ARCHIVES

La Salleño

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Have a Blessed Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

La Salleño

A Supplement of HERALDO FILIPINO

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Vol. 3 No. 2 **Dasmariñas, Cavite** **Nov.-Dec 1995**

INSIDE

Features

1995: No Place for Oblivion 3
Exploited Bodies for Art's Sake 4
Fun and Fulfillment in Cross-Stitching 6
Storm Front's Melodic Rock: Something to Brace For 7
Breaking the Chains of Cheating 9
Truly Keeping the Faith 11
25 Ways of Saying Merry Christmas 13
Fireworks Facts and Art 14
Unveiling After Image 15
Hulascope 16
Santa Claus: The Man Behind the Legend 17
HF's Christmas Revelations 20

Perspective

The Wastebasket: Attitude, BO, and Pinoy Rock 5
Circle of Truth: Could this Christmas be the Second Coming?. 8
The Devil's Advocate: Seven 12
Footnote: Of Desperados and Desperadas 19

Literary

By All Means 18
As Far As... 18

1995: NO PLACE FOR OBLIVION

by Jennifer M. Osias

Nineteen ninety-five. Definitely a year to remember. In just a few days, 1995 will become no more than a memory. But still there are memories that we cannot just leave behind. Here is another look at what made the year 1995 cool and fun.

Sunflowers. It was amazing that so many flowers suddenly bloomed on everybody's bags, wallets, hairclips and clothes. You've heard of the term "flower power" back in the 70s and it seemed that somehow, it came back for an encore.

Bead accessories. We bought them at first but now, we're making them. They often, if not always, come with the traditional bracelets, necklace and rings. But people quickly lost interest in this fad. After all, what's so exciting about piling beads in a thread?

Shaggy hair. It's bad enough that every guy/gal grows his hair long but to chop it off unevenly, yikes! But then maybe it's not so bad. Who knows? Shaggy hair might come in handy one day, like when you can't find the mop.

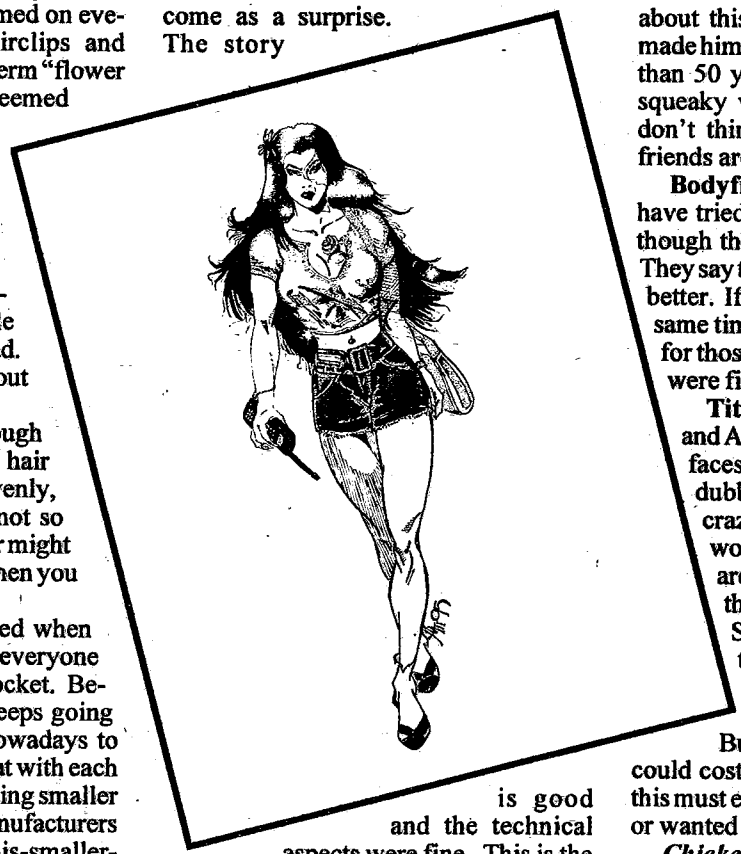
Beepers. Have you noticed when somebody's beeper goes off, everyone starts checking their belt or pocket. Because the price of a beeper keeps going down, it is not so difficult nowadays to gain access to one. We find that with each new unit, the beeper keeps getting smaller and smaller. I guess beeper manufacturers are still having "our-beeper-is-smaller-than yours" competition. Maybe one day, we'll all have beeper bookmarks.

Macarena. This Spanish tune from Los Rios became an instant hit just days after it was first aired on the radio. It became popular simply because it is a new tune and its lively beat really made those hips move! So don't be surprised when you hear this song on the radio and suddenly your mother starts to do the "Macarena dance."

Teddy bears. No one can resist a teddybear. Besides being soft and cuddly, it is universally known to ease a child's fear. The fact that it is downright cute is the main reason why people stitch teddies on every item imaginable -- we can always agree that teddybears are far better than sunflowers anyday.

Pocahontas. This film is definitely one of Disney's best. People really liked that dramatic ending and some are even wondering when are they going to come up with a sequel. It is a good movie but I think they went a little overboard in the promotional bit that it became almost overwhelming.

Batman Forever. Almost everyone I know has watched this film. It was the talk of the town for weeks and it didn't come as a surprise. The story



is good and the technical aspects were fine. This is the third sequel and people still want more. Could it be because of Nicole Kidman or Val Kilmer?

CK One. Isn't it odd that a lot of people are starting to smell the same? Is it because there are some guys out there who are willing to share their perfume with anyone they meet or is it because when the rains came, they got mixed with 50 gallons of CK perfume?

Tattoos. It's back and better than ever! Pricking my skin with a needle is not my idea of fun but you have to admit it does look very impressive. Gone are the days of blue-green tattoos that only jailbirds have and hello to the very colorful world of art on skin. If you want a tattoo, just make sure your mom won't freak out.

Brown lipsticks. No, girls on campus did not fall flat on their faces and accidentally got mud on their lips. I say, red is out and brown is in. A new earth hue is just what young women need to rid ourselves of the famous bloody red lipstick we are used to wearing. It is rather cute to see a change.

Mickey Mouse. There is something about this very popular rodent that has made him appealing to the public for more than 50 years. Probably because of his squeaky voice and his cool attitude. I don't think it matters that some of his friends are a little goofy.

Bodyfit aka Baby tees. Those who have tried wearing one may have felt as though they're inside a *lumpia* wrapper. They say tight is in and the smaller it is, the better. If you want to wear one and at the same time you want to save, try looking for those shirts that you wore when you were five years old.

Titillating films. Ina Raymundo and Amanda Page. Two of the newest faces to hit the film industry and be dubbed TF Queens. Boys are going crazy over them (although I'm still wondering why). Titillating films are rampant once more. I doubt if they will ever be out of style. From ST (Sex Trip) to TF. What will they call it next?

Midriff. I consider this as a miniature version of a T-shirt. But how come something so small could cost so much? Whoever invented this must either be trying to save on textile or wanted to show off some skin.

Chicken/Chika. Two of the country's now-famous expressions. *Chicka* became popular through word of mouth and the media. *Chicken*, on the other hand, became known through a popular gag show. I definitely think that these expressions will be around for a long, long time.

When we were young, we used to laugh when our parents tell you about how *baduy* they were back then. It is good to look back once in a while because whenever we look back, we realize who we were and laugh ourselves sick. But then, we have to admit that despite all the problems our country had to face, we had our share of laughter and fun-filled moments.

When we get older, we will start to reminisce on what it was that changed us. Maybe it happened in 1995. By then it will be our turn to tell our children how *baduy* we were.

Exploited Bodies for Art's Sake

by Risa Dimaunahan

"Nudity for me is an art. As an artist, I don't find it vulgar or anything. It is a form of expression," says Rachel Lobangco.

Nowadays, the question of morality in the Philippines is not just a disregarded issue especially among our women whom we view as the epitome of good values, innocence and reservation.

The alluring appearance of Rosanna Roces (formerly Anna Maceda) in "Machete II" marked the beginning trend of titillating films in the movie industry. She dropped her clothes, sighed, moaned and made love in front of the camera. Seiko Films saw the birth of a woman to behold and fantasize. Bewitching Rosanna Roces sparked up the screen with her inviting appearance in indomitable sex scenes with a sculpture portrayed by Gardo Verzosa.

Sex-oriented films of vicarious experiences in sexual encounters such as *"Kirot 2," "Kandungan,"* and *"Basa sa Dagat"* followed. Rosanna Roces received several titles -- ST (sex trip) queen, TF (titillating films) queen, sex goddess and the like -- and, as such, many aspiring starlets challenged her "queenship."

The number of those so called artists increased spontaneously like mushrooms on clammy and petrified woods. They assume it is the best way to stardom. As a result, many producers came out from the tunnel and introduced a new set of Casanova Image Films. Movies like *Sibak* which was about male prostitution; *The Claudia Zobel Story* with Sabrina M.; *Sabik sa Halik* featuring Pricilla Almeda (formerly Abby Viduya); *Gayuma* with Amanda Page; and *Regalo* with Sheila Ysrael flourished in the film industry.

Sex-oriented comedy films were also featured in movies like *Batangeñong Kabiteño* and *Indescent Professor* with Leo Maritnez in the lead, supported by the "Wow-wow Girls" -- Glydel Mercado, Anna Mae Quinto, Michelle Parton, and Amanda Page; *Mama's Boys* with Anjo Yllana; and *Bikini Watch* with Ogie Alcasid.

It is like a round of cool champagne after a round of pedestrian Coke and Pepsi. Even action, dramatic, and massacre films included said artists: *Sa Ngalan ng Pag-ibig* with Alma Concepcion, Lorna Tolentino and Christopher de leon; *Dodong Scarface* and *'Di Mapigil ang Init* with Jestoni Alarcon and Rosanna Roces; *The Claudia Zobel Story* with Sabrina M.; *The Maggie dela Riva Story* with Dawn Zulueta; *The Marita Gonzaga Rape-Slay Story* with Sunshine Cruz; and *Tagos sa Laman* with Carmina Villaruel, Sunshine Cruz and Alma Concepcion. These films successfully catered to the masses' taste by employing trendy angles.

Producers and directors exploit these actors who, in turn, argue that they are doing it for art's sake.

Hypocrisy or Realism?

Seemingly sadistic, truth often hurts. It is for the world to see and identify with remorse how bad and ugly it has become and thus allow itself to confront its own without pretensions aided by some disturbing sociocultural changes.

Any changes?

These are just a continuation of what we had in the past. Remember Lala Montelibano, Stella Suarez, Pepsi Paloma and Gloria Diaz?

The most controversial was the portrayal of "Mary Magdalene" in the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*. In the movie, Mary performs a sex act with somebody in front of an audience.



"Ayokong dumating ang araw na ang tingin sa mga babae ay isang pirasong karne na lamang," Alma Concepcion said at the time when she and Amanda Page were being compared by the press. But how come she's also doing what Amanda Page is do Unquestionably she is sexy, and she uses this to attract viewers. So what made her different from other sexy stars? And how do these sexy stars differ from a strip teaser or an *agogo* dancer in Ermita? How do we define art in film making?

Fine Arts includes painting a naked body. What difference is there between painted nakedness and nakedness depicted in a motion picture?

turn to page 10



THE WASTEBASKET

by Tolitz' Rosel



Attitude, BO, and Pinoy Rock!

Yo! Ain't it funny, you seeing a column here entitled **"The Wastebasket?"** Don't you find it so morbid and depressing? Does it make you want to vomit and die? Well, it's strange for me, too.

The Wastebasket.

Why **"The Wastebasket?"** You'll know in the end....

* * *

Wear your sando! Wear your I.D.! Wear your polo!

Where's your freedom?

It's the sweat, man! *It's the sweat!* When you feel those sticky gobs of perspiration trickling down your neck, *para kang* ***"galit sa mundo"*** *- at sa* administration. What the admi does not know is the utter uncomfortability the boys are feeling while wearing that agonizing sando. Which is why there is a new perfume doing the rounds inside campus. Some call it **"Jovan-tot."** Some call it **"Angel's *bad* Breath."** Some call it **"Benenttot."**

I call it **BO.**

* * *

It's the BO, man! *It's the B.O.!* God, can't you smell it? It's a smell from hell! A typical sando-clad fellow roaming the steaming wilderness of DLS of A feels and smells like a Nazi concentration-camp refugee, if you can dig what I'm saying.

Sure, the admi says that it'll help in the "projection" of the "image" of a "clean and ideal" student (although I can't figure out how), but based on the unanimous clamor of the "hunks" in campus: *"No juice, man!"*

Another point emphasized by the "utterly concerned and solicitious" members of our administration is that it'll prevent the students from tramping inside campus without their costumes - ah, uniform, I mean - and thus enforce discipline and order in the college (and the operative word there is **"enforce"**).

Kind of reminds you of Martial Law, doesn't it?

* * *

I don't know about you, but I've been waiting for those darn ID cards at the Student Affairs Office for three weeks (four, if you count this one) now. I hope they come soon, 'coz I don't know how long I can take those dagger-sharp looks from the Blue Boys at the gate. They don't seem convinced anymore about that itsy-bitsy piece of paper I show that says, "Valid until 1998...."

* * *

There's this gay professor in the Department of Languages who has acquired a clientele. A nasty, **angry** clientele.

I have nothing against gays, but this mutated *homo sapien* has a penchant for flunking students for no clear reason -- except personal ones. He's not visible on campus right now (oh, goody!), but when he does show his jagged face again, I'll bet my graduation fee that there'll be about a hundred students in the College of Arts and Sciences who will be more than willing to give him/her a mean knuckle sandwich.

And that includes yours truly.

* * *

I had this heated discussion with an esteemed colleague of mine, Mr. Mok Oliveros, about the status of pinoy rock and alternative bands that're sprouting like pimples on a greasy face. I asked him why these bands still become popular, even though they're just rehashing and imitating each other's styles.

My kinky-haired comrade simply stated that it was because of the alternative trend-- and a trend that will never last, he added. Pinoy rock fanatics are forever in search of something new. They might lap up all the pinoy alternative music that airs all day on radio and in concerts, but time will come when the commercial value of this kind of music will fade and go the way of the blue-suede shoe.

The dork (that's me) asked him what it takes for a band to be remembered by the zealots, even though their kind of music has gone mainstream and, shall we say, *"gasgas at laspag na."*

Mok said it was in the **attitude.**

If a band has an attitude, he says, they will have that particular aura of individuality that'll separate them from the contenders and pretenders. **Led Zeppelin** had that attitude. So did **Metallica** and **The Doors**. **Guns N' Roses** once had that attitude, but they became perennial ass-lickers in the end. **Nirvana**, led by the late Kurt Cobain, showed that attitude in their short-lived career. **Bon Jovi**, with their patented love songs, tried to develop that attitude but failed miserably.

But what, you might ask, is an *attitude*?

A band has that attitude when it is not afraid to try something new. Tearing away from the flow, that's what I mean. They don't care if people think that their music is so naively unorthodox. A band's attitude can be seen (and heard) in their music. They don't imitate. If ever they do, they don't wallow in a single style alone. They experiment. They merge it -- coming up with that unique style.

The dweeb (that's me, again) refuse to accept this explanation. I think it doesn't entirely depend on the attitude. I've got a lot of reasons to say that it's not attitude alone that takes a band to the top. A lot of reasons.

But the funny thing is, I'm still looking for them.

* * *

Well, we've finally got a Supreme Student Council that doesn't make "concerts" its last name. They are busy working on more important issues, like their constitution.

But they better hurry, 'coz it's not good to work on a constitution for a whole year. They better make their presence felt, and not only through concerts, but on campus projects that'll finally make a student smile and say, *"Wow! Ang galing naman ng SSC!"*

turn to page 10

Fun and Fulfillment in Cross-stitching

by Jennifer M. Osias

Are you patient? Are you adventurous and willing to try something new? Do you want to test your creativity? Then Don't laugh because it's true. Cross-stitching is now gaining popularity among the young and it really does test your patience and creativity. Now, if all the world believes that it is only for women and wimps, then I have to say that it is totally false. In fact, most of the people who have had their works exhibited are males. Even executives, doctors and nurses are known to cross-stitch.

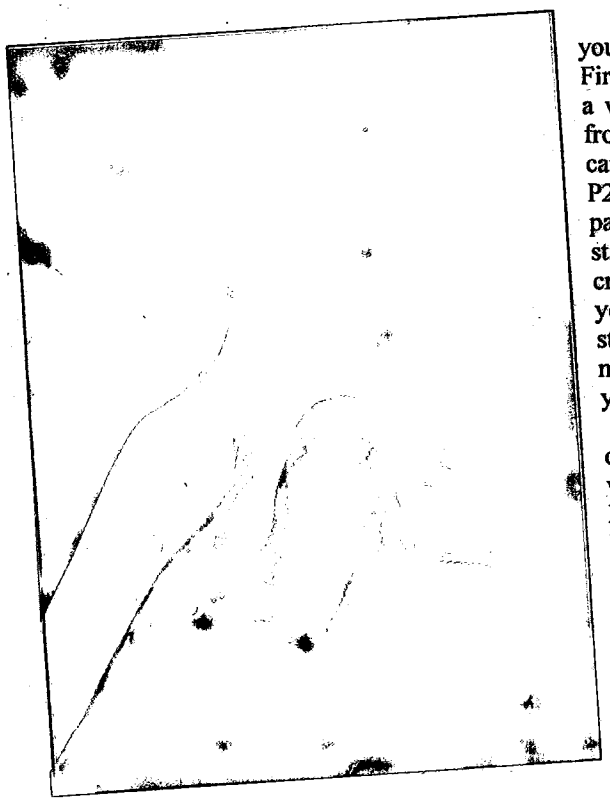
As early as the 18th century, people saw the need to join cloth in order to make clothes with the use of a thread and sharp piece of wood for a needle. Time passed and things have changed. We still join cloth by sewing but now we also decorate our clothes by embroidery.

Cross-stitching actually began in the United States and it only became popular five years ago even though we have seen our grandparents cross-stitch when we were kids. The reason for the recent gain in popularity is due to the fact that we now have a variety to choose from. As time went by, cross-stitching became more sophisticated and easier to do. That is how it managed to catch the public's attention. They finally found out that cross-stitching is simply creating a design by copying it from a pattern and sewing it onto a cloth.

Actually, what's funny is that one does not need to be good at sewing in order to make a cross-stitch design. I, for one, hated sewing but when I first tried cross-stitching, I didn't want to put it down.

What makes cross-stitching so interesting is that unlike sewing, you have to concentrate on every stitch that you make. Hence, your mind works as well as your hands. With each stitch that you make, you see a figure taking shape and that alone makes you start asking yourself, "Did I really do that?"

In order to finish the design quickly, you must take note of how fast you work and the size of your pattern. The finished product almost looks like a painting on a



canvas. You could own a Monalisa or a landscape picture without spending a mint. What's even more amazing is that you yourself made it and there is a sense of fulfillment once a design is finished.

Believe it or not, cross-stitching is easier than painting. When you paint, you need to know about dimension, lighting and mixing of colors plus the fact that it could be messy. But when you stitch, all you have to know is how to put the needle through the cloth and how to pull it out. You have the pattern to copy from so there is no need for any drawing and you don't have to mix any color.

Another thing is when you paint, all the materials you need could be very expensive. On the other hand, stitching is very much affordable and it has excellent results, which is why it is widely preferred by the public.

When just a beginner, I suggest you try just a small pattern only to get the hang of it. When you are done, you can always get a bigger pattern and try it again.

There are several materials that you will need in order to get started. First, the pattern. The pattern has a variety of different designs -- from angels, to teddy bears, to cars. It is estimated to cost around P20.00 each. The most expensive pattern is the newest in cross-stitching. You can even make a cross-stitch of yourself by giving your photograph to a cross-stitch store. This may cost you P400 or more, depending on how large you want your pattern to be.

As for the cloth, either Aida or Suedeguard will do. The price varies with the size of the cloth. It can go as low as P10 up to P100.

As for the thread, you can use two types: DMC and Anchor. DMC is commonly used because it does not snap easily. When your work is done, it is advisable to frame your work in order to prevent dust and mildew from destroying your creation. You have to pick the right place to frame your work in order to save money. Some charge more than they should just to get a higher profit. So, be wise.

Cross-stitch designs can help you gain profit on your own. While the materials you consume could cost you around P500 at the most, you can always sell it for double the price or even higher. Basically, people cross-stitch because it's fun. It's a great way to pass the time and it's very different. There is nothing wrong about creating something new. So, instead of just goofing around the house on Christmas vacation, do something that will benefit you.

It's almost Christmas. It's the perfect time to give a cross-stitch design to someone you love. After all, it was said that the best gift is something that comes straight from the heart: giving a cross-stitch design would be a great change from those red polka-dot shorts that you give to your friends every year. And it would make a difference to them. Take the risk. Just do it.

Storm Front's Melodic Rock: Something to Brace For

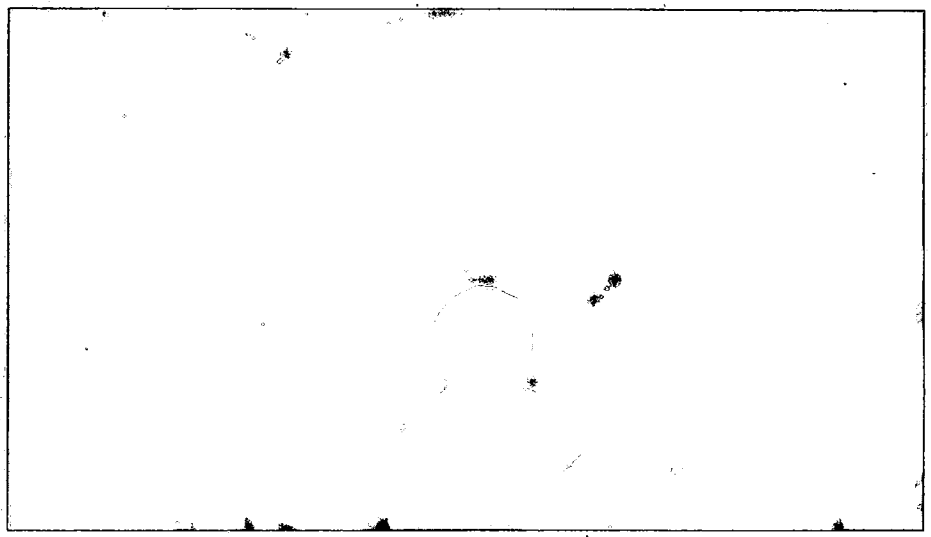
by Brenn T. Fajayo

Do you guys remember that popular *Chowking* commercial which jingle goes *"Nanay, nanay don't you cry. Sa allowance ko puwede pang mabuhay...?"*

If you do, I'm pretty sure you can still picture that good-looking guy playing the guitar while singing that engaging ditty.

If you belong to those who cherish that fellow in that TV ad but feel unlucky not to have an opportunity to know him or just see him more, have I got good news for you: He's gonna be on TV soon! With some other new faces!

Nope, he's not planning to enter showbiz but instead he'll be seen on TV very soon promoting a new stuff everyone might soon be crazy about. How come? He belongs to a band, that's why. It's called **Storm Front**.



From left to right: Christopher Salva, Karlo Aquino Patrick Dy, Winston Tongco and Francis Capistrano

Storm Front has Patrick, Karlo, Francis, Chris and Winston (the Chowking TV ad model) on drums, bass, keyboards, guitars and vocals respectively.

The band was actually formed through pirating. You know, pirating? They were sophomore highschool students of Xavier School in 1990 when they decided to join the bandwagon. Chris and Patrick who happens to be from the vicinity of San Juan were the first ones to form a group. But since their vocalist left them, they needed another one for the vocals. That was the time Tonky (Winston) came into the picture. Subsequently, Karlo and Francis who both came from another band joined them and BINGO!

Storm Front. How did they coin such a name?

"Actually, wala sa dictionary 'yan (obviously). The storm's calmest part 'di ba is the eye? Kami 'yung edge."

One even added, *"'Tsaka maganda pakinggan, eh. Kumbaga sa kanta kami 'yung intro."*

A whoop was heard somewhere, *"Laging front act (laughs)!"*

The band admit that they had a hard time convincing their parents at first about the idea of putting up a band, but right now: *"They are very, very supportive. Wala naman kasing masama 'di ba?"*

Bands, whether they admit it or not, have got to prove something. In **Storm Front**'s case, *"Hindi proving. It's more of sharing. At saka para mag-inspire ng life. Saka ano...for the love of music."*

One jokingly said, *"'Pag hindi kami sumikat, hiwalay na kami."*

Tonky tried to explain that even though they are into performing, they aren't really projecting any image that could separate them from any other individual. *"Usually kasi, 'pag nakita mo 'yung isang artist sa stage parang iba sila, di ba? Pero ang gusto naming i-project, hindi kami gano'n. Parang, 'oy...pareho lang tayo."*

It is a fact that there are lots of bands nowadays and some are still struggling to be known. If you're thinking of what is their distinction from any other band, they have this as an answer: *"Usually nga pag nakita ng tao, ah, mahaba ang hair...heavy metal na 'yan. Eh, kami actually, bakla lahat kami (laughs). Hindi...hindi kami hard. Rock kami. We play simple and plain rock and roll. Melodic rock."* Melodic rock. First time to encounter such a word?

After some years of performing, they are now about to join the mainstream. So how do they find competing with established bands? *"Actually, we're not competing naman, eh. Ano lang naman eh, tipong lumabas 'yung album namin para i-promote lang 'yung music namin."* Hear that?

"Handa kami sa mga criticisms. Hindi naman lahat ng tao mapi-please. Ang maganda lang nu'n there is a small portion na okay sila. At least may makuha ka, okey na iyon. We know naman na not everybody's gonna like it," one commented after being asked if they feel tension in the prospect of competing with several other established bands.

Storm Front find front acting fun and they don't mind doing it for other bands even they have released their own.

*"Hindi namin iniisip na front act. Alam mo 'yung for example ito...**After Image** and **Storm Front**. Hindi **After Image** and **Storm Front** (Tonky utters the band's name in a low voice).*

They revere local bands like **After Image**, **True Faith** and the not-so-visible-nowadays **Hype** band. Of foreign bands they like **Mr. Big**, **Aerosmith**, **Bon Jovi**, **Queen** and the **Beatles**.

They say they get hyped whenever performing before a large crowd. Yeah, I know why. Aside from their love for music, they also love hearing their fans screaming for them.

I admire the way girls responded to every song they sang and every move they made during the concert at the PLS. I'm pretty sure they'll soon be striking it big in the music industry.

As soon as the new year starts, everyone would see them on TV promoting their very own album **Storm Front** from Octo Arts-EMI. ***Buti Pang Mga Bata*** -- their very first single from the album, will be in the air waves so keep yourself posted co'z Storm Front's coming to town.

Circle of Truth

by Nohrin R. Evangelista

Could this Christmas be the second coming?

Time sure flies fast. I can still remember last year's Christmas so vividly, it seems to have transpired only yesterday. What can I do? I cannot hush the chiming and the tickling of time, ushering in the warmest, lenghthiest celebration Filipinos cherish as much as their own birthdays.

The celebration of the Yuletide season in our country is very lenghty. As such, preparation for this season readily has people on the freight of merrymaking and shopping sprees. They preoccupy themselves with so much material endowments to the point of disregarding their conscience. Poverty, we excuse while to giv for Noel.

Do you w remain sta and passiv this life? D want triumj **Advent** m "coming"--i of preparatic the coming Savior. A time for children of God to self-evaluate and relfect on their spiritual existence the past year.



According to the gospels, Christ will come in a day unknown to all. In days prior to that, a tremendous inundation will come to destroy the whole land. At that time, people are eating, drinking, marrying and are being married just as in the days of Noah. They are totally oblivious until the surge finally engulfs them. Jesus said we must stay awake for He is coming on the least expected day.

This advent provides an opportunity to hope anew. To surrender ourselves in the undying pursuit of God for us to be holy. This is the best thing we could offer to God not only for the Yuletide but for all year round.

"To live in eager expectation of Christ's coming is to believe that there is something beyond this world," said Sr. Annie Co, RVM.

The Filipino people are in the midst of cataclysm. Tremendous natural destructions have daunted their dreams towards its realization. But through their faith in God, they still possess the conviction that things will eventually turn out right. Lahar victims still view their future with optimism albeit the pressures they have to go through.

Don't you think all these are part of the signs of the times? Times that indicate that we, as lost sheep, will soon be in union with our shepherd. .When the doors of eternity will welcome each one worthy to be called son of God.

It is in every Yuletide season that we should remind ourselves a redeemer came to carry the burden of all humanity, choosing to suffer indignity in such an undertaking. He taught us not to place our happiness in mundane things but in things of Godly pursuit.

Christmas is about sharing. As such, the spirit of affection must be overflowing, generous enough to extend part of our lives in fulfillment of our neighbors' dreams. To give hope to the hopeless and life to those who are losing it -- all part of God's redemption.

HF's... *(from page 20)*

akong cutting. New year's resolution ko ay magpapaka bait na ako. *(Posible pa ba iyon?)*

Fred: Gusto ko sa Christmas mapaniginipan ko si Einstein, Rembrant at Beethoven at kausapin ako nila. *(Isa pa itong weird.)* Sa New Year's resolution ko, hindi ko na babarahin ang Editor in chief, yung associate editor na lang. Ang wish ko for next year, sana matuloy 'yung exhibit ko sa library at matuloy 'yung proposal na wala nang CMT.

Jenny: Wish ko for Christmas, sana "forever" na kami. *(Uuuuy!)* Tapos sa coming year, sana hindi na magloko si _____. New Year's resolution ko? Siguro, hindi na ako magiging sobrang senti. Ang masasabi ko lang, angcute-cute yung writer ng article na ito. *(Siyempre.)*

Red: Alam kong gasgas na ito pero sa 1996, gusto ko nang magka-boyfriend; tapos sa Pasko, sana bumaba na ang tuition fee ng La Salle. *(Oo nga naman.)* Tapos ang New year's resolution ko ay magpapapayat na ako.

Ernest: Gusto kong makita sa Santa Claus at makausap ko siya. Pero sa darating na taon, gusto ko magkaroon ng economic prosperity. *(Wow, deep...)* Nahihiya na ako sa editor natin kaya, mag-aaral na ako ng Pagemaker.

Ema: Ang Christmas wish ko ay gusto ko maging bagong news editor. Kasi lagi akong inuutusan ni Natz kaya gusto ko ako naman ang mag-uutos sa kanya. *(Good news! The feeling is mutual, according to the body beautiful editor. Aasahan namin iyan, ha!)* Sa 1995, gusto kong matutong maggitara ng isang kamay. Paano kaya iyon? New Year's resolution ko? Wala, hindi ko naman nagagawa eh.

Noreen: Ang Christmas wish ko, sana hindi na ako maging member ng SMC (Samahan ng Malalamig ang Christmas). *(Gamit na gamit na iyan, no.)* New Year's wish ko, sana hindi na ako maging member ng SMNY (Samahan ng Malalamig ang New Year). *(Gasgas na rin iyan!!)* Sa New Year's resolution ko, magku-quit na ako sa SMLL (Samahan ng Malalamig ang Lovelife). *(Iha, matuto kang lumabas ng bahay, mag-iiba 'yan!)*

Well, now you know at least something about who we are. It doesn't mean that just because we're part of Heraldo Filipino, we walk around with an armload of books and wear thick glasses. We're just as insane and weird as any normal person.

From all of us at **Heraldo Filipino, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!**

Breaking the Chains of Cheating

by Hazel I. Deresma

Is it better to cheat than to repeat? Or to get zero than to cheat?

CHEATING. What does this word really mean? There are so many words synonimous to it -- fraudulency, dishonesty, deception, betrayal, etc.

Speaking in the microlevel point of view, I am referring to the kind that students are proned to practice -- stealing another's idea or answers during examinations.

It couldn't be denied that cheating is rampant. This could be because of the belief that cheating is just normal in school life. Others even consider it a form of helping one another in order to pass exams. If this is what many have inculcated in their minds, then they could be dangerous.

Why? It is simply because cheating is not a good habit to be formed. It leads one in forming beliefs which are against morality. You may be just cheating now but you could be corrupt in the future. Cheating could be just an "insignificant" beginning, but from it will flow much bigger.

In a normal classroom setting during examination, you could hear these words among students: *"Hoy mag-cheating arrangement naman tayo."* Often, one would approach another and say, *"Pakopya naman"* and if the other replied *"Ayoko nga,"* one would normally say *"Ang damot mo naman."* Is this the students' concept of being selfish?

In an interview with students regarding the reasons why they cheat, one said *"Obviously para pumasa, at saka minsan tempting talaga lalo na kapag isang number na lang and kulang mo, nakapanghihinayang iwanan."* Others say they cheat because they probably were not able to study and that they might as well go with the flow -- copy from those who are academically good.

Such lame excuses! Cheating is not the only way to be academically good and to pass exams. One can do good with only his own efforts by believing in himself. Trusting yourself and believing in what you can do should be your foundation. Cheating is not the solution because it could only mean that you doubt your potentials; it also reflects that you are intellectually and spiritually poor.



When asked how it feels after cheating, one student replied: *"Siyempre I feel relieved, proud, and happy but with guilt."*

"Kapag highest ka, feeling mo talaga masaya pero nakakatakot," another replied.

How does one cheat during exams?

Most of the students I interviewed said they cheat by means of making *kodigos* (a list of possible answers that may appear on test). Another said, *"By means of sign language especially if the exam is multiple choice. 'Yung teacher, siyempre, titingnan mo kung nakatingin o hindi; 'pag hindi, then it's the perfect time."*

According to Engr. Luzviminda Zabala, a Natural Sciences faculty member who is noted as being strict during exams: "Students cheat if the environment is conducive to cheating. However, it depends on how the student is brought up -- that is to say, one who practices it [on account of] conduciveness does not value education; but one who does not practice it even with conduciveness [present] is well molded and really values education."

True indeed! To cheat is not to value education because cheating for the mere satisfaction of getting high grades or just to pass is aimless.

In what could have the act of cheating be rooted?

First, it could have rooted from discipline -- how we are trained and how we instruct ourselves. One who is mentally disciplined is less expected to commit the act of cheating while one who is not is expected to do so.

Second, cheating could have rooted in the gift of freedom. We all have the freedom to choose between good and bad. Cheating, as we know, is a sin, therefore it is bad. It is a sin because it can destroy our relationship with God. Being dishonest during exams is in itself bad because it is a form of stealing. Exodus 20:15 says "*Do not steal.*" Romans 13:9 commands "*Do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else.*" According to Hebrews 13:18. "*Conduct ourselves with honesty in all things.*" From where should have the act of cheating be rooted?

First, it should have rooted from discipline - how we are trained and how we instruct ourselves. One who is mentally disciplined is less expected to commit the act of cheating while one who is not is expected to do so.

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turn to page 10

Attitude... *(from page 5)*

Anyway, keep up the good work and good luck (you're gonna need it more than you guys think!).

* * *

This Christmas is going to be one cold dude. But don't get too excited, friends and neighbors, 'coz this frigid affair is a long way from over.

There's still January to think about (brrrrrr....).

* * *

This season, that old and dilapidated question that has bothered and plagued Filipinos will again stick its nose out: What is the real meaning of Christmas?

Simple. It means giving, sharing, loving, caring, receiving, thanking, and living. Oh, by the way, it was also the birth of that cool dude, Jesus Christ.

Funny. I almost forgot that last one...

* * *

Damn, I'm getting geeky with all this talk about Christmas and loving.

It's time to get real!

* * *

Woah. It's too bad the **After Image** concert was a complete flop, as compared to that explosive **Tour-de-Faith** extravaganza. You should have heard what Mr. Cornejo was muttering backstage. It's enough to wake the dead.

By the look of things, I think we're starting to have a bad reputation when it comes to hosting big concerts. First was that forgettable **Woodstock** affair. Now this **After Image** fiasco.

What's next? An **April Boys** walk-out?

* * *

Don't forget, January 10 is a day to look forward to. It's the first-ever **Battle of the Bands** competition for this school year (did I say "first?"). Twenty bands are there to compete for that measly P3000 price money.

You'll really get a kick out of this one. The bands that are competing have names that range from simple ones, like **Beowulf** and *Reality*...to the really absurd, like *Cosmic Kuto* and *Revenge of the Fishballs*.

This is one bandfest wherein I hope that the bands don't live up to their names....

* * *

Thought you'd like to try some of these mind grass for a change: **Carrion Comfort** by **Dan Simmons**, a horror novel that gives a whole new meaning to vampires and the game of chess; **Rainmaker** by **John Grisham** (he wrote **The Client** and **The Firm**, if you haven't known), another novel t hat'll leave you thinking; and **Lost World** by **Michael Crichton** (remember **Jurassic Park**?), a new technohorror novel -- if you want to ask if it's interesting, all you have to know is that it's sort of a sequel to **Jurassic Park** (yeah, the dinos are baack!).

For some ear candy, there's only one album that I can recommend for now: **Cutter Pillow** by **The Eraserheads**. Now this is a band with an attitude, I can tell you that. Take it from my friend Mok.

But I'll still take my **Wolfgang** straight, anytime, if you ask me.

* * *

So, we've come to the end of our first jamming session. Some of you might still be wondering about the title of this column, **"The Wastebasket."** Hell, you should have realized by now why it's called what it's called! If you're one of those people -- those pitiful, *dreadful* people -- who get mixed up on simple things (like that gay Languages professor that I really loathe), then I'll tell you.

If you're looking for trash, look into a wastebasket. If you're looking for something that someone has somehow discarded and has no need for, look into a wastebasket. The fact is, you can discover many interesting things in a wastebasket that no one seems to notice.

And a lot of them stink.

Got it?

* * *

I'll leave you with this simple, pessimistic advice: **"What you really want, you'll never have. So if you really want some**

Ciao, dude!

Exploited... *(from page 4)*

Rosanna Roces once said that she conditions her mind that everything she does in front of the camera is a work of art. Hear it from the expert. You'll probably be needing this someday, if you have the face and guts....

Acting like a cheap whore in front of the camera, projecting lasciviousness in front of many people -- really, what is art for?

Breaking... *(from page 9)*

Others cheat because they are afraid to fail. They want to be accepted even if the end does not justify the means. I remember one saying, "It's better to be the honest than to withhold it just to be accepted." This saying made me realise that it's better to be honest, whatever the consequences maybe. No scars will be left in your heart rather than to be dishonest just to be accepted but with guilt left behind.

Who are we fooling anyway when we cheat?

Certainly, it's not our teachers, it's not our friends, not even our parents but it is ourselves who we are making fool of. We are fooling ourselves because we know that when we cheat we still end up as losers. Maybe , in the eyes of man we will not be regarded as losers but in the eyes of God we are. We make fool of ourselves when we dupe because we know that by cheating we are not learning with our own efforts. Most likely you will be glad if the result of the exam will be good. But where should the credit go? Will you credit yourself for getting high grades out of cheating? Will you pretend that you know something which you don't actually know? If your answer is no, then you are indeed fooling yourself. Wonder why? Simply because, you know that what you have been doing is contrasting what you believe just for the sake of getting high grades and maybe for the sake of masking your irresponsibility. Remember that to be responsible is to face the facts and to perform whatever duties we have.

The manner of cheating may also mean being dependent and immature. Dependent because to cheat is to depend on other's idea by copying it. Immature in the sense that despite knowing that it is not good you still do it. A mature person knows enough what is right and wrong and manages to practise the good ones.

We must always bear in mind that cheating should not be a part of students' lives. Cheat is just another way of saying that we have no love for true learning. True learning involves exerting efforts and experiencing some pains and sufferings for without it we cannot achieve what we are aiming for.Knowing the fact that cheating is bad and still doing it is an abuse of freedom. Freedom has limitations. It corresponds responsibility.

Others cheat because they are afraid to fail. They want to be accepted even if the end does not justify the means. I remember one saying, "It's better to be the honest than to withhold it just to be accepted." This saying made me realise that it's better to be honest, whatever the consequences maybe. No scars will be left in your heart rather than to be dishonest just to be accepted but with guilt left behind.

Who are we fooling anyway when we cheat?

turn to page 19

Truly Keeping the Faith



True Faith performs live before DLSU-A crowd.

by Brenn T. Fajayo and Aena D. Alcala

December 6, 1995.

After some initial activities, **True Faith** took to their rest at Hotel Nicole and early that night went to Palaruang La Salle to check if everything was in good shape.

6:30 pm. Gym.

*"Sila na 'yan, Aena. Nagsa-*sound check *siguro."*

"Shocks, ang ganda ng lights *o!"*

"Oo... sinabi mo. Sa lahat ng mga concert *na na-*cover *ko,* so far *ito ang may pinaka-bonggacious na* lights. *Tingnan mo."*

"May wide screen *pa sa tabi. Ano ba 'yong palabas?* "Mortal Combat" *'ata 'yon, a."*

"Putik talaga...ngayon pa lang elibs na talaga ako. Taralet's, mag-abang na tayo ng mga decisive moments."

7:00 pm.

"Akala ko ba 7:00 *ang* start *nito? Ba't wala pa?"*

"Naman, parang hindi ka na nasanay sa mga ganito. At least *naiipon na rin 'yong mga tao sa labas."*

"Pero bakit kanina, Brenn, *no'ng pumasok tayo walang binigay na* **Chippy, Bacon Strips** *at* **Pantene**? *Ang daya."*

"Hayaan mo na, libre daw kasi 'yung ticket *natin kaya gano'n."*

"Kahit na. Madaya pa rin talaga. Nagugutom na 'ko eh."

It seemed like the organizers intentionally gathered the **True Faith** fanatics first before allowing them to enter the gym.

8:00 pm.

"Terible, ang daming tao sa labas. Buti na lang nagpapasok na sila."

*"Sana mag-*start *na. Naaatat na 'ko."*

"Sus, may front act *pa naman, e. 'Di bale ba kung sila agad."*

"Sino nga pala 'yong front act? *Kilala mo ba* Dang?"

"Hindi. Ang alam ko lang taga rito rin sa school."

Try to picture out a bunch of people amassed in front of the stage waiting for the noted group to perform. Some were chatting with each other, some were eating their freebies (except the **Pantene** sachets, huh) and some revved themselves up by nuzzling with their partners.

8:30 pm.

*"Puchick, sobra naman sa tagal. Baka mag-*start *'to may mga apo na tayo."*

*"Nagpa-*fluctuate *daw 'yung kuryente kaya di pa makapagsimula."*

"'Duy, dapat kanina pa nila chineck 'yon para hindi naghihintay 'yong mga tao 'no."

"Aenz, unavoidable circumstance *'yon.* Anyway, *makakalinutan ng mga 'yan ang paghihintay nila 'pag lumabas na si* Med."

8:45 pm.

"Ang lalakas tumili ng mga 'to, eh front act *pa lang naman 'yan." "'Kala siguro nila sina* Med *na 'yan."*

"Malay mo naman kung tagahanga talaga nila 'yang mga 'yan. "Chicken!"

"A basta. Sa True Faith *pa rin ako."*

"Sino ba'ng hindi. Well, *dati, ako hindi. Pero ang*cute *pala ni* Med, Aenz. *Ang*cute *talaga, lalo na sa* press con. Imagine, *sa liit kong ito...mas maliit pa pala siya sa 'kin."*

The most significant moment eventually took place as soon as **True Faith** headed for the center stage.

9:15 pm.

"Aaaay! (*shouting*) *ang*cute-cute *ni* Med. *Hanep sa ganda ang boses...nakakatunaw!"*

"Tara do'n tayo sa harap. Di natin siya makikita ng husto dito."

"'Kami'y nasasabik sa iyong pagbabalik' (*singing*)."

"Aena, *bilisan mo, mapupuno na 'yong harapan."*

The band continued to serenade the crowd with their own hits and cover songs alike.

"Ayan na, ayan na Brenn. **Ambon** *na 'yan!"*

"O, tapos?"

"Ganoon? Pero hindi nga. Intro *na 'yan ng* **Ambon**, *eh.* Shocks, *'di ako makapaniwala na kumakanta si* Med *sa harap natin.* In the flesh *'day...*in the flesh!"

After a few minutes...

"O Brenn, *bakit natahimik ka 'ata? Muntik mo na bang maabot ang langit?"*

"Nagagandahan lang ako sa rendition *ni* Med. *At saka parang angsarap lang mag-senti* for a while."

As expected, **True Faith** lilted **How Much I Feel, Sa Puso Ko, Huwag na Lang Kaya** and **Perfect** which are all hits from their albums. **Alaala**, which is their first single from their newest LP, was also sung.

The multitude was craving for more, yet, after rendering popular songs like **Selling the Drama, I Alone, In Between Days** and upbeat tunes like **La Bamba** and **Twist and Shout, True Faith** had to end their performance with a hefty song **Shot Gun Baby.**

It can not be denied that **Tour de Faith** really blew DLSU-A grounds. After years of being together as a band, **Ferdie, Eazer, Bimbo, Francis, Jun** and **Medwin** still manage to keep the faith.

Seven

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE
by Nathaniel Golla

"...Verily, verily I say unto you, whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."
(John 8:34)

Have you seen the blockbuster film "Seven" which starred matinee idol Brad Pitt and veteran actor Morgan Freeman?

I didn't. Anyway, according to some friends (whose names I always forget), the motion picture depicts the teachings of the Holy Churh in consonance with the seven cardinal sins. Incidentally, DLSU-A has its own version of "Seven," but this time it's queer. Observe and learn.

WRATH. Do you recall instances when guards at Gate 1 would give you that "evil grin" for no apparent reason? I'm sorry guys, that's not wrath. You may want to call it a crime of passion. Or in legal parlance, it's coined as illegal possession of deadly face, err, weapon. Indignation occurs when students get pissed off by seemingly offensive countenance of our security men. Some even resort in the utterance of not-so-nice words to the guards like "P@!&*# mo."

LUST. I was on my way home when I heard this bizarre noise from the AS Kubo. At first, I thought it was a sort of "lover's quarrel" but I was wrong. The guy was on top of the situation. Then they began to move forward, backward, forward, backward, forward, backward...and ooooh! -- TV-canned moaning.

Is that what you call security measures? More and more students will review their Anatomy I at the school motel if nobody does something about the situation. *Kilala ba n'yo si Dennis C?*

PRIDE. Remember the dialogue regarding the controversial revised policies? Blessed are those who modify new policies for theirs the kingdom of blame. The students voiced out their grievances and complaints facing the bearings of an impregnable wall -- they fell on deaf ears. The policies stay!

Pride is a demeanor worthy of curse; in this case, it has seemingly enticed a greater iniquity -- dictatorship.

GREED. You're having your long quiz when suddenly it slipped into your coconut that you know nothing (that's terrible). At that, you decide to indulge in cheating but your seatmate is not willing to give you the birdie.

At some point you may call your classmate greedy, but behind your back he's calling you parasite. *Mag-aral ka naman tsong. Ga-graduate ka na lang, wala ka pa ring alam.*

ENVY. It's difficult to discern who envies who. The subtle manifestation of such an evil is when your good friend places you in a bad light. In short, he told your girlfriend that you were dating somebody else. Paging Marvil Ramirez.

SLOTH. I woke up around 10 one morning and noticed that my dormmate was still all tied up in bed. I woke him up and told him that it's already late; he arrogantly replied: *"Tinatamad ako Nathz, dehins na lang ako papasok. Hindi naman magka-klase si Miss kapag wala ako."*

Ang bigat mo, teng!

GLUTTONY. When gluttony crosses my mind, I always get reminded of my friends Daniel Coloma and Christian Bautista. I mean no offense at this, but nevertheless, it is my deepest regret that I cannot comment futher on the topic -- I'm not well versed regarding overeating.

Che-che, extra rice pa nga!



25 Ways of Saying Merry Christmas

by Ernest Benedict E. Javier and Riza B. Dimaunahan

Fiesta loving Filipinos as we are, our creativity has brought us to a distinctive array of expressing what we feel. Christmas, the season where loving, sharing and caring are emphasized, poses various simple but meaningful ways of being felt.

The following are ways which will help us toassure us to reach others and make them feel that Christmas is not just hanging in the air but something to experience.

1. Bake a cake which says, "Its Christmas. Stay sweet as this cake."

2. Send a friend a n alarm clock that rings every twelve o'clock for him to be awake and not be late for the Noche Buena.

3. Tape your voice while singing his favorite Christmas carols. Be sure to practice first.

4. Send your bestfriend a stuff toy thanking him for the whole year of tight friendship.

5. Give your lover a pen and a pad for his Christmas list. By doing so, you'll be the first one to be remembered.

6. Buy your brother a new pair of socks and put a note saying, "For Christmas use only".

7. Make cards for friends with your picture in a Santa Claus costume on the cover.

8. Hang a bell at your door as a greeting while your friends and relatives enter your house.

9. Decorate your Christmas tree with gifts (even if they're empty) with corresponding names. After all, it's the thought that counts.

10. Give your mom a stress card to update herself with the tension that Christmas rush is bringing her.

11. Allow your younger sister to have the control over what she would like to view on the television. Isn't this the meaning of giving?

12. Buy your brother a ball and let him play all day and get away with school work.

13. Make a menu list for mom. Be sure it's economical or else she won't be able to give you extra money for Christmas gift shopping.

14. Give your dad a hug. Try doing not-so-usual thing.

15. Smile. By doing so, the world will smile with you.

16. Scrub styrofoam on your parent's face while they were watching televisions. If you wish to spend a White Christmas, that is.

17. Put an ice on your sibling's cheek to awake them at Christmas eve. But be extra careful on doing that. It would be worse waking them up that way.

18. You will do the cooking for the *Noche Buena* while your mother is watching you. But be sure that it will please her and not the other way around.

19. While doing your Christmas shopping in a mall with your family, make an excuse but drag into the customer service desk and page them followed by "Merry Christmas" greeting.

20. On the night before Christmas, wear your Santa Claus' outfit while carrying a bag of gifts for your family and wake them up with your loudest "Ho! Ho! Ho!".

21. Make your own Christmas card for your family and friends and put them in a place where they can see them easily.

22. Research for their dream gift this Christmas. Let's say a doll for your mother, a ball for your father and so on. By doing so, they will realize your sincerity and pensivity.

23. Greet your enemy. It's the perfect time to swallow your pride simply because... it's Christmas.

24. Laugh to your most hated classmate's joke even if it is corny. Symphatize with his zero quizzes even if you are perfect.

25. Rent a helicopter waving a banner containing this message: MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO (whoever). Probably, this is the most expensive but it will surely work.

Some of the above mentioned ways may appear peculiar but what matters most is that you made them happy on this coming yuletide season. Afterall, happiness is what we are all running after for this Christmas, right?

Fireworks.. *(from page 14)*

Whistle bomb. This firework distinguishes itself by "whistling" first before exploding.

Fountain. This firework is cone shaped, containing chemical components that, as was earlier said, are responsible for its sparkling effect. The sparkling resembles that of water strewn from a fountain. It is of awesome display, except that it doesn't explode.

Trumpilyo or whirlpool. Although this one could resemble a dynamite in its shape, it does not explode. It is nailed at its center, and when ignited, produces sparkling light and color spewing forth from one end of the pipe, thus its rotating motion.

Crying cow. This just like whistle bomb. The difference is that this one produces a sound resembling a crying cow before it explodes.

Fla-fla. This, so far, produces the loudest explosion. This one is Judas belt and El diablo connected.

Other forms of fireworks are: **lolo thunder, lusis, kwitis, 5-star, pulling, cabo canyon,** etc.

Although fireworks enhance the festive mood, we sometimes fail to consider the hazards they could bring us. It is statistically proven that fireworks cause considerable loss of lives and property, as well as injure thousands of people every year. These are rooted in mishandling.

Another hazard it could bring us is the pollution that they cause. The chemical makeup of fireworks are enough to irritate our lungs and can even lead to suffocation and even death.

Despite the fact of the damages fireworks could bring us, its use during festivities is incessant. We have been oriented that New Year's eve wouldn't be as complete without fireworks.

Nevertheless, we should take heed: fireworks are an art but dangerous if not handled with necessary caution.

Fireworks facts and art

Hazel I. Deresma

Fireworks? An art?

True. A firework is an art -- a fire art that adorn the skies. We usually set this display up on New Years' eve here in the Philippines and other parts of the world.

It is, however, of Chinese origin. The Chinese developed this art, and for centuries, have used fireworks in celebrating, not just New Year's day, but other holiday

Fireworks are devices that make use of explosive substances in creating noise, light display and smoke. Its scientific name is *pyrotechnics* -- from Greek words meaning *fire arts*.

If you're wondering how fireworks explode in different colors, the secret is in burning bright metallic salts. Socium salts give a deep yellow color; clacium, red; strontium, crimson; barium, green; and copper, green and blue. Magnesium and aluminum provide an electric-white effect.

Other effects are procured by making the compositions form different proportions of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal, and by using such combustibles as rosic, gum arabic, petroleum, tallow, the sulfides of mercury, arsenic, and antimony, or powdered metal iron, antimony, zinc and copper. Calomel, hexachlorobenzene, or other chlorine compounds such as potassium chlorate, potassium nitrate, and potassium perchlorate contain the oxygen necesarry for combustion of the pyrotechnic mixture.

Nearly all types of fireworks have a body that is built up by rolling paper arounnd a foam until the desired thickness is reched. The casing must be packed so that the pyrotechnic compound is thoroughly compressed: any cavity left in the mixture can lead to malfunction at the time of ignition.

Most fireworks are made by packing gunpowder in hallow paper tubes. A course gunpowder tightly packed is used to propel rockets in the air. A fine and more loosely packed gunpowder enables the rocket to explode once it is in the air.

Here in the Philippines, many types of fireworks are used in celebrating New Year's eve. The dubbed center of manufacturing of fireworks in the country is Bulacan. Here are some of the most popular fireworks we use:

Roman candle. Roman candles are made up of long, narrow, strong tubes of paper plugged at the bottom with clay. A small charge of black powder is introduced first, then a star; then on top of the star and surrounding it, a candle composition -- a granmular mass made of saltpeter, sulfur, charcoal, and dextrin, incorporated to pass through a sieve, and dried.

The material in the tube is tampered down, and the process of loading black powder, star, and candle compositon is repeated until the tube is filled. When the cancdle is lighted, it acts as a repeating gun, shooting a number of projectiles of colored fire and spewing out showers of glowing sparks between shots.

Rockets. Probably the most popular form of firework, this is blasted off into the sky by recoil produced by the jet of fire thrown out by its burning composition.

The heads of signal rockets contain stars of color composition, together with a bursting charge of black powder that is ignited from the propelling charge when the rocket has attained the top of its flight. Its case is so designed as to produce maximum combustion, and thus, maximum thrust in its earliest stage.

The heads of display rockets, on the other hand, sometimes carry bombshells, parachutes, with magnesium lights, multicolored stars, serpents, and saucissons. Beautiful effects are produced particularly by a rocket propelled by a mass of burning yellow phosphorous and burning potassium or sodium.

Watusi. This is also called "dancing cracker" that makes use of the principle of friction. It is of small size, like a match stick, and red in color.

Labintador. This form of firework doesn't produce brilliant colors in the sky. It is triangular in shape and with a protruding thread that, when lighted, ignites the chemical content thereby producing a loud sound.

Judas' Belt. This is numerous labintador lined up and forming a beltlike figure. When ignited, it produces a barrage of explosion until the line of labintador has been exhausted. At the end of this chain, however, is another explosive with a much louder blast to effect the belt's raucous finale.

Superlolo. This is of the same construction as that of the labintador, except that this comes in dynamite form and is much louder when it explodes.



El diablo. Also beltlike in structure, except that the chain is made up of superlolo, instead of labintador. It has a much louder effect compared to Judas' belt.

Bawang. This firework is round, resembling a garlic bulb in shape and size, hence e its name. In ignition, it follows the same process as that followed in lighting a labintador.

turn to page 13



Unveiling *After Image*

Brenn T. Fajayo

It was at the last minute when we decided to cover the **After Image** concert at the Palaruang La Salle on December 1. I thought we would not include the event in our Novemeber-December issue of La Salleño. But since we have a very unpredictable yet resourceful EIC, we were still able to interview them.

Even though I had experienced interviewing bands before, I didn't know from whom to ask permission and I didn't even know where they were because they weren't backstage. Thank God, I saw Wency's ally in a corner and so I didn't let the opportunity to slip away anymore.

He accompanied us (my HF co-staffers Mel, Eh-en and me) outside the gym where Niño, *After Image* bassist, was hanging around. From there, we were led to the bus where the rest of the members were tarrying. We saw Chuck (lead guitarist), Rodgie (drummer), Bobbit (rhythm guitarist) inside but my eyes seemed to be searching for somebody else. No, I was not looking for Arnold, the keyboardist. Actually, I was after Wency.

Finally, I saw this *tsinito* guy lying at the back of Chuck's seat. It was Wency -- sleeping!

I was a little bit disappointed because he could not be interviewed but I guess we had to go on. So, **HF** and **After Image**...fire!

On being recognized

HF: How do you feel after winning 5 major awards in *Katha*?

AI: *Sayang*, we were hoping to be there *nga. Kaya lang*, we had a show in Pulilan. *Si* Sabrina, our manager, *na lang ang kumuha ng* awards. Dissapointed *nga kami kasi sa* **NU Rock Awards**, *isang* award *lang ang napanalunan. Si* Arnold *lang* -- Best Keyboardist. *'Yun ang gusto namin kasi* rock, *e. Parang mas maganda pa pala 'yung sa Katha. Kaya lang, wala kami do'n.*

(They were really in deep regret that they were not around when the awards were given. According to Chuck, before, when they were attending Music awards, they had been preparing best suits for the occassion but they rarely won. But in ***Katha***, wherein they did not expect anything, they were recognized.)

Careerwise

HF: Aren't you tired of on-the-road shows?

AI: *Hindi naman. Sanayan lang naman 'yan. Hindi naman kami nagda-drive (laughs). Nakakatulog naman kami tapos nakakapagbiyahe pa.*

(I believe so. Wency was actually sleeping at the moment the interview was ongoing. Perhaps, he didn't notice that he was no longer traveling.)

HF: You've been performing for a long time now. Nakaka-experience pa rin ba kayo ng kaba?

AI: *Oo. 'Di mawawala 'yon. Katulad ngayon (laughs). Wala pa ring tao (pertaining to concertgoers).*

(They asked us if nobody bought the tickets. A little *chickahan* followed then one subsequently said, *"Tara uwi na tayo.* Eight-thirty *na."* And so, we continued.)

HF: Up to when do you planning to stay together as a band?

AI: *Hanggang sa malaos (laughs). Hanggang sa masaya kami.* We enjoy *naman* what we do.

HF: *Ano'ng napi-*feel *niyo kapag ganito... wala gaanong tao?*

AI: *Siyempre, gusto namin laging may tao sa* shows *namin...kahit naman siguro sino. Pero ngayon...wala talagang magagawa.*

(Imagine **After Image** saying this with teary eyes.)

HF: How do you find new bands, in terms of competency?

AI: New bands? *Actually, maraming magagaling. Marami ring porke't uso lang....* Although, *nag-go-*grow *'yung* (music) industry *natin. Parang 'nong* 70s. *Kasi no'ng* 80s *nawala talaga.*

HF: What can you say about the bands that are just joining the fad?

AI: *'Yun ang* trip *nila, eh. Dapat mayroon silang sariling* sound. *Kasi 'yun ang magla-*last. *Kasi 'pag gumagaya ka lang sa uso, pag nawala na yung uso wala ka na rin. 'Pag mayroon kang* sound...style, *mawala man yung uso naandiyan ka pa rin.*

HF: There are bands that have requests before they perform. In your case, what would you ask for?

AI: *A, puwebe ba? Uhmmm... sana dumami 'yong mga tao. 'Yun na lang ang* request *namin.*

(Desperate about the crowd, huh?)

Family matters

HF: What kind of children are you to your parents?

AI: Actually, we're very normal, *eh.* Normal? Well, some of us are (*laughs*).

HF: Why some?

AI: *Ewan ko. Depende na lang sa* perception *mo 'yan kung ano ang* normal *at saka-*abnormal.

HF: How is your relationship with your families?

AI: Actually, we rarely see our family.

Most of the time, *nasa labas kami.*

turn to page 16

HULASCOPE

ni Nathzi Baby at Mademoiselle

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20). Maganda ang latag ng baraha para sa iyo: matiwasay ang iyong buhay pag-ibig sa susunod na mga araw, linggo, buwan, taon at sa mga susunod pang dapat sumunod. Napaka-s'werte mo sa "love" mo, dahil bukod sa mala-Adonis niyang dating, meron pa siyang mahabang...pasensya (Ikaw naman masyadong Lasalista). Pero mag-ingat; lagi mo siyang babantayan dahil malaki ang posibilidad na maumpog siya. Ikaw rin -- baka bigla siyang magising sa katotohanan. Chika!

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21). Medyo malabo ang ayos ng mga bituin para sa 'yo. May mga pangitain na may magkakamaling magkagusto sa 'yo. Ang siste nga lang, matu-turn off s'ya dahil nalaman niyang masiba ka palang lumamon. Anywayz, makakatagpo ka rin ng taong magmamahal sa'yo nang tapat at walang hangganan. (Naku naman parang Romance novel.) Pero isa lang ang sinisiguro sa'yo ng mga hilong-talilong na mga bituin: hindi mo siya matatagpuan sa Heraldo. Sino kaya siya?

GEMINI (May 22-June 21). Prrrrrrt...Prrrrrrrt! Malas naman, masisita ka ng guard sa Gate 1 dahil dehins ka naka-sando. Gusto mo mang mag-react, hindi mo magawa dahil takot mo lang sa mga mukha nila. Wala kang magagawa kundi mapakamot ng tiyan. Tssk. Tssk. Tssk. Ooops, 'kala mo tapos na, dehins pa, kapatid. Paglabas mo ng Gate 1, sisitahin ka pa rin ng guard, pero huwag mo siyang papansinin; baka mamaligno ka nang 'di oras.

CANCER (June 22-July 23). Laki di tudi. Tumama ka.... Pero hindi sa lotto...ah-ah; lalong hindi sa sarimanok...kundi sa jueteng. Maging matiyaga lamang dahil ang iyong premyo ay makukuha kapag na-akwit na si Bong Pineda.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23). Ipipagbabawal ng doktor mo na uminom ka. Bakit kamo? Dahil mapapasma...mapapasma kang talaga. Hanep naman kasi ang bunganga mo kung rumatsada; dinaig mo pa ang mga humaharurot na kotse sa Edsa. Matutong mag-impok. Kakailanganin ito ng mga maiiwan mo kasi malamang ay mapapatay ka kapag humirit ka pa. Eh, 'di bongga: may pa-kape ka na, may pa-biskwit ka pa.

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23). Medyo matabang ngayon ang pakikitungo ng ilang kaklase. Huwag mag-alala, naiinggit lang sila. Super slim ka kasi. Kaya kahit mag-ala-baboy ka sa pagkain sa darating na kapaskuhan, seksi ka pa rin. Angtindi kasi ng mga bulate mo sa tiyan. Parang sawa.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23). Bago ipagpatuloy ang binabalak na pagbibiyahe, tiyaking mayroon kang sapat na pamasahe. Hindi kasi uso sa dyip ang maghugas ng pinggan. Kung ako sa 'yo, sasabit na lang ako sa tambutso. Tipid pa.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22). Matutong kumain nang mabilis dahil hindi ka pa nakakasubo ay may magsasabi sa 'yong "Miss, may susunod ba sa inyo? Pwedeng kami na lang?" Hay naku, wala ka nang magagawa kundi ang um-oo kahit punung-puno ang bibig mo. Pero tip lang 'day: ito ang magandang panahon para ikuwento ang iyong talambuhay...tik yor taym.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21). Pag-ingatan mong mabuti ang iyong pangangatawan, dahil butu-buto ka na (hindi dahil sa pagsusunog ng kilay sa pag-aaral kundi dahil sa kapupuyat mo sa pusoy). Ayaw mo pang matulog nang nakapikit. Kapag nalaman ng ermats mo na panay pagsusugal at pambababae ang ginagawa mo, patay kang bata ka.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20). Sikaping ihanda lahat ng kailangan bago umalis ng bahay. Kung maiwan mo man ang ID mo ay makakalusot ka sa pamamagitan ng taktika at diplomasya. Babala: sa susunod ay medyo may kahirapan na. Nasaktan kasi ang mga guwardiya nang sabihin mong mukha silang maligno. Magtanda ka na, ha?

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19). Kasama mo ang GF mo sa AS, medyo masama ang tingin ng professor mo sa inyo. Mukhang "type" niya ang GF mo. Pero easy ka lang, brod. Dehins niya gusto ang honeybunch mo, iba ang gusto niya. Ikaw ang gusto niya. Wow pare, hindi pala talo. Katok mga misis. Mag-ingat. Kulang lang siya sa chika.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20). Masama, masamang masama.....masamang masama na ang amoy mo dahil dehins ka naman na-goli. Hindi ka na nahiya, payakap-yakap ka pa sa syota mo. Hay! Magbago ka naman. Ayon sa aking vibrator, este, vibration, malamang na maasar na sa 'yo ang mga dormmates mo dahil bukod sa humahalimuyak mong amoy, nakakalanghap pa sila tuwing umaga ng iyong poison gas. Payo ko lang sa iyo: Itupi mo itong Heraldo at ipitin mo sa kili-kili mo. Super absorbent yata 'to. He-he-he.

After Image... *(from page 15*

Nagsasama lang kami once in a while -- *'pag kakain. Pero* rarely *na, eh. Kasi may kanya-kanyang lakad* like my (Chuck's) brother has work. *Ako, nagtatrabaho ako, nagbabanda.* So, by the time na I get home, *madaling-araw na.* I wake up *naman* late, *wala na rin sila sa bahay. Tapos 'pag* weekends *naman*, that's the time *na may* gigs *kami.*

Unusual pause

HF: What do you do when you don't have shows?

AI: Basically, we do things like other people do. Like, Bobbit is a pilot. *May kanya-kanya ring trabaho. Si* Rodgie...*nasa* stocks *naman siya. Ako* (Niño) *naman may* pool business. *At kung wala kaming* shows, usually *may* rehearsals *kami.*

HF: How long do you normally sleep?

AI: *Depende kung ano'ng* month. *'Pag* December, *malakas ang* racket.

HF: Do you still have time for yourselves in spite of all your gigs?

AI: Actually, *marami pa kaming* time. But we spend them mostly in sleeping. Rest. *Kasi 'yung trabaho namin puyatan talaga, eh.*

HF: What's the first thing that pops in your mind when you hear the word Christmas?

AI: Racket (*laughs*). *'Pag sinabi mong* Christmas...*ah,* racket.

(See how they are fond of earning?)

HF: What are you planning to do this Christmas?

AI: Our manager *naman* kept 24 and 25 (of December), so we can spend it with our family *naman* for a change.

(I can't envisage that spending Christmas with their family is something they do "for a change.")

On private matters

HF: Do all of you have girlfriends?

AI: Yes.

HF: How many?

AI: Actually, it's a myth. *Nale*-label *kami na 'pag sinabi mong* musician *ka, maraming* girlfriends. *Depende naman sa tao 'yon. Kung gusto mong maging ganoon, gagawin at gagawin mo 'yon. Kahit hindi ka naman* musician *puwede mo ring gawin 'yon. Na-e-*emphasize *lang sa amin kasi nasa* limelight *kami.*

HF: Where did you meet your loved ones? Were they from the crowd?

AI: *Hindi. Mga personal ding kakilala. Alam mo, ba't ganoon? Kasi 'pag ganoon ibig sabihin, mamahalin ka ng babae* for what you are.

HF: ***Ang* mature *n'yo naman..***

AI: *Matanda na kasi kami kaya ganoon* (*laughs*).

HF: Any plan to settle down?

AI: *Hindi naman pinaplano 'yon, e.*

(So guys expect one of them to get married anytime.)

The best bands and their best friends

HF: What is the best local band for you?

AI: Eraserheads. *Marami silang magagandang* songs. *Saka hindi naman sila mayabang. Kasi 'yung iba diyan, hindi naman sikat pero angyayabang. Oo, 'yung sobrang yabang talaga.*

HF: Whom are you referring to?

AI: *Hindi puwede.*

("*Aminin,*" Chuck said. "Niño, *ano nga ba'ng kanta nila?*" We were so piqued but still, they did not tell us what band they were alluding to.)

HF: Foreign bands?

AI: *Iba-iba.*

(Niño likes **Red Hot Chili Peppers,** Chuck is fond of **Metallica** whereas Wency is influenced by **U2.**)

Gifts of wisdom

AI: *Maraming* bands *kasi diyan. Mga banda na nagsa*-sign up *agad* (*ng* recording contract) *kahit na hindi pa sila handa. Mga hilaw pa.* So, for a short time, *sisikat sila pero bababa rin sila kaagad kasi* they don't have what it takes *para tumagal. Kaya mag*-focus *din sila sa* songwriting.

Christmas fancies

HF: **Do you have any wish this Christmas?**

AI: *Siyempre naman.* Actually, Christmas wish *ko...sana dumami ang tao* (*pertaining to concertgoers*). *Hindi...* for our next album...*sana malagpasan pa 'yung* success *ng huling* album.

(**After Image** is about to come out with their third album early next year. It's up to you guys if you're gonna help to make their wish come true.)

Santa Claus:

The Man behind the Legend

by Kip Hughes

Santa Claus is probably one of the most well-known and well-liked mythical characters who surface every Christmas. The notion of receiving gifts from Santa Claus is, of course, especially appealing to children. He has come to symbolize the joy of gift-giving which we practice during the yuletide season. However, not many are aware of the story behind Santa Claus.

Did you know that Santa Claus was actually based on a real person, has different names and appearance in various parts of the world, has female counterparts, saved three girls from becoming prostitutes and was said to have miraculously restored to life three young students? If not, read on!

The Historical St. Nicholas

The origin of the Santa Claus legend can be traced back to a person who actually lived, St. Nicholas. Historians know little for certain about him, so, accounts of his life are almost legendary.

According to tradition, he was probably a native of the city of Patara in Lycia, Asia Minor (Turkey), was devotional at an early age and entered the monastery of Sion near Myra. He became a priest at the age of 19, became an abbot, and subsequently, bishop of the metropolitan church of Myra. There is probably no record of his birth, but historians place his death on December 6, between 345 to 352 AD.

Two very popular stories have developed in connection with St. Nicholas. The first one is about a poverty-stricken nobleman in the town of Patara who had three daughters. No man would marry them because the nobleman could not afford to provide with a *dowry* -- money or property that the bride's family gives to the bride or the groom or the groom's family when the couple marry. The nobleman was at the point of abandoning them to a sinful course of life by turning them into prostitutes when St. Nicholas heard of it. Going secretly to the nobleman's house on three consecutive nights, the saint threw a purse of gold for each of the daughters through an open window. However, on St. Nicholas' third expedition, the nobleman man caught him in the act and held him by his robe. St. Nicholas made him promise that he would inform no one of his munificence. The gold was used as dowry which saved the nobleman's family from shame, thus, the legend of St. Nicholas as a man who brings gifts.

The second story is obviously fictional. Legend has it that St. Nicholas miraculously restored to life three young students (sons of rich parents) who have been cruelly butchered and hidden in a salting tub by an evil innkeeper of Myra, in whose house they had taken lodging for the night while on their way to Athens to continue their education. By the early medieval period, therefore, St. Nicholas had become renowned as patron and guardian of young children and students.

Aside from this, St. Nicholas was also regarded patron of storm-beset sailors, prisoners, maidens, merchants, scholars, robbers (from an alleged adventure with thieves, whom he compelled to return some stolen goods; in consequence, thieves in the middle ages were called *clerks of St. Nicholas*), and pawnbrokers in countries like Russia, Greece, Apulia, Sicily, Lorraine and many other cities in Europe.



The modern concept of the jolly, bearded Santa Claus is based on the cartoon of Thomas Nast. This cartoon appeared in Harper's Weekly in 1881.

St. Nicholas to Santa Claus

In ancient times, a singular ceremony called St. Nicholas' day used to take place. This was commemorated on December 6. Festive celebrations were observed on this day.

In 1613, when the Dutch founded the colony of New Amsterdam, they brought to the New World the custom of giving gifts on St. Nicholas' feast day. They told their young children that the saint visited their homes and left gifts for youngsters on St. Nicholas Eve. After the English conquered the Dutch colony in 1664 and renamed it to New York, they adopted many of the Dutch customs including the Dutch's St. Nicholas. English-speaking children spoke the Dutch name for the saint (*Sinterklaas*) quickly and excitedly so that it sounded like "Santy Claus." Eventually, they changed the name to Santa Claus.

However, since the English traditionally exchanged presents on Christmas Day, they changed St. Nicholas' day of gift-giving from December 6 to December 25. From New York, the legend of St. Nicholas or Santa Claus, spread throughout the American colonies and eventually throughout the world.

The Present Santa Claus

There are many versions of the Santa Claus we know of in various countries. In France, *Le Petit Noël* or *Père Noël*, does the gift giving on Christmas. In Italy, there is a female Santa Claus, a witch named *Befana*. She has a Russian counterpart, *grandmotherly Babouschka*, recently changed to *Grandfather Frost*.

In England, Santa Claus is known as

turn to page 18

Santa Claus... from page 19



IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP
Thomas Nast's drawing in a Harper's Weekly of 1866 was probably the first representation of Santa Claus in his workshop.

Father Christmas; Germans know him as *Christkindl* (sometimes *Weihnachtsmann*), while the Danes call him *Yule man* or *Knecht Ruprecht*.

In Sweden, the *Jultomten* -- an elflike character -- brings gifts on Christmas eve. This elf is also called *Julenissen* in Denmark and Norway.

Our present concept of Santa Claus only emerged around the 19th century. Before that, people pictured him as a tall, thin, stately man who wore bishop's robes and rode a white horse. It was only around this time that the Santa Claus legend really popularized. This was made possible through the stories of Washington Irving, the famous 1822 poem by Clement Moore (*A Visit from Saint Nicholas*) and cartoons by Thomas Nast.

In 1809, the American author Washington Irving published *Knickerbocker's History of New York*, in which he presented a new version of the saint. Irving described St. Nicholas as a stout, jolly man who wore a broad-brimmed hat, huge breeches and smoked a long pipe. Irving's St. Nicholas rode over treetops in a wagon and filled children's stockings with presents.

On December 23, 1823, a poem entitled "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" appeared in the *Troy Sentinel* in New York. This poem begins with the familiar line "'Twas the night before Christmas...." Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, an American scholar, is generally credited for writing the poem, but Henry Livingston, an American land surveyor, may have written it.

In the said poem, St. Nicholas appears as a stout, jolly man with twinkling eyes and a red nose. He wears a suit trimmed with white fur and rides a sleigh pulled by eight reindeers: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder, and Blitzen. If you are wondering about Rudolph, he was only introduced much, much later through the song *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* in the 20th century.

Thomas Nast, an American political cartoonist completed the present-day image of Santa Claus. Nast created a series of drawings for *Harper's Weekly Magazine* between 1863 and 1886. The drawings represented Santa Claus with a white beard. In various cartoons, Santa was shown working in his shop, driving a sleigh pulled by a reindeer, or placing Christmas presents in stockings hung over a fireplace. Nast was also the first to state that Santa's residence is the North Pole.

Santa's kindly spirit inspired a memorable editorial by F.P. Church in the New York Sun, Sept. 21, 1897. An eight-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon, had written to ask the newspaper, "Is there a Santa Claus?"

Church answered: "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists certainly as love and generosity and devotional exist... He lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now...nay ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

Although Santa Claus may only be a figment of imagination, he symbolizes a very important aspect of Christmastime, the Christmas spirit. This Christmas, let that spirit prevail, let the true meaning emerge, count your blessings and help those who are less fortunate. Let us all contribute in making this Christmas a meaningful one.

I hope you enjoy your Christmas....

Only by Means

by Paul Sabile

On a scary bridge,
Reaching out a sudden creep
For it gives out an emergence
To last a fallen sleep.

No matter, it gives fear
Though there is one to be dear
To think of a memory bliss,
And it airs out sadness.

In a high, enchanting point
To see what is to wish for
Either like a mystery or fantasy,
And make a step up to find a way.

As far as....

by Myline "Macs" Rivera

On Earth, a long time ago,
Green pastures existed and
Clear Clean rivers did flow;
As far as the eye desired to
Scan, see, and behold.

Durin' times long gone;
The sky was still innocent
From early dusk 'til dawn,
As far as the mind and soul
Could wonder and travel.

Times are much harder,
Giant grey buildings with
Polluted murky water,
As far as the eye now
Attempts to glance and gaze.

Times of awful surprise;
Black and grey sky, no
Tellin sunset from sunrise;
As far as the mind dares
To soar and discover.

Destruction and despair
Is what Earth has become.
Death is found everywhere;
As far as careless people
Are livin' and roamin.



Of desperados and desperadas

FOOTNOTE
by Jude A. Ordinario

"Pasko na sinta ko, hanap-hanap kita. Bakit nagtatampo't nilisan ako?"

I just knew it! I just knew it was going to happen.

I was inside the jeepney and was about to resume my sleeping session when that song was played. The face of the woman seated infront me suddenly changed to one of horror (as if she suddenly had LBM). She sighed, placed her hand on her cheek and stared at the invisible air. For two minutes, she seemed like she was suffering from catatonic schizophrenia.

She was not the only one. I moved my gaze to the man beside her. He was motionless and was staring blankly at his shoes. I looked around and I learned that everyone has turned into schizoids. I thought the spell would be broken once the song reaches its end. Unfortunately, *"Ang Disyembre ko ay malungkot..."* filled the airwaves which transformed my fellow passengers to misty eyed neurotics.

Just what exactly is going on here? Why has everyone fallen into this melancholic syndrome (to think that it's already Christmas)? It seems like many are wearing an invisible sign saying: *I have a cold Christmas! I am the president of SMC (Samahang Malamig ang Christmas) and will hopefully be the president of SMV (Samahang Malamig ang Valentine). I am a desperado/desperada!*

Hold it there! How would you know that you are already qualified to be considered a *desperado* or a *desperada*?

Recently, I was at a bookstore. The girl beside me was holding three cards, all of which theme revolve around romantic love, and she seemed like she was having a hard time choosing of the three. She closed her eyes and after taking a deep breath, uttered *"Sana may magbigay sa akin nito."*

Hallucinations and delusions are the key words. These two become dangerous when you start putting it in action. An example of this is buying roses for yourself and afterwards, broadcasting to the entire tragiverse that someone special gave it to you. Sending love letters to yourself is also a good example. There are those who are fond of using the surname of their desired ones. Others could go to extreme and act like blood hounds. There are many other ways of showing to the whole world that you are badly desperate.

Hallucinations and delusions... become dangerous when you start putting it in action.

But of course, it is still normal. Each one of us has probably experienced being placed in an awkward and not-so-nice disposition. We all have felt how it is to be heartbroken, rejected, aggravated and taken for granted. This might sound like a cliche, but life is definitely like a wheel. Most of the time, you've got to follow the will of the wind.

According to Forrest Gump, *"Life is like a box of chocolates"* and you'll never know what your going to get. Maybe, now is not your turn. But who knows what will happen tomorrow? It is just a matter of time. There are things that we have now which may no longer be there tomorrow. It might also be God's way of saying *"Wait; persevere for the best is yet to come."* It will not also hurt if we try counting our blessings instead of complain. By doing so, we can avoid being tagged as *desperado/desperada.*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Breaking *(from page 10)*

Certainly, it's not our teachers, it's not our friends, not even our parents but it is ourselves who we are making fool of. We are fooling ourselves because we know that when we cheat we still end up as losers. Maybe , in the eyes of man we will not be regarded as losers but in the eyes of God we are. We make fool of ourselves when we dupe because we know that by cheating we are not learning with our own efforts. Most likely you will be glad if the result of the exam will be good. But where should the credit go? Will you credit yourself for getting high grades out of cheating? Will you pretend that you know something which you don't actually know? If your answer is no, then you are indeed fooling yourself. Wonder why? Simply because, you know that what you have been doing is contrasting what you believe just for the sake of getting high grades and maybe for the sake of masking your irresponsibility. Remember that to be responsible is to face the facts and to perform whatever duties we have.

The manner of cheating may also mean being dependent and immature. Dependent because to cheat is to depend on other's idea by copying it. Immature in the sense that despite knowing that it is not good you still do it. A mature person knows enough what is right and wrong and manages to practise the good ones.

We must always bear in mind that cheating should not be a part of students' lives. Cheat is just another way of saying that we have no love for true learning. True learning involves exerting efforts and experiencing some pains and sufferings for without it we cannot achieve what we are aiming for. It is just so sad that cheating seems to be an essential part of students' way of life nowadays. They believe it is for a good cause -- to be out of grade trouble. The thing is, there's no such thing as cheating for a good cause. There is no excuse for it. Cheating in any form is cheating and still it will remain a sin. It is the same thing as the saying, "There is no such thing as white lies."

Certainly, to get zero instead of cheating means honesty and courage on the part of one who is ready to take the consequences of his being irresponsible. At the least, he had been honest and guided by truth.

We must learn to value all these so that it will be much sweeter in the end. Do believe in the saying of Aristotle that "The root of education is bitter but the fruit is sweet."

Let's break the chains of cheating. Let's do it our way without it. No pain, no gain.

HF's Christmas revelations

by Jenny Osias

It is said that a war is not won by one man alone; there is absolutely no such thing as a one-man army. Society itself will cease to exist if only one person is involved in doing all the work. Everything -- from wars, teams, to families and businesses -- is a collective effort. Even Christmas.

This Christmas issue is an example of that effort. The staff worked their fingers to the bone typing and retyping their articles while their editors' brains are getting all worked up trying to think about how they were going to edit all those papers. I believe now is the best time for us, HF editors and staff, to set aside our pencils and tape recorders, stop for a moment in order to think about what we really want for Christmas and for the coming year. It's about time.

(If you're wondering why we didn't put our last names and positions, that is to add a little mystery as to our identities.)

Joseph: Ang Christmas wish ko? Sana magka-girlfriend na ako.

(At least, para iba na ang tititigan niya 'pag kumakain siya. Para hindi na niya gawing TV ang computer monitor namin.) New Year's wish? Sana magbago na 'yung mga taong dapat magbago dito sa La Salle. Sana makakain na ako sa oras. 'Tsaka, magawa ko sana 'yong mga dapat kong gawin. New year's resolution? Aha! Hindi na ako male-late. *(Oows, si Otep pa. Mali gumamit ng relo iyan.)*

Aena: Sana sa Pasko sagutin na ako ng nililigawan ko. *(Wow, kailan ka pa nagsimula manligaw ha?)* Ang wish ko for 1996 is sana magkalaman na ako, wala kasi akong laman. Ang New year's resolution ko ay sana hindi na ako magiging matakaw. *(Bakit parang ang labo. Matakaw ka pero wala kang laman. Saan napupunta yung kinakain mo? Sa kuko?)*

Brenn: Sana konti lang ang kainin ko sa Christmas para hindi ako tumaba nang tumaba. New Years wish...sana hindi ako tumaba nang tumaba tulad ng dati, mabilis humaba ang buhok ko at magbalat na yung mukha ko. *(Ano? Female version ka ba ni Freddy-Krueger?)* Ang New Year's resolution ko ay hindi na ako gagamit ng Vicks kasi na-a-adict na ako sa Vicks. *(Ano 'yon, tinutungga mo? Ang weird 'no?)*

Paul: Sana makausap ko yung ex-girlfriend ko sa Pasko. *(How sweet naman.)* Gusto ko sa New Year magkaroon na ako ng salamin. Pagdating naman sa resolution, hindi na ako mambabatbae.

Melenie: Ang gusto for Christmas ay sana mawala na lahat ng torpe dito sa mundo. *(Naku, maraming mawawalang tao sa mundo!)* Gusto ko sa New Year, humaba na ang buhok ko. New year's resolution ko ay matutulog na ako ng maaga at hindi na ako male-late. Uy, puwedeng pahabol? Sana mag-concert uli ang **After Image** pero marami na ang manuod.

Joseph: Christmas wish ko ay sana gumaling na ang sakit ng ipin ko. *(Kawawa naman!)* Sana magka-girlfriend na rin ako next year. New year's resolution ko ay hindi na ako mambabae, manlalaki...

Cherry: Gusto sa pasko, tumangkad naman ako. At sa darating na New year, hindi na ako kakain ng tsokolate para hindi na ako mangitim. *(Connect, 'di ba?)* New year's wish ko, makabalik na ako nang Canada at mag-menopause na ako. *(Ha?)*

Nathz: Gusto sa Christmas maging body-beautiful na ako. *(Ha, as if!)* Wish ko for the coming year? Magtitino na ako. At ang New Year's resolution ko, hindi na ako kakain nang marami para gumanda ang aking pigura. *(May pag-asa pa ba 'yan?)*

Hazel: Sana sa pasko magkaroon na ako ng special someone. Wish ko for the coming year? Lahat ng tao ay maging ubod ng saya, 'yun lang! New Year's resolution ko ay hindi na ako manonood ng sine kapag may trabaho sa **Heraldo**. *(Sipsip ka ha!)*

Judith: Sana pumuti na ako at sana tumaba ako. *(Dahil ba para compatible sila ng kanyang boyfriend na may magandang pigura?)* Wish ko for 1996? Naku, wala akong maisip. Ay, ayun. Sana huwag na akong mana-nonsense. Tapos New Year's resolution ko ay pipilitin kong hindi na ma-late.

Nohrin: Sa Pasko, sana mawala na yung lahar at tumigil na ang Pinatubo. *(Iha, matagal nang tumigil.)* New Year's wish ko ay sana tumangkad ako at sumeksi pa. *(Day, 'di ba seksi ka na?)* Sa New year, hindi na ako mang-aaway ng lalaki.

Mylene: For the coming year, sana yung **Heraldo Filipino** staff ay maging closer. *(Paanong closer? 'Yung tipong intimate. HA?!)* Ang Christmas wish ko, sana tumangkad na ako.

Neal: Sa Pasko, gusto kong tumangkad. *(Pasensya na kayo, lahat ng tao sa Heraldo gustong tumangkad.)* New Year's wish ko ay sana tumalino ako para tumaas lahat ng grades ko. At ang New Year's resolution ko naman ay mag-aaral ako para tumalino ako. *(Siyanga naman.)*

John: Gusto ko magkaroon ng kapayapaan sa ating bansa sa darating na taon. Sa pasko, gusto ko ng kotse. New Year's resolution ko ay gusto kong magkaroon ng bagong syota. *(Syota? 'Di ba dapat sinta?)*

Kip: My Christmas wish is for Nohrin to stop pestering me. For the New year, I wish you would stop asking me these stupid questions. Like duh. And in 1996, I plan to break up with Amanda Page. *(Now this is what I call a WISH.)*

Tolitz': Ang gusto ko ay sana Pasko na ulit. *(Baduy ha!)* Wish para sa coming year? Ummm...malabo eh. Mahirap...mahirap mag-wish eh dahil wala akong pakialam sa mundo. Wala akong wish kasi ako na lang ang gagawa ng wish ko. Ang resolution ko ay next year pipilitin ko magkaroon ng wish. *(Sige na nga.)*

Marvil: Sana magkaroon na ako ng girlfriend sa Pasko. *(Pang-ilan na ba ito?)* Wish ko sa coming year ay sana pumasok na ako kasi tamad ako at lagi

turn to page 8