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Issue: 180-12/2011

CRIMINAL BEAUTY

Demiella Joya is dashing in her sultry vintage vignette

MDM FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The best and worst about the holidays

THE COSPLAY QUEEN

MDM speaks to Alodia Amira Gosiengfao

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On the cover:
Material Girl purple bubble dress (\$79), MStyle Lab bracelets set (\$16), MStyle Lab feather head band (\$26), MStyle Lab black feather earrings (\$12) from Macy's.



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Criminal Beauty

Demiella Joya is dashing in her sultry vintage vignette

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF OUR CONCEPT FOR YOUR SHOOT?

I saw the concept sheet that was sent and I said, "this is so me!" I enjoyed every minute of it from beginning to end including the part where we did the hair and makeup dry run, the fitting at Macy's and the entire shoot. I loved the wardrobe, the theme and the red lipstick. I had so much fun! I loved the whole process.

WE NOTICED DURING THE DRY RUN YOU WERE READING A BOOK. DO YOU READ OFTEN?

I was reading "Just Kids" by Patti Smith. That was a really good book. I also enjoyed "I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell" by Tucker Max. I love autobiographies, too. I really enjoy reading.

DID YOU SEE THE MOVIE BASED ON THE TUCKER MAX NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME?

Yes, but I don't like movies much. I don't have the attention span to go to a theater and I don't really enjoy the whole movie experience.

WE KNOW YOU ARE IN SCHOOL; WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR?

I haven't declared one yet. I am interested in pursuing criminal justice. My parents are traditional; they want me to study nursing. It seems like everyone is majoring in business and I want to do something fun, not boring. I want a career where I get to interact with people.

DO YOU LIKE TV?

I like the E! Network, especially Chelsea Lately and the Kardashians. I watch the Food Network, too. I can't stand Jersey Shore!

WHAT ABOUT YOUR LOVE LIFE?

Right now, I am single and happy. I'm not looking for a boyfriend. I went through all that "high school sweetheart" stuff already. I don't see myself getting married and having kids soon.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DO YOU LISTEN TO?

I don't like mainstream music. I love Adele, even though she went a little mainstream. I love Duffy and Amy Winehouse. If Duffy goes mainstream, I will lock myself in a room!



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On DJ: BCX suit top (\$39.98), XOXO pleated pencil skirt (\$34.98), MStyle Lab flower clip (\$6).
On Will and Steve: Suits from Gaylord, American Rag hats (\$19.50) from Macy's.







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NAUGHTY AND NICE

HOLIDAY FOODS

By Carmen Rojas

Around this time of the year people start wondering what holiday foods they can enjoy without ruining a year's worth of diet and exercise. My first suggestion would be that people stay on the straight and narrow as much as possible during this time, then the drawbacks will be minimal. However, with candy at every turn, office parties, family dinners, and village fiestas it is nearly impossible to say no to every temptation. So which ones will lead to your diet demise sooner?

SKIPPING BREAKFAST

I know this is not a food per se but one of the number one things I see people doing at holiday time is staying out all night long, and getting up in just enough time to throw on some clothes and head to the next function. Get yourself up and have a healthy breakfast. Whole grains, good protein, and fruit will make it easier to fight the temptations that are sure to come later in the day.



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ALCOHOL

This is a big one. Alcohol has a lot of hidden carbohydrates and sugars that can easily add pounds and inches. A drink or two here and there is not as much of a problem, but during the holiday time, the liquor is often free flowing and before you know it you have had a few beers, a cocktail and a glass of wine. Not only are you well on your way to being drunk, if you are not there already, but you just drank around 1,000 calories! Add to that, the dehydration that comes with alcohol consumption and you have delivered a double whammy to your system. If you are going to an event where you want to enjoy a drink, start with a glass of water first, then alternate between a drink and water.

CANDY

It always amazes me how much candy is available at this time of year. Starting with the Halloween season and going all the way to Easter, there are mountains of morsels in bright shiny wrappers, begging to be eaten. With your evil conscience telling you to have just one piece, reminding you it's a small one and that it barely counts. Oh, how wrong your evil conscience



is. First, you don't need the candy. You could walk away and remind yourself that you don't need it, so coming up with a rationale to have it is pointless. But if that does not work, the old out-of-sight-out-of-mind trick works. Don't go by that certain someone's desk that always has the chocolate Santas out. If your plan is to eat one, now and save some for later (like that ever works), then put the one out on your desk and put the others in a drawer, or in your purse, briefcase or wherever and keep your mind busy.

FATS & CARBOHYDRATES

Fats & carbohydrates are out in full force during the holiday season. I normally talk about them separately, but during the holiday time especially they are paired together. Cookies are nothing but fats and carbohydrates. Mashed potatoes and gravy are also fats and carbohydrates.

Remember to limit your intake on these foods and you won't be cursing bah humbug at yourself.



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MDM FOR THE HOLIDAYS

By Jacqueline Perry Guzman

The holidays are finally here! Some of us welcome them with warm hearts and wide smiles while others share a “bah! humbug!” attitude with Scrooge and the Grinch. Regardless of how you feel about the season, the *mdm* Holiday Annual will remind you of all the reasons you love the holidays or at least will make you chuckle and maybe swing you a little toward the cheerful side of the season pendulum.





THE 10 BEST THINGS ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS:

- 01 Gifts.** Whether giving or receiving, gifts are truly the season's warmest element. When one gives a gift they are often overwhelmed with joy and good cheer. Similarly when one receives a gift, they are overcome with gratitude and feelings of love and appreciation.
- 02 Parties.** Who doesn't love a good Christmas or New Year's Eve party? Whether with family, friends, coworkers or neighbors, sharing tidings and wishes with the ones you hold dear is always more meaningful at this time of year.
- 03 Decked halls.** Mistletoe, holly, garland, tinsel, wreaths, bells, faux snow, poinsettias and all the glorious lights all over the island fill our hearts with cheer. Every year we all anticipate driving past that same house whose owners outdo their decorations from previous years.
- 04 Food.** This is the dining we wait for all year long. Whether it is a traditional turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy dinner or a barbecue and pot roast feast you prefer, bring it on. Don't forget the seasonal desserts and eggnog! Go ahead and enjoy yourself a little, it's the holidays!
- 05 The smell of Christmas trees.** Who doesn't like the smell of a fresh Christmas tree? The fragrant shrubs fill the air with all the feelings of the holidays and bring back even your earliest holiday memories. By the way, it's okay if you don't take down the tree until February. We understand.
- 06 The music.** Some people live for it, others can't stand it. Even if you don't like to hear the classics or the latest artist's spin, there is at least one holiday song that you admit to liking. And we know it makes you feel good. Even the Scroogiest of Scrooges likes at least one Christmas tune.
- 07 Quality time with family and friends.** We get together and share large banquets of our favorite food, we exchange gifts and take photographs. Most of all we create the memories that will last a lifetime.
- 08 The spirit of giving is in the air.** People are more charitable and generous this time of year. Smiles shine brighter and everyone is more joyful. It feels good to be charitable and we want those less fortunate to enjoy the holidays as well, so we all tend to drop a little more in the box.
- 09 Holiday-themed movies, literature, ballets and plays.** The Nutcracker Suite, Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, T'was the Night Before Christmas and of course, "You'll shoot your eye out kid," are some of the hundreds of favorites we don't want to miss. We love to watch and hear them because they remind us of all the holidays past and how much we have to be grateful for throughout the years.
- 10 Friends and family from off-island coming to visit.** Service members, college students, relatives and friends who come to Guam for the holidays always is a special treat. They have missed Guam and want to spend their favorite time of year in the warm comfort of the island but more importantly, with us!

THE 10 WORST THINGS ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS:

- 01** Going into debt to buy ungrateful friends and relatives the obligatory Christmas gifts (which they may or may not ever use).
- 02** Christmas music. It's the same, every single year.
- 03** Awkward family gatherings with relatives you do not normally see throughout the year.
- 04** Putting up decorations and then taking them all down again. It is time consuming and useless.
- 05** Holiday traffic. Why is everyone on the road and why won't the traffic open up?
- 06** The unending cycle of guilt that accompanies the consumption of huge amounts of food during parties and get-togethers.
- 07** Spending two month's salary on a plane ticket off-island for two weeks at the most.
- 08** Eggnog. Not everybody likes eggnog.
- 09** Dealing with the Christmas lights when one on the strings burns out.
- 10** Going into the jungle to collect the moss or lumot for the Nativity scene or belen.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATING RULES TO FOLLOW:

- 01** Always have a designated driver or plan on using taxi cabs if you are going out on the town. It certainly saves you from parking woes and will keep you safe from danger and getting in trouble with the law.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

from MDM

HOW NOT TO BE A DRAG DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

- 01 Don't be a diet snob.** Just because you are on a diet doesn't mean you can criticize everyone else for their second helpings or their extra pieces of pie. Reminding people of the calories they are ingesting just makes you seem uptight because you aren't comfortable enough with yourself to indulge a little bit.
- 02 Don't spend all your time on Facebook when all your family and friends are around.** Even if you are posting photos of the family dinner or opening of the gifts, you have to really "be there." You can upload photos and video later.
- 03 So, you hate the holidays.** We get it. There is no swaying you. At least act like you are having a good time for the rest of us. It is a couple days out of the year that you have to endure the whole family and the music and the kids. Besides you got presents, too.
- 04 Don't complain about the lame gift you got.** Okay, so it is one of those gel candles with a seascape embedded in it. It looks stupid and it smells funny, but the person who got it for you probably thought you would like it. Smile and thank them and try to have a good day.



- 02 Know and watch your limits.** Don't drink yourself into oblivion or else you will have to call it a night early and will miss the countdown to the New Year and the fireworks. So often minor disagreements turn into feuds when people drink too much. Remember to take it slow and easy.
- 03 Keep kids where they belong.** Bringing youngsters to adult themed parties or get-togethers can make people feel uncomfortable and is altogether inappropriate.
- 04 Don't be the person who complains about the music playing at a party or in a night club.** If it is that bad, you can always leave, but making a big deal out of something that other people are obviously enjoying just makes you look like a jerk.
- 05 Keep your finances in check.** Don't go overboard. Remember, come January, you will still have all those bills to pay off.



ON THE ROAD

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Twilight: Breaking Dawn movie premiere at Micronesia Mall on Nov. 18
Photos by Florence Stair




Toga Night at Molly's Irish Pub on Nov. 12.
Photos by Florence Stair



PINK Party for Breast Cancer Awareness on at WPub on Oct. 18.
Photos by Allan Cadawas



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Oktoberfest on Oct. 30 at Hotel Santa Fe
Photos by Florence Stair



Casa Nami Guam's Sunday Showcase #16: "The Freakshow!" Oct. 30
Photos by Florence Stair



Halloween Bash at Molly's Irish Pub, W and Route 66 Pub on Oct. 29
Photos by Florence Stair and Allan Cadawas



MCV's "AMC Walking Dead" Halloween Party on Oct. 29 at Hard Rock Cafe
Photos by Islandtech Photography



"Hall of Horrors" party on Oct. 29 at Lush Night Club
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Halloween weekend at Zen Ultra Lounge on Oct. 30,
Photo courtesy of Zen Ultra Lounge



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GUAM WELCOMES THE COSPLAY QUEEN

Cosplay – short for costume play, is a type of performance art in which individuals dress up in costumes and accessories to represent characters or ideas. Usually characters are from popular fiction in Japan but recent trends have included American cartoons or science fiction.

Alodia Amira Gosiengfao, International Cosplay Queen and one of FHM Philippines' "Top 100 sexiest women in the world" in 2010, took time to meet with her fans during a press conference and autograph session at the Agana Shopping Center on Nov. 11.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER AND WHY DO YOU LIKE TO DRESS UP AS THAT CHARACTER?

Well, my favorite character is the baroness because I get to use my real glasses, so everything is so clear. I also like the costume because it is pretty comfortable to be in, and it's in my favorite colors.

WHAT ARE THE PERKS OF BEING THE "COSPLAY QUEEN"?

Still up until now, I really don't regard myself as the best in cosplay, but I really enjoy meeting different cosplayers from different countries. It is such an honor to be in the midst and to witness their artwork in the form of cosplay, so I am really thankful for where I am at now.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN COSPLAYING?

I started cosplaying back in 2003, I used to join competitions and eventually it lead to photoshoots and guest appearances, but what really led me to cosplay was Rebel Alliance, [my sister and I] are big gamers.

WE KNOW YOU ARE AN AVID GAMER. WHAT GAMES ARE YOU PLAYING NOW?

I used to play War of Warcraft a lot, but what I am currently playing is Diablo 3.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE BETA TESTING?

The beta mode is pretty short,

because the maximum level is 30, which itself is pretty short you can finish in a few hours. Of course you can hunt for items, but I think they put the level cap pretty low so you can at least get to try other characters because they came up with a witch doctor, the demon hunter. You can try everything without thinking about how to level your character.

HOW DO YOU GET IDEAS FOR YOUR COSTUMES?

Most of my cosplays were from games [my sister and I] really like. But sometimes I listen to what

my Facebook friends say like "Hey, I think you should cosplay this character because I see her in you," and then I research that character and if I come to like her, I will make a costume.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FILIPINO FOOD?

My favorite Filipino dish would be sisig and kare-kare (laughs). I try to avoid it because it's very oily, and when you eat kare-kare you need rice... but I can't help myself especially after conventions or photo shoots.

Alodia at her press conference at Agana Shopping Center on Nov. 11, 2011. Photo by Florence Stair

Alodia dressed as the Baroness with fellow cosplayers at Otaku Recon at The Phoenix Center at Father Duenas Memorial School on Nov. 12, 2011. Photo by Guam Gamers Network



GUAM HOSTS THE FINAL OTAKU RECON

By Florence Stair

Hundreds of anime fans and video game players flocked to the Otaku Recon convention at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center on Nov. 12.

Photo by Florence Stair



The event, presented by Kai Productions, featured a ramen-eating contest, karaoke singing contest, cosplay competition, a massive anime figurine collection and raffle prizes.

With input from participants and friends of the first Otaku Recon, Kai Productions spent nine months planning and researching. "We did tons of research into the larger conventions stateside and in Asia. We wanted to encompass that feeling into Otaku Recon. We took our research and blended it with our own creative ideas to come up with something feasible

and fun," according to Darlene Santiago, marketing coordinator for Kai Productions.

One of the unique attractions of Otaku Recon was the "My Heart Café," a cosplay café in which the servers are dressed in maid costumes and emanate the Japanese concept of moe or a feeling of "overpowering cuteness."

"This is the last Otaku Recon, but hopefully there will be someone who can take the reigns and create another anime festival," says Santiago.

Photo by Guam Gamers Network



Photos below by Florence Stair



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Subaru
WRX

His

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“Because of the many ways it can be handled and the road conditions you can drive it on, whether it be wet, dry or mud and also it’s a good cruising car, and it is also really safe and reliable.”

Jason Padama, 23, and his girlfriend Cassandra Camba, 21, have a lot in common. They both live in Dededo, they are both bartenders at the Hyatt Regency Guam and they love their Subaru WRXs.

Cassandra’s WRX is a brand new 2011 white 5-door. “The best feature about the WRX is the fact that it is stock turbo charged,” Cassandra says.

For Jason, the best feature of the WRX, “would have to be the wide body, it gives that mean and aggressive look to the car.”

The two sport his and hers models for different reasons.

“I always wanted a WRX but I didn’t think it was affordable until I saw a red one that caught my eye and I decided to check it out and took it for a test drive and next



Jason + Cassandra

thing you know, I was signing papers for it. As for my girlfriends car, she didn't expect to be driving one, she wanted a two-door front wheel sports coupe, but I told her that it's about the same price range and you'll get more features with the WRX and the same thing happened to her, as soon as she rode in the passenger seat as I took it for a drive, her mind was set that she wanted one too," Jason explains.

Jason drives a brand new 2011 Red 4-door WRX.

In three words, Cassandra would describe her WRX as "fast, fun, sexy."

Jason believes the WRX is different from other cars in its class. "Because of the many ways it can be handled and the road conditions you can drive it on, whether it be wet, dry or mud and also

it's a good cruising car, and it is also really safe and reliable," says Jason.

Jason and Cassandra consider themselves car enthusiasts. "I've been in the 'car scene' since I was 16 when I got my first new car and 19 when I got my second new car, so this would be my third. And throughout the years I've learned so much and I want to expand my knowledge

about different types of cars, so here I am with the WRX," Jason says.

"Cars can do so much, and every car is different in its own way. That's what makes it exciting, no one car is equal. Every owner has his or her own style to set it up, and that's when competition comes in place. We all want to have the best," Cassandra says.

"I love my Subaru."



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GUAM WOMEN IN WATER POLO

By Jacqueline Perry Guzman

Since 1976, every Tuesday and Thursday evening and Sunday afternoon, men and women have been playing water polo at the Hagåtña pool. The sport, which requires very strong swimming skills and agility was the first Olympic team sport and was introduced into the games in 1900.

Throughout the past 35 years on Guam, more than 200 men and 70 women have participated in this highly competitive and sometimes grueling sport. Among these athletes are five women who trained with Guam Water Polo during high school and went on to have successful experiences with water polo at the collegiate level.

The team water sport, which is similar to team hand ball, requires excellent swimming capabilities, the ability to tread water extremely well and the ability to handle a ball about the same size as a volley ball.

Attorney AnaMaria Gayle, supervisor at the Alternative Public Defender's Office, attended the University of California at San Diego and played water polo from 1983 to 1987. The team

placed first at nationals in 1986. "I played for a total of about eight years," Gayle says.

In college, Gayle enjoyed visiting teams from Japan where she was able to see outstanding performances from overseas players. "I used to play with the men's team here on Guam and it was just fun hanging out and playing with them," she says.

Gayle says playing polo is where she learned to be a part of a team. "I had always been on a swim team, but swimming is such an individual sport and being on the water polo team made me learn how to have the discipline to train and have teammates, strategize and have a good work ethic," says Gayle. "Being on the water polo team in college was the best part about being in college. I made lasting friendships with my teammates and I learned that everyone is valuable and contributes to the success and failure of the team. I learned a lot about myself as an individual and as a member of a winning team."

Claudia Clement, community planner of EA Engineering Sci-

ence and Technology Inc., has been playing polo for 16 years. "I only played really competitively during college. I'm still playing today with the team on Guam," she says.

"I started playing in my junior year with the Guam Water Polo team then I played with them every summer and when I came home for summer and the holidays. Since 2009, I have been back on Guam and playing every week with the team," Clement says.

"The best part about Guam Water Polo is how accepting the team is of any level of player. I received the support of the team when I was in high school not knowing anything about the sport and in a little over a year I was able to play in college for a Division I team," she adds.

Clement attended the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she served as co-captain on the women's water polo team during her sophomore, junior and senior years. "I learned how to play with Guam Polo which although co-ed is primarily a men's team so from the beginning I was learning how to play

with players much bigger and stronger than myself. When I got to college even the biggest girls didn't compare," Clement says.

"We ranked 5th place at Nationals my senior year," she says. During her polo career, Clement boasts that UMASS placed first in the New England Division all four years, from 1997 to 2000, UMASS placed 1st in the Eastern Division three years, from 1997 to 1999. The UMASS women's water polo team finished 5th at the 2000 Collegiate National Championship, the highest finish in program history and the best finish by any Eastern team. In 2000, the UMASS women's water polo team was selected the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division I Women's Team of the Year. Clement was awarded All American Honorable Mention during her senior year. She was co-captain during her sophomore, junior and senior years and was a starter all four years of her college career.

Catherine Z. Ysrael, deputy attorney general of the California Department of Justice, attended Harvard University from 1983 to 1986, where she achieved the



... but swimming is such an individual sport and being on the water polo team made me learn how to have the discipline to train and have teammates, strategize and have a good work ethic,

2nd Place All American title for women's polo. She was co-captain during her junior and senior years and was her team's leading scorer. She was named Most Valuable Player in her senior year.

Ysrael played for three years in college and two years in graduate school and summers and weekends at the Hagåtña pool while she was in school. Catherine explains that she enjoyed Guam's warm water and the sense of camaraderie she experienced playing on Guam. "Our club mates were very friendly and supportive of us younger folks," says Catherine.

During her undergrad years, Catherine played for Harvard University's varsity team and in graduate school she played for the Oxford University Water Polo Club. "Like my sisters Mariana and Elizabeth, we all had strong swimming backgrounds and playing summers with the club on Guam really improved my skills. Particularly because most of the players were men and were much bigger and stronger than I was, which made playing against them challenging – and fun!" she says.

Catherine was voted Most Improved Player in her first year when she was a sophomore and then served as co-captain of the Harvard varsity team in her junior and senior years. In graduate school, Catherine was the captain of the Oxford University water polo team. "The annual varsity match against our archrival, Cambridge University was always a highlight. I was also named English Universities First Team for Women's Water Polo in 1987," says Catherine.

"Playing with Guam Water Polo improved my skills and solidified my enthusiasm for this wonderful sport. Above all, playing with the guys was fun and gave me the chance to be outdoors, doing something that was challenging and a team sport. Playing water polo in college and graduate school gave me the opportunity to travel and to meet people from all walks of life. Coming from Guam that was really special for me and something I would not have been able to do if I had not played the sport," Catherine says.

Marianna Ysrael, sister of Catherine, retired physician and

mother of four, played polo in high school and college. "I played with Guam Water Polo from about the time I was 13 until I graduated high school and during summers in college I played with them when I came home," Marianna says.

She attended Stanford University from 1981 to 1985 where her team won the National Championships in her senior year. "It was Stanford's first title for women's water polo. I was the captain so it was a very special win. I made the last goal of the game. We won 12-7," she remembers. Marianna was also named 2nd team All American.

"I played with my sister Elizabeth. We have great memories playing together; we traveled a lot as a team," Marianna says.

Elizabeth Ysrael, sister of both Catherine and Marianna, also attended Stanford University from 1980 to 1984. Elizabeth's team was 1st team All American for 1983 and 1984.

"I played from about age 15 until about 30 in high school, college, graduate school and rec-

reation," says Elizabeth. "I played with Guam Water Polo for about 4 – 5 years and also summers when I came home."

In college, Elizabeth was discovered by the women's polo coach. "At that time in women's water polo, having any experience at all was unusual. The women's coach 'found me' in a beginning water polo class my first quarter at Stanford when he saw me lob a shot over one of the junior varsity men's players who was goalie for the class. The coach asked if I did that on purpose and I said 'yes.' Then he asked me to sign up for the women's club team," Elizabeth says.

In college, the Ysrael sisters hoped that more colleges would establish more women's teams. "Some of them weren't even associated with colleges at all. You can see how this changed with Marianna and Catherine as the sport headed toward official National Collegiate Athletic Association status," Elizabeth says.

Each of these women agrees that their experiences with Guam Water Polo contributed to their success in their polo careers.

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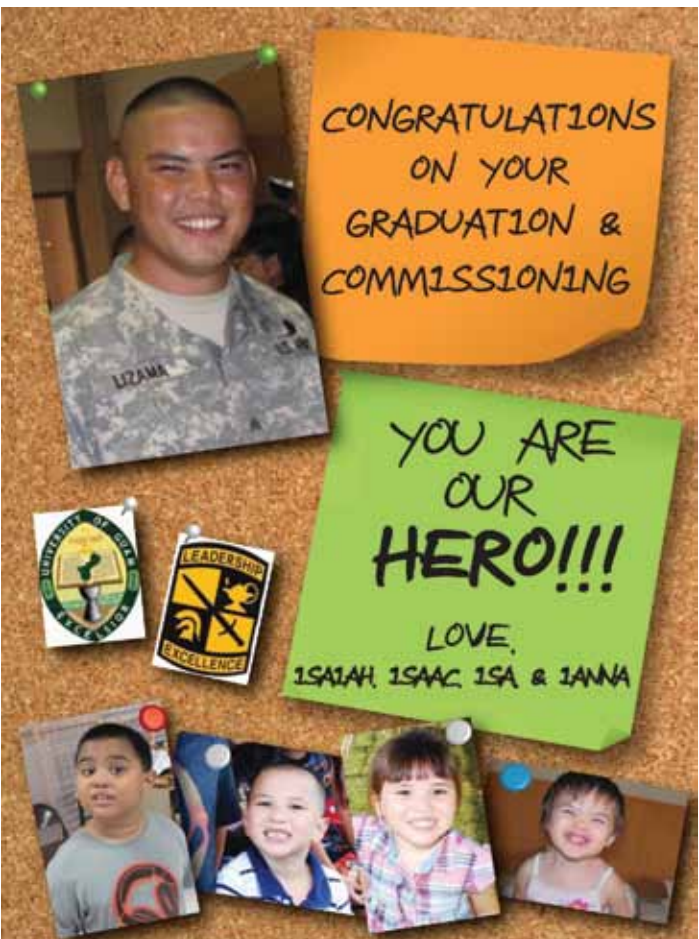
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HE SAID, SHE SAID

Dear Mark and Jacqueline,

My boyfriend and I have been dating for about 10 months. We have been talking about moving in together. I don't know how I feel about it because I am pretty old-fashioned, but he insists it is the next step before we actually get married. What are your thoughts?

T.S.

MARK SAYS: It's fine to be old-fashioned, and taking your time is usually a good idea. But you never truly know someone until you live together. Responsibilities like sharing chores, cleanliness and paying bills will reveal new details about your boyfriend. Is he a team player? Is he willing to pull his own weight, or will you be picking up the slack? Does he squeeze the toothpaste from the top, leave his clothes in a pile, or not wash the bottoms of the plates? Generally, this is how guys roll. They may seem like little things now, but they will become big issues if you have to deal with them every day, all day. You may even have some quirks of your own that he finds annoying. So the question is do you love this guy enough to overlook his flaws without even knowing what they are? If you decide to wait until marriage, this is what your challenge will be. If you're not sure, it's probably a sign that you need to learn more about him. I suggest spending a few days at a time at his place. Let him know that it's just for the weekend, and that it's not permanent. This will give you a better look at who he truly is without compromising your old-fashioned values.

They may seem like little things now, but they will become big issues if you have to deal with them every day, all day.

Couples who have been married for 30 or more years more than likely did not live together before they got married.

JACQUELINE SAYS: I understand the old-fashioned part. I would never want to "play house" either. Sleepovers are one thing but moving in together just makes things more difficult, especially if it doesn't work out. Couples who have been married for 30 or more years more than likely did not live together before they got married. Shacking up was frowned upon 30 years ago. I think you should hold steady to your old-fashioned values. Your boyfriend should respect you and appreciate that you don't want to live together before you get married, if you will be married one day. Being old-fashioned about living in "sin" is a great tradition and I think it is great you feel that way.



Dear Mark and Jacqueline,

I have been “seeing” this girl for a while and by seeing, I mean we see each other when she comes over to my house. She has never invited me to her house. She never wants to meet in a public place. She hasn’t introduced me to any of her friends and she blows me off when I want to introduce her to my friends. Is she ashamed of me or something? What is the deal?

M.N.

MARK SAYS: “Is she ashamed of me or something?” I’m going with “Or Something.” Take off your testosterone goggles and see the truth for what it is. She wants to keep you separated from her real life, which probably includes a boyfriend or even husband. You need to ask her what is going on immediately. If she blows you off, tap dances around the answer, or tries to distract you with affection or even aggression, then you need to boot this woman out the window. If she’s ashamed of you, or if she has another man, she is not worth it – unless of course you don’t care, in which case you should be ashamed of yourself.

JACQUELINE SAYS: Hmm. Sounds like she is hiding something and she definitely does not want anyone to know about you. You shouldn’t even bother to try to reason with her. What she is doing is pretty outright and downright cruel. She is keeping you a secret for some reason and whatever that reason is it is not good enough for you to continue “seeing” this person. I say move on, hastily.

Dear Mark and Jacqueline,

Recently I have noticed that my boyfriend has been paying extra special attention to his appearance. He is well groomed, works out more often and bought new clothes. We have been together for three years. I used to have to beg him to shave. Why the concern for his appearance all of a sudden?

D.S.

MARK SAYS: Does his change in appearance match a change in behavior? Is he being more attentive lately? Has he been helping with chores, paying bills, or doing anything else that just seems more mature? If so, it could simply mean that he is growing up. You might also want to find out if he is up for a promotion at his job. Or maybe he has new responsibilities. There are all possible, legit reasons why guys will start picking up their game. Ask him about it. Until you have a good reason to be suspicious, you could be enjoying the ride! Why not dress yourself up, exercise with him, and go show him all the wonderful, sexy reasons why he’s with you in the first place.

JACQUELINE SAYS: Those are all telltale signs that there may be someone else, according to modern lore. It seems suspicious. Then again, maybe he is afraid he is getting old and wants to take advantage of the way he still looks. It could also be a reflection of you. Have you been looking better lately? Perhaps he just wants to impress you. If you just can’t shake the idea that he is trying to impress someone else, maybe it is time to confront him. Trust your women’s intuition. Rarely is it wrong.

...maybe he is afraid he is getting old and wants to take advantage of the way he still looks. It could also be a reflection of you. Have you been looking better lately? Perhaps he just wants to impress you.

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TAX RETURN

By Kyle Mandapat

Horsing Around with Tax Refund



Hohoho! I mean yoyoyo! *Hafa adai* and what's up to my peep squad? Well, it is December again, and that's a good thing. W-2s are coming; the end of the year is here; and most especially Christmas is right around the corner. Hopefully, you have gotten your tax refunds by now and Christmas is going to be filled with awesomeness.

With the tax refunds supposed to be released by Christmas, a lot of people have been asking me questions about it. I have got to say, that the most frequent question I get is the obvious, "What are you going to use your tax refund money for, because I need some ideas..."

It is with that in mind that I present, **"THINGS THAT I AM GOING TO DO WITH MY TAX REFUND MONEY THAT MY GRANDMA IS NOT GOING TO YELL AT ME FOR."**

PAY MY OVERDUE POWER BILL

Okay, let's just be real here. Every month around the 20th or so, there are a whole bunch of us, including me, who cross our fingers that when we go home, the lights are still going to be working. We all buy the Santa Maria candles when they go on sale for 99 cents just in case. The first thing I am going to do with my tax refund money is pay off the three months outstanding bill for air conditioner and washing machine energy. Then I won't have to worry about whether I have to eat my Spam raw or my Ichiban uncooked.

BUY PLENTY OF SPRAY PAINT

Moving on, when I asked people what they were going to buy with their tax money, a good portion of them said that they were going to buy another car. I agree with you if you are one of the lucky people who get to grab in excess of \$10K in returns, but let's say you are in the \$2,000 or less bracket as far as returns are concerned, no worries, you can still rock a new looking vehicle. Go to the store, and buy plenty spray of paint. Then go outside and give your car or truck a makeover. Look at it this way, who has not always wanted a pink/green/gold/ orange camouflage style paint job? Really?

Just me? At least you will always be able to spot your car in the parking lot. Heck, you might even be able to spot your car from space.

BUY MY GRANDMA A HORSE

You can grab stuff and be practical with your tax refund money, but I think you need to throw in something wacko to feel like the five years you have been waiting for this money was well worth it. However, if you remember the title of this month's guide, I am trying not to get slapped by my grandma. If anyone on this planet has paid attention to any of the world's history, from the ancient times to the dinosaur times, to the Forrest Gump days, one thing is for sure. If there is ever a time when you don't want any woman, including your grandma to get mad at you for spending money, there is one rule – spend some on her. In this case, I have always wanted to ride a horse to work. At the same time, my Grandma always wanted to stroll up to the flea market on a horse. I am going to kill two horses with one rock and use my tax refund money to buy a horse for my grandma. That's a gift that keeps giving!

As you can see, I am not a trained financial planner or do I really think far enough ahead to ever consider being one, but by golly, I like cooked Spam and ichiban, I like blindingly bright colored cars and I love my grandma – all of which I will spend my tax refund money on. Until next month. Happy Holidays my friends, follow me on twitter @kylemandapat and as always, see you on the radio!





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