the

outcome of the case, but has since resumed, the agency said.



For several years, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has used controversial devices to collect information about cellphones and other cellular-capable devices during its national security investigations. (Atsushi Tomura/Getty Images)

"For operational security reasons, CSIS is not in a position to further discuss how we use this technology," wrote CSIS spokesperson Tahera Mufti in an email, declining to answer how many times the technique has been used.

CSIS confirmed its use of the technology for the first time in May this year, after the RCMP publicly admitted that it had long used the technology, too.



Federal Court Chief Justice Paul Crampton issued a ruling on Tuesday examining whether CSIS' use of controversial cellphone surveillance technology was unlawful. (Andrew Balfour/Federal Court of Canada)

Federal Court Chief Justice Paul Crampton

Federal Court Chief Justice Paul Crampton issued a ruling on Tuesday examining whether CSIS' use of controversial cellphone surveillance technology was unlawful. (Andrew Balfour/Federal Court of Canada)

Under Section 12 of the CSIS Act, the agency is allowed to collect, analyze and retain information without a warrant, as long as it is "strictly necessary" to defend against suspected threats to Canada.

However, Tamir Israel, a staff lawyer at the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC)

believes that, given the type of information CSIS is collecting and

how the devices operate, a warrant should be required.

"The impact on non-direct targets can actually be, I think, much more serious than is presented here," said Israel, who co-authored a report on the use of IMSI catchers in Canada. He called the devices "inherently intrusive."

'Minimally intrusive,' court rules
For the case in question,

CSIS was investigating the activities of a suspect in connection with what the court described as "Islamist terrorism."

At issue was whether CSIS' use of an IMSI catcher could be considered an unreasonable search, which is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Crampton ruled that while the technology technically performs a search — collecting sensitive biographical information that could be used to infer the subject's habits — its use was "narrowly targeted, highly accurate and minimally intrusive."

He deemed the search reasonable, and therefore lawful,

noting that any information collected incidentally — not relevant to the investigation — must be "quickly destroyed and not subject to any analysis whatsoever," within a period of days or weeks.

From Page 12 Asean Summit

leave Tuesday afternoon because of delays to the schedule.

Before Trump left, he acknowledged the sour relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines in the past year, but is now happy with the turnaround.

"We were having a lot of problems with the Philippines. The relationship with the past administration was horrible - which is a nice word, I would say 'horrible' is putting it mildly," Trump said. "It's really important that we get along with the Philippines, and we really do. We have a very good relationship. I would actually say probably better than ever before."

In 2016, Duterte cussed at Obama, telling him to "go to hell" after the former president criticized the Philippines' bloody war on drugs.

But Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Babe Romualdez said Wednesday that Trump and Duterte have good chemistry.

On his first day in Manila, Trump commended the ASEAN gala dinner, and Duterte sang Pinoy classic "Ikaw" on stage upon Trump's request.

Before he left the Philippines, he said the U.S. relationship with the country was important, especially due to the Philippines' strategic military location.

"It is a strategic location, the most strategic location. If you look at it, it's called the most prized piece of real estate from the military standpoint," he said.

Manhit hopes that with the warmer ties with the U.S., the two leaders can build on the initial meetings and discussions.

"Maybe on critical issues, we can really work together," he said.

Protesters burn mock U.S. flag on Trump's last day in PH

Metro Manila (CNN Philippines, November 14) — There was no let up in protest actions against U.S. President Donald Trump's presence even as he departed Tuesday.

Barely 24 hours after the police force used water cannons to disperse them, members of militant groups regrouped on the streets.

Failing to break the police line, and their ranks forcibly dispersed on Monday, the activists settled for Mendiola Street near Malacañang Palace in Manila to protest Trump's attendance at the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit.

About 2,000 protesters from Bayan Muna, Gabriela, and Alliance of Concerned Teachers marched the two kilometers from Liwasang Bonifacio in Ermita to Mendiola Street near Malacanang Palace.

See Page 19 Protests vs. Trump

FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

Regine Velasquez still has gas left in the tank



Regine Velasquez

How do you celebrate a 30-year career in music chock-full of highlights? If you're Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, it's simple: Put out an album to mark the milestone.

"R3.0" is not a one-set affair but a three-part special as it's the only way to match her awesome run. Here, she dishes out close to 30 tracks that both serve as retrospective and indicator to what lies ahead for her. The three phases are titled, thus: "Renditions," "Rise" and "Reflections."

There's a method to this madness, of course. The first is a nod to one of Regine's most successful excursions into pop. Ever since the multi-platinum hit "Covers" from the mid-2k's came out, fans have been waiting for a new album of covers from her. As it turns out, the songbird delivers with a songbook that spans decades.

"Renditions" opens with her take on Up Dharma Down's modern rock gem "Tadhana," which surprisingly lends itself well to RVA's vocal runs without going overboard. She also takes it back old school diva mode with a lush interpretation of the Didith Reyes gem "Bakit Ako Mahihiya." Check out her versions of Shirley Bassey's "Where Do I Begin," George Benson's "Greatest Love Of All," Basil Valdez's "Sometime, Somewhere" and you understand that they are great singers being

paid homage to by another in the same league.

"Reflections" sees RVA update her own biggies. This is the part where she goes "Jagged Little Pill, Tenth Anniversary" on her hits. Acoustic, mellowed-down, re-envisioned raw, name it and she does it here. From her signature tunes "Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang" and "Tanging Mahal," to her rehash of "On The Wings Of Love," it's all here. Regine's aged-like-wine-voice sounds so close and raw on "You Are My Song," "Araw Gabi," and "Dadalhin" that she's like sitting beside you as she sings.

The hits are all good, but "Rise" is the most exciting section here where she delivers new music. Clearly, Regine still has a lot of gas left in the tank. She sings "Everyday is a new beginning/A never ending search for meaning" on the mid-tempo inspirational and Jimmy Borja-written "Higher" and you believe her. As track sequencing goes, she hits her stride on "Hugot," a rising ballad written by "Philippine Idol" alumnus Miguel Mendoza. It's an escalating emotional ride punctuated by moments made splendid thanks to Regine's superb vocal.

New songs like "Skybound" and "Underrated" grow on you after a few listens. Thematically, it shows where RVA is heading to, musically.



'r3.0' ALBUM cover

We like the catchy and ukelele-strewn "Prove To You" written by newcomer Ruth Anna Mendoza, and Jungee Marcelo's acoustic pop number "Walang Hanggang Ikaw."

Closing the album is a tear-jerker titled "First Man In My Life" on her late father, Mang Gerry, written by her husband, Ogie Alcasid. "R3.0" is produced by Regine herself. ■

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Christian Bautista: Over the moon



Christian Bautista

Christian Bautista is super in love with the girl of his dreams who, by next year, will have his last name.

He may be a celebrity but Christian Bautista prefers to celebrate special occasions in his life privately, including his upcoming wedding.

The 36-year-old singer-actor made known his engagement to non-showbiz girlfriend Kat Ramnani last month. In their photo, Kat shows off her engagement ring. The caption read, "She said yes."

In an interview with Bulletin Entertainment, Christian revealed that prior popping the question, he has had the ring with him the whole time of his concert tour.

In Venice, Italy, instead of getting down on his knees in some picturesque place, Christian opted for a private place unless it all looked "staged."

He proposed to Kat in their room, just the two of them in plain clothes. Christian recalled that he simply handed her a small paper bag with the ring inside. Funny, Kim thought it was just candy.

"I wanted it very intimate and we were actually at the hotel, walang magarbang background or what," he divulged. "It was just us, but at least we got to celebrate our engagement in Europe."

When Kat said "yes," Christian was so happy he fell speechless.

Why did he think it was time to settle down?

"There are many factors – age, time, meeting the right one, wanting what kind of future you want," he explained.

Good foundation

The two dated for two years before becoming an item.

Two of their favorite bonding activities are traveling and food trip.

In fact, prior the proposal, the couple explored Greece.

For Christian, one of the favorite places they visited is Bali, Indonesia particularly their trip to its cultural heart, Ubud.

"It was just so wonderful just spending time there, 'yung scenery, 'yung food, 'yung people. It was pretty amazing," he said.

Christian shared that despite having a multi-cultural background – Filipina, Indian, American and Irish – they've not had major differences. The two met through a common friends three years ago.

Asked to analyze why they are a perfect pair, Christian said, "I can't really put it into words and we can't compare it to everyone else's pero I guess its some internal thing between two partners na talagang you want to work together for better life and you see that you compliment each other and you're compatible."

Wedding plans

As of writing, Christian said there are no updates on the wedding as "we're still planning pa."

"I mean wala pa kaming wedding plans or anything pero I guess it will be revealed after a few months pa," he added.

Not even a date?

"Baka next year pa. Wala pang specific pero baka more than 12 months pa siguro," he answered.

On his plans after the wedding, Christian intends to continue his singing career while looking for business opportunities.

"And siyempre spend the life together and start family and find a house."

Do they plan to have a baby immediately after the wedding?

"We'll see," he said.



Christian with fiancé Kat Ramnani showing off her engagement ring

Promoter, advocates

The singer-actor has been part of the child-focused Christian, development, advocacy and relief organization of World Vision for almost a decade now.

Aside from being one of the ambassadors of organization, Christian sponsors two Filipino children under the World Vision Philippines. He has also been helping the organization through a series of fund-raising concert.

He is all for another project being organized by World Vision in partnership with Air Asia in time for Christmas. Dubbed "See the World," it is an awareness building and fundraising effort to benefit Filipino children. For every seats booked or sold in the Philippines from Dec. 1 to 31 with the partner airlines, five pesos will be automatically donated to World Vision's child sponsorship program. ■

Pia Wurtzbach: No such thing as beauty pageant jinx



Miss Universe Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach poses for the media following a news conference in 2016

There are rumors in social media that Miss Philippines Rachel Peters only reached top 10 at the 2017 Miss Universe pageant because Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach from the Philippines was a judge.

This also reportedly happened to Philippines' Mary Jean "MJ" Lastimosa during the Miss Universe pageant in 2015. MJ was Miss Universe Philippines 2014. Like Peters, Lastimosa also allegedly did not advance from the top 10 as Filipino boxing champ Manny Pacquiao was in the judges' panel.

Before Miss Universe, netizens have observed another pattern: Mariel de Leon, Philippines' representative for Miss International 2017, was unplaced because the reigning country then was Philippines, as represented by Miss International 2016 Kylie Verzosa.

According to pageant observers, once the Philippines wins in Miss International, the following

year, as the reigning country, the nation's bet will be "unplaced" in the pageant.

For Wurtzbach, superstitions like these have no solid basis.

"I don't think so. I don't think that they would allow you to join if you're already destined to not get the crown. I don't think pageants would do that. That's not really fair. And I don't think there's a curse either or there's a jinx," Pia told Philstar.com in a recent interview during her launch as endorser of mineral water brand Aquafina.

For Pia, nobody and nothing should be blamed whenever Miss Philippines loses.

"I think it just so happened that you know, we haven't seen a back-to-back yet at Miss Universe. But I don't think that it has anything to do with the competition or the judges or the girl, our representative," Pia further explained. ■

Showbiz Gossip *Continued from p.15*

Outside the box

The 28-year-old Danita Paner is now open to do more daring roles



Danita Paner

Danita Paner is finally out of her shell.

After going on hiatus for almost a year, the singer-actress promised to level up her career by doing things she's never done before.

"Kailangan ko ng challenge this time so I guess mas mature roles," she told Bulletin Entertainment. "Hindi na tayo pwedeng mag pa-tweetums."

Is she willing to do sexy roles? Recall that Danita was a cover girl for a local men's magazine back in 2013.

"Siyempre," she said. "Pero hindi naman sobra, somewhere in between. Kung anong kailangan ng character, gagawin natin. Pero since TV naman, hindi naman siguro ganoon kalala."

Danita was last seen on ABS-CBN's "Magpahanggang Wakas" as Leila Asuncion who was the third wheel to Arci Muñoz and Jericho Rosales' characters.

She was supposed to do two teleseryes more after that until "doubts" crept in. Danita revealed there came a point when she questioned if showbiz is meant for her.

"Medyo nag-isip-isip muna ako bago ako tumanggap ng roles. Siyempre 'pag tumanggap ako gusto ko naman mabigay ko 'yung 100 percent ko eh that time medyo hesitant ako na baka hindi ko

kayanin 'tong role na 'to kasi medyo mabigat," she explained.

"May ganu'n akong naisip kasi hindi ka naman palaging may trabaho eh. May mga bakanteng months na walang proyekto. Eh hindi ako mapakali so sabi ko baka hindi na 'to for me so nag-try akong mag-business for a while pero sabi ko parang hindi talaga, hinahanap hanap ng dugo ko 'yung taping."

This time, Danita said she thinks more clearly and she's confident to conquer showbiz once more.

New beginning

Danita has signed a five-year management contract with Viva Artists Agency which includes "everything" – films, teleseryes, shows, albums, concerts, etc.

She shared that during her appearances on past teleseryes, she was the only one handling her career. And now, she believes she needs a management team that will guide her.

Note that Danita's "Promotor" album containing 10 tracks, which includes the songs "Lunod" "Kung Wala Na Nga" a cover of Prettier Than Pink's song "Cool Ka Lang" and Rivermaya's song "Himala," was produced by Viva Records.

"Tagal na nu'n, 17 years old pa ako at mga rock music but I guess this time mas mature na 'yung mga music na gagawin ko," she

said.

Danita reiterated that for this new beginning, she promised herself that whatever opportunities will come her way, she will accept gratefully.

"Like if ever na bigyan ako ng sexy role or kontrabida. Kailangan 100 percent game 'yung heart ko, so this time I'm 100 percent sure," she related.

But if she wants to have a fresh start, will she choose to change her screen name?

"Baka ma weirduhan 'yung mga tao," she said, laughing. "I guess confident naman na ako sa name ko na na-establish ko na rin. Siyempre kadugtong na rin 'yun ng name ng ate ko, ng mommy ko, my daddy so tuloy ko na lang, panindigan ko na lang." ■

Anne Curtis plans to become a classical singer



Anne Curtis

Among the Disney Princesses, Ariel, the Little Mermaid, is actress Anne Curtis' favorite.

"Kasi magkaboses kami eh!" Anne said during her recent launch as new ambassador of food supplement label Shiseido Collagen.

That is why, she said, it was a dream come true when she became Dyesebel because it was like the Pinoy version of Ariel.

"Wouldn't you think I'm a girl, a girl who has everything!" Anne sang. Those lines from the soundtrack of "The Little Mermaid" really describes the actress who probably has it all – looks, fame, money and a handsome husband-to-be, Erwan Heussaff.

There are rumors that say Anne's voice is really beautiful and she just makes it look bad to look funny and have a niche as a singer. Philstar.com asked her what she has to say about this.

"Actually, maraming nagsasabi na gumaling na 'ko," she replied. "Pati si Sir Rey Valera. Ang sabi n'ya, 'Alam mo, gumanda talaga 'yung voice mo.' Sabi ko, 'What do you mean?'"

According to her, since she and her other "It's Showtime" co-hosts are celebrating the variety show's eighth anniversary, it also

means eight years of everyday singing for her. During commercials, she would sing in front of the "madlang people," so maybe, those eight years have harnessed her vocal power.

"I soft released an album on Spotify and iTunes. 'Yun talaga inayos ko s'ya. You'll see na it's not the best pero I feel na anlaki na ng improvement!"

Anne further revealed that Valera told her that her voice might not be for pop, "So why don't you study opera?"

So, besides fine-tuning her voice to become a probable opera singer, Anne approached production company Viva, which also manages her, and proposed to do opera-themed events where she can probably perform – even at the Cultural Center of the Philippines – in the future.

The actress, who has a penchant for singing Italian classical songs and who had sold-out concerts before, is ecstatic for what lies ahead in her so-called singing career.

"Sabi ko, parang maganda 'yung naka-gown lang, not dancing. Then we invite other people to also sing. Sabi nila (Viva), baka pwede! We'll see!" ■

Martin Nievera has big heart for helping 'even without praise'



Martin Nievera

'It's not charity if you have to announce it. Posting means I'll get more donations, yes, but to praise myself, that's not what charity is all about.'

Concert King Martin Nievera is known for his other moniker "Big Mouth," being the witty and funny talker that he is. But what else is "big" with him?

"Big dreams, big hopes for

the less fortunate," Martin Nievera said at the press conference of his upcoming concert "Big Mouth, Big Heart, Big Night," which is for the benefit of the katutubong Dumagat from Sitio Apia Baranggay Calawis, Antipolo City.

Martin headlines the dinner charity concert produced by Anthony and Rossel Taberna of Outbox Media Powerhouse Corporation. KZ

Tandingan and Kakai Bautista are also part of the benefit show to be held at Metrotent Convention Center in Pasig City on Aug. 19.

Anthony and Rossel praised Martin for easily agreeing to do the show, citing how it would be a big help for the Dumagats, who have poor access to medicines, education and livelihood.

"Kahit na madami siyang ginagawa, pero noong nalaman niya ang ating mga beneficiaries, hindi nagdalawang-isip ang ating idol," Anthony said.

While performing in big shows and big venues definitely helps his career, lending his talent and time for a charitable project such as this gives Martin a different sense of fulfillment. It is important for him that he gets to share his blessing to others.

"For me, this is really not work but more of pleasure because you know where the money is going. It's more of something that more singers should start doing. I see myself doing more of this. Giving is more rewarding than earning so I'm happy to be part of this. It makes me feel that there's substance with what I'm doing," Martin said.

Post not for praise

Other celebrities support specific advocacy and charity institutions but not Martin who likes to reach and help as many people as possible.

"I think I should be open to many charities. If it's just a 'Martin Nievera charity,' it's like just making you praise me for my charitable projects. I believe that if you are charitable, you should not be talking much about it. Of course, we're here to invite people so that money will be made but it's not to praise people who are here," he said.

Martin is a "big mouth" but not when it comes to announcing the charities and contributions he has done. Unlike others who publicize

every effort they do, Martin keeps his low-key.

"It's not charity if you have to announce it. Posting means I'll get more donations, yes, but to praise myself, that's not what charity is all about. I was wondering why some people do that in the business, even politicians. It helps with their image but then again there might be some other motives that we do not know. I want to be able to do many things for everyone," he said.

Aside from charity groups,



Martin with Anthony Taberna and family

Martin also helps his fellow artists, especially those who are just starting. Martin even opened his home before for some "X Factor" contestants, whom he mentored, to give them temporary shelter when they do shows in Manila. Martin pays it forward as he feels so blessed to be still active in showbiz for 35 years now. He has also been part of the Sunday musical variety show "ASAP" for 23 years.

"I'm not naman in-demand like I used to be and that's the reality we have to face. The big thing for me now is my anniversary, 35 years in the business. It's a big achievement for a singer like myself. It's a big deal for me that my phone still rings," he said. ■

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Weinstein paid \$1M to Filipina-Italian model after 2015 groping case died — report



Ambra Battilana Gutierrez

Harvey Weinstein paid \$1 million to silence a Filipina-Italian model who accused him of groping her in 2015 after prosecutors decided not to charge him.

In the 1990s, his brother paid other accusers from his personal bank account, a magazine reported Tuesday.

Ambra Battilana Gutierrez told The New Yorker she signed a nondisclosure agreement before knowing the media mogul had a pattern of sexually harassing and abusing women. But she felt at the time pressured to sign the agreement.

"I didn't even understand almost what I was doing with all those papers," she told the New Yorker. "I was really disoriented. My English was very bad. All of the words in that agreement were super difficult to understand. I guess even now I can't really comprehend everything."

She recalled that, across the table, Weinstein's attorney was trembling visibly as she picked up the pen.

"I saw him shaking and I realized how big this was. But then I thought I needed to support my mom and brother and how my life was

being destroyed, and I did it," she told me. "The moment I did it, I really felt it was wrong."

Weinstein attorneys Blair Berk and Ben Brafman said in a statement to the magazine that because of pending investigations it would be inappropriate to respond to each of the details in the article.



Harvey Weinstein

"Suffice it to say, Mr. Weinstein strongly objects to any suggestion that his conduct at any time has ever been contrary to law," according to the statement published in the magazine.

"Be assured that we will respond in any appropriate legal forum, where necessary, and fully expect that Mr. Weinstein will prevail

against any claim of legal wrongdoing."

Gutierrez had told police the movie magnate touched her thigh, grabbed her breasts and asked "are these real?" during a meeting in his Manhattan office on March 27, 2015. Investigators conducted a sting, listening to a call between the two and getting the model to record an in-person encounter in which Weinstein alternated between trying to persuade her to come into his

hotel room and apologizing for his conduct at his office.

No charges were brought because the district attorney concluded they were not supported.

Gutierrez told the magazine the decision shocked her.

"We had so much proof of everything," she said. "Everyone was telling me, 'Congratulations, we stopped a monster.'"

After the recent flood of allegations against Weinstein brought new scrutiny of that decision, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance's top assistant prosecutor said that police had arranged the 2015 sting without prosecutors' knowledge and that there were other "proof issues."

The NYPD pushed back, saying it had used established investigative techniques to present prosecutors with a recording that corroborated Gutierrez's complaint, plus other statements and information.

Weinstein also once asked his brother and business partner to settle claims made by two women, and Bob Weinstein sent them 250,000 British pounds, the magazine reported. Bob Weinstein told the New Yorker that he had no knowledge of what the payments were for. His publicist didn't immediately return a message from the AP.

The New York Times published an expose of sexual harassment allegations against Harvey Weinstein, leading to his firing from the company he co-founded and his expulsion from the organization that bestows the Academy Awards. Since then, more than 100 women have come forward to tell similar tales of harassment or assault.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they speak publicly, as Gutierrez has done. ■



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PRESS RELEASE

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OVERSEAS VOTER REGISTRATION CENTER FOR THE 2019 NATIONAL ELECTIONS OPERATIONAL AT THE DFA OFFICE OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS

09 November 2017 – The Department of Foreign Affairs, Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS), advises the public that overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) as well as immigrants, seafarers and students who are about to leave for abroad, and who are not yet registered as Overseas Voter, may now register to vote, for the 2019 National Elections, at the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of Consular Affairs (DFA-OCA), ASEANA Business Park, Macapagal Boulevard, Parañaque City until 30 September 2018. This Overseas Voter Registration Center is in addition to the following OVRs in Metro Manila:

Department of Foreign Affairs – Satellite Office at Robinson’s Galleria
Level 1 Lingkod Pinoy Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.

Department of Foreign Affairs – Satellite Office at SM Manila
5th Floor, SM City Manila, Conception St., Manila

Department of Foreign Affairs – Satellite Office at Alabang Town Center
4th Floor, Metro Alabang Town Center, Alabang, Zapote Road, Muntinlupa City

Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO)
Citigold Center, 1345 Pres. Quirino Ave. cor. Osmeña Highway, Manila

OWWA Training Center
Victoria cor. Solana Sts., Intramuros, Manila

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA)
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong

Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA)
5th and 6th Floor Parkview Plaza, Taft Avenue cor. T.M. Kalaw City of Manila

“Sa mga Kababayan natin abroad, huwag nyo pong kalimutang magparehistro para sa overseas voting. Pantay-pantay ang karapatan natin: lahat tayo ay may isang boto at tayo ang pumipili ng mga namumuno”, said [Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alan Peter S. Cayetano](#).

For a brief video on overseas voter registration, kindly click on: [OV Registration 2016-2018](#).

All Filipino citizens who expect to be abroad from 13 April – 13 May 2019 during the overseas voting period for the 2019 Elections, at least 18 years old on 13 May 2019, and not otherwise disqualified by law, may register as an overseas voter, at the abovementioned locations or at the nearest Philippine Foreign Service Posts abroad including the three (3) Manila Economic and Cultural Offices (MECO) in Taiwan. (for an updated list please go to www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph or www.comelec.gov.ph). REGISTER AND VOTE ! END

From Page 13 - Protests vs. Trump

"Pinagmamayabang ni Pangulong Duterte na magkakaroon ng free trade sa America. Itong mga trade agreements na ito ay pabor lamang sa malalaking bansa at hindi kailanman maging pabor ito sa maliliit na bansa

gaya ng Pilipinas," Bayan Muna Representative Carlos Zarate said. Seventeen Americans from the International League of People's Struggle USA (ILPS-USA) also joined the protest action. They defied the government's warning that foreigners who will join

protest actions may be deported. "Well, they can come try," Eliana Letzter of ILPS-USA challenged the Philippine government. The protesters burned a mock U.S. flag in Mendiola.

When winter comes, spring is not far behind.



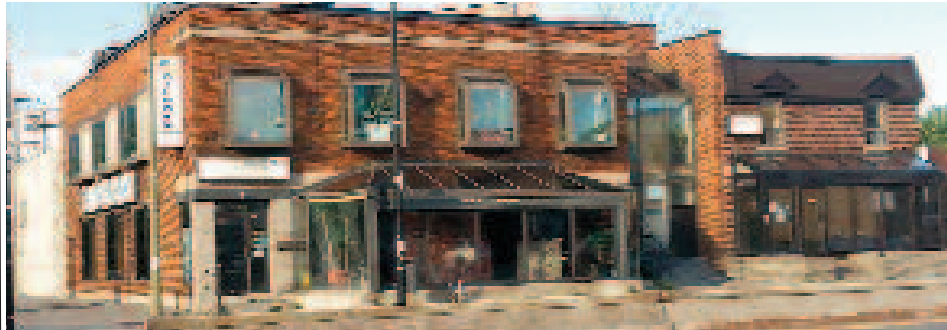
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Coffee break time of Monday French class - Clockwise: Remy Amila, Lynn Solis, Zeny Garcia, their teacher, Zenaida Kharroubi, Joseph Cempron, Sokun Soy, Sovy Kouch, Siv Er Lim and Armi Tula.



International students studying French as a second language: L to R: Jonabelle Torrefranca, Erleen Bureros, Dana Perolino, Ariel Galvez, Clyde Sedurifa, and Ma. Kris Alvarez. Not in photo: Angelica Paglinawan.

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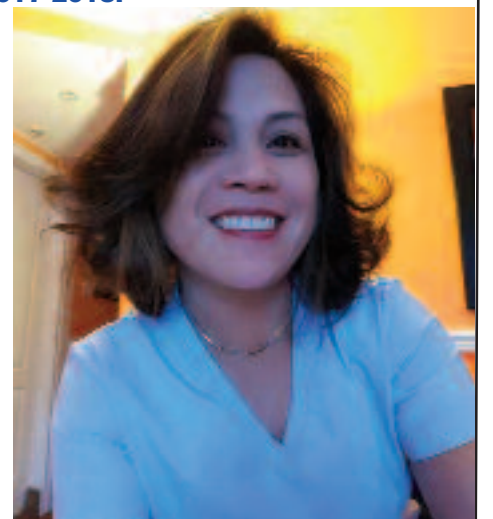
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PAB Nutrition class: L to R: Mary Anne Go, Mary Ann Warain, PAB instructor Dolores Belandres, PAB students May Ann Paccial, and Maria Victoria Lapitan. Batch 12, Class 2017-2018.



Gilmore College International provides immigrants the tools for a successful career change. The training and the skills that I learned gave me the confidence to work as a nursing aide. Adele Lascano (October 2009 graduate)



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