

PEOPLE

asia

P120

DECEMBER 2003
/ JANUARY 2004

Special
4th
ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

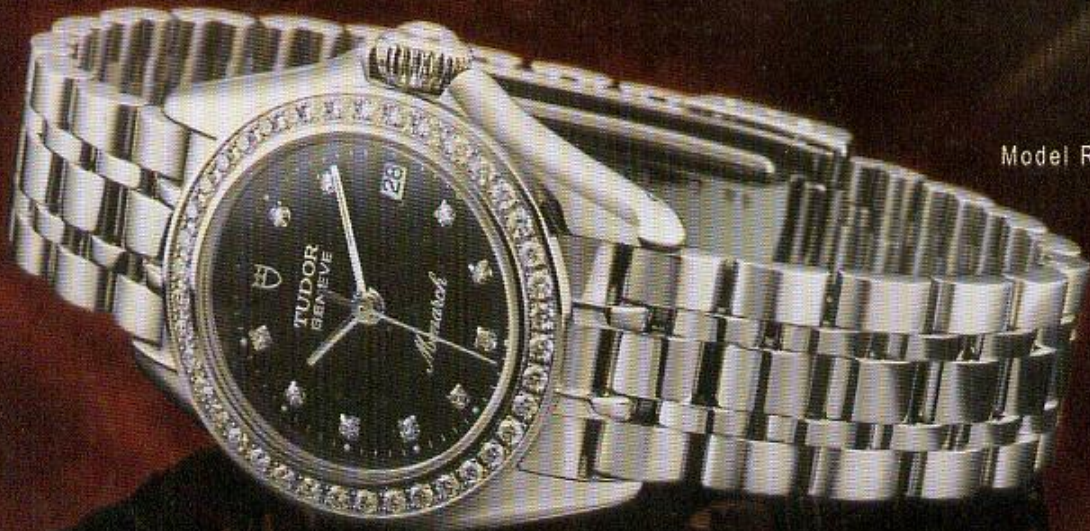
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DONITA ROSE
FRANCIS RICCIARDONE
LOIDA NICOLAS-LEWIS
ALI KHAN MAMAKAEV
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CYNTHIA AND IVY ALMARIO
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Fernando Poe Jr. &
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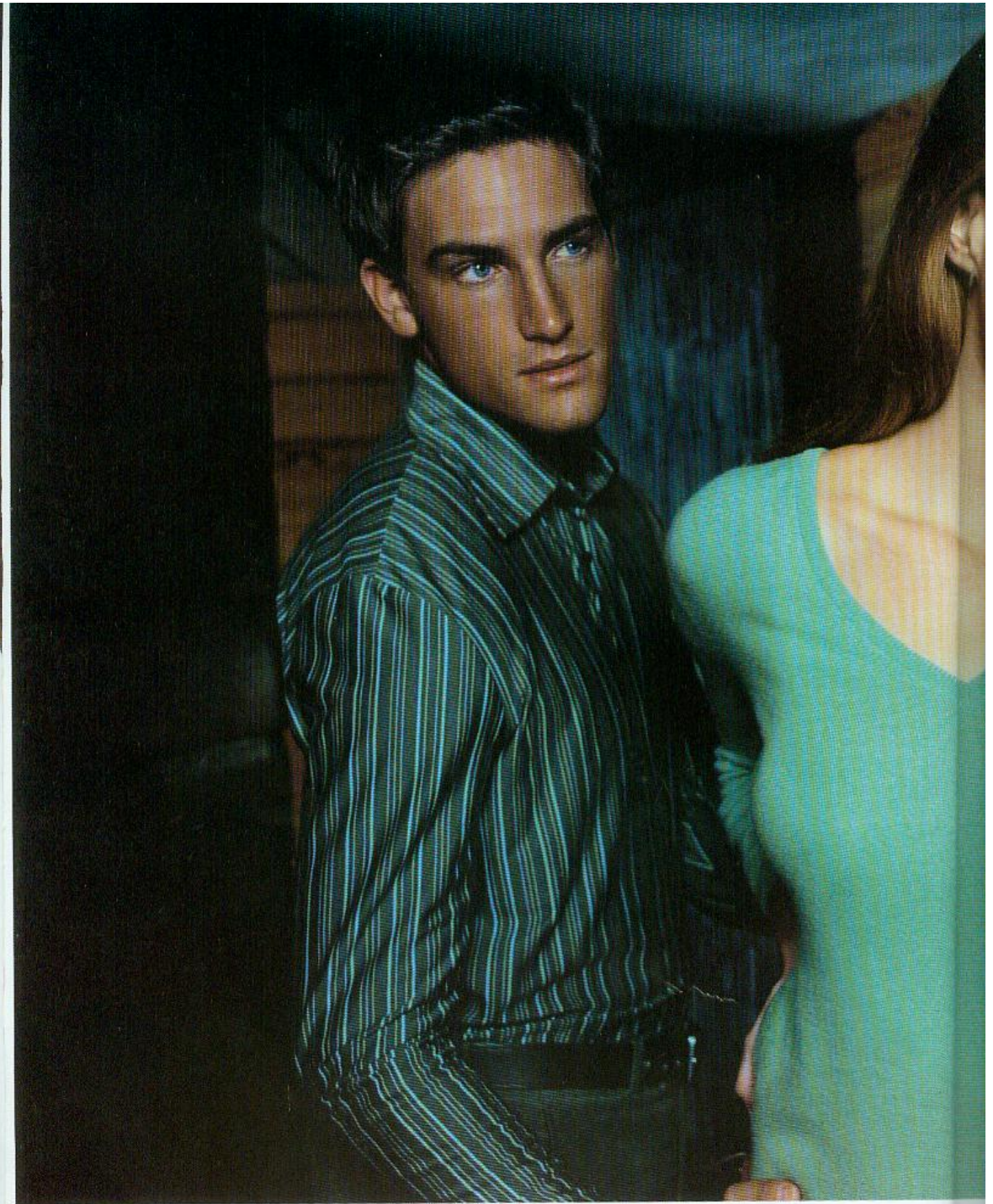
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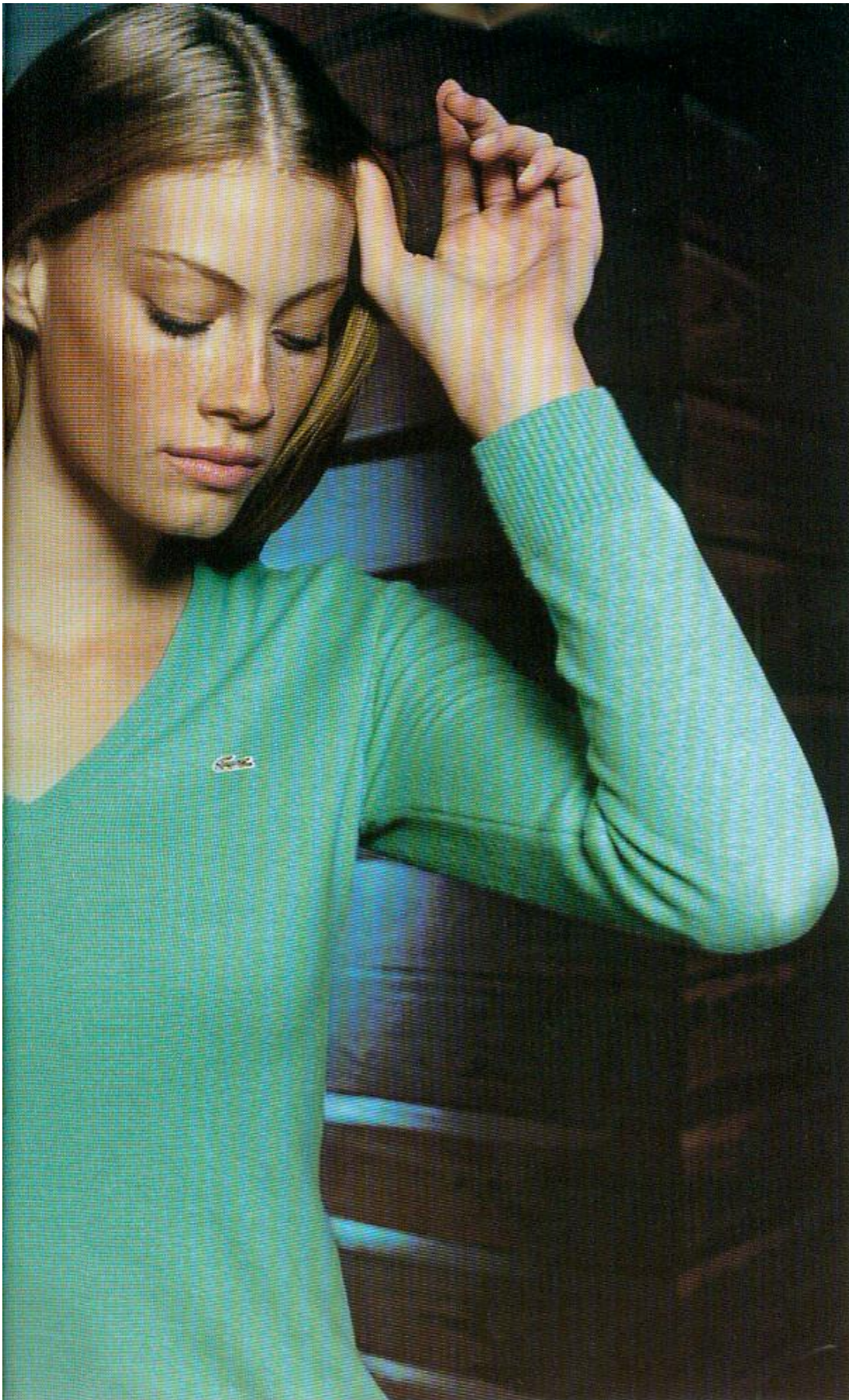


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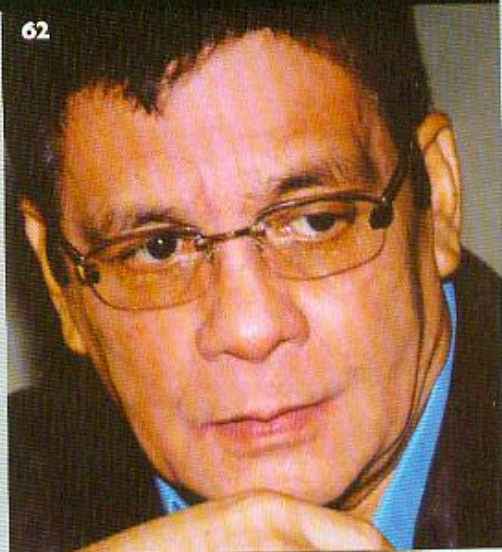
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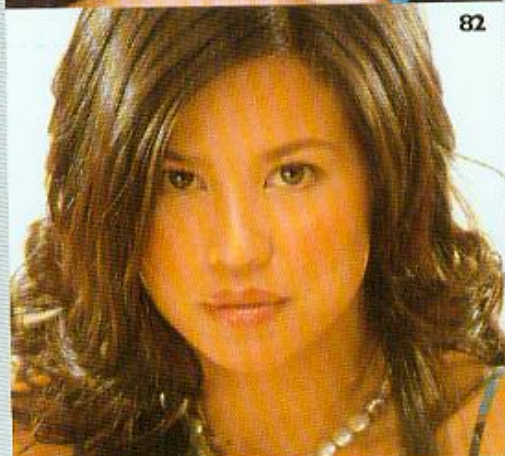
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Fernando Poe Jr.
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Grooming by Babette Piguerra
Styling by Eric Pe Benito



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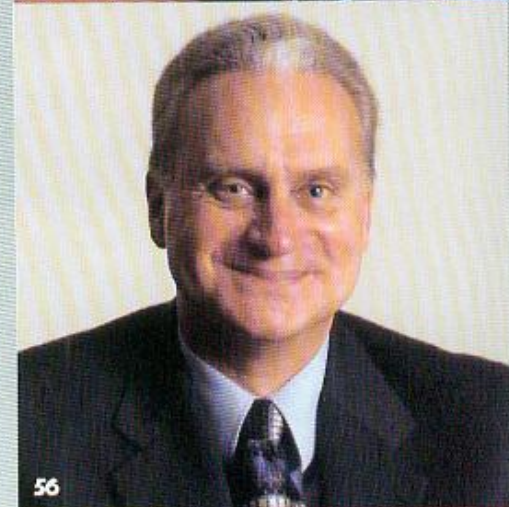
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Photography by TOMMY ZABLAN; Makeup by LOURD RAMOS of Emphasis



'Da King'

Fernando Poe Jr.'s mind is set. He's running for president. The only question in his mind, as of this writing, is: *Under which party?*

"I cannot turn my back on the people. I cannot be deaf to their clamor," "Da King" told *PEOPLE Asia* during a photo shoot at the FPJ studios in Quezon City in late November. At the time, he was yet to make an official declaration ("Definitely, before the end of the year," he promised), but the resolve in his eyes said it all.

I asked him if the desire to help the country's poor was the driving force behind his decision to seek the presidency.

To my surprise, "Da King" answered: "No, not just the poor. When I become president, I will be president of all, the rich, as well as the poor. The rich, when motivated, will be the force that will lift the poor from their poverty. We need the businessmen, the jobs will come from them," he answered. I had expected his battlercy to be something like "*Erap para sa mahirap*," the slogan of his friend, former President Joseph Estrada, and was surprised by his candor.

For now, he declines to reveal whom he listens to for advice.

"Let's put it this way. One of the ways by which I judge a person is to listen to him talk about others. If a person constantly badmouths another, if he constantly sows intrigues about another person — especially if he wants to be in my good graces — then I don't trust him. The next person he will badmouth could be me," says Poe.

He does not consider his political rivals as "enemies." When people ask him to hit other political figures who have said nasty things about him, he tells them. "*Hayaan mo na sila*."

Poe, who became "head" of the family when he lost his father at age 11, says he will lead by example.

"When there is no corruption at the top, investors will have confidence in the government," he says.

Will this "King" end up in the Palace by the Pasig?

This issue marks the fourth anniversary of *PEOPLE Asia* magazine. On behalf of our chairman, Max V. Soliven, and the board of Stargate Media Corp., I'd like to thank all those who have supported us steadfastly through these past four memorable years.

Joanne Rae Ramirez
Joanne Rae M. Ramirez

PEOPLE asia

DECEMBER 2003 / JANUARY 2004

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Ties of love

by

Cartier

Ties of love by Cartier are expressed through the house's past and present collections. Precious pieces that symbolize attachment, like the famous screw motif that puts a lasting seal on love.

In 1969, in Cartier's New York workshops, designer Aldo Cipullo created an original bracelet. Unique and unisex, it was to become a symbol of the seventies, an ode to love. It revolutionized stylistic tendencies, first and foremost through its oval shape, which represented a complete break from the tastes of the times which preferred chains to solid bands, curves to straight lines.

But it was the screws used to punctuate the designs that offered the most original, dazzling and prominent feature. This distinctive concept, the result of a creative choice, consisted, via a motif, of revealing something normally hidden, of using a mechanical part for something other than its true purpose in order to unveil its intrinsic beauty. A lesson in style in the history of a jewelry designer which has always dared to draw its inspiration from everyday items, such as a horseshoe of the track of a tank, and to transform them into marvels of jewelry. This bracelet is also and especially a magnificent and visionary symbol of amorous devotion, a precious sign of belonging because it takes two to close it. A precious band of love to be given and worn as a symbol of complete adoration.

This same spirit of creativity and the notion of attachment are ever present in the new Menotte collection, which features certain characteristics of the screw bracelet, but which has been enhanced with touches of color through the use of brightly-colored gems, the dazzle of a diamond or the black of onyx. The bracelets are oval and open and close with the aid of a screw or a little bar that the jeweler fixes to the side.

The line also includes rings designed with graphical elegances, sober or extravagant creations adorned with joyful colors and generous forms. And here again, the screw motif adds its special touch of perfection to pink or white gold, its visible presence enhancing these elegant and audacious jewelry creations.

As for the new Hilove ring, it offers a masculine variation on the screw motif in a wide, powerful band that lends the force of real style.

HILOVE
ring
Ring in yellow
gold,
1 diamond

MENOTTE
ring
Ring in white
gold, baguette-
cut diamonds,
onyx cabochons

MENOTTE
bracelet
Bracelet in pink
gold, rhodolite
gemet
cabochons

MENOTTE
ring
Ring in pink gold,
amethysts
turquoise
cabochons

MOTIF-VIS
bracelet
Bracelet in
yellow gold

BILLBOARD

'Tis the season to be merry!



Prestige Swiss watch manufacturer **OMEGA** launched its "**Choices**" advertising campaign. Star photographer Arthur Elgort was commissioned to shoot Omega ambassadors Cindy Crawford, Anna Kournikova and Pierce Brosnan especially for the campaign. The new Omega campaign will appear worldwide before the end of 2003.



Coffee lovers in this country can now enjoy an intense taste experience with **STARBUCKS DoubleShot Iced-Shaken Espresso**. Not only will this concoction perk you up, it will also allow drinkers to enjoy coffee, caramel and vanilla flavors to the fullest. Starbucks DoubleShot Iced-Shaken Espresso is now available in all Starbucks Coffee shops nationwide.



Guess who **GIVENCHY's** new muse is? Hollywood beauty **LIV TYLER** will soon be in the many print ads of Givenchy perfumes. Feminine, seductive and radiant, just like the scent, Liv is, indeed, the fitting image of the 21st century Givenchy woman. Parfums Givenchy is exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corporation and is available at all leading department stores nationwide.

The first **SLAM N' JAM** international competition by **Timezone Australia** was recently



held at the Glorietta Activity Center. This event proved to be one of the most exciting and breathtaking challenges to hit the Slam N' Jam courts. Hendry Yunanto of Indonesia was hailed champion while Martin Baltazar of the Philippines came in second place. David Liman from Australia and Lee Chin Chai won third and fourth places, respectively.



On its 15th anniversary, **CRAVINGS** The Salad Capital unveiled a new, exuberant menu. The new entrees are a renaissance of classic Cravings favorites, with around 40 temptations available to patrons. So celebrate good health and food at any Cravings outlets located at Katipunan, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Tomas Morato, and Fraser Place Serviced Residences, Makati.



CROSSINGS Department Stores and Supermarkets, the one-stop shopping haven for quality products, makes the Christmas season even more enjoyable with the many goodies packed in colorfully designed baskets that are now available to consumers. So shop and be merry! Visit Crossings

Department Stores located at Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Rizal Avenue, Quezon Avenue and Congressional Avenue.

ADIDAS recently hosted the **UNDERSTAND THE GAME**

campaign. Three-time NBA star Delfef Schrempf came to the Philippines for two weeks to conduct basketball and coaching clinics across the country.



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The Best is in the Bank



THE BRITISH COUNCIL, CANDID RECORDS and the **NATIONAL ADVERTISING CONGRESS** led the pack in highlighting "Music for Freedom" as jazz saxophonist Courtney Pine flew into Manila. He performed in an all-star showdown with top local artists and conducted a

workshop on Improvisation. Singer Siobahn Petit and guitarist Cameron Pierre also joined him on this tour.



Caloy Tuason with Margot and Rene Garcia

The recent Spanish Food and Wine Festival is the latest in a string of culinary feats spearheaded by the

PALMS COUNTRY CLUB. During the event, the Palms Country Club wined and dined its members and guests with the best of Spain. The Palms Country Club is located at 1410 Laguna Heights Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE

plays host to a wide variety of people. While there are different kinds of people, there are varying tastes in coffee selection. But Seattle's Best Coffee believes that there's always a reason to drop by their stores and have a cup of their brews. Check out the latest additions to their constantly updated menu. The branches are located at Greenbelt 1, SM Megamall, Paseo Center, Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Eastwood City Walk.



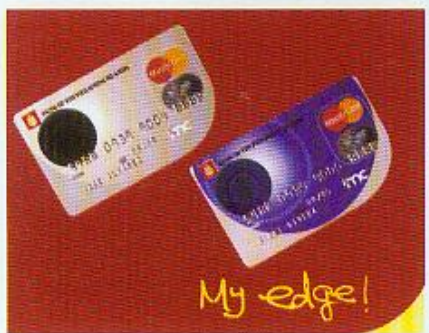
INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA and the EMBASSY OF PORTUGAL

successfully mounted a two-week festival showcasing Portuguese cuisine and culture. Guests were treated to delicious Portuguese dishes, lively folk performances and a colorful exhibit of traditional Portuguese costumes.



Ambassador and Mrs. Joao Caetano da Silva with Jose Mari Chan, Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena and Victor Valbuena

JEWELMER is giving out South Sea pearl pendants with its latest Christmas offering tagged "In Good Taste." By dining at Le Souffle, Sugi, Old Swiss Inn, Cena, Masas, Dish, Red Crab, Seafood Club, Portico, Chateau, Trio, Pasto, Soleil, Aqua, Il Ponticello and Good Earth, one gets the chance to win. For more details, see posters at all Jewelmer shops.



The **BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS** created a new look for its credit card. Called the **BPI EDGE MASTERCARD**, this new offering gives a younger appearance to the

ordinary credit card. The launch event took place in the lagoon area of Greenbelt 3, Makati. Applicants who will be approved for the BPI Edge MasterCard until Sept. 30, 2004 will get a special welcome voucher.



Richard Lee, Carlos Ghosn and Elizabeth Lee

UNIVERSAL MOTORS CORP., assembler and distributor of Nissan vehicles, was given the "Executive Vice President's" award for its outstanding sales performance in 2002. The company's sales supremacy is, indeed, proof of Nissan's world-class quality.

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BILLBOARD

Fashion Jewels

Finally, the first Filipino 'designer' cosmetics makeup line is out. Fanny Serrano, a big name in the world of beauty and fashion, recently unveiled the **FANNY**



SERRANO BY FASHION 21 COSMETICS for today's Filipina. The new Fanny Serrano by Fashion 21 Cosmetics are available at all the cosmetic and beauty counters of Watsons, Robinsons and Landmark.



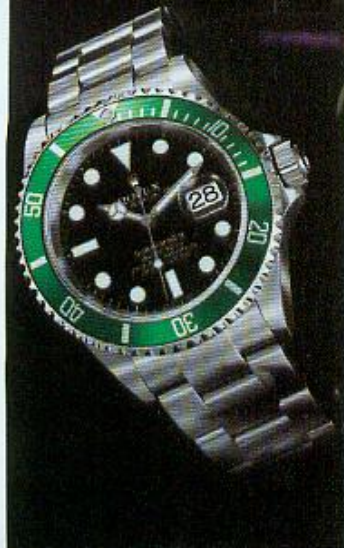
The best Cantonese cuisine is now available to those who enjoy imperial lauriats. **KWANG TONG** brings to hearty eaters a feel of Canton, China as it serves traditional Cantonese cuisine.

Kwang Tong is located at the second floor of Glorietta 4.



The culture of **MACAU** is an interesting blend of Chinese and Portuguese tradition. This is why Macau is the most ideal destination for the holidays. It offers bargain shopping, delicious cuisine and fascinating historical and leisure tourist spots. Explore the shores of Macau and give yourself a real Christmas treat at the **WESTIN MACAU**. Contact your travel agent or the Macau Government Tourist Office at tel. nos. (02)8302005 and (02)8308013.

Created by **ROLEX** in 1953, the **SUBMARINER** celebrated its 50th anniversary recently. To mark the special event, Rolex launched the commemorative Submariner, a timepiece that features a special green bezel and unique black dial. This marks another milestone in the history of a timepiece that has become an all-time favorite. For more information, please contact Hope Binay at (02)8857008.



Valerie delos Santos, Nicolette Belle and Bianca Valerio

As the temperature begins to drop, Sue Devitt, celebrity makeup and founder of **SUE DEVITT STUDIO** introduces "Journey to the Jewels of Africa" makeup line. A collection of rich shades and hues, **SUE DEVITT**

STUDIO takes beauty to the exotic land of Africa. **SUE DEVITT'S** new collection will be available at Beauty Bar stores located at Glorietta 3, Power Plant Mall, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Mall and The Podium.



Susan Aycardo, Beth Romualdez and Cecile Alvarez

LIZ CLAIBORNE supports the fight against breast cancer by selling specially selected bags and using profit from its sales to buy medication for around 100 cancer patients. The limited edition bags come in two designs — a colorful tote and a wristlet. Liz Claiborne bags are available at Shangri-La Mall and Glorietta 4.



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SCREEN TIME

Smile because the holidays **Rock!**



MYSTIC RIVER

Starring Kevin Bacon, Sean Penn, Tim Robbins, directed by Clint Eastwood

Sean (Bacon), Dave (Robbins) and Jimmy (Penn) are childhood friends who reunite after 25 years when Jimmy's daughter is murdered in one of the rough sections of Boston. Sean, a policeman, is assigned to the case and his investigation somehow leads to Dave. Jimmy, an ex-convict, then wants to take the law into his own hands. The *New York Times* says that *Mystic River* is "the rare American movie that aspires to — and achieves — the full weight and darkness of tragedy."

MONA LISA SMILE

Starring Julia Roberts, Julia Stiles, Kirsten Dunst, Maggie Gyllenhaal

Art history teacher Katherine Watson (Roberts) arrives in Wellesley College and sees that the institution is trying to reinforce outdated and sexist behavior to its students. Katherine takes on the administration and inspires Betty (Dunst), Joan (Stiles), Giselle (Gyllenhaal) and the rest of her students to think out of the mold everyone has tried to place them in. Set in 1953, the film showcases the fears the world has of the changing position of women in society.



OUT OF TIME

Starring Denzel Washington

Matt (Washington) is the chief of police in Banyan Key, Florida. He is a hardworking man who is good in what he does and is respected by his peers and the community. The town is shocked with a cruel double homicide. Matt begins the investigation and his life begins to unravel. When details of the case surface, all the evidence points to Matt as the prime suspect. As the story takes its twists and turns, speeding towards its thrilling climactic confrontation, it becomes all too apparent that the truth is on Matt's side — time, however, is not.

STUCK ON YOU

Starring Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear

The Farrelly brothers are at it again with their, uh, unique brand of humor. Bob (Damon) and Walt (Kinnear) Tenor are Siamese twins who succeed in almost anything they do, like cooking and running their own diner or showing off their athleticism on the ice for their hockey team. Walt one day decides to follow his dream of making it big in Hollywood and drags his reluctant twin along. We can just imagine what sort of things the Farrelly brothers have in store in this one.



THE FIGHTING TEMPTATIONS

Starring Cuba Gooding Jr., Beyonce Knowles

Darren Hill (Gooding) has just lost his job with a New York advertising firm and bill collectors are chasing him all over the city. Just when he thinks he is down for the count, he discovers that he's the only surviving relative of an aunt who had left him \$150,000. He travels back to his hometown in Georgia to attend the funeral and collect his inheritance. He finds out that there is a small catch in her will — her wish is that her nephew create a choir, enter it in the annual Gospel Explosion and win. He had his work cut out for him until he meets Lilly (Knowles), a beautiful jazz singer with a voice to match. After getting to know her more, Darrin learns of the more important things in life. "The whole film is about community," Gooding says. "It's also about how a man can rediscover his life by going back home where he finds himself through finding the talent within others."

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Starring Jack Black

Guitarist and vocalist Dewey Finn (Black) just got fired from his OWN rock band. Experiencing money problems, he takes a job as a substitute teacher (actually, he pretends to be a substitute teacher) in an uptight private school. He encourages his students to loosen up and discover the wilder and more spirited side of life with music. He also tries to recruit a nine-year-old guitar prodigy to become the lead guitarist in the band and help him win the "battle of bands" and reestablishing himself as a rocker.



Greenbelt presents Coffee Club — a monthly gathering of film enthusiasts for screenings and discussion. Coffee and pastries from Seattle's Best are available during the after screening talk. Previous sessions include the *Magdalene Sisters*, *Behind the Sun*, *Titus* and *Mira Nair's Monsoon wedding*. For more information, please call (02) 817-5670 and look for Mark Dy.

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SOUND ADVICE

All together now with **Yo-Yo Ma**

Yo-Yo Ma



He's the world's preeminent cellist and best-selling classical recording artist. He has been showered with superlative praises and awards across the globe, whether for his solo performances or collaborations with fellow-artists or orchestra. *TIME* magazine dubbed him one of Asia's heroes for his laudable efforts not only to bridge cultures through music but to enrich cultures through education of young musicians. And in a testament to a popularity that transcends his classical roots, this Harvard-educated musician was even voted by *PEOPLE* magazine in 2001 as one of the world's Sexiest Men Alive.

So when the 48-year-old Yo-Yo Ma strode into Taipei's Landis Hotel for a presscon for his concert *An Evening of Latin American Music* last October, the excitement was almost palpable among the mainly Chinese journalists and photographers covering the event. After all, even if he was born in Paris and raised in the US, Yo-Yo Ma was born to Chinese parents and is thus regarded by Asians in general, and the Chinese in particular, as one of their own.

Thanks to Sony Music (Phils.) of which Yo-Yo Ma is an exclusive artist and which has arranged the trip, and Philippine Airlines which took care of the flight to Taipei, this writer had the chance to see Yo-Yo Ma up close and personal both in the presscon and in the concert where he had as co-performers some of the legends of Latin American music: famed guitar duo, Sérgio and Odair Assad; respected percussionist Cyro Baptista; Grammy winner, composer and clarinet player Paquito D' Rivera; one of Brazil's best bass players, Nilson Matta; bossa nova singer and guitarist Rosa Passos; and critically-acclaimed pianist Kathryn Stott (who also perform with Yo-Yo Ma in his latest recording, the critically-acclaimed *Obrigado Brazil* which features samba,

bossa nova, classical pieces and two songs by Brazilian legend Antonio Carlos Jobim).

The verdict? Yo-Yo Ma is a genuinely likeable man. He is very unassuming, effortlessly charming, and for someone of his stature, has nary a hint of a star complex. Yo-Yo Ma was only too pleased to share the limelight with his fellow-musicians. Foregoing talking about himself, he went straight ahead and introduced his co-performers.

Yo-Yo Ma's wide smile and generous words of praise seemed to convey that it was his extreme pleasure to work with the Latin American artists. It was as if he was saying, "We're all in music together, and that's a cause to celebrate!" He paraphrased this sentiment himself when he thanked his fellow-musicians for being "warm and generous in sharing their traditions" and adding that by celebrating other kinds of music like Brazil's, "We hear more, we feel more, we can give more."

The SRO concert (which also attracted thousands who watched on a wide-screen at the National Chang Kai-Shek Cultural Plaza) more than validated this impression. For more than being a showcase of Yo-Yo Ma's cello brilliance, the musicians' onstage rapport became a testament to the beauty of ensemble music and the sheer delight musicians can offer when they bring out the best in each other. Which is what Yo-Yo has been communicating to his worldwide audiences all along — that music is essentially a universal, social treasure, one that is best nurtured and shared and savored together.

— Ann Montemar-Oriondo *

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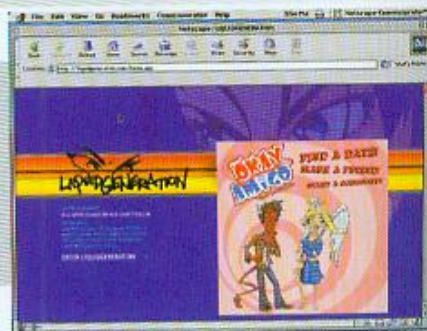


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Liquid Generation www.liquidgeneration.com

This site is just for pure fun. Rich animation, interesting reference to pop culture and even nutty downloads and E-cards. You'll get a kick out of the amusing quizzes and games (like "Siegfried Saves Roy" and "Queer Eye for the Straight P.L.M.P.,"). Try the "Movie Poster Game" or find out the latest from "Suck My News Weekly." Flash in one of its funniest.



Epson Dreamio EMP-TW10



Epson Dreamio EMP-200



Epson 1670 Photo



Epson

Epson introduces three new, exciting gadgets. The **Epson Dreamio EMP-TW10 projector** is described as "designed for the smart home user who expects the absolute best for their home theater entertainment system." It offers four color modes — Dynamic, Living Room, Theatre and Theatre Black that vary the color temperatures and tones to suit the room environment. It can project to a screen up to 300 inches and features a 15-degree vertical keystone correction for greater flexibility. The **Epson Dreamio EMP-TW200** can move the image 100 percent in image height upwards, 50 percent downwards, left and right — allowing users to move the projection image without moving the projector. It has five preset modes to suit the room condition — sRGB, Theatre, Natural, Living Room and Dynamic and uses a newly-developed 0.7-inch wide LCD panel with a full 10-bit drive. Both projectors have sleek and intelligent designs that prevent light leakage. **Epson Perfection 1670 Photo** is a high quality scanner that is reasonably priced. It enables scanned negatives to be compiled into digital photo albums for easy photo sharing. It can also restore old and faded photos. The scanner comes with the Epson Smart Panel, a user-friendly interface that is simple to use yet offers full control over scanned images. It also features document management abilities and is able to convert scanned images into multi-page PDF files. With the bundled ABBYY FineReader 5.0 Sprint Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software, there is no need to retype documents — just scan and allow the OCR to convert the document into text that is editable. Contact (02) 813-6567 for more information on the Epson Dreamio EMP-TW 10 projector, Epson Dreamio-TW 200 projector and Epson Perfection 1670 Photo.

Motorola

Motorola's new **E365** promises to be more than the usual camera-phone. It can capture around 32 shots in 640x480 pixel resolution and has a large 128x160 pixel screen which supports up to 65,000 colors. The photos can be stored in the E365 photo album slideshow and the photo phonebook caller ID or you can create personal wallpapers and animated screensavers. Its lens can double as a cover to protect it from scratches and dust. The E365 has 16-channel polyphonic ring tones, along with 40 melodies and sound effects. It has five preloaded full animation games — Magic, Pacific Storm, Bubble Tea, Bowling and Big2Garden. And of course, it also has the usual Multimedia Messaging System (MMS) feature. Motorola urges you to experience the difference.



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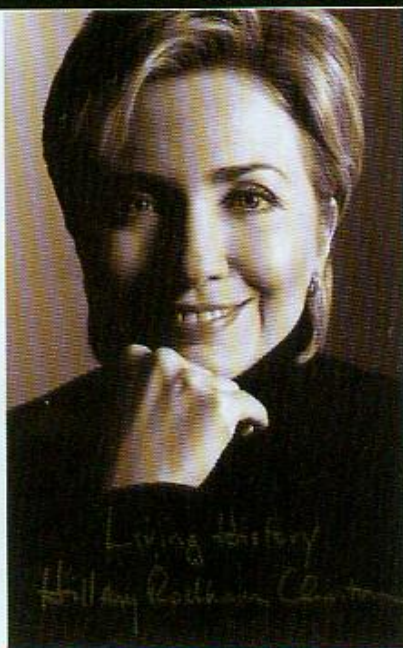
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Globalization and its discontents

By Joseph Stiglitz

Joseph Stiglitz is the former chief economist of the World Bank who famously disagreed with the so-called "Washington Consensus" — the set of policies for developing countries agreed upon by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Treasury that has become synonymous with globalization or neo-liberalism. In this groundbreaking book, the 2001 Nobel Prize winner for Economics criticizes the economic policies implemented by the International Monetary Fund. While Stiglitz is careful to point out the many potential benefits of globalization, he draws from his own experience to expose the devastating effects the new economic order has had on developing countries and proposes solutions that aim to give a voice to those left behind by rapid industrialization.

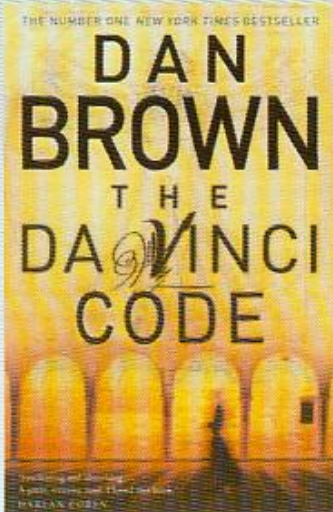
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Living History

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

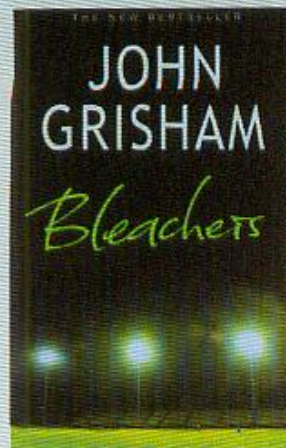
Perhaps the most controversial First Lady in history, Hillary Rodham Clinton played a key role in her husband's administration. Clinton does not reveal too much about the darker details of her past in her autobiography *Living History*, but her intelligence and wit make it a worthwhile read nonetheless.



The Da Vinci Code

By Dan Brown

Symbologist Robert Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu are brought together to discover a secret that could destroy one of the world's most powerful religious institutions. Leonardo da Vinci's visual pranks in his commissioned religious artwork, the divine proportion number and the hidden "sacred feminine" messages in Disney films are only a few of the elements intertwined in this riveting, elegantly unfolding novel. Part mystery, part police chase and part art, religion and history lesson, *The Da Vinci Code* is a page turner for the most discerning readers.



Bleachers

By John Grisham

Author of *The Runaway Jury*, *The Pelican Brief* and *The Firm*, John Grisham once again penetrates into the emotions of his readers with his newest bestseller, *Bleachers*. A novel about lost youth, heroes and legends of high school football, Grisham brilliantly discusses the transition boys go through as they become men. *Bleachers* is a story that takes its readers on a trip down memory lane as it goes to a place where the past is still fresh and the future is not too far away.



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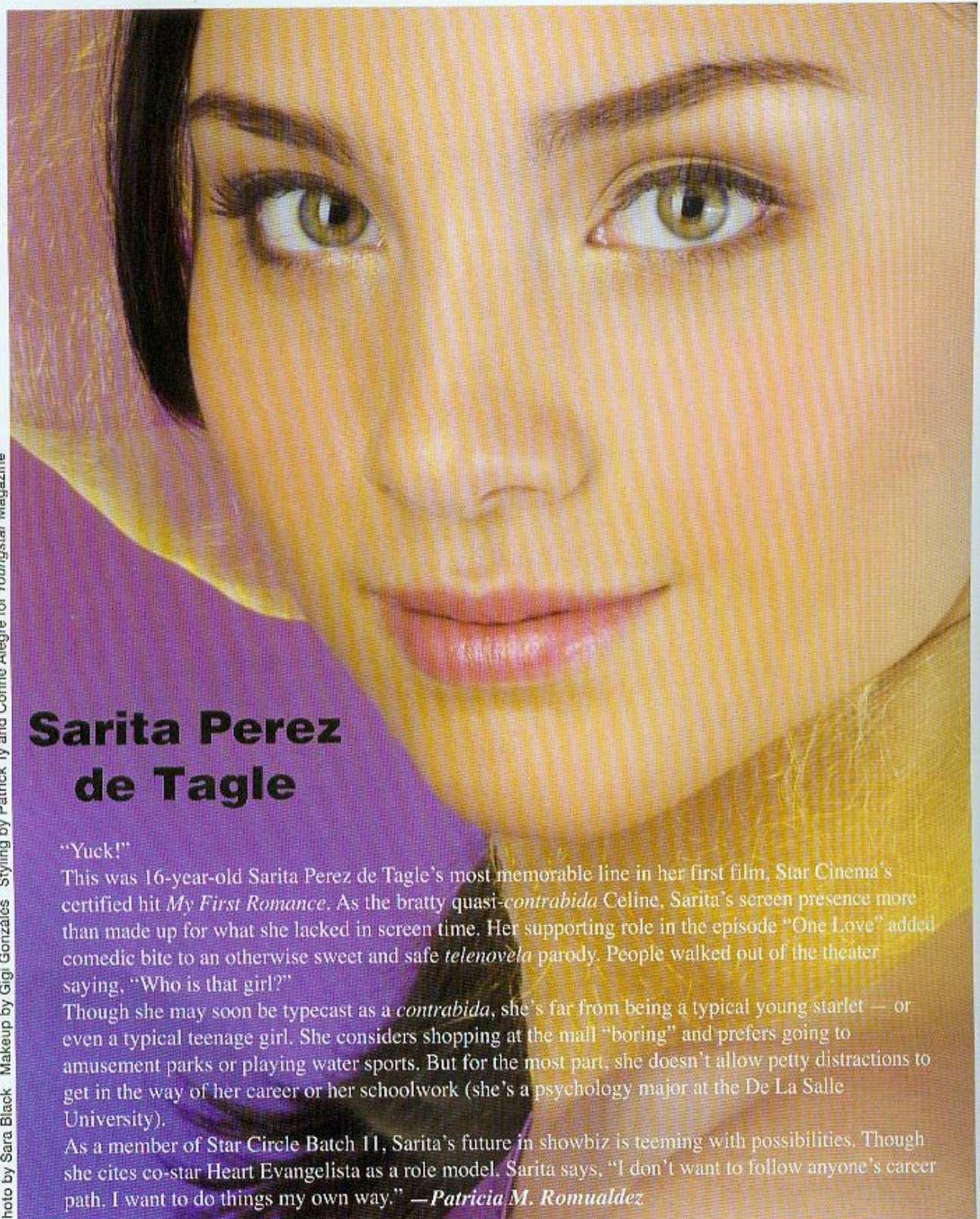
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SNAPSHOT



Sarita Perez de Tagle

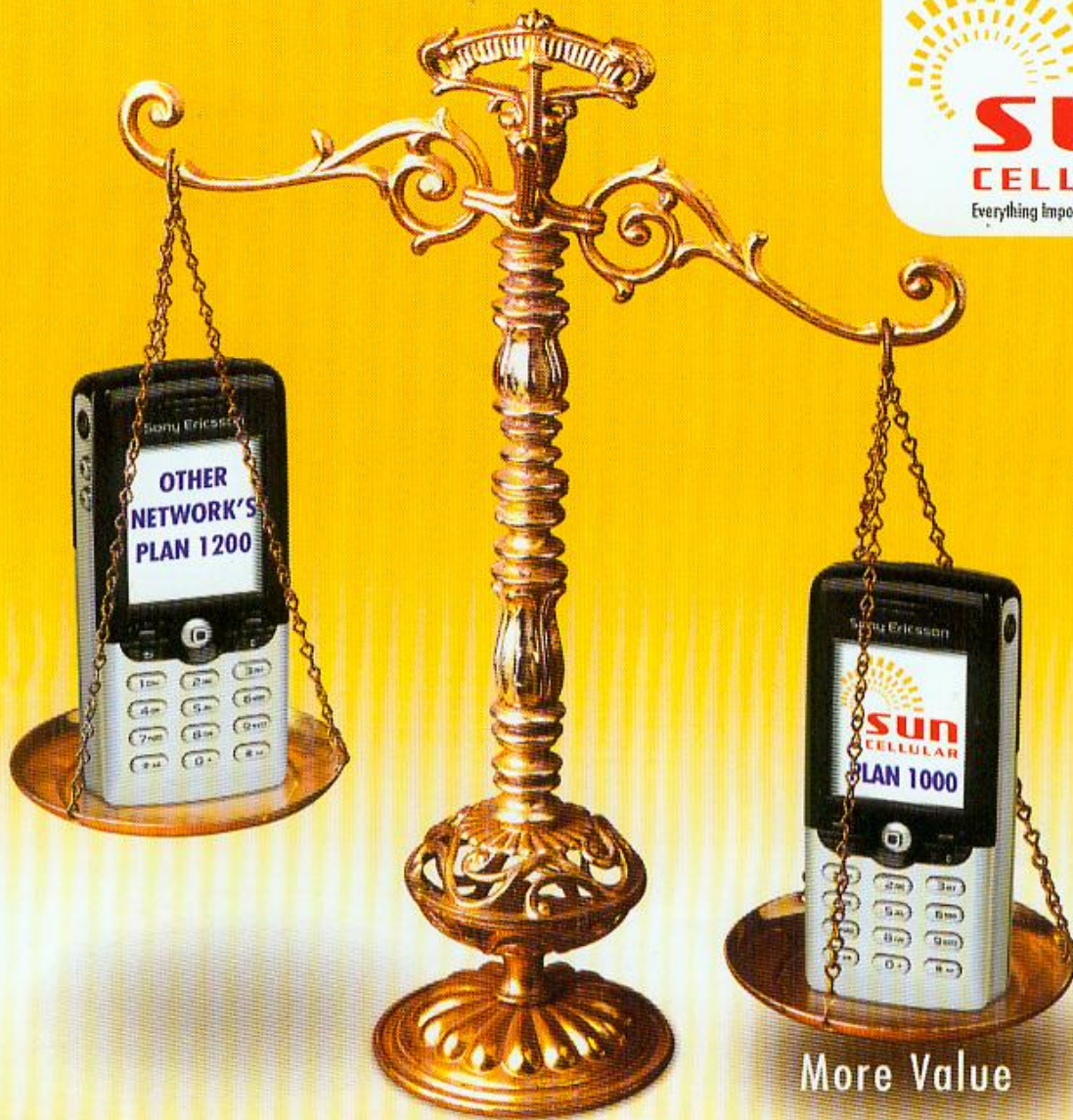
“Yuck!”

This was 16-year-old Sarita Perez de Tagle’s most memorable line in her first film, Star Cinema’s certified hit *My First Romance*. As the bratty quasi-*contrabida* Celine, Sarita’s screen presence more than made up for what she lacked in screen time. Her supporting role in the episode “One Love” added comedic bite to an otherwise sweet and safe *telenovela* parody. People walked out of the theater saying, “Who is that girl?”

Though she may soon be typecast as a *contrabida*, she’s far from being a typical young starlet — or even a typical teenage girl. She considers shopping at the mall “boring” and prefers going to amusement parks or playing water sports. But for the most part, she doesn’t allow petty distractions to get in the way of her career or her schoolwork (she’s a psychology major at the De La Salle University).

As a member of Star Circle Batch 11, Sarita’s future in showbiz is teeming with possibilities. Though she cites co-star Heart Evangelista as a role model, Sarita says, “I don’t want to follow anyone’s career path. I want to do things my own way.” — *Patricia M. Romualdez*

Photo by Sara Black | Makeup by Gigi Gonzales | Styling by Patrick Ty and Corino Alegre for Youngstar Magazine



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Prominent names in society were privy to an exclusive and intimate opening of Gucci's first store in the Philippines located in Greenbelt IV. Domenico de Sole, Gucci Group's chairman and CEO flew in for the special event with his wife Eleanor.



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PEEPHOLE

by Ricky Lo

Wish ko lang this Christmas



Kris Aquino



Piolo Pascual

Dolphy



Diana Zubiri



Ai Ai delas Alas



It's again the time of year when columnists like yours truly try desperately hard to play Santa Claus and dole out gifts — well, not really tangible ones but merely “wishes” — to stars who can buy anything money can buy, but who can't, sob and sigh, have everything they want. Such as what? Such as happiness. Out there, it can be pretty heady and stars can't tell anymore what's real and what's not, who their true friends are and who are pretending to be their “friends.” That can be very sad and lonely, ‘no?

So here is *Peephole's* “wish ko lang” for some stars:

Kris Aquino — A man who will truly and honestly and sincerely love her... unmarried, please!

Ruffa Gutierrez — Another child, as soon as possible, that will keep her “grounded” at home in Istanbul, her husband Yilmaz Bektas' “domain.”

Piolo Pascual — He already has a love child, so why not an honest-to-goodness girlfriend to erase once and for all any trace of doubt and/or suspicion about his, *ehem*, “preference.”

Judy Ann Santos — Somebody who looks like Robin Padilla, who sounds like Robin Padilla, who acts like Robin Padilla, who moves like Robin Padilla but who is not Robin Padilla (who already belongs to his wife, Liezl Sicangco).

Ai Ai delas Alas — A man all her own. Another

woman can't absolutely take the place of a man, can she (especially during cold nights like we are experiencing these days)?

Vilma Santos — The governorship of Batangas?

Nora Aunor — A sense of direction, maybe not toward politics where she doesn't seem to fit in (she denounced her friend Erap when he needed her, and other friends, most, didn't she?).

Gretchen Barretto — A golden crown she must wear as soon as she assumes the “queenship” of ABC 5. Can she be another Charo Santos-Concio?

Claudine Barretto — A wedding ring from Raymart Santiago.

Muñoz brothers Leandro and Carlo — Roles that can exploit their so far not-so-fully-tapped acting talent. The two guys are genuinely talented and producers should make use of them, pronto!

Diana Zubiri — A talking doll that will constantly remind her to stay as sweet and as nice and as kind and as genuine (as in *totoong tao*) as she is.

Dolphy and Zsa Zsa Padilla — More years of wedded bliss (assuming that their wedding scheduled on Dec. 9 in Las Vegas is pushing through).

There. Cheaper by the dozen, as usual.

How I wish all my wishes would come true! ✽

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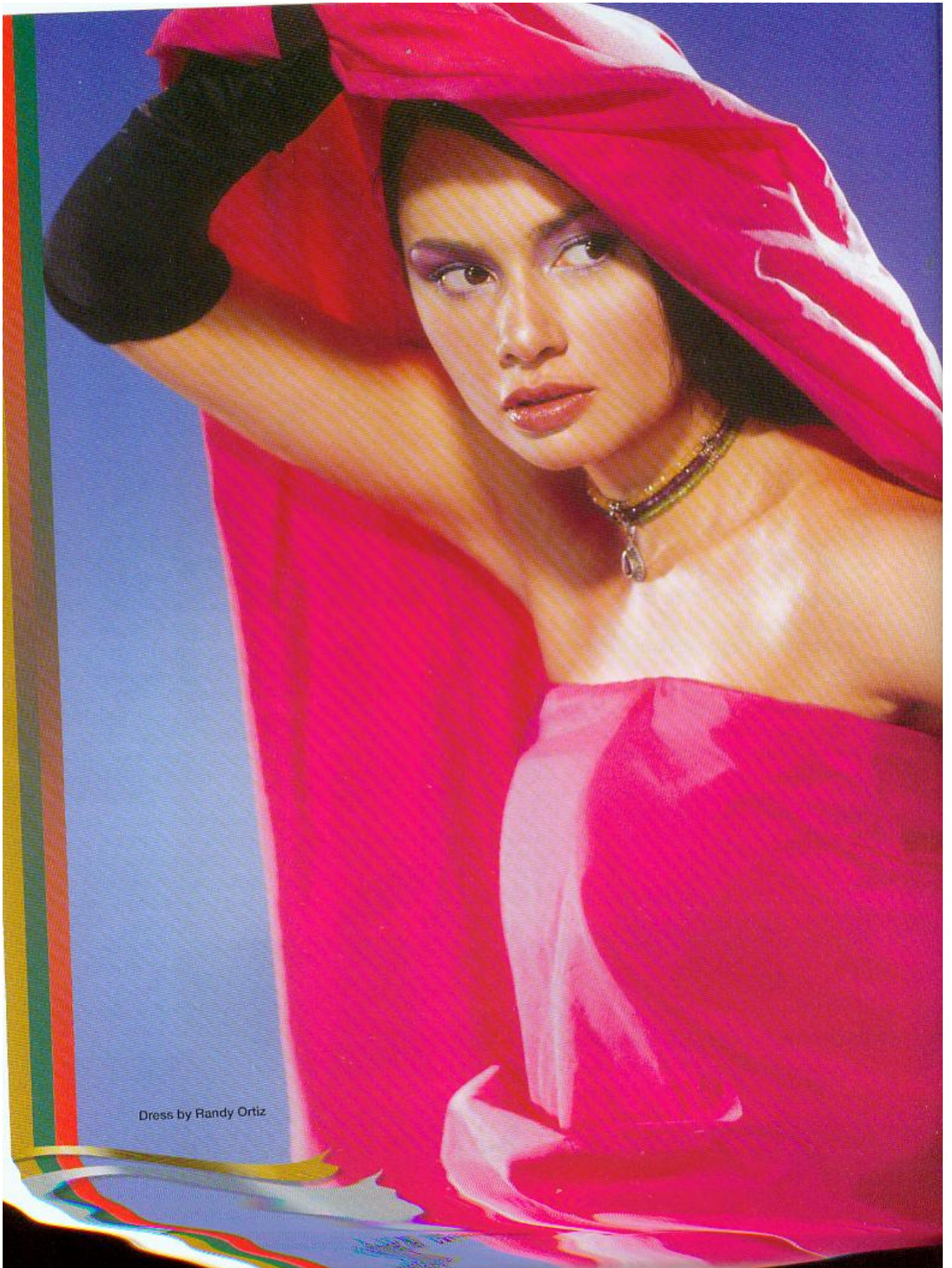
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Dress by Randy Ortiz

Donita: Why life is a bed of roses

Photography by Xander Angeles

Many people were befuddled by her sudden move to get married just as her star was shining the brightest. But Donita Rose's resolve was set by her certainty that her fiancé Eric Villarama was "the man I was going to spend the rest of my life with."

Thirty-six thousand. That's roughly how many matches you'll get when you type in Donita Rose's name on your Yahoo! search bar. You can get a wealth of Donita stuff on the Internet – photos, articles, bios, screensavers, desktop themes... name it. Type in donitarose.com and you'll be transported to her official site.

There's an all-too-apparent Donita Rose Ramos Cavett love affair that has spread to most regions of the world, owing to her very successful stint as long-time MTV Asia VJ. But like the computer geeks and couch potatoes everywhere, we had to accept the fact that our Dee (one of Donita's nicknames) could not be ours for so long.

And so we curse the fates and envy Mr. Eric Villarama who eventually plucked the rose from our midst some five months ago.

Just like most newlyweds, Donita was giddy when we caught up with her before her *PEOPLE Asia* shoot sometime ago. She confessed to getting a strange feeling whenever she'd think of her recent change of civil status – then she'd break into a dreamy smile. "It just dawned on me last night that I am not single anymore so I have to ask permission from him before I do things. I love him and he's my priority."

Yes, she'd pine for Eric, who was then in Singapore attending to his job as art director for Formul8, a design agency. While Eric was accustomed to his new bride's celebrity status, the couple made a conscious decision to see each other as much as possible – even if it meant Donita had to turn projects down. "My priorities

are, of course, God first and then my husband, then family. My career would come last. I am passionate about what I do but it's not my priority.


"People were telling me not to get married yet because I'd mess up my career. But I knew in my heart that the comfort for me was this was the man I was going to spend the rest of my life with," she declares.

It was, to an extent, a matter of choosing between two loves. "I knew I was ready but I was kind of in denial. I did not want to get married yet because I did not want to leave MTV."

But it was time to choose a path.

"I lost MTV when I got married," she continues, not without a trace of sadness. "It was a very, very difficult decision for me to make because I really, really liked working with MTV. But I needed to take the next step in my relationship. I was ready for marriage and I was ready to take the next step with my fiancé. And it would not be a good combination because if you're a VJ on MTV and you're married, people won't be able to relate to that. I'm moving on but MTV will always be a part of me."

Her career has seen both meteoric and metamorphic rise into multi-national fame. Who would believe that she had her start in the bleachers of *That's Entertainment* as a star-struck member of the audience? The evolution from Friday edition face to MTV icon – getting herself on the >>>



cover of *Time* along the way – was a testament to Donita's dogged determination to rise above the sometimes sordid world of showbiz. It was a world she was sometimes mired in – tasting both heartache and scandal – yet managed to keep her head above the muck without getting jaded or swell-headed.

Parallel to the flourishing of her career was a strengthening of faith. Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano proved a guiding light in not just Donita's showbiz career but, more importantly, her relationship with God. Angeli is so big a part of her life that Eric had to earn her nod as well.

"I thank the good Lord each waking day of this married life He has blessed us with. Eric is such a blessing! True, I've taken a bit of a back seat from my MTV VJ activities and showbiz in the Philippines as well, but let me tell you... It sure has been worth every minute! I've never been happier!" Donita tells her fans and loyal followers.

She volunteers a description of Eric, and insists that he is just what she needs. "He fears God with all his heart. I needed someone to lead me. If I'm always getting into the Bible, he has to top that. The man should wear the pants. I don't like being dominated but I can be very >>>

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CHECHEL JOSON
Hair and makeup
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Dress by Joji Loren

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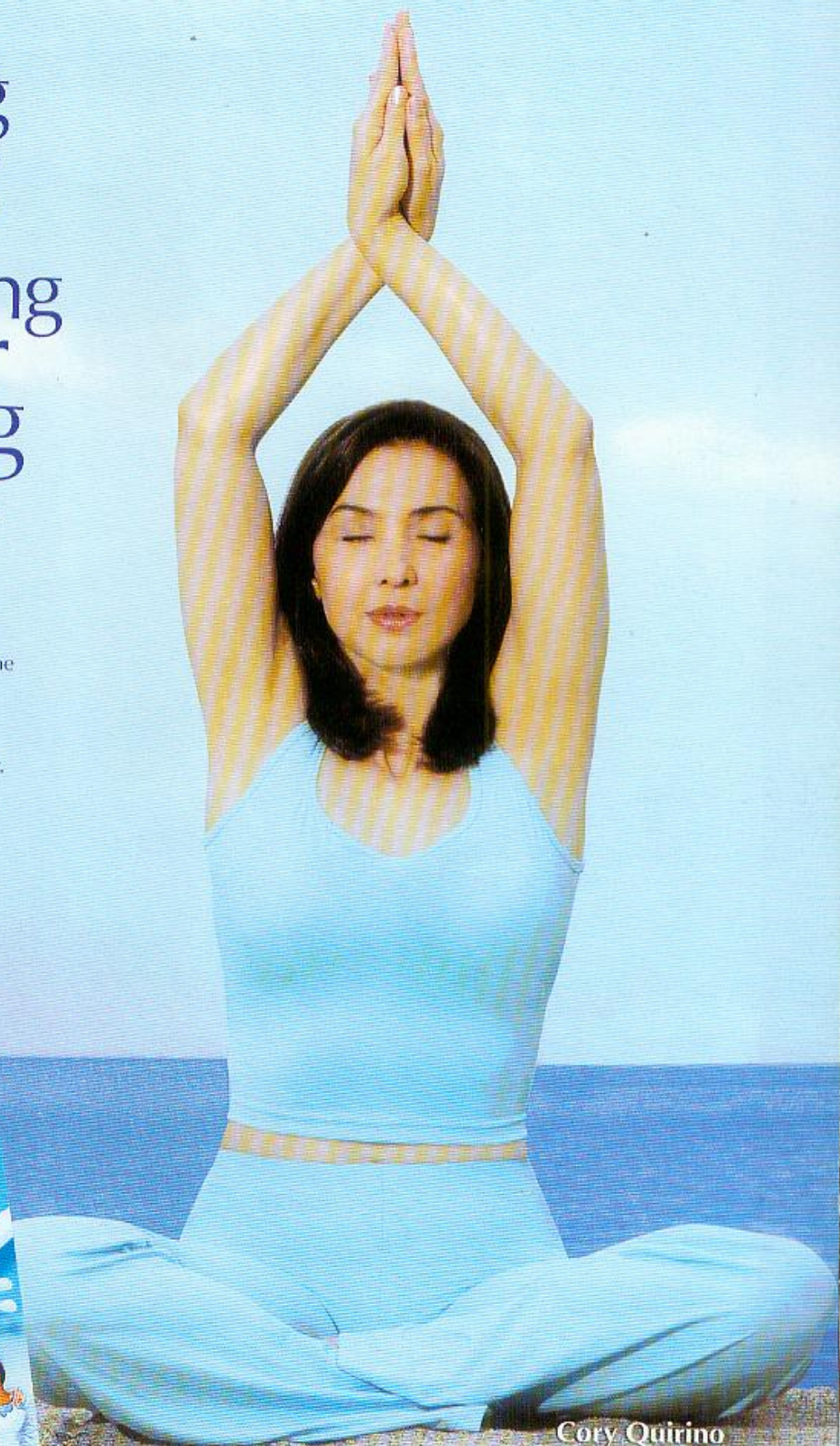
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dominant. I always nag him about cleanliness in the house. We struggled in finances so we had to do something about that. I've learned submission in that we are equal but he has the last word."

The support that she gets from him means the world to Donita as well. "Eric is my biggest fan," she gushes. "Whenever he sees people greeting me, he gets so *kilig*. He signed autographs already for people. He would ask me, 'Sweetheart, if someone would ask me to be an *artista*, would you allow me? Can we be in a movie together and then we'll have a love scene?' He's so supportive of me. He's so *kengkoy* and we're so much alike. We're like the influential type in that we want to make an impact on people."

Are kids on the horizon any time soon?

"Well, there's a project that I'm working on right now and it states that I can't get pregnant for a year and a half. The funny thing is that Eric and I agreed that we won't have kids for the first two years."

Donita giggles like a teenager as she continues: "I want to have sex in different countries! Before, we had opportunities to travel together but we did not do that because it would get so tempting. So we said that when we get married we were going to make up for it and have sex in different countries."

She seems to relish saying the word like it had been previously banned.

"It's such a good feeling to know that there's no guilt involved," Donita underscores.

Despite the measured retreat from showbiz, Donita's star remains undiminished. If anything, Donita seems to be considering other doors that have opened for her. Mrs. Villarama is looking into line production of independent films in the US. She has been offered to line-produce and appear in a film written by her bridesmaid, Fil-American scriptwriter Anna Ramos. Ramos had notched the prestigious Samuel Goldwyn Award for Writing in 1999 – among three other screenwriting awards she has received.

She and Donita have been friends for quite some time. Apart from that, Donita is also going to acting workshops, and is considering a hosting chore in Indonesia.

Back in Singapore, she finds time to continuously improve herself. Donita is continuing her voice lessons with Babes Conde, the top vocal coach in Singapore. She's

Clothes by FILA



into a daily fitness regimen, and is even taking up cooking lessons. Donita is also busy with outreaches for her church – Morning Star International.

"It's like Donita is entitled to do whatever she wants to do now," she says. "Get jobs for her and you will get your commission. It's kind of like an open secret now that I am my own boss and I have more time to do the things that I could not do before."

So, hey, we still have our version of Audrey Hepburn after all.
— Kap Maceda Aguila ✦



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Sparkles with Success!

The final string of branch renovations for Oceanic Gifts and Jewelry has been completed and all stores nationwide have now been re-Christened as Oceanic 1911 to stress the Company's long-established tradition of providing high-quality jewelry and gift items for the most discriminate shopper. The new stores have been remodeled with modern yet classy interiors and now share a consistent look. Simple white backdrops coupled with warm lighting provide truly eye-catching showcases to better show off the gorgeous products on display within.

General Manager Irene Tuazon is proud to say that the sales of Oceanic 1911's branches have significantly increased after the renovations. "Our walk-in traffic has really gone up, and I believe this is mainly due to the fact that people find the new ambience of our stores much more welcoming and less intimidating," Tuazon adds. We also have more jewelry and more gift items that appeal to a wider market. We blend our staple classics with fresh selections to keep the overall experience exciting for our shoppers."

Indeed, Oceanic 1911 has been keeping shoppers enticed with their awesome assortment of painstakingly-crafted mouth-blown Murano glass products from Italy of which no two are exactly alike. These splendid Murano pieces are now very much the in thing and come in the form of clocks, picture frames, vases, figurines and art plates of all shapes and sizes.

Apart from their Murano products and other interesting Italian merchandise, Oceanic 1911 continues to carry a wide range of silver items that simply never go out of style. Tuazon enthuses, "Our silverplated products are the forever

favorites of our loyal clientele, especially when it comes to gift-giving because such items convey to the recipient a sense of elegance and sophistication that reflects positively on the giver. At the same time, these goods are actually much more affordable than they appear to be and this, of course, makes their appeal to wise shoppers even stronger."

As if all these aren't enough to guarantee a steady stream of shoppers, Oceanic 1911 also offers a breathtaking assortment of sparkling jewelry and modern Italian watches that are simply irresistible. And Tuazon knows best how to get the customers hooked. She explains: "We offer interest-free lay-away installment plans to give our customers shopping flexibility and convenience. We used to do this for jewelry items only, but now we also allow it for our high-ticket gift items since we saw how much our clients appreciate being given this special arrangement."

Oceanic 1911 presently has 8 branches nationwide and is successfully winning the loyalty of more and more customers with the warm, personalized service of its well-trained store employees. Check out their stores located at Glorietta 1, Ayala Center Makati, SM Megamall, Festival Mall, SM Southmall,



Mouthblown Italian Murano glass fishes provide the perfect accent to any home.



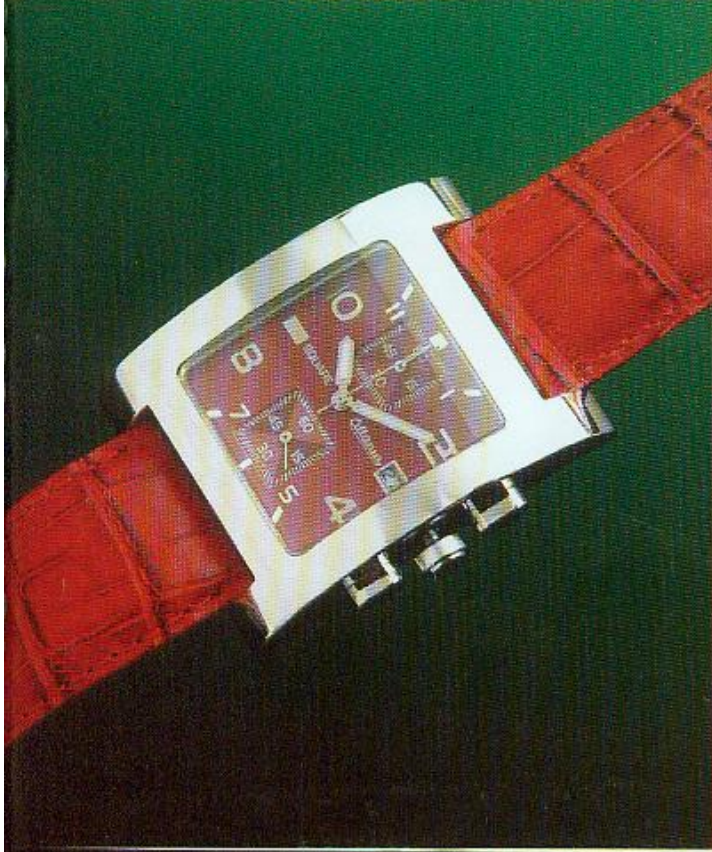
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General Manager Irene Tuazon

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On the Sonny side of the street

Photography by Bobot Meru

It's not just the tony streets of Quezon City that are being revived by Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr., hailed recently by the DILG as the country's 'Most Outstanding City Mayor.' The entire city is in a renaissance, owing to a high revenue collection and efficient basic services. TANYA T. LARA finds out that life indeed is sweet on the 'Sonny' side of the street.

There are certain events that you remember for the rest of your life, says one of his sons in recounting the abridged version of his life with his father.

"I was playing with a hopper skip, this skipping ball with a ring on one end which you put around your ankle and a ball on the other end of the rope and you skip with one foot while the other is twisting the ring around. My feet got tangled in the cord and I fell on the floor, hitting my head and I was knocked out. When I regained consciousness, I was in my dad's arms and he was feeling the bump on my head and he said that I would be okay, then he took us for a swim in my *lola* Pina's house in Forbes."

Some things are indeed the measure of the breadth of one's memories. The years may pass, the children may grow, deaths in the family may interrupt the passage of lives, but some incidents become the starting point of how one can best describe a relationship. It reminds one of what Mozart said when he was a young boy being taught by his father how to play: That directly after God in heaven comes one's father.

"I remember that day very clearly like it just happened because my dad was the one taking care of me," says Kevin Belmonte of his father, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte Jr.

It's a Sunday and the Belmonte family has gathered in the house Sonny and his late wife Betty built for their children. In the large compound a tree house still stands today, and on the swing with a discarded tire for the seat sits a grandchild with his mother pushing the tire. The house is as old as his youngest son, says Sonny, whom they brought home straight from the hospital.

He's tactful enough not to reveal how old the house is.

Of those early days of fatherhood and raising three sons — Isaac, Kevin and Miguel Belmonte — Sonny's memories come from another time and place. He remembers watching an inordinate number of Japanese movies with them. *Godzilla*, of course, back when he was a mere rubber toy superimposed above the screaming heads of Tokyo's citizens. Akira Kurosawa's classic *Seven Samurai*. And an unlikely hero called Zatoichi, a blind man with a sword hidden in his walking cane which he used with incredible precision in battling villains. He was a wandering masseur and a mercenary and star of 26 sequels. That's a lot of Japanese movies.

The theaters don't exist anymore, but the memories do. "There was the Holiday Theater along Aurora Boulevard and the theaters in Manila because Dad's law practice was based in Escolta," says Kevin. "I guess those movies were his passions as well. We all became experts in Japanese swordsmen. The only problem was that we'd watch a movie and we'd come home and practice sword fighting here."

Of his only daughter Joy, Sonny remembers this one day at home when he was leaving for work at eight in the morning. "Joy was studying at Poveda then and there was a home assignment on making paper wallets. When I left the >>>

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Belmonte with grandchildren : (Back row) Mikey, Reggie, Paolo and Hannah; (front, from left) Santi, Kirby, Basti, Louise and Ethan

Christmas decor courtesy of Rustan's Flower Shop

house, she was sitting at the table working on it and when I got back from work she was still at it. I was stunned that at her age she had that kind of focus and concentration." With Joy, he shares a passion for history and art. "When abroad, some people go to the good life right away, Joy and I go straight to the museum or the ruins and muse how things must have been before. The British Museum is the best for antiquities; for art, the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay; also the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow."

Today, the only children running around the Belmonte compound in Quezon City are the nine grandchildren. They fondly call him "Ampa," short for grandfather; their grandmother, the late Betty Go-Belmonte who founded *The Philippine STAR*, the four grandchildren then called "See-see," short for "See you later, see you later," which she used to say when she would leave the house.

His only regret now is that as mayor he doesn't have as much time to spend with his grandchildren as he'd like. "They're all very active in school and are achievers even at this stage of their lives. I try to keep in touch with them and call them from time to time."

You can go up or down the Belmonte family tree and you'd see why Mayor Belmonte considers his family his greatest achievement. His three sons head the family-owned Star Group of Companies with Miguel Belmonte

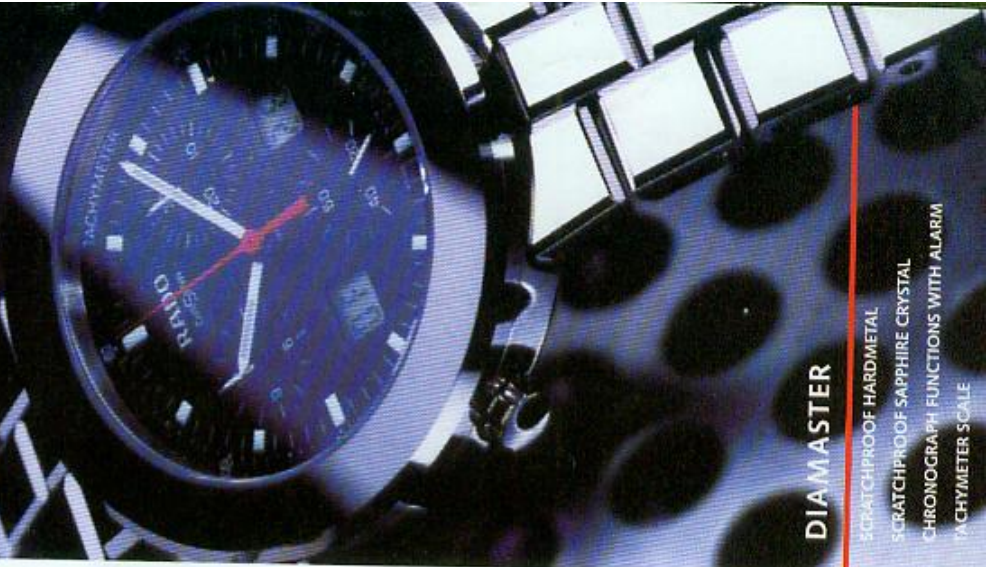
as president and CEO, Isaac Belmonte as editor-in-chief of *The Philippine STAR*, and Kevin Belmonte as president of philstar.com. Daughter Joy Belmonte is an archeologist and active in the various civic groups of QC and in the Quezon City Ladies Foundation.

"I'm very proud of one thing. Not a single one of my children is *mayabang*, not a single one is particularly enhanced by the fact that I'm a mayor. We are not in the politics business. I tell them it's enough that one of us is in politics."

Even in these times of media hype and headline hogging, Sonny keeps a low profile — so low that he wears nondescript white, short-sleeved *barong tagalog* to the office every day, making him virtually indistinguishable from his driver and bodyguards.

He finds comfort that all his children have turned out to be hard workers and sees a little bit of himself in each of them, even, he reveals with a chuckle, his *pagkalakwatsero*. "We're all hard workers. Generally I would say the hardworking ethic came from Betty. Joy virtually works from 6 a.m. till 9 p.m. I tell her, 'You're crazy, you'll get yourself sick.' But she enjoys it. Betty was like that, she enjoyed doing so many things. Isaac is a philosopher, he always tends to look at the irony of things, the joke in every situation, which is sometimes exasperating for people like us, but he has a very good balance of things. Kevin is >>>

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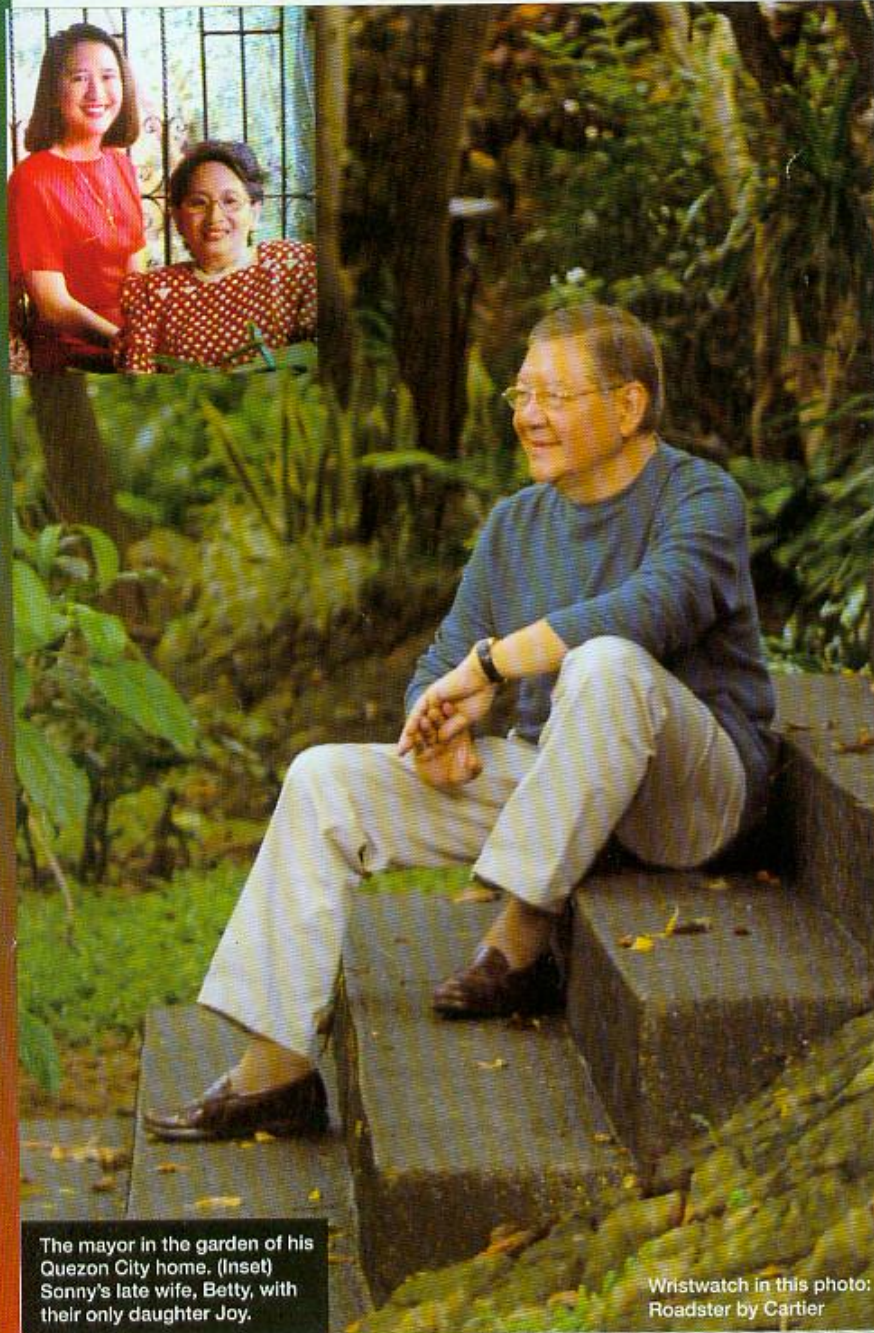


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We speak in generations.



MON
TRE
10



The mayor in the garden of his Quezon City home. (Inset) Sonny's late wife, Betty, with their only daughter Joy.

Wristwatch in this photo: Roadster by Cartier

virtually a technocrat, very good with studying complex economic problems and coming up with practical solutions. Miguel was born with the ability of being good with people, *magaling siyang makisama sa tao* and he has the knack for untangling big problems.”

Up in the Belmonte family tree, the influence of politics is more apparent. When he was starting in government, Sonny didn't need to look farther for role models than his immediate family. His father Feliciano

Belmonte Sr. was a judge, his uncle and aunt, Pio and Josefina Duran, were both members of the House of Representatives. His wife Betty Go-Belmonte was known for being brilliant in business and a woman who always turned to God. “I admired Congressman Pio Duran for his work ethic and my father for his love of people. My wife for her faith. If you find yourself in a tight fix, there is no better strength than your own faith, that's what she showed me and all of us.”

Growing their publishing business, however, was also fraught with sacrifices. Kevin relates how his parents decided to sell the house they had in Baguio City, which Sonny built almost brick by brick, before the earthquake in 1990 to finance the *STAR*. This house on a hill was filled with memories of summer vacations and Christmases for the family.

Baguio City was where Feliciano Sr. and his wife Luz raised their brood of eight with Sonny being the eldest. “It was a nice place to grow up. I enjoyed my childhood, the only thing I missed was the life of a young adult because I became a reporter when I was 16 until I was 21, then I got married at 23. I completely skipped the period of simply being a teenager, which was why I didn't want my children to work when they were at that age.”

Sonny's life as a reporter began with a scoop – not his own, but rather a news story that someone else missed. He was a reporter for *The Bedan*, the high school newspaper of San Beda with Ramon Mitra as his

editor-in-chief and because he was interested in journalism, he went to work for the *Manila Chronicle* as office boy. The police beat back then was covered by only two reporters. One day, the *Chronicle's* reporter got scooped. “The paper was very shorthanded and so the reporter didn't think much of it. But the editor was so mad that he fired him and hired me on the spot.”

For five years, he covered the police beat at the same time studying law at the Lyceum. It wasn't an easy >>>



Winston

Spirit of the U.S.A.

Government Warning:
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arrangement, but one that he enjoyed immensely and to this day whenever he talks to Quezon City policemen, Belmonte likes to reminisce about those days when being a reporter "was a very personal thing."

So does he now tell his sons how to run a newspaper? Miguel says, "He's pretty much left the management of the company to us. Most of the stuff we learned was from actual experience, from working in the company. Sometimes when we have to make a big investment, we ask his opinion."

"Yes, it has sparked renewed enthusiasm in City Hall. I made it very plain that the things for which we were recognized were really team efforts."

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina also called Quezon City "the best managed city," due to the fact that for the last 15 years QC has been a deficit city by as much as P 1 billion per annum. "It was a low-expectation city," says Sonny. "We are trying to make it now into a high-hope city."

When he assumed the leadership in 2001, the city was

With (from left) sons Miguel, Isaac and Kevin



Sonny Belmonte may be smiling a lot these days. And it's not because the rumors linking him to a young city councilor have been given a rest – for the time being at least (he seems as confused as any why these rumors persist).

Recently the mayor received another award to add to his host of achievements: the Most Outstanding City Mayor, given by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"It feels great," he says and then adds with laughter. "The question is do you think they made a mistake? I don't."

For Sonny, the significance of the award is that in trying to get the city on the move, even people outside of QC are feeling the changes he initiated and getting QC citizens excited about their own place.

confronted with claims of payment amounting to over P1.4 billion and a bank debt of P1.25 billion. In 2002, he turned the situation around and made it the local government unit (LGU) with the highest revenue collection. He didn't raise taxes, he simply made collecting more efficient and the system less prone to corruption.

The general fund last year reached to more than P5.4 billion, exceeding the budget for the first time in a decade. But Sonny points out that "it would be very wrong to have all that money in the bank because money should come and go back to the city itself. In the year 2002, for instance, our total collection was P6.5 billion; of this, P5.4 went into the general fund."

Before he assumed office in 2001, the budget was P4.7 billion but the total income was only P3.6 billion. "Today a lot of the essential services are being delivered for much >>>

Magandang araw mula sa San Miguel

Sa pag-isikap, natutupad ang maraming pangarap. Alam ng San Miguel ito. Kaya naman sinasagip dito na gawing mas masarap, mas maginhawa ang bawat araw. Ibinubuhay ang mga bilangang nakatubong sa pagmamahal ng buhay at kabuhayan. Tulad ng "Doracion Luis Taal" sa Batangas na nangangailang sa kalusugan ng mga isda doon. At ang "Tulong-tulong sa Tullahan" na muling binubuhay ang Tullahan River para sa kapakanan ng mga taga-Malabon at Valenzuela. At siyempre, mahusay na gumagawa ang San Miguel Corporation ng mga de-kalidad at abot-kayang mga produkto para sa bawat Pilipino.



SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

less, like the collection of garbage for which we were able to save greatly, perhaps as much as P200 million every year. So the city is collecting, spending, collecting and spending.”

It's no wonder that Sonny Belmonte takes to heart what his citizens are calling him –SB for “Serbisong Bayan” – and his own vow to make QC a “Quality Community” with a balanced development.

Sonny's exposure to government life began in the 1960s when he served as presidential staff assistant of President Diosdado Macapagal, and later as special assistant to the secretary of finance, special assistant to the commissioner of customs and executive assistant at the Central Bank of the Philippines. In the martial law years, he retired from government. In 1986, President Cory Aquino appointed him to various government-owned corporations. They weren't exactly the best positions for one who was getting into government service again because they were on the brink of bankruptcy. But Sonny turned them around, just like he has done to Quezon City in the past two years. As president and CEO of Philippine Airlines, Sonny had the company registering an unprecedented profit of P1.2 billion, enabling it to pay all its obligations. The remarkable thing about this is that he did it without borrowing a single cent or firing a single employee.

As a politician, Sonny has always followed the beat of his own drum. It may be unpopular in the beginning, but he stands his ground and proves he was right all along. As congressman, he headed the prosecution panel in the impeachment case against the then wildly popular President Joseph Estrada – a dangerous decision for one seeking local office.

As mayor, the redevelopment of Quezon City's restaurant row Tomas Morato is another example. “The whole project was strongly opposed by the establishment owners of Tomas Morato simply because it would tend to limit at the beginning their parking space. I told them the fact that they were limited to customers with cars was a limitation on them. A lot of people have no cars, they had no place to walk because business had usurped the sidewalks and blocked the streets.”

Tomas Morato is only a small stretch of road filled with fine dining restaurants and holes in the wall, but “it's

changed the ambience of the city.”

“My interest was to enliven the area, to make it into another Eastwood City. That's what we are doing and I think we are succeeding. There are many parts of Quezon City where the people expect their most tony streets would be revived and we will eventually do that.”

Sonny Belmonte puts the word respect back into politics. Respect for the office and respect for honesty. “If there is one thing that I found in politics, it's that there are so many able politicians in the country. When I was in congress, I was amazed at their ability to craft laws and interpolate. Now that I am a mayor, contrary to the popular notion that the mayors aren't doing much and their underlings are doing all the work, I've seen that all mayors in Metro Manila are hands-on. There's nobody here who lets others run the city for them. I admire that.”

Another thing that would surprise people about Sonny is that he can let go of any position he's holding “without rancor or regret.” You get the feeling that he doesn't attach much importance to either power or material things. A numismatist, he sold one of his collections of medals partly to finance a family trip to Europe in 1982 when two of his sons were graduating. “I said, we'll send them to Europe. Betty said, no, we'll all go together.”

He also has a fine collection of betel nut containers from the Muslim provinces (the kind you'd see at the Thai and British Museums), which he started to collect more than 30 years ago when they were worth only P200.

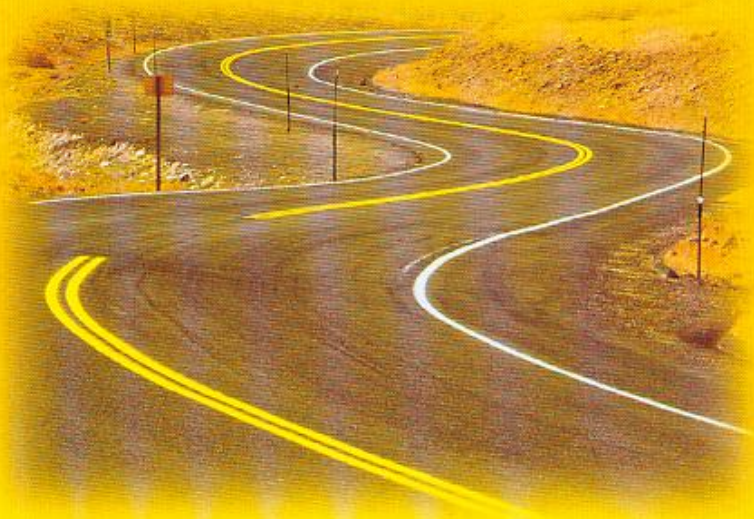
He looks at politics the same way. “I could get up and quit politics, just like that. I feel that I've done well and achieved a few things to my satisfaction but nonetheless I could stand up from this table and say, that's it. But while I am here, I appreciate and love the people I work with. I know government positions are temporary. I'm well adjusted to that fact. I enjoy my best while I am here and I do my best.”

Perhaps this is where the respect of his citizens and colleagues comes from: That there is no grandstanding, no song-and-dance act in Sonny Belmonte's act. “In terms of grand visions, I don't have them. I'm a guy who sees a problem and tries to address them little by little but steadily,” he says. He doesn't capitalize on controversies or achievements, he simply does his job in his trademark unassuming way and, always, with a gentle smile. †

Sonny and Betty during their wedding day in 1959



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Loida, and behold!

By Joel P. Salud • Photography by Tommy Zablan

Despite a string of twists and turns that would make thriller giant Tom Clancy suffer a migraine, Loida Nicolas-Lewis turned around her late husband Reginald's cash-strapped conglomerate in 1993. Today, she is fired up by another challenge — creating wealth in the land of her birth to benefit the poorest of the poor.

A woman with short dark hair, smiling, is wearing a purple strapless dress with a green shawl draped over her left shoulder. She is holding a dark award with a purple ribbon. In the background, there is a large painting of a fisherman's harvest scene. To the right, there are yellow flowers. A sign at the bottom of the award reads "NaFFAA AWARD".

Loida Nicolas-Lewis in her Rockwell, Makati condo. Behind her is a commissioned Noel Blanco painting of a fisherman's harvest in her native Sorsogon. On display is her award from the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations.

NaFFAA AWARD



A little over 10 years ago, all Loida Nicolas-Lewis could do to satisfy her passion for Filipino art was to quietly browse through a coffee table book of Blanco's paintings. It was then a rough-and-tumble decade for this surprisingly unassuming yet brilliant Filipina lawyer who had to deal with more than the usual streak of wrecks and crashes in her personal life. Her husband, African-American tycoon "visionary" Reginald F. Lewis had just died of brain cancer in January 1993, leaving Loida and two daughters Leslie and Christina his business TLC Beatrice – then a floundering conglomerate. For six straight years prior to the passing of her husband and mentor Reginald, TLC Beatrice was earning revenues of over \$2.5 billion dollars. But Europe, where most of TLC Beatrice's businesses are located, was hit by one of the worst economic bloodbaths at the time. Despite six years of strong, consistent growth, and notwithstanding Lewis' inclusion in *Forbes Magazine's* list of 400 wealthiest Americans, the recession in Europe almost toppled the business empire from its long-treasured pedestal.

Showing uncanny business insight, Loida did not lose a single second to improve the condition of the company after being voted as chairman. Loida was able to fulfill her husband's dream – to ultimately create wealth. Putting together all that she was able to learn through the years from Reginald (whom, by the way, she met more than 30 years ago in a blind date), she acted immediately, selling non-performing assets, cutting costs by putting up a lean but stronger workforce, reducing debt and bolstering her small team of managers. After a year, Loida Lewis was >>>

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able to land in the pages of *Working Woman* as the top businesswoman of the United States, and *BusinessWeek* as the manager to watch for 1995. Under her leadership, TLC Beatrice continued to stay well within the billion-dollar mark.

Today, Loida Lewis possesses, as one of her cherished treasures, six of Blanco's most elegant paintings. She likewise has her own share of Fernando Amorsolo's masterpieces circa 1930s.

"I have faith in the Filipino," she says without blinking. "Looking from way up here down to the community surrounding the village, if you really look closer, there are *barong-barongs* occupied by very poor families. I see their children playing with almost nothing on their bodies but old, or worse, torn shirts. It creates a pang in the conscience when reality hits you like that, hence I can't rest easy. I want to help. However, I'm a businesswoman, and I'm not about to just throw money away. I would like to think of myself as a good steward of the riches God has so blessed me with. This country has a lot of potential and I believe in that strongly. I know that with the proper philosophy, guidance and direction, the Philippines would one day reach for the stars."

It is clear that her frequent visits to the Philippines would spell something entirely good for the country. And she has put together the best in her Filipino upbringing and the best in what she has learned from Reginald in business to establish a financing institution for poor Filipinos – Opportunity Microfinance Bank (OMB). Together with her brother Francis Nicolas, she is now seeking the help of Filipino-Americans to help a quarter of a million struggling Filipino entrepreneurs to launch their small business in the Philippines through OMB, tagged as the first bank for poor *Pinoys*. That's not all. She's now infusing a good amount of dollars into the country's economy, and as a result, has built a state-of-the-art slaughterhouse in Naga, an ultra-modern meat processing plant in Calamba, Laguna, and in a few years, a meat processing plant in Cagayan de Oro. The business in Laguna has already generated 250 jobs for Filipinos, and

with the Cagayan de Oro meat plant in the offing, Loida says it would generate another 500. For starters, that's already 250 families getting a good share of the profit, and of course, blessings.

"Treat people as you would want to be treated" was Loida's guiding principle then and now, and it was this same focus that set the stage for imminent success for the cash-strapped TLC Beatrice during the early '90s. When she took on the business, Loida inherited a debt base of about \$350 million. A few months after, she was able to raise \$20 million in bridge loans to solidify the company's cash flow problem.

Her brother Francis, she says, is probably the one living person whom she really looks up to. A Christian pastor by vocation, he has always been an inspiration to her,



Styling by LUIS ESPIRITU
Hair and makeup by
CHECHEL JOSON
All clothes by
MEL VERGEL DE DIOS

Asian Care for Asian Eyes

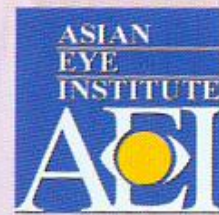


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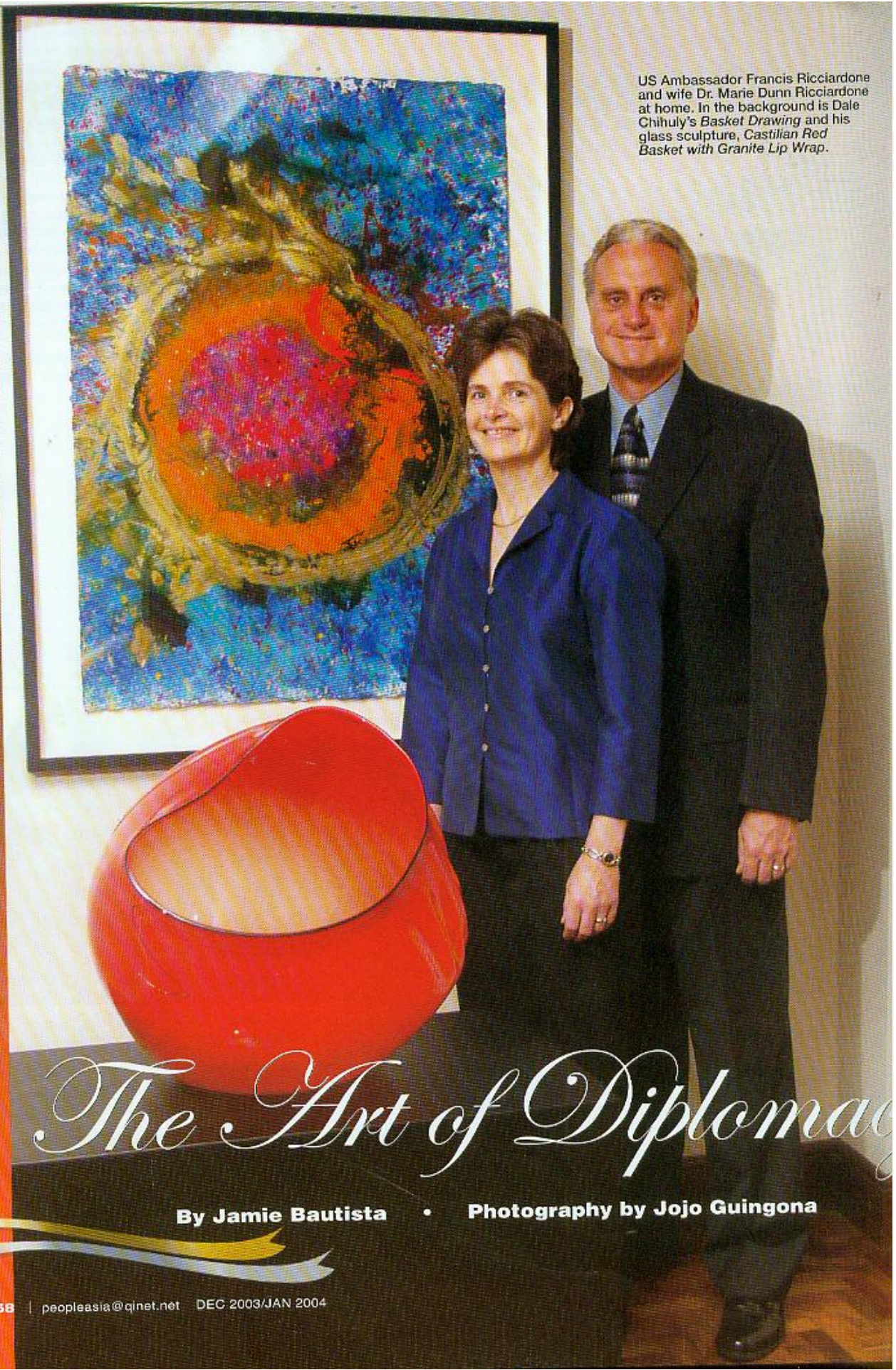
especially during those times when things are not working out for both business and personal life. "His spirituality is deep," she maintains, and it was her brother that taught her to listen to that small voice within, that "inner prompting" that guides and confirms any decision she has to make. "He is someone whose judgment you can fully trust, and someone you know who has your interest at heart," she says. "I'm lucky to have him. But there are other people who have been such a great help to me, like the financial assistant that my husband trained for many years. He's a devout Hindu, and when it comes to money matters, he's always on target. So in that sense, I am very lucky. My sister Imelda Nicolas is also a very close and trusted confidante, whom I call my eyes and ears. When she gives a comment, I always listen. When I'm too close to something, I don't see the whole picture. It's Imelda who gives me a broader and clearer view of things. She's always goal-oriented, and even though we clash at times, I always listen when she talks because she's someone you can trust."

Loida Nicolas-Lewis makes it absolutely clear that hoping for the best for your countrymen is not race- or gender-related. It is only incidental that she is a woman, and a Filipina. It is, for the better part, a result of hard work, calculated risks, a knowledge of the economic landscape, an appropriate display of business savvy, and more importantly, a kind of shrewdness where heart for the poor is not wanting. Apparently, life is all too short for Loida to waste on fussing and whining, as some Filipino businessmen are wont to do. Like her husband Reginald, failure was and will never be an option for Loida. There's a whole country on the verge of political and economic collapse, and the least she could do is continue to dream of a better and more prosperous Philippines. Knowing her track record in the field of business, dreaming of prosperity for the Philippines may just be the first chapter of a success story waiting to be written. When that time finally comes, it would prove her husband's theory that white guys are not the only ones who should have all the fun. ✻



With her late husband Reginald and daughters Christina (left) and Leslie.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and wife Dr. Marie Dunn Ricciardone at home. In the background is Dale Chihuly's *Basket Drawing* and his glass sculpture, *Castilian Red Basket with Granite Lip Wrap*.



The Art of Diplomacy

By Jamie Bautista • Photography by Jojo Guingona

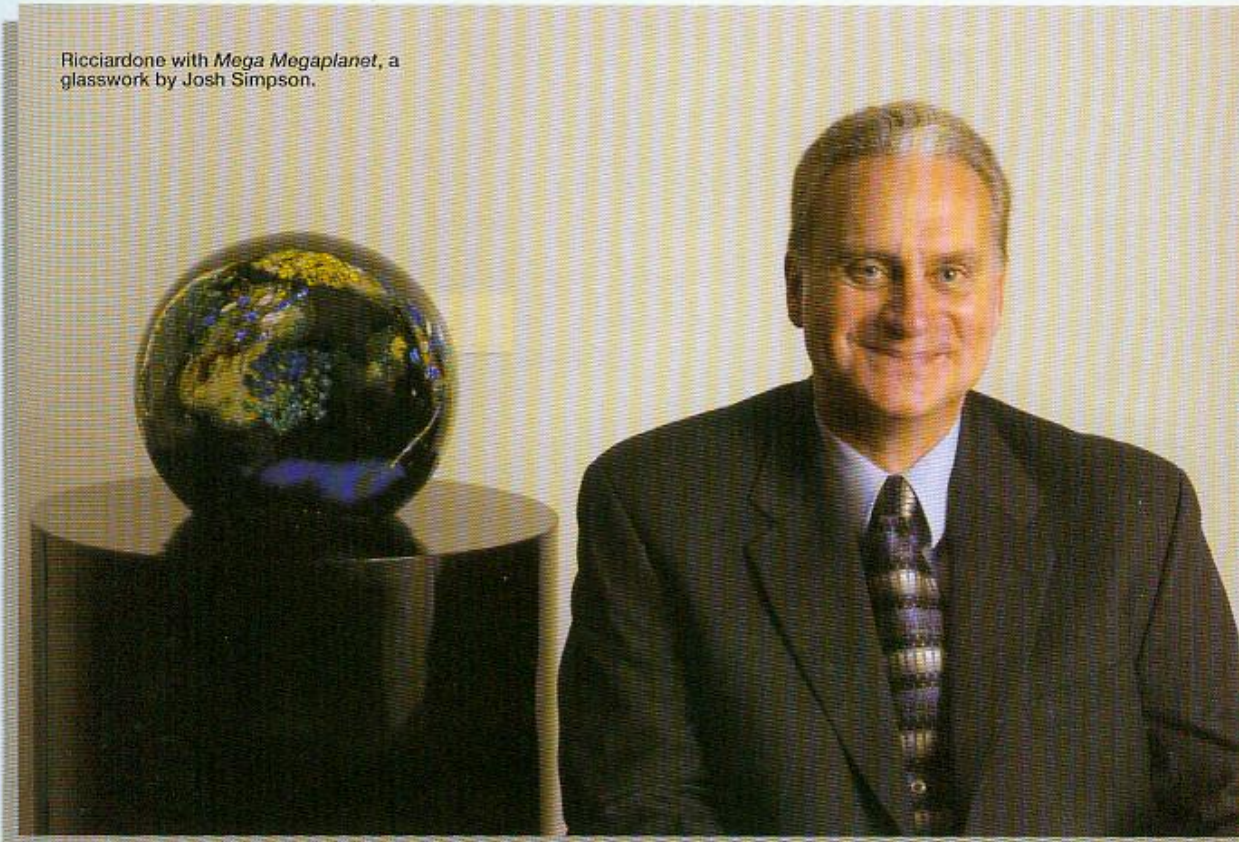
It must be tough being the American ambassador to the Philippines. With all the controversial decisions the American government has been making in recent months, being the official face of the United States to Filipinos can't be an easy task for Francis Ricciardone. But while he does represent the American people, he is not representative of them all. After all, how can one man be a singular example of a people so diverse? While his job is to be the public face of all America in this country, he is still just one man, one American with unique opinions, tastes and traits.

This paradox also holds true for the art collection at the

and employing professional curators who can help the ambassadors select and care for the different artworks. Obviously, the State Department places great importance on this program, which uses art as a very effective and pleasing tool for allowing other nations to learn about America.

Although the collection at Ricciardone's residence is a beautiful sampling of art that offers Filipino and foreign guests a taste of the American art scene, it is not a representation of American art in general. If anything, it is a unique selection of works that reflects the specific tastes and personality of the ambassador and his wife,

Ricciardone with *Mega Megaplanet*, a glasswork by Josh Simpson.



ambassador's official Forbes Park residence. This collection is part of the United States' Art in Embassies Program, which loans art of different media and styles from various American artists and art institutions and then displays them in the almost 170 embassy residences of the US ambassadors around the world. Guests to these residences are able to enjoy American art and at the same time, the American ideal of the freedom of expression is made clear through the almost universal language of art. Furthermore, American artists are given more exposure in foreign lands, which could lead to sales. The State Department is very systematic in the implementation of this particular program, paying for the packing, freight and delivery of the works

Dr. Marie Ricciardone. This particular collection, much like the man who chose it, represents without being totally representative. Rather than having pieces that try to represent each of the prevailing schools or art styles in America, these particular works the ambassador chose are pieces that appeal to him and help to express a bit of who he is. Yes, the Art in Embassies Program seeks to promote a mutual understanding between different cultures, but each specific collection also helps to bring out the uniqueness of each individual ambassador.

So just how did the Ricciardones go about selecting pieces for the collection that would adorn their embassy

>>>

residence? According to the ambassador, several factors came into play in the search for artwork that would become part of their temporary home and of the program.

Naturally, the Ricciardones chose pieces that appealed to them and suited their tastes and interests. "We like glass, so you'll notice there are a lot of glass works in the house. We just like the way it plays with light," Ricciardone explains. Thus, they obtained several lovely glass pieces like Judith Conway's *The Ginkgo*, which is made of hundreds of glass stringers arranged in a leaf form in a pre-fired glass base, and Dale Chihuly's *Castilian Red Basket with Granite Lip Wrap*, which is a beautiful red glass piece.

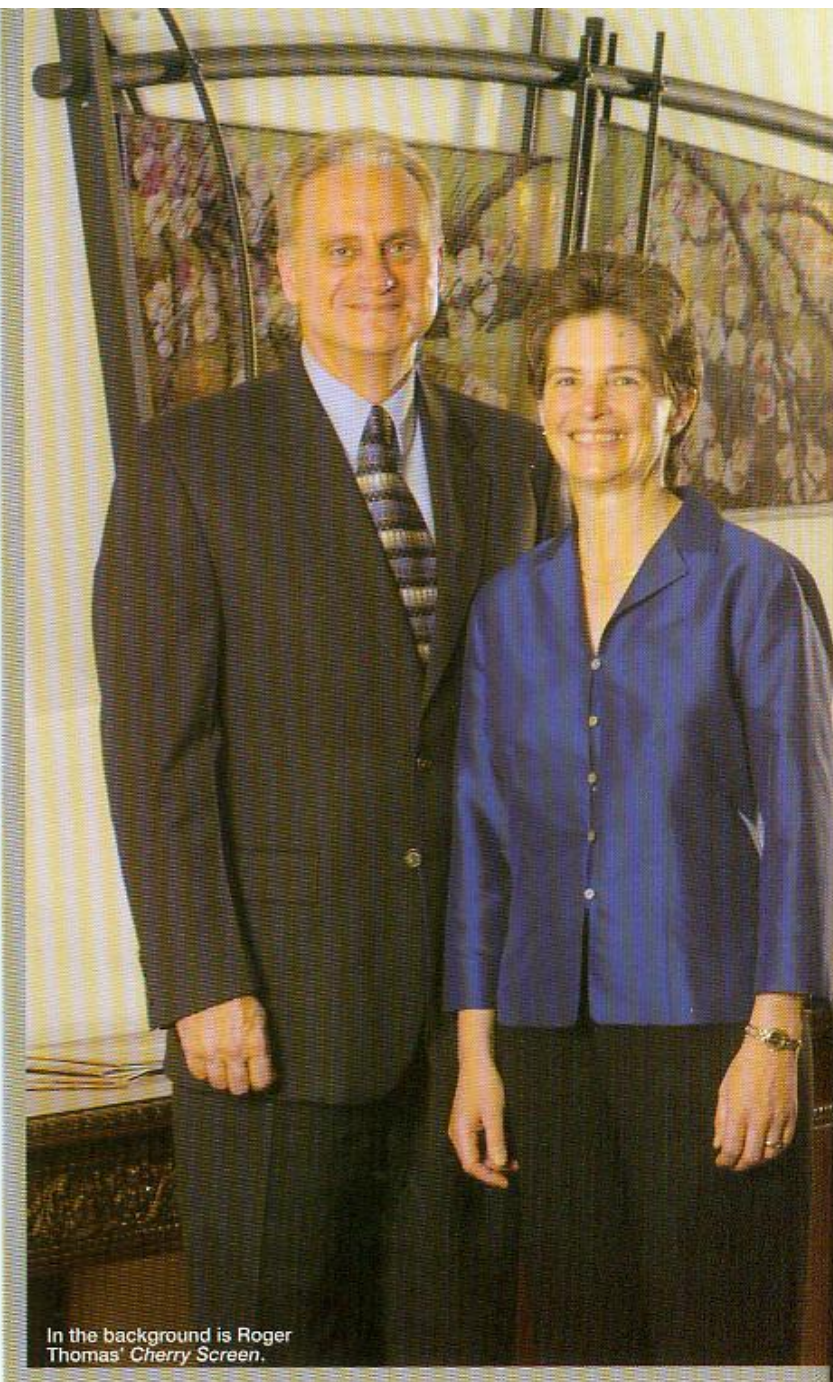
"I've done some photography myself years ago; we like photography," the ambassador adds. The inclusion of several Sally Gall photos of water bodies attest to this. "Even the paintings often, in one way or the other, either suggest photography or work with light in very peculiar and interesting ways." Such is true for Leigh Li-Yu Wen's oil on canvas piece, which, although done through paint etchings, looks remarkably like an actual photograph of the sea.

Another factor that helped in the selection process was the house itself. Designed by Gabriel Formoso and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Primo L. Santos back in 1965, the US State Department acquired the house in 1970 and renovated it in 1994. The Ricciardones were shown photographs of the house before moving in at the start of the ambassador's assignment and this influenced some of their selections.

"When you have so much water and so much glass anyway, just window glass but opening up to the outdoors, you really get a unique play of light into the house. It almost feels like being outdoors at times," Ambassador Ricciardone says. "And that, we thought, was sort of the dominant feature of the house. So we wanted to take advantage of it." This is why many of the pieces have the recurring theme of water and glass in them. The play of light through these transparent materials just makes these particular pieces stand out in this particular residence. Pointing to Conway's *The Ginkgo*, the ambassador states, "And see, we have it there up against the glass. In the daytime the light comes through this way and gives you one effect, and in the evening, when

there's light inside the room, it reflects off the piece and gives you a very different effect. So it's quite nice."

The Ricciardones also chose artworks that were related to their numerous hobbies. Aside from photography, which he mentioned earlier, the ambassador is also fond of gardening, which is why many of the pieces have flowers or greenery as a central theme. As a couple, the Ricciardones do a lot of outdoor activities like long distance biking and hiking in the mountains, which explains the presence of nature themes in many of the works as well. >>>



In the background is Roger Thomas' *Cherry Screen*.

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Scuba diving is another hobby they do together, which is why aside from water elements in many pieces, some works specifically bring the ocean to mind. Josh Simpson's *Mega Megaplanet* is a glass globe that has colors in it that bring to mind sea creatures and the underwater play of light. Dale Chihuly's vermilion glass pieces remind them of corals from the reef. "We've seen that on the Red Sea of Egypt and we've seen them on the reefs here in the Philippines. For us these pieces bring this sort of subtle, intuitive remembrances of places we've been. I guess it is sort of tranquil art without being bland, I hope. You know, not dentist office stuff where you're supposed to sort of dream away. We want things that are vivid and make you want to look at them for a few minutes and think about them and enjoy them."

The way certain pieces reminds them of certain

"For us these pieces bring this sort of subtle, intuitive remembrances of places we've been. I guess it is sort of tranquil art without being bland, I hope. You know, not dentist office stuff where you're supposed to sort of dream away. We want things that are vivid and make you want to look at them for a few minutes and think about them and enjoy them."

experiences and locations is also a significant reason why they were chosen. Roger Thomas' *Cherry Screen*, which is fused glass mounted on an iron metal frame, is one such piece. "That recalls Washington DC, the cherry blossoms. It brings together Asia and Washington. You know, we're new to Asia but almost the icon of Washington DC are the cherry trees around the title basin, a gift of the government of Japan years ago."

The numerous water scenes in the painting and photographs bring them memories of several significant places for the couple. "We both grew up in Boston, a sea coast town close to Cape Cod and the New England coastline. We spent a lot of our lives around the Mediterranean in Italy. So we had a real affection for the sea coming to the Philippines."

Ricciardone's appreciation for these types of art seem to stem from his own experiences from studying in art-immersed Europe. "As a university student, I had lived in Italy and studied Renaissance art. I did a course with people who were restoring art after the great flood

in Florence in the late 1960s. I was in Florence in the 1970s and there was a tremendous burst of art restoration work going on funded by the United Nations. So I got to spend a little time with those people in the famous Uffizi Art Museum in Florence. So I developed a taste for all the drawings of Leonardo and so forth."

Finally, one of the main elements of a piece that seems essential to its inclusion in the collection is how it helps reflect the ambassador's personality. "I hope the collection would reflect a personal warmth. We both enjoy people; lots of people, different kinds of people. It's what attracted us to this profession of US Foreign Service," he reflects. "I guess this is common to many Filipinos' experience... My grandparents were immigrants to the United States, one set from Belgium after the first World War, and the other from Italy. So I was used to foreign languages at home. As a child (I experienced) all kinds of interesting cooking smells.

So even as a student I picked the first opportunity I could to go overseas and travel, travel, travel. So I guess curiosity, an enjoyment of different people, the way they think, the way they look, their music, their art, their food, it was something I loved. So the Foreign Service was the right career choice. And for that you have to be kind of a warm and open sort of person."

Since the collection seems to fit the Ricciardones so well, would they consider purchasing any of these works or similar ones after the ambassador's assignment here ends? "I would love to own any one of these pieces. But it's probably not realistic to expect on a government salary that we could. But they're beautiful."

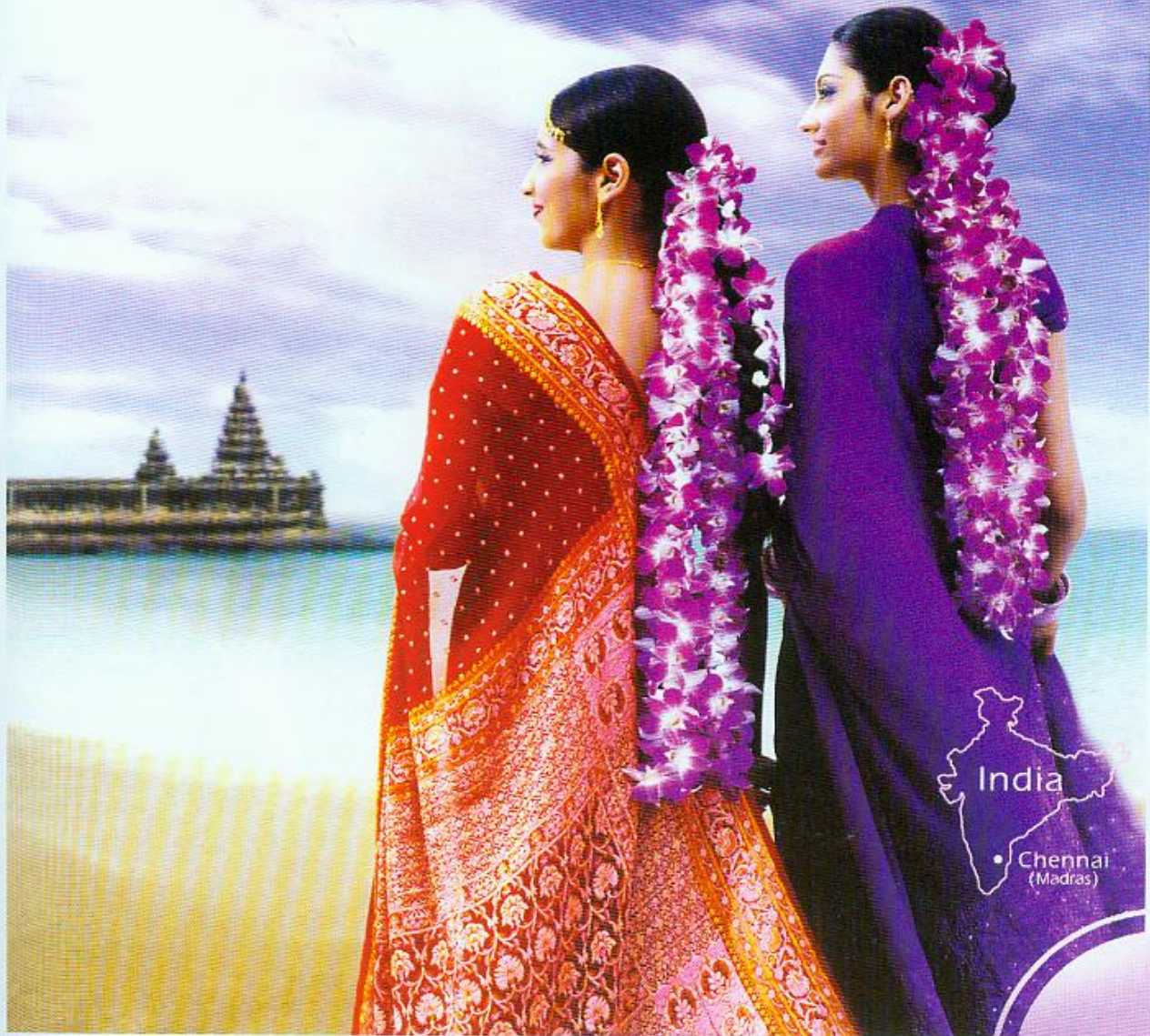
Meeting someone like Ambassador Ricciardone and having a chance to view the collection at his Embassy Residence should remind people of that wonderful duality present in us all: that while each one of us somehow represents the bigger groups we are parts of, that still allows us to be unique and worth appreciating on our own. That fact, like art, is something universal.✽



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'Da King' with his First Lady, Susan Roces

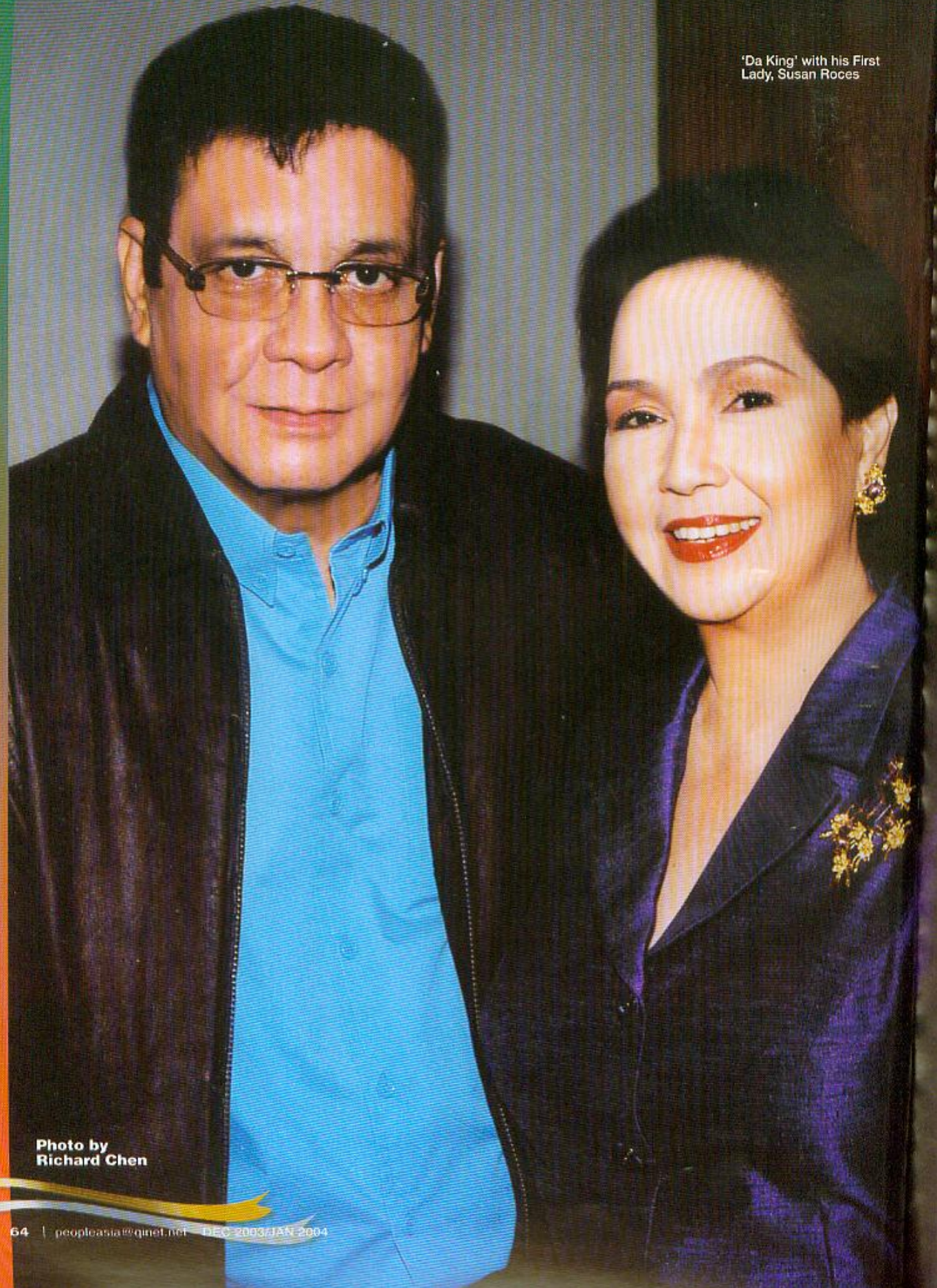


Photo by
Richard Chen

FPJ:

'Da King' who would be President

By Ricky Lo

If by this time FPJ hasn't made up his mind whether to run (or not) for president in 2004, would it be right to describe him as "Da King who would be — or would have been — president of the Republic of the Philippines?"

And if FPJ has extended the national — nay, "international" because Filipinos abroad are just as interested in probing FPJ's mind — guessing game up to this very minute, the best way to, well, "size him up" is to read his body language. After all, action is supposed to speak louder than words, isn't it?

Let's take time out and read FPJ's body language in the same way that people were once urged by former US President George Bush to, remember, "read my lips" (later repeated with pointed sarcasm by another former US President, Bill Clinton).

1. FPJ has become highly visible in both showbiz and political gatherings which he used to shun like the SARS.

2. He showed up, holding his hands high as if in a gesture of (future?) victory at the finale of the Fernando Poe Jr. for President Movement (FPJPM) get-together at the Cuneta Astrodome, and was cheered "Right on!" by his followers.

3. He is reported to be holding "secret meetings" with members of the opposition, among them fellow actor-turned-politician Sen. Tito Sotto who is convinced (beyond any reasonable doubt?) that, in the long run, FPJ will utter the magic three-letter word "YES!!!"

4. He has become adept in the art of hand-shaking and back-slapping.

5. He's said to have been consulting with top economists, presumably to help him cope with the country's economic woes. Because of his pregnant silence,

FPJ has unwittingly divided his *kabayans* both here and abroad into "passionate pros" and "strongly-objecting cons" in the same way Moses had parted the Red Sea.

The pros claim that what the country needs now is somebody like FPJ who is humble, down-to-earth, generous, decent, honest, incorruptible and, most important of all, adored by the masses. You know, let the people choose the man they want to lead them.

The anti-FPJ's are warning everybody that putting him in Malacañang would be a repetition of what happened to former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada, FPJ's *erap* whom he helped turn into a President (and, before that, mayor of San Juan, Metro Manila; and then senator and vice president).

They're saying that FPJ didn't even finish high school and doesn't have any experience in politics (not even as a barangay captain), so what "right" does he have to aspire for the highest office of the land?

In fairness to FPJ, speculations about his political plans (if any) come not from him but from everybody else, leaving FPJ himself puzzled by it all, prompting him one time to comment, "I come to know about my political plans only from TV newscasts and the newspapers. Other people seem to know more about what they call my 'political plans' than I do."

Even the person closest to him, his wife Susan Roces, swears that she isn't privy to FPJ's "political" agenda. Everytime she's asked about it, Susan simply smiles. "Ask Ronnie. I also want to know. We never discuss politics in the house."

What they usually talk about — in bed upon walking up early in the morning while waiting for the

>>>

papers to be delivered — is what they did the day before and what they plan to do — separately — during the next 24 hours.

In the next breath, Susan gives a glimpse of a typical day at the Poe household in Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, where they've been living since they got married on Dec. 25, 1968. (Their marriage has remained steady and strong, a shining exception in a field where couples break up faster than the director could yell, "Cut!")

"There's no pattern," says Susan, still "The Face That Refreshes" (at 62) that she was when she was launched in 1956 by Sampaguita Pictures. "But normally, Ronnie and I are early-to-bed-early-to-rise people. We usually have an early dinner, then we watch TV or movies (on video) and we go to sleep. I start my day by turning the radio on — I'm a radio person — so by the time the papers arrive, I already know what the current events are, what the issues of the day are. Ronnie and I rise with the sun. We have our best conversation early in the morning while waiting for the papers. We talk about what he did the day before and what I did the day before, and what he plans to do during the day. Me? I don't usually plan. When you do, it doesn't work."

Is that some kind of a "preview" of the country's future, *chem.* First Family?

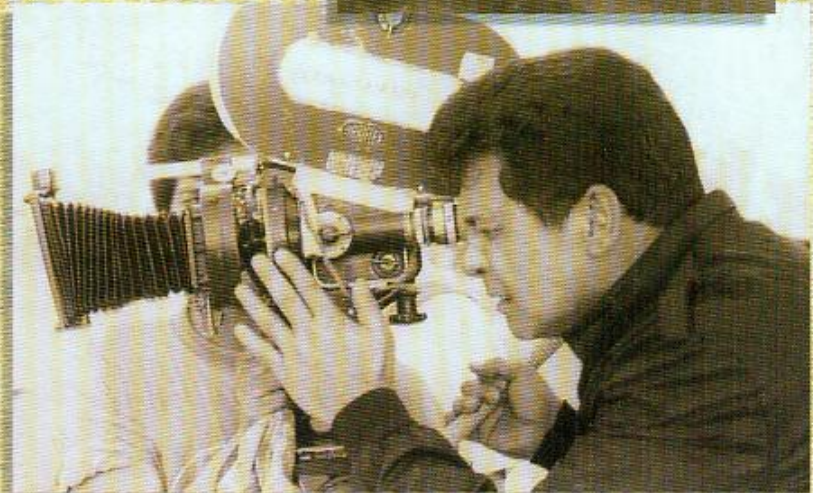
Susan wants nothing of that "joke" (that's how she calls reference to her as "The Next First Lady").

"You know, I don't even want to joke about it. I'm embarrassed by it. I don't know how to react. In the first place, it's not even in my wildest dreams, not even in my imagination."

The truth is that FPJ and Susan are so fiercely protective of their privacy — or what is left of it — that people close to them can't imagine seeing them in the cruel glare of politics which is said to be far more vicious, more cruel and more relentless than that of the showbiz kleig lights.

Look at Erap. Until he became president, his having several wives and families were talked about, all right; it was a public secret, all right; but it never became a national "issue," not even when he was mayor or senator or vice president. FPJ is self-effacing, very low-key, very retiring and, even if he has reigned as "Da King" of Philippine Movies for decades, he hasn't quite gotten used to the spotlight. Can a "reclusive" man like him endure and survive being president?

By now, the whole country knows what FPJ's likes and dislikes are, and every bit and pieces of his life (including his unpublicized >>>



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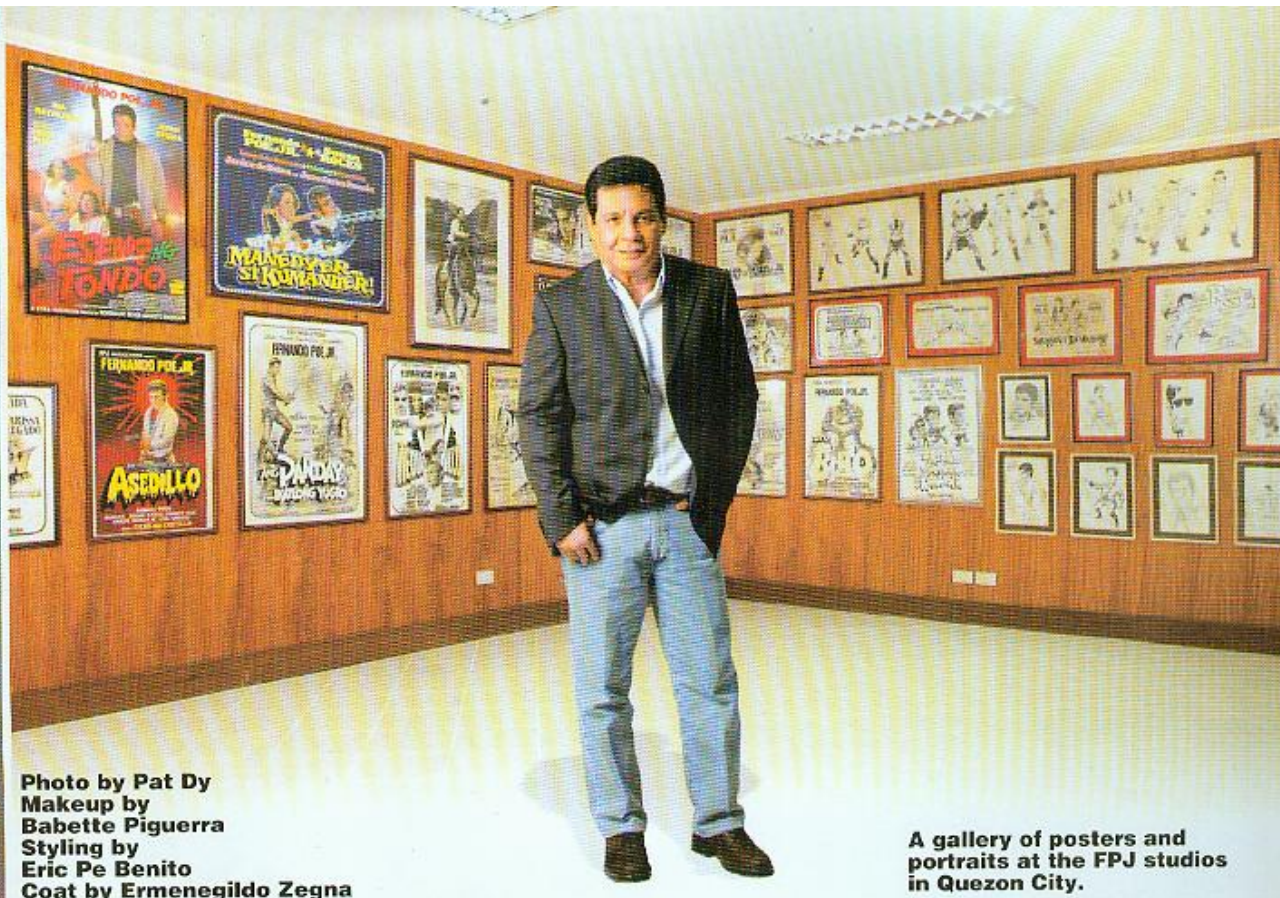


Photo by Pat Dy
 Makeup by
 Babette Piguerra
 Styling by
 Eric Pe Benito
 Coat by Ermenegildo Zegna

A gallery of posters and portraits at the FPJ studios in Quezon City.

“Fernando Poe Jr. is the person you see on the screen. Ronald Allan Poe, the man I married, is a homebody and a simple person. His wants and needs are simple.”

charity and generosity not only to his showbiz colleagues but even to strangers who go to him for help).

Let’s get to know FPJ a little more from the person who sleeps with him every night, the closest anybody could ever get to FPJ.

Asked what attracted her to FPJ, Susan says that he was different from her other suitors.

“Instead of getting me as his first dance, for example, he would choose me for the last dance. When we did our first movie together, *Ang Daigdig Ko’y Ikaw*, he was the perfect gentleman and host (being the movie’s producer under his own FPJ Productions). He’s quiet. But deep. Silent water runs deep, *di ba?*”

That’s what attracted Susan to FPJ — his being quiet and therefore “mysterious” — and that’s exactly what everybody now finds intriguing, what keeps everybody guessing. FPJ is so “quiet” and so “secretive” that, yes, even Susan can only guess what

his next move will be. “He keeps his cards close to his chest,” says somebody close to FPJ, “and that makes him a good player.”

Susan draws a line between Fernando Poe Jr. The Actor and Ronald Allan Poe The Person.

“Fernando Poe Jr. is the person you see on the screen. Ronald Allan Poe, the man I married, is a homebody and a simple person. His wants and needs are simple. His food preference is very basic but he wants it fresh. If it’s fish, whatever kind of fish, it should be fresh. If vegetables, it should also be fresh.”

Now, could a man who reads Henry Miller, who loved Phantom and Tarzan as a kid, who listens to Frank Sinatra songs, who adores old movies (of Glen Ford and Gary Cooper and James Stewart and Richard Widmark), who talks directly to God and who once dreamed of becoming a priest make a good president?

It remains to be seen.

But first, FPJ will have to tell us whether he’s running or not — if, up to this minute, he hasn’t yet. ♣



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Mano, Poe! By Ibarra C. Mateo

If the current buzz generated by Fernando Poe Jr. were in preparation for the premiere night of his latest movie, it would be understandable that the heat being generated is fueled and staged-managed by his myth-makers and publicists.

However, Poe, or FPJ to friends and "Da King" to close associates in local filmdom, is emphatically not promoting a movie. Much to the torment of politicians who perceive him to be a potential rival, the managed and/or spontaneous fervor of the FPJ myth proves to be a public relations expert's winning spin that may morph the revered actor to become the 15th president of the Republic of the Philippines.

This early, there are those who are inclined to question his character, intellect, temper and spirit, or in short, does Ronald Allan Kelley Poe, 64, undisputed box-office king of local moviedom for about 40 years now, fit the role of president?

On who he would "annoint" for the presidency, El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde once said: "Personally, I do not see any candidate we could support. This is because I am a perfectionist."

In a mammoth rally during the second weekend of November, Velarde said his ideal presidential candidate must be able to heal and unite the country, not necessarily intelligent, and must be able to handle crises skillfully. "We Filipinos have tried everybody, but where is our country right now? We have tried a widow, a military man, an economist, and a movie celebrity. We Filipinos love to take risks." He was referring to former presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, President Arroyo, and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

For the sake of theoretical discussion, does FPJ have a remote chance of being anointed by Velarde?

Think aloud and consider the following: FPJ's wedding to the well-liked Susan Roces had former President Marcos and ex-First Lady Imelda Marcos as one of the sponsors. FPJ is godfather and icon to numerous moviedom's personalities who are now politicians aligned to various parties.

Unlike the much-maligned traditional politicians and stereotyped movie actors and actresses, his personal life is well-guarded. Moviedom's insiders describe FPJ as intensely



private and conservative, adding that his wife is just as private. On top of his insurmountable popularity is the absence or hint of a profligate lifestyle and rumors of corruption involving him and immediate family members despite his close ties with former President Estrada.

If these were not definitely super-big plus factors for any politician wanting to become president, what more can a voter ask for?

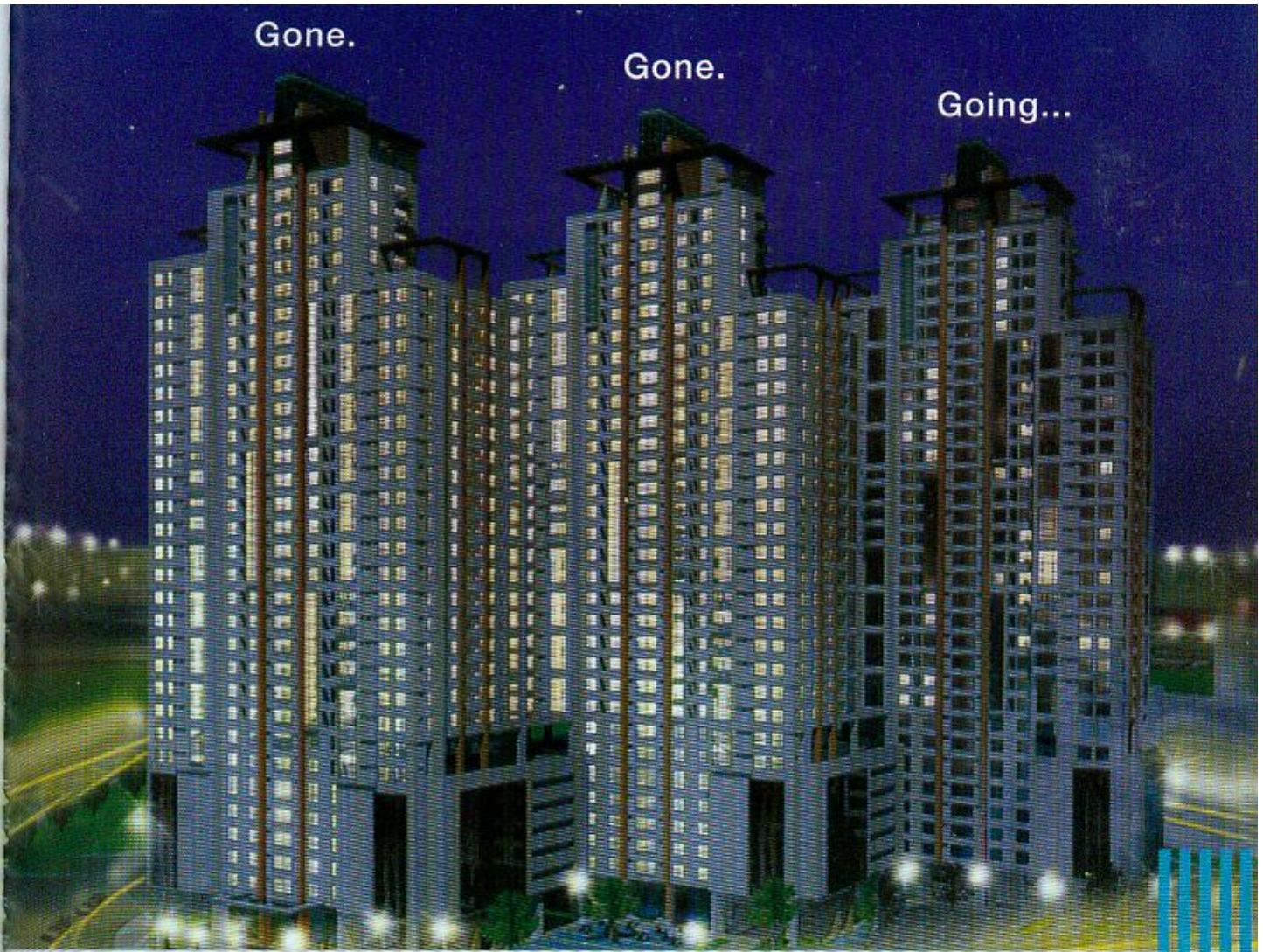
And there are those who say that, at the moment, only the FPJ myth or mantle of invincibility can save the country from a genuinely dangerous slide to anarchy. And there are many of them, including his legions of fans and supporters who patiently waited for hours before FPJ made a short but enigmatic spiel at the SRO Cuneta Astrodome last Oct. 25 at an affair organized by the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Prosperity Movement.

FPJ was strongly anticipated to break the excruciatingly painful wait for his declaration that he will run in the May 2004 elections during the affair which merited page one treatment in almost all English newspapers in Metro Manila. In less than 15 minutes, FPJ pumped the flesh of spectators near the stage, waved to those whom he could not reach, and intoned solemnly, "*Sana balang araw makaganti rin ako sa inyo.* (Someday, I hope I can return the generosity or favor.)" Sooner than later? *

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Rising at the corner of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue is the first of the three towers that comprise The Columns, Ayala Avenue. It will soon be joined by two further towers to form an uplifting trio at that end of Ayala Avenue. Each tower offers a mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units, designed to fit into the lifestyles and budgets of the young urban achievers who work in the Makati central business district.

These individuals have been searching for a home that's convenient to both work and recreation, but also long for a relaxing, sheltered abode with the kind of community spirit of a suburban village. With The Columns, they can have it all, at one outstanding address.

LOCATION. The Columns, Ayala Avenue boasts a prestigious address, convenient to the offices of Ayala Avenue, and Salcedo and Legazpi Villages, and a short drive or walk to Ayala Center. Vital services are literally across the street: the post office; the fire department; and the Makati Medical Center. Located at the intersection of two vital thoroughfares, The Columns offers easy access to both EDSA and the Skyway, leading to destinations north and south, as well as the international airport. Via Makati's signature walkway system, residents can take covered sidewalks and underpasses from Ayala Avenue all the way to Greenbelt, Glorietta, and even the Ayala MRT terminal. Churches, schools, colleges and performing arts venues are all a short walk away. To top it all off, every unit at The Columns will bear the prestige of having "Ayala Avenue" as their street of record.

Being in the heart of a thriving city, especially an international city like Makati, is a quality highly



The grand lobbies offer peace and security.

sought by young urban achievers. The Columns, Ayala Avenue fulfills this dream. "We expect The Columns to act as a catalyst for the development of its immediate area," says CII executive Jonathan Umali. It will also bring some humanity to the heart of the city. Many people live in the suburbs, and endure hour-long commutes to the city, for the



The Columns will dominate the Ayala/Puyat intersection.

greenery, the open breezes, the genial village club amenities, the feeling of community, that comes from a residential village. The Columns will meet those needs as well.

THE COLUMNS EXPERIENCE. The Columns, Ayala Avenue has been meticulously designed as a community by CII and architectural firm RMJM Philippines. While each unit provides the privacy needed to feel at home, the public spaces at The Columns lend themselves to social interaction. This is accomplished through the integration of expected amenities into an organic whole.



Shaded plazas welcome visitors and residents.

"We wanted to pick and choose features and amenities that in themselves have value but when put all together create a singular experience," says RMJM's Freddie Grageda, an architect on the project. Grageda calls it The Columns Experience.



Enjoy al fresco dining at the Ground Floor.

Swimming pools for adults and children have been joined together while still remaining discrete and safe. Waterfalls and water lounges promote relaxation and reverie. Raised platforms transform the pools into a vantage point for an entire village club in the sky: the Columns' 7th-floor Recreational Club, spanning the whole development.

From the pools, winding paths take the health-minded to a fully-stocked and manned fitness center, the equivalent of a gym membership that comes free to every resident. The paths, which themselves involve a quarter-kilometer jogging path high above the streets, bring others to large function halls and outdoor patios where people can mix and mingle, or hold parties and other events. One-third of the Club will be devoted to the care of children: from a day care center to an outdoor playground. A game room provides in-house entertainment for friends and associates. A home theatre room offers wide-screen movies and DVD viewing for small groups. And for overnight guests, transient rooms done like efficient hotel units.

"For the cost of a studio, one-bedroom, or two-bedroom unit, you get the equivalent of a club membership, free," says CII's Edwin Yabut.

At the Ground Floor, small shops and outdoor cafés create an al-fresco dining destination. "The ground floor offers services for residents including a grocery store, salon, and drugstore," says Winnie Nazareth of Ayala Land Commercial Centers Group. "It will also contain cozy restaurants, outdoor cafes, and quaint food outlets for both residents and workers in the immediate area."

The Columns proposes a lifestyle where everything needed for a full, nourishing home life is provided, for the price of a single unit. It's a lifestyle that envisions making going to the gym as simple as taking the elevator. A lifestyle that allows even a studio unit owner to have a DV



The comforts of home.

viewing party for a dozen friends. Where quick shopping, dining, and entertaining, can all take place without ever leaving home. The convenience of a self-contained "vertical village" matches with The Columns' vital location to create a lifestyle without limitations.

DESIGN & FENG SHUI. The Columns is designed to change minds. "So many condominiums have this reputation of being cold, dark places where people live isolated from each other and cut off from the world," says RMJM director Abelard main architect of The Columns. "The Columns is designed to change that reputation."

Every room has a window, including picture windows for the views. The angle of the building allows for open vistas of the city and the bay. Sunny but not hot, the many windows allow for breezes to flow through on cool days, perfect for saving electricity and being one with the environment. From the project's inception conservation, safety, and environmental friendliness were taken into account.

It also respects the ancient traditions and wisdom of the art of feng shui.

CII retained internationally-renowned expert Master Joseph Chau as the feng shui consultant for The Columns. The company tapped his knowledge when it came to location orientation, and composition of the development. Master Chau notes that The

Columns' location and orientation make it highly fortunate for business prospects. He sees the trio of towers as both dynamic and stable. The use of trees, greenery, and water features gentles the energy of the buildings and promises tranquility and a balance of energies.



A short walk from shopping.

Master Chau considers The Columns very fortunate. He particularly admires the plentiful windows as, he says, views expand the mind and outlook.

PEDIGREE. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is aimed at young urban achievers, or, as CII terms it, those on the cusp of making it. The address, the units, the amenities, the good fortune, are all included in affordable unit prices. With such flexible payment terms, it is no wonder Towers 1 and 2 are sold out within months after the project's launch and Tower 3 is now open for sales.

This affordability, which makes The Columns so attractive, is even more of a value considering CII's background and pedigree. Community Innovations, Inc. is an Ayala Land company. Its executives are Ayala Land veterans who have come together to provide ALI's well-reputed excellence to a new marketplace. As a separate company, CII has the flexibility and drive to forge innovative new projects in that marketplace. As part of the Ayala Land family, it draws upon the resources, experience, and brand-name reputation of its parent company.

An investment in The Columns, Ayala Avenue is an investment in an Ayala Land-backed project. This means that long-term property values at The Columns will continue to grow.

Pedigree and performance, priced within reach, is CII's program, exemplified by The Columns, Ayala Avenue.



Kids enjoy a daycare center.

A SELF-CONTAINED COMMUNITY. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is more than the sum of its parts. CII and its partners in this project RMJM Philippines, Makati Development Corporation, Ayala Property Management Corporation to name a few have realized the vision of a self-contained residential community resting in the midst of the most dynamic sector of the city. Within its boundaries are all the basics of a well-kept home, plus all the amenities of a resort club, along with shops and cafes, but with the whole city just across the street.



Amenities include a fitness center.

Self-sufficiency in a prime location defines The Columns, Ayala Avenue. With the opening of sales for Tower III, everyone can now own a part of the most talked-about development in Makati. Three towers above a podium of amenities, lobbies, plazas, and parking spaces, bring the best of situations into the hands of people looking for their first big investment, their first home. The Columns, Ayala Avenue is meant to be that home.

For inquiries, please call 750-0471 or 750-0484, email at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph. Model units available for viewing at the 3rd Floor Glorietta 3.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue Rises Ever Higher

Tower 1 of The Columns, Ayala Avenue has reached the eighth floor as construction proceeds on this highly-anticipated Makati condominium complex from Ayala Land company Community Innovations, Inc. At this pace, the rise of The Columns is proceeding ahead of schedule, reaching the 11th and 12th floors by December. Tower 1, which sold out in April after only four months of sales, will be completed by the middle of 2006.

From its lot upon the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue (Buendia), the three-tower Columns development will create an ideal living space for young urban achievers and their families. The Columns allows its residents the convenience and prestige of an Ayala Avenue address in the Makati central business district, while offering a serene and relaxed home environment through meticulous design and planning. Its combination of location, prestige, and features at a price within reach, has made it one of the most popular properties among young urbanites and investors.



Tower 1 should be completed by mid 2006

Its popularity has translated into smashing sales success. Not only did Tower 1 sell out within four months of pre-sales, but Tower 2 followed suit in similar speed, allowing CII to begin sales of Tower 3 in October, a full month ahead of their expectations.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue brings the good life within reach of young urban achievers looking for a place to call their own in the Makati central business district. Three 23-story towers rise on a 7-story podium for a total of 30 stories. Each tower houses 284 units comprised of a mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom residential units. Designed to redefine condo living, The Columns is designed to maximize space and light, in ways ranging from having a window in every room, to single-loading corridors, to angling the towers for the best views and exposure. Light, space and air define the units at The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

The seven-story podium houses parking, lobbies, and amenities for the residents, with a seventh-floor indoor/outdoor Recreational Club spanning all three towers and a Ground Floor filled with alfresco dining and shops. A true "vertical village," The Columns brings the feel of a friendly suburban community into the heart of the city, in a self-contained refuge a stone's throw from centers of commerce, business, and recreation. With its flexible and affordable pricing schemes, The Columns, Ayala Avenue is positioned within reach of young men and women who work in Makati and seek a home they can call their own, an investment backed by the reputation of CII and its parent company, Ayala Land.

Community Innovations, Inc. Offers Special Pricing Plan as low as P13,000/month

Community Innovations Inc. (CII) announces the extension of their special payment scheme for The Columns, Ayala Avenue to mark the opening of sales for Tower 3 of the residential condominium complex.

CII is now offering units of Tower Three, the ultimate chance to become part of this innovative "vertical village." Buyers who wish to seize this final opportunity to enter into the good life at The Columns, Ayala Avenue are able to avail of special Zero Downpayment schemes, with monthly payments as low as P13,000.

This zero-down payment scheme is designed to complement The Columns' already affordable standard payment schemes, which make The Columns' enviable mix of studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units within reach of young urban achievers and their families.

Payment schemes can be customized to suit the needs and abilities of individual buyers, part of CII's commitment to creating and nurturing true communities in its developments.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the answer to the dreams of young urban achievers seeking a quality condominium residence within the Makati CBD. Sporting three 30 story towers and a uniquely integrated show-stopping Recreational Club, The Columns, Ayala Avenue is one of the most talked-about properties in town.

Designers of The Columns, Ayala Avenue have described the emerging community as "a vertical village." The Recreational Club of The Columns, Ayala Avenue is more than a conglomeration of amenities. It provides areas for the health and well-being of residents, in privacy and in community.

The Recreational Club provides features that are the equivalent of those in a country club or posh recreational center. For the cost of a studio, a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom, the owners of The Columns, Ayala Avenue units gain a major plus that is the equivalent of a club membership.

Community Innovations, Inc. is dedicated to providing carefully-planned and meticulously-designed communities. An Ayala Land company, CII backs its bold mission with the experience and reputation of Ayala Land as the country's leading developer.

For inquiries, please call 750-0471 or 750-0484, email at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.communityinnovations.com.ph. Model units available for viewing at the 3rd Floor Glorietta 3.

A close-up portrait of a man with a full, dark beard and mustache, looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark, possibly black, jacket. The background is a light-colored, vertically-pleated curtain. On the far left edge of the image, there is a vertical bar with orange, green, and blue segments.

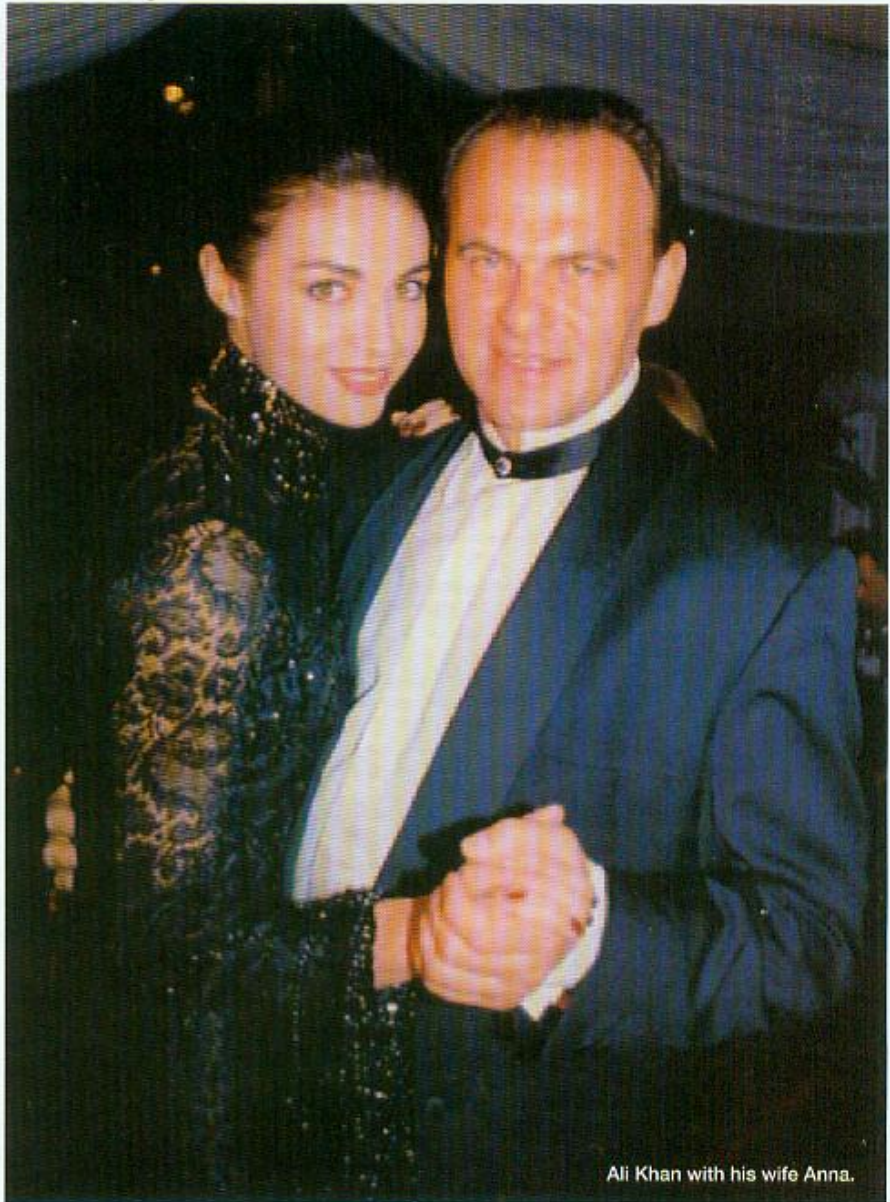
Businessman Ali Khan Mamakaev

From Russia,
At a time when most Filipinos are rushing to leave the country because of the endless political frays, Ali Khan Mamakaev is bringing in his fellow Russians to enjoy the sun and the beaches in the Philippines. And probably, even invest here.
with much love

It's an inspiration that, at first glance, one is forced to wonder: What in Rasputin's name will Russians find appealing in the Philippines aside, of course, from the usual splendid island resorts, mouth-watering tropical fruits, the warm out-of-Siberia weather and a kind of hospitality that makes the stay all worthwhile? For Ali Khan, it's the company of his Filipino friends.

"I do business here in the Philippines because I have friends here," Ali Khan said as he looked to his very close friend Roberto de Venecia, one of the promoters of the Miss Asia Pacific Quest and brother to House Speaker Joe de Venecia. "I only do business with my friends. And I am happy being with my friends; these are the people I trust. Business is always good when you do it with friends. To me, real friendship is more important than success in business. In fact, this is my secret formula. The best way is always to do business with friends; they are like my family."

Ali Khan, who was born in the former Soviet Union, specifically in Chechnya, first came to the Philippines 10 years ago. He fell in love with the country almost immediately. It's a kind of passion that's too hard to resist, he says, that's why he comes to the Philippines twice or thrice a year or as opportunity will allow. Thus, he has built a select network of friends — people who have a common interest, he says — who have worked with him on numerous projects and, more often than not, leading and inspiring Ali Khan to bring his capital into the country. It was this friendship with renowned Filipino families that encouraged him to promote trade between Russia and the Philippines. He is very much aware that the Philippines is not active in Russia or in any of the independent republics comprising the former USSR. Ali Khan has also seen the plight of Filipinos who are living below the breadline, and it was this in particular that made him decide to contribute his modest



Ali Khan with his wife Anna.

share in the development of the Philippines. One thing quite refreshing about this man is that he appears to love the Philippines as if it were his own — more than what could be said for some Filipinos.

"Ali Khan considers the Philippines as one of his homes, one of his major destinations when he goes out of Germany. He also keeps homes in Paris, Moscow, Miami and South America," says Roberto de Venecia. "He is German by citizenship but in a deeper sense, he is Filipino at heart because he loves this country so much. He saw the situation in the Philippines and what is lacking, and to a certain extent and standard, he wants to see the development side of the country grow in relation to its neighbors.

>>>



With his friend Roberto de Venecia.

The political situation, Ali Khan says, is not really that important. He understands how politics works in any country, having gone to a number of countries as a businessman. He maintains that a country where he has friends is a country with good political situation. It is his friends that he trusts, and he says this with finality.

“There are many countries with very good political situation, but I am inclined to be selective,” he says. “There are many countries in Europe where the political situation is stable. But I still come to the Philippines and put it in my list of priorities because in this country, I have many good friends. That’s my bottom line.”

Ali Khan has been in the business of real estate and property development, construction, banking, investments and entertainment for many years. His investments in Germany and Russia are one of the biggest and it covers a multitude of fields and expertise. In the Philippines, Ali Khan is thinking of not only bilateral trade but putting up a string of hotel-resorts, particularly for Russian tourists. Through his friends in both government and the private sector, he is working to make this a reality by proposing certain legislation that will backstop his projects, such as: a policy of “No Visa” requirement for Russian tourists

entering the Philippines. In this regard, he has already done a lot for his countrymen in other countries. Thailand, Malaysia and China do not require Russian

>>>

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tourists and investors to have visas. He wants to do the same for Russians who may want to visit the Philippines and establish their businesses here.

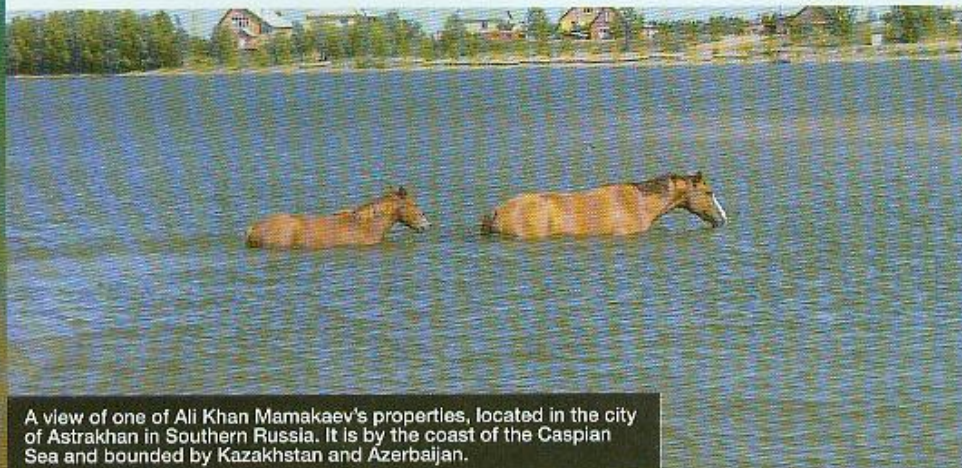
Ali Khan believes strongly that the Philippines could be very competitive in this area. Also, he is thinking of putting up strategically located petroleum terminals to serve as regional petroleum depots. This, he believes, will help ease the burden of rising fuel prices in the region. He wants to take advantage of an

Russian tourism and investments,” Ali Khan explains. “That’s why I want to build first-class hotel resorts for the upper crust and middle class Russian society who may want to spend time in your country. The whole idea is to create business for Russians who will come in the Philippines, and even encourage Filipinos to come to Russia and establish some business there. So, it’s a two-way idea that both countries can benefit from.”

It is Ali Khan’s belief that even the Asia Pacific

Quest beauty pageant is a great venue to promote bilateral trade relations with other countries, specifically with countries in the Asia Pacific region. That’s why he has been supporting the pageant for quite some time, promoting other activities like sports, tourism and entertainment in the process. “There are so many intangible benefits linked to this pageant,” he avers. “You can develop connections and uncover new opportunities. All countries in the Asia Pacific are competitive, but I have to say that the Philippines should take the lead in this part of the world. The potential is great.”

Both Ali Khan and his friend Roberto de Venecia agree that there is so much to hope for in this country and would like to contribute their share. The opportunities for the country are greater than what they are projected to



A view of one of Ali Khan Mamakaev's properties, located in the city of Astrakhan in Southern Russia. It is by the coast of the Caspian Sea and bounded by Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.



oil pipeline that would be built near the Pacific Coast of Russia. This pipeline would be nearer to the Philippines, hence, the availability of much-needed, cost-efficient petroleum. Another area he’s considering is using the Philippines as an assembly hub for Russian automobiles and transport vehicles that are affordable. This project aims to directly strengthen and motivate the Filipino middle class.

“The Philippines is missing out when it comes to

be. Ali Khan is pretty much aware of this, hence his passion to come to the Philippines and do business here. Having come from a closely-knit royal family that ruled the Caucasus Region for about 150 years, his business strategy is simple: “Have an eye for opportunity and work with people you can trust. Then you will not have any problems whether business goes well or bad. Success is nearer when you have friends to support you. That is the key.” — *Joel P. Salud* ✪

GALLERY

RP-Indonesia Cup



Indonesian Embassy chargé d'affaires Alexander Laturluw



Thai Ambassador Busba Bunwag with Maj. Gen. Jose Magno



Sergio Ortiz-Luis and Francis Chua

The Philippine-Indonesia Business Council, in cooperation with the Embassy of Indonesia, held the PIBIC Cup Golf tournament at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. The event was held prior to an exhibit of Indonesian products on Indonesia National Day.



Laturluw with overall champion Alexander Barus, Indonesian Embassy trade and commercial attaché.

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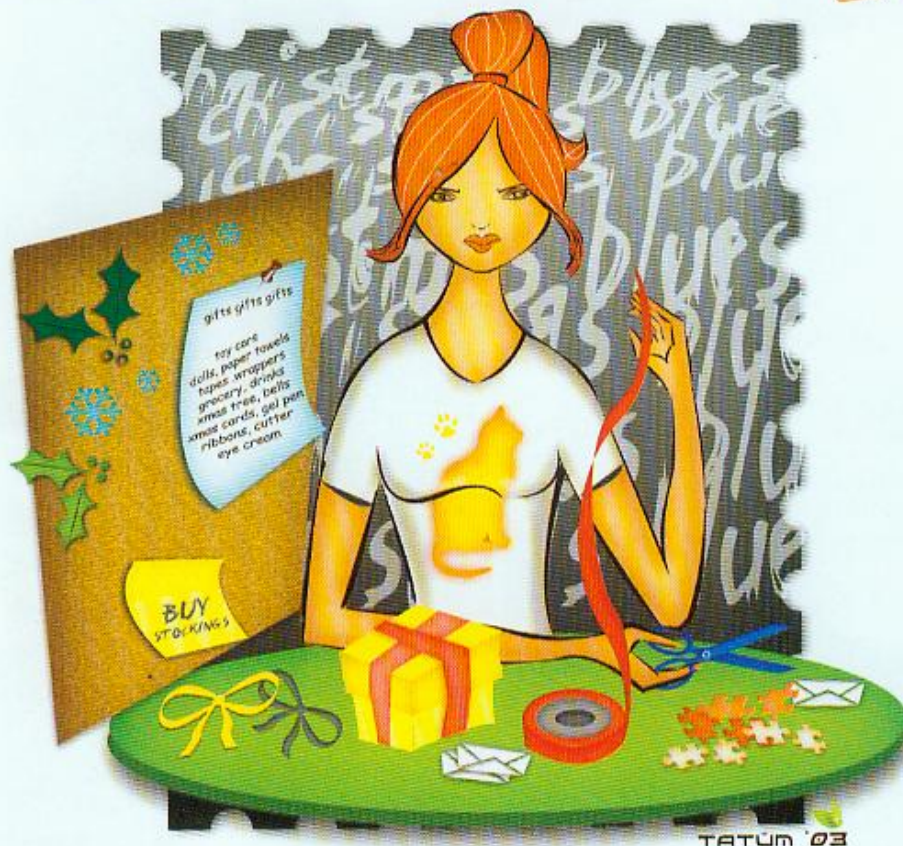
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FIERCE AND FABULOUS

by Malu Fernandez



Beating the **holiday stress**



Icon by Rogelio Ramilo Jr. • Illustration by Jean Tatum Ancheta

Holidays are a time of cheer and joy for most people. Unfortunately for me, the Christmas holidays are the worst time of the year; it's like anticipating a root canal. I hate the holidays because you run around going to parties you're obliged to go to but don't want to; you buy gifts and spend money for half the people you don't care about just because it's the right thing to do. Then you have to sit in the car for an endless amount of time stuck in traffic going to the mall to buy the gifts for those people you don't like. And to top it off, you have to go to your family fun-time dinners, which sometimes can be a disaster. So how do I cope with all of this? I grin and bear it and try to get all my errands and obligations done by dealing with merchants and business people who are quick and efficient. So for the year 2003, I have come up with a list of tips and places to beat the holiday stress.

- The best gasoline station to go to when you're in a hurry — **Caltex Ortigas** on the right corner after Wilson Street if you're coming from Edsa. They are quick, efficient, very polite and helpful.
- **Shopwise, Libis** — it's the best place to buy stocking stuffers and yummy chocolates. They are always the first to bring in the latest junk food items.
- The secret place to buy kitchen items — **True Value**. It's not just hardware, it has a lot of cool stuff for home décor and kitchenware. Although the service is a bit slow, you just have to be patient and eventually someone will assist you.
- The best places to spend 100,000 bucks on one item — **Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Yves St. Laurent** in Greenbelt 4. It's

not hard to find a bag worth P90,000 in these places, but it will be the real thing, like the ones you see on the pages of *Vogue*.

- The best place for cool *fashionista* items that are not common — **Itsy Bitsy** in Malate. Owner Marines Delgado has hip high-end cool brands that give good value for money.

- The worst place to be shopping in during the holidays — **Greenhills Mall, Virra Mall and Shoppesville**. It's like being in retail hell.

- The best place to freshen up and have a bite to eat while you're shopping is at **Rustan's Makati, Third Floor**. The bathroom has a lounge and the café restaurant **East** by Markus Gfeller serves Asian fusion cuisine that is yummy and reasonably priced.

- The best Chinese buffet — is still in **Emperor Court** at the **New World Hotel**. The dishes have always been yummy but the quality of the food has improved a whole lot.

- The most consistently yummy restaurants are **El Cirkulo** and **L'Opera** in Makati and **Casa Armas** in Malate. The quality of the food has remained excellent all these years. And for the *balikbayans*, the best *halo-halo* is still in **Milky Way**.

- The best-kept secret for bargains is **Golderest** Makati. They have some funky stuff at good prices.

- A good tip whether you're shopping for bargains or rushing out to traffic is always making a list. Plan ahead and know your route so you can get things done quicker and easier.

- If you're attending one of those parties that require you to have your hair and makeup done, book yourself at the salon at least one or two weeks before the event, and always have a backup salon in case your favorite salon is full.

- Through years of partying, you usually know whether you have to have some serious party clothes for the season or stick to the stuff in your closet. Have at least three new outfits for the holiday season ready by October so you can have something new for Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve and an extra outfit just in case.

- Stock up on liquor and other party favorites at home just in case the after-party get together ends up in your place. Vodka and wine are usually the staples. Anything else you need at 2 a.m. you can get at the local 7-11.

These are some of the things that keep me from getting cranky during the stressful holidays. In a column where I usually bitch and moan about something, I decided it was less stressful to complain at this time of year. I just want to survive the holidays without any major stress. So to all of you, have a very Merry Christmas and hopefully a pleasant New Year. #

A man, his cello, and the passion of Brazil

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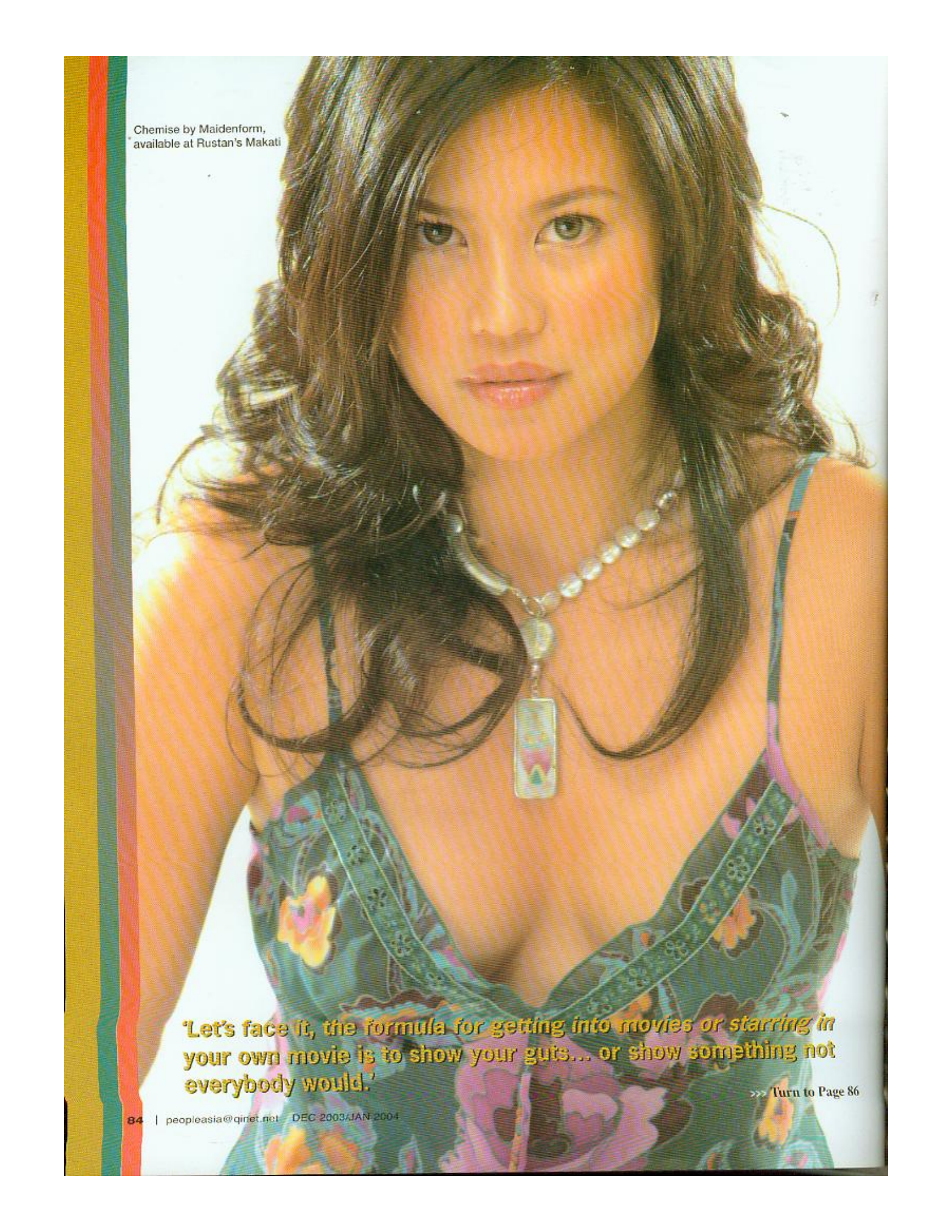
the Form of the Maiden

Photography by Xander Angeles

Hot babe Andrea del Rosario is showing off a new form. Last March, she starred in her own film, *Lupe, the Seaman's Wife*, with Leandro Muñoz and Jordan Herrera. While this isn't too much of a stretch for other actresses, it is quite a departure from the career path Andrea, the new Maidenform girl, had seen for herself. During our last interview, she told me, "I remember before when I started. I told myself at the back of my head that I cannot be for lead roles. So I really wanted to be a really good character actress, which I am right now." However, since then, the show she was on eventually ended and her contract with ABS-CBN expired, freeing her to accept an offer from Viva that had been hanging for quite a while. "I've been considering this ever since *Atta Girl* days; talking to Michelle (Bayle) and Vanessa (del Bianco) about it. 'What if I do this... what if I do that...'. So it's only now that it materialized," she recalled. Andrea claims that the script made her consider taking on this new challenge. Also, a mixture of respect and competitiveness towards her fellow actresses also helped nudge her towards making the film. "It was offered to Angelu de Leon: best actress. I figured if I say no to this, it'd be really stupid." >>>



Chemise and wrap by Maidenform,
available at Rustan's Makati



Chemise by Maidenform,
available at Rustan's Makati

'Let's face it, the formula for getting into movies or starring in your own movie is to show your guts... or show something not everybody would.'

>>> Turn to Page 86

OXYDO
SUNGLASSES



mod. Sunproof Sunscreen 1 Sunscreen 2

DESIGNER ENZO ANGIOLINI

Safilo

When asked why exactly she decided to change her career strategy, she simply explained, "I guess for everyone it will come to you that you will want something new in your life. You want to test yourself as a human being." Like any dense growth of jungle vines and trees, the uncertainty of such daring and risky career ventures instills fear by blocking out that light we need to assure us that we're heading in the right direction. Andrea, like any person taking on the great unknown, was not spared from the anxiety of her journey. "It was really scary that's why it took me this long to decide on it," she said, referring to the nervousness she felt while considering the Viva deal. "There were so many sleepless nights. I had to finish the book *Thick Face, Black Heart* to get myself in the proper frame of mind. But I said to myself, 'Of course it's scary. But c'mon, in life it's like that, always full of risks'."

This was a very big step for Andrea. Though she may have a Lara Croft-like build, she doesn't consider herself to be a naturally adventurous person. "I can't help but to sometimes be a *sigurista* because of my background. My parents are separated. Dad comes from a rich family while mom comes from a poor family. We're a broken family. You want things to be perfect now," she admits. Still, despite the difficulty in deciding to change gears and try to take on leading roles in the movies, Andrea felt fulfilled that she took that chance and made the trek. "This is one of the biggest decisions I've made in my life and I've crossed over," she sighed to herself with a hint of satisfaction.

However, while new dangers and challenges come up during any quest, there are some problems that are simply persistent and follow the traveler throughout the whole adventure. To me, it was obvious what particular problem was still hounding the bubbly and busty Andrea. "How the hell am I going to remove the stigma of being a sexy star now, dammit. Dammit!" she laughed with mock frustration, though I could tell it was more than half-meant. It was the same monkey on her back that I had talked to her about during our last interview.

Her outlook on it has remained the same, despite all these other changes. "I know exactly that's the challenge now. I know that I have talent. I've been in the business for a long time and I'm still here." Her optimistic and slightly flippant attitude towards the "sexy" reputation she has gained remained pretty much the same from our last interview. "*Mawawala ba ako?*

Pullover by
Episode

Styling by **BIANCA SALONGA**
Makeup by **LOURD RAMOS**
Hair by **CHRISTINE LOPEZ**
All accessories by **FIRMA**

Eventually I will. So while I'm at it and while I still can I'll make a name for myself, improve myself and make a mark in this world. Let's face it, the formula for getting into movies or starring in your own movie is to show your guts... or show something not everybody would," she said with a sly laugh. "Of course, at the same time, *banatan mo ng* acting and that's the formula now," she added, showing her belief that her talent for acting is still more important.

So despite all the new things happening to her career, Andrea is still pretty much the same individual I interviewed months before. Comedy is still in her heart and she claims that she will eventually go back to it again. She even keeps in touch with her old *Atta Girl* pals. The difference lies more in the strengthening of character that is the result of any perilous venture.

It was interesting to see how far along Andrea had come. And yes, the maiden's in good form — *Jamie Bautista*. *

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A Very Filipino Japanese Restaurant

Just about everybody adores Japanese cuisine. Few can resist the interesting smells and tastes that keep you craving for more. However, authentic Japanese food is expensive and while the stomach seeks it, the pocket pointedly says no. Posh Japanese restaurants also often require their patrons to be stiff and formal, making them uneasy while their tummies growl and not allowing them to be comfortable and just let loose with their appetites as any regular Filipino would.

Enter Teriyaki Boy. The fast, affordable alternative to having authentic, home-cooked Japanese cuisine. A fantastic idea — Teriyaki Boy describes itself as “a one-of-a-kind Japanese restaurant that has conquered the discriminating taste of Filipinos.”

Bob Vallar, marketing officer, explains, “We follow the traditional ways of cooking Japanese dishes. But the advantage that we have is that we serve it fast and then we also have these products at very reasonable prices.”

Food preparation is key. Fresh and mostly imported ingredients are flown in everyday to ensure that Japanese standards are met. “The food is prepared only when it is ordered,” general manager Jermin Espino says. And there is no MSG in any of their dishes, something they are extremely proud of.

The Teriyaki Boy Chicken is especially delectable. A hefty piece of boneless chicken cooked in a special Japanese grill making it absolutely tender and juicy while being completely cooked all through out, it is a dish that just explodes with flavor in your mouth and makes you crave for more. Of course, it is largely due to Teriyaki Boy’s signature sauce that takes hours of preparation and cooking. The recipe is exclusive to the company and is only known to a handful of people.

Their Ebi or Shrimp Tempura is also quite a treat. Large, black tiger prawns cooked with a centuries-old tempura mix recipe courtesy of Teriyaki Boy’s partnership with Mochizuki Company of Japan, the dish is crisp and scrumptious. It is served with the tempura sauce freshly made and piping hot.

Other sure hits include the California Maki, Sashimi, Ebiko Gunkan and Uni (sea urchin), their delightful Unagi and the Chawan Mushi — an interesting hot soy dish with seafood meat.

Teriyaki Boy has slowly but surely expanded

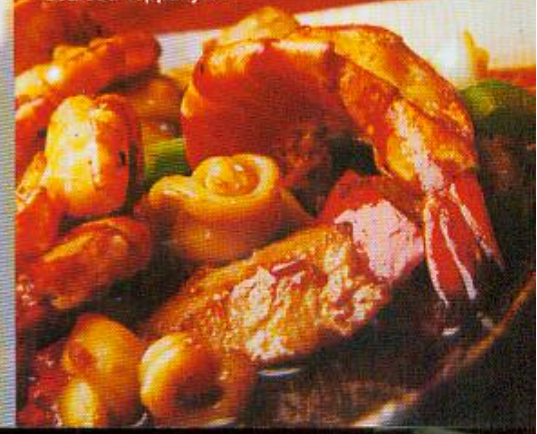
since it opened its first branch in Madison Square, Green in August 2001. It then put up branches in Tomas Morat (largest branch) and in Glorietta 3, which has sustained a following. It opened two more branches recently, staking Japanese casual dining claim up North and down South. Teriyaki Boy, Baguio is situated at the second level of Session Road, quite a good location as it is very visible going up. Teriyaki Boy, Alabang is located on the third level of Festival Mall, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Their Alabang branch was a natural and easy decision for them as they have been getting a lot of inquiries on when they would open a branch there. In fact, many Alabang residents have been going all the way to the Manila branches just to eat at the restaurant. For Baguio, the opportunity was there so they decided to take it. “Nobody really owns the Japanese restaurant category in Baguio,” Bob Vallar says. “We realize that the market is ripe.”

“We want us to be a part of Filipino family life eventually,” says Jermin Espino. Fast, affordable and a place where you can throw unnecessary stuffiness out the window, Teriyaki Boy is a pioneer. Because of this, it would surely be a by-word in the sharp tongues of the hungry Pinoy.

— *Jacs T. Sampayan* ✦



Seafood Teppanyaki



たっ
少年

TOKYO ♥ OSAKA ♥ MANILA



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Chickens
are Created
Equal”**

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Japanese restaurant”

たっ
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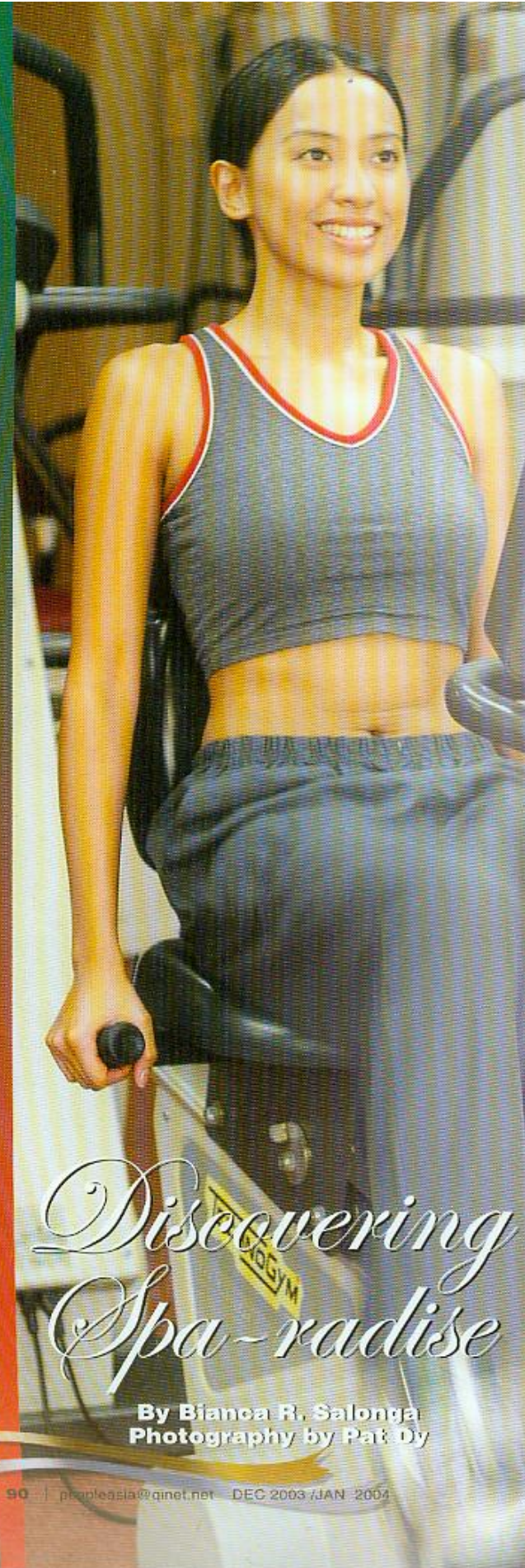


Teriyaki Boy chicken

Special marinated tender and succulent
boneless chicken lavish with our very
own Teriyaki Boy Sauce

**“It’s just
not fair”**

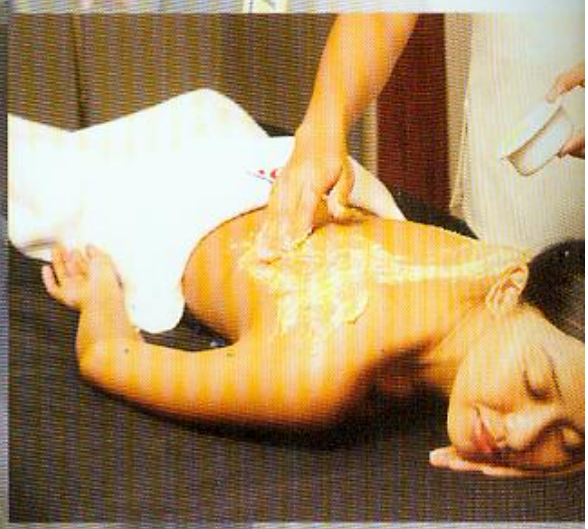
Madison Square, Greenhills • Tomas Morato, Quezon City • Glorietta 3, Makati • 3rd Level Festival Mall, Alabang



Notice how many times the word "stress" is uttered in a day. In a culture that relies on something "instant" written on it, there are no exemptions from fatigue, disquietude and exasperation. Unless you are one of those individuals who refuse to join the rat race, stress is a normal and at some point, a necessary part of one's life. As levels of stress and anxiety vary, people have also developed their own ways of coping. Some frequent pubs for a few drinks, only to wake up the next day with a splitting headache. Others indulge in sports as means for them to release their frustrations and, in some disturbing cases, angst over work. And there are those who are cranky all 24 hours of the day, ever ready to scream and swear at the top of their lungs over the most trivial of things.

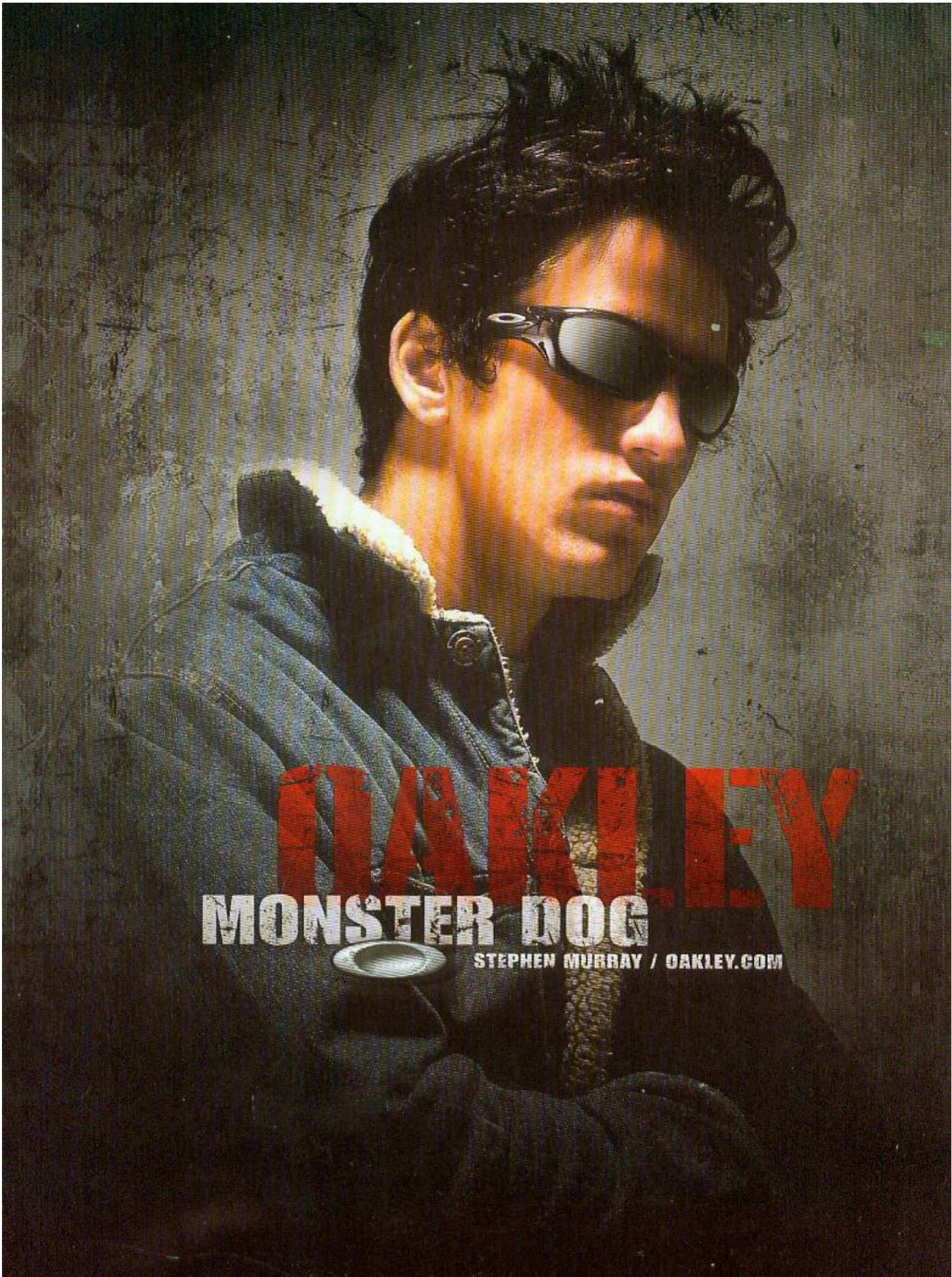
Welcome to earth — a breeding nest for paranoia, constant migraines, insomnia and nervous breakdowns.

At the center of a concrete jungle of countless high-rise buildings and busy streets lies a health club and spa at the fourth floor of Discovery Center. While going to the spa used to be a luxury, many are beginning to realize that a couple of hours in a nurturing, clean and serene atmosphere is the perfect way to unwind at the end of the day. Not too long ago, the common concept of health was salad swimming in a sea of dressing and a bottle of multi-vitamins. Here's a better suggestion — turn-off that cellphone and keep your eyes off that laptop or palm and give yourself a spa treatment. At the Discovery Spa, professional, licensed estheticians and therapists, and an Aquamassage machine (don't let its appearance intimidate you because once inside, you will get the best massage you've ever had) will definitely wash away all those worries, cares and aches that have long been bothering you. Each client may experience massage therapy, body treatment, the Asian spa service or Thalgo Facials and eye treatment. Take >



Discovering Spa-radise

By Bianca R. Salonga
Photography by Pat Oy



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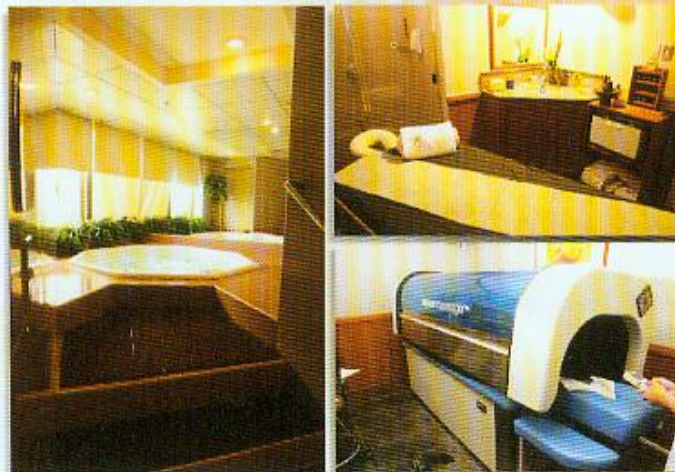


STEPHEN MURRAY / OAKLEY.COM

your pick. For ultimate pampering, avail yourself of their special packages. It's a sure de-stress cure that will make you forget about that report you haven't even started on, or the grueling schedule in your agenda yesterday and the other days to come.

Members of the Discovery Spa are able to use the Techno Gym, termed as such because of the isotonic and cardiovascular gym equipment used during the Sydney Olympics in 2000. They may also join in on the many exercise classes — aqua aerobics, powerboxing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Pilates and aikido. Satisfy your hunger without suffering the consequences of high-calorie counts. A health snack bar sits in the corner (with a staff) busily creating interesting concoctions of pastas, sandwiches, fruit shakes and salads that, unlike most diet meals, don't taste like cardboard. Though walk-ins are accommodated, members get special rates on all spa services, free use of all the facilities. More recently, Discovery Spa extended its efforts by organizing events every so often that would encourage people to actually make health and well-being a lifestyle instead of a bogus entry in their list of hobbies and interests.

Stress will remain a part of everybody's life, spa or no spa. Nobody is entirely free from the toxins of fast-food culture. But if one could find bliss — an escape from city living inferno, for a few hours at least, it couldn't possibly hurt to make time for a massage, a body treatment, an exercise class and a guilt-free meal. As stated earlier, this is not a perfect world, and in as far as this writer is concerned, there is no such place as paradise. There exists, however, a place that comes close to it. †





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Southern Belle

By Ann Montemar-Oriondo • Photography by Jojo Guingona



She's only 36 years old but she's already the general manager of a luxurious hotel in the heart of one of the country's booming business hubs. But don't let her relatively young age mislead you. For if the charming Cyndy Tan-Jarabata has quickly risen up the hotel corporate ladder to become The Bellevue Hotel's general manager, it is because she made up her mind early on that the hotel industry would be her world.



Considering that the position of general manager in the local hotel industry has long been dominated by expats and males, one can appreciate Cindy's accomplishment even more.

"I cannot be just anyone else," is how Cyndy describes her efforts to be the best she can be. "I've always believed in the dignity of labor. So whatever you do, you have to be the best you can be, and you have to benchmark yourself with others."

"Your work is to discover your world and then with all your heart give yourself to it," Buddha had said, and that's what Cyndy has done since she was 18. That was when Cyndy experienced a major personal crisis, which set her on course for a make-or-break life-altering decision. "What am I going to do now?" Cyndy recalls asking herself back then. She didn't want to go "crying back" to her parents, so she decided to strike out on her own. "This is when I made the master plan of my life," Cyndy relates. "I made a mistake but where would I go from there? I had nothing to lose so I decided to be on my own."

Working in an uncle's travel agency, which helped hone her accounting skills, Cyndy met hoteliers and airline people whose presence convinced her that she would enjoy working in a travel-related field. So off Cyndy went to work as a sales coordinator for Cebu's Shangri-La Hotel. She followed this with stints as sales manager of Palawan's high-end Amanpulo and as account manager of Manila's Diamond Hotel. Wherever she worked, a secret of Cyndy's success was to be "sensitive to clients' needs."

"If I work, I really work," Cyndy shares. You realize exactly what she means when she recounts the time when, pregnant with her second child, she did not let a raging storm nor floods deter her from riding a tricycle and then a jeepney to submit a business proposal on time.

Cyndy took a break from the hotel industry for three years by setting up a catering company. Although she did not cook, she says she enjoyed catering because she "knew how to strategize and market." Working from her own kitchen, Cyndy's staff prepared food catered to such big firms as Equitable Bank and Philippine Airlines.

After three years, the Westin Philippine Plaza offered Cyndy the post of head of catering and she said, "Why not?" It was Arthur Lopez, then Westin's general manager, who eventually asked her to become the marketing and membership director of Makati's >>>

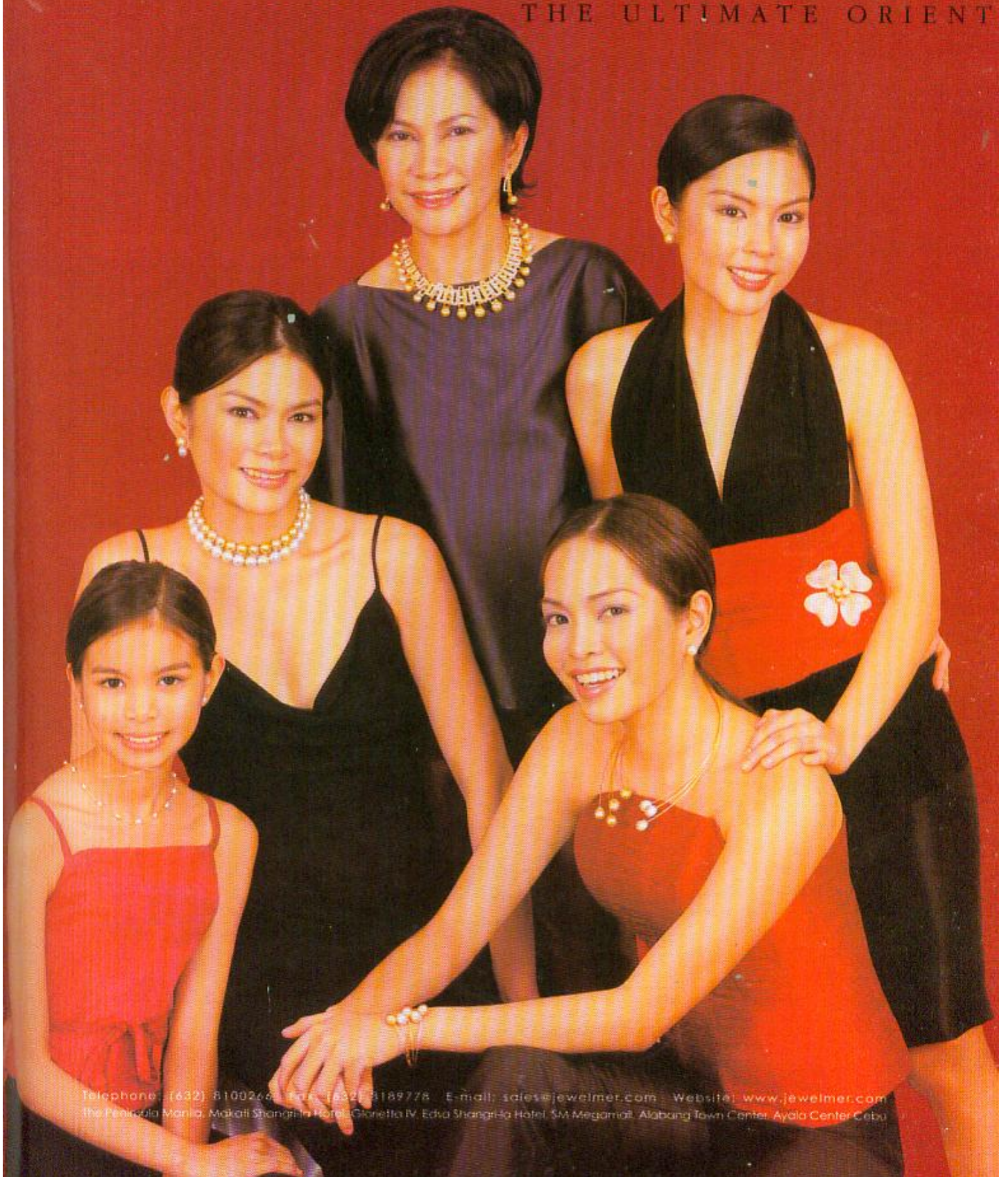
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Cyndy (middle) is a hands-on manager who focuses on the core competency of the Bellevue Hotel personnel. From left are Orly Galingana, Patrick Chan, Mina Sabino, Joy Bata, Ryan Chan, Rudy dela Peña and Jeng Ricalde.

prestigious Tower Club. It was also Arthur Lopez who told Cyndy that she has what it takes to become general manager of a luxury hotel.

Rather than balk at the thought of holding such an awesome responsibility, Cyndy took on the challenge. "I am a very hands-on manager. You have to focus on the core competency of people and hiring the right people. If you hire the wrong people, it bogs you down."

Cyndy also pays meticulous attention to details. She writes down notes on the back of business cards, for example, to remember the details about people she meets. "I find that I have an even better memory now than when I was younger!" she shares with a laugh.

After running The Bellevue for half a year now, Cyndy feels right at home, just as if she was meant to work in this Alabang hotel. "I feel like this hotel is just an extension of my home," says Cyndy. "When people see me now and how I looked before, they tell me, 'The job is you.' I was really meant for this property."

In this sense, Cyndy sees herself and her staff as hosts entertaining in their own homes. Cyndy thus defines hospitality at The Bellevue as "coming from the generosity of a host."

"It's like a French hotel," Cyndy says with pride about The Bellevue. "In (the context of) the booming south, we have a certain niche in this market; we cater to business and also the local community." Cyndy adds that apart from its deluxe facilities like the 20/20 entertainment center at the

topmost floor (which has a spectacular view of Alabang and its surroundings), the Bellevue Spa Club, function rooms and dining areas, a 1,000-seater ballroom is being added to the hotel.

Besides attending to her career, Cyndy is also the wife of Greg Jarabata who heads a human resource company, and the mother of 17-year-old Michelle and eight-year-old Gabriel. "I try as much as possible to have four dinners a week with the children," Cyndy says with a smile. "I think it's a must."

Cyndy devotes her free time to advocacies, which include Advocates for Youth, of which she is president. "It's a proactive campaign to prevent teen pregnancy," she elaborates. Cyndy is as passionate about her socio-civic responsibilities as she is about her career, explaining, "As individuals, we have a role to play. We have to have a moral responsibility to give back to the community that has given us much."

So why does Cyndy continue working so hard?

"I'd like to give returns to the hotel," Cyndy replies. "Through this I can give more quality of life to our associates — the 100 regular employees and the casuals. In business, the return to investors is important. For why will people put a business together if it will not earn?"

What she aspires for, Cyndy reveals, is to have "moral courage. It's a leadership skill where you choose something that is right rather than something that is popular."

Whatever comes in the future, however, Cyndy is certain: "You can't solve a problem by using the same things you had when you created them. There is opportunity in adversity. Mistakes should be taken as education." ♣

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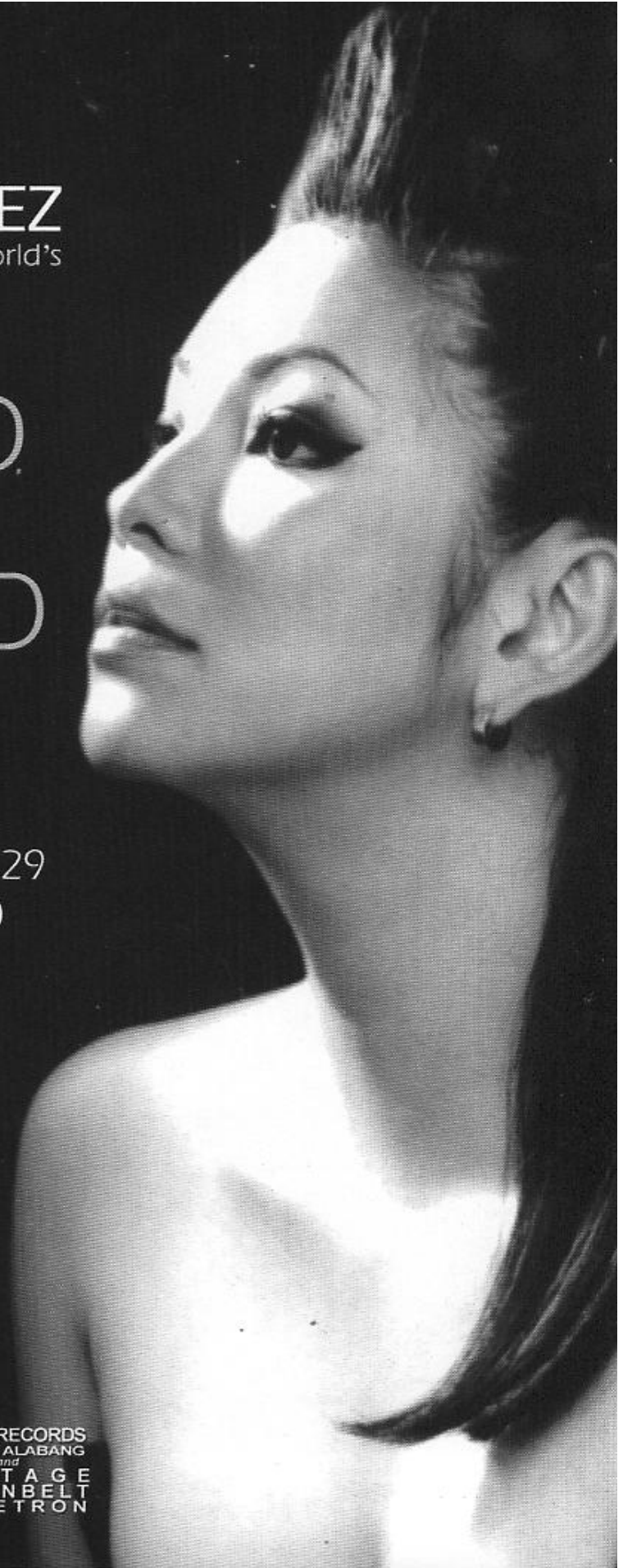
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GALLERY

Love and Beauty



Nini, Amado, Cristal and Chari Bagatsing



Love 14's Nini and husband Abe Licaros.



Mannequins in Escada gowns.

Love 14 Foundation presented the annual Gala Presentation of Manila's Five Loveliest 2004 at the Rizal Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. The city's elite were there to witness this traditional event. The production presentation, sponsored by Techno Marine, showcased the elegance of Manila society.



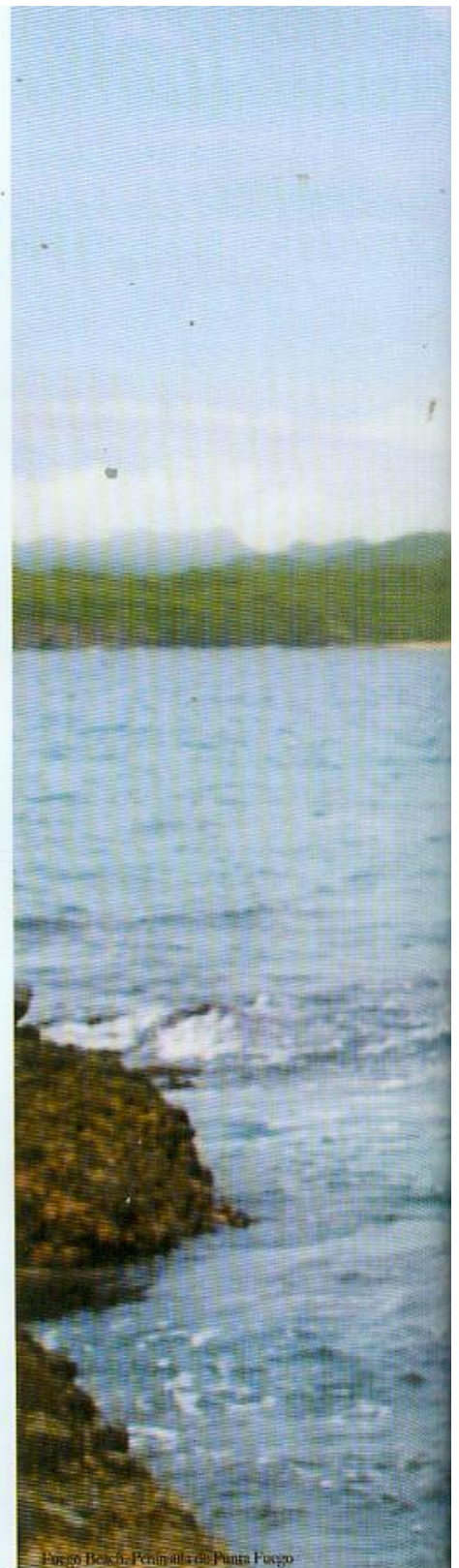
Bonnie, Rona and Virma Vergel de Dios with Naty Pappas



Helen Ong with Lita, Paula and Atty. Dupil Garcia



Manila's loveliest Paula Garcia, Cristal Bagatsing, Rumples Santos Estacio, I.C. Trinidad Tirona and Rona Vergel de Dios.



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Air 21's Alberto Lina



Up to speed with Air 21

In a world where speed is the name of the game, it is clear that Alberto "Bert" D. Lina is ahead. As a master of the art of logistics, he built a group of companies that can now be considered one of the most successful in the country – Linaheim, or as Bert Lina puts it, the House of Lina. The Lina Group of Companies is into almost everything – from waste and resources management, mail and freight delivery, to cargo handling and warehouse management. However, if we're talking about speed, Air 21 tops the line.

"Air 21 stands out as the total logistics solutions provider for all its clients," Lina says. "But more than just a means to an end, Air 21 speaks of everything that separates it from the rest. For starters, it is a truly 'Proudly-Filipino' brand that was developed from years of experience in the world of logistics solutions, making it the best of its kind." Lina adds that the logo itself speaks plainly and clearly of what it stands for – the three rays representing the full coverage of three major islands

of the Philippines, while it also mirrors the company's principles of speed, reliability and security. These are the cornerstones upon which the whole company has built its character and integrity.

Driven by the utmost desire to serve its clientele with premium quality products and personal services, Lina says that Air 21 transcends quick turn-over and time-bound delivery of all transactions, while in the same breath, it furthers its mission to assist its clients to do the same with their customers. For Lina, if the world has FedEx, the Philippines has Air 21.

"We were built on the principle and a strong sense of urgency as if everything we are handling were needed yesterday," Lina says, smiling. In a world where profit is spelled S.P.E.E.D. and technology is only as good as yesterday's news, it's clearly a 21st-century maxim to base your business on, he says. "In this business, *pag babagal-bagal ka*, you will be left behind. There's no other way to succeed in this business but to put state-of-the-art technology and efficient human resources to come up with a great idea for the country."

It all started with a vision for the country in 1979, and the development of a freight and cargo handling business called Airfreight 2100 Inc. Lina, believing that a fast and effective freight forwarding industry serves as the lifeline of the country, made the first step to serve the shipping needs of Filipinos from all walks of life.

One of the most significant turning points in the business is when Airfreight 2100 became the official licensee of Federal Express Corp. (FedEx) in the Philippines in 1985. Since then, it has handled all major pick-up and delivery for FedEx in the country, and was granted the sole authority to use the FedEx trademark. In 1997, according to Lina, the company became the first FedEx Global Service partner in the Asia-Pacific region to receive the ISO 9002 certification from the Lloyd's Registrar's Quality Assurance of London. And for two years in a row, the company was awarded the Most Outstanding Cargo Forwarder by the Consumers Union of the Philippines at the Annual National Consumers Awards, a confirmation of the dedication and efficiency the company has provided its clientele for many years.

Today, it has evolved into a more personalized service company servicing the needs of Filipinos as Air 21.

Air 21 serves all major destinations across the archipelago, Lina stresses, everything from huge business districts to small cities. The company offers pick-up and delivery of packages that is incomparable to anything existing in the country. It possesses and covers a wide network and is dependent on the logistics requirement of the company's clientele.

The company does not only cover Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, it likewise covers air, land and sea services. For one, Air 21's Sea2Sea services is a low cost alternative to sending packages and bulk shipments to any point in the Philippines through very safe sea routes. Air 21 Cargodega provides one of the best warehousing services this side of the country, offering storage, picking, packing plus crating and inventory management to safeguard the shipment. Undoubtedly, the company will go the extra mile to ensure safety for all heavy and fragile shipments on air, land and sea.

"It is indeed a necessary requirement for us to always

prepare contingency plans whenever safety questions are raised," Lina maintains. "There are several possible scenarios that may occur in a given time and place, and we have specific operational plans for each. These range from limited access to the company's operating grounds to total disruption of operations, pick-ups, deliveries, and even support functions if a situation turns violent. However, these contingency plans depends on the gravity of the situation and we have set responsibilities on how these will be executed should we face such incidents."

Being the sole licensee of FedEx for more than a decade now is definitely one of the greatest achievements of Lina. "I believe what made this possible are the same reasons that were seen by FedEx to entrust 100 percent of the operations to the company from the very beginning."

Having been operational for approximately 10 years, Airfreight 2100 Inc. has learned the basics of the logistics industry so well that it was able to convert this knowledge into a kind and level of performance that is well-respected in the industry. The team, Lina discloses, is a group of professionals that's all so willing to learn and discover new ways and methods of improving the business. The company is so safety conscious that it is now using a tracking technology that allows it to know and pinpoint with 100-percent accuracy where every single delivery truck is located at any given time and day. "We will leave no room for errors, and as much as possible, more room for mobility and progress. Some people have termed it the magic of logistics. In my case, however, I prefer to call it the revolution in the logistics industry in the Philippines," Lina explains.

Keeping the same international standards has always been a challenge to Air 21 in general and to Lina in particular. It's not always easy to begin something new and dynamic in the Philippines where for the most part, people would rather settle and patronize what is commonplace. For Lina and his team of men and women, it's a challenge that's worth every drop of sweat and blood. Being the hands-on manager that he's always been, Lina aims to push the integrity limit of the company to its very boundaries. It's total convenience and safety packaged in one huge all-Filipino name – Air 21.

With this kind of dedication to safety and speed, it would not be surprising at all if one day Lina and his team would engage themselves in the formidable task of breaking the industry's record for speed.

—Joel P. Salud ✱

GALLERY

UWAK Cup flies again!



Mabec Kawsek, Gelda Santos, Elvira Liboro, Eloisa Campos, Sylvia Montemayor, Sylvia Singson and Polly Aquino



Akio Sekii

The Second Uwak Cup organized by the Wack-Wack Ladies Chapter teed off successfully with winners treated to a sumptuous buffet in a program hosted by golf enthusiast Andy Dumlaog. Globe Telecoms, Akio Sekii, OSIM/GNC, PCSO, San Miguel Corp., Abante, Splash Corp. and Euro-Med helped make the Uwak Cup soar.

Photography by IVAN SANTOS



Chuck and Mark Laurel with Freddie Herrera



Dean Lao Jr.



Rio Co and Alice Jose



Jun Salientes, Ting Singson and Manolo Roxas

A Grand Night



Washington Sycip, Vinie Formoso and Mila Garcia



Tom Zita



Peggy and Pipo Angeles



Angelito Gabriel and Kimsun Ng

Hong Kong-based conglomerate, the Kuok Group of Companies, launched its latest property development known as The Shang Grand Tower at ceremonies held at the Makati Shangri-La.



Atty. Frederico Noel



Pat Obsuna, Angelo Calma and Khoo Boo Boon

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PCSO chairman Honey Girl Singson-de Leon



Honey Girl de Leon:

The here and now

By Kap Maceda Aguila • Photography by Jojo Guingona

We have caught the bespectacled lady in a sour mood. “Yes *kayo nang yes, wala namang nangyayari,*” she snaps, and walks away from a group of men who sheepishly hang their heads. Hands folded in her chest with indignation, she turns her attention to a mock raffling of numbers for a soon-to-be instituted game. The lady keenly checks all the details — from the time it takes for the big roulette to stop to the lighting in the studio.

Welcome to Vigan-born Maria Livia Singson de Leon’s domain — the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. There is no question who’s in charge here. The name “Honey Girl,” lovingly bestowed by her parents, seems an ill fit to the very strong-willed woman before us, but it nonetheless remains the name she chooses to publicly go by. To be fair, the PCSO chairman says that the scene we witnessed in the draw court (where lotto and other draws are held) is more the exception than the rule.

“*Malambot ang puso ko kung minsan,*” she says, “unless I get fed up. I give people a second, third and fourth chance. *Pero pag puno na ako,* they will hear something from me.” She admits to being particularly fastidious about deadlines, for instance. “But you know, I’ve never had any problems with my subordinates even when I was

in the private sector. I think my workers in the tobacco trading business adored me," she laughs. "They enjoyed my company."

Getting into public service

A true-blue child of the country's tobacco region, Honey Girl had been heavily into tobacco trading and agriculture even before she got married. She majored in English at the Assumption Convent in San Lorenzo, and finished her subsequent masters in public administration at the University of Northern Philippines. Honey Girl also tried her hand at teaching for St. Paul's College of Ilocos Sur and the University of Northern Philippines.

A career shift into public service, however, was precipitated by her *kuya* — the man who rose into nationwide prominence with the ouster of President Joseph Estrada. We speak, of course, of former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson.

"He wanted me to try it out because they had a slot at the board of the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration. I was already in the tobacco business, anyway. But of course I had to give up the business to avoid conflict of interest," she narrates. In that capacity, Honey Girl excelled, and was cited "Outstanding Lady Director in Government."

The PCSO boss and media

For now, Honey Girl finds genuine fulfillment in her task at the PCSO. She delights in being a front liner in a war against poverty and disease. The office has numerous beneficiaries, from the Philippine Sports Commission to orphanages, centers for the handicapped, streetchildren, senior citizens — the marginalized sectors. PCSO also has endowment fund programs for hospitals and their charity patients. Although it earns less than PAGCOR, the onus for helping the less privileged seems to fall largely on PCSO, as far as the public is concerned.

Honey Girl wants to be up to that task, though it is one fraught with many difficulties. Part of her occupation's hazard seems to be negative publicity. Honey Girl has been caught in the maelstrom of media attention — especially when it was recently alleged that the First Couple had been dipping their fingers into PCSO funds.

Honey Girl shrugs and tries to explain the ruckus. "I guess it's because we're one of the bigger revenue-generating agencies of government. Some people want to create issues, *at titignan nila kung saan merong pera*

sa government. PCSO and PAGCOR are the easier targets."

When asked if the press has been fair to the government: "I notice that the media seems to always thrive on the negative news. I think it's already a culture that has been developed among our media practitioners. And that's sad. Regardless of whose administration it is, dwelling so much on the bad news, as well as sensationalizing, is counterproductive, not to mention the inaccurate reporting at times."

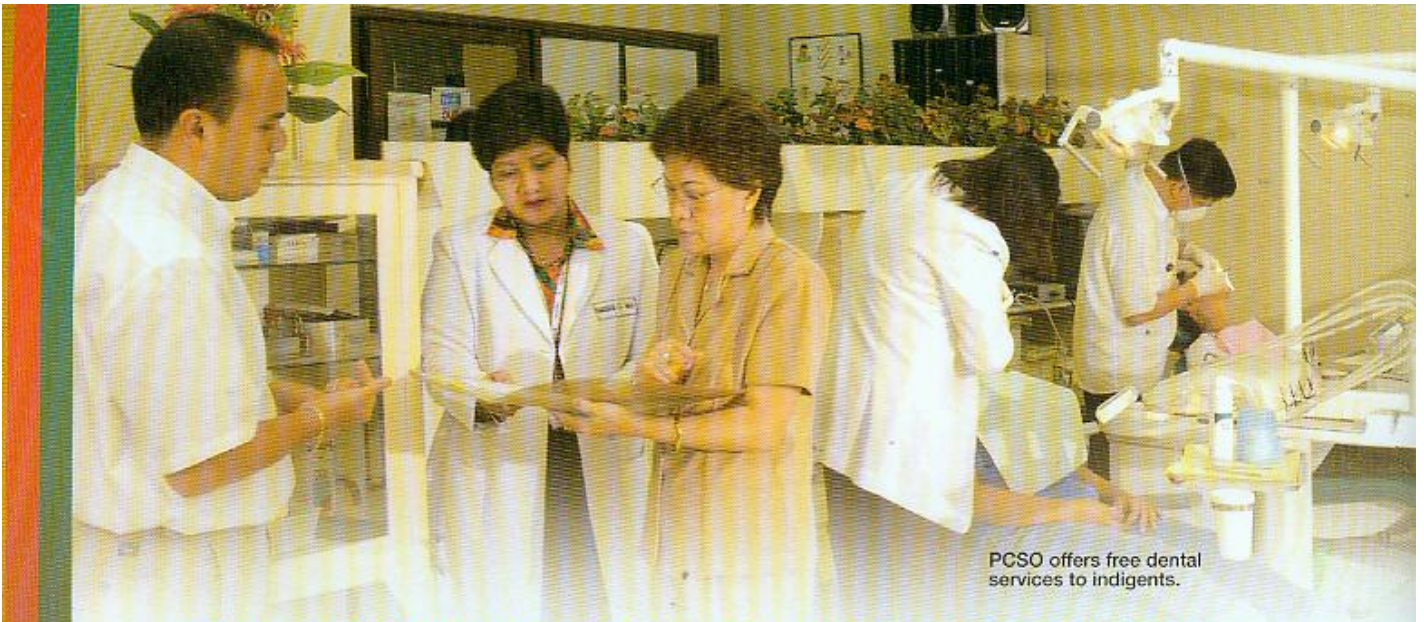
Consequently, Honey Girl admits that she doesn't read the papers nowadays. "I get so dismayed," she laments. "It's my husband who reads all the papers, and if there are news items that he knows will be of interest to me, he calls my attention to them."

When asked if the media have been fair to her: "Are you kidding me?" she fumes. "The issues are presented to the people even before allegations and accusations are verified. What has been happening is that we are put on the defensive and it's so difficult to undo whatever wrong perceptions people might have. If only they will really look, they will have enough good material to print."

But there is precious little time to spend bickering. Honey Girl went right to work when she was appointed in February 2001. She quickly ascertained the status quo at PCSO. "What I did initially was to look at the prevailing situation in the office. I wanted to know all about the revenue-generating capacity vis-à-vis the services and programs that the PCSO is rendering the public. Right off, I was made aware that the demand for PCSO's assistance was escalating at a speed that wasn't matched by the pace of the income-generating operations of our office," she shares.

The new chairman then decided to improve key areas of agency operations such as marketing, systems, and procedures. Under her watch, gross revenue rose from P6 billion per year to more than P19 billion in 2002. She's confident of the momentum they have gained and hopes to exceed their yearly targets. On the "charity" side, however, she's not all that happy. "I noticed that the bureaucratic process makes it too long to request for assistance and medications — considering that these are urgent demands. Honestly speaking, until now, I am still not satisfied."

Honey Girl usually finds herself staying until nine p.m. to finish her paperwork. She also monitors all the draws. "During regular office hours, there is >>>



PCSO offers free dental services to indigents.

“I’m confident enough that wherever I will land, I have enough to cover my time. I want to get back into the private sector, but I’m also open to another government position if I have the opportunity. I’ve had some things that I’ve been wanting to do, but I can only do these as a private citizen.”

always a queue of people who want to talk to me. Office hours are my only time for paperwork,” she says.

Options and Chavit

With the national elections fast approaching, Honey Girl is still mulling over her decision to run as an elective official. “It really depends on the options I have a few months from now,” she reveals.

When asked if she has gotten any tips from Chavit, Honey Girl volunteers some interesting information. “No. In fact, he’s blocked my bid for an elective position a couple of times.”

Why?

“I don’t know. I ran for congress in my district in Ilocos Sur *pero* it was blocked by my own brother. He made everything possible for me not to win. I was an independent candidate and he was with LDP. According to him, it was not the right time for me. I was running against his candidate. I ran only because all his mayors came to me and they did not want his candidate. They wanted me to run instead and they said, ‘You’ll change his mind,’ but unfortunately I never did.” That became a huge source of heartache for Honey Girl, and a catalyst for a sibling fallout.

“I did not talk to him for six months after that. Before that, I was working for him and immediately

after the elections, he wanted me back. The day after, he was sending emissaries.” Eventually, Chavit’s efforts softened his younger sister’s heart.

From Honey Girl’s perspective, the future is one filled with many doors. She doesn’t burden herself with making tough decisions just yet. “I’m confident enough that wherever I will land, I have enough to cover my time. I want to get back into the private sector, but I’m also open to another government position if I have the opportunity. I’ve had some things that I’ve been wanting to do, but I can only do these as a private citizen.”

If she did have the time, she’d like to write her memoirs, and maybe get into some screenplay writing. “I already did one screenplay but it has not been produced up to now,” she grins. “I haven’t been able to get the right producers. But I’d like to get into some serious writing.”

There are no regrets that she ever got into public service... well, not many, that is. “If ever I have any regret, it’s just having to give up a lot of time which should have been devoted to my family. Luckily, the members of my family have been very supportive and understanding. And what has been happening is that the few occasions that I can spend with them become quality time with my children (all boys — Jose Mario Don, Jonas Guy and Nicholas Joseph) and *apos*.”

The time to make decisions and choices will come for Honey Girl de Leon. But today, she works to take care of the here and now. †



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Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

Mapagkalinga...

Ganyan ang Pilipino, Ganyan ang PCSO.



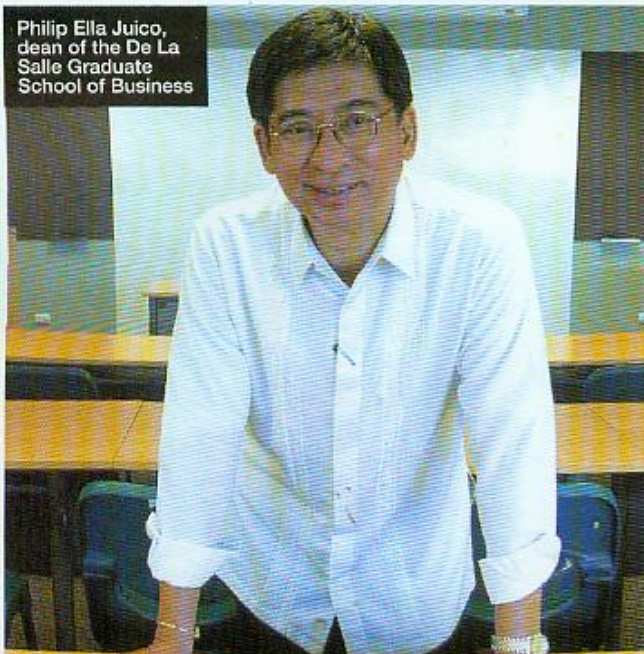
Pagkakawanggawa ang naging batayan ng Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office nang ilunsad ang Sweepstakes at Lotto para sa mga nangangailangan.

Noon at ngayon, nangunguna ang PCSO sa larangan ng kawanggawa.

PCSO, Handog ng Pilipino sa kapwa Pilipino.



Philip Ella Juico,
dean of the De La
Salle Graduate
School of Business



Mastering the Mind

Photo by Manny Marcelo

It would be an understatement to say that today's business environment has become very competitive. In the past, corporate giants did not necessarily need a master's degree to make a few millions or so. A handful of connections in the industry and sufficient capital seemed enough to get one started in life. Today, it takes more than just a diploma and an impressive résumé to get the job of your dreams. It is this rapidly changing landscape of the global market that has served as an inspiration for the De La Salle University Professional Schools Inc., Graduate School of Business in creating an MBA program based on an innovative and responsive approach to education. Dean Philip Ella Juico gives us a crash course on keeping with the times and staying a step ahead of others.

"I've been the dean of the De La Salle Graduate School of Professional Business since April 2002. So far, it's been refreshing and uplifting because anything that has to do with education gives me a chance to help in the formation of others," Juico began. Though not new to the field of teaching, Philip Juico has also spent a relatively large amount of time in public service. He explained, "I was secretary of Agrarian Reform for two years. I was the youngest cabinet member of President Cory Aquino in 1987. Then I was appointed chairman of the Philippine Sports Commission during the time of President Ramos."

Obviously, taking the position of dean was the perfect job for him. Juico recalled, "Brother Rolly Dizon called me up one day and asked if I would consider being the dean of the Graduate School. I said yes because I have always been fascinated by education. Being an educator in an administrative position was a dream. Anything that has to do with training, helping develop, helping produce certain outputs as a result of your instruction has always been fascinating." He went off to emphasize that as an educator, one can only go as far as to aid in the development of an individual. Though most may argue that the most important things in life may be learned outside the four walls of the classroom, Juico said, "Going to graduate school will certainly speed up your learning curve. You will be trained in looking at facts, reading the facts, absorbing the facts, trying to see how one fact relates to another to arrive at certain preliminary conclusions. You can acquire these skills out in the real world but there are several paths to knowledge. Having both is a very ideal situation."

The De La Salle University Professional Schools, Inc. Graduate School of Business aims to make the Philippine business and management industry more competitive in the international arena. Its curriculum and

faculty focus on imparting upon their students an awareness for the rapid global changes. "Graduate school helps you exercise good judgment. That is what administrators and managers are paid for. Also, going to Graduate School allows you to strengthen and polish your people skills," Juico stated. Combining expert classroom exercises and practical experience, the DLSU Professional Schools offer courses such as Business Administration, Computational Finance, Business Administration-Juris Doctor (a dual-degree program made possible through a collaboration with Far Eastern University's Institute of Law) and Property Management. As a response to the growing significance of other industries, DLSU now offers Sports and Recreation Management and Culture and Arts Management. Juico shared, "Our program is characterized by pragmatic idealism. We provide the framework, the environment for education." Utilizing both online and traditional methods of teaching, DLSU is one of the better centers for higher learning in Asia. And as a means to keeping with the times, the university works hand-in-hand with the Association of Deans of Southeast Asian Graduate Schools of Management (ADSGM) and the ASEAN University Network Graduate Business/Economics Programs (AGBEP).

Beyond books, tests and homework, DLSU ultimately aims to produce individuals who are professionally capable in their respective fields and socially responsible for their decisions. And what good would a great deal of knowledge do if it does not lead to action? As Philip Ella Juico points out, "We address real people, real problems, the real world." —
Bianca R. Salonga †

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Parts and Service





Designing Happiness

By Stef Juan • Photography by Robert Altamirano



One must love the Almario sisters — Ivy and Cynthia — not only for their work as interior designers, but also for their way of breezing into a dimly lit room and brightening it all the way to its shadowed corners without having to flip a light switch on.

The couch you are sitting on gets more comfortable. You suddenly feel refreshed, and no matter how bad your day has been before this meeting, you find your face loosening up for a bright smile to match the ones the designers have on.

Ivy and Cynthia worked in the United States until Ivy returned to the country in 1993, to work on the renovation of the Manila Hotel. Cynthia followed four years later. These ladies are two of those people gifted with personalities that can put anybody at ease. This quality of comfort seeps into their work, no matter what the design is. "We definitely hold comfort over style," Ivy relates, pointing to the room that we are in — which they designed. "Even if this room is a traditional period piece, there is a relaxed quality to it. And even if the design is Mediterranean or even if it's modern, there is still warmth. Comfy — this is our trademark."

However, this is not to say that all of their designs look the same. Between the two of them, they have designed several hotels, restaurants, condominiums and residences. They have a wide range of designs because every job is different. Ivy explains that she figures out the theme for a particular project with two things in mind. "Sometimes I come in and there is already a finished place, so it depends on what the architecture demands. Secondly, it's also *pakiramdaman*. Intuitively, I tune in to the wishes of the owner." Apparently, this method works, for though their design firm does not do marketing, they never seem to run out of clients. "Most of it is referral work. They come to us because they have already seen something that we've done. They say, 'I like something like that, but a little more like this...'. So everything is custom-made for the person."

With the design varying from one client to another, compromises with the designer's aesthetic standards are inevitable. "Of course, there are always compromises," Ivy says, "because sometimes what you want can't be done structurally; what you want, in an engineering point of view, (is) impossible; or the supplier cannot. At a certain point, the client is no longer willing. Everything is the product of compromises. But the compromise is only — in any job — 10-15 percent; 85-90 percent of the time, the vision is followed."

For the most part, Ivy and Cynthia's clients give them free rein with their designs. "The people who hire us are at the time of their lives when they are already absolute about what they want. They are already figures of authority, and confident with their selves. They have enough confidence to say, 'I don't know anything; you take over.' Or sometimes they say, 'I know what I want, give me the best of my vision.' There's this mutual respect — they respect my work, I respect their wishes. That's why it's a referral business, because every client is satisfied."

How would they like a job with no boundaries? "That would be really nice," Ivy says with a laugh, "but that mythical client has never entered my mind. No matter how wealthy they are, at the end of the day there is always a budget. Even if they tell you the sky's the limit, *meron pa rin*."

Ultimately they see a design as a solution to an empty space — which is the problem. Not unlike how a mathematician sees a puzzle or an artist looking at a blank canvas. "Each room craves for a design solution. The finished product is the solution to the empty space," Ivy says, looking much like someone who relishes a good challenge. "My ideal space is lots of it. I like open space, tall ceiling height and big openings." >>>

She points to the ceiling of the room, "When it comes to sizing up a room for your design, one rule of thumb is to immediately check the ceiling height. Everything above nine feet is a bonus." She smiles before adding diplomatically, "Everything below nine feet is a challenge. The ceiling height will determine the approach you take. Another one of the top things you have to consider is lighting. So you look at how to create artificial light and make use of natural light. Interior design is art, but it's quite scientific, too."

It also sounds like a lot of work. Although her and her sister's firm is one of the top design firms in the country, Ivy confesses that she does not think much of the hard work that it took for them to get there. "I got to the top through hard work. I had the inner desire that each work should be my best work. So it's a natural propellant for me. I don't know of any other way to get to the top, of course. To be the best in anything, it takes a lot of hard work. But if work is your passion, it's okay," she beams at the thought.

"Just like in any business," Ivy continues, "you should keep improving yourself, researching and editing your thoughts and honing your mind through observation so that when a problem meets your way, you have the confidence to pull a solution off the top of your head. Because remember, in interior design, you're the front liner. *Andaming nasa likod mo.* The contractor, the window fabricator, the floor fabricator, the lighting consultant — about 10 tradesmen! If you're so slow, you will slow down the whole design process. Every interior designer has the responsibility to constantly be on the look out for trends — so they can apply it to their work." To keep herself in the loop of the trends in interior design, she buys all the related magazines she sees on the newsstands and goes to the bookstores once a month to buy new publications on interior design.

Watching Ivy and Cynthia (who was in and out of the room during the interview) answer questions about their line of work and talk candidly about the hard work involved, you would think that they were only talking about a day at the beach. They do not look the least bit tired at all. Their eyes light up when they mention the projects that they have already finished, and all the research they had to do for a certain project. Of course, if that certain project was like the yacht they had to take a crash course in Italy on boat designing for, or The Spa in Greenbelt 3, you would not blame them for sounding enthusiastic about their work.

"The Spa was our favorite project, in the last six months," Cynthia says. "Our client was very nice, she even sent us to Bangkok to shop and experience the best spa there."

"We're workaholics, sometimes not by choice," Ivy says, when asked what they do with their free time. "But we love shopping," Cynthia quips. Ivy laughs in agreement, "Yes! Visual stimulation and also traveling." It is no coincidence that shopping and traveling go well with their line of work.

If they were not interior designers, Cynthia and Ivy agree on what they would rather be. "We would want to have the lives of our clients!" Cynthia says, amidst peals of laughter. "In our next life, we would like to be them," Ivy adds. "We'd like to be the ones to say, 'Can you make the living room three meters wider?' and it happens."

After the barrage of questions and the answers mixed with laughter, we sat back on our comfortable seats, still smiling at each other and to ourselves. The room is suddenly quiet, but the air is lighter and the room brighter than the first time they stepped into the room. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that even if they do wish to be like their own clients in another life, there is no mistaking that they are certainly happy with the life that they have right now as interior designers, hard work and all. "Of course we are happy, honey," Ivy says. "If we're not happy, then the work would suffer." Judging from their works that we have seen so far, they seem very happy indeed. ✦



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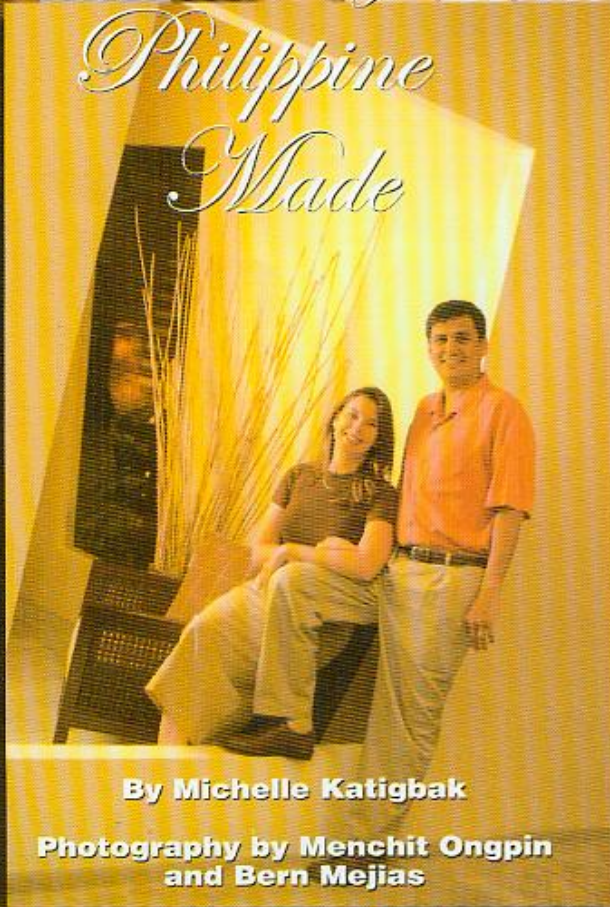
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Nick de Lange with wife
Roseanne (inset)

Proudly Philippine Made



By Michelle Katigbak

**Photography by Menchit Ongpin
and Bern Mejias**

In these days when it seems that the best of the best there is to offer is always imported, it's refreshing and, to be honest, exhilarating, to find global quality products that are proudly made in the Philippines. With the vast amount of talent available in our beloved island's shores, it only seems right and natural to utilize this skill and harness it to produce world-class products that are not only aesthetically pleasing but functional as well.

One man who has done just this is Nicolaas K. de Lange, Nick to his friends and family. Nick is the president of Designs Ligna Inc., a company dedicated to producing world-class pieces of furniture by sculpting wood into beautiful and original forms. From smooth textures to unbelievable attention to detail, Designs Ligna has been known for manufacturing furniture that are not only nice to look at and functional, but can last the test of time.

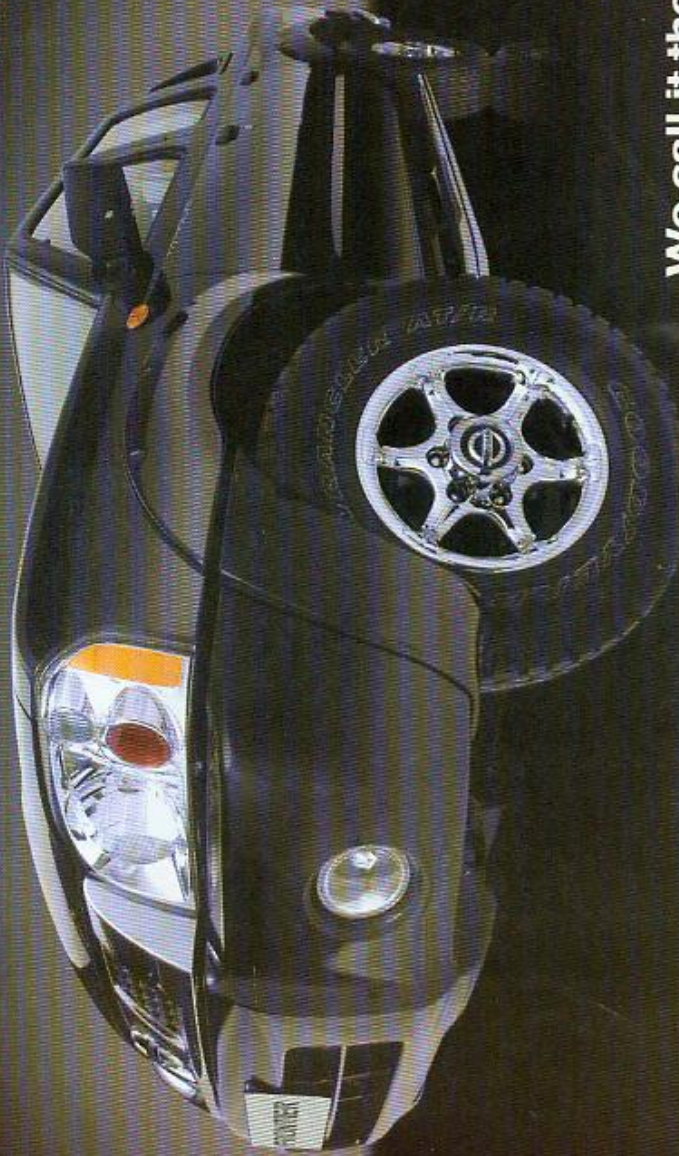
"This company was born out of a love for handcrafted furniture creatively manufactured by professional Filipino artisans," Nick explains with a smile. "We strive to make every single piece of furniture that we create a piece that can be kept forever. It's more than just simply work for us. We love what we do and we take pride in what we do, so we always give our all in every piece that comes from our showroom."

This sincere dedication that De Lange instills in his work is the driving force behind his entire life. Born in Pasay to industrial designer Alfonso Nakpil de Lange and potter Kay de Lange, Nick was brought up to believe in the values of simplicity, honesty, and hard work. Pursuing academics at the Ateneo de Manila University further solidified his beliefs, and after graduation he became a volunteer for the Jesuit Volunteers of the Philippines teaching second, third, and fourth year high school in Pangantucan, Bukidnon. For Nick, his work is a means of serving others in the industry to the best of his ability.

Nick de Lange clearly followed in his father's footsteps and took over Designs Ligna from his parents in 1989. He was the driving force behind the changes that slowly transformed the already well-known furniture company into a complete lifestyle store with first class and personalized service. "I understand the industry is continuously changing," Nick candidly admits. "We strive to recognize these changes and grow with them further improving ourselves along the way."

Although wood has remained the raw material of choice for Designs Ligna – "Ligna" being the Latin word for wood – they've found new and inventive >>>

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ways to carve and mold the wood to suit the ever-changing taste of discriminating homeowners everywhere. "While we really try to cater to our own local market first and foremost," Nick explains, "we have grown considerably abroad as well. There are several pieces that have been a sensation. One such piece is one of my father's originals, a multi-purpose folding bar. We weren't really expecting to be making more of them but apparently even after all this time they're still a hit." It just goes to affirm the timelessness of their pieces.

These days, Designs Ligna furniture consists of several types of wood. While Philippine wood is beautiful and easy to work with, De Lange understands the importance of conservation of our natural resources and trees and keeps his use of them at a minimum. He uses several varieties of fine foreign wood and Philippine craftsmanship to produce world-class furniture pieces that are priced less than those in the global market, giving his customers value for money with every purchase.

While Designs Ligna takes up a lot of his time, Nick still manages to juggle other responsibilities as well. At the request of the industry, Nick is currently serving his second term as national president of the Chamber of Furniture Industries in the Philippines. "It's a lot of work but I feel like it was a great chance to serve others not only through my own business but by furthering the cause of the entire industry as well. Through the Chamber, I've had more opportunities to conceptualize programs to build interest in the entire local market and showcase our Philippine talent," Nick declares.

One such program Nick established in 1995 was the Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS). Now on its eighth year, the PIFS continues to promote local businesses and expand the Philippine furniture trade. From 1995 to 1997 Nick also chaired the Furniture Industry Board Foundation which helped develop curriculum for the Philippine Furniture Training Center. "The development of this curriculum addressed specific needs of those who will be continuing the Filipino tradition of excellent furniture," Nick explains. "It would be a loss to our country and a rejection of our heritage to allow this rich craft to disappear." Nick, the youngest president of the Chamber ever, also chaired the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council during his first year where, among other things, he helped strengthen the ASEAN Furniture Show held annually in Singapore.

Nick de Lange certainly has his hands full, but he still manages to squeeze in quality time with his

beloved family, too. Married to the lovely Rosanne Davis, who also serves as Designs Ligna's marketing director, Nick is the proud father of six active and happy children whom he adores and dotes upon. "I always make sure I have time to spend at home with my wife and kids. Family is very important to me and I know the kids are growing up really fast. Even with my busy schedule I make it a point to be able to play with my kids and spend enough time with my wife," Nick relates.

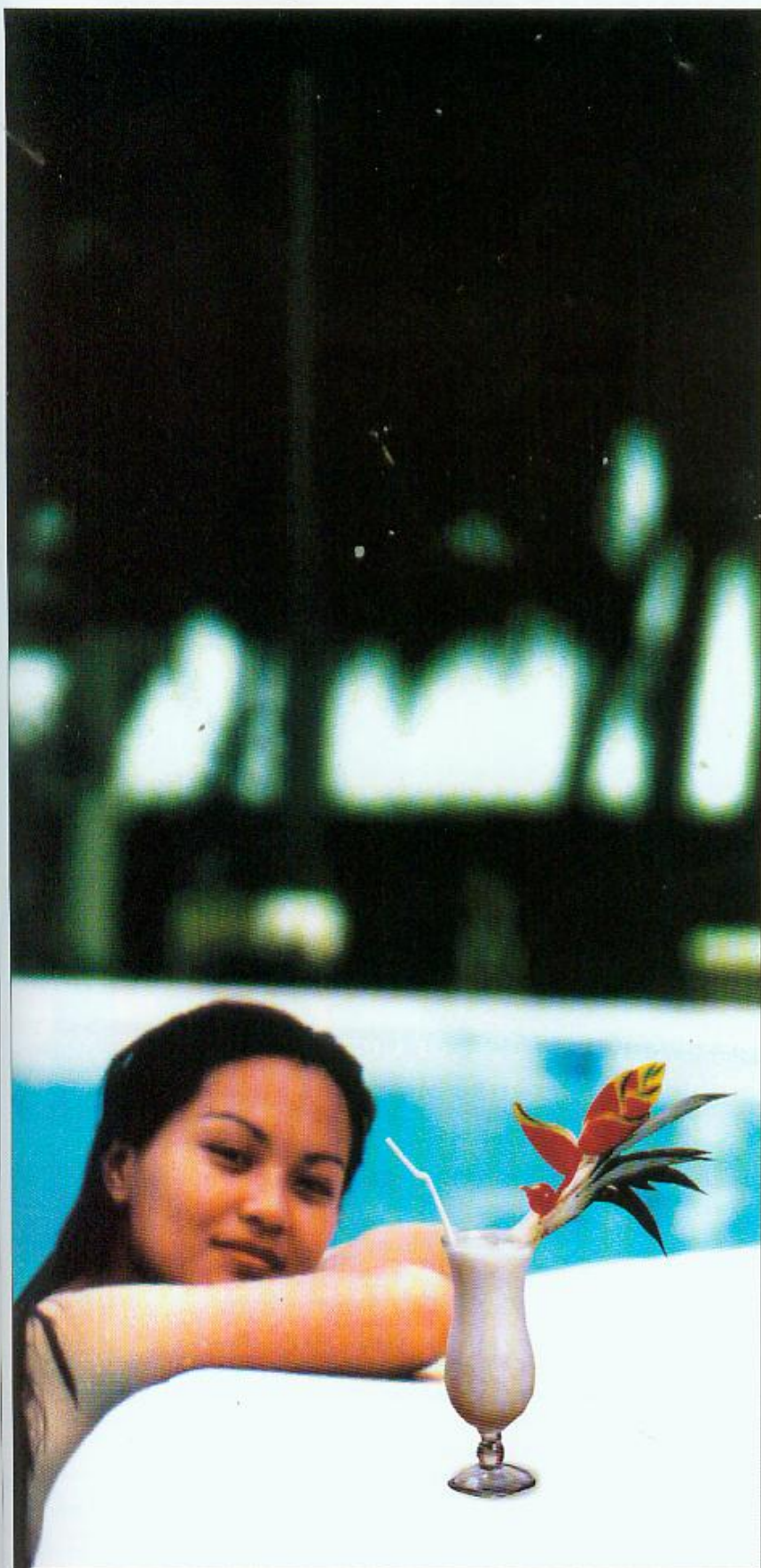
"Nick is a wonderful father," wife Rosanne says with pride. "Not to mention a great husband and a very unique person. He's a one-of-a-kind boss. We have people who have been with the company since it began 35 years ago. He doesn't just manage his people, he cares about them and makes sure they grow within the company."

Indeed, De Lange ensures that he keeps his workers not only productive but happy as well. He spends three days a week in the factory and makes it a point to talk to everyone



who works for him. "We have this really good ritual wherein we always give everyone a 'good morning handshake.' It's a good way to start the day. We also do calisthenics to get the blood running. I believe in nurturing the skills of all the people who work for the company. We've all grown together. As a matter of fact, the general manager has been around since day one," Nick happily states.

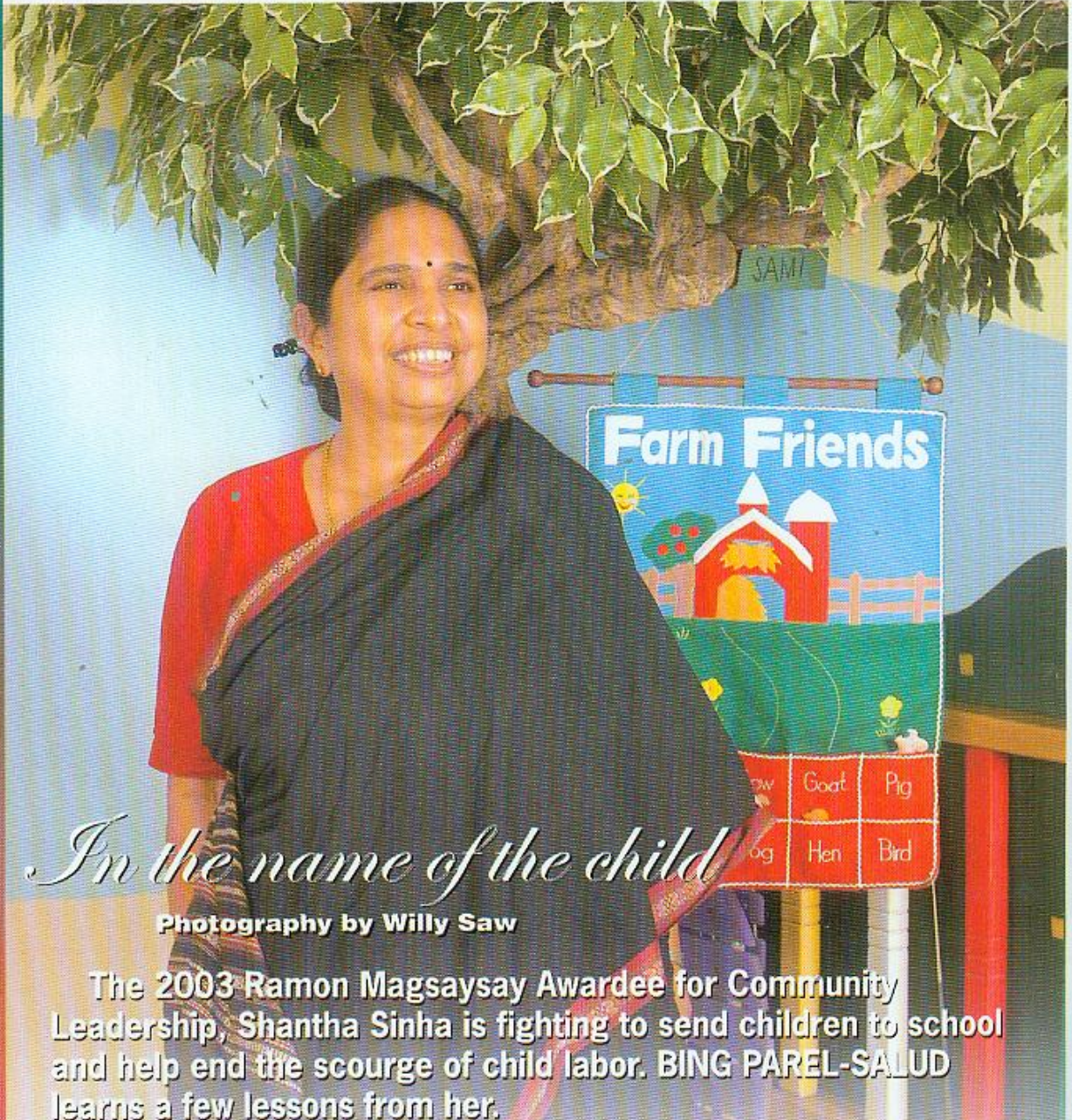
With a beautiful new showroom care of architect Joey Yupangco and an exciting and unending passion for his work, Nick de Lange envisions Designs Ligna to continue growing and expanding in the family and continuing in its mission of serving its customers in increasingly creative ways. "What once began as a job has grown into a love," Nick smiles. "And I think the Designs Ligna experience is an important part of the legacy my family gives to the country and one that I can pass on to my children and, hopefully, they to theirs." ✦



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In the name of the child

Photography by Willy Saw

The 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Community Leadership, Shantha Sinha is fighting to send children to school and help end the scourge of child labor. BING PAREL-SALUD learns a few lessons from her.

India usually evokes images of squalor and poverty, with children being forced to work in sordid conditions. And it hasn't helped that movies such as *City of Joy* or *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* or books like Arundhati Roy's *The god of small things* reinforce this dismal picture. And this is precisely what Shantha Sinha hopes to rectify. Born in Andhra Pradesh to a relatively well-off family, Shantha remembers her childhood to be a very happy one. "I come from a large family, which is fairly well-to-do. We grew up singing, playing, going to school, and during vacations we visited our grandparents to spend some time with them. My late father was a member of the Upper House of Parliament, so he was very well known. He was a public man, so many people would go to our house and stay on for a week or longer because they come from some villages and can't afford to go to a hotel to accomplish some work in the city," she shares.

Such happy childhood, however, did not blind Shantha to the fact that there were children who were indentured as servants to harvest cottonseeds and flowers, herd goats or work in local factories. However, it wasn't until she became director of the University of >>>



Hot, Rare and Live!
Mandy Moore LIVE in Manila!

SMART Sizzles

with



12

Million

Empowered Subscribers!

SMART
sizzles

We hit it fast, and with 12 million-strong subscribers, we did so in spectacular fashion. After just a decade of service, empowering Filipinos all over the country and around the world, SMART joyously launched 11 days of partying and fun thru SMART Ce11ebration just last August. A mere month or so hence in October, SMART Sizzles with an unprecedented 12 million subscribers on the SMART Network!

By the end of 2002, SMART already had 8 million subscribers, and it's amazing to think that in just 10 months, 4 million more have joined the country's wireless leader. With over 3,400 cellsites nationwide (and still growing) SMART champions innovations and achievements that keep Filipinos ready for more. And to thank the 12 million strong that have lived and breathed the SMART life, we're bringing you more fantastic

spectacles even as the year draws to a close. We couldn't have done it without you. Till the end of this momentous year...We partied!

Mandy in concert!

International pop superstar Mandy Moore brought the house down on November 21, 8p.m. at The Fort Grounds at the MTV Music Summit for AIDS and SMART subscribers were in for exclusive freebies at this unique concert!

Pops hits Davao!

Davao saw the Concert Queen in all her glory on November 15 for The Venue Anniversary Blow Out Party featuring Pops Fernandez! From November 5-14, SIM Swaps to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 at the SMART Wireless Center in Davao got free tickets!

Early Christmas treats!

On December 4, 5, and 6, the Pamaskong Aliwan-Fiesta ng mga Parol heralded in yuletide cheer to Metro Manila just as the fresher and cooler winds swept by! People were treated to bazaars, live concerts, and fireworks shows at the Star City, CCP Complex, Manila.

True Faith in Tarlac!

Power pop sensations True Faith held a major concert on November 29 at the IWSP Gym, San Miguel, Tarlac to keep SMART sizzling all the way to the end of 2003! SIM Swaps to the SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2 between November 10-25 at the SMART Wireless Center in Tarlac got free tickets.

A leader like SMART looks ever forward, defining tomorrows. As the maverick innovator it has become known

to be, SMART keeps bringing the latest breakthroughs in technology to the Filipino market. At SMART, your cellphone and mobile experience becomes even more complete. Innovations like the Windows-powered SMART Amazing Phone, the mobile banking offered through SMART Money, the power-packed SMART Buddy 64K Super SIM 2, and the over-the-air reloading courtesy of SMART Load have become a part of our everyday lives.

Thank you for your trust, confidence and your SMART choice in realizing the next mobile revolution. We continue with our focus and commitment in providing quality service to suit the needs of Filipinos, and with the parties we give you in the days ahead, doing it all with sizzle and style.



Venue:
Pinnacle Health Pointe
Triple A Health Plaza Bldg.
36 Scout Torillo, Quezon City

Hyderabad's workers education program that she became appalled at the number of children going into bonded labor. "I knew there was a system of taxed labor where children, and even adults, go as bonded laborers. It was when we found out that 40 percent of those who were bonded were children that we wanted to act on its abolition in some of the villages. By that time, my tenure as director of the workers education program had ended, so I went back to my department to ask to continue working with children and their rights," reveals the political science professor.

With the help of her family's Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya (MV) Foundation — established to honor her grandfather who was an eminent historian — Shantha put together a team of volunteers to urge parents and local employers in the poverty-stricken villages of Ranga Reddy District to release bonded children and send them to so-called "bridge" schools. "Initially, parents had doubts about what would happen if their children stopped working. 'Those who are educated had no jobs; wouldn't we become even poorer if the children did not work? So why should we send our children to

school?' These were some of the questions they asked."

Admittedly, poverty was an obstacle that was difficult to overcome, but Shantha was not about to be disheartened. "The misconceptions were the same as that of everybody, not just the parents. Even the most thinking intellectuals also said, 'How could children go to school if they are poor?' But this poverty argument was blown out of proportion because there were poor children who were actually going to school, and could go if they wanted to. There must be something wrong if everybody was so much in agreement that children must not go to school." Convincing parents that "poor families who withdraw their children from work and send them to school do not become poorer" was difficult, to say the least.

Shantha is realistic enough to know that her efforts as yet will not be enough to reach the whole of India. "That's too large," she remarks. "In Andhra Pradesh alone, there are a hundred thousand villages, and we are working in 4,000 of them. What we plan to do within the villages where we are working is to mobilize communities again to demand for

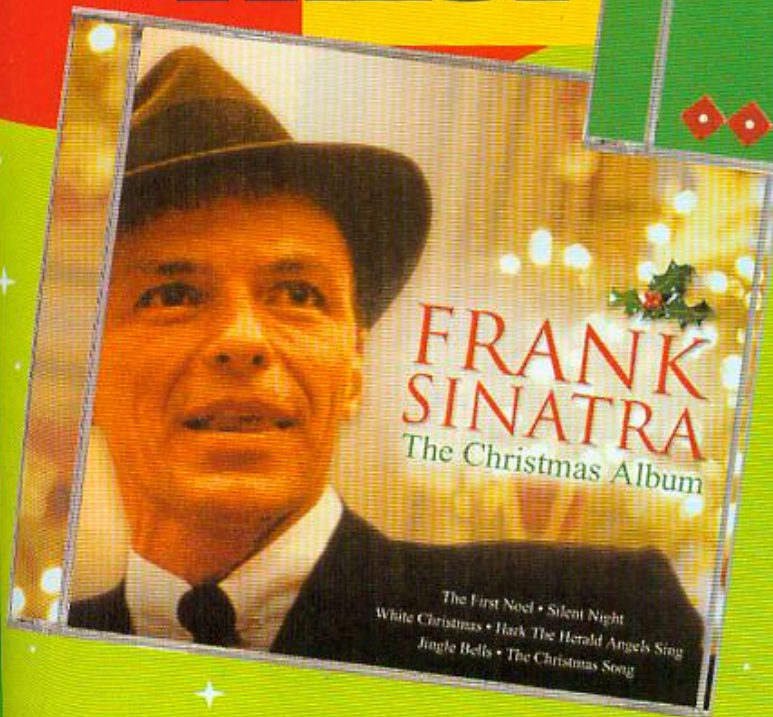
quality education, especially in places where every child is already in school. Parents are already beginning to see that children are not learning enough, so we would like to work on classroom and school practices." Yet the success of Shantha's efforts has gained recognition in other places. In Assam for instance, volunteers were asked by the government to work in 10 districts there. There are also plans to deputize volunteers to ask non-governmental offices and government institutions to help conduct training and provide technical support so that the bridge school program could be replicated and implemented in other areas.

Winning the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership has "given the stamp of authority and legitimacy to the program. It vindicates our stand that no child must work, and that every child must be in school. We work on this as a non-negotiable principle. We are against evening schools; we are against shift systems. We think all these are instruments that compromise on children's rights. And to have an award from the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation is actually encouraging us to say with greater strength that children have the right to education," concludes Shantha Sinha. ✱

✦ The holidays take on a 50s flavor
 with the legends that put the "J" in Jive n' Jazz.
 ✦ It's an 18-karat Christmas with Joey@92.3
 and two sterling compilations from EMI Philippines!



**JOEY
 SAYS
 GET
 THIS!**



I'VE GOT MY LOVE TO KEEP ME WARM *Dean Martin*
 MISTLETOE AND HOLLY *Frank Sinatra*
 CHRISTMAS TIME ALL OVER THE WORLD
Sammy Davis, Jr.
 THE FIRST NOEL *Frank Sinatra*
 BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE *Dean Martin*
 I BELIEVE *Frank Sinatra*
 SILVER BELLS *Dean Martin*
 THE CHRISTMAS SONG *Sammy Davis, Jr.*
 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING *Frank Sinatra*
 RUDOLPH, THE RED-NOSED REINDEER *Dean Martin*
 THE CHRISTMAS WALTZ *Frank Sinatra*
 PEACE ON EARTH / SILENT NIGHT *Dean Martin*
 JINGLE BELLS *Sammy Davis, Jr.*
 WHITE CHRISTMAS *Dean Martin*
 IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR *Frank Sinatra*
 WINTER WONDERLAND *Dean Martin*
 I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (IF ONLY IN MY DREAMS) *Frank Sinatra*
 A MARSHMALLOW WORLD (LIVE) *Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin*
 AULD LANG SYNE (LIVE) *Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin*



FRANK SINATRA THE CHRISTMAS ALBUM CHRISTMAS WITH THE RAT PACK FRANK SINATRA

OH, YES! IT'S JOHNNY!

by Johnny Litton



The Hunter Valley Wine Society comes to the Philippines

Traveling to a faraway country such as Australia can sometimes be exhausting and arduous, but my recent trip to the Land Down Under confirms my belief that traveling can be fun and relaxing, too. This is mostly because of the gracious treatment I received from the staff of Singapore Airlines, undoubtedly among the best, if not the best, for air travel. The staff is friendly, warm and courteous, anticipating passengers' needs. So instead of a tense, stressful experience, you end up with a pleasant mood.

Upon my arrival in Australia, I knew I was in for a great adventure. The Hunter Valley Wine Society, led by the tireless couple **Arnold and Ruth Co** and their partner **Greg Walls**, the chief executive officer of Australian Wine Selectors, were the generous hosts to a group of Filipino media personalities, wine lovers and restaurateurs to a short but thoroughly educational and enlightening visit to the world-famous Hunter Valley — home to some of the world's great wines.

Among those invited were wine aficionados such as **Mons and Sander Tantoco**, **Lynette Corporal** and **Pepper Teehankee** of *The Philippine STAR*, Hunter Valley Wine Society Phils. director **Mayo Alcon** and the knowledgeable **Greame Bashford** who helped us throughout the trip. Then there was Singapore Airlines' marketing and communications director **Rita Dy**; *Le Souffle's* **Josefina Sincioco** and **Florabel Co**; **Gaita Fores**, CEO and president of *Pepato*; Metropolitan Museum's **Beatriz Zobel de Ayala**; **Karen Santos** and **Joel Floro Uichico**; **Margaret Enriquez**; **Maurice Arcache**; **Tim Yap** and **Pauline Suaco-Juan**.

Members of the Hunter Valley Wine Society will have the great and unique privilege of sampling and yes, even buying at substantial discounts pre-selected wines coming from Hunter Valley! The method of pre-selection is rigid as many wines are evaluated in a "blind tasting" by six of the most respectable and experienced wine critics of Australia, including one of Australia's wine icons, **Karl Stockhausen**. His words, comment and judgment on outstanding, excellent and even mediocre wines, is automatically accepted because of his reputation. Other members of the expert "Tasting Panel" include connoisseurs **Rob Jones**, **Trent Mannell**, **Christian Gaffey**, **Keith Tulloch** and **Sally Fisk**.

Other benefits include access to boutique wines that are usually not available outside Australia. A continuity program entitles members to six new wines every quarter, which



Australian Wine Selectors
CEO Greg Walls



Rita Dy and Ruth Co



Joel Uichico receiving his certificate from Greg Walls,
Arnold Co and Mayo Alcon.

includes tasting and education notes indicating distinctive qualities of the wines, as well as which food can be best enjoyed with the spirits. Another advantage is that members have access to special wine tasting sessions conducted by wine experts that will be flying into Manila. Most of all, wines not available for retail will be given exclusively to members, delivered right at their doorstep. If you are just starting your wine collection, joining the club is best because you couldn't possibly go wrong with their skillfully chosen spirits.

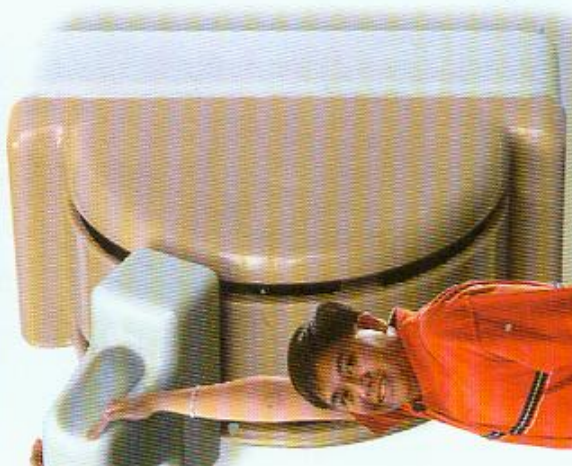
The trip proved to be a pleasant success, as we all had a chance to enjoy the sights and sounds of Sydney, partake of some of Australia's most impeccable wines and meet the country's wine authorities who imparted valuable knowledge on appreciating the fruits of the vines. I feel so fortunate to have been part of this journey and further my interest and love of wines! Many thanks especially to **Arnold and Ruth**, to all my traveling companions who made the trip all the more memorable, and our Australian hosts for giving a part of themselves for us to bring back home.

See you all again very soon! ✦

www.magic899.fm



THE BIG SWITCH



Row 4
The Sarge & Tony Tont
 9AM - 12PM

Lunch Crunch
Bennil & Crystal
 12PM - 3PM

Overtime
Mojo Jojo
 9PM - 12AM

Nitette
Max Speed
 6PM - 6PM (Sat)

Party On Weekends
James Bang
 9PM - 12AM (Sat)

Base Hour
 12AM (Sat)

The Flow
 1AM - 3AM (Sun)

Tunog Kaliye
Carlo Jose
 5PM - 7PM (Sun)

Sunday Slowdown
 7PM - 2AM (Sun)

Midnight High
Lambert
 12AM - 3AM

Morning Zoo Crew
King DJ Logan & Slick Rick
 6AM - 9AM

Early Returns
LPI Joey & Miles
 3PM - 6PM

The Jam
Big Daddy & Kelly
 6PM - 9PM



J. Moreau & Fils, *A Rich Heritage*

The story of J. Moreau & Fils is inevitably tied to the Chablis and Burgundy regions in France. Thus, its rich heritage can be traced to the beginning of viticulture in France 2000 years ago when the Romans invaded the country.

In 1814 a young man named Jean-Joseph Moreau moved to Chablis, the heart of the finest vineyards in France. There he met and eventually married the daughter of a regional winegrower. That union gave birth to one of the most enduring names in winemaking, J. Moreau & Fils.

Through the years, J. Moreau & Fils became known not only as a producer of Chablis wines but also as a successful wine merchant of exquisite wines from the larger Burgundy area and the Loire Valley.

Currently the product range of J. Moreau & Fils is

composed of house wines and varietal wines. Its house wines come with a unique concept, each representing a region of production. The Moreau Red is made from varietals from the Rhone valley: Grenache, Syrah, Cinsault and Carignan while Moreau white stems from Loire valley varietals: Chardonnay, Chenin and Ugni Blanc. Fruity and supple structure are characteristics of the red, while mineral overtones and fruity freshness describe the white.

Moreau varietal wines are selected Vin de Pays from the Languedoc region that include Merlot, Merlot Cabernet-Sauvignon and Syrah. These wines come from the windy plateau of the Carcassonne region which benefits from the Mediterranean and Atlantic climates, thus allowing exceptional wines with a perfect balance of freshness and fruity flavor.

By giving special attention in developing each wine's natural characteristics, respecting its mineral and classic freshness and in providing a balance between its firm structure and aromatic complexity, J. Moreau & Fils achieved worldwide fame and has won countless awards. It has become famous in over 80 countries and it can be found in prestigious hotel, airlines and fine restaurants everywhere.

The wines of J. Moreau & Fils can be enjoyed alone or as a complement to your favorite meals. And because it is backed with a rich heritage and expertise, the wines of J. Moreau & Fils is a perfect gift that anyone will surely treasure. Indeed, every wine that bears the Moreau name is a jewel.

GALLERY

Wedding Bells



The newlyweds Ramon Mangila and Rochelle Romero with Sen. Loren Legarda

It was a memorable and lovely day for family and guests alike as businessman Ramon Tan Mangila and Rochelle Peña Romero tied the knot at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park.



Rene and Titra Mangila and Col. Etrellito Sr. and Salome Romero



Lyxen Diomampo and Aliya Parcs



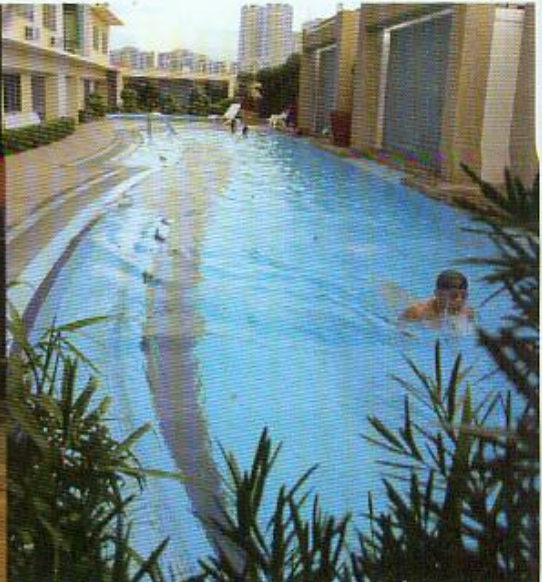
Jake Roxas and Rudy Fernandez



Susan Joven, Winnie Nazareth and Annette Coronel

Beer for a king.





Dr. Joel Nicdao



A Whole New You

This is the ultimate in pampering. Beauty treatments, including plastic surgery, in the morning, and a relaxing stay in a posh hotel in the evening.

This is Dr. Joel Nicdao and Astoria Plaza's formula for a whole new you.

Dr. Nicdao is one of today's biggest names in the field of plastic surgery — he is a member of the American Academy of Aesthetic and Restorative Surgery, the Philippine College of Cosmetic Surgeons, the Botox Advisory Panel for the Asia Pacific Region and the Philippine College of Surgeons. Nicdao recalls his five-year stint as a general surgeon at the University of the Philippines-PGH.

"While I was doing my residency, I tried to scrub in as many cases of plastic surgery as I could. I've always wanted to become a plastic surgeon since I was in medical school. It is the line where I could mix art and medicine. Before I entered medical school, I enrolled in the College of Fine Arts of the University of the Philippines." He also studied Traumatology before he began specializing in plastic surgery. For two years, he trained with the Philippine Society of Cosmetic Surgery. He then went to McGill University in Montreal, Canada to further his studies.

It has been a year now since he opened the McGill Cosmetic Surgery clinic, at the ground floor of Astoria Plaza on Escrivá Drive, Pasig City. "The advantage in having a clinic is that you can avoid

the risk of infection associated with a hospital environment. You also get complete privacy," he observed. One may avail oneself of around 50 procedures ranging from Botox wrinkle removal to liposuction at his state-of-the-art establishment. "I try to limit operations to two in a day so that I can give my patients the medical attention they need," he said. An added benefit for Dr. Nicdao's patients who go through cosmetic surgery is that they can recuperate from the procedure while enjoying the luxuries of room accommodations of the residential suites at the Astoria through the "Whole New You" lifestyle package. The package allows those who have undergone surgery to relax, de-stress and use the many facilities at the hotel. A complete gym, swimming pool and the Stresscape Spa Center are just a few of the things that guests can enjoy during their stay.

The "Whole New You" lifestyle package is a treat for those who wish to stay in Astoria from one to five nights, depending on how long a certain procedure requires one to rest. This newest offering from Astoria Plaza allows both men and women to look good, feel good and experience the best that serviced residential suites can give. Dr. Nicdao stressed, "After patients undergo cosmetic surgery, they should leave the clinic feeling more confident with themselves. They should actually look better and feel that they did not waste their time and money going to their plastic surgeon." — *Bianca R. Salonga* ✦

zen space



Setting the New Standard
in **Urban Living.**

If there's one thing that distinctly marks Pia Guanio's career, it's adaptability. Like some chameleon that changes color for survival, Pia has donned several "hats" throughout her years in the spotlight, without losing general appeal and being effective.

First noticed for raising the early morning testosterone levels of most of urban Manila's male population while giving us traffic and weather situationers from inside a roving chopper on the ABS-CBN morning show, she's evolved into a noontime variety show personality, a "live" host for corporate events and beauty pageants, an anchor for morning shows, tele-magazines and cinema review shows, and even a film star (she's in the cast of Star Cinema's comedy, *Mr. Suave*).

What then makes Pia tick? "Gosh, I really don't think in terms of all these different 'hats.' It's not something I planned from the outset; it's been more a case of seizing opportunity and doing it if it looks like fun and it keeps me learning and productive. And I have been lucky in that while involved with shows of a more serious or straight-faced nature, I've managed to indulge in things that are lighter or fun-filled, without losing credibility for the type of stuff that got me noticed in the first place."

And that is a gift of sorts, as other personalities have not crossed over as successfully. To be involved with the News and Current Affairs Division of ABS-CBN, and yet have a presence in its regular and entertainment-charged programming is almost unheard of, much less



Pia Guanio

Pia Chameleon

By Philip Cu-Unjieng

simultaneously working in rival networks. Even in the United States, you won't find much cross over going on. It's almost an unwritten rule that to try and paddle on both sides of the river just leaves you on dry land with nary a career in either area. Yet, Pia has traversed that particular stretch and has come through smiling.

What else ticks with Pia? By all accounts, it's also the Façonnable watch she regularly dons while plying through her busy schedule. "This is really great, it's such a versatile fashion watch. I chose the model with the clustered diamonds. I can change the strap in no time at all and it gives me a completely different look. For the day, I can slip on a casual denim type strap and it's sporty yet stylish. And for the evening, a black patent leather one completes a more formal look.

"On the days I'm feeling funkier, there are great pastel colors to choose from as well. The timepieces

themselves are Swiss made and high quality, you add the fashion element, and what more can a girl ask for?"

Available at all the Lucerne branches, the Façonnable watches join the roster of dependable and quality watch lines that Lucerne represents and distributes here in the Philippines.

As I write this, there's a food truck parked in front of the building, and on its side there's a Supreme Sotanghon mini billboard that has Pia and a single strand of noodle in her mouth, coming from the bowl in her hands. It's proof positive that despite emanating from the serious side of News and Current Affairs, even the advertising industry has taken notice of how Pia's appearance, demeanor and bubbly personality can lend itself to almost any product's image, and jumpstart its acceptance by the public.

Who knows what other "hats" Pia will be donning in the near future? *



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From M.L.A. to the world...

1

Hard Rock Cafe
Makati City
The Philippines

2 K-Lite goes
googoo
in **CANADA**
Queen Elizabeth Theatre
Vancouver, Canada

3

CREED
Thomas & Mack Center
Las Vegas, Nevada U.S.A.

9 Ready to see
and hear the next
K-Lite Super Artist
on our list?

4

the two thousand
and three
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Awards
Singapore
Indoor Stadium

ROLLING STONES

Hongkong Harbourfest '03
Tabar Site, Admiralty
Hongkong



103.5 K-Lite SIGHT & SOUND SPECTACULAR SERIES 5
SEE **COLDPLAY** LIVE!

5

Impact Arena
Bangkok, Thailand

Sting **7**

Felix-Peninsula Hotel
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103.5 K-Lite Sight
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GALLERY

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Mario Katigbak, Tito Manapat and John Tan

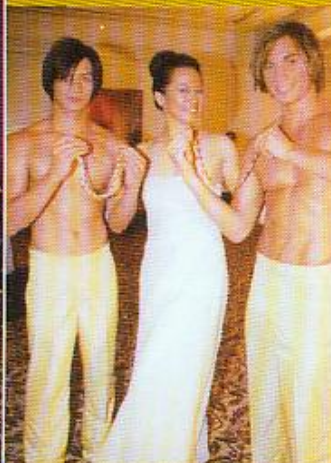


Issa Gonzales-Agana

Bulgari pulled out another ace from up its sleeve with the introduction of the new Allegra collection. The latest creation from Bulgari was recently presented at a two-night dinner-cum-fashion show at the Cheval Blanc, Makati Shangri-La.



Xander and Mons Tantoco



Gary Dulatas, Issa Gonzales-Agana and Christian Waller



Rovi Estacio and Charissa Litton



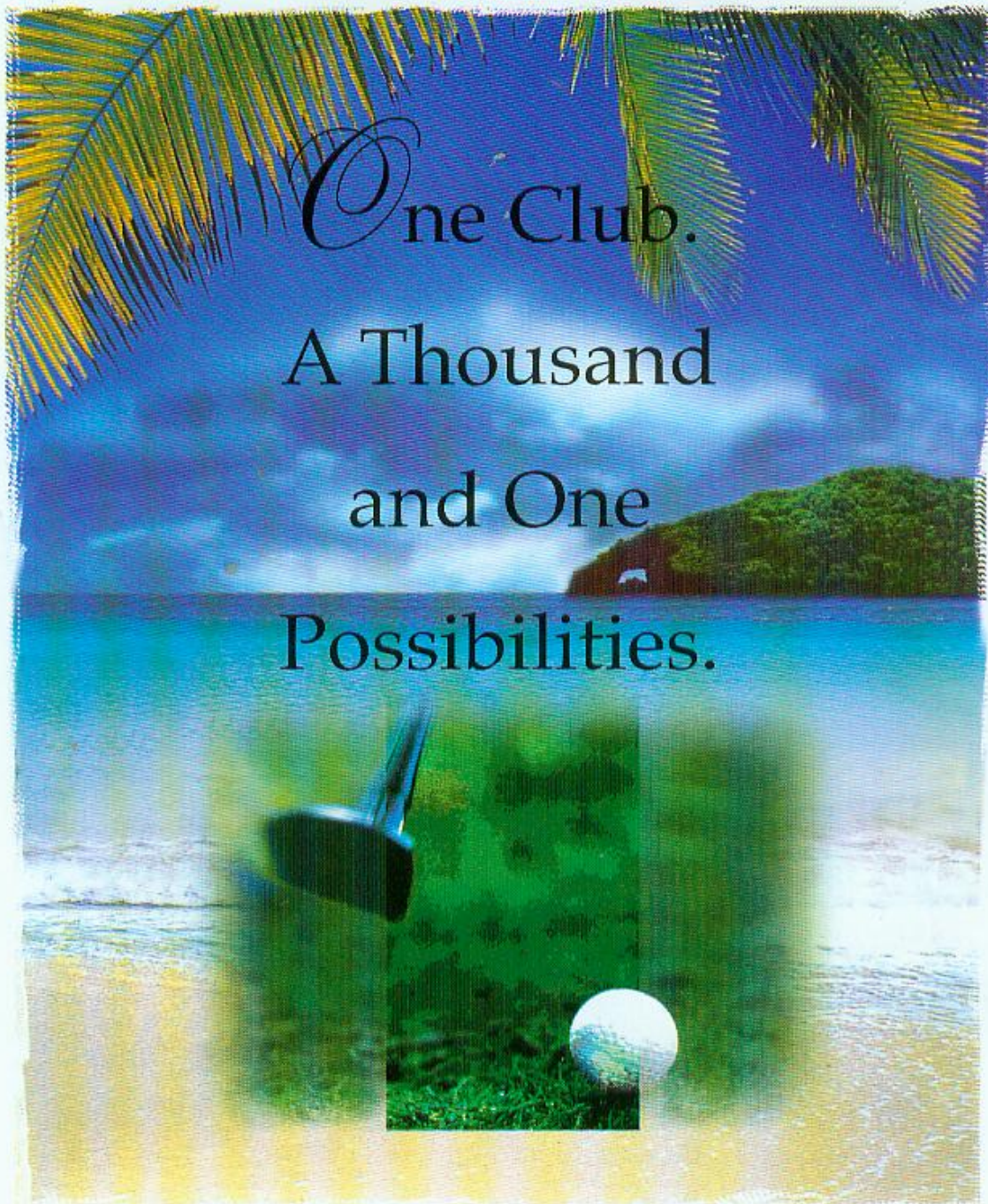
Almond Yatco, Nympha Yatco and Tanya Abaya



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani



Jennifer Santi with Rumples and Vikki Estacio



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GALLERY

Louis in the IV



Francols Delage, Yves Carcelle, Gigi Mabanta and Serge Brunshwig



Maricris, Inigo and Bianca Zobel



Margie Moran Florendo and Vicki Belo



Tony and Wendy Hotung with Celine Lopez



Vicki Zubiri and Gov. Joe Zubiri



Kit Zobel



Apples and Raj Sadhwani



Jamby Madrigal and Tessa Prieto-Valdes



Rajo Laurel and Rhett Eala



Gaita Fores, Michael Salientes and Peachie Dieken

French luxury goods giant Louis Vuitton recently opened its newest store at Greenbelt IV in night of glitz, glamour, fanfare and style. Cocktails in the store were soon followed by a party in Cats at the New World where guests were whisked to by a fleet of luxury BMW cars.

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Anchor Shape-up
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GALLERY

Boogie Nights



The D7 band with Bobby Paterno

The Maharlika Lounge of Casino Filipino Parañaque was the venue for "Shag Night," a series of Friday night parties featuring good food, drinks and fantastic music from the '60s and '70s. Party host Poncy Quirino even taught guests how to groove to the cool retro tunes.



Richard Gabriel, Poncy Quirino, JB Bangsil, Donnie Ramirez and Daisy Rivero



Jing Arambulo and Anna Marie Caluag



Dondi Orlina, Richard Gabriel and (seated) Gilbert Perez

Portuguese Celebration

The Ambassador of Portugal and Mrs. Joao Caetano da Silva hosted an elegant cocktail party in honor of Ambassador Bienvenido R. Tantoco Sr. Guests were treated to delicious food and overflowing drinks as Tantoco was given a Portuguese decoration.

Photography by
ROBERTA GONZALES



Catherine Huang, Mrs. Ulrike Caetano da Silva, Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva, Donnie Tantoco, Cricket Tantoco, Nina and Anton Huang



Foreign Affairs Chief of Protocol Ambassador Jose Zaide, Ambassador Tantoco and Ambassador Caetano da Silva



Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho



Bianca Salonga, PEOPLE Asia editor-in-chief Joanne Rae Ramirez and Makati Rep. Teddy Locsin

the 3rd **World bazaar festival**

for Bantay Bata 163

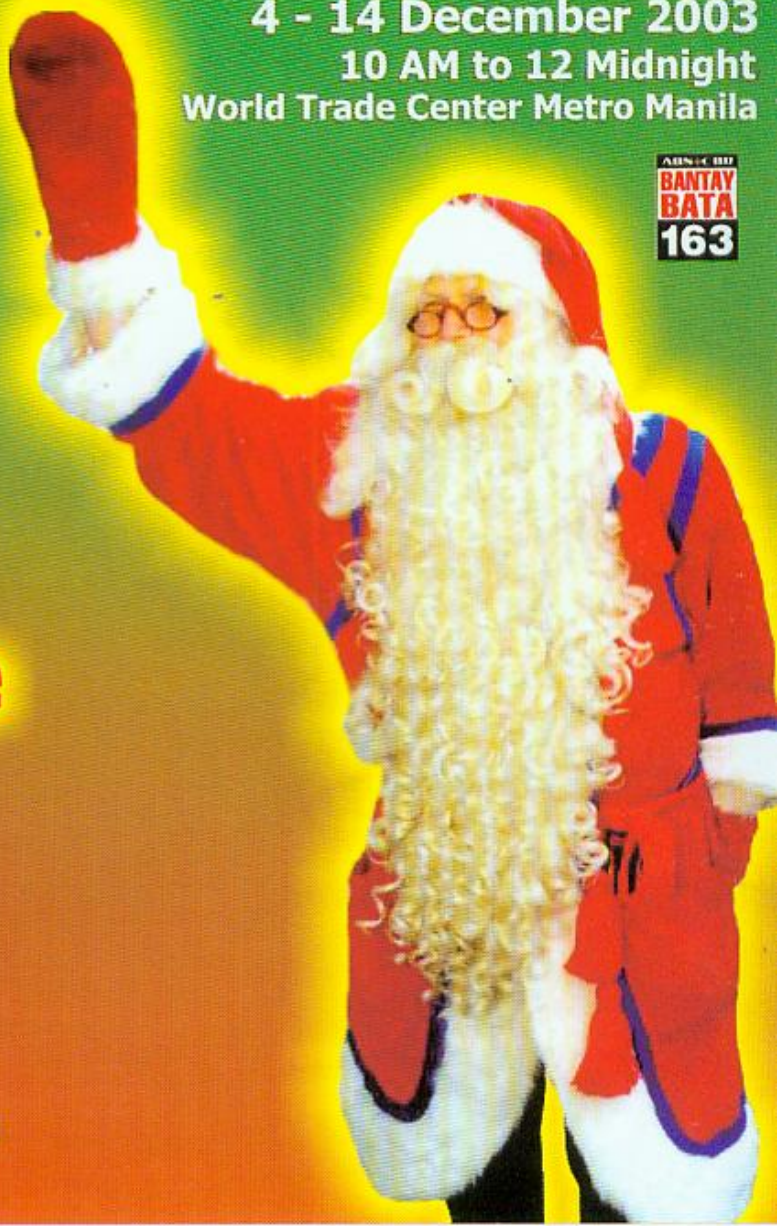
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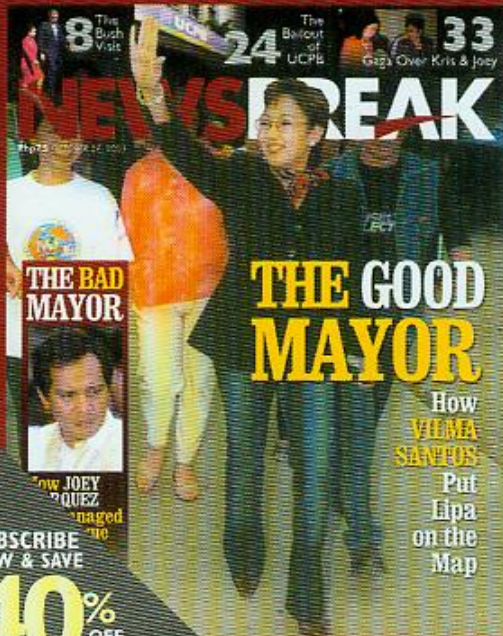
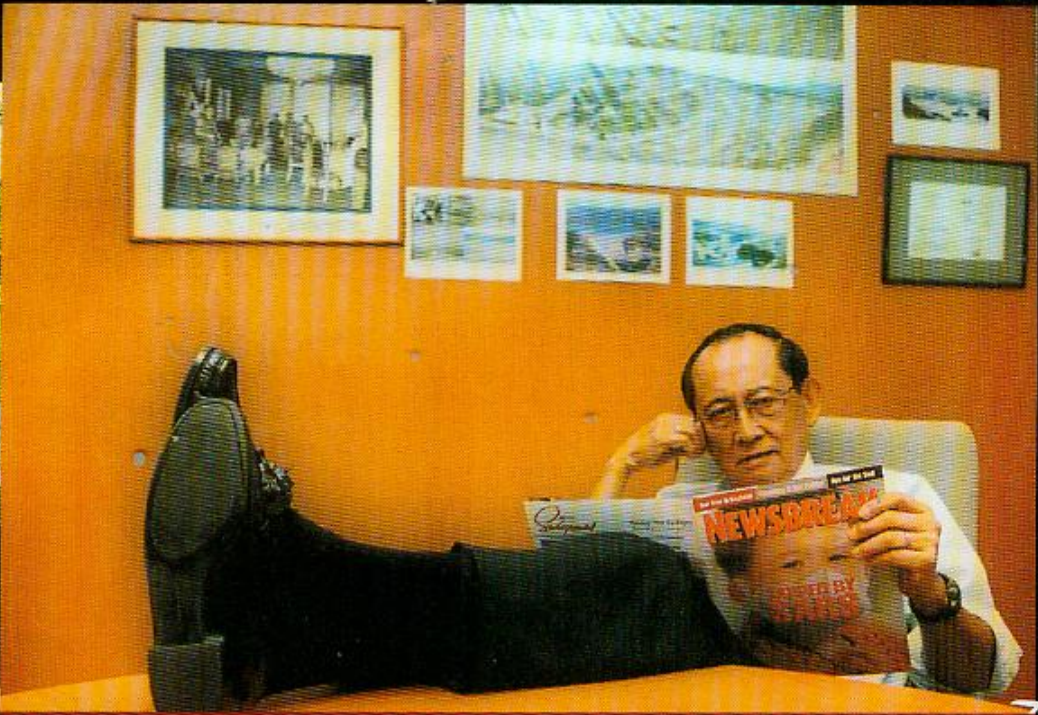
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BAZAAR

What's on this month's wish list



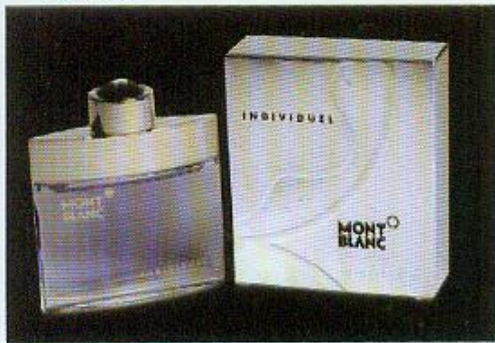
The rich tones of
LACOSTE



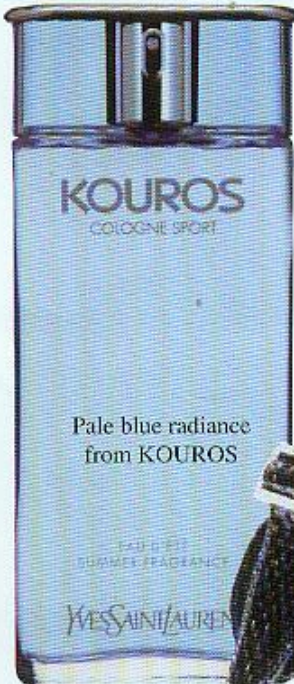
ELIZABETH
ARDEN's key to
seduction



Step into the
limelight with
CYNTHIA
ROWLEY



MONT BLANC
celebrates the
Individuel

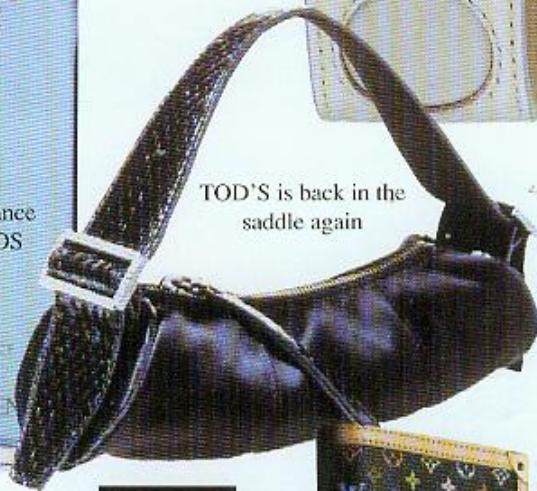


Pale blue radiance
from KOUROS

Sunlit dreams
from DKNY



TOD'S is back in the
saddle again



Big on time, small
in size — TITAN



The LOUIS
VUITTON
agenda



FOSSIL tells the
story of time



GUCCI goes pink

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Merry making musts



TAG HEUER feeds off the Alter Ego



Shape never goes out of style with MAIDENFORM



The many scents of CALVIN KLEIN



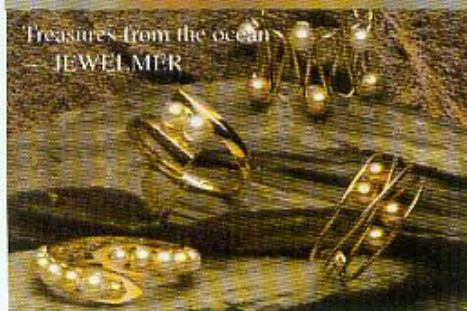
Calvin Klein
L'EAU POUR HOMME



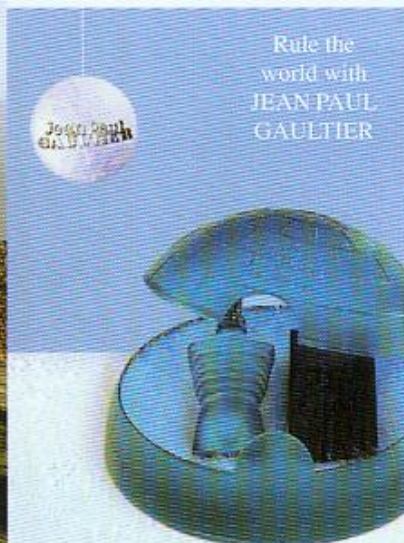
Live like a BABY DOLL.



L'EAU D'ISSEY's Christmas stocking



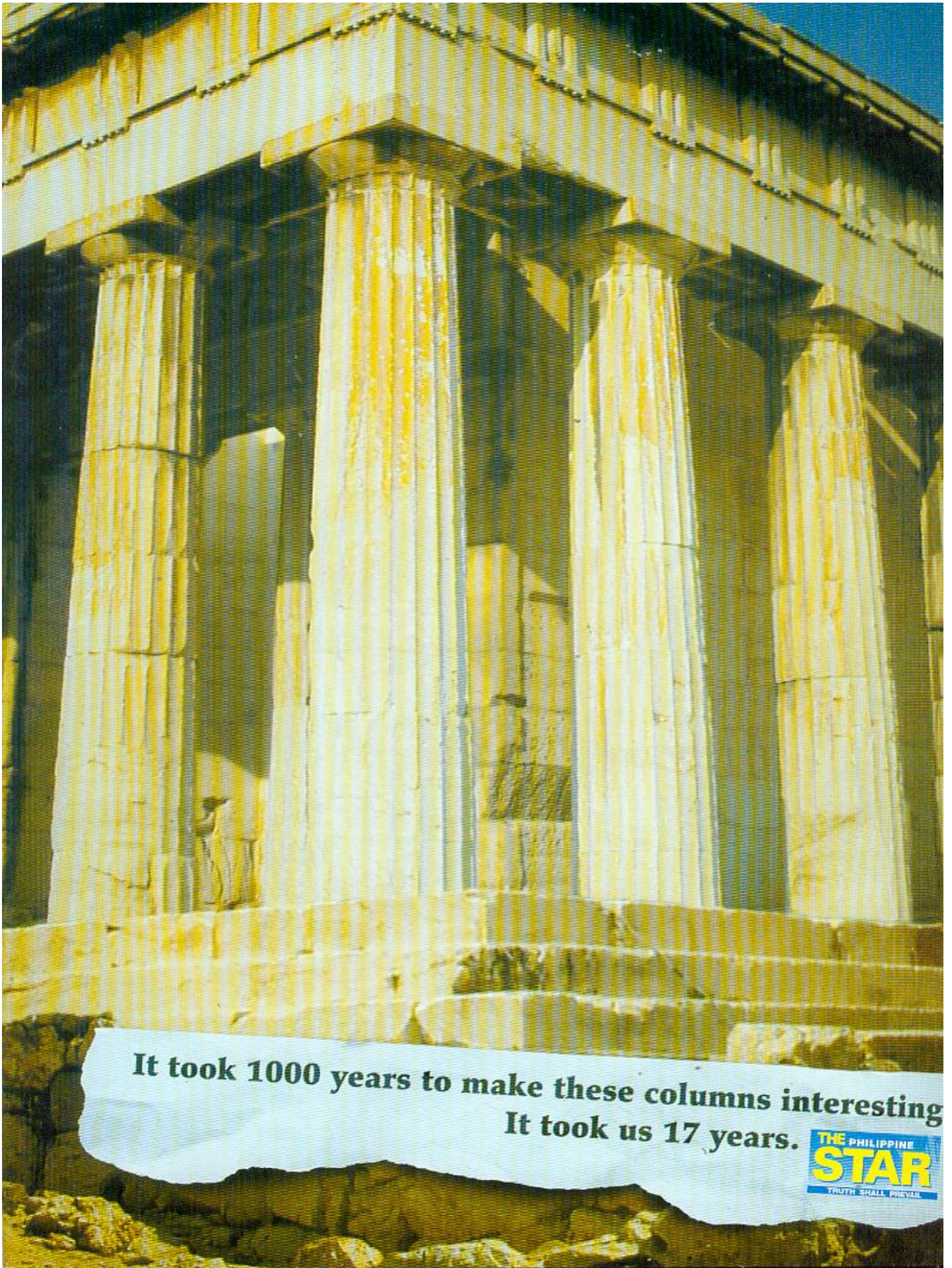
Treasures from the ocean
JEWEL MPR



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JEAN PAUL
GAULTIER



Sweet dreams, the sea and
PHYTOMER



**It took 1000 years to make these columns interesting
It took us 17 years.**

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STAR**
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

BAZAAR

Yuletide wish list



Trust in OCEANIC's scale



This time, it's PHILIPPE STARCK



TANI is never underdressed for underwear



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Time is on JEAN RICHARD's hands



Beauty in a KARANINA bag



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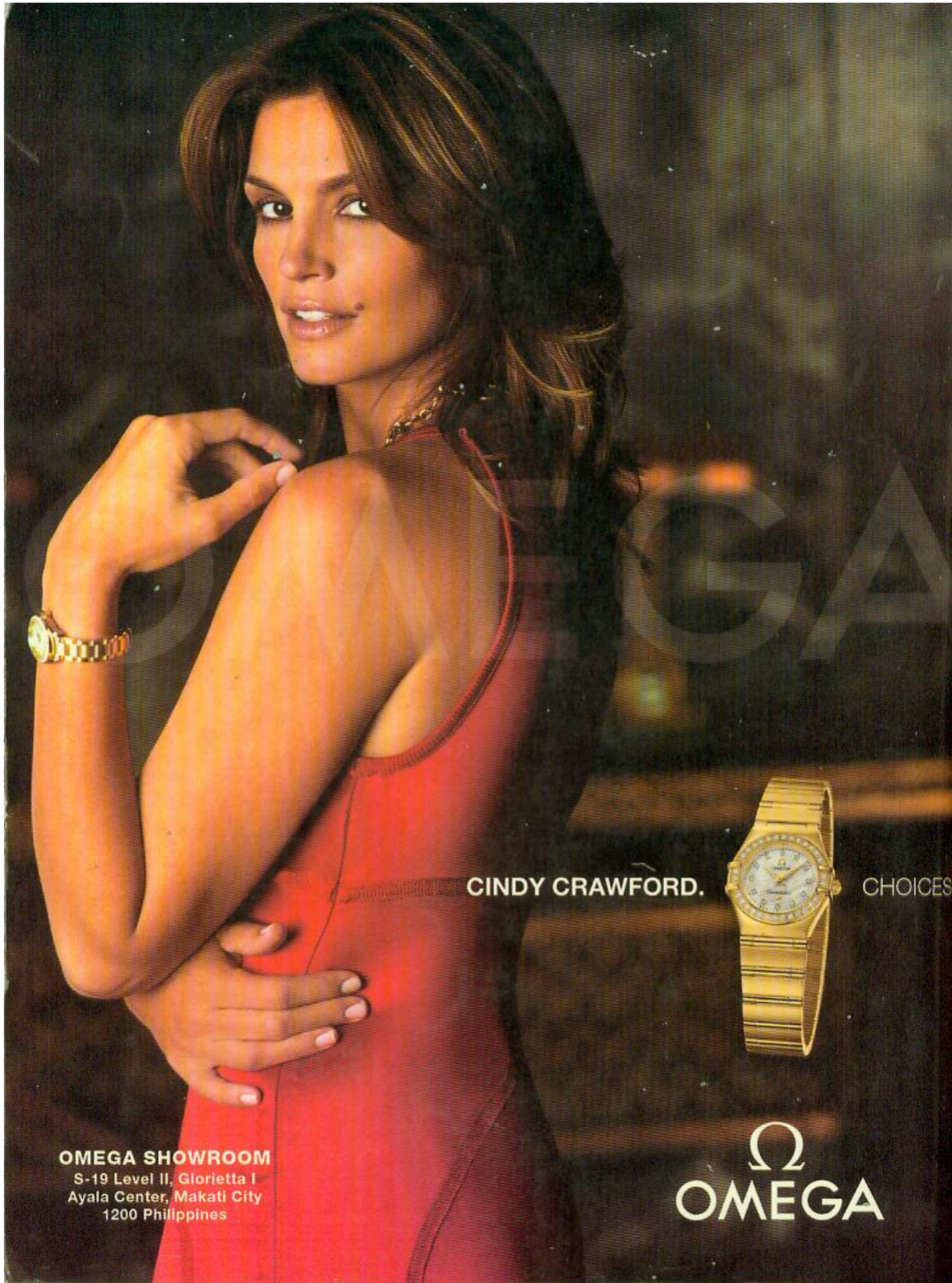
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