




# KEEPING UP WITH THE VILLANUEVA BOYS

## MY ROAD TRIP to SIN CITY

**JOEDIE** graduated from the Ateneo University last March with a Bachelor of Science degree in Management Information Systems. After an extended vacation from April to end of July, wherein he traveled to the States with the rest of us, he started work the first week of August. He got a job as a technical analyst at Computer Associates (whose head office is on Long Island, N.Y.), and they immediately sent him to Singapore for training, where he started his first week on the job. His training lasted for a month and a half, wherein he stayed at the Carlton Hotel. There were thirty trainees from all over Asia, four of them from Manila. Though Joedie was the youngest


among the trainees, he received the highest score on the exam given at the end of the training course. He's now working at the Makati office, so he stays at his grandparents' house during weekdays and comes home to Alabang after his Saturday evening outing. Then he leaves for Makati again on Sunday evenings.

**BEEJAY** graduated from Ateneo High School last March and is now in the Bachelor of Science in Biology program which he is taking as his pre-med course. Due to the ridiculously heavy traffic of Manila, he also stays at his grandparents' house in Forbes Makati during weekdays and comes home to Alabang either early or late Saturday evenings. He manages to engage any interested listener in scintillating conversations about his frog dissection experiences. Recently, he has been driving to and from Ateneo whenever he can't ride with the Ateneo carpool.

**JEREMY** is in the sixth grade and has been a First Honor student for the past two grading periods. 

by JEREMY VILLANUEVA

Last May, we went for a vacation to the States as a family. It was Joedie's and Beejay's graduation gift and my gift for being an honor student again. The last time we went to the States as a family was in 1994 when Joedie graduated from high school and Beejay graduated from grade school. This time, Joedie helped my dad with the driving. At first, my mom would hold on to her seat very tightly whenever it was Joedie's turn to drive. She said she felt more relaxed in the scary roller coaster ride that we rode in Magic Mountain than when Joedie was driving. But I think Joedie is a safer driver than my dad. I'm glad that my mom was still trying to memorize some of the music she was going to play for her concert, otherwise she would be verbally driving for Joedie.

We drove from my Tita Arlyn's place in Pasadena through the Nevada deserts to Las Vegas. The roads were impressively smooth and unbelievably empty. After going through dry desert views, we went through snowy parts in the mountains. There was even a portion when we viewed red desert terrain on our right and white snow on our left. We stopped by an outlet mall both going and coming back from Las Vegas. We had a very comfortable new suite at the Polo Towers, but we hardly used the kitchen because our meals were all buffet meals at different places. My dad says that Las Vegas is the "city that never sleeps", but I slept so soundly every night because we would be up until past midnight without realizing how late it was. So many lights, and so many things to do, and so many clinking slot machines through all hours of the day. Joedie said he felt sorry for all the old people at the slot machines. I wonder why they're still gambling. 

**BEEJAY**



**JEREMY**

