

life with laicos

BY BILL PACKWOOD

Little did I know when I eyed the pretty Filipina that the future with her would involve and include *soooo* many siblings, relatives and friends. Many of them have alphabet soup nicknames that I'd never heard of before, such as No None, Chi Cho, Po Poi, Ne Ne, Pee Wee, Mi tos, Bo Gie, Jovim, Bubbles or Espi.

Another surprise was Rory's penchant for food -- beautiful food. If eating is not her favorite activity, it's sure a close second. In order to satisfy that desire and sharpen her skills, she attended a gourmet cooking school taught by an ex White House chef. As a result, she has really turned into a good cook and she thoroughly enjoys sampling her product. It's a good thing she exercises so religiously or I'd have a very large wife!

OUR TRAVELS THIS YEAR (TRAVELLING is right up there with good food) took us to Rio de Janeiro for Carnival. It is a very beautiful and fun city with beautiful people and great food. Some of the people even forget to wear all their clothes. We also drove to Cabo San Lucas, which is one thousand miles south of the Mexican border. Three days on the road, but again, great food! We found several perfect Margaritas and had the best Caesar salad ever. Actually, the Caesar salad was invented in Tijuana, Mexico. The people were very hospitable and the architecture with its Spanish heritage, reminded us of the Philippines minus the lumpia and traffic jams.

WHEN I FIRST MET OLIVIA, I WAS CAPTIVATED BY HER BUBBLY personality and great laugh, but she looked like a malnourished waif. The duckling ultimately turned into a swan and has just completed her first year at University of Washington. Her first apartment is shared with two other girls. Fortunately, it is within walking distance to campus and her parttime waitress job. We do get frequent "I need a car urgently" phone calls. She is apparently acclimated to the Northwest weather (no complaints about moss growing between her toes). She has recently been accepted to the School of Communications; and horror of horrors, even has a boyfriend.

DOCTOR RIC HAS GROWN CONSIDERABLY SINCE WE FIRST MET and is now in his third year at med school. His school is moving to a new campus, which allowed for a nice extended stay between semesters at home in California last October. He did get to visit Olivia in Washington and had time to just relax, catch up on the wrestling world, and help his Mom and me with some projects. It's nice to have a techie around the house.

I guess I can say that the Filipinization of Bill is a work in process! Merry Christmas to all!

Now if I could just develop a taste for adobo...



The Importance of Being Early

BY JEREMY VILLANUEVA

Being early is part of the virtue of Prudence. It is needed in everyday life. You will probably not progress much in life if you are always late. That is why you should be early and avoid tardiness in everything you do.

Being early starts as the day starts. When you wake up in the morning, you must make it a point to get up early. Otherwise, you will waste the start of your day doing nothing in bed. After that, you should try to hurry up while eating and washing up so that you will have a head start for the day. When you leave the house, you must try to leave as soon as possible without delay to beat the traffic which is another reason to be early. Then, when you arrive in school or in the office, you should try to accomplish any given task as quickly as possible but of course without forsaking precision.

Some people may think that this is all useless and that all your effort in doing your work quickly is wasted. But, in the end, you will benefit from it because your schedules are followed diligently and you would not have to face the pressure of rushing to meet a deadline.

