

dr bambi, bubbles, and bingo

BY BINGBING JUAREZ

b Bambi is now working as a resident physician in the emergency rooms of Medical Center Paranaque and Las Pinas Doctors Hospital. They get all the accident patients from the superhighway nearby and from Sucat road which is a very busy street now. I was there some time ago and my knees went weak seeing all the bloody patients. Bambi and her team were reviving a cardiac arrest patient with a defibrillator. I was so close to tears that I had to ran out of the room; I swear I'll never even glance at the ER again. Bambi certainly didn't get her professional genes from me. Thanks to Lolo Jim. By the way, the cardiac patient lived.

BUBBLES IS HAPPILY GREETING HOTEL GUESTS at Shangri-la Hotel hoping that a Laico *balikbayan* will suddenly drop by. She meets lots of local and international celebrities. She's been lucky to meet Prince Albert of Monaco, the President (Erap) Estrada, and ex-President Cory Aquino. Once, actress Lauren Hutton approached her desk in a daze and asked for a room. (Sorry, she's not allowed to gossip about them; it'll cost her her job.) One setback with her job, though, is that her schedule is very irregular. There are times when she comes home at 2 or 4 AM, so you can imagine how many times I pray the rosary for her safety on her way home.

BINGO IS BACK IN SCHOOL NOW AFTER HIS extended vacation in California. He thoroughly enjoyed it -- he didn't want to come home for months. Aisa, the CD player you gave him is very appreciated because I can tell when he's near home; when I hear the car CD blasting a block away, that's Bingo coming home. He opens all the car windows so the people can hear his stereo and CD. Nonon, remember the *ricorida* in Bicol? (That's a Jeep that goes around town with big billboards on both sides advertising coming movies, with a big speaker on top blasting music.) That's what Bingo's car sounds like.

NICO IS MY DAYTIME DUTY WHEN BAMBI'S AT the hospital. Every morning I prepare him for school which is a cat and mouse job because he hates taking baths and always runs and hides from me when I call. (He doesn't do this with his mom.) Then, making

him eat his breakfast is also a task: it takes him one hour to finish! He leaves the house at 9:30 AM. Only then can I relax. He goes to a big school now, Prep, in Don Bosco. Prep has 7 sections with 41-42 students in each section; a total of 287 boys in prep alone. Recess time is a dizzying mass of boys. During his first days of school, he stayed inside his room for recess. Now he's learning to fight it out with the crowd, and he has learned to drop coins in the vending machines for drinks. He has also learned to identify his school bus among all the identical ones in the parking lot. Quite a victory for a 6 year-old, don't you agree? (Right now he saw Grandpa Eddie spraying away at the termites eating our coconut tree and got the room deodorizer and sprayed at the plants. This afternoon they'll all be withered and dead.)

PATRICE IS OUR WIND-UP DOLL. SHE LOVES TO *baile-baile* taught by her *yaya* na Bicolana. Her favorite tune is *Mambo No.5*. She knows how to sway her hips real fast like a Tahitian dancer. She also knows the names of the characters in the afternoon soaps which she watches with her *yaya*, and screams with the audience in the game shows like *pera o Bayong*. She shouts, "Perrrrra, Pera, Perrrrra!" Does she echo her grandma?

I hope to see all the Laicos in the USA this Christmas. Write me your favorite Filipino dish and I will try to cook it for you at Lia's house. I know we'll have a grand time seeing each other this eventful day. So I won't send you Christmas cards anymore, ha?

