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THE COURSE

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MIDTERM ELECTION 2025



BONG GO, AKBAYAN LEAD INITIAL PARTY-LIST IN 2025 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

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The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) issued a partial and unofficial tally of the senatorial and party-list elections, reflecting 78.82% of the election returns as of May 13, 2025.



POPE FRANCIS: JOINS THE CREATOR AT 88

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Pope Francis, the 266th leader of the Roman Catholic Church, died at age 88 in his residence at Casa Santa Marta. His passing was officially announced at 9:45 A.M. by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church.



AQUINO, PANGILINAN TOP ADAMSON MOCK POLL REVEALING STUDENT PREFERENCES AHEAD OF THE 2025 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

P2

The Adamson Chronicle published the results of its "Pulsong Adamsonian" mock election, which assessed students' political awareness, candidate preferences, and anticipated voter turnout for the 2025 midterm polls.

Bong Go, Akbayan Lead Initial Tally in 2025 Midterm Elections



Photo Courtesy of Bong Go (Official Facebook Page) and 51 Akbayan Partylist (Official Facebook Page)

By: Richard Karl C. Santos

MANILA, Philippines — The Commission on Elections (COMELEC), through its official website, released an update on the partial and unofficial results of the 2025 midterm elections as of 8:02 AM on May 13, 2025, showing that with 80.40% of Election Returns (ERs) processed, Senator Bong Go maintains a strong lead in the senatorial race while Akbayan continues to top the party-list vote count.

Bong Go of PDP-Laban remains the frontrunner with 21,746,835 votes.

He is followed by former Senator Bam Aquino of the Katipunan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), who garnered 16,813,242 votes. Former PNP Chief and incumbent Senator Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa trails closely behind with 16,667,418 votes. Broadcaster and first-time candidate Erwin Tulfo (Lakas CMD) holds the fourth spot with 13,800,715 votes.

Completing the current top twelve are Kiko Pangilinan (Liberal Party) with 12,291,691 votes; Rodante Marcoleta (Independent) with 12,218,014; Ping Lacson (Independent) with 12,131,052; Tito Sotto (NPC) with 11,922,987; Pia Cayetano (Nacionalista Party) with 11,699,780; Camille Villar (NP) with 11,013,380; Lito Lapid (NPC) with 10,810,989; and Imee Marcos (NP) with 10,712,677 votes.

Just outside the winning circle and still in contention are Ben "Bitag" Tulfo (Independent) with 9,735,248 votes, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. (Lakas CMD) with 9,732,049, Abby Binay (NPC) with 9,493,103, and Benhur Abalos (PFP) with 9,303,051 votes.

These candidates remain within striking distance as the vote counting continues.

In the party-list race, six groups have already secured seats in the House of Representatives are based on their vote percentages. Akbayan leads with 2,204,072 votes, translating to 6.54% of the total party-list votes. Following closely is Duterte Youth with 1,872,003 votes (5.56%), then Tingog with 1,488,833 (4.42%), 4Ps with 1,199,457 (3.56%), ACT-CIS with 992,230 (2.95%) ,

and Ako Bicol with 884,334 votes (2.63%).

COMELEC has reminded the public that these results remain partial and unofficial. The final outcome will only be confirmed after the complete canvassing of votes and the official proclamation by the Commission.

As the counting progresses, the rankings may still shift, and the public is urged to follow updates only from verified sources and official COMELEC channels.

Aquino, Pangilinan Top Adamson Mock Poll, Revealing Student Preferences Ahead of the 2025 Midterm Elections

By: Therese Faith Medina

The Adamson Chronicle has officially released the results of its "Pulsong Adamsonian" mock midterm election, conducted to gauge student awareness of political issues, preferences among candidates, and expected participation in the upcoming 2025 midterm elections.

The survey was accessible from April 24 to May 7, 2025, allowing sufficient time to collect a representative sample of votes from the entire Adamson community. The organization utilized Microsoft Teams to maximize accessibility to participants, and a combined total of 538 valid responses were recorded throughout the survey period.

Among the senatorial candidates, **Bam Aquino** emerged as the top choice with **503 votes (93.49%)**, followed closely by **Kiko Pangilinan** with **500 votes (92.94%),** and **Atty. Luke Espiritu** with **446 votes (82.90%).** The results suggest a leaning toward candidates known for reformist platforms and advocacy for education and social welfare.

In the partylist race, **Akbayan** secured a commanding lead with **273 votes (50.74%),** while **Kabataan** and **Gabriela** trailed behind with **106 votes (19.70%)** and **44 votes (8.18%)**, respectively.

One participant, a first-year Communication student, viewed the results as a reflection of students' increasing political awareness. She pointed out that the strong support for candidates with substantial and relevant platforms suggests that many Adamsonians are becoming more discerning in their political choices.

She also emphasized that student voters are not supporting candidates on a whim, but are critically assessing who is fit to serve.

"Hindi sila basta magta-trial and error sa Senado, kumbaga, dahil hindi naman playground ang Senado," she added.

The mock poll was open to all students and executed with transparency, boasting a margin of error of ±4.2% at a 95% confidence level.

While not predictive of the national outcome, the result reflects a snippet of the current political climate within the Adamson community.

Pope Francis: Joins The Creator At 88

By: Gail Florence Resultay



Photo Courtesy of Vatican News

The body of the late Pope Francis in an open coffin in the chapel of the Casa Santa Marta.

Pope Francis delivering his yearly 'State of the World' speech to the Vatican's diplomatic representatives.

Pope Francis, the 266th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, died at the age of 88 at his residence in Casa Santa Marta. His death was formally announced at 9:45 A.M. by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church.

"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow, I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father."

According to the Vatican's Directorate of Health and Hygiene, Dr. Andrea Arcangeli, the cause of death was a stroke that led to a coma and irreversible cardiovasculatory collapse.

Pope Francis had been in declining health in recent months. About a month before his death, he was reported to have suffered from acute respiratory failure caused by multimicrobial bilateral pneumonia, multiple bronchiectasis, high blood pressure, and a Type II diabetes.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Pope Francis was elected to the papacy in 2013, becoming the first pope from the Americas and the first Jesuit pope.

His papacy was known to be more liberal by giving importance to the LGBTQIA+ community, railing against capitalism, connecting with the marginalized people, serving justice to the poor, and addressing climate change, which made some of the 1.4 billion Roman Catholics question his leadership.

"He embarked on a real reorganization of the church and a real reorientation of the church after four decades of conservative theologians' leading the way." Said by David Gibson, director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture, in his interview with NBC News.

A period of official mourning has begun in Vatican City, and preparations are underway for the funeral, expected to take place at St. Peter's Basilica.

The process to choose his successor will begin on May 7, when 133 cardinals under the age of 80 will gather in the Sistine Chapel to participate in the papal conclave. They will vote in secrecy until a new pope is elected by a two-thirds majority.

Though no official candidates are named prior to the conclave, those considered papabili—potential popes—include Cardinals Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines, Pietro Parolin of Italy, Peter Turkson of Ghana, and Fridolin Besungu of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

"*Personal holiness is very important for the next pope,*" said Cardinal John Ribat, who was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis in 2016 "*He must be someone open and controlling—not in a bad way, but in a way that keeps us all together, journeying together in unity.*"

Pope Francis leaves behind a Church transformed by his vision of mercy, justice, and dialogue — a legacy that will continue to shape Catholicism in the decades to come.

AUSG Retracts Support For TOSFI, 'Regrets' Initial 'Yes' Vote



Photo Courtesy of Mico Sabalbaro
Adamson University Student Government

By: Richard Karl C. Santos

The Adamson University Student Government (AUSG) has officially withdrawn its support for the proposed Tuition and Other School Fees Increas (TOSFI) for the 2025–2026 academic year, expressing *'regret'* for their initial approval and citing concerns over transparency, student involvement, and institutional accountability.

In an official statement released on April 9, AUSG explained that their support was given under the assumption that the process would be consultative and that the student input would meaningfully influence the outcome.
However, AUSG later revealed that the consultation was *"merely a formality."* The University Legal Counsel clarified that regardless of whether the student government expressed support or oppositi—

—ion, the proposal was set to move forward. *"Whether we said 'yes' or 'no,' the proposal was moving forward,"* the statement said.

Furthermore, AUSG disclosed that the administration had already submitted the TOSFI proposal to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and had published the revised fee structure on the student portal before completing the planned student consultation process, including a survey. The organizaton argued that this contradicted previous assurances of transparency and genuine consultation with the student body.

The student government also acknowledged internal lapses, including delayed public communication and insufficient engagement with student organizations.

In response, AUSG have committed to restarting the student survey, supporting a petition to CHED, and securing a detailed budget breakdown from the administration to ensure transparency.

"This regret is not rooted in weakness, but in the strength to acknowledge that new information demands a renewed stand," the statement read.

Despite these missteps, AUSG reaffirmed its commitment to upholding student welfare, transparency, and accountability.

The student government now stands in firm opposition to the TOSFI proposal and vows to ensure that student voices remain central in all future university decisions.



Photo by Hans Gabriel Ferranco

Communication Department Leads Call for Smart Voting in Partnership with Manila Bulletin

By: Gail Florence Resultay

The Adamson University (AdU) Communication Department, in partnership with Manila Bulletin, held a voters' education campaign titled "Matalinong Boto 2025: #Tinta ng Pagbabago" on May 6 at the Co Po Ty Hall.

The event, launched ahead of the May 12 midterm elections, aimed to promote informed and responsible voting among students.

Through talks from both academic leaders and media professionals, the initiative empowered the Adamsonian community to become more active and critical participants in the electoral process.

In her opening remarks, the College of Education and Liberal Arts (CELA) Dean Gliceria Lunag emphasized the significance of voting as an expression of personal values and Vincentian virtues.

"*Your vote defines you— As a Vincentian, your vote shows your compassion,*" she said, urging students to reflect deeply on their choices.

Mr. Glenn Parungao, Chairman of the Communication Department, highlighted the role of the Adamson community in influencing others to vote wisely.

"Alam nating mga Adamsonian kung ano ang dapat nating gampanang tungkulin para sa bayan ngayong darating na eleksyon. Nagtipon-tipon tayo hindi lang para malaman kung paano ba ang matalinong boto. Kundi, para tayo'y maging instrumento, para ang iba'y maisagawa rin ito." he stated.

Meanwhile, Mr. Argyll Geducos, Communication Professor and Manila Bulletin's Senior Editor, expressed the value of each individual's vote. Highlighting the importance of picking the right candidate can truly affect the country and promote change.

"We have to be sure who deserves our trust, who truly understands, who truly stands for the people and not just for themselves." Said Mr. Geducos.

Manila Bulletin's Executive Editor, Pinky Colminares was also present at the seminar, sharing that the solution to most problems in our country starts with "matalinong pagboto."

"It is very important that you study. It is important that you are not mesmerized by slogans, and song and dance routines. You should be wise and intelligent about your choices." Said Ms. Colminares.

Matalinong Boto 2025 helped students to know what to expect during the elections. With some of them being first- time voters, it equipped them with the right state of mind in being a responsible and an individual who can share on how people can be critical and responsible voters.

"It actually helped me a lot since first-time voter ako for the national and local elections. It really did help me upon what I should know and do during the election. With this knowledge that I've learned from Matalinong Pagboto, mainam talaga na ma-i-share sa iba lalo na sa mga parents and elders para hindi tayo magmukhang mangmang sa mga sakim sa posisyon. Practicing our rights by voting is a must talaga." One CELA student said.

The event seeks to empower Adamsonian students about the value of their vote and to encourage thoughtful, responsible participation in the 2025 Midterm Elections. Through discussions and expert talks, it aims to equip them with the knowledge to choose leaders who reflect integrity, competence, and genuine concern for the people.

Crane Accident Near Adamson University Causes Power Outage, Delayed Midterm Examinations

By: Lloyd Angelo Bangonon

Midterm examinations at Adamson University were unexpectedly put on hold on April 8 after a sudden power outage disrupted campus operations, which was caused by an incident at a nearby construction site involving a crane accident that downed power lines along Romualdez Street. as the lights and power have shut down due to an unexpected incident on a nearby construction site on April 8.

According to reports, a crane collapsed while lifting large amounts of cement near the intersection of Romualdez and San Marcelino streets, about 200 meters from the university's main entrance.

The crane's failure, reportedly due to unstable ground conditions and excessive weight, brought down electrical posts supplying power to various facilities in the area, including Adamson University's ST, OZ, and CT Buildings, nearby establishments, and SM Manila.

Local responders near the accident area confirmed the site was dedicated to constructing a Philippine Charity Sweepstake Office (PSCO) building. Fortunately, no injuries were reported, and the crane operator was confirmed to be safe.



Photo Courtesy of ABS-CBN News

A broken crane hit electric wires, causing power outage during midterm exams at Adamson University.

The outage affected multiple buildings, prompting Adamson to suspend all classes and exams from 11:00 AM onward as the power supply across the campus was fully cut off.

Cafeterias and other campus service providers were also forced to close due to the outage, affecting their operations and student access to basic services.

Students and professors from the college of architecture and other programs have different takes on this unexpected turn of events, which some call "a surprise that caught everyone off guard" to "a blessing in disguise" for some who were taking the —

—midterm examinations. Some university maintenance and service providers, such as canteens, were also forced to stop for the time being due to the power being cut, which affected their performance and the number of customers.

Power was restored after extensive repairs to the damaged electrical infrastructure. Classes and examinations resumed on April 10, following a day of restoration work.

"No Story is Worth Dying For": Susan Enriquez on Hostage Experience, Early Beginnings and Challenges of Philippine Journalism



Photo Courtesy of Susan Enriquez (Official Facebook Account)

By: Izabella Canoy & Gail Florence Resultay

"Parang ang buhay namin, nakasalalay sa kanila. If they want to execute us, they can execute us."

Famous for her taglines: "Mga tanong ni Juan, bigyan ng kasagutan." and the light-hearted segments and meaningful discussions on "Kay Susan Tayo!" way back early 2000's. Susan Enriquez is a 62 year-old Filipina journalist, radio, and television host.

Despite spending 44 years in her career, Susan never initially envisioned herself as a journalist or pursuing a career in the media industry.

It all started when her first choice when applying for college was marketing. She was eager to enroll and complete her studies, and it so happened that journalism was not an in-demand course with only a handful of students lining up. Susan chose the program and went with it until she graduated. She chose not to shift to the program she wanted because in her mind, she just wanted to graduate as soon as possible.

"Pagpasok mo dito sa mundo na ito, kailangan you have even a little knowledge of everything."

Susan shared that the earliest challenge she faced when she was building her career was not being a 'news-oriented' person. She emphasized that aspiring journalists and students in the field should be avid readers, staying informed not just about the local events in the Philippines, but also witn international happenings. They should be knowledgeable across all areas of news, including sports, entertainment, and even weather. Because of this, she adapted by becoming a reader and a connoisseur of news which led to where she is now.

The Hostage Experience in Basilan

On April 20, 2000, Susan was one of the journalists kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf while she was working in Basilan. Her team had consulted with government and military officials before heading to the area, confident that their coverage would be safe. However, once they arrived at the camp, they were held hostage by the militants, who demanded 200 sacks of rice and refused to let them go until their demands were fulfilled.

She was 38 years old at that time.

Despite the years that had passed, this remains the defining moment of her career.

"Parang ang buhay namin, nakasalalay sa kanila. If they want to execute us, they can execute us."

At that moment, being filled with fear and helplessness made Susan realize something, ***"No story is worth dying for.*** *Parang every time you do a story, palagi mong unang iisipin yung safety."*

Challenges in Filipino Journalism

When asked what is the challenge in Philippine journalism right now, Susan answered with *"Ang bilis-bilis na ng fake news."*

Today, where technology and the Internet is accessible in every corner of the world, you can access news but with the risk that it may be from an untrustworthy source. Unlike before, the only sources of news are televisions, radios, and newspapers. Susan also added that technological advancements can be an advantage in helping the future of journalism only if it is rightfully used.

"Nakita ko [na 'to] sa Facebook, ba't kayo wala pa? Yes. Because it's not a race."

As we navigate challenges on Philippine journalism, Susan talks about the proper ethics followed by journalists. Especially from someone like her who belongs to a big television station. In her defense, this is what separates them from false journalism.

May ethics manual kami. May sinusunod kami. Meron kaming pamantayan."

Susan also pointed out that no job should be compromised even when reporting sensitive topics or controversies, as long as the proper practice of journalism is followed. She also added that in that way, one should not worry of being wrongfully accused of being biased as long as your work is aligned with being objective, fair, and unbiased.

In a journalist's point of view to the country, Susan shared that she had covered for six presidents and been to the poorest and depressed areas of the Philippines yet nothing has totally changed. She expressed that if only the promises by the government officials over the years were put into action, the Philippines could have reached its full potential. But at the end of the day, she believes that you should always find a ray of hope.

With this, she encouraged every single one to do our share even in our own little way.

"Let's do our part kung may matutulong tayo sa kababayan natin."
"You are not helping a single person but also their family and the people around them. This also gives them hope for a better future ahead." She added.

At the final stage of our interview, we asked Susan how she would like to be remembered by the Filipino people.

"I'm a fair journalist."
"Even with all the accusations of being biased and bayaran. I know better, I know myself."

"Lessons from the Frontlines": Inday Espina-Varona's Advice to the Next Generation of Journalists.

In the ever-changing landscape of journalism, where truth is both a responsibility and a battleground, few voices remain as steadfast as Ma. Salvacion *"Inday"* Espino-Varona's. A veteran journalist with a career spanning decades. Espina-Varona has navigated the deceptive waters of press freedom, digital transformation, and political resistance.

Journalism is often seen as a calling, and Espina-Varona was naturally drawn to storytelling; in other words, it was practically enriched in her DNA. Coming from a family with deep journalistic roots, her father, grand-aunt, and even her great-grand-uncle, the revolutionary Graciano Lopez-Jaena. However, it was the oppressive silence of Martial Law that truly ignited her passion.

"Growing up under Martial Law, where the air felt heavy with secrets, stirred the first conscious urgings for journalism," she recalls. Her early experiences, tagging along with her father in local governance, sharpened her ability to notice the spoken and unspoken, the visible and hidden. The drive to ask questions and seek answers became more than just a profession; it became a lifelong purpose for her.

Being a journalist in the Philippines, especially one who dares to cover sensitive topics, comes with its threats. Espino-Varona has faced physical threats, intimidation, and the ever-present challenge of disinformation in the digital age. *"I've had a police chief attempt to grab me during coverage. I have had to interview a warlord with a paramilitary force around us,"* she stated as she shared the dangers of field reporting. Yet, the rise of social media has introduced a new layer of difficulty. Online attacks, online harassment, and attempts to discredit journalists are now commonplace.

How does she handle it? With precision and discipline. ***"I try my best to ensure all holes are plugged before publishing my articles. That doesn't stop the threat, but it gives me the confidence to confront them."*** And, just as importantly, she refuses to be baited into unnecessary fights.

One of the greatest debates in journalism today is the balance between objectivity and advocacy, particularly when it comes to human rights and social justice. Espina-Varona rejects the myth of neutrality, pointing out that accuracy, context, and fairness are far more crucial. She emphasizes that empathy is key. *"Never underestimate empathy. Do not look down on your audience. Treat work as a dialogue."* For young journalists navigating this ethical tightrope, she offers a simple yet powerful piece of advice: *"Your greatest gift to your cause is to ensure your stories are so tight that even opponents have hard time poking holes on them."*

The evolution of journalism has been both a blessing and a curse. The digital age has granted journalists instant access to information and a wider audience, but it has also accelerated the spread of misinformation. *"One of the dangers of at-the-moment journalism is quoting liars without confronting the lie real time,"* she warns. Speed should never come at the cost of accuracy. With the rise of Artificial Intelligence and digital tools, young journalists must stay ahead of the curve, but always with a critical eye.

For Espina-Varona, journalism is inseparable from the broader fight for human rights. ***"We cannot separate press freedom and freedom of expression from all other human rights,"*** she asserts. She encourages young journalists to support one another rather than compete. *"Validate colleagues' good work. Transcend competition and hold the line."* In an era where the press is under constant attack, solidarity is key.

In a world filled with noise, spin, and distortion, Inday Espino-Varona's voice remains a beacon of clarity. As she looks back on her career, Espina-Varona hopes that the next generation of journalists will carry forward the same commitment to truth. If there is one lesson from her career that she hopes the next generation takes to heart, it's this: ***Journalism is not just telling stories; it's about ensuring that those stories lead to understanding, accountability, and change.***



Photo Courtesy of GMA Network

By: Richard Karl C. Santos & Therese Faith Medina



FEATURES

The Award I Lost, and the Leader I Found

Darkness doesn't always wait for nightfall—sometimes, it creeps into homes, hides in corners, and speaks through silence.

The Award I Lost, and the Leader I Found



By: Richard Karl Santos

I spent my entire senior high school life carefully building a name I could be proud of. I worked hard, stayed disciplined, led when it counted, and followed every rule to the letter. My eyes were set on one thing: the Leadership Excellence Award, a prestigious recognition given to students who exemplified what it meant to lead with integrity, consistency, and impact.

And I was doing everything right. Until one day, I wasn't.

It happened during my final year. A single mistake—an accident I never intended—cost me the award. Just like that, the opportunity I had worked for, hoped for, and prayed for slipped through my fingers. It didn't matter that I had a clean record all year. It didn't matter how long I had been careful. That one misstep erased it all in the eyes of the awarding body.

At first, I didn't know how to react. I was numb. Then came the shame. The sadness. The embarrassment. I remember hearing classmates asking, "kumusta ka?" I didn't know how to answer. I didn't want to. So I ran. I kept quiet, avoided the topic, and tried to pretend I didn't care.

But deep inside, I did.

That failure haunted me for weeks. Not because I didn't win, but because I felt like I let myself down. After all the effort, all the pressure I placed on myself to be "perfect," it still wasn't enough. I kept thinking: Was all of it for nothing?

It took time to realize that it wasn't. Losing that award taught me more than any medal or recognition ever could.

I learned that leadership is not about a flawless record—it's about how you rise after a fall. True leadership is tested not when things go smoothly, but when they fall apart.

That moment forced me to ask myself: Will I still choose to lead, even when no one's watching? Even when there's no award waiting for me?

The answer had to be yes.

So I kept showing up. I kept serving, kept trying, and slowly, I found peace. That mistake, painful as it was, shaped me into a more grounded and empathetic person. It reminded me that failure isn't the opposite of success—it's part of the journey.

Today, I no longer chase titles. I chase growth. I no longer fear failure. I fear not learning from it.

And if I ever get the chance to lead again—and I believe I will—I'll bring with me not just the lessons from my victories, but the wisdom from my failures.

Because sometimes, the most powerful lessons don't come from the awards we win, but from the ones we lose.



Photo Courtesy of The Conjuring (Official Facebook Page)

By: Angelica Joy Balingit & Rheena Jade Cruz

Based on True Events: A Chilling Case from the Files of Ed and Lorraine Warren



That is exactly what The Conjuring 2 captures. Set in 1977 London and based on the infamous Enfield Poltergeist case, the film follows the terrifying experience of the Hodgson family, whose quiet lives are shattered by a force beyond understanding.

This chilling sequel, directed by James Wan, elevates the horror genre by going beyond jump scares. It builds fear through atmosphere, emotional depth, and the psychological toll of possession. Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga return as Ed and Lorraine Warren, bringing heart and conviction to a film steeped in themes of faith and fear.

The Warrens are more than ghost—they're spiritual warriors, guided by love and an unshakable belief in good versus evil. Ed, a demonologist, and Lorraine, a clairvoyant and medium, step into the chaos of the Enfield Poltergeist with more than just equipment—they bring compassion, faith, and personal risk.

As young Janet becomes the target of a relentless supernatural force, the audience is pulled into a terrifying reality that blurs the line between fact and fiction. Set in the dim, rain-soaked streets of Enfield, England, the film resurrects the infamous tale of the Hodgsons' modest home into a battleground between innocence and an ancient evil.

The Conjuring 2 explores one of the most well-documented and controversial paranormal cases in history.

A lot of individuals experienced goosebumps as a result of its original plot, which grew deeper.

The ghost of an elderly man named Bill Wilkins, who passed away in the house, only disturbs Janet's family at the start of the film.

However, Lorraine Warren learns that this elderly man is not a threat because of her vision. alak, who is more powerful and demonic and who seeks to kill Lorraine's husband, Ed and ruin her faith, is merely using the old man's spirit as a puppet.

When Lorraine discovers Valak's name through her vision and writes it in the Bible, the unexpected turn is further made clear. She understands that knowing Valak's name will help her fight against this demon. She uses her knowledge to confront and exile Valak, saving the Hodgson family as well as her beloved husband. This plot is terrifying, as if a normal haunting was really a front for a more sinister, deeper entity.

What makes The Conjuring 2 truly stand out isn't just its scares—it's the story beneath them: the real-life claims, the controversies, and the lingering question it leaves behind—***how much of it was true?***

"Collaborative leaders achieve great success together"

Adamson University Student Government President Justin Mae Estilles delivered a resonant message on unity and shared leadership during the Leader's Convergence 2025 held at Jose Rizal University last April 30.

Speaking before student leaders across Metro Manila, Estilles shared her personal journey and emphasized the impact of teamwork in student governance. "Collaborative leaders achieve great success together," she said, highlighting that leadership is not about working alone, but involving others every step of the way.

She introduced Adamson's signature "klasmeyt culture," where every student is called "klasmeyt" regardless of background. *"This simple act of reaching out and helping one another... proves that being a leader begins with being a true klasmeyt,"* she explained.

Estilles recounted the challenge of organizing Falcon Fete, Adamson's major annual concert. After backlash and postponement, her team faced doubts from students. *"We never stop collaborating, we never stop brainstorming together, and we never stop solving all problems and challenges together,"* she shared.

She reminded fellow leaders that leadership must be rooted in service and humility. "It doesn't matter how superior or mighty we are if you yourself cannot support people who are also working alongside you," she said.

Closing her speech, she posed a challenge to every student leader: "Ikaw ba, kaya mo rin bang mag-step backward para tulungan mo silang umangat katulad ng pag-angat nila sa'yo?" For Estilles, leadership is not self-serving—it's a collective commitment to rise as one.

Estilles reminded student leaders that titles mean little without empathy, accountability, and humility. True leadership, she stressed, is not about control—but about creating space for others to grow and be heard.

As the country prepares for the national elections, her call was clear: choose leaders who lead not above, but alongside the people. Because real leadership isn't about being in front—it's about stepping back when needed, to raise others forward.



By: Richard Karl C. Santos & Icy Joshelle Manabat

EDITORIAL

At What Cost? The Price of a Quicker Ride

The railroads are considered as one of the fastest and eco-friendly modes of transportation. But the fare adjustments made recently questions the balance between improved infrastructure and public affordability. In a time where every peso counts, the burden falls hardest on those individuals who rely on mass transport the most.

On April 2, 2025, the Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) officially implemented a fare hike for LRT-1. The Department of Transportation approved this adjustment back in February, citing the need for enhancements such as: maintenance, operational sustainability and support for long-term projects like the Cavite Extension.

Yet, commuters have expressed concerns, especially minimum wage earners and students who voice out their concern over the added daily cost. Furthermore, various civil society groups have appealed to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. to consider this fare increase.

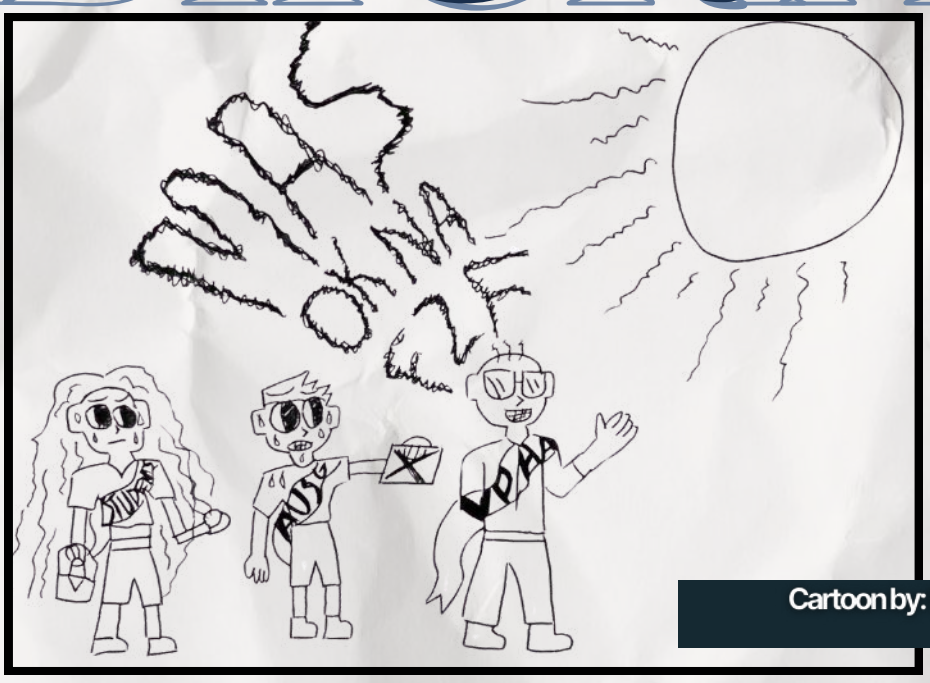
To others, it might seem insignificant—but for daily commuters like us who rely on the train for its speed and affordability, this fare hike is a serious concern.

As a southie myself, upon hearing the news about the Cavite Extension Phase-1, I felt relieved. That somehow, my trip will be cut short to just an hour and a half. Because honestly, commuting was never easy especially for a student who commutes all the way from Cavite every single day. But thankfully, trains are made to make it less of a burden.

Taking the bus from Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) to Adamson used to cost me ₱24, but the ride could easily stretch over an hour depending on traffic. In contrast, the train ride to United Nations was just ₱25 and took only 20 to 30 minutes—faster, more efficient, and practically the same fare.

But now, that same train ride costs ₱30.
It makes you wonder—is a quicker commute still worth it when every peso starts to add up?
Rail systems like the LRT-1 were originally developed to provide efficient transportation for Filipino people. Additionally, they were meant to ease the struggles of daily commuting, offering a fast and affordable way to move around the city. The LRMC emphasized that the fare adjustment is necessary to sustain and improve the quality of service.

But when fare hikes are introduced without considering the burden on ordinary citizens, it raises the question—are we still prioritizing public service, or has convenience become a privilege?



Cartoon by: Hans Gabriel Ferranco

TOSFI Consultation, Just for Formality

Adamson University is one of the colleges that eye for a tuition fee increase together with De La Salle University, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and Mapua University. A consultation with the Legislative Council of Leaders (LCL), Adamson University Student Government Executives (AUSG), and Recognized School Organization (RSO) was made last January 17 regarding the proposal for a 5% tuition and other school fee increase. AUSG's approval of the said hike sparks controversies around the community.

According to the management, the increase in the tuition fee will be allocated to technology developments, facility upgrades, digitalization of records, and additional data security initiatives. The administration also mentioned the inflation rate as one cause.

As a student, we demand a quality education — including good facilities, upgraded technologies, and others. But how can we achieve this if there is a lack of funds? After all, this increase would benefit the staff and also the students IF used and disseminated the funds correctly. However, the proposed increase shows problems that concern the students and are given no assurance by the admin. According to some, the management lacks transparency from its previous increase. It might also add up to the burden of the students and their supporters, who are expressed vocally, but unacknowledged. Moreover, the backlash that the VSLs, specifically of the AUSG, received was rooted in its past performances.

As a compassionate and vigilant student, the course expressed our opposition to TOSFI. We stand in solidarity with students, who seek quality education and transparency that will not be considered (na hindi isasaalang-alang) the unjust increase in tuition fees of the "school for the poor."

The ₱2,500 increase may be skipped meals to some, delayed payments, or multiple jobs to juggle to recover from their problems and also to survive the increase in the inflation rate. Truth is, it is not a small amount that everyone can provide. It is an added burden to the students to support the unclear plan given to the students by the school.

The reason why AUSG's approval and their attraction sparks controversies is because they failed to be the voice of the student community. Their 'yes' complicates the process of opposing the hike. But the truth is, does it matter? According to the OSA head, " approval or disapproval on TOSFI from the five university sectors during the sad discussion did not matter as the management will still push the increase.

That being said a lot, expressed their disappointment with different Adamson University freedom walls and posts. The decision to push through with the TOSFI proposal would greatly affect the students and who knows what might happen? We will see it in the next academic year if the decision is made.

As everyone always for a decision, the students demand a concrete plan and budget allocation for the next academic year if the proposal is approved. Being primary stakeholders, we deserve to have transparency about where and to whom the tuition fee increase will go. Adamson Could also seek other revenue measures such as external funding so that the financial burden would not be put solely on the student students. These are some of the ways that the Adamson could show and live one of their 3C's, CHARITY.

How Illiteracy Exposes the Failure of Philippine Education

Recent reports reveal that nearly 19 million Filipino high school graduates cannot read a simple story. As a college student and a concerned Filipino, I feel anger and disappointment. This statistic from the Philippine Statistics Authority isn't just a number; it highlights the failure of an education system and a government that has not prioritized literacy.

The findings are alarming: 21% of senior high school graduates—1 in 5—lack comprehension skills. Reflecting on my high school experience, I recognize how essential those foundational skills were. Unfortunately, the Department of Education has failed to address this literacy crisis despite having decades to do so.

Problems within our schools are rampant: underpaid teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and a curriculum that emphasizes rote learning over practical skills. The K-12 program promised to enhance competitiveness but has instead strained our resources. Senator Sherwin Gatchalian's call for non-negotiable literacy underscores the urgency of the situation.

This crisis is compounded by government neglect. The mismanagement of a ₱9 billion budget under former DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte could have provided vital resources for books and teacher training. Instead, we see schools deteriorating and students struggling.

These 19 million young people have dreams of becoming engineers, teachers, and healthcare workers, but illiteracy puts those aspirations at risk. Functional illiteracy keeps families in poverty and undermines our growing economy. The government's response has been lackluster; promises to "bridge the gap" ring hollow amidst ongoing inaction.

For our future, we must demand better schools, improved treatment for teachers, and effective leadership. The government must be held accountable for its failures, because without change, we're failing our children and the Philippines at large.

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Tangle of Time | In-Between

BY: ARIELLE RAFAELLE DIONES

I used to believe that time was something you could track—the kind where everyday is a step closer to who you're meant to be. Each pulse of the clock leads you to somewhere proximate to something better, something absolute.

But now, on a coffee table alone, with a half-filled cup, I figured out that time isn't linear. It won't lead you straight ahead on things you wished upon the stars. It would loop you, pull you back in moments you thought would stay in the past. The faint hints of buried moments you thought you'd blossom behind.

I looked around the room, at how the pastries have gone through different processes to be able to be where and what they are now, how the once piercing noise of the coffee machine got quieter as the time went by, and how all these people around me changed throughout time. I then wondered how much of myself I've left behind in these places. I've always been here, but not at the same time. How many versions of myself walked out that door, sat at the exact coffee table, only to be replaced by one who sits here now, pondering.

When I was younger, I thought that growing up meant you'd instantly be the best version of yourself—the person you've once dreamed of. But then I realized, growing up isn't about becoming what you've wished for in a snap, it's a process that you'd have to go through to become who you are now.

The past isn't something worth getting rid of once it's not resonating with you anymore. You wouldn't be the version of who you are now without your past experiences. Throwing away the baggage and not accepting what you once were will only destroy you. Learn how to carry and handle all the mistakes, regrets, and memories, yet still choose to move ahead.

I don't have to figure it all out—I still have time to keep on figuring things out. I didn't turn out to be the person I've fantasized to be when I was younger, but I find peace in it. In knowing that I didn't need to be perfect, that everything isn't linear. It's a warmth that hugs and comforts me that it's alright to be lost and be a broken piece, yet still whole in ways I didn't perceive I need to be.

Handog ng Pag-ibig



BY: GAIL FLORENCE RESULTAY

Tahanang madilim, ikaw ang naging ilaw
Kung wala ka, ang hirap kumilos at gumalaw
Ikaw ang gumabay, umalalay

Liwanag sa buhay, ikaw ang dahilan
Pag-ibig sa 'yo, magpakailanman
Buhat ng kamay mong humaplos at kumalinga
Sa musmos na ngayo'y lumaki na

Inialay ang buhay at pangarap
Pinagdaanang hirap
Para sa anak

Paumanhin, kung paminsa'y nakakalimutan
Ito rin ang una mong beses na mabuhay
Natatauhan kapag nakita ang mata mong tumamlay
Buhat sa aking pagsuway

Sa oras ng pagninilay, napapatanong
"Kung pinili niya ang ibang dako, saan kaya humantong
Ang pangarap ni mama na ngayo'y nakulong"
Umaasa na lamang ngayon

Ang pusong salat, pinunan ng pagmamahal
Ng 'yong pamilyang tapat, batid sa'yo
Walang hanggang pasasalamat.



PAGOD NG PANGARAP

BY: ARIELLE RAFAELLE DIONES

Ang bawat araw ay isang alon ng pagkabigo na sumasalubong sa aking katawan na hindi na kayang umiwas. Ang bawat hakbang ko'y mabigat, tila pasan ko sa likod ang buong mundo. Ang bawat oras ay may dala-dalang pangako, ngunit ako'y laging humihinto, nauurong sa gitna ng mga pangarap na dati'y tinatanaw, at ngayo'y unti-unting naglalaho sa mga ulap na hindi ko na maabot.

Ang aking katawa'y isang walang kamalay-malay na makina—patuloy na gumagalaw, ngunit ang isip ay patuloy na umaasa, umaabante, patungo sa landas na hindi ko na malaman. Ang bawat umaga ay nagsisilbing pagninilay ng pagkabigo, at ang mga pangakong pahinga ay isang ilusyon—salamin ng mga bagay na hindi ko na kayang tapusin. Habang sa gabi, ang ingay ng aking isipan at damdamin ay sumisigaw nang malakas kaysa sa katahimikan ng mundong ginagalawan.

Sa paglipas ng panahon, dahan-dahan, ang sarili ko'y nauubos. Wala nang hanggan ang aking pagod, isang sunog na hindi ko kayang patayin. Ang damdamin ay patuloy na nagliliyab, ngunit ang apoy ay nag-aalab nang walang lakas at hindi na kayang magbigay pa ng liwanag.

Hindi ko na matandaan kung kailan ako huling nakaramdam ng tunay na pahinga. Ang mga gabi'y lumilipas sa mga pangarap na hindi ko na kayang tamasahin, at ang isipan ay isang libangan ng mga pangarap na hindi ko nagawang abutin. Lahat ng ito'y isang lihim na nakabaon sa kailaliman ng aking kaluluwa—ang takot na baka hindi ko na muli mahanap ang sarili ko pagkatapos ng lahat ng ito.

Kung darating man ang panahon na dalawin ako ng pahinga, sana'y hindi ito isang maskara sa pagkatalo. Matutunan ko sanang yakapin ang katahimikan ng paghinto, at sa bawat pahinga, muling buhayin ang apoy na unti-unting nauupos sa puso kong puno ng mga pangarap na matagal ko nang naiwan at nakalimutan. Sa dulo ng lahat, matutunan ko sanang magpatawad—hindi lamang sa mga pangarap na naiwan sa daan, kundi pati na rin sa sarili na hindi ko binigyan ng pagkakataong magpahinga mula sa walang katapusang paglalakbay.



BY: JOHNVIE FRUGALIDAD

The sun shone down on the workers in the fields. Sweat dripped into their eyes as they dug and planted, their bodies tired from hard work.

One worker stood out to me that morning - an old man named Mang Gudoy. He had worked this land for almost 40 years. His hands were rough and worn from years of labor. As I walked closer, he straightened up and wiped his forehead with a red bandana.

"Young man," he said with a rough voice. "Come to watch us dig our own graves, eh?"

I smiled awkwardly. "No, sir. Just taking a walk on Labor Day."

Mang Gudoy laughed bitterly. "Labor Day, right. There's nothing noble about our work. It's just blood, sweat, and tears."

He leaned in, his breath stale. "Let me share a secret. The ones benefiting from our labor? They are not in the fields with us. It's the wealthy owners and bosses. They live well on —the backs of workers like us."

I shifted nervously, unsure how to respond. I could hear the bitterness in his voice.

"You think you're different?" Mang Gudoy asked, squinting at me. "With your clean clothes and soft hands. You think you're better than this?"

He pointed at my chest. "Let me tell you something. Sooner or later, we all become just another worker. It doesn't matter who you are. In the end, we all end up in the same dirt."

With that, he returned to his work. I stood there, thinking about what he said. I heard anger and frustration, but also a hard truth.

Finally, I moved on, the sun still beating down, and the workers still laboring. I began to wonder—was there any escape from this cycle of hard work? Or was Mang Gudoy right that, in the end, we all end up buried in the ground we try to control?

I didn't know. But I realized, Labor Day might be a holiday, but for those in the fields, the real work never stopped. That was a lesson I wouldn't forget.

Bangungot

BY: ARIELLE RAFAELLE DIONES

Hindi ko pa rin kayang maalis sa isip ko,
Kung paano ako hindi pinatulog noong gabing iyon.
Kung paano ako humikbi nang hindi naririnig,
At kung paano ako dahan-dahang hindi makahinga sa sakit.

Ilang beses ako nag-makaawa sa dilim,
Na sana panaginip lang ang lahat.
Para kapag minulat ko na ulit ang mga mata ko,
Masasabi ko sa sarili kong, "ayos pa ako."

SPORTS

STANDOUT PLAYERS AND GAME-CHANGING MOMENTS

Soaring Falcons collapse as the Fighting Maroons flip the script

By: Patrick Jay Abraham

Adamson Soaring Falcons Fall to UP Fighting Maroons in Five-Set Thriller in a reverse sweep comeback, 21-25, 19-25, 25-11, 25-12, and 15 -12.

The Soaring Falcons started the game slowly, trailing 6-4. However, a rally led by Jude Aguilar shifted the momentum, allowing the Falcons to take the lead.

Leo Coguimbal contributed two crucial points, which helped the Soaring Falcons maintain the lead. Aguilar capped off the first set with a powerful spike, giving the team a 1-0 lead.

In the second set, the Falcons came out strong, claiming the first point and leading by 4, 10-6, thanks to Coguimbal's solid blocking and offensive attacks.

The Falcons' dominance continued throughout the second set, as they extended their set lead, 2-0.

The third set started with a quick three-to-nothing run by the Fighting Maroons.

The Fighting Maroons came to life as they solidified their defense, which helped them grow a six-point lead, 8-2.

The Fighting Maroons remained strong as their lead grew up to 12 points.

The Soaring Falcons failed to seal the game as the Fighting Maroons resisted, taking set number three, 25-11.

The Falcons struggled in the fourth set as the Maroons strengthened their bid for a reverse sweep.

UP's Olayemi Raheem was a force on both offense and defense, while Adamson couldn't find a way to break through.

The Maroons dominated the set, leveling the match at 2-2 with a 25-12 win.

Going to the fifth and deciding set, the Falcons initially clawed in the final set and were ahead by two points, 8-6. The Falcons reclaimed their sweet lead.

However, the Fighting Maroons fought their way back, led by Raheem and Tommy Castrodes, who brought the Fighting Maroons to a 7-1 score run to grab the lead, creating a 4 point cushion, 13-9.

The Falcons refused to go down easily as they scored two consecutive points to cut the lead to two points, 13-11.

Photo Courtesy of UP Fighting Maroons Media



AdU Soaring Falcon and UP Fighting Maroon during the round 2 of UAAP Season 87.

Raheem then scored a cross-court attack to put the Fighting Maroons to set point. Paulino responded with a block. However, Raheem hammered the exclamation mark to seal the game with his thunderous spike.

Despite this match being a non-bearing one in terms of standing, the Fighting Maroons asserted their dominance with a dramatic reverse sweep to end the season. For Adamson, this is a learning experience that can stand as proof that there's significance room for growth and improvement.

THREE AND OUT: ADAMSON LADY FALCONS GROUNDS UP FIGHTING MAROONS IN A SWEEP

By: Arielle Rafaelle Diones

The Adamson Lady Falcons wrapped up their UAAP Season 87 run with a decisive straight-sets victory over the UP Fighting Maroons, 25-13, 25-21, 25-18, on April 27 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Rookie sensation, Shaina Nitura, once again left another game with an exceptional result with 22 points, 18 attacks, and 2 blocks. Alongside Player of the Game Mayang Nuique with 13 points, and Frances Mordi with 11 points.

The starting six was composed of #1 Shaina Nitura, #4 Eloi Dote, #6 Mayang Nuique, #13 Frances Mordi, #14 Fhei Sagaysay, and #19 Athea Aposaga.

During set one, the Adamson Lady Falcons took service and scored the first point. Three service aces were caused by Nitura, Dote, and Jen Villegas

An unsuccessful challenge by the UP Fighting Maroons on a crucial ball-in call handed the first set to Adamson, capped by a Mordi set point, with 12 leading points of 25-13.



Photo Courtesy of UAAP (Official Facebook Page)

Set two opened with another quick lead for the Lady Falcons, with service aces from Dote and Nitura.

The Lady Falcons lost a point due to an error—a position fault. However, points were redeemed due to a super spike by Red Bascon.

Lady Falcons once more led the set point with Nitura scoring the last point. The Adamson Lady Falcons led with 4 points of 25-21.

Set three was a service run by the Lady Falcons—the first point was given to the Lady Falcons due to a ball-out error made by the Fighting Maroons. The service ace was done by Sagaysay.

The last set had a total of 11 tied scores by the two teams. Two super spikes were delivered by Nuique and Dote.

Dote and Bella Sapienza from the Lady Falcons each scored a service ace. After a disputed call by the referee, the Lady Falcons challenged for a block touch and gained momentum, causing a continuous start of a leading point by the team.

Nitura scored the match point, but the Lady Falcons secured the win due to a service error by the Fighting Maroons. The Fighting Maroons unsuccessful ball-in/out challenge confirmed the triumph of the Lady Falcons.

Despite leading the match on a three-straight set win against the Fighting Maroons, the Lady Falcons concluded their season without securing a spot in the Final Four. Nonetheless, they are placed fifth in the team standings with six wins and eight losses with Nitura concluding the UAAP Season 87 with an overall score of 371 points—creating a rookie season like no other.

Photo Courtesy of Adamson University Student Government



CELA's Blue Mighty Athens and COE's Orange Hats during the championship round of Siklaban 2025.

CROWN CRACKED | ORANGE HATS DETHRONE BLUE MIGHTY ATHENS

By: Patrick Jay Abraham

The Blue Mighty Athens lost their might in the biggest game of the season, falling to the Orange Hats in four sets, 25-20, 18-25, 15-25, 17-25.

The defending champions surrendered their crown in a stunning championship upset.

The Orange Hats started the first set strong with a dominant 6-0 run, immediately dictating the pace of the match.

The Blue Mighty Athens got their first point after a service error by the Orange Hats, making it 6-1.

Moments later, Abiog unleashed a powerful spike, cutting the deficit to 3, 3-6.

Despite a strong response from Athens, the Orange Hats swiftly regained control, showcasing seamless team chemistry as they stretched their lead to 4-9.

Athens answered with back-to-back points, narrowing the gap to 13-14.

A costly rotation error by the Orange Hats then allowed Athens to tie the game at 14-14.

Athens took the lead following a thrilling rally led by Abiog, igniting a surge of momentum. Their powerful play carried them to a 25-20 victory in the first set.

The Blue Mighty Athens struggled at the start of the second set, as the Orange Hats raced to a 7-0 lead.

The Blue Mighty Athens had difficulty returning Carlos' powerful serves.

Torevillas sparked a rally, including a solo 3-0 run, which trimmed the Orange Hats' lead to just 4, 18-22.

Despite a glimmer of hope, the Blue Mighty Athens failed to maintain their momentum, as the Orange Hats closed out the second set with a 25-18 victory.

In the third set, the Blue Mighty Athens took the lead, powered by a service ace from Abiog, 6-3.

The Orange Hats quickly caught up and took the lead due to a lack of in-game communication from the Blue Athens, bringing the score to 15-13.

A service ace by Carlos extended the Orange Hats' lead to 18-12, that allowed them to control the pace of the game and secure the third set.

The fourth set began with a back-and-forth exchange of blows, as both teams fought for control.

However, a series of errors from the Blue Mighty Athens allowed the Orange Hats to seize control and build a 13-9 lead.

The Blue Mighty Athens' lack of in-game communication resurfaced, contributing to their 25-17 defeat in the fourth set against the Orange Hats.

The Orange Hats' victory was fueled by their chemisty, teamwork, and ability to capitalize on the Blue Mighty Athens' miscommunication. With a dominant performance, they dethroned the defending champions.