



# The Damdamag

The Official Newsletter Of The Vergara Clan

Issue 1, 2003

## Coming Home...

By **JC Chong**

*Didn't think it was possible. Two uneventful days, one moment there's peace and quiet, next moment there's a throng of Clanistas literally the size of half a village at the doorstep. But it did happen. Again.*

**December 30, 2002, Monday**

**11:00 - 12:00 P.M. Arrival Umingan**

It was like a chapter from an obscure sci-fi novel, where thousands of years from now, colonists who've long settled on distant worlds return to Earth, Terra Firma, the place of their birth, the cradle of Human civilization. Using a different analogy, it was like the Jews going back to the Holy Land after being dispersed for centuries. I really couldn't think of an exact analogy, honestly. It was just mind-boggling with all those people pouring in. Yeah, strange picture, people from all over, gathered from the four winds, and some who've remained, converging into where it all began. And contrary to what some may have heard, that a lot wouldn't make it at all, or at least in Umingan, there were already about 140-odd registered Clanistas by noon!

Not quite an old man yet, though you may consider me an aging kid, I (and probably quite a number of Gen-Next people) was a bit disoriented with all the new generation kiddies trying to squeeze in to try to greet. Name tags hardly helped. The Neoriginals probably were in the same fix a few decades ago but there were just a few dozen of us 'kiddies' to deal with back then, not a hundred. Having worked on the Official Family Tree was an edge, but hardly enough. Remind me to get a high-end PDA next year.

So it was a case of trying to greet the elders whilst trying to kneel down and accommodate the new ones. Man, I didn't think I'd ever see the day I'd write this stuff. Yeah, whatever. Looking at the relatively unchanged Umingan house and landscape, plus all those people, brought an overwhelming sense of *deja vu*.

**12:00 P.M.**

An incredible array of Umingan food! Not inedible. Even without utensils. It took me a while to snag some though. Meal 'stamps' on the name tags' a real neat idea. Jaja, literally the #1 registrant, won the first raffle prize, a coffee maker! (So it wouldn't sound redundant, from this point on, where it wasn't explicitly mentioned, prizes were raffled off in between gaps. There were towels, watches, make-up, perfume, wallets, bags, etc.)

**1:00 - 2:00 P.M. Thanksgiving and Memorial Service (Umingan Church)**

I was browsing thru the Reunion Program and it gave me an impression that the reunion was really carefully thought of and planned. Methodical, organized. More Clanistas poured in before the Service began and there was more of that Vergara S.O.P. (The kissing and hugging stuff.) Even that was organized, proba-



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# December 30 – 31, 2002

bly not in the way we expected. It wasn't as if everyone suddenly showed up like that and started kissing and hugging everyone. People came in manageable batches.

That was it. We'd grown too big. What seemed like a Cathedral just a few decades ago was like a Chapel now. Some Clanistas didn't have a choice but to stay outside to hear the message by the time it started. After Melvin officially declared the reunion 'open' there were some songs and Fely Carino delivered the sermon. It was an excellent discourse on our Umingan roots, a holistic picture of it all, an interesting history lesson for those who weren't there when it began. Some tidbits, insights, etc, etc. Bottom line, why we held reunions in the first place and why we ought to continue. You'd feel like a heretic if you still didn't attend reunions after listening to all that. It was most inspiring. I just had to get a copy. (You may download it from our site.)



## 2:00 - 2:30 P.M. Floral Offering (Umingan Cemetery)

The Umingan afternoon heat can be most unforgiving, but Clanistas flocked to the cemetery nonetheless. People had flowers for the departed. A lot of them took pictures with them too. After the sweltering heat, people then flocked to their air-conditioned vehicles for CONDORA, La Union.

## 4:00 - 5:30 P.M. Arrival, Musical Tribute

More Clanistas poured in. More VSOP. Pancit, personally prepared by Valerie, was served with juice. Clanistas who traveled from Umingan, after unpacking, proceeded to the basketball court where the Luzon Colleges Band waited. The nearly 100-strong band rendered a lot of popular songs and themes. Some notable ones were the themes from Hawaii-Five-O and Star Wars.



## 6:30 P.M. Dinner

Uh, I really wouldn't call it inedible, despite the presence of lots of veggies. I'm still here right?

## 8:00 - 10:00 P.M. "On Broadway"

While waiting for the rest of the Clanistas, prizes were again raffled off. Ali was emcee and she had a little 'duck-walk' game going. Bibliotheque, the group Charmaine was a part of, enthralled the Clanistas with a host of songs from Broadway Musicals. Everyone went back to their respective cottages for more "kunol-kunol" afterwards.

## December 31, 2002, Tuesday

### 7:00 A.M. Breakfast

Some 'danggit', omelette and other stuff. Verdict? Not inedible.

### 8:00 - 11:30 A.M. Ball Games

The Los Casados team massacred the T-ners in what has to be the most lopsided victory in Vergara History, ending a very long drought. Pre-game analysis predicted something like a Coca-cola vs. Alaska match-up, with most of the present day LCs, former T-ners themselves barely a few years ago. The final score 55-27 made it look more like the RP Team vs. China. Newly installed Commissioner of the VBA, Matt, was also the referee. An awesome front-line, fielding in for the first time in Vergara History, all three Patrimonio brothers, (Yao, Batere and Wang) frolicked in the paint. The T-ners actually took a commanding 6-0 lead in the opening minutes after two jumpers by Cian. The LCs retaliated with an 8-0 run and never looked back. So dominating was the LC frontline that the T-ners almost never had any offensive rebound. Unrelenting defense and fastbreak points by the LCs virtually shut down the T-ners. By the time the second-stringers were fielded in, the outcome was already beyond doubt. Marvin, who also plays for LA, sealed the final nail with a fade away at the buzzer.



In the Volleyball games, the mixed-team T-ners trounced the LCs, 25-18 and 25-17. The LCs bounced back in the second-round male division, 25-10 and 25-21.

### 12:00 P.M. Lunch (renamed Reunion Lunch in keeping with age-old tradition)

Some soup, more veggies, chicken, and yes, lotsa lechon! Inedible. Not!

### 1:00 - 3:30 P.M. Anything goes

As the title says, Clanistas either slept, went to and fro, catching up on news. Some hung around the Main hall. Others stayed at their cottages. Everyone else did a little of everything.

### 3:30 P.M. Snacks

Forgot to mention this. As early as the ball games, there were carts (typical Pinoy street trades) with fish-balls, juice and stuff at the Basketball court. Turned out that everything was courtesy of the host family. Clanistas were again invited around this time to



# December 31, 2002

eat at the court.

## 4:00 - 6:00 P.M. Parlor Games

They were conducted by two of our certified Clan babes, Esther and Teena, the dynamic duo of the Parlor Games. Despite the radical changes in the schedule, this is one thing you can't take away from the Vergara kids (and some adults). Most, if not all grown Clanistas, were weaned on this.

## 6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Final Team Rehearsals

Final? I'd suppose most teams were still brainstorming at this point. (Ah, don't worry, they all turned out fine, the end justifies the means as they say.) Groups of sub-clans huddled together in their cottages, making props, conceptualizing, revising, practicing, etc, etc. Dacs/Anolins/Pure sub-clans were to do Spanish, Barroses/Mandaluyongs, a Mardi Gras, Tintoy/Carinos, a Hawaiian thing, and Paconians/Astrings, a Chinese New Year. Don't have a cow, er, bull, man!



## 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. Dinner

I really didn't mind because I was thinking about the presentations. Remains of a decapitated lechon were being passed around.

## 8:00 to New Year

Let the show begin!

To stall for time, there was another raffle. Lots were drawn who'd be first. Yeah I sorta knew we'd be first. 'Visitacion' tele-novella was showcased by the first group. (Hey, it wasn't easy being a bull, er, cow, er bull, whatever.) A rowdy Mardi Gras followed. Mark first explained what this 'fat Tuesday' was for. High-lights included Reggie playing his er, drag-queen role to the hilt. Heh. It wasn't all that of course. There was a 'redeeming' message in the end. Fetching...



In between presentations, (though I didn't quite remember the order) Membrere kids, Mandaluyong kids, a new-look Paconian troupe (led by Cyrene) did their thing. Their parents, who not too long ago, were on the stage themselves, proudly looked on.

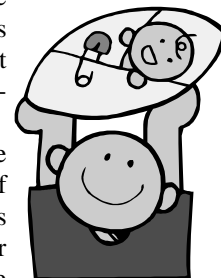
The Tintoy/Carino group, had a Hawaiian presentation. It was fun, they even had the lechon head! Last but not the least, the Paconian/Astring group rendered their version of a Chinese New Year. Breathtaking!

Shawn then sang 'Lupa' by Gary V. Way he sang it, you wouldn't be able to tell he was from the US. I jokingly told Tom to sing a Filipino song next time he came back. "But I already told my marriage vows in Tagalog!" he laughed. Other presentations here and there followed. Another from Karen Maxwell.

Another highlight of the evening was the 'final' performance of the Vergara Clan's first Boyband, the 3M's. (Matt, Marvin and

Melvin). Before singing, they explained that they would now be embarking on their 'solo' careers. Artistic differences? Ah, we'll never know.

Clan newbies were introduced. The babies and the babes. Yeah. John and Allen with Shawie (and new son Sebastian) and Monique, respectively. They had a song number. Welcome! Kinda makes me think at times what kind of number I'd make my future wifey do in front someday. Has to be something cool and nasty, yeah. Jeff, Doxee's new hubby, promised to give a sermon next reunion. (There you got it dude, now on record!)



Having the picture-taking session before midnight was a clever idea. Come to think of it, almost everything about the schedule was clever. Efficient. Well-thought of. What better time to take the Clan pics than when everyone was already there, instead of just hanging around killing time.

## 11:55 P.M. Fellowship Circle

Or was it 11:50? It was a bit too early and Resident-Clan-Pastor-For-Life Mark had to stall while everyone was already in position. I wasn't sure if my watch was just late or... Anyway, Y2K2 flashed before my eyes as the circuit started. Probably not unlike what I'd see when its time for me to leave this earth... Yeah, it was a fast year...

Tres, er, un... (In Spanish, Chinese and French, respectively.)

## January 1, 2003, Wednesday

### 12:00 A.M. Happy New Year!!! - Media Noche

Hello Y2K3!!! Just a couple of years back, oh, has been a couple of 'years?' we were still adjusting to writing '20' instead of '19' on our stuff. For all our know-how, I still don't understand why we haven't come up with flying cars.

Music blared again. Sheesh, a thousand MP3s and I only got to sneak in two songs. Kraig begged off being co-DJ this time... Couldn't smell the fireworks at Condora. Must be gettin' old.

V.S.O.P. at the speed of light. By the time it was all over, my face was puffed up from all the kisses. Arms were half-crushed from all the bear hugs. No one could have wiped that silly grin off my face.

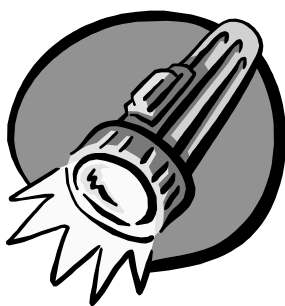
### 12:00 - 4:00 A.M. Hide and Seek, etc.

Yup, vintage ol' me teamed up with other vintage guys, Richard and William. Talk about classic 90's. I wasn't too keen on joining at first, with most everyone who did, probably weren't even born yet during our Hide and Seek prime. A group of four kids who were 'it' didn't look they were making progress so I of-



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ferred to suit up for them. After that round was over, me and the other 'old-timers' announced our 'comeback'. The level we played was just incredible considering the long lay-off! Marshalls Ali, Teena, etc had to 'make' us 'it' almost twice to make things even. We were a bit slower, got tired more easily, but we were smarter. Hah! When you're pushin' 30, smarts count a lot. After a few rounds, the other guys got smart too and started following us wherever we hid, so it was just a matter of who got tagged first. Entire bunch would hide in one big cluster. The three of us, plus Reinard, were actually hiding from two groups -- the guys who



were 'it' and everyone else who was following us. Other 90's players were there watching like Lala, Ren, etc. I could have sworn Ren wanted to make a comeback too. She was watching over her son, Reinard. I mean take a look at Sonny and Dudut Jaworski. Next reunion maybe?

Back at the Main hall, the other guys, mostly LCs, were singing the night away with VCDs over cans of beer.

(Lolo) Bert was already asleep, another chess match won against (Uncle) Willie he told me. I never knew who won those battles, having been waged longer than I could remember. I think I must've been asking that same question, several reunion newsletters now. Right before midnight, he approached me saying he'd won the third straight time. Three games out of four actually, and he wanted to go to bed early. Well, now we know.

## 8:00 - 10:00 A.M. Breakfast

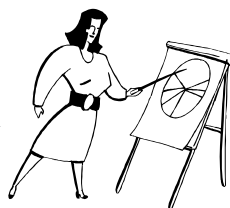
I actually woke up on time, despite having had only a few hours of sleep. Just like being back home. (Oops!) Anyway, it wasn't inedible. Anything with hard-boiled eggs is edible.



## 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. Family Council Meeting, etc.

Teena again took down the minutes of the meeting, right after submitting last year's. The General again brought the house down, while explaining the difference between the 'tithe' and 'tight'. He's always right of course. (Lolo) Bert, one of the three originals present who were on time in every activity, emphasized the need for sticking to sked. (Lola) Chit was very ecstatic about seeing all our faces again in Umingan. (Lola) Pat was nodding nearby. Prizes were handed out to winners of the parlor games, Basketball and Volleyball games. I mean get a clue, how do you win against a team like that? Psycho, man.

There was a resolution of thanks prepared by (Aunt) Letty for the host sub-clan. I failed to get a copy of it so here are bits and pieces of what I remember: Thanks to the very generous donors - Two lechons from Suyin and PJ, Hiyasmin and Tom, Benny and Leddy; Marching Band - Melanie and Sesario; Bibliotheque - Lorraine and Ted; Meriendas (Fish Balls, pancit, etc.) - Valerie and Rey and the Max



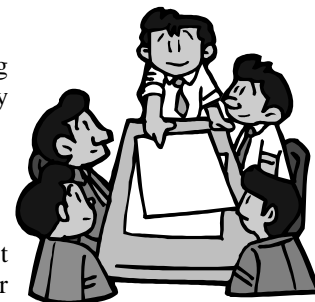
Carino clan in LA; Prizes - Erline and the host subclan; Umingan lunch - Fely and Theresa.

## 12:00 - 1:00 P.M. Lunch

Not inedible. Managed to snag half a glass of Coke from a nearby table.

## 1:30 - 3:00 P.M. Pack-up, Good-byes

This has always been the longest part of the reunion. There has never been a 'best' nor 'worst' reunion for me. Its not always about competition or programs. Literally last but not the least part of the reunion, but I can safely say this is one of my favorite parts. At the start of reunions, I often think about home, creature comforts, etc. In the end though, this is the part I'd like to extend indefinitely. Of course, with this shrinking world and all our gadgets and stuff, we can make meeting regularly a reality. (^o^).



*P.S. (Miscellany)*

*Both the youngest and oldest Reunionite came from the Bert Sub-clan:*

- *Youngest Reunionite (4 months) was Sebastian Patrimonio of John-john and Shawie*
- *Oldest Reunionite - (Lolo) Bert - 84 years old and going strong*



# Financial Report

**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**58th VERGARA CLAN ANNUAL REUNION**  
Condora, Damortis, La Union  
January 1, 2002 (as of 11 AM)

COLLECTION:

Originals	-	P 45,000.00	
Neo-riginals*	-	P 45,800.00	
Gennext	-	<u>P 20,800.00</u>	<u>P111,600.00</u>

LESS EXPENSES:

Condora			
board & lodging	-	P 97,935.00	
Photography	-	2,500.00	
Lights & sounds	-	2,000.00	
Tips	-	2,000.00	
Misc.	-	<u>P 1,062.85</u>	<u>P105,497.85</u>

EXCESS CASH- **P 6,102.15**

(\* Includes Minna's \$100; Lorna's and Hilda's \$100; three guests at P500 each)

ADD: Late payments (after 11 AM):			
Pledges Neo	-	P 6,000.00	
Pledges Gennext-		<u>P 3,000.00</u>	

SEED MONEY FOR NEXT REUNION **P 15,102.15**  
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*Prepared by: Mayang*  
*Audited by: Hedy*



# Summary of Minutes

**SUMMARY OF MINUTES**  
**58th VERGARA CLAN ANNUAL REUNION**  
Condora, Damortis, La Union  
January 1, 2003  
10:30 AM

PRESIDING OFFICER: MELVIN RIMORIN, Chair, 58th Reunion

1. Chairman calls meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. Minutes of last year's meeting approved.
3. Evaluation of 58th reunion
  - 3.1 - Melvin explained the thinking behind "The Legacy Lives On!"  
"Umingan, where it all started, was not a side trip but an alternate route to the reunion site. Reunion lunch (lechon and special dishes) was also revived."
  - 3.2 - Willie: "No meticulous schedule... very relaxed."
  - 3.3 - Matt: "...outpouring of donations from the Pacing sub-clan. Congratulations for an unprecedented reunion!"
  - 3.4 - Albert: "Marshals should be assigned to wake up and gather reunionites on time."
  - 3.5 - Chit: "Happy to welcome everyone to Umingan. Thank you for donors to the church. Please don't forget this church -- without you we cannot do our programs."
  - 3.6 - Faith: "Offering during the Memorial Service for Umingan church amounted to P17,400."
  - 3.7 - Danny (of Darlene): "We must never forget to pray before meals."
  - 3.8 - Aie: "A lot of Clanistas from abroad called during the reunion -- to be with us in spirit. Ggie who was at the airport; all the Clanistas in Australia who were simultaneously having their own reunion."
  - 3.9 - Monique (wife of Allen): "'Am very happy with what is happening... good practice for everyone."
  - 3.10 - Ali: "Sermon of uncle Fely... very enlightening and well appreciated."
4. Greetings and birthday song for celebrant Hiyasmin.
5. Prizes awarded to winners in various activities.
6. Financial report by treasurer, Grace May. (Printed separately)
7. Reading of Resolution of Gratitude to donors by auntie Letty. (Printed separately)
8. Turnover ceremony: Melvin turns over chairmanship symbolized by the REUNION LOGBOOK to representatives Desiree and Anna of the Miming Vergara sub-clan.
9. Grand Raffle and more prizes awarded to Clanistas.
10. Closing Prayer: Mark
11. Meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Prepared by:

TEENA DACANAY  
Acting secretary