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## LIFE

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Anchored by Jonathan dela Cruz, Salvador Escudero, Boying Remulla, Teddy Boy Locsin and Alvin Capino

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### Relief for cerebral palsy sufferers

By Romy Antonette Peña

THERE are a lot of misconceptions about cerebral palsy, a condition characterized by the difficulty with fine motor tasks such as maintaining balance and walking, as well as involuntary movement. The condition, which affects 15 million people worldwide, is the result of injuries sustained to the developing brain at any time during pregnancy, birth or until the age of three.

Individuals with cerebral palsy can now look forward to managing their condition better with TheraSuit, the latest innovation in cerebral palsy management.

Inspired by a suit used by cosmonauts made of synthetic fabric with strategically placed elastic inserts designed to battle muscle atrophy, Izabela Koscielny, a physical therapist, developed the TheraSuit.

### OTHER STORIES

#### Rediscovering Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO used to be a mysterious place that I would hear from my mother and her three sisters every summer, when we would fly to Manila to be with relatives. Over cups of coffee, they would talk in Tagalog and Ibanag (a local Cagayan dialect), reliving their childhood and teenage years, before they all got married and moved elsewhere.

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#### PAL to upgrade B747s

I'VE always loved traveling business class, especially on long-haul flights that require a great amount of leg room to stretch your limbs so your blood doesn't stop circulating to your lower extremities, offering me a more restful flight.

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#### MOVIE REVIEW: 'Transformers' turning into high-tech entertainment

TRANSFORMERS uncovers man's greatest love—for machines that whir, click, rev or destroy.

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#### Reeling: First, the Good News...

THE documentary "Iskul Ko, No. 1" on GMA's multiawarded long-running *I-Witness* last Monday makes up for the many sins of omission that Manila-based TV networks have the tendency to commit.

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#### Show & Tell: DEAD ISSUE

Boy Abunda, ABS-CBN's prized host, is surprised why an old issue about John Lapus's former boyfriend is being revived by rival station GMA Network. In a recent episode of *Showbiz Central*, John, who is one of the hosts, narrated how he wrongly accused Boy of seducing his then-boyfriend. It's a dead issue, Boy told a local entertainment portal.



IZABELA KOSCIELNY, a physical therapist who developed the TheraSuit to help her young daughter stricken with cerebral palsy. --PHOTO BY NONOY LACZA

Koscielny experienced firsthand the grueling battle with cerebral palsy when her daughter Kaya was diagnosed with the condition. "Many of the doctors I went to see with my daughter would always be pessimistically cautious, saying, "There is not a chance for your daughter to walk or to achieve this and that,"" she recalled during a recent conference call.

The TheraSuit consists of a cap, vest, shorts, knee pads and shoe attachments. Each element is connected via system of elastic bands that are applied to specific and precise pressure points in the body, designed to restore unconscious perception of movement and spacial orientation of joints, ligaments and muscles.

Studies conducted among children who used TheraSuit showed improvement in muscle tone, fine and gross motor skills, even speech productivity and fluency. "Today my daughter plays the violin, she plays the piano with both hands and goes rock climbing," Koscielny revealed.

The TheraSuit was brought to the Philippines by Mary-Ann and Edwin Cua,

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#### **Relief for cerebral palsy sufferers**

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whose six-year-old son was also diagnosed with cerebral palsy. "We used to go to the US several times a year to give him therapy," she said. When they discovered TheraSuit, they decided to bring it here in order to help other parents improve the conditions of their children with cerebral palsy.

The TheraSuit is registered with the United States Food and Drug Administration and has recently acquired the Safe for Children certificate and its official registration as a Medical Device in Poland and Conformité Européene Mark from the European Union.

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