

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE FORDS

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island shaped like an upside-down bowl supports one house, one tree, one flag. Beneath the waves, pink and purple smiling fish swim around a purple whale. Oh! *That's nice, Isa!* Eamon offers his artistic criticism. Isa considers it seriously--for one second.

--Mommy, can you do something with me?

--Sure. How about I dictate something to you, and you write it down?

--No!

--Okay, how about a game of Quiddler?

--Quiddler! YAY, Quiddler!

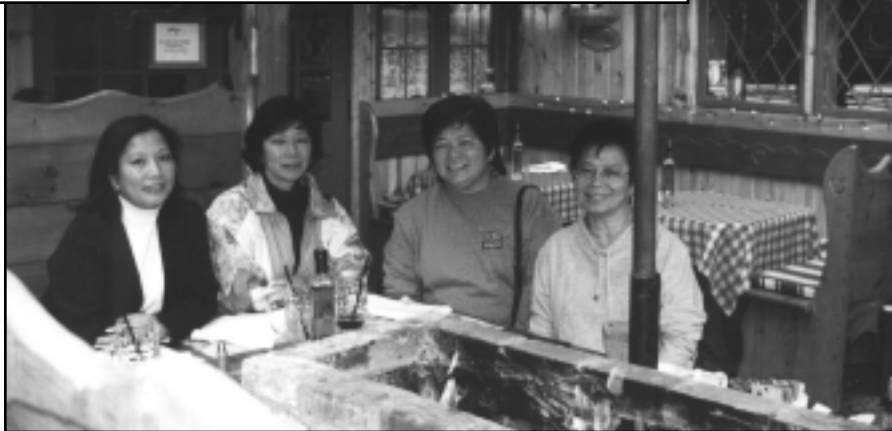
For some unknown reason, Cris's losing streak in Quiddler, a word game similar to Scrabble, is unbroken, and Eamon scores high. He stopped needing any assistance weeks ago. Of course, he is the one who adds up the scores. . . .

After dinner, the bedtime routine begins. Mike reads to them about King Arthur and his knights, then asks them questions on the story to give them a chance to show what they know. After prayers, the kids read in bed, and Mike and Cris settle down to enjoy some well-deserved quiet time. Suddenly they hear the clumping footsteps of a nine-year-old descending the stairs...

--But WAIT! I forgot to ask something. Um . . . umm. How does an engine work?

LL

Mitos, Bingbing, Malu and Nonon take a break from their *kuwentuhans* (reminiscing) in Carmel, California



OF DREAMS AND FACIAL CREAMS

by Bingbing Laico Juarez

This part of the big Laico reunion was quite overlooked with all the Christmas shopping, practices for the program, and food preparations for the Christmas party, but this was meaningful to me--a short trip to Monterey and Carmel before the Christmas reunion, by four sisters (Nonon, Malu, Mitos, Bingbing) and Randy. It was a great bonding trip for us. The place may have been insignificant compared to the ports of a big European cruise, but the company was more important. We were all snug in one car (Malu's Blazer) for almost 2 hours on our way to

Monterey, yet the trip felt like 30 minutes because of all the *kuwentos* (stories) and reminiscing. We talked about our family outings when we were kids and recalled family jokes. While walking down the Monterey beach front, looking for an interesting seafood restaurant for dinner (Baba Gump restaurant was off the list because of Malu's food poisoning there the year before), we talked about our children, our husbands, our dreams that came true and some that didn't. Going in and out of the quaint boutiques and English-type little cottages in Carmel, we

almost forgot we were still in California. We talked about our lives since we flew out of the family nest, and our dark little secrets. We laughed at the memories of our former suitors when we were single--the man that got away, the one with bad breath. Then before bedtime, we

talked about our investments for retirement, foolish investments made, money lost or gained. We also talked about which cream would erase our wrinkles, which drug or shampoo would retard hair loss, which exercise or diet would help us lose weight, and when we would start getting our face-lifts (Papa would never approve, but Mama got away with it). Then, just when I was ready to close my eyes, Nonon says "Wait, wait, first we pray the rosary." Just like in C. Ayala, remember? That was a great trip, sisters.

LL

HAVE FEET WILL TRAVEL - Bubbles, Rory, Mitos and Nini in Manhattan. Name the owners of the two pairs of Laico feet that travelled the most this year.



ANSWER: Between the two of them, Rory and Nini went on approximately 6 cruises, and touched 4 continents.