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# Manila Standard TODAY

Friday, February 18, 2011

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## Club scene heats up

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THE high-end party scene seems to be back in business, judging from how the top-tier Makati hotels have been springing back and sprucing up their bars and dance floors.

Cocktales

Victor C. Agustin



Tonight, the long-shuttered Cats disco at the New World Hotel will reopen with not one, but two clubs—Palladium, which will have a dance floor and imported DJs and Vogue, a bar on Palladium's second level.

Vogue will be more like a lounge targeting the same market as the hot Salon de Ning of the Peninsula and Martinis, the Mandarin jazz bar that brought the competition to a higher level.

According to the grapevine, both Palladium and Vogue are concessionaires operated by First World Leisure Entertainment of Wilson Tieng of the Solar Group. So expect a number of stars and sweet young things hanging out in between casting calls and assignments.

To prevent the hang-out girls from Cafe Havana across the street in Greenbelt from crossing over, Palladium is imposing a P300 cover charge for weekdays and P500 for weekends.

Over at the Shangri-La, the word is that the management—noting the success of Martinis and Salon de Ning in market and geographic positioning—is seriously considering moving Conway's bar from the second floor down to the ground floor where the steak restaurant Red is now, with Red moving up and trading places with Conway's.

**No-compete Cancios**

Not many know that celebrity beauty doctor Vicki Belo's real surname is Cancio, and that she has an elder sister who has just moved into the esthetic business, along with a partner from New York.

The sister, Sylvia Cancio, on Thursday opened a Cebu branch, a month after inaugurating the La Manille School of Esthetics and Wellness in Makati's Pasong Tamo. For P75,000 (as against the \$9,000 tuition in New York), a student receives 300 hours of academic and theoretical instruction and a ticket to \$2,500-a-month overseas job.

"Please don't say I'm competing with Vicki, because we're not," Cancio tells friends, explaining that the adjunct salon to the school deals with epidermis and facial care, not the more complex invasive procedures conducted by her more famous and financially-savvier younger sibling.

**Money-go-round**

- An international DNA paternity testing firm, easyDNA, has opened a joint venture in Angeles City with Harris DNA, targeting Amerasians and Filipino children of foreign parentage. The company, easy DNA Philippines, will also offer services such as various relationship DNA tests, forensic DNA testing as well as genetic health testing, said joint venture partner Charles Harris.

- Long-time Makati Shangri-La public relations director Joy Wassmer has resigned and been out of the five-star hotel since end-January but the management for unclear reason has been withholding the announcement of her replacement.

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