

SHOWBIZ & STYLE

JOURNAL

FUNFARE UPDATE

Did Tonyboy drive Gretchen away?

by RICKY LO
Philstar.com

AS we went to press, word got to *Funfare Update* late afternoon of Sept. 18 that Gretchen Barretto was packing her things and leaving the mansion in Forbes Park which she and her beloved Tonyboy Cojuangco and their daughter Dominique have been sharing even during these past turbulent years.

"Tonyboy drove her away," said the *Funfare Update* DPA, refusing to elaborate.

Since calls to Gretchen from *Funfare Update* were unanswered (she could "not be reached"), all we could do is speculate (as of now) what finally, so to speak, broke the camel's back.

Since two years ago when Gretchen got involved in the so-called "kisscandal" with John Estrada, *Funfare Update* sources said that things have never been the same again between her and Tonyboy. Matters worsened when Gretchen was romantically linked to

a businessman who is separated from his wife and who has a love child with an actress/beauty-queen. Gretchen and Tonyboy sometimes openly fought in public, like during Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's birthday party early this year at The Blue Leaf in Taguig City.

There were rumors that Gretchen had been sleeping over at the businessman's condo unit at The Fort, Taguig City, something which Gretchen dismissed with a laugh.

"Gretchen doesn't seem to hide whatever relationship she has with the businessman," said somebody close to her. "She gets invited to the affairs of the businessman's relatives. Once, Gretchen even checked into a five-star hotel for a weekend holiday with the businessman's kids."

Gretchen has been vocal about her long-time wish for Tonyboy to marry her. But there's a hitch: Tonyboy's first marriage (to Denise Yabut) hasn't been annulled.

It's not the first time that Gretchen was rumored to have left, or been "driven away" by Tonyboy from their Forbes Park home.

"But this time," the *Funfare Update* DPA was sure, "it's for real. Gretchen is leaving only with her things and not with Dominique who remains with Tonyboy." ■



[Showbitz!]

Mark Herras proves his acting mettle with indie film

STARSTRUCK teen idol Mark Herras proves he is more than a pretty face with the upcoming independent film *Sapi*. Mark relates to *Philippine Daily Inquirer* how strange it was when they shot one of the film's most pivotal scenes—him being dunked in a river by a faith healer, played by theater actor Nanding Josef.

"If was as if I was a child again, being baptized by a healer," he says. "We shot in the mountains of Montalban, a place that's also *nakakakilabot*. This is something new for me. I'm used to the way things are done in mainstream projects, and this is my first indie film."

Leonor S. Vintervoll, one of the film's co-producers, attests that *Sapi*, which also stars acting greats Ricky Davao and Joel Torre, will change how the public perceives Mark.

"He's not glamour boy in this movie," she says. "He showed depth as an actor." ■

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