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Exclusive to WAVES

Organizers behind the record-setting Taste of Manila (ToM) street festival in Toronto, Canada’s largest city, are optimistic Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Senator Manny Pacquiao would be able to grace its two-day event scheduled on the weekend of August 19 and 20 at Bathurst St. & Wilson Ave.

ToM founder and PCCC Chair Rolly Mangante has extended formal invitations to the two officials during courtesy calls this week in Manila. He has already met with Senator Pacquiao and was set to meet with President Duterte in Malacanang Palace during the week.

“I hope I can join you to celebrate that occasion,” Pacquiao told Mangante during their meeting on Tuesday (Manila time) in the senator’s office.

Mangante, expressing excitement at the latest development, himself relayed the information to Waves News, one of Toronto’s newspapers that covered ToM since its inception in 2014.

This year would be ToM’s fourth staging. Attendance has grown significantly in the last three years, making ToM the largest Filipino street festival in North America with an estimated attendance of 350,000 in 2016, a giant leap from the previous year’s 200,000 people.

2017 - The Coming of Filipinos

By RILEY MENDOZA
Waves Staff Writer

We start the New Year fresh . . . in outlook, commitment, even in our personal and business dealings. The year past was a big lesson, and for us here, we take each and every meaning to heart.

We welcome the arrival of the Year of the Rooster (which actually starts January 28 in the Chinese calendar) and embrace the traits synonymous with it, such as loyalty, family values, hard work - the very qualities that we enshrine in producing this feel-good newspaper.

This time is as good as any to restate what we have endeavoured to do and accomplish in the next years. We strive hard to present a newspaper that focuses attention on the many good things our Filipino community does which, unfortunately, are not only ignored but in some cases, under-reported.

As much as possible, we keep our distance from people obsessed with seeing themselves in newspapers for no reason other than to glamourize themselves and their events. We watch out for those while at the same time, we keep track of what positive significance they may bring.

Filipino Canadian community makes Canada better and stronger, PM Justin Trudeau affirms at the Taste of Manila 2016 festival. PHOTO ADAM SCOTTI

Nostalgia and gratitude on Obama’s last day

Pres. Barack Obama stood admiring the famous Manila Bay Sunset from his hotel balcony during his last visit to the Philippines in 2016. (Photo by White House chief photographer Pete Souza)

Manila all set for the 65th Miss Universe pageant

Siera Bearchell (Miss Universe-Canada), along with other beauitrous candidates, dances to the beat of the tayaw, an Igorot dance performed at weddings, during a visit to the Baguio Country Club in Baguio City. J.J. Landinajo | Manila Bulletin

SAVE THE DATES

TASTE
OF MANILA

www.tasteofmanilacanada.com

STORY ON PAGE 3

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Selfless Act to Demystify Cancer

By ROMEO P. MARQUEZ
Editor, The Filipino Web Channel

LONDON - I didn’t quite realize the impact earlier but now that my daughter Evelyn is gone, I am astounded at what she did when she was fully in control of her functions.

Her condition was fast deteriorating when I visited her in October, just fresh from being transferred from London Bridge Hospital where she had been admitted, released and readmitted again - an indication no less of the ebb and flow of her health.

Christmas Day was her day of reckoning decided by doctors. She had managed to wake up to that day from a little celebration of “noche buena” and stayed a full nine hours before she said goodbye. Her brain cancer had triumphed. (Video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBVxLvL6Kxk)

One October morning, she signed documents bequeathing her brain to a topnotch medical school here for scientific study. It was going to be her contribution towards solving the mysteries of brain cancer, the ailment that had crept in from nowhere in 2015 and devastated her until she passed away on December 25th.

This gesture had somewhat softened her demise, for me and my family, especially for her two young daughters ages 10 and 7.

When they would come to understand, I would tell them that their mother did not die in vain even as she had failed to conquer her illness. Nobody had quashed cancer as yet, not even modern science.

And in the pursuit of the objective of licking it forever, their mother had made a gracious gift of the most critical organ of the body - the brain - to science.

“Leaving her brain for research was a brilliant idea and kind thought for mankind,” writes Lydia R Loristo from San Diego, California. “So magnificent to think of others at a very difficult time of her life!”

In life it’s her brain that had made a big difference, in the university, in her chosen career in economics and finance, in the way she had treated people. Now, in death, I’m hoping it’s again her brain that would help science in uncovering the secrets of cancer.

Though I am saddened by her departure, Evelyn made me a proud parent. My family’s loss is hopefully mankind’s gain.

Inheritance

Two hardbound books, Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo by Jose Rizal, are among the prized possessions left specifically for me by my second-born daughter Evelyn.

I had read the books twice; the first when they were required reading in high school, and the second as reference to aid in my understanding of social issues affecting present-day Filipinos. She be they in the United States, in Canada or in some countries in Europe.

The gift comes with a brand-new laptop computer, a totally unexpected present she had rushed to buy in Toronto through a relative coming over to visit her while she was under palliative care. She had been moved from London Bridge Hospital after doctors determined only a miracle could save her from brain cancer.

Once before dawn, Evelyn heard me murmuring about the difficulty of uploading pictures and videos from my camera to my old Toshiba laptop, which, by today’s standards, is already ancient even as it continues to be my workhorse whenever I travel.

It was a laborious, frustrating process. I had to delete files from at least seven years ago to free space that I can use for my new videos. “Pa, you better buy a new computer,” she said, sounding more of a command than a comment.

At that time, Evelyn was already nearing the critical moment. Sometimes she was slurring her words but there was no doubt she was lucid.

Her motors had been slowly being affected by the cancer, first diagnosed in the cerebellum, then spread to the cerebral cortex.

While still confined at the hospital and knowing recovery was impossible, she told her husband what to do with her body. She wanted to be cremated and the ashes interred in a burial park she chose in Epping Forest just outside of London. However, it’s her seven-year-old daughter Isabelle who picked the spot under an oak tree.

The tranquility of the site was what attracted Evelyn to the area. She had seen the pictures in a brochure and wanted to visit the place in late fall, by which time she was already in a precipitous decline. (Video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=912Ox9lMs9E).

Anyway, our exchange that early morning resulted in the purchase of new laptop a few days later. Suddenly the old Toshiba became decrepit, slow, lacking the latest apps and upgrades. So, my inheritance increased, from two books to the addition of the computer.

I told close friends about my inheritance and a media colleague, Mogi Magado, viewed it in such a perspective a father like him can feel. He wrote in an email:

“This is affirmation of how much she appreciates what you do, for the good of the community, for the Filipino nation. The Noli-Fili (books) is affirmation that the ideals you are fighting for, the traditional values that we hold sacred as a people is in the right direction. I can see that in many ways you are the big influence in her life, she was very proud of your dad, Romy!”

As soon as I read Mogi’s notes, I began to tear up.

Teresa Torralba’s short missive made it more sentimental. “Such an endearing inheritance!” she wrote. “Hanging sa kanayunan eh talagang intellectual pa rin ang anak mo.”

Teresa’s right. Since a kid, Evelyn had immersed herself in reading, a habit she had acquired from me. A new generation looks like it’s going to stay in the family. Indeed, the two daughters she had left behind are not easily moved until they finish the book they’re reading.

Chip off the old block? You bet they are! “

In that context, Evelyn was making waves, so to speak, for all of us. - From the Publisher
By TERESA TORRALBA

In his final hours as the 44th president of the most powerful country in the world, US President Barack Obama took time out to pen an emotional farewell letter to the American people. The first Afro-American U.S. President also posted his last tweets from the POTUS twitter account to thank the American people for giving him the privilege to serve as their leader for two consecutive terms.

The national poll released on January 10, 2017 conducted by Quinpiac University Poll found U.S. Voters Approve Of Obama, Disapprove Of Trump. (Note: The Quinipiac University poll is directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Colorado, North Carolina, Georgia and the nation as a public service and for research.)

It also showed that American voters approved 55 - 39 percent of the job President Barack Obama is doing, his best approval rating in seven years. It also showed that these same voters disapproved 51 - 37 percent of the way Donald Trump handled his job as president-elect.

"President Barack Obama leaves the White House a lot more popular than Donald Trump is as he crosses the threshold and saddles up for the most important job in the world," said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Obama’s final tweets from POTUS Twitter account

On Friday morning, and a few hours before stepping down, Barack Obama issued his final tweets as President of the United States. As the first President to utilize the social media platform, he used his last few hours on the POTUS Twitter account to send a few final tweets. President Obama has 67.7 million followers which he directed to the Obama Foundation site.

Barack Obama’s Final Tweet as President: ‘I Believe in Change’ also addressed his gratitude to the citizens he served.

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**Rody writes thank-you letter to Pope Francis**

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE

A year after drawing flak for cursing the leader of the Roman Catholic Church during a campaign rally, President Rodrigo Duterte personally wrote Pope Francis to thank him for visiting the country in 2015.

Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, in Rome for the third round of talks with communist rebels, said Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. handed the letter to the Pope during the “bacciamano” or kissing of the hand on Wednesday at the Vatican.

"Our countrymen remember your Holiness’ apostolic visit in 2015 with deep appreciation, knowing that it was made with the most sincere regard for the welfare of the Church’s flock,” Duterte said in his letter.

"The Philippines values its special relations with the Holy See and regards with gratitude your Holiness’ gracious stewardship of the Catholic faith,” he added.

In 2015, Duterte made headlines for cursing Pope Francis for the heavy traffic caused by the papal visit. He later wrote the Vatican to apologize.

Duterte however has repeatedly criticized the Catholic Church, calling it the “most hypocritical institution.”

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**BODDY DIVERSITY AND CONFIDENCE AT MISS UNIVERSE!**

In a speech during the 20th anniversary of the Premier Medical Center in Cabanatuan City, Duterte again criticized the Church, saying members of the clergy did not seem to grasp the gravity of the country’s drug menace.

The President said priests should perhaps take the illegal drug shabu so they would understand what goes on in the mind of a drug addict.

Police records show that over 2,000 people have been killed in legitimate police operations, while another 4,000 deaths are considered “deaths under investigation,” the police term for vigilante killings. Only around 1,000 deaths under investigation are deemed drug-related, according to police.

An international religious conference hosted by Manila saw the clergy taking turns lambasting Duterte’s drug war and his planned re-imposition of the death penalty.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Cardinal Quevedo decried the “split-level” Christianity that has prevented Filipinos from speaking out against the killings.

“They do not practice their faith,” the cardinal said during the World Apostolic Congress on Mercy on Tuesday at the University of Santo Tomas. “Our faith is one level and the other level is daily life. They do not live," he added. "One priest said we are saints on Sundays but devils the rest of the week.

Quevedo said there was nothing wrong with the President’s war against illegal drugs, corruption and other forms of criminality as long as there is due process.

with WILLIAM B. DEPASUPIL— The Manila Times

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Siera Bearchell - Miss Universe Canada 2016 is representing our country at the MISS UNIVERSE pageant in Manila Philippines and she was recently asked: "What happened to you? Why have you gained weight? This was a reference to a picture of her body during one of the presentations in the host country.

The question should be: How can we not admire Siera? She is not a false goddess on a pedestal; rather she is a law student, a runner and a humanitarian.

When casting our eyes, we should perhaps take a reference to a picture of Siera Bearchell one of the Miss Universe delegates representing our country at the pageant.

Miss Universe Canada makes heads turn when she enters a room. She is not a haughty, distant ice queen of current Anglo-Canadian perception. MISS UNIVERSE CANADA is a warm, caring

(Continued on page 4)
Remittance firms, money changers face stricter BSP rules

BY MAYVELIN U. CARABALLO

Remittance firms and mon-
ney changers are now facing
stricter rules as the central
bank adopted an updated
comprehensive framework to
promote more effective
compliance with the imple-
menting rules and regula-
tion of the Anti-Money Laundering
Act.

In a statement on Friday, the
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
(BSP) said the new rules
approved by the Mon-
etary Board aim to enhance
its oversight over these
MSBs.

We have become more ac-
tive, as opposed to passive
inference, by participating
in political discourse. We
take note of a number of Fili-
pinos who are determined
to make us proud by wanting
to serve.

The community has attracted
mainstream attention owing to
this yearly event by the
Duterte era, called Taste of
Manila combining political, social and cultural in-
fluences, and thus highlighting
the true Filipino fiesta in
 deed and spirit.

In the home coun-
try, Rodrigo Roa Duterte
got elected president in May de-
spite his foul mouth and in-
cessant curses. While we rec
from his expletives, we
can’t help but admire the
man for his audacity to
speak out and wage war
against corruption, abuses
and the drug menace.

We believe Duterte is the
best thing that ever hap-
pended to the Philippines. His
antagonist has engendered
meanful changes which only show the capacity of
every Filipino to hurdle any
challenge. We find inspira-
tion in that.

There’s a lot of promise in
the New Year.

(Continued from page 1)

1970 – THE COMING OF THE FILIPINOS

Events in and outside To-
ronto, in Canada generally,
and in the homeland, do
prompt us to view our role
– the newspaper’s role in
acquainting beneficial and
admirable qualities every
Filipino has in his vein. We
are blessed with those, ex-
cept that they are forgotten.

The Filipino community is
undergoing changes. Its vi-
brancy can be felt in the po-
litical, social and cultural
spheres.

(Continued from page 3)

BODY DIVERSITY AND ...
AT MISS UNIVERSE

woman who gives of her
time and energy to make a
personal connection with
people on all levels.

Siera’s personal deport-
ment and fashion choice
demonstrates her sense of fashion
style, pride in her heritage,
self-confidence borne not of
arrogance but of a positive
self-image honed through
education and physical fit-
ness.

She has definitely conquered
the fear of public speaking
and the debilitating effects
of poor self-esteem and shy-
ness. Miss Universe Canada
pushing herself to perform
publicly to progressively
larger audiences, is continu-
ally setting higher personal
goals for her.

As representative of the
MISS UNIVERSE CANADA
Organization, she reflects
positively on our values of
glamour and intelligence.
Our beautiful Siera is able to
meet and converse with men
and women under all cir-
cumstances from working
class, political elite, enter-
tainment personalities and
business tycoons. She is
stretching herself personally
to meet and network in a
variety of circumstances. She
has eagerly learned about
Canadian and world events
and to develop well-informed
personal opinions on a
variety of topics. This
makes her the ideal repre-
sentative and spokeswomen
for Canada and the Miss Uni-
verse competition.

So the next time you want
to criticize Siera Beachell
Miss Universe Canada, be
more respectfully of her in
your choice to participate in
Miss Universe. Siera sees her
opportunity as Miss Universe
Canada to have her voice
heard in Canada and around
the World. Maybe you will
think twice next time you
form an opinion about our
confident, capable, wise,
humble, compassionate
Miss Universe Canada Siera
Beachell.

Get money to hire summer students:
Deadline to apply for Canada Summer Jobs
funding extended to February 3

The Honourable Patty Hajdu,
Minister of Employment,
Workforce Development and
Labour, has just announced
that the employer applica-
tion period for the 2017
Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ)
program is being extended
until February 3, 2017.

Small businesses and organi-
zations wanting to hire sum-
mer students this year now
have until February 3 to
submit their applications for
support from the Canada
Summer Jobs program.

The Canada Summer Jobs
program makes it easier to
hire students during the
summer by providing up to
50 percent of the minimum
hourly wage for small busi-
nesses and public sector em-
ployers, and up to 100 percent
for not-for-profits, plus employ-
ment-related costs. Students can
start working as early as
April.

“I invite all employers who
haven’t yet done so to apply
to receive support to hire
students this summer. This is
a tremendous oppor-
tunity to offer work experi-
ence to energetic, enthusias-
tic students, and to keep our
country growing,” said the
Honourable Patty Hajdu,
Canada’s newly appointed
minister of Employment,
Workforce Development and
Labour.

Canada Summer Jobs creates
thousands of summer work
opportunities every year for
students age 15 to 30.

The program focuses on
local and national priorities,
including:
• creating new jobs to
make small businesses
more innovative, com-
petitive and successful;
• welcoming and settling
immigrants (including
Syrian refugees) in Cana-
da;
• hiring Indigenous peo-
ple;
• supporting opportuni-
ties in science, technolo-
y, engineering and
mathematics sectors;
• increasing opportunities
in information and com-
munications technology
sectors; and
• celebrating Canada’s 150th
anniversary of Confederation.

Employers looking to hire a
student have until Febru-
ary 3 to submit their appli-
cation.
For more information and to
apply, visit Canada.ca/
Canada-summer-jobs or visit
a Service Canada Centre.

Toronto City officials start the year right

Councillor James Pasternak invited the
community to his annual Ward 10
Town Hall meeting held Jan 17 in An-
thibes Community Centre. He invited
Toronto city Mayor John Tory and Hon.
Michael Levitt (Member of Parliament
for York Centre) to discuss city and
community topics.

Some of the subjects discussed
were community safety, infrastructure
investments, affordable housing, seniors
strategy, reducing gridlock, recreation
programs, park improvements and arts
funding.
Prime Minister Trudeau issues New Year message

"Happy New Year, everyone."

"Tonight is 150 years in the making, and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ring in the New Year together. From coast to coast to coast, spectacular events are planned to usher in Canada's 150th birthday.

"Before we leave 2016 behind, I want to thank you. Over the last year, we have accomplished a great deal together to strengthen the middle class and those working hard to join it.

"We cut taxes on middle-class Canadians, and put more money in the pockets of nine out of ten families through a new, more generous Canada Child Benefit; we also signed one of the most progressive free trade deals in history that will benefit Canadians across the country.

"As we mark Canada 150 over the next year, we will honour the generations of Canadians who have come together to create opportunities for one another. We will celebrate the courage and vision of those who came before us, and the hard work and ambition of Canadians - like you - who have made Canada the success story that it is today.

"For my part as Prime Minister, I will always stand against the politics of fear and division, and focus on what brings us together - that is my New Year's resolution to you.

"In 2017, and beyond, our government will take further steps to help the middle class and those working hard to join it. And, together, I know we will continue to build the diverse and prosperous country that we are all so proud to call home.

"Canada, let's make this year our year"

"On behalf of our family, Sophie and I wish you a wonderful night and all the best in 2017."

"On behalf of our family, Sophie and I wish you a wonderful country that we are all so proud to call home.

"For my part as Prime Minister, I will always stand against the vision of those who came before us, and the hard work and ambition of Canadians - like you - who have made Canada the success story that it is today.

"For my part as Prime Minister, I will always stand against the politics of fear and division, and focus on what brings us together - that is my New Year's resolution to you.

"In 2017, and beyond, our government will take further steps to help the middle class and those working hard to join it. And, together, I know we will continue to build the diverse and prosperous country that we are all so proud to call home.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (center) poses with a Filipino family at the Taste of Manila festival.
LBC Awards 2016 Top Air Cargo Agents in GTA

LBC Canada, the leading provider of moving packages and goods thru sea and air to the Philippines, awarded its Top Air Cargo Agents for 2016.

LBC Air Cargo Partners offers their customers LBC’s air cargo service that is fast, secure and reliable. Our kababayans can send Documents, Parcels and Boxes to their loved ones in the Philippines with 7-15 days delivery time.

LBCs Golden Top Awarded is Ernie Tanglao Barbershop and Saloon, located at 328 Wilson Ave, North York (Wilson and Bathurst). This partner agent joined LBC in 2014 and has been the top seller since.

LBCs Silver Top Award is Keelson Food and Convenience Store, located at 1112 Wilson Avenue, North York (Wilson and Bathurst). This partner joined LBC in 2015 and has been the top seller since.

LBC’s Gold Top Awardee is Ernie Tanglao Barbershop and Saloon, located at 328 Wilson Ave, North York (Wilson and Bathurst). This partner agent joined LBC in 2014 and has been the top seller since.

LBC’s Silver Top Award is Keelson Food and Convenience Store, located at 1112 Wilson Avenue, North York (Wilson and Bathurst). This partner joined LBC in 2015 and has been the top seller since.

(Continued from page 4)

REMITTANCES... STRicter...

The central bank added that MSBs shall be further required to obtain prior regulatory approval in the event of change in ownership or control.

“They shall also submit activity level reports to the BSP. Finally, the new rules require MSBs to register with the Anti-Money Laundering Council Secretariat for purposes of covered and suspicious transactions reporting,” it said.

The regulator said it will adopt a network-based regulatory approach for MSBs since they are numerous but generally interconnected.

As of June 2016, there were more than 18,000 BSP-registered MSBs (5,300 head offices and 12,700 branches), 6,700 of which are also BSP-authorized pawnshops, it noted.

“The MSB in the Philippines is continuously growing and evolving to support the expanding needs of its customers. It now includes, among others, the electronic money business subsidiaries of telecommunications companies,” it added.

MSBs are required as part of the registration process, to execute a Deed of Undertaking, which includes, among others, compliance with all the provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 and its revised implementing rules and regulations as well as the implementing rules issued by the BSP, and adoption of the minimum standards of consumer protection in the areas of disclosure and transparency, protection of client information, fair treatment, effective recourse, and financial education.

Existing MSB operators are given six months from the date of the effectivity of the new regulations to secure BSP registration.

Upon the expiration of the transition period, the BSP said, all Certificates of Registration (COR) previously issued by the BSP shall be considered automatically canceled. Banks are prohibited from doing business with unregistered MSBs.

The regulator is also limiting the ability of MSBs to transact in cash. Large value pay-outs of more than P500,000 or its foreign currency equivalent, in any single transaction with customers or counterparties, shall only be made via check payment or direct credit to deposit accounts.

Foreign Exchange Dealers (FXDs)/Money Changers (MCs) shall be allowed to sell foreign currencies in the amount not exceeding $10,000 or its equivalent and not to exceed $50,000, or its equivalent per month per customer, it added.

“However, exemption or higher limits may be granted by the BSP upon application if justified by the business model of the FXDs/MCs,” it said.

The ISP noted that major violations of specific provisions of the new regulation and non-compliance with the Deed of Undertaking may result in cancellation of the BSP COR or other sanctions depending on the gravity.

“The recently approved MSB oversight framework is part of the pack-

age of reforms being instituted by the BSP to promote a more responsive regulatory environment for non-bank financial institutions under the BSP’s jurisdiction,” it said.

LONG HOURS ADVISORY...

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Social Security System will also observe long hours on said second Fridays.

Aside from processing their consular transactions, i.e. passport renewal and legalization of documents, Filipinos are highly encouraged to take this opportunity to register to qualify as overseas voter for the 2019 Philippine mid-term election process.

The Philippine Consulate General in Toronto is pleased to inform the public that effective January of 2017, the Consulate will observe long hours every second Friday instead of every third of the month. It will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the said days, an hour longer than previously observed.

ManilaTimes.net
Community

Calling all Devotees to the Virgin of Peñafrancia!

The 2nd month Novena Devotions to the Virgin of Peñafrancia
Sunday, February 19, 2017

Place: Our Lady of Assumption Church (OLA)
2565 Bathurst St.
Toronto

Time: 2:00 pm Devotion starts
- Rosary
- Novena to the Virgin of Peñafrancia
- Holy Mass
- Refreshments, Kumustahan at the Church Hall

Sponsors: Devotees of the Virgin of Peñafrancia from Catanduanes

Hosted by: Felix and Mayette Reyes, the Felaire family and the Bilon family.

We encourage all Bicolanos from Catanduanes to attend and participate in the sponsorship of this novena to the Virgin for abundant blessings for the province of Catanduanes and the Bicol Region.

Our Lady of the Virgin of Peñafrancia is the Patroness of the BICOL region. SHE listens and loves us all!

Viva la Virgen!

For more information, please call
Felix and Mayette Reyes 905 896-4958
Jenny Amaranto 647 502-2990
Paeng Nebres 416 618-1362

Feast Day Celebrations will be on the 3rd Saturday of September - September 16, 2017.

Philippine Independence Day Council 2017 Annual Beauty Pageant Now Underway

The annual beauty - and talent competition for Miss Philippines and Little Miss Philippines PIDC 2017 titles is now underway. The widely popular contest is being sponsored by the prestigious Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC), a 19-year old not-for-profit, cultural and societal - responsive organization in the Filipino Canadian and mainstream communities.

Coronation Night is going to be held on June 3, 2017, Saturday at the Isabel Bader Theatre, UT - Victoria University, 93 Charles Street W., Toronto. The Little Miss Philippines contest will begin at 2:00 until 5:00 PM and the Miss Philippines final selection is scheduled at 7:00 PM.

Ticket Admission Price: $15.00/person (children 5 below free).

For further information or anyone who is interested in joining this prestigious pageant – please e-mail: pageant@pidctoronto.com or visit the PIDC website www.pidctoronto.com.
COMMUNITY

December 29

Pasko sa Konsulado 2016

Consul General Rosalita Prospero led the consulate staff in singing Christmas carols during the program.

The new staff at Philippine Consulate Toronto.

Filipino seniors in Hamilton pose with Con.Gen. Rosalita Prospero

Deputy Con.Gen. Bernadette Fernandez

SANCHEZ FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sanchez Family (Rodel, Lyn, Miel, Faye, Yannie and Ramiel) all wearing festive outfits in a get-together Christmas party with the Ciolo and Cruz families (right).

Christmas 2016 at the Mendoza’s

Like in most of the Filipino households, the Mendoza family gathered for the traditional Christmas dinner. At the center is 89-year old matriarch, Gloria Mendoza with children, Aurora, Tony, Teresa and Philip. PHOTO BY WAVES.

Happy Birthday Tristan

Tristan Torralba (2nd from right) celebrated his birthday with family. (Clockwise) Mon, Brandon, Rae, Mike, Chantal, Christine, Tristan and Jazztin. PHOTO BY WAVES.
Ben Ferrer is 75!

Ben Ferrer celebrated his 75th Birthday at Saint James Town Public Library on January 7, 2017. Doctor Chito Collantes congratulated Ben, and enumerated the highlights of Ben’s community services. Friends from GTA, Ajax, Hamilton, Pickering, and Hamilton joined the celebration. PHOTO ARIEL RAMOS

KCCC Volunteer appreciation night

On January 13, 2017, the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC) expressed her appreciation to her volunteers and supporters. Other than the individual volunteers helping in the different activities such as golf, bowling, walkathon, it was well attended by different groups such as the Bayanihan group, the TFC group, Fiesta ng Kalayaan group, CHS alumni, UE alumni, Mapua alumni, Monday line dancers, Tuesday ballroomers, Thursday Zumba, the MerryLoopers, Culture Philippines of Ontario, Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO) and the Carbonells.

Resty del Rosario after 19 years of volunteer service and embarking on a new venture handed the presidential reins over to Gerry Rulloda.

Honor Guards for Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sir Knights of Bishop Charles P. Greco Assembly 2113 Knights of Columbus served as Honor Guards to Our Lady of Guadalupe at Prince of Peace Church in Scarborough on Dec. 12, 2016. L-R: Commander SK Eduardo C. Pili-lo, PGK, FDD, SK Jaime T. Marasigan, PGK, SK George R. Poblete, PGK, FDD, PFN, KGCHS, SK Jose A. Reyes, PGK, FDD, PFN, SK Gregory Saldanha, GK, SK Wilfred Gomez, PGK, FDD, PFN, SK Keith Coutinho, PGK, SK Vishnu Rampersaud, SK Alex Rondilla. Photo by Jojo Taduran

Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC) 2017 Events

Spend 2017 at the Kalayaan Cultural Community Centre (KCCC). KCCC has been around since 1997 and has continued its mandate of serving the Filipino-Canadian community with a wide spectrum of training programs, educational activities, and support services for the general public. It is also the premier destination for Filipino-Canadians to come together and celebrate milestones and special occasions.

Don’t miss KCCC’s regular events such as weekly line dancing, Zumba and bingo sessions. Also, throughout the year, KCCC hosts several fund-raising activities that directly benefit the centre. 2017 will be particularly busy with an event scheduled almost every month.

Friday, March 31, 2017 KFCO Dancing with the Professionals
Saturday, April 29, 2017 Children’s Fashion Show
Friday, June 9, 2017 KFCO Gala for Fiesta ng Kalayaan
Friday, July 7, 2017 Hawaiian Night
July 8 & 9, 2017 Fiesta ng Kalayaan at Celebration Square, Mississauga City Hall
Saturday, August 19, 2017 KCCC’s Annual Classic Golf Tournament
Saturday, September 23, 2017 *New* Father-Daughter Ball
Saturday, September 30, 2017 KCCC’s Annual Walk-a-thon
Saturday, October 28, 2017 KCCC’s Annual Halloween Ball
Sunday, December 31, 2017 KCCC’s Annual New Year’s Eve Ball

Additional dinner-dances nights as well as information sessions and seminars are held throughout the year so please check the KCCC calendar on their website at www.kalayaancentre.ca or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kalayaancentre for further information. To book an event, please call 905-602-0923.
FilCan Lawyer Antonio Villarin runs for Conservative MPP Nomination in Scarborough Ctr

Believing that he is ready and confident to serve competently and professionally the residents of Scarborough Centre and the province of Ontario, a credible Filipino Canadian lawyer has entered the race as a nomination candidate for Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) of the Ontario Conservative Party.

Atty. Antonio M. Villarin, a practicing Barrister and Solicitor, and community leader is seeking his Party’s nomination to become the first Philippine-trained lawyer to run for a seat in Queen’s Park, Ontario in the 2018 provincial election.

Asked why he decided to seek the nomination, Atty. Antonio “Tony” Villarin said that he would like to “address the many issues confronting our community in the higher level”. Adding that once nominated and elected, he will work with Conservative Party Leader Patrick Brown, to resolve among other things: “to restore high ethical standards in the government; to reduce wasteful spending; to make the economy more competitive; to lower the cost of hydro; and to strengthen the health-care system.”

To be serving and working as an elected provincial legislator, Atty. A. Villarin will propose to “lower the cost of post-secondary education, increase the funding for seniors and affordable housing and make sure Ontarians receive fair wages.” His campaign slogan is “Let me be your voice.”

A Juris Doctor graduate from the Ateneo De Manila University and the University of the Philippines in Manila, Philippines, Atty. A. Villarin became a Member of the Philippine Bar in 1996. He worked as an Associate Lawyer, from 1995 to 2000, with two leading law firms in the country. Practicing civil law & litigation, administration, employment, real estate, family and corporate & commercial laws, he was associated with the reputable law offices of Go, Cojuangco, Mendoza, Ligon, and Castro as well as with Pelaez, Gregorio, Sipin, Bala and Robles Partnership. Tony also worked in 2001 as a Senior Tax and Legal Consultant with the Tax and Legal Advisory Services Department of PriceWaterhouse Coopers (PWC) in Manila.

In Canada, he faced the same challenges all immigrants experienced including working as a warehouse-man while studying for his Canadian licence. He became a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada in 2004.

Since then to the present, he has been a general law practitioner specializing in immigration, civil, family, criminal and probates. Providing pro bono service, Atty. Villarin gives immigration advice and assistance to foreign nationals detained for immigration offences and also readily accepts legal aid certificates.

As a community leader and legal advisor, Tony Villarin is an active member of several professional, civic and non-profit organizations. Among these are being: director of Asia Pacific Immigration Consultants, Inc.; legal consultant of CK Atlantis, Inc.; legal counsel of Filipino Canadian Cabletvoh Club; past president of Filipino Canadian Community House; past master of Robertson Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons and member of the Knights of Rizal-Canada.

Atty. Antonio M. Villarin confidently aspires and fervently hopes to be nominated as the next Filipino to be representing his constituents including his fellow kababayans in Scarborough Centre.

To volunteer, donate and support his MPP Nomination candidacy, Filipinos and non-Filipinos are requested to contact Tony Villarin at: Email - antonio@antoniovillarin.ca; antonio.villarin.ontario.canada.lawyer; Call 416-850-9320 or visit him at 1560 Brimley Road, Unit 214, Scarborough, Ontario (T. San Juan)
By Teresa Torralba

The first Miss Universe pageant was held in California in 1952 and from that time on, a total of 20 placements were garnered by a Filipina. The unforgettable Gloria Diaz became the first Filipina to win the most-coveted title in 1969, followed by Margie Moran in 1973.

The end of a 42-year Miss Universe drought for the Philippines came in a bizarre but sweet fashion. Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach emerged as the winner of the 64th Miss Universe held in Las Vegas. Steve Harvey, the pageant host, after announcing that Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez Arevalo is Miss Universe 2015, walked back about a minute later very apologetic that he had misread the card. Arevalo was, in fact, the first runner-up making Philippines’ Pia Wurtzbach the rightful winner.

That was the first time the 64-year history of Miss Universe pageant that such a colossal mistake happened. It may make it to the history books as the first time the Miss Universe winner was missed.

This is the Philippines’ third time to host the prestigious Miss Universe pageant. The first was on July 21, 1974 at the then newly-built Folk Arts Theater in Manila. And it is our very own Miss Universe 1973, Margie Moran, who crowned the winner—Miss Spain, Amparo Munoz.

Very inspirational was the Miss Universe 1974 event that right after, a band called Hotdog came up with their first recorded hit song, “Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko” that triggered a revolution—the renaissance of Original Pilipino Music (OPM).

The Philippines hosted the pageant, for the second time, on May 20, 1994 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, with Charlene Gonzales representing the country. She landed in the top 6, with India’s Sushmita Sen winning the much-coveted Miss Universe crown.

On January 30, 2017, Pia Wurtzbach could finally have her long-deserved traditional walk as Miss Universe 2015, and fittingly the place to do her farewell walk as well.
The search is on for

**Miss Manila 2017**

- Must be 14-24 years old
- Pleasing personality
- Of good moral character
- Great with people

May 27, 2017
Korean Cultural Centre
1133 Leslie St., Toronto

Pageant winners are selected by a panel of distinguished judges. This is not a money contest. No sponsor solicitations involved.

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**Tess** (905)940-1354
**Estring** (416)527-4271
**Lavvie** (905)669-5025
**Josie** (905)828-0205
Candidates must commit to a 6-week FREE personality development training prior to the pageant date.

Miss Manila is the longest running personality contest in Toronto. Our winner will host the Carabao Festival in July and will represent the Fiesta Filipinas Dance Troupe at all the activities that the organization is involved with: fashion shows, santacruzan, personal appearances, Fiesta gala, concerts, etc. A life-changing experience!

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The Pope said, it is “a pre-
As this passage points out,
while it is still ‘today,’ so
"Encourage yourselves daily
may not grow
while the temptation to put
there may not be another
day.
"I do not say this in order to
scare you, but simply to say
that our life is the present
moment: today or never," he
said Jan. 12. “I think upon
this. Tomorrow will be the
day.
"I do not know you: you ar-
branched to them, and the man
who knocked at the door,
but to whom the Lord said,
"I do not know you: you ar-
rived late."
It is "only this day in our
life," he emphasized, "the
present moment," that we
are able to renew "our alli-
ances with God's fidelity."
If you struggle with this, one
guestion: "how does it go, my
heart, how is it? Is it
open? Is it solid in the
steadfast in the faith, and
rives full, full, with the heart
pray that the moment ar-
severance" before death. He
responds to them, he said,
saying, "But, you have lived
your whole life well, all the
moments of your day are in
the service of the Lord, but
you have fear...?"
No, they respond, they are
not afraid, but they know
that "even now my life is not
set: I wish to live it fully, to
pray that the moment ar-
rives full, full, with the heart
steadfast in the faith, and
not ruined from sin, from
vices, from corruption...
"..."
For ourselves then, he said,
we must search our hearts,
asking ourselves the ques-
tions: “how does it go, my
present moment, in the
presence of the Lord? And
my heart, how is it? Is it op-
en? Is it solid in the
faith?” Does it leave space
for "the Lord's love?"
With these questions, he
said, "we ask the Lord for
the grace of which every one
has in store." CNA

“Love God now – because you
might not have tomorrow”

By Hannah Brockhaus

Vatican City - Francis re-
flected on Thursday how
each person, not knowing
what will happen in the fu-
ture, has only “today” to
love God and open their
heart to the Holy Spirit –
while the temptation to put
tings off is foolish, because
there may not be another
day.

“I do not say this in order to
scare you, but simply to say
that our life is the present
moment: today or never,” he
said Jan. 12. "I think upon
this. Tomorrow will be the
ternal tomorrow, without
sunset, with the Lord, forev-
er. If I am faithful to this mo-
tent."

In his homily at Mass, Pope
Francis reflected on the
day’s first reading, which
comes from the Letter to the
Hebrews and says, ‘Oh, that
today you would hear his
voice, ‘harden not your
hearts…’”

The present moment is
snare of sin, he said.
and is not caught in the
The present moment is
played out in our hearts, he
said, since it is there that we
are able to truly encounter
God and have a relationship
with him.

The Pope said it always
strikes him when an elderly
person, many times a priest
or a sister, asks him to pray
for them in their “final per-
servative” before death. He
responds to them, he said,
saying, “But, you have lived
your whole life well, all the
moments of your day are in
the service of the Lord, but
you have fear...?"

For ourselves then, he said,
we must search our hearts,
asking ourselves the ques-
tions: “how does it go, my
present moment, in the
presence of the Lord? And
my heart, how is it? Is it op-
en? Is it solid in the
faith?” Does it leave space
for “the Lord’s love?”

With these questions, he
said, "we ask the Lord for
the grace of which every one
of us has need.” CNA

New Year Prayer

Psalm 65:11; Matthew 9:17; James 3:11-14

In Jesus’ Name, I Pray God’s Will for You Today

Today, may you look back at another year gone by, and praise
the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness in your life. I thank
Him for all He has given you this year – provisions, protection,
healing and success. I pray for new breakthroughs from the Lord
for the coming year. May new ideas, new things, and new rela-
tionships be revealed to you in the days to come. May God con-
figure to mold and prepare you for great things He has in store.
I pray for an excitement to rise within you, as God unfolds things
you have not yet seen. May an abundance that you cannot con-
tain come to you and your family. I ask that God will make every
seed that you have sown throughout the year, grow and bear
fruit.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Filipinos in Toronto celebrate the
Feast of the Black Nazarene Jesus

Mass was celebrated by Fr. Felix Linatoc

Devotees joined the procession for the Black Nazarene Jesus

In Loving Memory

Romulo Felipe Buzon

July 6, 1921 - December 29, 2016

Our sincerest sympathy to the Buzon family.

Avelino Beloso

5/1/1931 - 12/16/2016

Our condolences to Philip, Noemi and to the rest of the
Beloso family.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls rest in peace. Amen.
Filipinos Making Filipinos Proud

Xia's Taylor Swift impersonation makes global headlines

Xia Vigor drew praises for her impersonation of Taylor Swift. Photo from the Facebook page of Your Face Sounds Familiar Kids

MANILA (UPDATED) - Xia Vigor’s impersonation of pop star Taylor Swift in Sunday’s “Your Face Sounds Familiar Kids” has gone viral online and reached a few foreign news outlets.

The Huffington Post featured Vigor’s cover of “You Belong With Me” and described it as “eerily spot on.”

Time also ran an article on Vigor’s performance saying she “does not lack stage presence and starlet confidence” for a girl aged 7.

People Magazine said Vigor “nailed performance for his barangay.

The good Samaritan taxi driver reportedly also uses his taxi as an ambulance.

Raymundo Bersalona’s annual offering was Raymundo Bersalona’s annual offering was

By Mon Torralba

Baguio taxi driver offers free rides to celebrate New Year

Raymundo Bersalona’s annual offering was experienced by passenger Dee BA Abbara and praised the practice on her Facebook page. The ABS-CBN News report about the tradition has sparked a flurry of praises for the 55-year-old driver. The social media post has since received about 4,000 likes and shared 400 times.

Bersalona said his tradition of not charging fares at the start of the year is his way of giving back to the community. He lives in a small house on Asin Road with his wife and son. Two of his children work overseas.

“I do this for the glory of God, sa ating Panginoon. Binalik ko lang yung blessing na pinagkakaknob Niya sa akin, na dapat lang bawat isang taon, kung biniyayaan ka ng pagpapala sayempre kung meron kang puso na mapaghigpit, bigay mo rin para tuloy tuloy yung biyaya ng Diyos para sa’yo,” said Bersalona who has been a driver for 15 years.

The good Samaritan taxi driver reportedly also uses his taxi as an ambulance for his barangay.

Lady Gaga’s celebrated guitar whiz is a Toronto-born Filipino

By Mon Torralba

Ricky Tillo, (center R), in a rehearsal with Lady Gaga and the rest of the band.

Playing the guitar is one of the most popular hobbies to pick up as a kid. Though some don’t have the patience to learn the skill and quit, a lot more develop a deep, passionate relationship with this instrument called the guitar.

Ricky’s passion took him to big stages around the world. He was there in the Philippines where Lady Gaga, in the middle of one of her songs, approached Ricky and announced, “This is my friend, Ricky, and he is from the Philippines!”

Currently, Ricky and the rest of Lady Gaga’s band are rehearsing for their halftime show at the 2017 Super Bowl to be held in Houston, Texas on Sunday, Feb 5.

I wouldn’t have known this feat had a good friend and his humble uncle Joe not mentioned it to me.

Being a guitar player myself, Ricky’s accomplishment is huge and definitely “making waves” material.

SOURCE: LADY GAGA/INSTAGRAM

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Grandparents who help care for grandchildren live longer, says study

Madeline Kennedy, Reuters

Grandparents who help out occasionally with childcare or provide support to others in their community tend to live longer than seniors who do not care for other people, according to a study from Berlin, Germany.

Having full-time custody of grandchildren can have a negative effect on health, but occasional helping can be beneficial for seniors, the researchers write in the journal Evolution and Human Behavior.

"Having no contact with grandchildren at all can negatively impact the health of grandparents," said lead author Sonja Hilbrand, doctoral student in the department of psychology at the University of Basel in Switzerland.

"This link could be a mechanism deeply rooted in our evolutionary past when help with childcare was crucial for the survival of the human species," Hilbrand told Reuters Health by email.

The findings are drawn from data on more than 500 people over age 70 in the Berlin Aging Study. The participants completed interviews and medical tests every two years between 1990 and 2009.

Half of the grandparents who cared for grandchildren were still alive ten years after the initial interview. The same was true for participants who did not have grandchildren but supported their adult children in some way, such as helping with housework.

In contrast, about half of the participants who did not help others died within five years of the start of the study.

Caregiving was linked with longer life even when the care recipient wasn’t a relative. Half of all childless seniors who provided support to friends or neighbors lived for seven years after the study began, whereas non-helpers lived for four years on average.

"Caregiving may give caregivers a purpose of life because caregivers may feel useful for the others and for the society," said Bruno Arpino, an associate professor at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain who was not involved in the study.

"Caregiving may be thought also as an activity that (keeps) caregivers physically and mentally active," Arpino said by email, adding that previous studies suggest that caregiving may improve cognitive functioning, mental and physical health.

Arpino noted, however, that caregiving is not the only activity that can improve health, and too many caring responsibilities can take away from other beneficial activities like working, being in social clubs, or volunteering.

"Children should take into consideration their parents’ needs, willingness and desires and agree with them on the timing and amount of child care," Arpino suggested.

"It is very important that every individual decides for himself/herself, what ‘moderate amounts of help’ means," Hilbrand said, adding, "As long as you do not feel stressed about the intensity of help you provide you may be doing something good for others as well as for yourself."

89 year old Gloria Mendoza (center) is the matriarch of the Mendoza family. All her grandchildren grew up under her care. She now has two great grandchildren, Damian and Riley.
Philippines Life Expectancy Compared to Overseas Lifespans
by Danny Santiago

The World Health Organization’s Statistics 2016 states that the average person residing in the Philippines has a lifespan of 68.5 years. That metric is almost three years shorter than the global average of 71.4.

More dramatic is the shorter lifespan for Filipino men which is 65.3 years compared to the worldwide average of 69.1 years. Women residing in the Philippines typically live until age 72 while the global benchmark is 73.8 years for females.

Even more truncated are the average life expectancies for home country Philippines versus the 10 most popular locations around the world where Filipinos migrate permanently. These geographies are organized below starting with those with the longest average lifespans.

Leading Causes of Death in the Philippines

Based on a 2011 World Health Organization study, 30% of all deaths and at all ages in the Philippines result from communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions. That percentage far exceeds comparable metrics for Japan (14%), United States (6%), Canada (5%) and Australia (4%).

Cardiovascular disease cause another 30% of deaths in the Philippines, followed by cancers at 10%. Respiratory diseases account for 5% of home country fatalities, and 4% are caused by diabetes.

A Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Professor with the national sports board has been advising people not to wet the head and hair first when showering as this is in the wrong sequence. This will cause the body to adjust its temperature too quickly because we are warm blooded. By performing this incorrect sequence, blood rushing up the head may cause capillary or artery breakage hence a stroke and a fall.

Right way of showering is to start wetting the body from the feet up to the shoulders slowly. A sensation of vapor coming out of the crown on the head or bristling of body hair may be felt for some people. Follow this procedure then shower as usual.

This information is especially useful for people with high blood, high cholesterol and even migraine.

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You Would Not Believe What Musical Instruments Can Do For Children

Skills needed to enhance your child’s skills for social interaction and education are developed by learning to play an instrument and fine-tuning your child’s ear.

Your kid’s schedule is filled with soccer, scouts, and many other fun activities. Besides that, you should also consider signing your child up to music classes because of its myriad benefits. She may or may not be the next Mozart or Beethoven, but she will probably become a better team player, learning math will become easier, and good manners will be developed including a bigger patience.

Improved Academic Skills

You may not know this, but music and math have a lot in common. Children are learning how to recognize patterns, divide and create fractions by understanding rhythm, also use discipline by playing scales and beat properly. Lynn Kleiner, founder of Music Rhapsody in Redondo Beach, CA said: “It seems that music wires a child’s brain to create a melody or choosing in- finities. Other hobbies like sports and dance can become much easier to adapt to with enhanced coordination and better timing that they achieve by playing an instrument.

Acquired Social Skills

Teamwork and collaboration are the main qualities needed if you want to create an accelerando or a crescendo. Musical group classes are the right place where children are required to interact and communicate. If one child is playing out of balance, speeding up too quickly or playing his instrument too quietly or too loudly, he will need to adjust himself. Kristen Regester can be quoted saying: “It’s important for children to know and understand their individual part in a larger ensemble.” Teachers in music Rhapsody, a mini school that offers general musical education classes, assign each student a task and split children into groups. Students work toward a common goal whether a team is responsible for creating a melody or choosing instruments. In the words of Lynn Kleiner: “These are the kinds of experience we have in society. We need more group interaction and problem-solving.” ParentsDome

Motor skills and coordination are improved by playing percussion instruments because they require movement of the arms, hands and feet. Piano and violin, instruments with a keyboard and strings, are the ones where you need to use your both hands, and sometimes feet, simultaneously. Kristen Regester, Early Childhood Program Manager at Sherwood Community Music School at Columbia College Chicago said: “This type of instrument is great for high-energy kids. It’s like putting your head and rubbing your belly at the same time.” Ambidexterity is developed with the help of instruments. Naturally, uncomfortable positions can be made more comfortable with children. Other hobbies like sports and dance can become much easier to adapt to with enhanced coordination and better timing that they achieve by playing an instrument.

Acquired Social Skills

Teamwork and collaboration are the main qualities needed if you want to create an accelerando or a crescendo. Musical group classes are the right place where children are required to interact and communicate. If one child is playing out of balance, speeding up too quickly or playing his instrument too quietly or too loudly, he will need to adjust himself. Kristen Regester can be quoted saying: “It’s important for children to know and understand their individual part in a larger ensemble.” Teachers in music Rhapsody, a mini school that offers general musical education classes, assign each student a task and split children into groups. Students work toward a common goal whether a team is responsible for creating a melody or choosing instruments. In the words of Lynn Kleiner: “These are the kinds of experience we have in society. We need more group interaction and problem-solving.” ParentsDome
By Morgan Campbell

Yes, Butch Carter hears the skeptics whispering that his fledgling pro hoops circuit, the Canadian Basketball League, will never fly.

And, yes, the former head coach of the Toronto Raptors knows his league, which tipped off Dec. 11 before a handful of fans in Hamilton, could have launched with more publicity.

But, no, he doesn’t think those obstacles will stop him from building a league he hopes will incubate talent for higher-level pro basketball.

Two years ago Carter unveiled his vision of a league with a long-term broadcast deal and teams spread coast to coast. Last month a scaled-down version of that vision began play.

The CBL’s four teams are all located within an hour of Toronto, and their games are set to appear on Yes TV.

But Carter isn’t concerned with the size of the splash his league has made so far. He’s just happy he made the leap. And he’s confident that southern Ontario, already home to the NBA, the D-League and the National Basketball League of Canada, can support yet another brand of basketball.

“You can’t do anything about the chatter,” Carter says. “If you have a chance, you just have to get started.”

The four CBL teams — Scarborough, Durham (Oshawa), Hamilton and Wellington (Guelph) — will play a combined 52 games this season, with weekly matchups appearing on Yes, where the league has bought airtime.

Rosters feature a mix of local talent, U.S. college journeymen and American high school stars who lack the grades to play college ball. Players earn between $1,500 and $3,500 a month, but Carter says none of them joined the CBL to get rich.

Instead, he says, they came for the same reason former Raptors coach Milt Palacio signed on to coach the Durham franchise: to develop and to attract attention from higher-profile leagues.

In that sense the CBL, and the NBL Canada are jockeying to occupy a similar market niche, but Carter says his league’s players skew younger than those in other developmental leagues because he targets talented teens who aren’t academically inclined.

And distinctions aside, NBL Canada commissioner Dave Magley says the CBL can compensate by having the players and other celebrities.

But logistical hurdles remain.

Unlike NBL Canada teams, which mostly play in multipurpose arenas, Carter is adamant that CBL teams play in college and university gyms. That strategy lowers overhead — CBL teams don’t have to pay to convert arenas from hockey to basketball — but can complicate scheduling. Durham College could only accommodate the Oshawa squad for six home games this season, while rival teams will play twice as many.

While it’s tough for teams to compensate for absence from their home market, experts say the CBL can compensate by capitalizing on Carter’s NBA connections.

Drew Ebanks, who runs the GTA-centric hoops web site On Point Basketball, points out that summer events like the Nike Crown League and Drake’s OVO Bounce tournament thrive because organizers import NBA players and other celebrities. He says Carter is positioned to do something similar.

“It’s going to be an uphill battle, but (the key is) getting people aware,” Ebanks said. “Butch has to take advantage of the NBA connections he has. Maybe have Charles Oakley night. In Toronto we’re very big time, and when we see big time things happening, that can make people gravitate toward you.”

Either way, the path to profitability remains rocky for a brand new league that began play with little publicity, and whose teams cost up to $500,000 a year to run.

Some sponsors, like GP8 Oxygen Water have already signed on, but Carter thinks more corporate support will emerge when the team establishes its TV presence.

Broadcasts will also help sell tickets, Carter says, and the league created its own ticket-selling site, allowing it to side-step Ticketmaster and reap more revenue from each seat.

“There are dollars you can spend on marketing, and getting people to your game,” Carter says. “It’s going to be an uphill battle, but (the key is) getting people aware,” Ebanks said. “Butch has to take advantage of the NBA connections he has. Maybe have Charles Oakley night. In Toronto we’re very big time, and when we see big time things happening, that can make people gravitate toward you.”

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Butch Carter’s Canadian Basketball League vision finally takes shape

Low-level pro circuit has just four teams but former Raptors coach says it will find a niche.

Butch Carter's Canadian Basketball League vision finally takes shape (Reprinted from TORONTO STAR)
Pacquiao: Fans know I beat Mayweather

Manny Pacquiao wants a rematch with Floyd Mayweather Jr., but in Mayweather’s eyes that ship has sailed. File photo by Steve Marcus, Reuters

MANILA — More than a year and a half has passed since his loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao can’t seem to let go.

Pacquiao said he felt he won by at least “two or three rounds” over Mayweather.

He took solace in the notion that fans saw him as the winner.

“I only lost in the eye of the judges, in the eyes of the people I didn’t lose,” Pacquiao said on BoxingScene.com.

Pacquiao added that his “victory” would have been more convincing if not for the right shoulder he re-injured midway the bout.

“It just happened that third or fourth round I injured my right shoulder,” Pacquiao said. “I felt like I have only one arm but thank God that I survived until 12 rounds.”

Pacquiao, who is hoping to get a rematch against the now retired Mayweather, is expected to return to the boxing ring on April 23 against Australia’s Jeff Horn.

The Filipino champion believes he can go on fighting even at the age of 38.

“My age 38, I don’t believe that I’m old. I still feel I’m young and I work hard. I work hard in the ring,” Pacquiao said. ABS-CBN News

SBP formally submits bid to host 2023 FIBA World Cup

Basketball-crazy Filipino once again have a chance to showcase its passion for the sport as the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas formally submitted its bid application questionnaire on Wednesday for the country to host the 2023 FIBA (International Basketball Federation) World Cup.

Under the bid application questionnaire, the Philippines is proposing to co-host FIBA’s premiere basketball event, along with Southeast Asian neighbor Indonesia for the Group Stages with the former as the sole host for the semi-finals and finals.

Previously, all FIBA events were held in one geographical location. But beginning with the 2023 World Cup, basketball’s world governing body included an option for multiple country hosting for the group phase.

As the lead country for the bid, the Philippines is partnering with Indonesia, which is building new facilities as the lndons hosts the 2018 Asian Games.

Coupled with the Philippines’ population, that equates to close to 400 million people who will watch the World Cup alone.

In 2015, even with long-time sportsman-businessman Manny V. Pangilinan and boxing icon Manny Pacquiao at the helm, the Philippines lost its bid to host the 2019 FIBA World Cup to long-time Asian basketball powerhouse China.

The Philippines is no stranger to hosting big sporting events, having hosted the 2013 FIBA Asia Championships as well as the 2016 FIBA Olympic Qualifying Tournament. Both events firmly placed the country as an increasingly preferred choice for hosting world-class sporting events.

FIBA will announce the candidates for the 2023 World Cup hosting this coming February in a date that has yet to be announced. The decision on which nations or region will be awarded the hosting rights will be made by December of this calendar year.

source: foxsportsasia.com

“A LOVE TO LAST” DEBUTS STRONGLY IN NATIONWIDE RATINGS

ABS-CBN’s biggest and much awaited family drama on prime-time, “A Love to Last,” instantly captivated viewers nationwide and scored high in national TV ratings on its debut telecast.

Based on data from Kantar Media last Monday (Jan 9), the Ian Veneracion and Bea Alonzo-starrer hit a national TV rating of 25% versus its rival program “Alyas Robin Hood,” which only recorded 19.8%.

“A Love to Last,” produced by Star Creatives, also conquered social media sites such as Twitter, where the show’s official hashtag #ALovetoLastWorldPremiere became a top trending topic worldwide.

Ian’s character, Anton, meanwhile, also created a buzz among netizens and trended on Twitter nationwide.

As the love story of Anton (Ian) and Andeng (Bea) begins, viewers are given a glimpse of their lives and the matters of the heart they have to deal with. Andeng caught her fiancé cheating on her, while Anton

is trying to save his marriage after his wife asked for an annulment. How will they handle these heartaches?

Don’t miss “A Love to Last” after “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” on ABS-CBN and ABS-CBN HD (Sky Cable ch.167). Catch-up on the show’s past episodes via iWantTV or skyondemand.com.ph for Sky subscribers.

TFC Kapamilya stars show up at the Cebu Sinulog Festival

Some of the cast of “Ang Probinsyano” were among the many TFC actors who joined the Sinulog Festival in Cebu. Yassi Pressman and Coco Martin with the sea of Sto.Nino devotees in the background. ABS-CBN News

Catch the WAVES every Sunday at www.pinoyradio.com
Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko

Verse 1

A Aug
Magsikap ka, simulan mo
Iyo nang malalasap
Magdanas man ng maraming hirap
Magsimula ka

Verse 2

A Aug
Mawawalan ng saysay
Upang ito’y makamit mo
Kung may nais ang puso mo
Kumilos ka, gamitin mo

Refrain

A – 1st & 2nd time
(E) Gsus/A A 3rd time
Isaang lang ang buhay mo
A Aug D/A
Kumilos ka, gamitin mo
F Bm
Kung may nais ang puso mo
G/B E7 A A13#9 A13
Mangarap ka, abutin mo
D E/D C#m-F#m
Ulapan ito’y makamit mo
F# Bm
Magsikap ka, simulan mo

Verse 3

A Aug
Magsimula ka
D/A G/A E/A A
Pilitin ang tuklasin ang hanap
Em A13#9 D7/A Dm/A
Magdanas man ng maraming hirap
E/A E#9 B D Em-A7, D
Ang mithiin mo, pag naging ganap
F# Bm
Langit ng pagisip, kapaliton
E7sus E/D C E7sus
Iyo nang malalasap

(Repeat Refrain replace last line)

F6 E7sus Dm E7sus
Magsikap ka, simulan mo

(Repeat Refrain except last line)

Coda

Bm Bm/A E7sus A Aug -A F#m A ...
Magsikap ka, simulan mo

Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko

Verse 1

EM7 AM7/E DM7 B7sus-B7
Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng buhay ko
EM7 AM7/E DM7 B7sus-B7
Ilang beses ko ba namang sasabiha’ sa’yo
Bm7 Esus E
Sa piling mo’y tangan ang lumbay
Em7 F#7sus F#7
May kasiyahang wala lang kapayat
Bm7 Bb7 AM7 E7sus-E
Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng buhay ko

Verse 2

EM7 AM7/E DM7 B7sus-B7
Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng buhay ko
EM7 AM7/E DM7 B7sus-B7
Ilang beses ko ba namang uulitin sa’yo
Bm7 Esus E
Sakit ng ulo’y tangan bigla,
Em7 F#7sus F#
Sa piling mo’y tingle at nawala
Bm7 Bb7 AM7 E7sus
Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng buhay ko

Refrain

AM7-Altdim Bm7-E7sus
Aanhin ko ang ganda ng iba
Bm7 Bm+M7 Bm7
Madudulot lang ang aking mga mata
E7sus AM7-Em7-A7
Butas pa ang bulsa
DM7 Bm7
At di ba sabi ng mga matatanda
EM7 F#7
Ingat lang tayo ng mga bata
Bm7 B7 E E7sus E7
Kagandahan, tulad ng swerte, nawala
The annual Santo Nino de Cebu fiesta, started by Ben and Rosie Estrella & family in 1983, was held on Saturday, Jan 21 at St. Patrick’s church in Toronto. A throng of devotees and families attended the mass and the sumptuous reception in the church hall.

Ben Estrella & family wish to thank all devotees and volunteers for a successful fiesta in honour of Santo Nino.
ABS-CBN is grateful for another year spent with Filipino families across the country who continuously tuned in to the Kapamilya network throughout the year for information and entertainment.

Once again, ABS-CBN has become a part of the Filipino families’ daily viewing habits as it obtained an average audience share of 45% in the entire Philippines or 11 points higher than GMA Network’s 34 percent, based on Kantar Media national TV ratings data covering both urban and rural homes from 1 Jan to 15 Dec 2016.

Apart from the high audience share and TV ratings, ABS-CBN is thankful for the love that Filipinos have shown as reflected in the numerous awards from different award-giving bodies, the huge turnouts in its events such as “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” Thanksgiving Concert and the ABS-CBN Christmas Special at the Araneta Coliseum, and the increasing patronage of ABS-CBN’s programs like “Wansapanataym,” a top-rated regional program, and the increasing patronage of ABS-CBN’s programs online via iWant TV, TFC.tv, and Sky on Demand.

Leading the way among entertainment programs that touched and captivated Filipino audiences is prime-time favorite “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” which has an average national TV rating of 40.3%. The show has been the highest rated program in the Philippines, captivating the Filipino audience by promoting love for family and country, and the values of service, humility, camaraderie, and integrity as demonstrated by the protagonist Cardo, played by Coco Martin, and his family and friends in the show.

Also gaining affinity among viewers with stories that mirror the challenges and values in the lives of Filipinos are shows like “Pangako Sa’ Yo” starring Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla, “Dolce Amore” of Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano, “Maganang Pag-Asa” of Jericho Rosales and Arci Munoz, “The Story of Us” of Kim Chiu and Xian Lim, Elmo Magalona and Janelle Salvador’s “Born for You,” Daniel Matsunaga and Erich Gonzales’ “Be My Lady,” and “Til I Met You” with James Reid and Nadine Lustre.

Viewers also followed ABS-CBN’s afternoon series “Doble Kara,” “Tubig at Langis,” and “The Greatest Love” that emphasize the value of family, marriage, and selfless, unconditional love of a mother as well “MMK” that featured true-to-life stories of Filipinos who affirm courage, resilience and perseverance in surpassing life challenges.

Children also learned about good values in ABS-CBN programs like “Super D” and “Wansapanataym,” a top-rater during weekends, while “Goin’ Bulilit” encouraged them to laugh and have fun. Kids also found a new show where they can learn about the environment, culture, arts, and family in the new educational show “Oyayi,” and found new role models in Awra and Ondok of “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano,” as well as in the kids from the new daytime series “Langit Lupa.”

Through the game, variety, and reality shows, Filipinos witnessed as one family the honing of talent and the fulfillment of dreams in programs like “It’s Showtime,” “ASAAP,” “Minute to Win It,” “The Voice PH,” “The Voice Kids,” “Dance Kids,” “Pilipinas Got Talent,” “I Love OPM,” “We Love OPM,” and “Celebrity Playtime.”

They also got to enjoy conversations in talk shows like “Magandang Buhay,” “Tonight with Boy Abunda,” and “Gandang Gabi Vice,” and laughed in unison while watching “Banana Sundae” and “Home Sweetie Home.”

ABS-CBN News has also led in keeping the public informed and enlightened on the most important issues in the country with “TV Patrol” as the number one newscast in the country, while the “Filipinas Presidential Debate 2016” also turned out to be the highest-rating program in 2016 so far with 40.6% last May. Beyond news and information, it also served thousands of Filipinos in the other ratings data supplier AGB Nielsen reportedly has 2,000 homes based in urban areas that represent only 57% of the Philippine TV viewing population.

Kantar Media uses a nationwide panel size of 2,610 urban and rural homes that represent 100% of the total Philippine TV viewing population, while the other ratings data supplier AGB Nielsen reportedly has 2,000 homes based in urban areas that represent only 57% of the Philippine TV viewing population.

Kantar Media is a multinational market research group that specializes in audience measurement in more than 80 countries, has 26 TV networks, ad agencies, and pan-regional networks subscribing to its ratings services.

Kantar data also show that 17 programs produced by ABS-CBN made it to this year’s Top 20 most-watched programs. These are “Filipinas Presidential Debate 2016 (40.6%), “FPJ’s Ang Probinsyano” (40.3%), “The Voice Kids” (37.6%), “Pangako Sa’ Yo” (34.3%), “Dolce Amore” (33.8%), “Meron Ang Kwentong Ang Himig ng Buhay Ko concert (32.9%), “Pilipinas Got Talent” (31.9%), “Dance Kids” (31.0%), “MMK” (30.9%), “Wansapanataym” (30.9%), “TV Patrol” (30.7%), “Pinoy Boyband Superstar” (30.6%), “MMK 25th Anniversary” (29.9%), “Halalan 2016 Ang Huling Harapan” (25.7%), “Home Sweetie Home” (25.3%), “Magpahanggang Wakas” (24.5%) and “Goin’ Bulilit” (23.4%).

ABS-CBN tops all networks with 45% audience share