

# M...LS.

OCT. 17, 2000

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AGA MUHLACH

CHARLENE GONZALES

The Travails,  
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60 / 100 GRAMS



# GAY RAP

by OSKAR ATADERO

the pictures taken during their civil union in Putney and their honeymoon in Provincetown, you can visit <http://photos.yahoo.com/rize081476>.

passion for theater. "The early signs of a queen," Rize muses to himself nowadays when asked about his love for the arts.

lege Application Test (UPCAT).

Next thing he knew, four years had passed and he had finished all his subjects to graduate.

Rize's first year in college was at the University of the Philippines - Los Baños where he pursued Veterinary Medicine for a year until he found out that he wasn't cut out for the field of science.

He shifted to History and transferred to another campus - University of the Philippines in Diliman. Rize loved history, and it seemed that history loved him back. Diploma, Philippine history, Cultural history, and Historiography - these were topics Rize learned and loved to learn.

R o m a n c e ???

Well, he was out, and he was gay. It was in college when he first got a taste of gay relationships. The dating, the courting, the sex(!!), the loving, and the breaking-up -- he experienced them all in college.

It was also during college that Rize got his first dip of gay activism. It started out June of 1996 when he attended his first Gay Pride March. "Solidarity '96" and he wasn't just watching, he was marching. It was there where he saw University of the Philippines Babaylan - a gay support group in his campus. Three months later, he found himself joining this gay organization.

The gay activist in Rize grew in him, and he found himself devoting a lot of his time to gay studies particularly the Gay Movement in the Philippines. With 21 years of being gay and his three years of researching of gay life in Metro Manila, he wrote for his undergraduate thesis, *The Gay Movement in Metro Manila 1980-1998*.

### Life in the States

Then came the time when Rize had to immigrate to the United States with his family. There, he quickly got a job and entered the working force

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## Another First for Pinoy Gay Power!

# Filipino-American couple gets married in the US

### Rose among the thorns

Born on August 14, 1976 in Quezon City, Ryan is the second child of three children. Ryan was nicknamed Rize because it simply sounded unique. His earliest memory as a toddler was that he had to undergo surgery a year after he was born in order for him to live. Fortunately, he does not remember the pain of undergoing the surgery itself.

Pre-nursery and nursery school for Rize was at a school



Sina George Tomas at Rize sa kanilang kasal

legacy before leaving elementary school and marching on to high school.

Rize's high school stint in the Ateneo de Manila was the best and the worst time in Rize's life. It was when he outed himself to his classmates. It was during his English class in his sophomore year when he told everyone that he felt like a rose among all of them.

Life was tough in high school especially being gay in an all-boys' school. The teasings, the beatings, the blatant discrimination -- all these created an aura of hostility in Rize's high school life.

It was also in high school that romance played an active role in Rize's life. Having crushes on straight handsome classmates made Rize's life even more depressing. Yet when asked now, Rize says that he would never exchange his high school life for anything else. As he said earlier, his high school life was the best and the worst, and without the experiences he underwent then, he would have been a different person now.

### Romance and the single guy

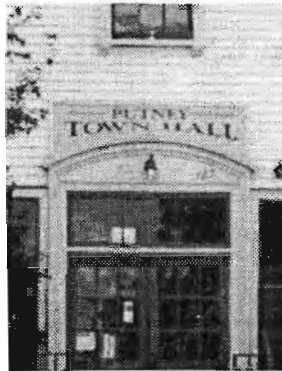
College seemed to go so fast to Rize. First, he remembered passing the University of the Philippines Col-

LONG-TIME friend Rize officially and legally became Mr. Ryan Pesigan DeCarlo Reyes. On, July 1, 2000, Vermont, USA passed the Civil Union law allowing gays and lesbians there to go into civil union with their partners. (Additional information about this law can be found on Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force and Vermonters for Civil Union, Inc.)

Anyway, on August 17, 2000, Rize and his longtime companion, George Thomas DeCarlo decided to go to Putney, Vermont to be joined in civil union with each other. They first met in Fire Island, New York two years ago on August 22, 1998 and have been together ever since.

A historical event, some people wrote that Rize may be the first gay Filipino to go into civil union. Of course, this is still unsubstantiated until records can prove no other gay Filipino went into civil union between July 1, 2000 and August 16, 2000. Still, Rize is proud of this occasion in his life.

After the civil union, both the lifelong partners decided to go to Provincetown, Massachusetts for their honeymoon. To view some of



Putney Town Hall kung saan naganap ang kasalan

where his mother taught - Infant Jesus Kindergarten School. There, he met many acquaintances who would become his close friends in the future. He also remembered getting his first award ever - Best in Rhythmic. What rhythmic meant, he did not know at that time. All he knew was that he got an award and he was so happy about it.

Elementary years, from 1982 to 1990, he was enrolled in Claret School of Quezon City. Rize was in fourth grade when he developed a

### GUYS GALORE DEPT'T:

Albert Paran with email address [rueimarvin@yahoo.com](mailto:rueimarvin@yahoo.com) is looking for friends and invites everyone to view his website with the address <http://facelink.com/acp4>.

Cute sexy guy in Amsterdam, 25, previously from Belarus, looking for sincere friends. Blond, blue eyes, 186 cm, 69 kgs, slim, long-legged, attractive and sexual. Hobbies: philosophy, tennis, cooking. Write to Sasha, address Keizergracht 706, 10117 EW Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Harsudin Murdan, 24, wants to have lots of easygoing friends who love sharing stories. Movies, music, stamp collecting, dancing, table tennis, badminton. Address Jl Nangka III/24, Rt. 004/RW, Cengkareng, Jakarta Barat, Indonesia.

Writer-activist 37 years old, serious and compassionate, looking for long-term relationship with home-body types. Write to Oscar at [gayrap@edsamail.com.ph](mailto:gayrap@edsamail.com.ph).

## Gay Rap...cont.

of America. Rize's jobs ranged from fastfood grill person to department store cashier to *barista*. But eventually, he slowly went back to the academe. He first pursued Appraisal Studies in Fine and Decorative Arts in New York University. Afterwards, he enrolled part time in Regents College hoping to finish his baccalaureate.

As a gay advocate Rize was awed by the vast collection of books, articles, and studies pertaining to the gay movement. He first tried to acquire everything that seemed to be gay related. But it dawned on him that it was like stabbing through water. There was simply too much. But he noticed though that there were only a few that discussed gay Asia. It was in this enlightenment that focused him to pour his struggles into a more progressive activism -- gay Asian empowerment.

Currently, Rize is active with a lot of progressive groups. Among them are Network in Solidarity with the People of the Philippines (NISPOP) -- a leftist group based in New York concerned with the political situation in the Philippines. With his longtime companion, he is also involved with Friends against Sexual Orientation Discrimination -- a grassroots movement involved with the high school policies in New Jersey. He is a proud card carrying supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Online, he became a Community

Leader for Yahoo! Geocities WestHollywood -- a free GLBT home-standing for personal web pages. In addition, he established at WebRing - Gay Asian Coalition which networks majority of the gay Asian groups worldwide into one online one-stop resource center. The webbing and this web site is his contribution for the struggle. (Excerpts of material from Rize's webpage)

Write to GAY RAP for advice, penpal requests or just to express what's on your mind at P.O. Box 1764 QCCPO, 1157 Quezon City, Philippines or email to [gay\\_rap@yahoo.com](mailto:gay_rap@yahoo.com). Visit the internet website of Gay Rap at [http://members.tripod.com/~progay\\_philippines/](http://members.tripod.com/~progay_philippines/)

Advice to be dispensed if sender allows letter to be printed.