

- **ALFIE and HELENA - MARRIED for ONE YEAR!**
- **A NEW HOME for TERESA and CARLO!**
- **JJ HOPES for ANOTHER BIG HIT!**



Living in PURE ELEGANCE! Teresa and Carlo's new home.

HERE'S THE  
LATEST . . .

by NONON LAICO FLORES

CHICAGO, IL - This year has been a quiet year for us vacationwise. Our only *laquacha* was to Maryland in May for Peewee's concert, and occasional weekends in Wisconsin. However, we're looking forward to our trip to Hawaii come December. It should be fun because we're going with two other couples who are our close friends.

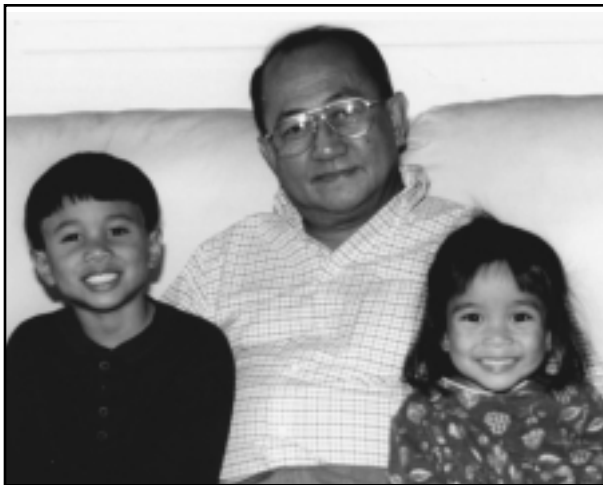
We've enjoyed our first daughter-in-law, Helena, Alfie's wife (they'll be married a year on December 13th - I'm still overwhelmed at the *pagkabait* of the relatives who came for the wedding). Aside from being so organized, Helena is gracious and thoughtful. It's so gratifying when she and Alfie come to visit and always sincerely offer

their help when they see me scampering around in the kitchen.

We're very happy for Teresa and Carlo being blessed with a new custom-built house and being able to enjoy it while their children are still young. Jun was their realtor when they sold their first house and it sold in just 15 days. And of course our two grandchildren, Corey and Charlotte, bring us so much joy. The three of us go to the same school so I get to visit them in their classrooms.

JJ is still a die-hard music producer. He is working with several artists now, among them is a Filipina, Jocelyn Enriquez. We're just praying for another big hit. In the meantime, *buhay artista*.

Jun is happy with his job and as long as we are healthy both physically and spiritually, we can say... "Let us rejoice and be glad" *tuloy ang ligaya*. **LL**



Corey and Charlotte with Grandpa Jun.



Teresa and Carlo Damocles

## DREAM HAWAIIAN VACATION TURNS NIGHTMARE...

**I Took One Wrong Turn Down the Volcano ... and was Banished to the Tour Guide Van!**

by TERESA DAMOCLES

AROUND this time last year, we were taking up residence at Carlo's brother's home as we waited for construction to finish on our new home. We finally moved in last January, and are enjoying our new nest. Since our move, we've been slowly decorating the place, but Carlo and I found some time to enjoy a relaxing vacation in Hawaii over the summer. It was our first

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## DREAM VACATION...

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out-of-state vacation in three years, so we were ready for this. We did a lot of exciting and fun things in Maui: snorkeling in the beautiful Coral Gardens off the shores of Maalaea, taking a spectacular helicopter ride around the Island, sailing onboard the America II, and biking 26 miles down the world's largest dormant volcano, Haleakala. Actually, Carlo got to go the full 26 miles. I, on the other hand, crashed about 15 minutes into it and was banished to the tour guide van the rest of the way, battered and bruised. For those who haven't experienced the Island of Maui and its awesome pineapples, I highly recommend it.

After six days in Maui, we stopped off for three days in Honolulu, Oahu and stayed at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. We had a beautiful view of Waikiki Beach, Diamond Head, and the swimsuit clad crowds. During our stay there, we did the safer activities such as visiting with relatives who live there, shopping, and watching a Hawaiian dance show at the Polynesian Cultural Center. **LL**

## IT WAS A RAINY DAY

Bingbing Laico Juarez

In our old house in C. Ayala, when I was eight or nine years old, I wanted to go out and sing in the rain. I found an old pair of rubber boots in the closet under the stairs and put one on. I felt something soft and funny on my toe and started shrieking at the top of my voice and jumping, trying to kick off the boot! Then out came a little mouse, also screaming for his dear life! I was jumping around the house and my dear sisters were laughing their hearts out!!! **LL**

## Arthur and Grace in Lake Tahoe:

# HIGH-STAKES GAMBLING AND NEAR-SCAMS

Hello everyone! Greetings from the House of David in Fremont, CA. It has been a truly special year for this couple. Grace has been working as a Montessori teacher since July 1994 while awaiting her green card in the mail (with bated breath). She finally received it just weeks before her scheduled trip to the Philippines on July 16 - August 6. She would later come back to start a new job at Fremont Bank loans department through a temp agency. Anyway, she thoroughly enjoyed her trip. "Sobrang init but it was a blast", she recalls. More than anything, she enjoyed visiting with family, friends and relatives, including her nephews and nieces, namely: Paulo and Nickie (her sister Nicey's boys); Lizzie (daughter of Paul and Joy David); and Nicole (the cutie of Ed and Sarah Fortes). Grace relished the sights she saw, including Splash Island (a Raging Waters type theme park) and Residence Inn Zoo in Tagaytay, among others. Being the social-bee that she is, there was never a dull moment.

Arthur, aside from working as a dental assistant, had been pressed to the grindstone in preparation for the California State Board Dental Exams for July 25 - 29. It was to be the final hurdle in his protracted struggle to attain his California Dental license to practice dentistry. It was an event simultaneously greeted with much

anticipation and anxiety. The venues were the UCSF for the written portion of the test and the UOP (University of the Pacific) for the clinical part. Grace took leave from work to lend much needed moral support.

Finally, the three-day ordeal was over. Two days after Grace left on her three-week vacation to the P.I., the news arrived: PASS. Looking back, what is incredible is that Arthur was still short by one patient for one of the required procedures just days before the exams. Needless to say, missing a patient is an automatic fail. His boss had decided to shut down the office while Arthur was on his exams. Miraculously, the last patient on the last day of work that week turned out to be an ideal candidate. "Talk about high stress", Arthur remembers. He would like to thank all the relatives that helped and prayed for him.

This couple planned a mini romantic getaway to commemorate their sixth-year wedding anniversary the weekend of August 15. They picked bucolic North Shore Lake Tahoe. Ominously, they were met by a strong thunderstorm as they neared their destination, when it hadn't rained there in several months. It made for really cool and refreshing weather the next day when they played a round of golf at

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## GAMBLING...

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Incline Village Mountain Course. Grace was thrilled that she finally got to drive (even if it was only a golf cart!).

Afterwards they proceeded to South Shore Lake Tahoe on their quest to raid the coffer of the casinos (as if!) Although they didn't exactly dent the bank, they were treated to an unexpected little adventure. While strolling the aisles of Harrah's Casino, they were reeled in by a time-share rep who was pitching a new resort nearby out of his tiny stand. His bait was a promise to receive \$50 in casino chips just to attend a time-share presentation. "Only thing," the rep added, "there's a short drive you have to

make it to the shuttle bus depot. And lastly, we require you to give a \$10 refundable deposit now to be returned once you arrive there." At that point, Grace was ready to make an abrupt about-face and was thinking, *Scam!* but Arthur had a different interpretation. In his

**'Grace was thinking, SCAM! but Arthur had a different interpretation. In his naivete, he thought: OPPORTUNITY!'**

naivete, he thought: *Opportunity!* Easy \$50. Why not? In the end, after going through their requirements which included an over eight-mile drive of uphill, winding and sometimes rugged terrain, a shuttle ride, and once there sitting through a one-hour spiel, the whole thing was legit. Arthur and Grace got their deposit back, plus \$50 in

chips. They played with \$20 until it was gone and spent the difference to buy souvenirs.

The Davids of Fremont enjoy participating in singing organizations and are both members of their church choir at Holy Spirit Parish. In addition, Grace belongs to the Ohlone College choir, and last Oct. 24, this choir performed along with three other choirs in an evening concert featuring international folk music. She will again be joining the same choir for their Christmas Concert on Dec. 5. The two of them will be together for the Church Choir Christmas Concert on Dec. 13.

*May we all feel the true warmth and meaning of Christmas and a Good New Year to all.*

- Arthur and Grace David



*Jorge leads life of*

# A GYPSY PRINCE

by JORGE LAICO

BOISE, ID - Like true modern day gypsies, Erin and I have moved again since you've last heard of us - from Lexington, KY to Boise, ID, from horse country to potatoes. It's pretty here next to the mountains and hills - a lot of good camping and salmon fishing. Things are going well for us, except our group, the Eugene Ballet, tours too much, which is really exhausting. We just came back from touring eight states in three weeks. And now we are leaving for six weeks touring eight states and Canada again on

buses and planes. It was fun years ago when I was younger but now the hard floor stages and hectic schedules are taking their toll.

It is the bread and butter of most performing arts

*'Maybe I should have been a horse jockey...'*

groups these days to tour because of lack of support from the public, private, and government sector. I guess sports is really easier to appreciate than the arts. Maybe I should have been a horse jockey with my height. I bet I would have

been good at it, but a traumatic experience horse-back riding in Baguio gave me a fear of falling in horse manure. Now I remember why I didn't pursue that. I could have been a matador. Except there were no bulls around when I was growing up, only water buffalos (*kalabaw*) pulling carriages filled with hand-made crafts. Anyway, those guys are too slow to fight. It wouldn't have been any fun. They were being led by gypsies walking through the barrios selling their hand-made arts and crafts. I always wondered how those gypsies lived. Now I know except the big difference is I'm *istate-side*.

