



Hi!
Society

By **MONET LU**

RP's reigning Adonis

endorser, athlete and leader.

He's won awards for his acting performances for critically acclaimed movies such as *Dahas* and *Hihintayin Kita sa Langit*. He has also starred in a string of hits for Regal films, making him a truly bankable leading man with the help of long-time mentor Douglas Quijano.

Goma is one of those lead actors who will stay with us for a long time. I think the secret to his staying power is the wisdom he applies in choosing roles.

He's like the Pinoy Johnny Depp. Versatile and unpredictable in his role choices.

His latest TV projects, specifically as host of *Family Feud*, have also enjoyed success.

As a product endorser, Goma is much sought after. He's the original and main model for Bench, which still remains a top apparel brand to this day.

The athlete Goma employs the same discipline in sports as he does in his acting career. With pride, he's represented the Philippines in many sporting competitions.

He founded the Goma Cup and MAD (*Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga*) which campaigns against drug abuse.

The private and personal Goma is also very devoted. He's a doting father to daughter Juliana and very loving husband to the lovely



Richard Gomez

and incomparable Lucy. His 11-year marriage is a standard by which other showbiz marriages aspire for.

During the last general elections in the Philippines, Goma and supporters braved the complicated world of politics in a desire to make a difference in the lives of Filipinos.

Goma's senatorial bid was unsuccessful but his heart was in the right place. Who knows, we might still see his name in the ballot in the next elections.

I hope to be seeing Goma and Lucy in the Pacquiao-Hatton match here in Vegas this coming May 2nd. The couple is celebrating their anniversary by taking this trip to the U.S.

I wish Goma, Lucy and Juliana the best. Their wonderful family deserves all the graces. And may there be more little Gomas and Lucys to come...

The author is a Marikina-born, award-winning celebrity beauty stylist with his own chain of salons across Southern California and Las Vegas, Nevada. Ultimately, Monet is known as an all-around artiste who produces sold-out fashion and awards shows, as well as unforgettable marketing campaigns. Monet is also the founder of the revolutionary all-natural beauty products available at www.skinbymonet.com. He supports many humanitarian efforts to include projects in his native Marikina, The Bantay Bata Foundation, and many more. To contact Monet, please visit www.monetsalon.com for more information.

(Advertising Supplement)



Richard Gomez and Lucy Torres

2 for 1 haircut specials at Monet Salon

MONET Salon Las Vegas is offering an incredible two-haircuts-for-the-price-of-one promotion until the last day of April 2009.

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IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND

MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

(Here's an old favorite excerpted from the book, "The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life.")

THERE are no shortcuts in arriving at a decision to live a simple life. Sometimes, one has to go through a personal hell experiencing an inner fatigue and helplessness over the never-ending chase for the almighty dollar and quality of life in order to come to a conclusion that there has to be a better way than what is commonly believed.

Money is a major consideration in deciding to simplify one's life. Let's face it. Our attitude and relationship towards money have a lot to do with it. If you are always strapped for money because you are too deeply buried in debt, then money has you in a stranglehold. You have to work longer, harder hours in order to pay off the debt. Think of it this way. If you buy a new car which you have to pay on installment for the next five years, you have just signed yourself on to work for the next five years to pay it off. If you love your work and can see yourself doing it for the same company for the next five years, then driving a new car and being able to pay for it are bonuses of the work that you love to do. But if you hate your job, "... aye there's the rub..." as Shakespeare would say. Overwhelming financial problems will prevent you from living simply.

Many who have taken the simple life path will tell you that being relatively debt-free can be very liberating. It will allow you to breathe freely and lead you to appreciate everything with a twinkle in your eyes, about life under these big blue skies.

Saved money can give you options to take an extended leave, extended sabbaticals, switch gears to study for a change in career or simply to do the things you have always wanted to do

Money and the simple life

"I owe, I owe. So off to work I go."
— Car bumper sticker, taken from the song of *Snow White's seven dwarfs*, "Hi-ho, hi-ho. It's off to work I go."

but could not because you have been slaving your life away over things you have bought stashed in the garage, in the closet or in the basement unopened or things you have been maintaining to impress others with how successful you are and create an image.

To be able to save money, you will have to live below your means and pare down to the barest minimum your expenses to cover the basic necessities. Your treacherous, fat ego—the one that keeps wanting to impress others and success—must be cut down to size. If you have neither the motivation nor the discipline to do this, it won't happen.

Ergo, put that big, fat ego on a diet, pronto.

If you begin to understand your attitude about money and how you can make it work for you instead of you spending your life away chasing it and living paycheck to paycheck, then you are

on the right track. When it finally hits you that money can either free you or make a slave out of you depending on how you view it and how you use it, you can then begin to exercise the control you never knew you had over it. The reward is tremendous. You begin to experience a rare sense of freedom that only a simple life gives.

Charles Dickens who would probably make a good accountant as well, stated it plainly.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

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