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GENSAN GAZER

GENERAL SANTOS CITY'S MAGAZINE
WWW.GENSANGAZER.COM
VOLUME III NUMBER 4

**MR & MS GENSAN WINNERS AT MANILAY
ANCESTRAL HOUSE**

**2012 TUNA
FESTIVAL**

**GREEN ECONOMY?
RIO+20, GOOD LUCK!**

**THE BLISS OF
BAGASBAS**

**MAHINTANA's
ReVIVE PROGRAM**

**THE RISE OF THE
GENSAN BRAND**

**WAITING TO
BREATHE...**

**GGLIST: SONY, MAC,
SAMSONITE, ETC.**

**ANNE
CURTIS**

**WALTER, MATSSON,
FURST, WALK THE MOON**

**MORE
STORIES INSIDE!**

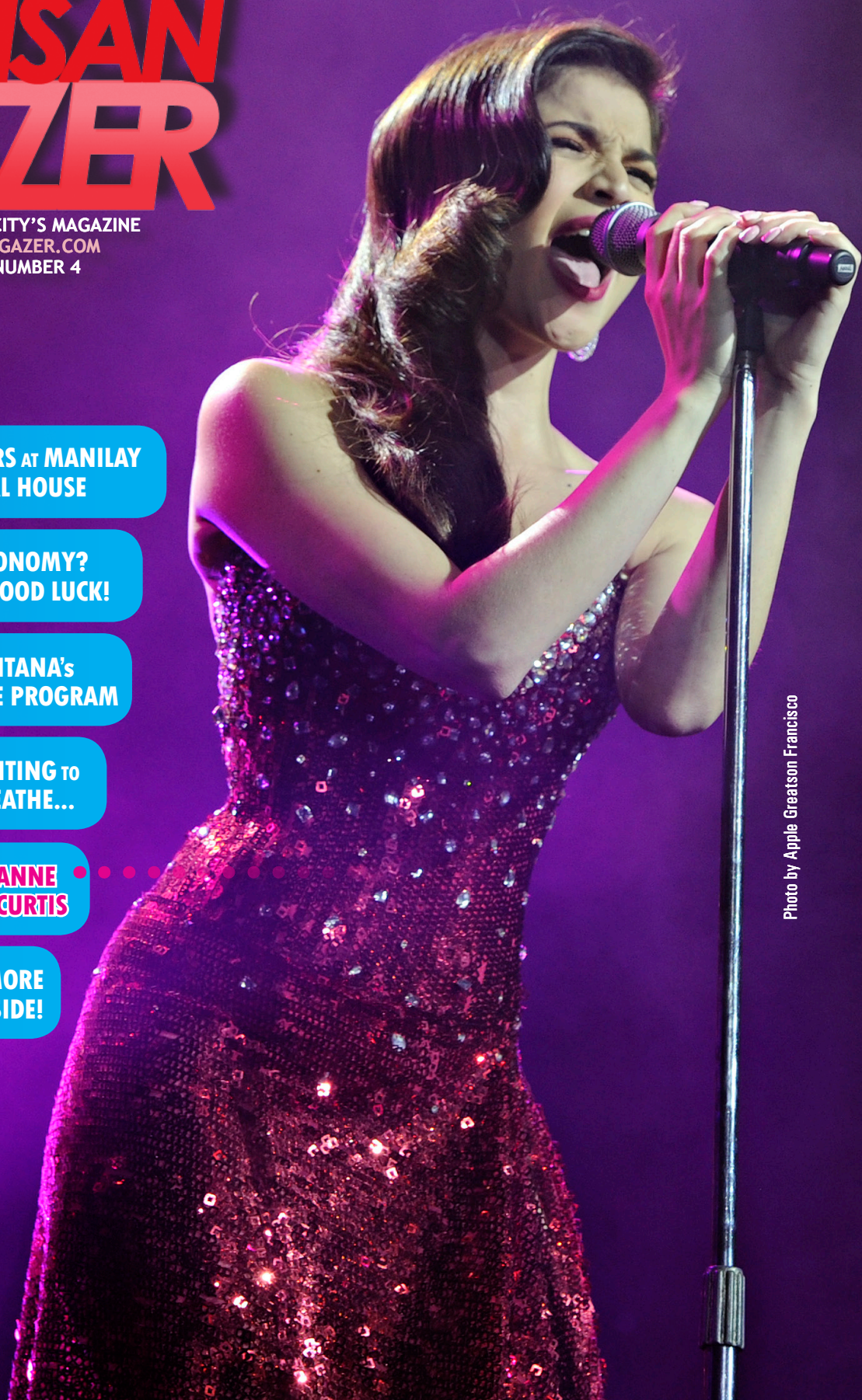
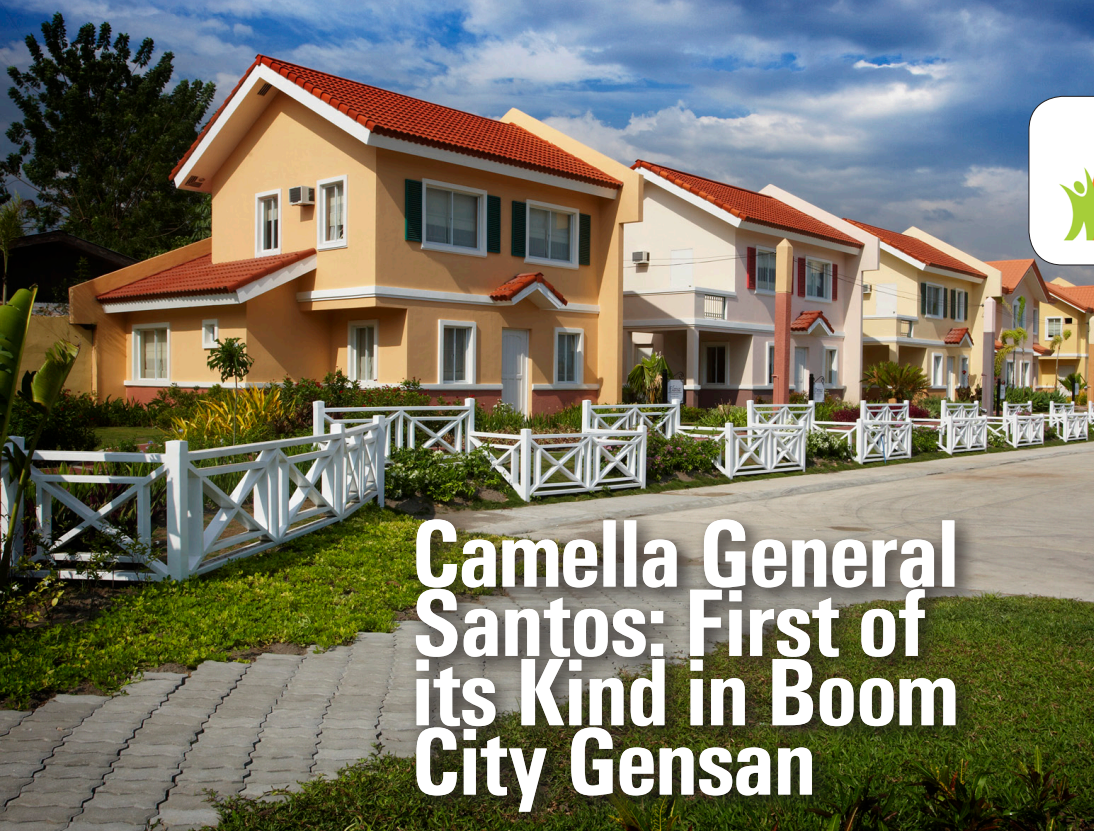


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Camella General Santos: First of its Kind in Boom City Gensan

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Armando Nicolas P J
EDITOR

Van Almeria
Egai Cadiente
Bing Cariño
Donna Mae Congson
Romarie Ivy Cunanan
Apple Greatson Francisco
Nusha Susanne Heit
Avel Manansala
Orman Manansala
Johann Niño Mari
Marthin Millado
Nymo Munda
CONTRIBUTORS

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Armanikolas Publishing @™
B34 - L7 Doña Soledad II A, Espina Gen. Santos City 9500 Philippines
Phone : +63-83-8269221
Phone : +63-83-5547055
Mobile : +63-908-3373005
Website : www.gensangazer.com

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editor's NOTE



No way -- we simply can't have Anne Curtis make her Gensan debut of the Annebisyosa World Tour without getting the much sought-after celebrity on the cover of Gensan Gazer! (Big thanks to SilverPoint Event Productions and Apple Greatson Francisco, who made all this happen; we look forward to your future collaborations.) Do enjoy Anne's two-page spread on page 20.

Elsewhere we're packed to the hilt this issue, with features ranging from the city's media pioneers, the

rise of the Gensan brand, Gensan's foremost ancestral home, last year's Mr&Ms Gensan winners, the Zumba craze, local couture, masquerades, and *the soundtrack of your life*, among others.

What we do lack are pages for our advertisers, so we advise that you book your ad slots early to get going.

To all our readers in 353 cities across 62 countries and territories worldwide, our sincerest, warmest *Magandang GenSan!*

Armando Nicolas P J

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Anne Curtis poses with the Gaceta Family and SilverPoint Event Productions, main presenter of her Annebisyosa concert in General Santos in June.

Photo by Apple Greatson Francisco, official photographer of Annebisyosa in Gensan



Gensan Doctor Hailed as Bayaning Pilipino

GENSANAchievers



Dr. Roel Cagape (third from left) of Lagao is named Bayaning Pilipino by Gawad Geny Lopez Jr Bayaning Pilipino Awards.

A barrio doctor who dedicated his life to medical service in the countryside, a teacher who toiled beyond her call of duty, and a simple family of volunteers who offered themselves to nation-building were honored with the prestigious **Gawad Geny Lopez Jr Bayaning Pilipino Awards**, a recognition given by **ABS-CBN** and **Ugat Foundation** to ordinary Pinoy doing extraordinary deeds.

"We looked for ordinary folks who have sacrificed themselves for the betterment of their community. They have placed community-service above themselves," according to **Fr Nilo E. Tanalega**, project director of the awards, which aim to honor outstanding Filipinos here and abroad.

Dr. Roel Cagape, a physician from Barangay Lagao, General Santos, who spent most of his life helping his countrymen, received the **Bayaning Pilipino (Individual)** award for his commitment to providing services to rural and far-flung areas in Gensan and Sarangani (more details on tulongkosapasyentengpilipino.blog.com).

Aside from giving free medical services in his clinic daily, he also conducts weekly medical missions in mountainous regions, which are barely accessible by four-wheeled vehicles. He also taught his community to use horses to transport patients during emergency situations through his project called **Ambulansyang Kabayo**.

Meanwhile, the **Bayaning Pilipino (Guro)** award was given to **Rebecca Ouano**

of Cebu City to recognize her 41 years of teaching, which she has spent on promoting and implementing an alternative learning system program to reach out-of-school youths, vendors, and street children. She does voluntary teaching during weekends and conducts a daily supplementary feeding program to almost 200 street children.

The Gamez Family of Oriental Mindoro received the **Bayaning Pilipino (Pamilya)** award for their devotion to community service. Every member of their family has committed themselves to volunteer work and community outreach programs.

The **Gawad Geny Lopez Jr Bayaning Pilipino Awards** also launched this year the **Bayaning Pilipino Global**, which honors organizations that do extraordinary services abroad, for the first time since its inception in 1995. This year's awardees include **Kapisanan Philippine Centre for Arts and Culture** (Canada), **Pusong Pinoy** (USA), **Kapit-Bahayan Cooperative Limited** (Australia), **Sagip Migrante** (Japan), **Network of Filipino Social Development Workers for Migrants in Japan** (Japan), **Lahing Kayumanggi Dance Company** (United Kingdom), and **Filipino Badminton Committee Kuwait Philippines, Inc.** (Kuwait).

This year's winners in both national and global categories were chosen by a jury headed by chairperson **Sonia Roco**, and members **ABS-CBN Chairman/CEO Eugenio Lopez III**, **Regina Lopez**, **Evelyn Caba**, and **Timothy Gabuna**. The Awards ceremony was held at **Dolphy Theater**, and hosted by **Ariel Ureta** and **Giselle Toengi**.

Condensed from the original article on GenSan News Online Mag (gensantos.com) by Avel Manansala, 25 July 2012

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Dr. Warren Manilay, Goldenstate College's main man, was never inclined to dabbling in art or antiquities or architecture (in fact he has a bachelor's degree in agribusiness, master's in national security administration, and a PhD in peace and security administration), but in his effort to bring to life a structure that now stands to be the foremost, if not the only ancestral house in General Santos City, he became both a designer-builder and curator-historian.

The structure at the heart of his and his wife's decades-long passion is the Manilay Ancestral House, quietly perched around tall, slender, green trees on a 5,000-square-meter property next door to their residence off Nuñez street in Purok Malakas, Barangay San Isidro.

Originally from San Pablo City, Laguna, Warren and his wife Sara Jane, together with their children Pia, John, Deck, and Jen, relocated to Gensan in 1992 for good. This was where it all began, Sarah Jane collecting distinct antique pieces of religious statues and paraphernalia, fixtures, photographs and family memorabilia, appliances, furniture, and other trinkets, that have now all become an eclectic

treasure trove of artifacts rich in history and heritage, albeit very young and deeply personal. Back then Warren didn't eye them as fondly, even considering the hodge-podge of old chests, telephones, transistor radios, traditional flat irons, wood carvings, candleabras, typewriters, chairs, lamps, and what-not as junk.

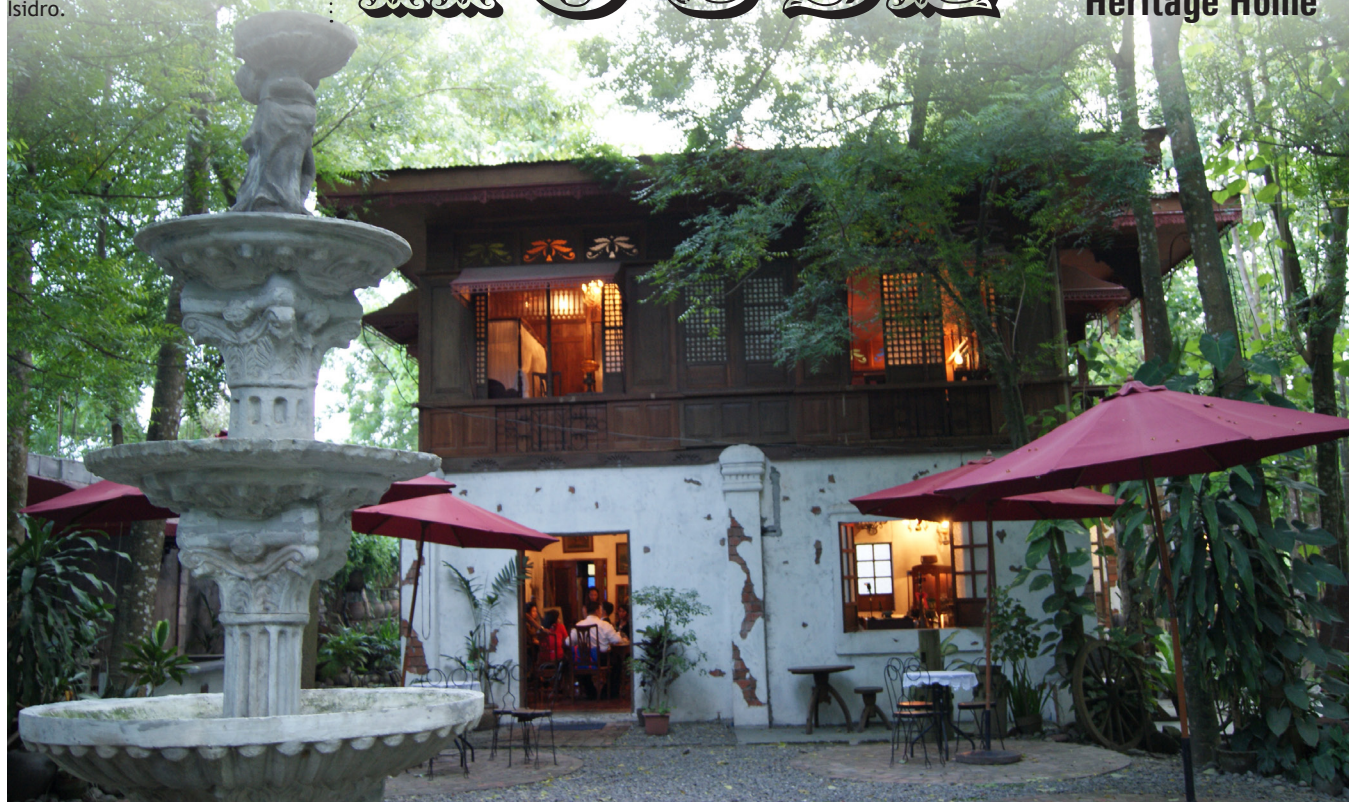
In no time the accumulated pieces have made their home

look more like a museum than a house, something that bothered the father of the household. But instead of disposing of the assortment of curios and bric-a-bracs outright, and also out of respect for his wife's *collection*, he suggested that the items be moved and housed elsewhere -- whereupon the seed of the ancestral house was born. Sara Jane broached the idea of placing her collection in a

THE MANILAY ANCESTRAL HOUSE

Text and
Photos by
Armando
Nicolas PJ

**General Santos
City's Foremost
Heritage Home**





suitable structure separate from their house of residence, one that might very well stand in, Warren thought almost immediately, as a reincarnation, if not a replica, of their own ancestral house in Batangas.

Back in Batangas, however, unbeknown to the Manilays in Gensan, the ancestral house was torn apart -- ceilings, doors, beams, jambs, windows, posts, walls, awnings, balusters, floors, chairs, tables, bed, picture frames, and other loose parts -- and the pieces were sold to a petty middleman who intended to resell the still intact and hence valuable pieces as junk, and use the rest as firewood -- much to the dismay of the family.

Without delay Warren bought back as many of the materials he could find, had them carefully loaded in 20-foot container vans to not aggravate whatever initial damage the loose parts have sustained when the house was torn down, and shipped back to Gensan in batches in the course of half a year.

Eventually the transplanted parts rose from the ground up in General Santos

City to a near replica of the Batangas ancestral home. Although the design was overseen by a professional architect, the interiors and layout were planned out by both Warren and Sara Jane if only to recreate the original look as closely as possible. As not all of the materials were recovered, the final structure spans only 8x10 on each of the lower and upper floors, and stands 10 meters high -- actually three quarters short of the dimensions of the original structure.





Part-museum, part-heirloom, and part-home -- the Manilay Ancestral House now has under its roof a priceless assortment of curios, antiques, Filipiniana and religious artifacts, and other collectibles amassed over the years.

The unassuming, if not bare structure beside the house is an open balcony with a garage underneath it. There, safe from the sun and the rain, other treasures lie idly to be admired: vintage automobiles from the last century, including a 1965 V8/289 Mustang, a 1962 6-cylinder Ford Falcon, a 1972 Mini Cooper, even a 1917 White truck. There are

also two Harley Davidsons (1941/1942); a 1960 60R BMW; a 1938 Villiers motorcycle; and three Lambretta Scooters Series I/II/III (1959/62/68), the Lambretta II with sketches of Pacquiao and Hatton, too.

The ancestral house accommodates not only museum pieces and dead artifacts. Although not actually open to the public in a commercial sense, small catered dinners are allowed, as are intimate gatherings and pre-wedding pictorials.

"The establishment of the ancestral home was founded with passion," Dr. Warren Manilay said. "Everything in it may look *junk* to somebody, just like how I looked at them before. Now, I look at every-

thing as jewels -- all of them priceless."

The parting words of the warm and good-natured academician

were an invitation: "I want everybody to visit the place, to feel the same passion... Feel something new with something old." GG

Mr&Ms Gensan 2012 Teaser: The Godfather Meets The Great Gatsby

Manila Ancestral House hosts the Mr&Ms Gensan 2011 Winners for the Teaser Shoot

It's take two for last year's pageant winners as the organizers rounded them up for a one-of-a-kind campaign pictorial aimed to challenge this year's candidates.

Orman Ortega Manansala, the man behind this and previous years' productions, again tapped his long-time creative partner Dino Veloso, photographer Omar Solidarios Gallinero, and makeup artist Bobong Otones to create a promotional campaign pictorial based on *The Great Gatsby* (and as it turned out, partly, *The Godfather*) films, with a unique Filipiniana setting, courtesy of the Manila Ancestral House, and a modern twist on the fashion side.

The result is an amazing, crisp collection of somber yet elegant photographs that capture not only the impeccable mix of moods and motifs set by the creative/production team, but also the individual personalities of last year's winners as well: **Caroline Lim**, Ms Gensan 2011; **Marc Jerick Chan**, Mr Gensan 2011; **Ayana Grico**, Ms Gensan First Runner-up; **Jeffthie Cardino**, Mr Gensan First Runner-up; **Frances Gaye Gonzalez**, Ms Gensan Third Runner-up (in lieu of **Windy Lou Pontino**, Ms Gensan Second Runner-up, who was out of town at the time of the shoot); and **Serafin Alvarez Lim**, Mr Gensan Second Runner-up. Catch them and this year's candidates in September! GG

Top photo, standing from left: Frances, Serafin, Jeffthie, Marc Jerick; seated from left: Ayana, Caroline, Orman | Lower photo, from left: Caroline, Serafin, Frances, Jeffthie, Ayana, Marc Jerick



MR&MS GENSAN PHOTOS BY OMAR SOLIDARIOS GALLINERO / COURTESY OF ORMAN ORTEGA MANANSALA





THE 14TH TUNA FESTIVAL, the complement celebration of the the 44th Charter Anniversary of General Santos City on 5 September 2012, was officially launched at a simple ceremony hosted by Festival Director **Carlos Hago-sojos** in early July.

Riding on the Department of Tourism *It's More Fun in the Philippines* campaign under the theme *Tuna Fest, Tuna Fun in Magandang Gensan*, this year's festival conveys an invitation to locals and visitors alike to partake of and take part in the "fulfillment of fun and quality entertainment" during the festival. It also focuses on General Santos as the "prime destination for culinary and ocean adventures... locally and globally."

This year the culminating week was moved from September 1-5 to 5-9, which means that the official opening would be on the day of the Charter Anniversary Day itself. Here is the 14th Tuna Festival Schedule of Activities (as of July 5, 2012):

CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Aug 18-Sep 15, Oval Plaza

Flea Market Display
Tuna Village (Carnival)
Tuna Village (Tuna Products Display)
Tuna Village (SMB Party Zone)
Tuna Village (Coke Pasaya Food Court SuTukil)
Tuna Village (Tuna Art Camp)
Tuna Village (Everyday, Everynite Sashimi Night)

July 7-Sep 8, Oval Gym

Tuna Fest Inter-Fishing
Basketball Tournament

Sep 5-9

Queen Tuna Park - Tuna Fest Aqua Sports
SM City - Tuna Fest Photo Contest
Bula Coral Reef to QTP - Tuna Fest Coastal Clean-up Drive with Photo Contest

Jul 7-Sep 5, Fish Port, Game Fishing

Wednesday, Sep 5, 2012

6 am - Fish Port to City Hall, Fiscarade (Parade of Fishcars)
8 am - City Hall, Flag Raising Ceremony
9 am, City Hall, Tuna Fest Alay sa Kapwa

10 am - SM City, Tuna Fest Photo Exhibit

4-6 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Tuna Float Parade

7 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Grand Opening; Oval Plaza, All about Tuna Pavilion

Thursday, Sep 6, 2012

7 am - 12 nn - GSC Fish Port Complex, Fishtahan sa Fishport; Kiddie Game Fishing; Karga Tuna Relay; Linis, Bilis Tuna Swimming Competition; Jetski Competition

7 pm - Fish Port Market 2, Street Party sa Fishport; Biggest Tuna Atras Bugsay; Huli Lipat Hito

9 am - 5 pm - Fish Port Market 4, Tuna Congress (Opening)
7 pm - Tuna Congress (Welcome Dinner); GSC Tennis Court, Lawn Tennis National Open Tournament; Lakbay Tuna

7 pm - Oval Plaza Gym, Brigada Teen-Guwang
7 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Concert (SMART)

Friday, Sep 7, 2012

9 am - 5 pm - Oval Gym

Hilig Extreme BMX Street; Hilig Extreme Push Race Long Board; Hilig Extreme Skate Boarding | Oval Plaza - Mountain Bike
7 pm - Badminton Tournament; Oval Grand Stand, Concert (GLOBE)

Saturday, Sep 8, 2012

Queen Tuna Park, Kite Flying
3 pm - Sarangani Bay Cruise
7 am - 12 nn, GSC Fish Port, Fishtahan Game Fishing
7 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Talent Showcase of Generals: GenSan Pop Idol, Dance Competition

Sunday, Sep 9, 2012

6 am - Queen Tuna Park, Bombo Radyo Bankarera
1 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Street Dancing Competition
7 pm - Karagatan Awards
6 pm - Oval Grand Stand, Closing Ceremonies

For details, visit the Tuna Festival 2012 Coordinating Center, cor. Pendatun-Matalam or call 0933-7201476 or write to tunafest14@yahoo.com.ph.



by Bing
Cariño

The Pioneers of General Santos City's Mass Media

Mass media play a significant role in shaping public perceptions on a variety of important issues, both through the information that is dispensed through them, and through the interpretations they place upon this information.¹ They also play a large role in shaping modern culture, by selecting and portraying a particular set of beliefs, values, and traditions (an entire way of life), as reality. That is, by portraying a certain interpretation of reality, they shape reality to be more in line with that interpretation.²

One of the many things I get to do on a daily basis is getting at the front of a classroom full of future media practitioners, teaching them about all things that would give them competence in their chosen course, mass communications. Among the many things they have to learn is the history of mass media, its development, and how it would figure in the future. The profession has gone a long way: out of the invention of the moveable type came the publishing industry, from the first electronically transmitted sound came the broadcast industry. From barking announcements in the Middle Ages, now we have the new media that give us information just a few seconds after events occur. Just when I thought I ran out of topics to write, this article on the history of the development of mass media in Gensan surfaced, waiting for the breath of life.

When we try to analyze which latent forces shaped the rise of General Santos to become one of the Philippines' most successful cities, having grown from a small settlement district to one of Mindanao's most progressive cities, and if *blame* is the operative word, then blame the pioneering spirit that has been the driving force behind this phenomenal growth. When it needed a town, a town plan was drawn before the land is overwhelmed by development. When it was time for its children to go to school, institutions of learning were built. When highways were needed to move products, land/sea/air travel infrastructure were built. When the pioneering people of the city realized that media has a constructive role to play in society, they did not allow this gap to stay unfilled for long.

The print media came before commercial radio began filling the airwaves of the then Municipality of General Santos. *The Whip*, published by Fred Relios, started to roll off the presses and kept the citizenry informed of the town's latest goings-on. Around the same time Mr. & Mrs. **Mateo** built a wirecast facility that fueled the rise of broadcasting.

Tita Ampy, local media's Grand Dame, is Gensan's longest practicing broadcaster, having become a local broadcaster even before the establishment of AM radio in the city.



Tita Ampy is the first informal mass communications teacher in Gensan, having trained the former vice mayor and popular radio announcer, Mike Odi, when he was only 17 years old.



DXGS, the first commercial radio station in General Santos, is where Tita Ampy worked as a media professional since its founding in the late 1950s.

If you're familiar with the operations of local cable television facilities, you'd know that wirecast technology is the same -- all radios are wire-connected from the broadcasting center to your radios at home. While this may just cover a limited area of distribution, General Santos City in those days have enjoyed the trappings of an urban center of the era -- a wirecast network that spawned a new breed of professionals, the media people. One survivor/veteran of the wirecast era is the respected and revered pioneer of Gensan media, **Amparo Lacay-Agcaoili**, also known as **Tita Ampy**. Without any formal mass-com or media training except for lending her voice to a church choir, Tita Ampy be-

came the first voice to fill Gensan's airwaves. DXGS and DXMZ were established in 1963; Tita Ampy auditioned as talent at DXGS and has since been a part of the station.

RPN's DXDX was later established, with the voices of **Tony Cadorna**, **Tom Rafana**, and **Tita Ampy** competing on air. Just as any emerging industry, local schools have yet to offer courses in mass media communication, the task of training the up-and-coming media practitioners fell into the expert hands of Tita Ampy. Tita Ampy is not only the pioneering broadcaster of the city, but she was also the first mass communications teacher of the now veteran news people, including the late **Mike Odi**, newscaster and former city vice mayor, and later DXRE station manager.

DXCP came in 1971. With state-of-the-art facilities, it changed the city's listening palate with their spinning consoles, expanding the network's music-playing capacity. This opportunity for technical savvy ushered in the era of the new broadcast professionals called the disc jockeys. Incidentally Gensan's first DJ, **Meggie Santos**, trained on the consoles of DXCP before joining the first FM station, GSCI FM. GSC Institute is also the first school to offer mass communications as a course, filling the industry with competent professionals.

Television came in the second half of the 1970s with the pioneering vision of **Pat Sulit**, buying the franchise to broadcast RPN 9 locally. The coming in of TV changed the skyscape of the city with houses hoisting aluminum antennas atop roofs. This also changed the culture of the locals: what used to be evenings of dramas on radio became telenovela marathons on the boob tube.

Presently there are 22 AM and FM radio stations competing against the Internet and television, but at 2:30 pm every day you can still hear the voice of Tita Ampy on DXGS. That throaty, full voice never left the airwaves of our city in the last 56 years.

This article is based on conversations with Ms. Ampy Lacay and Mr. Philip Salarda, the station manager of DXCP. | ¹Mass Communications: A Comparative Introduction by Rowland Lorimer and Patty Scannell, 1994 | ²The Mass Media in Canada by Mary Vipond, 2000

The Rise of the Gensan Brand

by Armando
Nicolas PJ

General Santos City's inevitable journey and steady climb to prominence in the domestic and international stage didn't come out of pure luck or chance. It was born from the concerted dreams and the common struggle of a diverse yet connected community – to prevail over the odds, and to achieve the goals it holds most dear.

Gensan, as a brand in itself, has conquered the collective local and global consciousness in the form of the city's own produce, personalities, and propaganda as they flowed out of our shores to the world at large. Today, countless people all over the world associate Gensan with high-



quality tuna and pineapple, the legendary *Manny Pacquiao*, the beautiful *Shamcey Supsup*, the highly-acclaimed *Kalilangan* and the *Tuna Festival*, and many others that proudly carry the



Gensan name. Here witness the rise of the Gensan brand.

Tuna and Seafood Provider

Being the largest producer of sashimi-grade tuna in the Philippines, General Santos has, since as early as 1970, carried the title "Tuna Capital

of the Philippines." Residents boast that fish and seafood do not come fresher than what can be found in their locality, with the fishing industry yielding a total daily capacity of 750 metric tons of fish catch, in the process employing nearly 8,000 workers. A fish-port complex with a 750-meter quay and 300-meter wharf, and seven tuna processing plants all provide modern facilities that comply with international standards on fish catch handling, processing, packaging, and distribution.

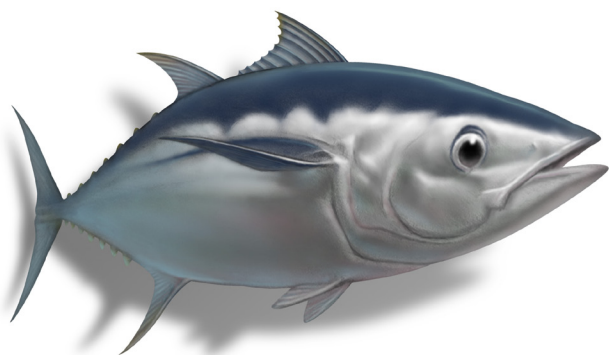
Gensan pampers its guests with a wide array of tuna dishes and other gastronomic delights. Seafood fresh from the catch and agricultural produce right from the harvest are impeccably matched to create a sumptuous variety of culinary wonders in the city's many restaurants and food establishments.

Agriculture and Livestock Producer

Endowed with a typhoon-free climate, rich volcanic soil, and well-distributed rainfall all throughout the year, General Santos City produces high-value export quality crops such as corn, coconut, pineapple, asparagus, banana, and rice, as well as quality exotic fruits, vegetables and cut flowers. Gensan is also a top producer and exporter of quality livestock such as poultry, hogs, and cattle.

Trade and Commerce Hub

Being the focal component city and center of commerce and trade in Region XII, also known as the SOCCSK-SARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato City, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos City) region, and owing to its strategic location and world-class infrastructure and



support facilities, General Santos City plays a very significant role in the emergence of the SOCCSKSARGEN region as the country's leading producer of major export-quality commodities. Gensan has registered over 1,500 new medium to large enterprises in 2000, with aggregate investment estimated at PHP 1.9-billion, generating

nearly 5,000 new employees in the process. The city is also served by 60 banks (47 commercial banks, 5 savings banks, 7 rural banks and 1 cooperative bank), and is home to Mindanao State University - General Santos (MSU-GSC) and The Notre Dame of Dadiangas University (NDDU), which are both recognized as premier institutions

of learning in Mindanao and the Philippines.

Eco-Tourism Destination

Gaining considerable popularity of late is Gensan's Klaja Eco Park, an ecological reservation located 15 kilometers northeast of the central business district in Barangay Conel. The park boasts of the Klaja Karsts, named after *kalahala* (frying pan or wok) on account of the towers of karsts formed millions of years ago that now surround this basin, which, in the process, had created waterfalls, rock walls, and caves in the vicinity.

Elevated opposite this area is the camping ground of Nopoli Hills, which borders Barangays Conel and Mabuhay on either side. Atop natural view deck, visitors are afforded a scenic panorama of the entire city, as well as the Sarangani Bay and parts of the provinces of South Cotabato and Sarangani. The view of the urban center beneath is even more breathtaking at night when the bright lights of the bustling metropolis seem to shoot up from below.

Klaja offers many opportunities for ecologically friendly adventure – hiking through crystal-clear rivers, scrambling over boulders, rappelling down waterfall walls, climbing vertical rock faces, watching fruit-eating flying foxes, camping in the wilderness, even learning the indigenous way of cooking with the use of the lowly bamboo.

Outside Klaja, numerous other activities can be had all year round. Gensan, the bustling metropolis, is an urban, provincial

hub equipped with modern infrastructure and amenities, endowed with nature's beauty and bounty, and enriched by diverse cultures coexisting in harmony. Several cold spring resorts thrive within the city, and beaches can be reached within minutes from town. (Its own Queen Tuna Park Beach downtown is a far cry from Sydney's Bondi Beach, for example, but ongoing rehabilitation should make it more suitable for locals and tourists alike.) For extra adrenaline rush, a half-hour drive to Siguel River offers pumping water-tubing action. No million-dollar amusement parks here, just nature and people and priceless fun.

Kalilangan, ATOP (Association of Tourism Officers of the Philippines) Best Tourism Event of the Philippines, Culture and Events Category, City Level, 2009 and 2011

General Santos celebrates Kalilangan in February each year, marking the city's founding anniversary. *Kalilangan* means festivity or jubilation, "a social gathering marked



by the exchange of amenities among traditional leaders, elders, allies and followers.” More broadly, Kalilangan projects a dynamic significance as it engulfs the artistic, humane and altruistic aspects of social interaction taking place in a celebration that is both a noble tradition and a complete work of art, nourished and nurtured by rich cultural heritage that has withstood the test of time.

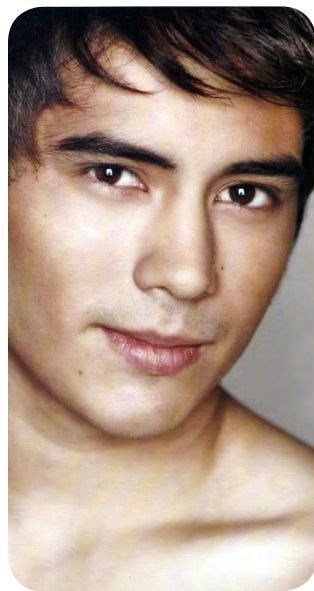
Kalilangan showcases a pageantry of unique and colorful ethnic rites, rituals and traditions like marriage celebrations, religious ceremonies, anniversaries, funerals, enthronement of royal dignitaries, thanksgiving and other forms of social, political and economic activities. It is not just an economic activity, but a continuous season of merriment accentuated by sharing of gifts, traditional sports competition, dancing, singing and instrumental rendition and other forms of exhibition games and entertainment.

Tuna Festival, ATOP Best Philippine Festival First Runner-Up, 2009

Gensan, as Tuna Capital of the Philippines, holds its thanksgiving festivities in September each year through the Tuna Festival, alongside the city's charter anniversary. Focusing on its trademark industry, the festival boasts of a grand float parade, street-dancing competition, tuna culinary contest, the annual Tuna Congress, and a host of other shows, fairs, and community activities.



Notable Personalities with Gensan Roots or Affiliations



Gerald Anderson - Winner of the first season of the Philippine reality television show

Pinoy Big Brother: Teen Edition, rising to fame through the television series *Sana Maulit Muli*, *My Girl*, *Tayong Dalawa*, *Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo*, and *Wansapinataym*: *Rod Santiago's Buhawi Jack*. He currently stars in the top-grossing TV series *Budoy*.

Manny Pacquiao - A phenomenal rags-to-riches story, a living legend, the first and only professional boxer to win world titles in eight different weight divisions, currently the Congressional Representative of the Province of Sarangani.

Shamcey Supsup - Architect (University of the Philippines *magna cum laude* graduate and top passer of the national architecture licensure

examination in July 2011), Miss Philippines-Universe 2011, and Miss Universe Third Runner-Up 2011.

Other Notable Personalities - Nonito Donaire (professional boxer nicknamed *The Filipino Flash*, currently rated by *The Ring* as the number four pound-for-pound boxer in the world), **Rolando Navarette** (former Super Featherweight WBC champion), **Melai Cantiveros** (film actress, TV host), **Exquizeyth** (first grand champion in ABS-CBN's reality dance competition *U Can Dance*, first runner-up at the *5th World Supremacy Battlegrounds* hip-hop dance competition in Sydney), **Philip Cesar Nadela** (PDA Little Dreamer 2008 grand champion of ABS-CBN's *Pinoy Dream Academy*), **XB Gensan** (Season 1 grand champion of ABS-CBN's *It's Showtime!*), and **True Colors** (Season 3).



Local Produce, Global Markets, World-Class Quality



Citra Mina

- "From the pristine waters of the Celebes Sea and the South Western

Pacific comes some of the best catch in the world. At Citra Mina, we make sure that it gets to your part of the globe with all its goodness intact." Such is the tagline that encapsulates the soul of Citra Mina, a leading domestic and global provider of fresh, frozen, and value-added tuna and other seafood products such as blue marlin, mahi-mahi, and gindara. Their tuna harvest is done by traditional handline fishing, an eco-friendly method that catches only the target size/species, thus avoiding accidental by-catch of juvenile tuna, turtles, sea birds, sharks, and dolphins.



Dole Philippines - Dole Philippines, Inc. is a fully owned subsidiary of US multinational Dole Food Co., which produces fruits, nuts, vegetables, canned pineapple and pineapple-based beverages. Local operations account for more than half of Dole Food Company's total pineapple output; around 95% of total production is exported to Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. Dole Philippines cultivates 9,600 hectares of pineapple plantation, with another 4,200 hectares planted by contract growers, all dispersed in the towns of Polomolok, Tupi, T'boli, and Surallah in South Cotabato province, and the municipalities of Maasim and Malungon

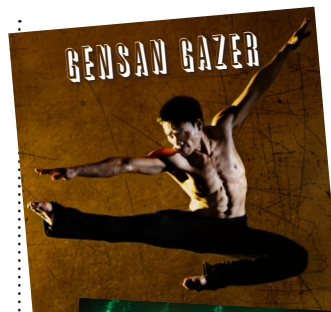
in Sarangani. The firm is looking at selling more of its products locally over the next couple of years, even as it focuses on improving exports to other major markets in Asia, the Middle East, New Zealand, Australia, the United States, and Europe. "Our domestic market is fairly small – less than 5%. We will increase it when opportunities arise," he said. "We still expect positive growth both for domestic and export markets," he said, adding that the company plans to expand its Mindanao plantation, product line, and other facilities.



RD Corporation

- One of the fastest growing companies in the Philip-

ppines, RD Corp. has 38 widely diversified business units and operations in the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia, holding five fishing companies, namely: RD Fishing Industries Inc., RD Tuna Ventures, Inc., South Sea Fishing Ventures, Phils. Inc., Asia-Pacific Allied Fishing Ventures, Inc., and RD Fishing PNG Ltd. RD's fishing fleet, operating within the rich fishing grounds of the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia, operates 102 vessels (20 catchers, 9 reefer carriers, 6 carriers, 48 rangers/light boats, 1 tanker, 1 tugboat, and other support vessels). The fish holding capacity of the fleet's super seiners ranges from 450 to 1,200 metric tons; while the reefers, 2,800. Its RDEX Food International Phils. Inc., processes fresh, and frozen fish and prawn for export and domestic market. In the Philippines, RDEX is known for its Tuna Shop, which offers fresh, frozen, and value-added products, as well as canned tuna, milkfish, and prawns.



Gensan, as a brand, does not necessarily come in a patent or trademark, or plastered on a label or marquee. It can take the form of a boxer or beauty queen, a busi-

ness or organization, product or service, an event or group, an idea or place, even a greeting (the city's *Magandang GenSan!* campaign) – practically anything, living or otherwise, that we can conceive to exist and thrive in the community at large.



When Gensan Gazer, our small community magazine with a global following, started to make a name for itself, there



were no expensive campaigns or fireworks to herald its rise. Even with total readership spanning over 350 cities across 62 countries and territories (as of 25 July 2012) worldwide, it remains grounded on the community that it stood for in the first place.

Remarked an overseas Filipino worker based in Canary Islands (Spanish autonomous community), which only recently started reading the free Gensan Gazer eZines, "Maayo kay naay GG online karon, maski unsaon murag naa ra gihapon ko sa Gensan." (It's good there's GG on-line now, somehow I feel like I'm home in Gensan.)

Such is the ultimate goal of the Gensan brand, or any brand for that matter – benefitting a need, building ideas and futures, bridging distances, and bringing people home. GG



Guest Writer:
Marthin Anthony
Lozano Millado

THE Bliss OF BAGASBAS

Bagasbas, the world-class top-drawer surfing haven of Daet, Camarines Norte, celebrated its 5th Bagasbas Summer Surf Festival on April 28 and 29 this year. It was a fun-filled event that took place along the wide, glassy beach of Bagasbas. This beach town was throbbing with Bicolano warmth and hospitality on our visit, led by this cool dude, *Jeff Gahol* from the provincial Tourism office, who was also our official tour guide.

Going about on foot in our beach wear, we found Bagasbas to be an awesome place with a laid-back feel. *Sari-sari* stores, restaurants, karaoke shacks, and small backpacker inns line up along the boulevard fronting the long, gray sand beach -- the same boulevard where many street food vendors sell Bicol-style squid and fish balls, *qwek-qwek*, and the must-try calabasa (squash) balls. Nearby, you can also find the replica of the first Jose Rizal Monument sitting in the middle of the Bagasbas Park.

Everywhere festival goers were on the move. At the main activity area along the beach, newbies were lined up in batches for the surfing clinic where certified instructors, led by Onyo Oclares of the Bagasbas United Surfers Association (BUSA), were giving free surfing lessons. The Power Up Center for Climbing and Fitness and Grip Up came up with a challenge that really got the everyone's attention -- whoever got to the top the fastest would win and receive a prize. Power Up and Grip Up handled the bouldering and wall climbing station as one of the main event attractions, while the Alabang Football Club put up the beach football clinic. Elsewhere the ultimate frisbee clinic, courtesy of the Philippine Ultimate Frisbee Association, and the beach volleyball clinic by PVC, made for a truly fun-filled beach weekend.

After getting settled at Canimog Hotel just a tricycle ride away from Bagasbas, we headed back to the beach to register for surfing lessons. (Along the way *Thea Yusay* of Mojo sandals gave us a load of festival freebies!) Bagasbas Beach is ideal for learning how to surf because of its knee-to-waist-deep waters and sandy bottom, hence

making it safe for surfer-wannabes. Surfers won't be disappointed by the waves either.

Surfing till sunset, we saw the festival mellow down to a close, but the festivities continued with the partying, traditional festival fair, and live performances by *Long Local* drum-and-lyre group, *Coffeebreak Island* reggae band, and *Collie Herb*, with other bands and DJs also playing all night long.

Atty Debbie Francisco, head of Camarines Norte's Department of Tourism, with the help of *Joey Cuervo* of Mojo Sandals and Power Up/Power Play events management team, went all out in promoting the festival, gathering up the coolest beach activities to fill the two-day grand event.

"Bagasbas is the real cradle of Philippine surfing," some locals say, but the claim is open to debate. I've only been to a few surfing spots showcasing different coastlines, sand colors, and locals with different mother tongues and different cultures. One thing's for sure -- the Bagasbas Summer Surf Festival is a one-of-a-kind experience that you can bring home and tell your friends about for a lifetime.



The writer, making faces by the surfing clinic marquee



Congratulations on the 14th Cuna Festival and
44th General Santos City Charter Anniversary!



Tahanan ng Bawat Pamilya

Live Life Here!

From the sea's bounty to the land's mystique to its people's charm, all roads lead to the first and only premiere Caribbean-inspired community in SoCC-SKSarGen -- **Camella General Santos**.

A beautifully evolving new landscape spanning 12 hectares of prime residential land, this impeccably masterplanned community offers real luxury within reach to diverse homeowners -- the newly independent, newly-weds and start-up couples, big families, pensioners, practically across all income brackets.

With fast and easy access to schools, malls, markets, City

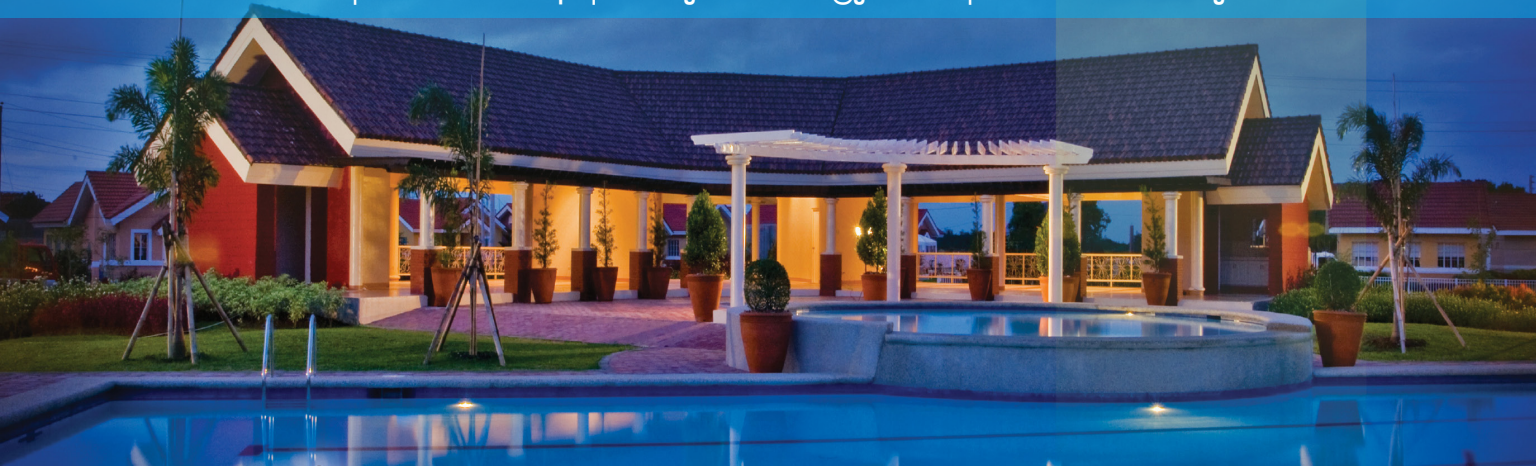
Hall, the business district, and the second largest international airport in the South, Camella Gensan features exquisitely themed houses that are spacious and built in harmony with its tropical setting and the Caribbean ambience. The community is cable- and Internet-ready, with amenities such as a grand entrance plaza, an elegant clubhouse and a tastefully designed pool to match, gardens, children's playground, multi-court activity area, tree-lined roads with flood-proof drainage, a CCTV monitoring system and 24-hour security, and all these, managed by an independent property management team to ensure quality, continuity, and service excellence.

The exclusive lifestyle that awaits you at Camella General Santos only gets better and more colorful with the expansion of the gated community to nearly 10 more hectares of quality homes and landscaped lawns along NLSA Road in Barangay San Isidro, and the future addition of a commercial center at the estate's main façade.

Isn't it about time you called Camella your home?



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Pinoy Says



Tisay Says

Mandi

He's your friend's boss and you don't know him beyond the fact he's secretly pining for her, so it's clear your allegiance lies in Susan, not him.

If you're asking what I think of the guy, then I'd say, I've got to give it to him for being decent if he's kept his feelings to himself and kept his relationship with Susan strictly professional, and for being honest about it with you.

Which kind of puts you in an awkward position. Is he asking for your help or sympathy or support? Again, you two just met, so you're better off playing unexcited and (politely) uninterested.

If the boss told me that to my face and if Susan were my friend, I'd probably ask him back, "Are you willing to quit your job or transfer elsewhere to be anything but Susan's boss?" If I hear a good answer, I just might offer a little encouragement.



My friend Susan is in town with her boss on business, and one night at dinner while she was in the ladies' room, the boss told me he's got the hots for her, and this despite knowing that my friend is with someone else. If you were me, what would you tell him?
-- Ms Ana

Nusha

I assume you don't know the guy well enough for him to put you in such an awkward situation. That he discusses his feelings with a stranger over dinner while *his object of desire* is away shows that he seems to be a couple of fries short of a

Happy Meal. For your friend's sake I offer only one advice -- no dice! Most of office affairs go awry anyway, resulting not only in emotional pain for one or both parties but also damage to reputation. Relationships between supervisors and subordinates in particular are considered to be the most damaging to productivity and morale. Office romance has many risks, and can be exploited or manipulated due to power inequity. Special liaisons can be used to get ahead or at least abet speculations among colleagues who may feel that the relationship causes unequal treatment when it comes to career assignments, promotions, salary raises and favorable tasks or projects. This perception of favoritism, legitimate or not, can have devastating effects on performance and the working environment. To avoid it is to separate work from private life: in a nutshell, quit the job and pave the way for the relationship. Put this advice forward and I will bet you that he will come to his senses soon enough.



GreenEscape

Does it seem like Gensan has lost its small-town vibe and you feel like you're stuck in the urban drain? Take an hour or two and escape to Aman-dari Cove along Mabuhay Road for a quick recharge, be it for lunch or coffee away from the office on a fine, sunny day (we have lots of that, no worries). Coming on a weekend may be an entirely different story altogether, however, so if crowds drown you, stick to a work day.

Samsonite Women's Xspace 21.5" Expandable Spinner: A Must

Traveling for business or personal reasons is a necessary evil or enjoyment, depending of course on how well-adapted a person is to the rigors of walking, queueing, waiting, sitting in a confined space for hours, moving about, and lugging around with stuff in compact bags or complete shambles. (We'd add hurdles like delayed flights, extremely bad weather, and missing or misdirected luggage, but that's entirely another story.)

What's simply undeniable is the fact that nothing sucks like dragging a relentlessly soggy duffel bag through the airport. Never mind that most guys don't mind chaos and disarray so much (and most of the more experienced ones travel light), so here we're partial to offering some advice to the woman traveler.

We highly recommend the Samsonite Women's Xspace 21.5" Expandable Spinner, a



sleek carry-on companion with wheels that pivot 360 degrees -- useful for whisking up switch back ramps, jumping curbs and flights of stairs, gliding inclines, and easily maneuvering on and off moving busy sidewalks and crowded halls at the airport. In other words Samsonite Women's

Xspace is a very mobile luggage, durable and long-lasting, easy to handle, and comes with some very useful features:

- 1) Xspace has the trademark SamGuard Protection feature: rugged poly/nylon blend fabric that resists stains from oil, dirt, and water.
- 2) Xspace has Spinner Wheels, four in total, which means zero effort for the handler as the four multidirectional spinner wheels allow 360 degree upright rolling in multiple directions so there is no weight on your arm whatsoever.

GG List

MAC Mattene Lipstick = Great Lips

Most women never seem to find that perfect shade of red that doesn't make them look like a doll or worse, a clown. Enter the MAC Mattene Lipstick (suggested color: *Unknown Pleasures*), which feels velvety when applied, glides on the lips easily, and lasts practically all day. Matte lipsticks tend to make the mouth feel tight, but (good news!) this one moisturizes at the same time.



The Tallest Man On Earth, etc.

Two new albums and books go under scrutiny this issue. We are especially thrilled to listen the new record by *The Tallest Man On Earth*, the Swedish Bob Dylan. (Reviews are on page 18.)

Sony DSC-RX100 Rocks!

Simply for its 1-inch, 20.2-megapixel sensor and f/1.8 lens, Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 is right up there on our must-have list!

Avid fans of point-and-shoot cameras have been brainwashed no end about the advantages of 2-digit megapixels and extra optical zoom lengths. The new Sony DSC-RX100 ups the ante with yet another metric to that never-ending gadget race: sensor size. The soul of RX100 is its 20.2-megapixel 13.2x8.8-mm Exmor CMOS sensor, which, according to Sony, is four times bigger than what can usually be found in most point-and-shoot and pocket cameras.



Sony showcases the DSC-RX100 as the most advanced point-and-shoot camera it has ever produced. Its cutting-edge Exmos sensor is supported by an equally impressive f/1.8 Carl-Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* lens with a 3.6x optical zoom, a 120-to-25,600 ISO range, and a lithium-ion battery pack that reportedly lasts for around 330 shots. The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 is likewise comparably compact, measuring only 4 x 2.4 x 1.4 inches at less than half a pound at 7.5 ounces (212 grams). It has a three-inch, 1,229k dot LCD display ably boosted

by Sony's WhiteMagic technology: additional white pixels are used to bolster

screen brightness and enhance details. This means that outdoor in a bright and sunny day the LCD would not disappoint -- showing off a bright and accurate preview of the scenes to be shot. A special control ring surrounds the lens, allowing you to customize a number of functions to make adjustments on the fly.

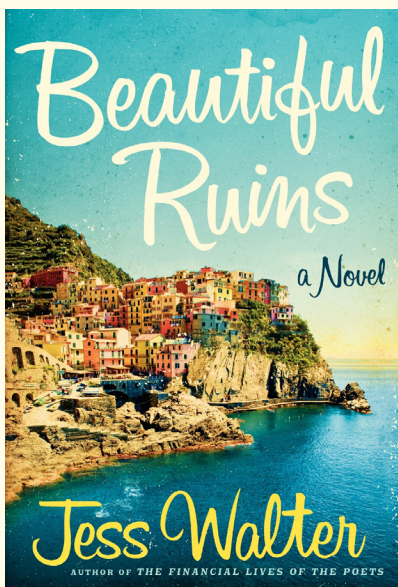
The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 boasts of some of the special shooting modes available on the Sony Alpha SLT-A37 and NEX-F3, including auto portrait framing and Sony's clear image zoom, which uses an internal database to *fill in* missing pixels -- in a bold attempt to generate clear, full-resolution zoom images. The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX100 is able to capture RAW images (in addition to JPEGs), and shoot 1920 x 1080 AVCHD and MP4 video. The camera is scheduled to be released in July 2012 at a \$649 price tag.



Of Actors, Dreams, and Spies

The Beautiful Ruins: A Novel by Jess Walter

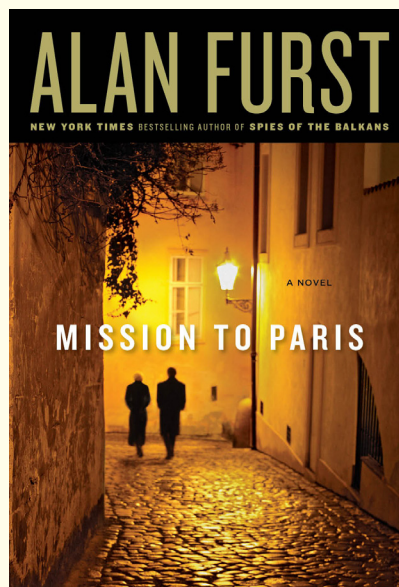
In 1962 Italy, a young innkeeper looks out over the Ligurian Sea and sees an apparition: a tall, thin woman approaching him on a boat. She is an American actress, he soon learns, and she is dying. The story begins again today, half a world away, when an elderly Italian man shows up on a movie studio's back lot -- searching for the mysterious woman he last saw at his hotel decades earlier. What unfolds is a dazzling novel spanning fifty years and nearly as many tangled lives: the starstruck innkeeper and his long-lost love; the producer who once brought them together and his idealistic young assistant; the army veteran turned novelist and *Richard Burton* himself, whose appetites set the whole story in motion. Gloriously inventive, constantly surprising, *Beautiful Ruins* is a story of flawed yet fascinating people, navigating the rocky shores of their lives while clinging to their improbable dreams.



Mission To Paris: A Novel by Alan Furst

Late summer 1938, Europe is about to explode, the Hollywood actor Fredric Stahl is on his way to Paris to make a movie for Paramount France. The Nazis know he's coming -- a secret bureau within the Reich Foreign Ministry has for years been waging political warfare against France, using bribery, intimidation, and corruption to weaken French morale and France's will to

defend herself. For their purposes, Stahl is a perfect agent of influence, and they attack him. What they don't know is that Stahl, horrified by the Nazi war on Jews and intellectuals, has become part of an informal spy service in Paris. *Mission To Paris* includes beautifully drawn scenes of romance and intimacy, alive with extraordinary characters, but always at the center is Paris, the heart and soul of Europe. Furst brings to life a dark time in history and the passion of the human hearts that fought to survive it.



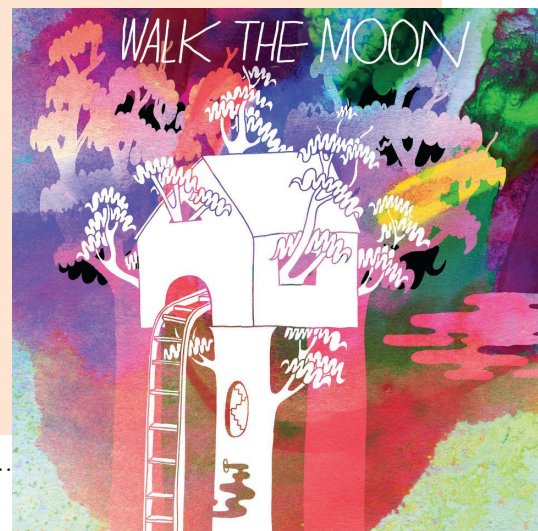
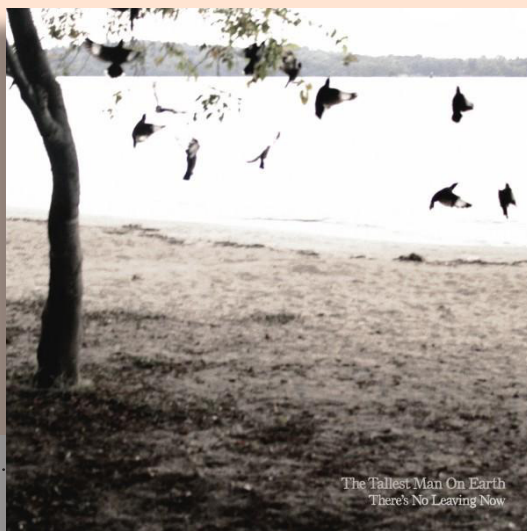
musicREVIEWS

The Tallest Man Walks the Moon

There's No Leaving Now (2012), by *The Tallest Man On Earth* | ★★★★★ -- Swedish folk singer-songwriter *Kristian Matsson*, a.k.a. *The Tallest Man on Earth* (ironically only 5'9" tall) might have to walk in Bob Dylan's shadow; the guitar fingerpicking, scraggly vocals, and poetic penchant all link Matsson's sound to the Dylan legend. But with *There's No Leaving Now*, Matsson may have finally snagged his own niche with an album that is its own merit -- replete with urgent songs like *1904*, *Leading Me Now*, and *Little Brother*, and *To Just Grow Away*, and cinematically tinged numbers like *Bright Lanterns*, *Criminals*, *Revelation Blues*, *Wind and Walls*, and the title track, reeds and drums floating throughout. Here Matsson shows how he can keep churning future folk classics while adding sound that is both dynamic and relevant. Despite a detour to optimism of late, in *On Every Page*, he sings: *Well, you know you're already young / Like the grass withered to become / Again and free / It's all we'll ever be...* True folk artists always see (and sing) it both ways.

Walk The Moon (2012), by *Walk The Moon* | ★★★★★ -- This Cincinnati-based indie-rock band (*Nicholas Petricca*, *Kevin Ray*, *Sean Waugaman*, and *Eli Maiman*) managed to release an album, go on tour, and book appearances at major gigs on their own. Now under RCA, *Walk The Moon* party on with catchy choruses, danceable melodies, and live-life-big lyrics -- all suitable for conconcting merry sing-alongs and dance parties, with the falsetto signatures of *Shiver Shiver*,

the percussion intro sequence of *Quesadilla*, and the heavy synths of *Fixin'* among its few memorable moments. The band seamlessly switches from upbeat drums to atmospheric soundscapes of echoes and strings, with Petricca's soaring vocals sweetening the transitions even more so, especially so on *Next In Line*. But this very same accessibility makes the album tire a little faster than usual, in the end making *Walk The Moon* a bland collection of a-dime-a-dozen pop songs.



The Tallest Man On Earth
There's No Leaving Now



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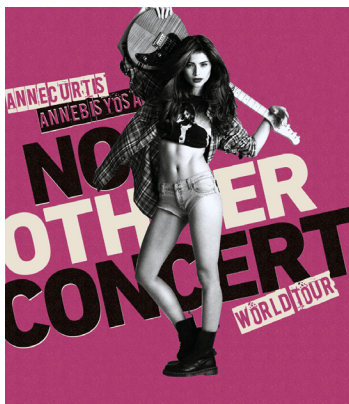
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NO OTHER ANNE

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Whenever I introduce myself as a publisher-editor of a magazine based in the Philippines, new acquaintances usually *hint* subtly or crassly, depending on the level of ease we've established, that I must be either rich or powerful, to which I'd politely admit neither. Recently, however, especially with non-Filipino guys who have visited the Philippines or have Filipino friends, I'd get a different reply: "Do you have Anne Curtis' number?" Unfortunately, I don't. And with her topping *Yes! Magazine's* 100 Most Beautiful Stars list again, the chances of getting that number has just decreased a thousandfold.

Anne Curtis, born Anne Marie Ojales Curtis-Smith on 17 February 1985 in Yarrawonga, Victoria, Australia, is an actress, model, television host, performer, fashion icon, recording artist, and VJ all rolled into one. She was *discovered* while holidaying in the Philippines at the age of 12 -- the exact fateful moment that made her visit permanent.

Fifteen years later -- after a number of television shows, several local movies and an American indie film slated for release in the US in 2013, a long list of awards in acting and fashion, an album and a few singles, an array of product endorsements, appearance in countless local magazine covers, and a photo shoot for an *America's Next Top Model* episode -- she came to Gensan in June for the fourth leg of her *Annebisyosa: No Other Concert* tour (probably so named in reference to her most commercially successful movie to date, *No Other Woman*), and wowed avid followers who would normally just content themselves with seeing her on TV.

Not bad for a 12-year-old kid (in 1997, that is) who was asked if she was interested in modeling as she was dining at a fastfood while in Manila on holiday and bagged her first commercial within a week of that encounter.

Since then she has played host, performer, comedienne, psycho killer, princess, veejay, mermaid, jilted lover, daughter,



Promotional material for the movie *Blood Ransom* © Tectonic Films



hunchback bell-ringer, and the *other* woman, among other roles, alongside artists like Kris Aquino, Dina Bonnevie, John Estrada, Heart Evangelista, Geoff Eigenmann, Luis Manzano, John Lloyd Cruz, Bea Alonzo, Angelica Panganiban, Jason Abalos, Kristine Hermosa, Sam Milby, Christopher De Leon, Ai Ai de las Alas, Aga Muhlach, Jericho Rosales, Zanjoe Marudo, Vhong Navarro, Kim Atienza, Vice Ganda, Derek Ramsay, Cristine Reyes, Claudine Barretto, and Richard Gutierrez, among many others.

But a singer in the strictest sense she's not, especially if you compare her with the likes of Adele, Beyoncé, or Charice. (Whoever said Madonna or Paris Hilton had an amazing voice?) An amazing performer she is most definitely, as word of mouth would attest to it in

this city of ours of less than half a million. Most of my friends who are music- or showbiz-savvy would agree, no doubt. (Needless to say, I missed this concert for one reason or another.)

It hasn't been a year since Anne launched her debut album, *Annebisyosa*, one of her life-long dreams, and as it turned out, a purveyor of her now popular concert series. Self-deprecating in her description of the album as *super fun and not serious*, and in saying that *people should listen at their own risk*, Anne was emotional at receiving her gold record award in October 2011, only a month after the album's release. In December 2011, the album reached platinum status. (Gold and platinum certification differs among countries. For example, gold and platinum in the US mean 500,000 and 1,000,000 albums

sold, respectively, while in the Philippines, they're only 10,000 and 20,000 units.) Nevertheless, her album stats are fairly remarkable domestically.

That success, however, pales in comparison to her phenomenal box-office movie with Derek Ramsay and Cristine Reyes last year, *No Other Woman*, which earned a total of PHP 275-million from cinemas nationwide, making it the second highest-grossing Filipino film of all time.

Whether that record is replicated with her first ever appearance in an American movie, in the indie film, *Blood Ransom* (written and directed by Francis dela Torre), remains to be seen. In fact, indie films are not expected to be commercially successful. Established actors in successful indie projects, however, gain credibility as true art-

ists -- *Lost In Translation* (2003), *Little Miss Sunshine* (2006), *The Wrestler* (2009), *Black Swan* (2011); whereas newcomers gain an artistic breakthrough -- *The Usual Suspects* (1995), *The Blair Witch Project* (1999), *Donnie Darko* (2001). Still, we wish Anne all the best.

She's no Bancroft or Hathaway (Catwoman can sing, too!), but our very own Anne Curtis is simply like no other Anne.

Annebisyosa in Gensan was presented by SilverPoint Event Productions, Record Breaker Events Management, Smart, and Cherry Mobile, in cooperation with Primadonna, GSM Blue, Folded & Hung, and Argentina Corned Beef. For more SilverPoint events, call/text +63-922-8213090/917-7030804 or write to silverpointeprod@gmail.com.





by Egai Cadiente

They are dead. They are alive. **Robin Gibb, Donna Summer, Michael Jackson, Whitney Houston.** They are all gone, but the impact of their existence lingers and lives on.

They all sang to me. And I sang with them. I grew up in their music. I lived through their songs. My childhood was relished with the arresting groove of **Last Dance, Stayin' Alive, and Hot Stuff.** The beat of my youth was that of **Billy Jean and Thriller.** My young adult's rhythm reverberated with **I Wanna Dance With Somebody and One Moment In Time.**

Their songs are the lyrics of my life by far. And theirs are melodies that have engaged my contemporary and I believe generations before and beyond me. Why we love them is beyond question. They transcended borders, religions, races, ideologies. I bet **Margaret Thatcher** must have hummed Whitney's **Didn't We Almost Have It All** while taking a morning shower. Or better yet, **Osama Bin Laden** must have wiggled with Michael Jackson's **Beat It** while planning to rule the world in his sanctuary somewhere.

Beyond entertainment, they have become our companion when we were/are alone. Oh yes, they were there when you felt like prancing or crying by your lonesome. That little scar on your elbow was when you tried Michael's little moonwalk trick once, remember? It was also Whitney who was with you all night as you *started counting teardrops and at least a million fell... 'til your eyes began to swell.* It was the night when your *I Will Always Love You* episode ended. (Now you wonder where you kept that **Bodyguard** OST cassette tape.)

Our fascination and awe goes beyond their stardom. Their almost mystical renown beckoned us to rediscover our sense of romance, recapture our youth, relive our heydays, and reaffirm our concept of love, failure and life.

It was the Disco Queen Donna Summer whose groove made us celebrate our youth, *love the night life and got to boogie.* We frolicked, sashayed and flounced like there was no tomorrow in a discotheque. Hers was a repertoire of our

exuberant youth and our glorious growing.

Michael Jackson the King of Pop more than enthralled us with his entrancing moves. It does not matter if you're **Black or White**, he made us embrace equality and humanity as he urged us all to *take a look at ourselves and make a change if we want to make this world a better place.* The mirror since has a different meaning to me every time I stand before it. I, too, dream to **Heal the World.**

Diva Queen Whitney Houston enamored us with her melancholy on love lost and love won. She sings about our similar woes and blues, about our feelings and failings on love. Anyhow, after all the pains and heartbreaks, didn't we all learn to love ourselves because it is **The Greatest Love Of All** as she melodiously essayed?

Then **Bee Gees.** Robin's clear vibrato enchanted us, making us fall in love over and over again, never mind the **Tragedy.** The distinct falsetto that became a signature of a decade also made a hallmark in our lives. Didn't we all ask someone

The Soundtrack of You and Me

somehow **How Deep Is Your Love?**

They were all there all along as we grew along. Their music defined specific eras, and their songs endured. Ranked among the best-selling music artists of all time, their music plays on. The singers are gone, but not their songs. They are dead, but even in death they live.

Michael and Whitney weathered storms, tempest tossed in the ocean of fame and glory. They did mistakes that made them as human as anybody else. It is our adoration that placed them on the pedestal. It is the same adulation that splintered their mystique, the debris hitting us all. Not the way the lyrics of their songs did, but paining us just the same with the truth that they are forever gone. We, the adoring fans, put them on that volatile plinth where once they sang to you and me.

Robin. Donna. Michael. Whitney. Once, there were these four souls who sang the soundtrack of our lives.



Robin Hugh Gibb
22 Dec 1949 – 20 May 2012



Michael Joseph Jackson
29 Aug 1958 – 25 Jun 2009



Whitney Elizabeth Houston
9 Aug 1963 – 11 Feb 2012



LaDonna Adrian Gaines
31 Dec 1948 – 17 May 2012

a few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing their branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease. -- *John Muir*

follow →



Okay, it's your choice for dinner tonight, as long as it's not barbecue.

Awesome! Hm, do I want crabs, ribs, sashimi or karekare? C Bistro's got it all!



bars

Babes Bar - One of East Asia Royale Hotel's watering holes, with discotheque, live music Thu-Fri (2nd Flr, Arcade 1, East Asia Royale Hotel, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5534123 ext. 106)

Cassado Billiard Bar - Pool tables, ice-cold beers, live band, (Grd Flr, Arcade 1, East Asia Royale Hotel, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3028389)

Drill Shack - Aussie staples such as salads, steaks, condom-wrapped beers (Grd Flr, Arcade 1, East Asia Royale Hotel, National Highway, Gen. Santos)

Pahayahay - Live band, ice-cold beers, best live guitar by owner Gifford (Mezzanine, Marietta's Bldg, Magsaysay Ave., Gen. Santos)

GGPick Piyesta! KTV and Resto Bar - Super value combo meals, inventive dishes, novelty cocktails, free KTV up to your total bill, friendly staff, *al fresco* heaven (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5542139) [wi-fi]

GGPick Red Rocket Sports Bar - Warm meals and ice-cold beers (Grd Flr, Arcade 2, East Asia Royale Hotel, National Highway, Gen. Santos)

Veranda - Two levels of bars, discotheques and open-air bistro, very young crowd (National Highway across NDDU campus, Gen. Santos)

GGPick V Bar - Longest bar counter in Gensan, great vibe, best music (SunCity Complex, Gen. Santos)

cafés

GGPick BluGré Cafe - Next best thing to Starbucks, designer coffees, hot/cold mixes, filling meals (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5542177) [wi-fi]

BluGré Cafe - Bigger and more relaxing than the one at Robinsons (South Osmeña, Gen. Santos, +63-5521111) [wi-fi]

GGPick Cafe Amoree - Local gem, great drinks/eats, off city center but worth a visit (Mabuhay Rd, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5542173) [wi-fi]

GGPick Caffè Firenze - Gourmet coffees, desserts, sandwiches, pizza, open 24/7 (SunCity Complex, National Highway, Gen. Santos) [wi-fi]

GGPick Café Mita - Gourmet coffees, pastries, and more! (PG Bldg., National Highway, Gen. Santos) [wi-fi]

Coffee Club 101 - Coffee, pasta, desserts (Laurel East, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5535430) [wi-fi]

GGPick Coffee Club 101 - Gourmet coffees, great place to people-watch and be seen in (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5534878) [wi-fi]

GGPick Coffee Dream - Coffee, sweets and refuge before/after shopping (2nd Flr, KCC Mall, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3018263) [wi-fi]

GGPick Fagioli Coffee Shop - Great after-hours haunt (Petrón Station, Lagao, National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-552749) [wi-fi]

GGPick Fagioli Coffee Shop - Pri-

vate, cozy, perfect mall chill (Grd Flr, KCC Mall, +63-83-5542384) [wi-fi]

GGPick Kee's Café - Roadhaus Economy Hotel's spacious and trendy café (Aparente St, Dadiangas Heights, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5538888) [wi-fi]

Red Ribbon Bakeshop - Cakes, pastries, sumptuous Filipino/Western meal combos (Lower Grd Flr, KCC Mall, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3018388)

hotels

CBHL Garden Rooms & Dormitel - Central location and tasteful guest rooms at budget rates (Laurel, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5546336) [wi-fi]

GGPick East Asia Royale Hotel - Stone's throw away from the financial district, shopping malls, convention centers, with bars, function rooms, restaurants, business center, 24-hour room service (National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5534123) [wi-fi]

GGPick Family Country Hotel & Convention Centre - Guest rooms, pools, meeting/banquet halls for 1,000 heads, Cafe Leticia (Mateo Rd, Lagao, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5528895) [wi-fi]

Florotel - Strategic location downtown, modern amenities (Laurel North, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5540880)

GGPick Hotel San Marco - Newly built boutique hotel with 28 elegant rooms, restaurant and bar (Laurel East Ave., Gen. Santos, +63-83-3011818, +63-922-8217332) [wi-fi]

GGPick Ice Castle - Centrally located, offers modern rooms, in-house bar and restaurant (Provido Village, City Heights, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5544423, +63-83-8269026) [wi-fi]

Phela Grande Hotel - Luxury guest rooms, in-house Melih Restaurant/Cafe Eduardo (Magsaysay cor. Atis, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5542420) [wi-fi]

Residencia Heneral Travelers Inn - Prime location, affordable rooms (RD Bldg, Pioneer Ave., Gen. Santos, +63-83-3020533, +63-922-8420103)

GGPick Richeva Gensan Suites - Minimalist-modern, centrally located, quality rooms (11 Sampaguita St, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5540410, +63-919-7936227, +63-932-3753001) [wi-fi]

GGPick Roadhaus Economy Hotel - Pacquiao's upscale hotel with large rooms and cutting edge facilities (Aparente St, Dadiangas Heights, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5538888) [wi-fi]

GGPick SunCity Suites - Hotel at the heart of upscale and trendy SunCity Complex (National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5523333) [wi-fi]

Sydney Hotel - Centrally located, offers comfortable rooms, restaurants, professional banquet/conference facilities (Pendatun cor. Pioneer, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5525479) [wi-fi]

resorts

GGPick Amandari Cove - Resort-quality accommodations, pool, Cafe Amoree and Avalon Restobar (Dacera,

off Mabuhay Road, +63-083-5542654 | 8261074 | 8261070) [wi-fi]

Gensan View Resort - Sun, sky, swimming pool (Nursery Rd, Lagao, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3028237)

GGPick Isla Jardin del Mar - Sand, sun, sky and more! (Gumasa, Glan, Sarangani, islajardindelmar@yahoo.com)

Lagare Springfield Resort - Natural springs, landscaped gardens (Apopong, Gen. Santos)

GGPick Le Jardin Arnevel - Convention halls, swimming pool, 2,000-m² garden, spacious parking area (Mabuhay Rd, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3012513) [wi-fi]

GGPick Lemlunay Resort - Cliff-top seaside resort with excellent villas, restaurant, bar, pool and worldclass dive site (Tinoto, Maasim, Sarangani, +63-920-914 9259 | South Point Divers: southpointdivers.ph) [wi-fi]

Merl Garden Spring Resort - Zip-line ride, pool, horseback riding and more (Lahit, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, +63-919-4577221)

Olaer Spring Resort - Natural springs, lasting city icon (Apopong, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3802345)

GGPick Paraiso Verde Resort & Water Park - Modern recreational facility with main attractions Moby Wave Pool, Adventura River Rapids, Freestyle Swim Pool, and Wiggles Kiddie Pool, a 300-person capacity pavilion, and food court (Gen. Santos Drive, Koronadal, +63-83-2281988, +63-923-8701483)

Rosal Beach Resort - Sun, sky, and white sand beach fun (Gumasa, Glan, Sarangani, +63-920-9212203)

Shellock Spring Resort - Natural springs and greenery (Barrio Cebuano, Tupi, South Cotabato, +63-918-2821801, +63-83-5524278)

Susan's Beach - Beach retreat with spacious cottages and karaoke halls (Tinoto, Maasim, Sarangani)

restaurants

GGPick Aunt Ludi - Besides gourmet breads, Aunt Ludi serves great burger, pasta and rice meals. (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos and JtG Propiedad Bldg, Nuñez Street, Purok Malakas, Gen. Santos)

GGPick BigBen Steaks & Grills

- Steaks you can always rely on in a homey, central setting, you'd wanna hang out long after the plates are cleared. (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3030315)

GGPick Bigby's Cafe & Restaurant - Great coffees and sumptuous food platters. Try *Pescado Al Fresco* -- dory in onion sauce! (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5520111) [wi-fi]

GGPick Cafe Verona - Authentic Italian cuisine at Hotel San Marco (Laurel East Ave., Gen. Santos, +63-83-3011818, +63-922-8217332) [wi-fi]

GGPick C Bistro - Fine Filipino fusion cuisine and great ambience for wining, dining and lounging (Tiongson Arcade, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5523780, +63-905-3979955) [wi-fi]

pLaces2GO GG Picks

GGPick Cookie Factory - Home-style restaurant, bakery and coffee shop (J. Catolico Sr, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5522035)

Grab-A-Crab - Exciting seafood, crab specialties (Laurel East, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5535430) [wi-fi]

GGPick Grab-A-Crab - Same Grab-A-Crab vibe, only smaller (Robinsons Place, Gen. Santos) [wi-fi]

Gusteau's Restaurant - Fine crab and seafood delicacies (SunCity Complex, Gen. Santos) [wi-fi]

GGPick Little Dubai Kebab Grills - Taste of exotic Middle East at half the price for home delivery (Gen. Santos, +63-922-8141010) [wi-fi]

GGPick The Little Kitchen - Serves European, Oriental and Filipino specialties in Mediterranean-inspired ambience (Cor. Quirino and Zapote, Gen. Santos) [wi-fi]

GGPick Pablo's Steaks and Crabs - Pablo's has perfected the art of preparing steaks (certified US Angus) (National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5539298)

GGPick Paseo Del Sol - Hacienda-style haven for theme/special events, serving Pablo's/Ranchero fare, and exclusive dishes/catering for private functions (National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5539298)

GGPick Rancharo Grill - Takes native/Filipino/ranch-style food to the next level (National Highway, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5539298)

GGPick Red Trellis Seafood Garden - Asian fusion-inspired, chili/black pepper crab to die for (Across NDDU-IBED, Tiongson Extension, Lagao, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3022722)

Rooftop Grill Ihaw-Ihaw - Seafood/grill, great city view (6th Flr, Sydney Hotel, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5525479 ext. 103) [wi-fi]

Royale Lounge - Relaxing café with minimalist décor, acoustic music Wed-Sat (East Asia Royale Hotel, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5534123) [wi-fi]

GGPick Sarangani Highlands Garden & Restaurant - Hilltop joint with views of Sarangani Bay, downtown Gensan, Mt Parker/Mt Matutum. Great for private parties (Tambler, Gen. Santos, +63-83-3040752)

GGPick Taps & Mix - Healthy meals, relaxing atmosphere, eclectic crowd, affordable price 24-7 (Roxas East across NDDU campus, Gen. Santos, +63-83-5542846) [wi-fi]

GGPick Tricia's The Coffee Pot & Tables - Meals, coffee and pastry, homey atmosphere, catering available (20 Champaca St, Gen. Santos, +63-933-9411941) [wi-fi]

GGPick Euro Kitchen - European fare at Gensan prices, imported beers and wines served (1st Flr, Arcade 1, East Asia Royale Hotel, National Highway, Gen. Santos)

Zumba Your Way to Fitness

I've always loved to dance even at a very young age. Whenever I hear a dance tune my body seems to have a mind of its own and will start to groove. I feel good whenever I move my body with the beat. It's human nature to respond to music whether or not we can dance. Our mind reacts to music and the body expresses that reaction.

Zumba Fitness®, the hottest fitness dancing trend today, is the only Latin-inspired dance-fitness program that blends music produced by Grammy Award winners and contagious steps to form a *fitness-party* that's simply addictive. Since its birth in 2001, Zumba has grown to become the world's largest, most successful dance-fitness program with over 12 million people of all shapes/sizes/ages taking weekly Zumba classes in over 110,000 locations across 125+ countries. (*Zumba.com*)

Zumba is the perfect workout. It's fun and most importantly, it helps us burn calories. Zumba makes you feel like you're just out in the club partying with friends. In high school I always looked forward to class/school programs because some of us would be asked to do dance numbers. Then I thought, what would happen when I already got a job/business? There'd no longer be such programs!

Luckily, there's Zumba! I no longer need an event or night out to be able to dance. It's at

my disposal 3/4 times a week if I have time (I always make time).

Fitness enthusiasts are right when they said to find a suitable exercise, one that you love doing so it doesn't feel like you're working out. Dancing definitely is the right one for me. I always look forward to Zumba classes in Gensan and even in Davao.

Zumba is a venue for me to explore fashion, too. As it is Latin-inspired, Zumba fashion is colorful, where matching green pants with orange tops is commonplace. It's not required

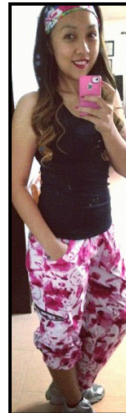
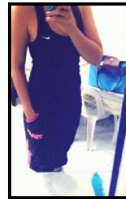
Back2Back
by Donna Mae
Congson and
Romarie Ivy
Cunanan



to dress up, you can still wear simple leggings/shorts and tank top/shirt. Recently I went gaga over tank tops on sale that match my Zumba pants/shoes.

Zumba craze is here in our beloved city, with classes held at most gyms. Babes Ferolin is Gensan's first certified Zumba instructor; her classes are where I get intensity and whole-body workouts. If you're new, she makes it a point to explain Zumba before starting her class (Tue/Thu 8:30-9:30 am Arcadia Fitness Gym; Thu/Sat 5:30 pm Muscle Track; Sat 9-10 am, 2-3 pm Fitness Maximum Gym; Tue/Thu/Fri/Sat 6:30 pm Gensan Sports Center -- varied rates). Free Zumba classes: Robinsons Place Sat/Sun 6 am; KCC Mall Fri/Sat/Sun 6 am.

Find a class fit to your schedule and move that body to fitness. See you in those classes!







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Makeup by
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Made-to-Order You (Almost)

Recently I had a photo shoot with Leonard Pe for Sabina Nina Apparel, a collection of made-to-order dresses designed by Doneelyn Rabe Pe. Her designs are suited for teens because they are very fashionable, trendy, and hip. Her choice fabrics are made of cotton, which you can customize to a body-hugging fit to define your curves.

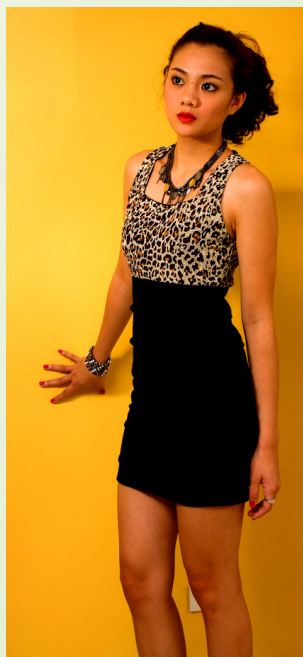
The dresses are really comfortable to wear and flexible, too. You can wear them on any occasion. The prints are also unique and bright. Apart from teen dresses, her designs also include wearable creations like identical pairings for moms and

babies (prices range from PHP 550 to 880). And since I'm an avid fan of online shopping, I can shop search Doneelyn Rabe Pe on Facebook anytime, browse her designs, and place orders there or by calling +63-923-8863968.

For this particular shoot I did my own makeup. Here is my personal makeup pickings:

- Studio Fix MAC Foundation: a one-step application of foundation and powder that gives skin a smooth, flawless, all-matte, full coverage finish
- Almay Blush On: made for sensitive skin.
- MAC Eye Palette: highly-pigmented powder that applies evenly and blends well
- Revlon Fuschia: infused with mega-moisturizers to seal in color and softness

- Shu Uemura Eyelash Curler: enhanced design and up-graded features for ultimate precision that delivers the perfect curl
- Maybelline Mascara: my favorite mascara conditions as it thickens without clumps or globs
- Sally Hansen Lip Vitamins: for those luscious, kissable-looking lips
- BB Cream: brightens skin like a primer does, evens out complexion like a lightweight foundation, covers blemishes like a concealer, has the hydrating properties of a moisturizer, soothes skin like an anti-inflammatory, has UV protection (good-bye sun-block!), and has the sort of anti-aging ingredients more commonly found in serums



The formula is quite simple: Best Dress + Best Makeup = BEST YOU! (Location: Road Haus Economy Hotel, Photography: Leonard Pe, Makeup: Romarie Ivy Cunanan, Nail Art: The Horizon Spa, Special thanks to Kristelle Velayo of Road Haus Economy Hotel)

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by Van Almeria

Unmasking Masquerades

Like literature, fashion can be mysterious, like a huge theater of performers and random characters disguised in their own versions of aesthetics

and artistic independence.

The concept of masquerade balls goes back to the medieval times where people attend triumphal processions, marriage rites, and dynastic events wear-



ing a costume and a mask. They soon grew into public events that enabled social classes to mingle under the cloak of anonymity, disguised in extravagant dresses and masks to match.

Traditional masks were made of papier-mâché, often attached to a stick held by the hand over the face to cover the eyes. Clay was used for more elaborate full-face masks, gilded paint and embellishments like feathers, beads, and pearls being added.

Masquerades have endured through the years, now a commonly used theme in parties. Here the mood tends to be whimsical and mysterious. Head-turning apparel ideas in masquerade party can be inspirational, creative, or deviant.

Creating masquerade masks entails a sense of artistry and innovation. One on-line store even named their masks *Spring Fling is Flirty and Persuasion is a Lavish Fantasy*. When making costumes and masks, one can experiment on color contrasts, shapes, and uncommon designs. Often, many dramatic masquerade costumes look more carnivalesque, made mostly, if not only, to entertain others.

At life's grand ball, on the other hand, one's *mask* and *costume* need to fit the person's character and life goals. Whatever your status or silhouette, you'll be able to build a fashion flavor all your own. Better yet, tear off your mask and create a unique fashion identity!

PeriodART



18th Century Masquerade -- "A droll Circumstance happened during the late Carnival in Paris. At one of the Masquerades, which are always permitted there in Lent Time, a Mask appeared in a Dress representing a Windmill. A Prince of the Blood, struck with the Novelty of the Character, put some trying Questions to the Mask. The Latter replied in a Manner that piqued his Highness greatly. The Prince, chagrined at his Answers, stepped up to one of the Sentinels, and bid him to take care not to lose sight of that Mask, but to arrest him when all was over, with as little Noise as possible. The Mask retired to a Corner of the Room, where he seemingly sat down and went to Sleep. After nodding there several hours, in the Morning when the Sentinel came to execute his orders, finding the Mask, as he thought, still asleep, he gave him several shakes in Order to awake him. These proving ineffectual, he examined the Mask more closely, when to his surprise he found that the Bird was flown, and nothing but the Carcasse of the Windmill left behind." (From The Virginia Gazette, 6 May 1773)

Left: A lithographic print entitled *A Masquerade*, published by Firmin Didot Frères (Paris, circa 1830)

The Elephant in Rio

By Janet Redman

Don't bank on a new green economy to solve our climate challenges.

A close friend of mine in Fairfax, Virginia, is expecting her first child. By the time this baby girl turns 60, she'll live in a world that's warmer than it's ever been since humans began walking the Earth 2.5 million years ago, according to a new study.

The world already looks much different than it did just a generation ago. The alarming rate at which plants and animals are disappearing has scientists asking if we're entering a sixth mass extinction. The oceans' fish stocks -- the main source of protein for more than a billion people -- are declining, and mysterious coral reef die-offs in recent years will likely make a bad situation worse. More than half of the planet's surface now has "an obvious human footprint."

This is exactly where world leaders hoped we would not be when they gathered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the historic 1992 Earth Summit.

Twenty years ago, decision-makers knew human activity could hurt the environment. But they were also grappling with the fact that about half of the world's population was living in poverty, and needed access to land, water, food, dignified work, and other essential ingredients for a better life.

To bring these two realities together, the Rio summit embraced "sustainable development" -- an economic model that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to

meet their own needs. Governments adopted a roadmap for sustainable development heading into the 21st century called Agenda 21 and launched global environmental agreements on biodiversity, climate change, and desertification.

The global community is gathering in Rio again to face the painful fact that little progress has been made. In the back of everyone's mind are the global financial crisis, destabilizing economic inequality, and a lack of political will to do anything perceived as threatening corporate competitiveness.

What went wrong? Part of

the answer is that the original Earth Summit avoided two of the biggest elephants in the room. One, that infinite growth on a finite planet is an exercise in futility. And two, that the 20 percent of the world's population living in North America, Europe, and Japan gobbles up 80 percent of the Earth's natural resources. It doesn't seem likely that Rio+20, as this new meeting is known, will recognize those elephants either.

The leaders heading to Rio are touting a mythical new "green economy" they say will solve all our climate challenges. While still ill defined, they're generally referring to a model of economic growth based on massive private investment in clean energy, climate-resistant agriculture, and ecosystem services -- like the ability of a wetland to filter water. Under this new concept, Wall Street gets to reap profits from a whole new line of business, and governments get to spend less protecting the environment.

Not surprisingly, peasant farmers, indigenous communities, anti-debt activists, and other grassroots groups reject this "green economy" rubric as corporate "greenwashing."

The fear -- echoed by many

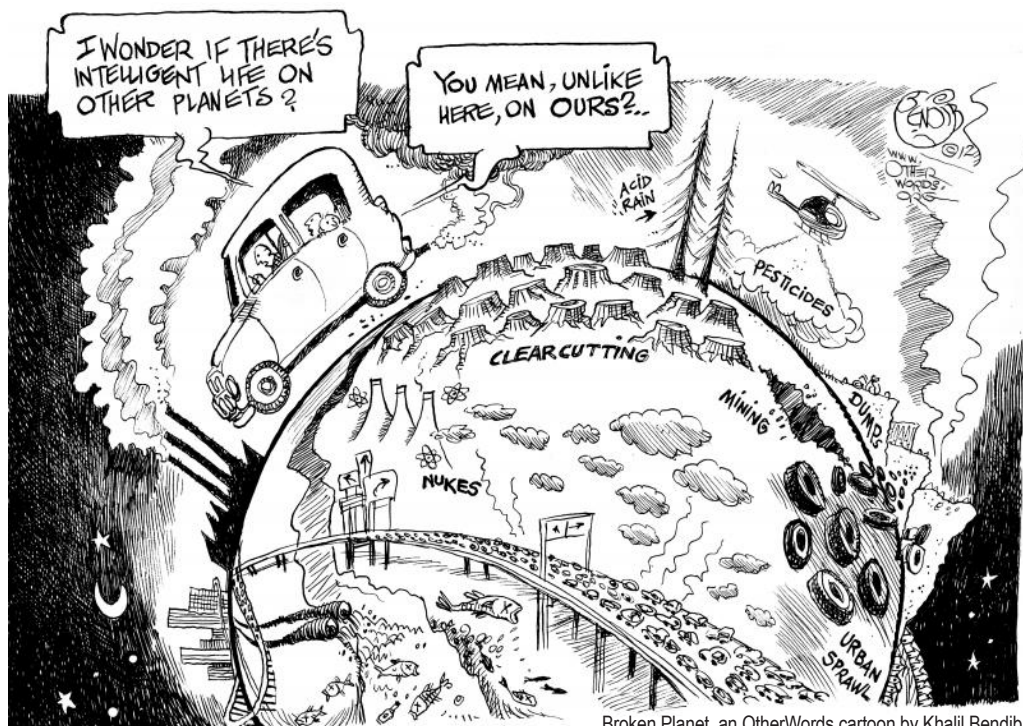
environmentalists and anti-poverty groups -- is that by putting a price on things like water or biodiversity as a way of managing their use, we turn them into commodities and risk having basic needs and services fall victim to speculators who make money off volatile prices.

Think about it. Does it make sense to put the future of our remaining common resources -- forests, genes, the atmosphere, food -- into the hands of people who treated our economy like their personal casino?

It's no coincidence that when people are in charge of managing the land and water they live and depend on they do a better job than some hedge fund manager in a remote office building. Instead of concentrating decision-making power about nature in the financial sector, the Rio+20 summit should support local, democratic control of natural resources.

That way, when my friend's daughter is old enough to vote, she'll have a planet worth fighting for.

Janet Redman is the co-director of the Sustainable Energy & Economy Network at the Institute for Policy Studies (www.ips-dc.org) | Distributed via OtherWords, 18 Jun 2012 (www.OtherWords.org)



Broken Planet, an OtherWords cartoon by Khalil Bendib

ReVIVE: REDUCED VULNERABILITY BY
INTRODUCING VIABLE ECONOMIES

Seeking to reduce the impact of floods in farmlands along the banks of the Silway-Klinan river systems, Mahintana Foundation, Inc. (MFI) launched the ReVIVE (Reduced Vulnerability by Introducing Viable Economies) Project in July 2011 in partnership with Dole Philippines, Inc. and 13 barangay local government units (BLGUs) in Polomolok: Landan, Maligo, Upper Klinan, Klinan 6, Silway 7, Silway 8, Magsaysay, Koronadal Proper, Lumakil, Lapu, Bentung, Sumbakil, and Rubber. Funded by the Lutheran World Relief at PHP19.3-million for three years, the project ventures to rehabilitate the Silway-Klinan riverbanks, provide alternative household incomes, and empower communities and local officials in integrated area management planning and comprehensive programs and policies implementation.

The ReVIVE Project has conducted survey mapping via GPS/GIS technology, which identified high-risk areas and validated a 28-kilometer stretch of actual river system; ground truthing, which determined viability of riverbanks for tree-planting; agro-forestry training in 13 barangays (334 participants) on SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) farm system and vermi-composting; establishment of 14 satellite nurseries, which provided the seedlings planted by the project and alternative in-



comes for the communities; and planting of 20,865 bamboo and 32,995 assorted forest-tree seedlings along Silway-Klinan riverbanks, conducted in partnership with the Philippine National Police Region XII, the Radio Mindanao Network, BLGUs, cooperatives, and community members.

The project has also established 120 gabion cages along the riverbanks of Landan and Magsaysay, planted vetiver and renzoni grass seedlings for earth matting in erosion-prone areas, empowered



13 BLGUs on disaster risk reduction planning and preparedness (led by the Philippine Red Cross), established the FAITH (Food Always in the Home) garden for 390 families, and implemented proper waste management systems in 13 BLGUs.

With these interventions, the ReVIVE Project aggressively promotes and helps communities become resilient and strong in coping with the impacts of the current erratic climate patterns and environmental degradation.

postSCRIPT

by Mandi
Nicolas

Ordinary people like us make plans, go to work, maybe go away at times, return and work some more, probably make up for lost time or clear backlogs. At the same time we wait -- wait for that promotion on the job, for that much-lobbied transfer to a better-paying post, for the hard-earned yearend bonus, perhaps even for retirement.

Some wait to win the lottery or get a major windfall, putting off any plan to take on a dream adventure or travel far or switch jobs or live in another city until they hit the jackpot. Most wait for chance or change, carrying on with the mundane task of subsisting -- barely living in the real sense of the word.

As if literally waiting is not bad enough. We all have to endure waiting in check-out lines,

waiting at airports, waiting for chronically late people, waiting in waiting rooms, waiting in traffic, waiting for food to be served, waiting for that phone call, waiting to finally fall asleep. According to a National Public Radio (US) report, the average American spends two to three years of his/her life waiting in line. In developing countries that allotment could rise to five years or more. (All these can only be aggravated by bureaucratic red tape, service downtimes, gross incompetence, graft and corruption, natural and man-made calamities, the lack of political will, wars and strifes, and what-not.)

They say patience is a virtue, but waiting to breathe is quite unnecessary. Rich or poor, we're better off making the most of what we have and living fully -- within our means, of course, and not only in the mate-

Waiting to
Breathe

rial sense -- in the here and now. As my significant other would always say, "Just breathe."

If you must wait, read on: Maturity includes the recognition that no one is going to see anything in us that we don't see in ourselves. Stop waiting for a producer. Produce yourself. (Marianne Williamson, Founder, The Peace Alliance)

Light thinks it travels faster than anything but it is wrong. No matter how fast light travels, it finds the darkness has always got there first, and is waiting for it. (Terry Pratchett, English novelist)

The light of memory, or rather the light that memory lends to things, is the palest light of all.... I am not quite sure whether I am dreaming or remembering, whether I have lived my life or dreamed it. Just as dreams do, memory makes me profoundly aware of the unreality, the evanescence of the world, a fleeting image in the moving water.

-- *Eugène Ionesco* (26 Nov 1909 - 28 Mar 1994), Romanian-born French playwright
(Model: Nicole San Mateo | Lighting: Combination of small bulbs and audience lights)

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