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▶ **LIVING THE LIFE**
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▶ **LAST MAN STANDING**
Jerry Lee Lewis' new album hits the Philippine airwaves.

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Almost Famous

Bay Area's golden girl earns spot in 'Rolling Stone'

By Nickee V. de Leon / Asianjournal.com

(First of two parts)

LESSON #2: JOURNALISTS ARE NOT TO BE TRUSTED. If you're writing about Kristine de Leon, this is perhaps the most compelling piece of advice among the five notoriety lessons that she wrote in her blog, Guerilla Busfare.

The 24-year old Kristine, along with five other neophyte journalists, was chosen among thousands of applicants to join MTV's reality show "I'm From Rolling Stone."

The show was filmed during the summer but only aired recently. The six contenders, which included Kristine, Tika Milan, Russell Morse, Krystal Simpson, Colin Stutz and Peter Maiden, were shown at their best and worst moments, venturing on their respective assignments that ranged from music-related topics to more serious na-



Kristine de Leon, Rolling Stone's latest 'edition'

Photo by Statia Photography/Rollingstone.com

A staunch advocate of the hyphy (pronounced hy-pee) movement, Kristine is a magazine editor for a hip-hop oriented magazine in San Francisco. She was born in the Philippines but was raised in the Bay Area. She sports a grill (gold teeth) and claims that "Filipino-style fried chicken with rice and a side of garlic, vinegar and pepper to dip in" was her favorite dish until Rolling Stone sent her to cover a national affairs story in Kentucky regarding the mass pollution Tyson Foods made on the environment.

In a phone interview with the Asian Journal, Kristine's bubbly, outspoken nature shines through. She shares her thoughts about getting picked from thousands who tried their luck to get in IFRS.

"The people from the Bay Area are very unique to the rest of the world because their

tional affairs.

On IFRS's final episode, a team of senior editors made the crucial decision and hand-picked Kristine to become Rolling Stone's newest contributing editor.

Rollingstone.com and Kristine's blog reveal a lot of interesting facts about the San Francisco-based Pinay.

Continued on PAGE B4

Remembering the Other Malang

THE ART SCENE

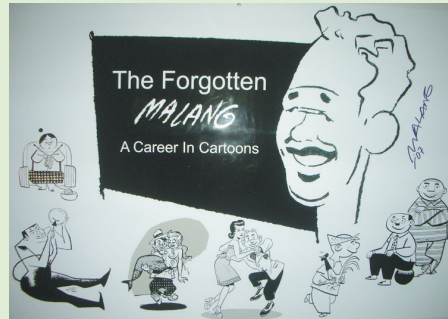
By Carmie O. Carpio / Asianjournal.com

IF Malang were a word in the dictionary, it would most probably mean a canvas of happy colors; spritely imagery of women vendors and cityscapes. That's because these, among others, are what the famous Filipino painter/colorist Mauro "Malang" Santos is most associated with and known for.

But there's a side to Malang that most of us, who were born after the heyday of his early career, are strangers to.

An art exhibit was showcased for Malang from February 23 to March 30 at the Philamlife Building along UN Avenue in Manila to serve as a reminder, if not a whole new primer, of what Malang's art was like before he became a painter.

Tagged as "The Forgotten Malang", the exhibit gives each visitor a look at



In 1947, the young Malang was hired as a layout artist, illustrator and designer for The Manila Chronicle's "This Week." For the next 20 years, he would be drawing comic strips, inventing unforgettable characters with equally unforgettable names, and making the readers laugh, even think. In those years, Malang exhibited his innate graphic skills, sense of humor, and flair for the visual pun successfully yet

Continued on PAGE B5

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What Pia Asks of Vic

By Armin Adina / Inquirer.net

MANILA - Vic Sotto had long wanted to quit smoking but was not successful in earlier attempts until recently, with the help of girlfriend Pia Guanio.

"Dumaan ang birthday ko, Labor Day, All Saints' Day, Christmas, New Year, 'di pa rin ako naka-quit," (My birthday, Labor Day, All Saints' Day, Christmas, New Year passed, I was still smoking) confessed the actor-TV host on Friday during a press conference for 555 Tuna, his latest product endorsement.

"Hiniling niya (Pia) iyon sa akin. Pinagbigyan ko na, kawawa naman, baka malungkot," (Pia asked me. I gave in, I pitied her, she might get lonely) he jested. "It was her way of helping me out."

Vic, "Bossing" to show biz colleagues, had just undergone a routine executive checkup. He was proud to announce that physicians had found him "in tip-top shape."

The former skinny comedian is currently at his heaviest registered weight, 168 lbs., just three pounds

Continued on PAGE B5



Vic Sotto & Pia Guanio

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A Legendary Legacy

A.M.B.I.T.O. was born in the Philippines but was raised and educated in Richmond, Canada since 1993. A.M.B.I.T.O. decided to come back to the Philippines in 2004 to embark on a long awaited journey and make his mark as the Philippines' undisputed King of Hip-Hop. He sees himself as a visionary with an erudite mind, aspiring to be influential through his words and actions.

As a teenager growing up in Canada, A.M.B.I.T.O. began writing poetry about love, pride, family, and life in general. This later evolved into writing lyrics, beats, and rhymes. A born perfectionist, he admits that he is always determined to improve his craft such as writing lyrics, making beats, and making his music. A.M.B.I.T.O. started



performing in several amateur shows from 1998 - 2003 in Richmond, Canada. He then performed in several clubs in Metro Manila under the alias MONEY. Coming from a family of entrepreneurs, he decided to start his own

music business and founded Flips of Fame Records in August, 2005. A firm believer in Filipino talent, Flips of Fame Records aims to promote the Philippines in the international music scene.

For A.M.B.I.T.O., nothing



is impossible. In a society of increasing pessimists and a conventionally-influenced generation, he dares to go beyond the norm in his business practices. He produced, performed, composed, and conceptualized his first album entitled 'Legendary Legacy' which consists of 23 original Hip-Hop tracks. The album is a fusion of the different genres involved with Hip-Hop, whether commercial, lyrical, pop, gangsta, or underground. It's a mix of different types of beats, different types of melody, all fused with the lyrics of A.M.B.I.T.O. His songs are reflective of his experiences in life; love, hate, greed, faith, poverty, enemies, pride, life as he knows it, and one of his favorite topics - Filipino women.

A.M.B.I.T.O.'s album is just part of the legacy he wants to leave behind. For A.M.B.I.T.O., "Living and leaving a legacy is significant in a person's life. He does what he can because he feels as if there's not enough time in a day to accomplish the things he wants to achieve. What makes the present is the past, what makes the future is the present."

"Legendary Legacy" is now available worldwide through www.fliptunes.net. (- From Flips of Fame Records and A.M.B.I.T.O.)

Almost Famous

From PAGE B1

community is very culturally-conscious," she states. "San Francisco was ground zero for a lot of struggles in terms of being recognized as a Pinay. I kinda took it for granted because the community is so supportive out here that I felt like I was very lucky but at the same time I had no idea that there was nobody else really like me out there until they picked me."

"I was sitting there, organizing in the community, being an activist and also at the same time working for a magazine, loving hip-hop music. Two things in my mind, that I'm most dedicated to, were the Filipino-American community and local hip-hop."

Krishtine thinks that it is "the combination of those two things, being a Pinay that was very proud of her race instead of those Pinays that would say that she was Hawaiian or something else and hide her race because she wasn't in the mainstream," was very unique and that it was also a part of her. "When they picked me it kinda further validated that there was nobody else in the country doing what I was doing," she asserts.

Apart from her endearing qualities, Krishtine also became known for her feisty and vivacious personality that soon became a magnet for negative feedback from some viewers of the show and readers of her blog.

Krishtine recounts her experiences with what she refers to in her blog as "haterism" and how she coped with all the negativism.

"It was very tough for me,"

she confesses. "Before I sent in my application tape I knew that my privacy was gonna be gone forever. I knew that people were going to be saying things about me that they thought they knew. I knew that. That was all a part of growing up as a kid also. All that training and all that social training as a young person has really come in handy for me because I had to be sure that at the age of 24 I knew who I was and there was nobody in this world that could tell me who I was but myself," she further quips.

Krishtine feels secure with the fact that people around her will love her regardless of what other people might say against her.

She also cites how story editors can "spin things" in favor of ratings. She's just lucky enough to come home knowing that she has won and that she will soon be vindicated and that kept her going.

"If I hadn't won, this would've been a harder experience for me because the story would've been left hanging and people would've thought forever that I was going to be that ghetto girl that never got anywhere because of my big mouth," she says.

There were people who would come out having opinions of her as a person, but she knew that they had no grounds for the negative comments that they were saying about her.

"It took a lot of strength for me to understand that," she admits. "There were times where I was really like, I can't believe that people out there are that ignorant. I can't believe that the show was making me seem this way, like a caricature of myself. But at the same time, when they finally started showing my strengths, I just realized how gullible people are in general. That they're given a story and they totally believe it and now that I've won, a lot of people are eating their words and seeing that their misconceptions about me were wrong and people recognize my hard-work," she muses.

"I try not to focus on all that negative energy and I try to provide as much information about myself as I could so that people can arrive at their own decision," Krishtine adds.

Asked what her initial reaction was when she found out that she made it as contributing editor for Rolling Stone, Krishtine blurts that she had mixed emotions about it.

"It was such a hard time and challenging and fun and exhilarating time over the summer that I tried not to focus too much on the outcome because I knew that regardless of what would happen, it would still be something that I was gonna take away with me and remember but I worked really, really hard so I felt like my work was finally being appreciated," she states. (AJ)

(To be continued next week)

Charlie and the 'Lolopop!'

From PAGE B2

Lolopop! invites you to yet another kick-ass gig featuring The Weather Underground.

Far*Out, The Sweet Hurt and Land of III Earthquakes on April 7th, Saturday at the USC Ground Zero Café in 615 Child's Way in Los Angeles. There will also be a one time screening of the Japanese film "Linda, Linda, Linda" at 6pm sharp. Admission is free.

For more details regarding this gig, visit www.myspace.com/lolopopshow. (AJ)

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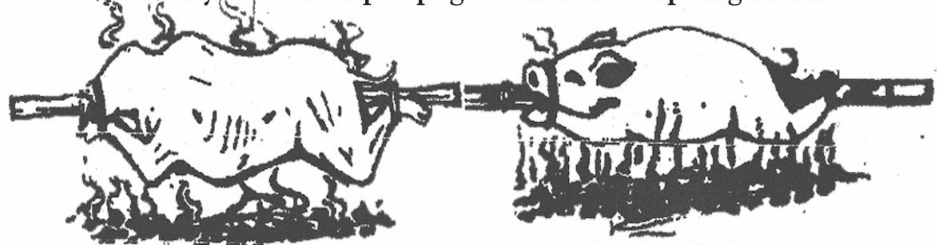
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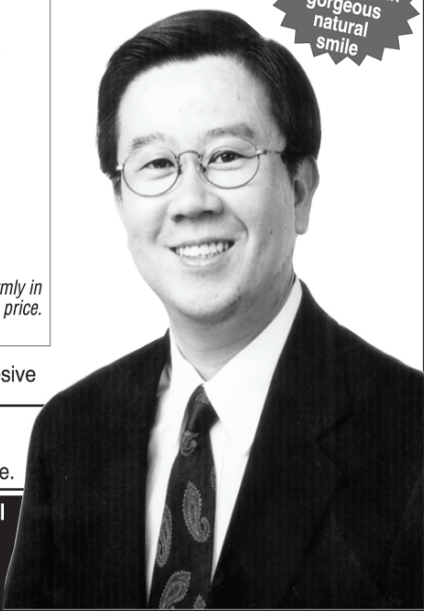
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HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Comedienne Ai-Ai delas Alas shares her road to success.

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LOVE AND HARMONY

How to create a strong bond with your spouse.

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SPIRITUAL ART

Channeling religion through art.

Page B4

Regine Asks Crew to Leave During Intimate Scene with Piolo

SINGER-actress Regine Velasquez had to ask most of the Star Cinema crew and staff to leave the set of her movie with actor Piolo Pascual because of some intimate scenes she has never done before.

The movie, "Sana Ikaw Nga," is Regine's first with the ABS-CBN movie arm, which has partnered with Viva Films in the project. The renowned, multi-awarded singer is a television contract artist for the rival station, GMA-7.

"Madami akong ginawa na di ko alam kung paano ko nagawa. Nabasa ko ang script and feeling ko the scene needed to be done in a certain way. So ginawa ko. Pero pinalayas ko muna ang mga tao," Regine tells ABS-CBN's The Buzz on Sunday.

One steamy scene between Regine and Piolo even had the former worried.

"Daming hindi ko pa nagagawa ever na pang pag pinanood ng nanay ko (laughs). Papagalitan ako, (pero) sasabihin ko kinomputer lang yan (laughs louder)."

For Piolo, working with Regine was a pleasure.

"It's an experience. Because no one ever thought na ganito siya kasarap makatrabaho, makisama," Piolo said.

"Mas na-admire ko pa siya lalo kasi hindi niya nilimitahan yung sarili niya for the character's sake. So nakakataas ng respeto," Piolo added.



Regine Velasquez

The two big names in Philippine showbiz had previously worked in television projects for the Kapamilya Network. One of those projects was for ABS-CBN's "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," which earned Regine several acting awards. (Inquirer.net)

Aga Wants to Court Maricel



Aga Muhlach

AGA Muhlach says if he would have his way, he will court his co-star in a forthcoming movie because he is so enthralled by her beauty.

His co-star? Maricel Soriano, no less

"Sinasabi ko, ang ganda nitong babaeng ito (Maricel). Kahit may mga asawa na tayo ganyan. Sabi ko,

pwede ba kitang ligawan?" Aga relates to ABS-CBN's The Buzz on Sunday.

Maricel, meanwhile, downplays Aga's remark

"Ako, sigurado ba siyang ako yun? Kasi ako tuwang tuwa ako. Alam mo di mo kasi tinatanong, si Aga at si Charlene pareho ko silang kaibigan. Actually parati akong guest sa show ni Charlene. Kaya gusto ko malinawanag ah? Friends ko sila pareho. At isa lang masasabi ko, napakagalang niyang artista," Maricel tells The Buzz in a separate interview.

Aga and Maricel will team up for this Star Cinema film that has a working title "I Don't Want You to Go." He said this is a milestone for

him, because this is the first time he's paired with the showbiz Diamond Star in his 23 years in showbiz.

The film is directed by veteran director Maryo J. delos Reyes, who megged "Sinungaling Mong Puso," Aga's best actor performance in 1992, and "Kaya Kong Abutin ang Langit," one of the many blockbusters he made with Maricel in a span of 20 years.

The story revolves around a love triangle between the characters portrayed by Aga, Maricel, and young actress Angelica Panganiban. It will also include several love scenes between Aga and Maricel.

"Oo aabangan nila yan. Panggulat yan," Maricel said. (Inquirer.net)

Almost Famous

Kristine de Leon's sojourn to 'Rolling Stone' fame

By Nickie V. de Leon / Asianjournal.com

(Second of two parts)

AS of this writing, Kristine may already be embarking on her first legit assignment as contributing editor for Rolling Stone magazine.

Kristine de Leon, a Film journalism graduate from San Francisco State University and a native of the Bay Area, was chosen among six fledgling journalists who joined MTV's "I'm From Rolling Stone" to become the next contributing editor for the legendary rock and roll magazine.



Kristine de Leon, Rolling Stone's latest 'edition'

Photo courtesy of Statia Photography/Rollingstone.com

Two weeks ago, the Asian Journal had the opportunity to have a phone chat with Rolling Stone's newest "edition." At that time, Kristine

(who was then temporarily based in Los Angeles) has not formally spoken with RS regarding her responsibility. Continued on PAGE B3

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feel good. A respected name in the beauty industry, hair and make-up expert Fanny Serrano will take the spotlight on Saturday, April 14th at 2:00pm. He will be doing a make-up demo and will talk about how to have that perfect look on your wedding day. Dr. Vicki Belo, on the other hand, will be on center stage on Sunday, April 15th at 3:00pm for her "All About Beauty" presentation.

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(Advertising Supplement)

Almost Famous

From PAGE B1

ies as contributing editor, but shared a general idea of how things are going to work.

With RS being more inclined towards rock, alternative and pop music, AJ asked Kristine how she can integrate a fresh perspective, coming from a background that was more oriented towards hip-hop.

"I think that RS is such an institution on rock and roll and there's no way that I can ever take away from that, but after thirty years now, hip-hop has proved itself not to be a passing fad, it's really a lucrative business right now and it's huge... in terms of being a genre itself."

"I felt that it was finally time for rock n' roll as an institution to recognize hip-hop. I thought that there's a possibility that as contributing editor, hip-hop would be my specialty and that they needed that. At the same time, I wanted people to recognize that RS came from San Francisco, and it came off as a sub-culture rock and roll and rock and roll wasn't taken seriously. I felt that was the same thing about hip-hop, I wanted hip-hop to be taken more seriously. RS didn't

really have any credibility with the hip-hop community either," she asserted.

She narrated how some journalists she met perceive RS as "a magazine for pop culture and a magazine for old, white folks." She's hoping to make RS more relevant to the community of color and to the urban community as well.

With the Fil-Am community finally finding representation in RS, AJ asked Kristine if she thought that this could be a jumping off point for Filipino American bands to make it to the mainstream as well.

Kristine gave a hearty laugh. "I think that with me just being there and being somebody who they trust as an important person, as a peacemaker per se, it's definitely a chance not only for Fil-Ams but for everybody. It's hard because I'm coming in there as a representative of my community so people think that now that I'm there I'm takin' down the bill, which is true."

"But people have to meet me halfway also because I worked very hard to get where I'm at, just because I'm there doesn't mean that some

Fil-Am band that comes out of nowhere is going to make it to Rolling Stone. They have to work as equally hard as I did. If they get to my level, I will definitely be the first person to pitch. I will pitch it."

When it comes to writing about more complex issues or issues of social relevance, Kristine writes with such vividness and eloquence. Her piece on "The Dark Side of Kentucky," Kristine's IFRS national affairs assignment on the Tyson Chicken Houses, is an illuminating combo of factual reporting and palpable imagery that will move you to feel nothing but compassion for the families affected by this eco-disaster.

Asked what inspires her to write with so much poignancy, Kristine revealed that she finds writing therapeutic. "Growing up, feeling like I was from two cultures, feeling that I was from the Philippines but that I was also from America...the Filipino-American identity is something that is still being shaken."

"Going to SFSU and learning about my history, that was a huge inspiration for me. Not only Fil-Ams, but people of color in general, the struggles they have made to be recognized in the community. I realized that my problems are

Harmonious Lovers

By Grand Master Chi-Jen Liu

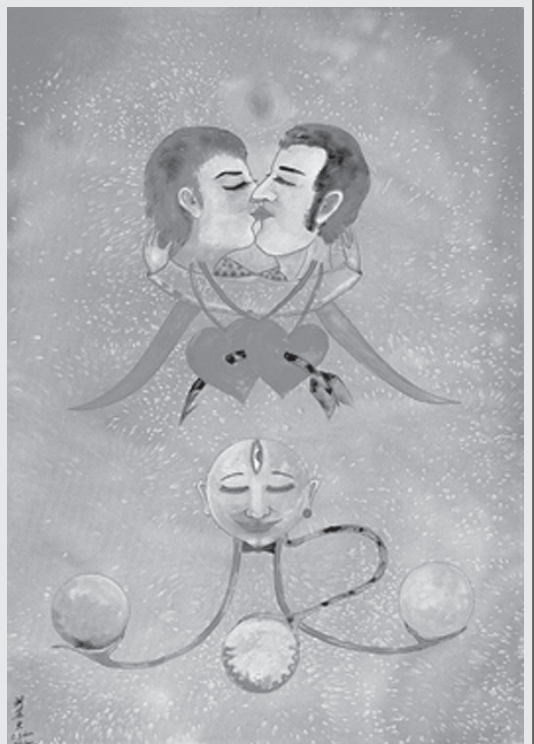
APPRECIATE the people in your life all the time. It doesn't matter if they are in your life because of good karma or bad karma. If they come to you and it's bad karma, then pay the debt because you owe them. You have no choice. You must appreciate the chance to pay the debt, otherwise the bad karma will continue into the next life.

If you marry, create a very strong bond between you and your spouse. Come together. Don't just fight and dominate. Learn to be humble and patient with each other. When you marry, every morning you say a certain mantra and make the mudra and get energy from Chi Art because you don't just marry one person, you marry their whole family. Practice the mantra so people feel comfortable with you and accept you. Appreciate both sets of parents and love them. You can do a mantra for eloquent speech so when

you speak, they are crazy about you. Get the right Chi Art and you will feel those frequencies of social balance and everything is wonderful.

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Grand Master Chi-Jen Liu is an internationally renowned grand feng shui master and yin-yang expert. His knowledge stems from a combination of ancestral wisdom and 54 years of feng shui study. For more information on Chi Art, please go to www.FengShuiChiArt.com or call Julie at 626-862-1788.

(Advertising Supplement)

so little compared to theirs. I realized that their work made my work possible. I can't complain about how hard it is because I don't really know what it's like."

"I can imagine how hard it was and I can imagine the perseverance of our people. I still get emotional to this day, thinking how hard it must have been for Filipinos to be recognized."

"Coming into the situation, my father and mother had to give up their whole life to bring me here and sacrifices are still being made so that I can stay in this very fortunate position. That is my muse, because I'm given this opportunity to have a place and

Continued on PAGE B4

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THE ART SCENE

The Perfervid Art of the Religious

By Constantino Tejero / Inquirer.net

MANILA — The sexual energy of the religious is naturally channeled through art. It is a sublimation devoutly to be wished, for then the physical is transformed into the spiritual. Art and art-making, if we have to be reminded, are an essentially spiritual activity and experience.

Witness San Juan de la Cruz and Sta. Teresa de Avila in their confrontation with the Divine in their books of rapture and self-abnegation. Or William Blake in his visionary engravings and paintings, and John Donne in his poetry of religious masochism.

Or that protofeminist of the Mexican Baroque, Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz, in her tremulous writings and music. Or even the Victorian Jesuit priest Gerard Manley Hopkins in his "Dark Sonnets."

In the tradition of this channeling of creative energy is the art of Sr. Eleanor Correa Llanes of the Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a Filipino nun assigned

in Brazil by her congregation for 16 years now.

Back in the country vacationing in the ICM Sisters motherhouse in Quezon City, Llanes has brought along her visualizations of biblical passages rendered in pastel on paper, so vivid they fairly glow. She seriously went into art-making five years ago and has done about 50 pieces, some of which had been used as illustrations for books and posters.

Inspired by the movement of the mandala, the composition invariably consists of repeat lines, the imagery neat drawings of simplified forms, and the landscape and figures limned in sweeping curvilinear strokes.

The entire pictorial frame is filled with vibrant hues of primary and secondary colors, with the warm harmony often prevalent (the colors of morning light, ripening fruits and grains, blood and wine, flame).

"The Holy Spirit Will Come upon You and the Power of the Most High Will Cover You

with Its Shadow..." depicts the Annunciation. It is the angel Gabriel speaking to the Virgin Mary about the coming of the Messiah.

"You Have Kept the Best Wine till Now!" is an illustration of Jesus' first miracle, at the marriage in Cana, where He changes water into wine upon the prodding of His mother. It is the chief steward speaking to the bridegroom after tasting of this life-affirming wine.

In "Hearts Burning in Shadows and Light," it is the third day after the Crucifixion, and the Risen Christ appears to His demoralized disciples, breaks bread with them, and banishes their anxieties and trepidation.

"We Hold This Treasure in Pots of Earthenware..." contains the seed of Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians, reassuring these early Christians to be not afraid because, through Christ's death, God is ever with them.

"The Burning Bush" is, of course, that scene in Mount Horeb where Moses is blinded by the sight of the Almighty, just before being handed with the two stone tablets of the Decalogue graven by the fingers of God.

In "Wisdom God," Solomon



"The Burning Bush"

sees wisdom as a vapor of the power of God, a female spirit or feminine principle emanating from His majesty and glory. It comes only from God and is obtained by prayer and a good life.

In these pieces, Llanes intersperses delicacy with bluntness, symbolism with literal-mindedness. Often she alternates the obvious panoramic view and the subtle closeup of details, stick figures and swirling abstraction.

In their impassioned visual composition and the tonal quality of their titles, these graphic illustrations certainly belong to the tradition of those Spanish mystics and English metaphysicals. ■

Almost Famous

From PAGE B3

what am I going to do with that voice, am I going to sit there and waste it and not recognize the work that was before me? Or am I going to recognize all the work that has been put in so I could be here in this position and do my best to, not only be myself but to be proud of my culture and also be somebody whose talent is undeniable universally..." she further added.

Krishtine's message to aspiring journalists — Don't worry about anybody else, worry about developing yourself. Use your struggles by taking in the strength and learning about yourself. Always give back at the end of the day. Finally, look at yourself as a representation of your community and as a Filipino, a force to be reckoned with. (AJ)

LoKomotiv's Rock Fusion Enlivens Local Music Scene

By Marlet D. Salazar / Inquirer.net

MANILA — Music is serious business for the guys from Lokomotiv. But, when they're not pounding skins and doing axe chores, they also know how to have some fun.

Last month, the heavy rock band based in Southern California wrapped up their tour in the country to promote their debut album, "Rock n' Roll Death Toll."

Evolution may seem like an inappropriate word for the young band. Only a couple of years on the music scene, Lokomotiv had members come and go before coming up with its current, and hopefully, final lineup.

Experience and age

Often misunderstood as a snob, rock icon Wolf Gemora actually exudes the kind of humility that commands respect. He is one of the moving forces behind the growing popularity of Lokomotiv. His experience and age, and a good number of loyal followers from his heyday with Wolfgang, led the band to amass an increasing fan base since the group's first performance.

After plans of his former band to break into the US market didn't materialize, Wolf joined Lokomotiv, with Americans James MacDonnel (who eventually left the group) and bassist Danny Gonzales. Guitarist David Aguirre, formerly of Razorback, and Wolfgang's vocalist, Basti Artadi, completed the lineup.

A year and a half later, Basti also left the band. The three remaining members, together with manager Ron Davis, immediately looked for a "wild frontman/singer" and advertised on the Internet. They were set to promote their album in the Philippines — and they didn't have a frontman!

Audition

A few weeks later, they found 21-year-old Ryan Hudson, who breathed new life — and sound — into the band. The young guy from Oklahoma impressed the trio — especially Wolf — during the audition and rehearsals.

"I was blown away," Wolf confesses. "He knew the songs very well, and when he sang we said: 'There you go!'"

David used Danny's analogy when they finally found their guy: "We were looking for a soldier, not a mercenary." Ryan, with his witty remarks and "innocence," is that soldier.

For Danny, the band is his life: "We endured crummy jobs, and the only way we were able to do it was the knowledge that there was going to be a rehearsal at the end of the day!"

Collaborations

"RNRDT" was released in the US last year. "It's like a series of snapshots of where each member of the band was at the time," David describes the album. Its repertoire includes previous works of the members prior to joining Lokomotiv, as well as their collaborations as a band.

Serious discussions about their music don't escape Ryan's amusing remarks though. "Have you heard of the band Air Supply?" he asks us. "If it wasn't for Air Supply this album might have been my favorite."

The cut, "Ride with Me," is a crowd favorite during their live gigs. "It's not only Ryan's favorite; it has also become the band's theme song," Wolf declares. "If you want to know what Lokomotiv is, watch and hear us perform the song live."

The album has 10 cuts. And Ryan was given the tough task

Continued on PAGE B5

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