

Heraldo Filipino

Voice, Virtue, Vigilance!

SHINING STAR. 13,000 participants including students, staff, benefactors, and friends gather at the University Grandstand to form a bigger and brighter Human Lasallian Star.

Photo by John Ceasar Javier

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DLSU-D forms bigger star

Human Lasallian Star reaches more than 13,000 participants

By Jessica Rhane Go, Kristine Gonzales, and Angelique Ria Parca

DLSU-D outdid itself when about 13,000 people participated in the Greater Human Lasallian star formation held last January 26, Tuesday night, at the University grandstand during the beginning of the 2010 Lasallian Festival. The event was held to support the One La Salle Scholarship Fund, organized by the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology and led by College Dean Jose Rizaldy De Armas.

The assembly started at 4:00pm and preparations for the formation started at 5:30pm. "We did it in the morning [last year] so we want to do something different," Institutional Linkages Office Director Joy Parohinog said.

The event was the highlight of the annual Lasallian Festival, held on January 26-29, in preparation for De La Salle Philippines' centennial celebration from 2011 to 2012. "So whatever we have done...last January 26 [is a] simulation...of what's going to happen by March 2012. So we did it

late in the afternoon, we did an onsite registration, [and] there's a registration fee of Php100. It is actually a dry-run for all of us," Parohinog said.

The participants were asked a Php100 registration fee during the online and on-site registration. Parohinog said it was the minimum amount and they could even give more than the said amount. However, according to De Armas, those who participated but failed to pay during the said registration would notice an

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IN OR OUT. Presidentiables Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro and Richard "Dick" Gordon attend the presidential forum last February 5 at the Ugnayang La Salle.

Photos by Carlo Angelo Hernandez and Maria Cristina Ramos

DLSU-D invests on RF ID as monitoring procedure

By Jessica Rhane Go and Rubilyn Valdez

The University systemizes monitoring students and employees with the Human Resource Department's (HRD) plans to implement a new student and employee identification scheme. Instead of releasing IDs printed with bar codes, the next batch of identification cards will be embedded with Radio Frequency (RF) chips and can be detected by RF scanners within a certain range. Unlike with the bar code system, RF IDs do not need to be scanned right under the bar code reader, reducing the hassle of stopping to get it scanned.

According to HRD Director Venicris Alonsozana, the initiative on RF ID has long been taken as part of the University's full automation of major processes such as monitoring activities of those with an RF ID. Alonsozana also said that the University wanted to maximize the use of Information Technology which is initially being utilized in electronic classes and online enrollment.

The RF ID system will be utilized for security purposes and with this, the University is assured that the students and employees who enter the campus are bona fide. Lending of IDs will now be avoided since the ID scanner connected to the computer will detect and immediately display the identity of the ID's owner.

ICT takes part

According to Information and Communications Technology Center (ICT) Director Emmylou Rodenas, the plan is to cover all faculty and students by the following school year. At present, Alonsozana said only the current first year students, faculty, staff, and those who will replace their old IDs are the only ones who will be able to use the new IDs.

As of press time, Rodenas confirmed that the database software to be used for the ID scanners is already accomplished. The project design is currently being presented to University President Br. Augustine "Gus" Boquer, FSC. The RF ID readers are planned to be stationed on Gates 1 and 3 separately for faculty, students, and visitors. Each scanner, whose supplier is Unlimited Solutions Corporation, a Philippine-based company specializing in hardware and software technologies, costs Php 9,800. Students will be paying Php 170 for every RF ID, higher than the previous ID rates.

In related development, according to some students who already use RF IDs, they didn't know yet the advantages of the new ID system since the equipment to make this ID system fully functioning is not yet being installed.

Alonsozana added that the RF IDs are yet to be given since this will take some time for the encoding procedure. The ICT, Office of the Registrar, and the HRD are the main offices involved in the project.

DLSU-D holds Presidential forum

Only Gordon, Teodoro show up

By Kristine Gonzales and Celiza Yvonne Romera

corruption are the major problems that affect the country's educational system.

Presidential candidates Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro and Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon took the stage at the jam-packed Ugnayang La Salle, February 5 to present their platforms to the DLSU-Dasmariñas community.

The forum dubbed as "Pagbabago 2010" was organized by the collaborative units of DLSU-D, which includes the Communication Arts Department (CAD), Communication Arts students course tracking in Media Productions, PRSSP DLSU-D Chapter, and the Social Transformation And Reform (STAR) committee. The forum aims to educate the Lasallian community in making informed choices for the upcoming May presidential elections. Five main topics were given to the candidates which include the youth, economy, environment, health, and the Philippine education system.

Five main topics

Teodoro, the first speaker in the forum, stress out the importance of youth in the country and how the youth of today is different. "Youth are mature thinking, mature in young term," he said. Quality education, health, and right opportunity for the youth are the issues that he considered as problems. However, Gordon insists the importance of jobs and how it will help the young generation to equip them with opportunity. Gordon details his programs and project in Subic and Olongapo that helps a lot of young graduates and how he wanted to happen it to the country.

Aside from youth, both candidates focus on giving emphasis on education. Teodoro said that his primary concern is to have basic education reform that will be align internationally. He said that the education in our country should focus on pre-school. He also directs resources as the main cause of poor education in our country.

On the other hand, Gordon said that government's budget, teacher's salary, and

Gibo: "Ang kabataan ay hindi bata."

Teodoro discussed on youth and education which he emphasized students' learning on Mathematics, Science, and language, teacher retraining, and an increase in opportunities after graduating. "The country needs more technical people," he stated. A plan on implementing student loan services for those who cannot afford quality education was also mentioned during the forum.

Meanwhile, Teodoro recognized that the issue on health care is "an extremely complex and difficult subject" to solve. He plans to expand PhilHealth and promote medical tourism in the country. For the environment, Teodoro recognized said the fact that Philippines emits 0.3% of the world's greenhouse gasses and has problems in allocating natural resources. He proposes a stricter implementation regarding the use of natural resources.

When asked regarding the business sectors of the country, Teodoro strategized in boosting investor confidence, providing adequate and long term infrastructures, managing international relations for global competitiveness, and easing transport costs.

Gordon: "The youth has to stop being afraid of the future!"

Senator Richard Gordon presented his platforms in such a manner that excited the audience. He called for a "Triple Transformation" of the country that includes Transform the Government, Transform the Economy, and Transform People. Gordon known for his achievements such as creation of more than 200,000 jobs in Subic and his disciplinarian ways by setting an example made it in his goal to do the same thing nationwide.

Gordon also plans on acquiring and distributing a certain gadget that contains all lessons and curriculum from nursery level to 4th year high school to strengthen the quality of the Philippine education system.

AEA to undergo renovations

By Pia Russele Rufino

with reports from Krisna Rose Benbinuto and Jessica Rhane Go

The Aklatang Emilio Aguinaldo (AEA) is set to undergo changes this summer "to give the best services for students," Library Director Sonia Gementiza said. The plan includes renovation of first and second floor of the library for expansion that will be used for additional reading areas.

"Kasi we have not yet met the minimum requirement set by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) when it comes to seating

capacity. So we're aiming to hit the target *na makulba natin* by 2010," said Gementiza. The CHED requires a college or university to have a library which shall accommodate at least 10 percent of the student population.

An area for expansion will also be used in constructing the American Studies Center, which they aimed to launch in July with the US Ambassadors.

"Para mai-separate *natin* or *makita natin na* we have that specialized collection and having that kind of collection, it also mean[s] that you will receive grants from America," Gementiza said. This assistance includes books, scholarship, and trainings for the faculty members. She also added they received initial book donations from Thomas Jefferson Learning

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SPECIAL REPORT



YES! Dasma residents form a big crowd at the Dasma municipal hall to cast their votes for cityhood plebiscite.

Photo courtesy of **Dasmariñas Media Relations**

Dasmariñas becomes city

By **Celiza Yvonne Romera**
and **Jessica Rhane Go**

Dasmariñas was identified twice as a barrio, part of the municipality of Imus during the Spanish and American regime. It is also twice when Dasmariñas became an autonomous municipality of Cavite in 1867 by a Royal Order of Queen Isabel II and finally in 1907 under the gubernatorial of Governor Antero Soriano. This town located on the northeastern part of Cavite was named after a Spanish Governor General Perez Dasmariñas who was a contributor of the fortification of Intramuros and Fort Santiago. Dasmariñas being part of the revolution on 1896 to 1897 truly carved its own historical significance in the province of Cavite.

On 1892, Dasmariñas had its first official municipal government under Don Placido Campos, popularly known as Kapitan Idong. He led the town of Dasmariñas against the Spanish government and took charge of its bringing to progress and growth. Today, Dasmariñas being one of the most developed towns in Cavite, proved its potentials—socially, politically, and economically—is now ready for more and higher standards of development. As the little barrio back then has now paved its way to cityhood.

The final and successful attempt

On November 25 of the previous year, the plebiscite of Yes to Cityhood was held at Dasmariñas municipal hall from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. On November 26, it was officially proclaimed that from municipality Dasmariñas is now a component city that garnered 36,599 affirmative votes and 8,141 negative votes. Dasmariñas has a total of 282,830 number of registered voters but the total number of voters who actually voted was 44,704 only. Voters of the plebiscite underwent through the regular process of voting during elections.

On that day of November 26, the entire town of Dasmariñas embraced the transformation towards cityhood. Dasmariñas is now the fourth city in Cavite along with Cavite City, Tagaytay, and Trece Martirez. Dasmariñas is considered as the most populous city in Cavite having 556,330 residents and a land area of 82,349 sq. km.

Second District Rep. Elpidio Bazaga filed his House Bill No. 5852 on October 3, 2008 containing the conversion of the municipality of Dasmariñas into a component city. Congressman Barzaga's house bill passed on the 14th Congress on October 5, 2009. And on October 15, President Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo signed the house bill as the new Republic Act 9723.

In the history of pursuing Dasmariñas as a city, the house bill made by Congressman Barzaga was the third and opportunely the successful shot. During the time of Congressman Renato Dragon on 1997 and Congressman Erineo Maliksi on 2000, both house bills were filed and read but did not ratify as a Republic Act thus no plebiscite also happened.

Leveled up benefits

As Dasmariñas turned into a component city, it is apparent that the little barrio back then in history enlarged and extended its scope. Dasmariñas has met the qualifications and even overqualified these prerequisites in becoming a city. Consistent with the Local Government Code, primarily, a municipality may be converted into a component city if it has an average annual income of 100 million pesos. Today, Dasmariñas has an annual income of 700 million pesos. Also, a municipality of at least 100 sq. km. and the City of Dasmariñas covers the land of 89,349 sq. km. Population, on the other hand, is another basis. A population of not less than 150,000 inhabitants is needed while Dasmariñas has a total of 556,330 citizens.

Furthermore, advantages are seen and apprehended as the town already transfigured as city. At the outset, as of December 2008, there are total of 1,495 number of municipalities in the country while there are only 136 number of cities. In relation to these figures, the national government annually releases the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) into two classifications, specifically to cities and municipalities. For instance, the government discharged 100 billion for municipalities, consequently, it will be divided into the total number of municipalities and more likely each municipality will only get a less amount of IRA. Unlike in the case of division among the cities, the IRA allocated for a particular year will only be shared by few cities. Thus, as Senator Ramon Revilla said during the pro-cityhood rally that Dasmariñas will reach and get a minimum of 400 million pesos of income shares. Another matter on income shares is the shares that the provincial government, the Province of Cavite, regularly acquires from each municipality therein. According to Benjamin Dailo, media consultant of the Barzagas and

writer of Dasmariñas' The Herald, Dasmariñas remits 150 million pesos or 40% income shares to the provincial capitol from the real property tax plus another percent that comes from the local school board. However, since Dasmariñas is already a sole component city, the jurisdiction of the provincial capitol on the mandated income shares remittance will be eradicated. Merely, the 150 million pesos income shares that once remitted on the capitol will now be entirely used within the city and for the Dasmariñenos only.

On the other hand, resolutions and ordinances that the Sangguniang Panglunsod makes will no longer be subjected under and upon the approval of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. Not like before, when Dasmariñas was still a municipality, other resolutions and ordinances made by the Sangguniang Panglunsod were deterred since resolutions and ordinances were void once the Sangguniang Panlalawigan disapproved it. Nevertheless, resolutions and ordinances will still undergo reviews and assessment to better study and classify ahead the probable conflicts of the resolution or ordinance that was proposed.

Moreover, during the time that Dasmariñas was still a municipality, the Chief Executive of the Sangguniang Bayan which is the mayor, can already compel a 30% increase on real property tax. And one of the privileges of cityhood is that the mayor can actually impose a higher real property tax up to 50%. Yet, as said by Dailo, Mayor Jenny Barzaga will not definitely enforce the 50% increase. In accordance with real property, another benefit obtained by the City of Dasmariñas is the chance of easier transfer and turnover of land property to barangays Dasmariñas Bagong Bayan (DBB) and Paliparan Site from the National Housing Authority.

Dasmariñas, its separation from municipality, has established and showcased independency and autonomy. Dasmariñas gained its power and authority just within for its territory and citizens. For instance, it is undeniable that dirty games in politics are reality. Resolutions and ordinances made for citizens' welfare may be delayed if there is conflict in both between provincial and city officials of different political parties. Likewise and most especially on matters of annual budget distribution. At this time, the presently called City of Dasmariñas together with Sangguniang Bayan and Sangguniang Panglunsod can certainly circumvent such conflicts.

Lone congressional district

In accordance to the conversion into a component city, Dasmariñas is also and already recognized as a lone congressional district. Lone congressional district encompasses the city's privilege of having its own legislative district in the coming 2010 elections. Prior to Republic Act 9727, Cavite consists of three districts only. District 1 consists of Bacoor, Novelda, Rosario, Kawit, and Cavite City respectively. District 2 consists of Imus, Dasmariñas, General Mariano Alvarez, Carmona, Trece Martirez, Tanza, and General Trias. While District 3 consists of Silang, Tagaytay, Amadeo, Alfonso, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Indang, Magallanes, Maragondon, Mendez, Naic, and Ternate. Conversely, the ratification RA 9727 paved way from Cavite's three districts turned into seven legislative districts. Dasmariñas, as RA 9723 was approved, became the forth or the lone congressional district of Cavite distinctively. And one of its given privileges is Dasmariñas will now have its own congressman. In view of that, a congressman has this Priority Development Assistant Fund (PDAF) or better known as the pork barrel. Approximately, pork barrel outlays around 70 million for each representative. In addition to that, from one, provincial board member will now become two. And each provincial board member roughly receives a 3.1 million peso budget annually. Summing up, Dasmariñas having its annual income of 700 million pesos, an additional of 150 million pesos from the formerly income shares remittance, and now a 70 million pesos allotted pork barrel and 3.1 provincial board member annual budget can absolutely serve the city and its residents well enough and even beyond. The budget of the city down to its barangays will positively increase and means more welfare programs and projects. Funds from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation for educational assistance are still excluded in the computation. The city's plans of putting up a public university, public hospital, widely livelihood programs, and roads and highways expansion are surely at Dasmariñenos' hand in no time.

The City of Dasmariñas was just reborn in its perfect time. This may already be the third time endeavoring towards cityhood, but the most important is, Dasmariñas has reached finally its vision with preparedness, in full gear, and determined towards the movement of progress and better citizenry.

Computer Aided Learning enforced on COS students

By **Angelique Ria Parca**

The College of Science (COS) has a new way of teaching their students who are taking up computer-related courses. The Computer Aided Learning (CAL), an online system of teaching computer subjects like Microsoft Windows, Java, PHP: Hypertext-Preprocessor-based operating system and Current Trends, was implemented on the second semester of A.Y. 2009-2010.

The new system was introduced and explained to the faculty members in a two-hour orientation and a four-day training seminar during the summer of 2009. According to Computer Studies Department Chair Azenith Mojica, the faculty has been experiencing problems on the implementation of CAL. "Nung first sem[ester] dapat na-implement na 'yon, pero hindi agad kami kumuha ng CAL, hindi kasi ready [from using CAL] 'yung faculty. Hindi kami ready labat, kaya di-nelay namin ng isang sem[ester], second sem[ester] siya labat."

The edge and downside

Mojica claims both the professor and the students could benefit from not meeting inside the classroom, leaving the nuisance of going to the university and instead will do the examinations and activities in front of their computers. The username and password of a student enrolled in the system are given during the enrolment period. The students will receive international certificates from CAL (which can be an added merit on their resume) if they pass the assessment examination at the end of every semester. However, Mojica pointed out the possibility of cheating as a disadvantage of CAL as professors would not be able to check if the registered user is really the student who answered the test in a particular class.

On the Memorandum of Agreement

Mojica and the faculty knew about the CAL since the summer 2009; however, they felt the system is insufficient. "Medyo meron pa ngang kulang, may mas maganda pa nga kaming sinasuggest na i-feature nung

CAL, kaso wala na kasi kaming choice, kailangan na naming i-implement kasi nakapag-sign na ng MOA [Memorandum of Agreement]," she said. The MOA was effective on June 30, 2009 for one academic year.

Moreover, Mojica, who was a newly appointed chair of the department on June 2009 said they should've been consulted first on the matter before the memorandum was signed, "kasi kami 'yung end-user, dapat kami muna 'yung nakakita." Mojica also added, "Maganda naman siya [yung Computer Aided Learning] eh, kaya nga lang, pag bago kailangan mag-adjust. After the school year, sana i-consult muna kami bago pumirma ng bagong MOA," she said.

A student's perspective

Marvin Sena of BS Education is enrolled in the ICT Applications in Teaching class which is included in the CAL program. He has this to say on the advantages and disadvantages of CAL: "Mas madali mag-aral kasi may mga images at illustrations na madaling sundan." Sena also said the program is costly especially for the students accessing an internet connection through computer shops. He added, there were times the program runs slow, making him spend two hours for one lesson. "Medyo mahirap din i-operate 'yung system kasi may specified system requirement ang CAL. Kailangan updated ang flash player ng PC mo at pwede lang siya sa I.E. [Internet Explorer] and Google Chrome," said Sena.

As of press time, Mojica said there are still complications about the operation of CAL because the professors are still unable to access their students' accounts in order to check the examinations done. She said the difficulty in the communication between them and CAL personnel, which is based in Manila, also causes delays for a smooth flow of the system.

However, Mojica confirmed that the exercises and examinations done by the students would still be recovered. "Tuluy-tuluy pa rin. Once naman nag-exam 'yung mga estudyante kahit hindi pa na-vi-view ng faculty, [and] once na maayos siya ng taga-CAL, makikita naman [yung students' examinations]," she said.

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Center early this school year after sending an e-mail that they are interested in having an American Studies Center in the University.

AEA also plans to add shelves for library users' bags in the luggage area. "[Nakita niyo naman 'di ba halos kulang na din 'yung mga shelves na pinaglalaman ng bags so i-improve din natin 'yun," she said.

The AEA will have a laptop area on the second floor because students used to stumble on laptop wires. The Wi-Fi connection is already activated inside the library this school year.

"[It's] not secured, 'yung safety din ng estudyante natin kasi nagpa-plug in sila ng laptop anywhere. Eh library ito so supposed to be, dapat hindi ganon 'yung setup. So may possibility na baka mapatid sila kable. So wala nang magla-laptop sa mga tables," Gementiza said.

Construction may be expected to begin on April, and "hopefully, it will be done by June or July," Gementiza said. She added that they have already met with Architech Dennis Pontanilla, Director of the

Building and Facilities Office, on November about the renovation.

There will also be rearrangement of the sections in the first and second floor of the library like the integration of the Science, Social Sciences, and Humanities sections into a single area.

"Kasi nakita ko 'yung minsan naghabanap 'yung mga bata, pupunta pa sa Science, Social Sciences, [and] Humanities [sections]. Para hindi rin sila hirap maghanap ng books na kailangan nila [at] sa isang area na lang 'yung pupuntahan [nila]," Gementiza said. They also plan to make the Graduate and Faculty sections combined as well.

The plan also includes the installation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) in the library. "Medyo inaantay ko nga matapos 'yung construction bago maipalagay [ang CCTV] para at least wala nang babaguhin kasi nga mag-expand kami," she said.

Gementiza reassured that they already talked with the construction committee to prevent the renovation work from affecting

the library services. "Kasi hindi [natin] pwedeng sabihin na stop ang services ng library just for the construction. Siguro hindi naman gano'n ang ingay kasi hindi naman sila magpupukpok."

Indefinite

The semestral miscellaneous fee includes Php875 for the library facilities. Gementiza said they have not talked about yet if there will be an increase in the library fee next school year because of the renovations. "So far, wala pa kaming napag-uusapan na increase. Kung magkaroon man, siguro kung mag-charge kami ng one thousand per student," she added.

Portion of the library fee goes for the purchase of books and periodicals, online databases, equipment, and improvements, renovations, and maintenance. Gementiza said the Accounting Office will allocate the library fee for next school year only for the library improvement.

REACT

National:

***Do you think the automation of the National elections on May 10, 2010 will push through?**

No. Dapat okay na ang lahat as in [w]ala na dapat defect 'yung machines.

-Ysvetlana Posecion, ARC22

No. Because not that many people are fully aware about it so I guess the technology has not been well developed yet.

-Mary Serino, ECE21

Yes. Dahil nakikita naman natin ang effort ng COMELEC para matuloy ang automation of the national elections sa May 2010. Medyo nagiging mabagal lang ang proseso but nagiging worth it naman kapag nagtagumpay.

-Mark Louie Concepcion, BSM22

I think no. Because a lot of people are against it and there's a lot of things to consider if the automation will push through like the people living in remote areas wherein the automation is impossible to push through because they have to consider that there is no electricity in those areas and there's no signal that will mean no communication bet the machines that will sum-up the votes it gathered.

-Emmanuel Rivera, Jr. MGT35

Campus:

***During the recently held Presidential forum at DLSU-D on February 5, who between Grodon and Gibo convinced you to vote for them?**

Gibo. Kasi kahit medyo hindi ako sang-ayon sa iba niyang platforms, mas nakikita ko siyang may potential maging presidente.

-Jhoanna Joyce Fauni, COMM

Gordon. May presentation s'ya saka mas nakuha n'ya 'yung attention namin.

-Jamaica Iris Lagrama, IE

Kumpara sa dalawa, maganda platforms ni Gordon saka 'yung mga solution sa problema.

-Kim Karlo Andaya, IE

Gibo. Ang galing n'ya sumagot sa mga tanong. Very confident. Smart.

-Alyzza Mari Baquer, BOM

Gordon. Once na tinanong mo siya, direktong 'yung sagot n'ya. Tapos pag may nakita siyang mali sa ibang presidential, dinadale niya agad, may dignidad at paninindigan.

-Billy Joe Garcia, IT

***It has been past two months since the Maguindanao massacre, journalists and civilians killed have not yet served justice, what is your reaction about this?**

This just shows that the justice here in the Philippines were not observed. Well, they are just giving promises about it and yet all their promises will be broken in the end. I'm tired of this system and all we/I want is a new system that will respond/react to the needs of the Filipino people.

-Daryl Ritz D.C Demegillo, HRM32

It is common in the Philippines that many cases were not given justice early. It always depend on your status. In most cases, rich personalities on those related to politics who are powerful were being prioritized. It is very unfair or maybe because they are protecting someone who are involved in the massacre.

-Monika N. Espiritu, HRM 32



Illustration by **Vicbert Maceda**

CAMPUS BRIEFS

ABS-CBN encourages Lasallians in civic participation

By Carlo Angelo Hernandez

ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs' citizen journalism campaign, Boto Mo, iPatrol Mo (BMPM): Ako ang Simula encourages Lasallians to be Boto Patrollers and actively participate in the national elections in Pagbabago, a seminar held at the Tanghalang Julian Felipe on December 3, 2009.

The event was organized by the Public Relations Student Society of the Philippines DLSU-D Chapter as part of the Communication Arts Department's COMPACT 2009: "Communication Impact in Politics and Good Governance."

Arlene Burgos, BMPM head, talked about the recent developments of citizen journalism in the Philippines. She said with one out of five Filipinos having Internet access and 60 million cellular phone users, ABS-CBN came up with BMPM to empower the citizens especially the youth.

Burgos also discussed about the mechanics of sending reports and reminded Lasallians of the responsibility of

being a Boto Patroller. She also assured the audience that the confidentiality of the identities of Boto Patrollers is strictly kept and not even ABS-CBN's top executives are privy to this information.

While Beth Morrissey of BMPM discussed citizen journalism as a new form of reporting, Morrissey said it can have an impact and change in the upcoming 2010 elections through sending election-related reports to BMPM.

The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was also part of the program as representatives Renato Garcia and Leo Lim, COMELEC ITC Consultants, educated the students about the new election system. They demonstrated the function of Precinct Count Optical System or PICOS machine which is an automated machine where ballots are slipped in and will be utilized to scan, record, tally, and gather ballots. They also clarified speculations on the possibility of election failures in terms of blackout, lack of preparation for the automation, and incapability to deliver machines from SMARTMATIC.



ANOTHER ENCOURAGEMENT. ABS-CBN Boto mo, Ipatrol mo head Arlene Burgos encouraged the students to take part on the National elections.

Photo by John Ceasar Javier

CEATSC clarifies Php 450,000 budget deficit

By Pia Russele Rufino
with reports from Kristine Gonzales

Upon the release of the HERALDO FILIPINO (HF) broadsheet Volume 24 Issue 3, the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology (CEAT) Associate Dean Architect Antonio Gutierrez Jr. phoned the publication to clarify the published information which shows that CEAT Student Council (CEATSC) had incurred a budget deficit of Php 475,000 in the school year 2008-2009.

The HF published a graph entitled University Student Council and College Student Council's budget deficit from 2006-2009. The publication based the figures from the USC and CSC's Statement of Receipts and Expenses for a twelve-month period ending on May 31, 2009 released by the Accounting Office on November.

CEATSC President Irish Joy Rodriguez said the council had only incurred a budget deficit of Php 150,000 in SY 2008-2009 and the Accounting Office failed to update the budget record.

University Controller Deodoro Abiog II admitted that they have released the old budget record. "Outdated 'yung na-release ng Accounting Office. Kasi 'yun was as of May 31, 2009. Wala pa [doon] 'yung adjustment na manggagaling sa aircon fund nila," said Abiog.

CEATSC said it already filed a resolution on March and November 2009 telling the Accounting Office to deduct the expenses paid for scholarship grants last school year amounting to Php300,000 from energy consumption of aircon units (ACU) trust fund under capital expenses fund.

"Ang usapan aayusin bago matapos 'yung nakaraang term. Ang nangyari 'di nila naayos, kaya hanggang sa'min umabot 'yung problema, s'yempre negative 'yung reflect[ion] sa SC," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez added that the Accounting Office deducted the amount from the CEATSC trust fund because ACU fund is in deficit.

"Kaya pala hindi din mabawas dun kasi parang nagalaw na rin nila (Accounting Office) 'yung ACU. Ibinawas nila 'yung energy consumption ng buong CEAT doon kasama 'yung sa College of International Hospitality Management (CIHM) na ginagamit sa taas (ng CEAT building), which is dapat aircon units lang, so talagang magde-deficit 'yung ACU fund namin," Rodriguez stressed.

However, Abiog II denied that the CEATSC's ACU is in deficit and that energy consumption of CEAT building was deducted from the CEATSC fund.

CEATSC have met with their council adviser, council class officers, Collegiate Action Council, and CEAT Council of Class Officers to explain about its outdated financial statement and help them clarify the budget issue with the CEAT students.

The Accounting Office said it had released to CEATSC its updated Statement of Receipt and Expenses for a twelve-month period ended on May 31, 2009.

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additional Php100 in their tuition fees.

Though the registration costs Php99 more than the Phpl fee last year, people like HRM student Roy Dexter Eulin said "kung yung cause was for the scholarship, okay lang." Parohinog stressed out the importance of the star by being able to help people by contributing to the scholarship fund. Not only will the proceeds help the scholarship fund, it will also help international linkages for University employees and students. "I think that is more important—the value of giving is something we really need to embrace as a community," she furthered.

Centennial preparation During the Human Lasallian Star formation last year, other Lasallian schools took notice and were inspired to recreate the star formation in their own fields to highlight their centennial celebrations. Initially, the intention is to serve the University and contribute to the scholarship fund. But after inspiring other Lasallian schools and even abroad, it became apparent that it's also a chance for La Salle Philippines to wave the green and white banner for the world to see. Parohinog said that as tribute to the home of the Great Human Lasallian Star, the culminating event for the centennial celebration of La Salle Philippines would be spearheaded by DLSU-D. "It's a very big responsibility and we are

very grateful because it's something that we should be really, really proud of. You are to gather all La Salle schools all over the Philippines and ask alumni members who are residing abroad to come back and be one of [sic] the celebration," Parahinog said.

The Lasallian Festival core committee decided to undertake, once again, the human star formation to start up the preparation for 2011. "Siyempre mas maraming tao 'yun, mas maraming taga ibang La Salle schools. Mas maraming problema talagang kakaharapin kasi mas maraming tao so kung ngayon pa lang naiisip na namin kung paano, we now see what to do," she furthered.

The event, which would take place in March 2012, aims to create a bigger formation with a target of 100,000 participants coming from different Lasallian schools in the Philippines.

CEAT-in-charge The Lasallian Festival core committee is composed of Parohinog, Communication Arts Department Chair Rosanni Recreo-Sarile, Cultural Arts Office Coordinator Joel Refuerzo, the Campus Ministry Office, and the Lasallian Community Development Center.

One of the things to consider in the Lasallian Festival is the sponsors for the different activities and programs scheduled. According to De Armas, it was the College of

International Hospitality and Management Dean Jeff Buenviaje who negotiated with the contacts given by SM Dasmariñas for sponsorship. They also asked for the support of the College of Business Administration (CBA) Marketing Department. CEAT, as the assigned organizer of the festival, asked Davis, Boysen, the Philippine Institute of Architects, and the United Architects of the Philippines to sponsor the event, especially the materials needed for the making of college floats.

De Armas said the Lasallian Festival core committee was only in charge of the opening and closing ceremonies.

The Greater Human Lasallian Star formation wasn't the only highlight of the 2010 Lasallian Festival. There was the colorful float parade which began from SM Dasmariñas parking lot and ended in the University Grandstand. The floats showcased the different features of each of the seven colleges and were designed by architecture students.

As icing to the star formation's cake, there was also a fireworks display over the formation which lasted for almost 5 minutes.

This year's theme "The Journey to the Centennial by Remembering the Past" is in accordance with the University's centennial celebration on 2011-2012.

CAD holds 1st interschool debate

By Kristine Gonzales

The Communication Arts Department (CAD) held its first interschool debate on December at Tanghalang Julian Felipe, in celebration of the annual Communication Impact (COMPACT) with the theme "Politics and Governance".

"With the elections coming in five months, the vision of COMPACT is to increase the awareness and engagement of new voters in the exercise of their right of suffrage," event coordinator Juan Luis Perlas said.

According to Emmelyn Carilla, project manager of the event, the debate also aims to provide a unique intellectual challenge through public speaking to widen the students' knowledge on political issues.

University of Santo Tomas Law student Jo-shancy Bermudes moderated the debate and served as the Chief Judge. Among the universities who participated in the event are Cavite State University (CAVSU), Lyceum of the Philippines University-Cavite, and San Sebastian Recoletos-Cavite.

Despite being the host school, DLSU-D representatives were still allowed to join the debate. According to Perlas, they want the Lasallians to participate and showcase the skills of Vox La Salle Debating Society, led by Oman Paul Antiojo and Justine Faye Salazar.

Cheeno Marlo Sayuno and Charmaine Prevosa, both senior students from CAVSU, won over DLSU-D with unanimous decision from the judges.

CSC offers party for Almer's

By Kristine Gonzales

The College Student Councils (CSC) organized an early Christmas party for Almer manpower personnel, outsourced contractual employees of the University, on November at the Bahay Pag-asa Pavilion to honor and acknowledge their efforts in helping the students and faculty as maintenance personnels in the University.

More than a hundred Almer employees, including their families, attended the party which was filled with games, prizes, raffle draw, and a free dinner. The event, themed "A Christmas in November, A night for the Almer manpower employee" is an annual project of the College of Hospitality Management Student Council (CIHMSC) since 2007, but this year, it was a tied-up project with all the CSC's

"Mas mararamdaman 'yung impact kapag all colleges unite that is why we invited them to be our partners," CIHMSC Vice President Roy Dexter Eulin said.

A tribute

CIHMSC has been consistent in choosing Almer manpower as their beneficiaries of its outreach program.

"Kasi sila ang Ate at Kuya natin na minsan lang natin napapansin o napapasalamat sa labat ng malalaking tulong nila sa La Salle. Malaki ang contribution nila

sa'tin, isipin mo na lang kung wala sila, mas magiging mahirap ang trabaho ng mga regular na employees natin," Eulin said.

Assistance

During outreach programs, councils usually ask other organizations for sponsorships and support like The Parents Organization La Salle Cavite (POLCA) who has been lending sponsorship to make the Christmas party for Almer manpower personnel possible.

But this time, according to Eulin, time did not permit them to find sponsors. "Initially, we would like to have sponsors to lessen the expenses, but sadly, time would not allow kasi maiksi lang ang naging preparation," he said.

However, they still managed to pursue the event with a total of Php18,000 coming from the seven councils. CIHM faculties also offered their personal money to support the project.

Eulin said they realize that the Christmas party is not just for them, "Ang saya because they brought with them their kids and mas tumindi yung realization namin na the celebration was not just for them but also for their families kasi 'yun din naman ang maganda with Christmas, it's being with your family."

DLSU-D launches Kilos Kabitenyo

By Goldy Baroa

Be part of the revolution. Last November 20, 2009, Kilos Kabitenyo: Be Part of the Revolution had its Grand Launching together with the celebration of Maliksing Pasko, Handog ng Kabitenyo at the Provincial Capitol Grounds in Trece Martirez City, Cavite.

Kilos Kabitenyo: Be Part of the Revolution is a public relations campaign that aims in heightening youth awareness and proactive participation to the forthcoming election by being the educators of the new election system to the people of the community. Alongside is to compliment with the ideals of the Provincial Government of Cavite in ensuring responsible voting by also educating the community the guidelines of the proper selection of a good candidate and other significant reminders during the voting process.

Kilos Kabitenyo was an adopted campaign plan of the province. It was after several senior communication arts student course tracking in Public Relations from DLSUD joined the National Student Grand Prix Competition and stand out among 20 other schools in the country that submitted their entries. The competition required the student participants to come up with a unique and feasible campaign plan for May 2010 elections

that highlighted youth participation through Voter's Education Campaign.

The Grand Launching, on the other hand, had been warmly responded by the different youth and youth organizations. The electronic registration system had been managed by the student volunteers with the assistance coming from the Provincial Government. The registration was to acquire massive participation for the campaign. The registration for interested youth will be an on-going process. There will also be mall caravans in four of the SM malls throughout the province: SM Rosario, SM Molino, SM Bacoor and SM Dasmariñas. Kilos Kabitenyo also had accounts in each of the leading social networking sites such as Friendster, Plurk, Multiply, Facebook, My Space and Twitter. All of these will aid in further maximizing the targeted reach of the campaign which was the youth voters.

More than a seasonal campaign, Kilos Kabitenyo: Be Part of the Revolution is a youth movement that will partake in equally important issues in the society in order to build responsive citizenship among the younger generations in the province of Cavite. The future programs of the campaign will regard the following issues: environmental protection and preservation, women's right and welfare, child labor and many others.

DLSU-D changes office names

Several administrative offices' names were changed last October 1, 2009. Dr. Epifania Anfone, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Services, says that the change of names were implemented for the sake of accuracy. Although names have been changed, locations of each office remain unchanged.

The decision to change the names of the offices was endorsed by the Operations and Academic Councils, and was passed on to and approved by the executive council, lead by Bro. Augustine Boquer FSC.

THEN	NOW
Buildings and Grounds Office (BGO)	Buildings and Facilities Office (BFO)
Physical Facilities Office (PFO)	Facilities and Maintenance Office (FMO)
Institutional Communication Office (ICO)	Marketing Communication Office (MCO)
Information and Technology Center (ITC)	Information and Communications Technology Center (ICT)

No POLITICKING FOR EFREN

Welcome to Kariton Government

By **Maria Arianne Sellene Padilla** and **Jodelyn Recierdo**

Our country's widespread education problem has crippled most aspects of the country, and to make matters worse, our leaders have not come up with a lasting solution. The number of out of school and illiterate children is increasing every year. There are about eleven million Filipinos who were not privileged to be given formal education and about four million Filipinos who have no basic literacy skills based on the Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey. For every ten Filipinos, only six finished elementary, four completed high school, and two finished college.

The education issue made headlines last year through CNN Hero of 2009 Efrén Peñaflorida who, with his team of volunteers, started to battle the problem by teaching the street kids of Cavite City. Their weapon: a pushcart classroom with books, blackboards, pens, and patience as their ammunition.

YouTube: Shortcut to fame

Like Charice Pempengco and Arnel Pineda who made their way to Hollywood through uploading raw videos of their rehearsals on YouTube, Efrén was discovered there too.

In an online article, Efrén's mentor (who prefers to remain anonymous) uploaded a video of Efrén and the team conducting their activities in their pushcart classroom. His mentor wanted to increase public awareness of their activities and to reach more to children in need. Little did they know that their noble advocacy will be recognized internationally when a staff of Oprah's Angel Network watched their video and featured it on the web. Not long after that, a staff from CNN had discovered the group's efforts, contacted them, and encouraged them to join the CNN Hero of the Year. Although hesitant at first, Efrén was then convinced to be the group's representative since he is one of the founders of the Dynamic Teen Company (DTC). In January 2009, a CNN staff visited the country and filmed Efrén's activities in his pushcart classroom. It was then shown worldwide in March and Efrén was announced as one of the top ten finalists in October. By November 22, Efrén was proclaimed the CNN Hero of the Year.

Humble beginnings

Growing up in the slums near a garbage dumpsite in Cavite City, Efrén experienced his childhood life the same way his students all did: as victims of poverty. While his father,

Efrén Peñaflorida, Sr, provides for their family with his income as a tricycle driver, (his mother, Lucila Geronimo is a plain housewife) Efrén helped his family by selling fish crackers and corncobs.

Efrén did not let the circumstances of his young life affect him, instead he treated it as a challenge. He was an intelligent and hard-working student and had completed elementary and high school with the help of World Vision and Club 8586, a community service organization which also assists the unprivileged children in Cavite City. They provided him with financial assistance, and it bore fruit when Efrén later became their partner in providing education for the children in the slums. He received a scholarship and finished college with a degree in computer technology in San Sebastian College - Recoletos de Cavite. In 2006, Efrén graduated cum laude with a degree in Secondary Education in Cavite State University.

DTC

Efrén was a victim of bullying during his early days. He was forced to join a gang despite his being against it. Because of his refusal to join the gang, Efrén was maltreated, beaten, and even stoned. This prompted him and three of his high school friends to form the Dynamic Teen Company in 1997. As one of the founders of the DTC, Efrén (then aged 16) and his group aim to redirect the youth's attention from gangs and other violent activities to something worthwhile. The DTC, which began with 20 members, started off with youth awareness activities, skills and self-development activities and community service. They later partnered with Club 8586 which also advocates community activism activities.

The group began reaching out to children in the slums in 1999. They conducted outreach classes and provided the children with learning activities and foods. To date, other projects of the DTC are weekly feeding, giving first aid treatments, values education, and holding activities like K4 (Kariton, Klasrum, Klinik, at Kantin), Mind Your Rights Campaign, and We Are The Change Campaign.

Pushcart classroom

The birth of the pushcart classroom started when the office of Club 8586 burned down and they decided to transform the unused karitons of the Club into a pushcart

classroom. One of the group's volunteers, Michael Advincula, designed the pushcarts, the shelves, and the built-in blackboards. The group stores tables, chairs, books, pens and papers in the pushcarts and roam the streets every Saturdays.

In 2003, with four pushcarts in four different sites, they teach children from ages 2-14 to read, write and count. They also teach science and mathematics through the pushcart classroom in different locations like on the streets, cemeteries and dumpsites. Aside from basic knowledge, DTC also educates the children on proper hygiene. Since then, they have helped and transformed the lives of about 1,500 children through the pushcart classroom.

The group sustained their project by making and selling handicrafts and collecting bottles and newspapers to recycle and sell.

Top priority: education

According to the Department of Education (DepEd), five and a half million Filipino children ages 6-15 are not going to school. Every year, it is said that the quality of education in the country is dropping off.

There are 11 million students enrolled in public schools and just last year, President Gloria Arroyo proudly announced what she had accomplished in the country's educational system. 1,000 classrooms were built, the salary of teachers was increased, and there are 600,000 students taking up undergraduate and post graduate courses. The government has allotted 36 billion for education alone and for this year another 183 billion was allocated. However, is this enough to fully alleviate the state of the educational system?

Public school teachers only receive an annual salary of Php148,000. That's only about Php9,000 a month. There is also the continual lack of educational facilities and in most cases, each classroom is shared by almost 100 students. According to the World Bank, the Philippines have the lowest budget allocation for the students. Only about six thousand pesos is allotted for each student each year.

No politics attached

To break free from political issues, Efrén believes that our society doesn't need politicking and believes that the combined efforts of people can bring major changes to the country.

Efrén has reached new



heights in popularity after his recognition and, since it's election season, it is no surprise that local and national candidates have come to him and requested him to endorse them. He admits that there are actually a lot of candidates who tried to convince him. "Wag na lang siguro natin i-mention. Pero hindi naman ako mage-endorse ng any political candidate, any party or group. Wala akong i-endorse," he said.

Efrén also said that he has no political plans in the future. "I believe naman na kabiti wala ka sa politics or sa government, or kabiti private individual ka lang pwede ka pa rin mag-stand out. Kabiti ordinaryong tao ka 'diba, pwede namang gumawa, hind lang para sa sarili kundi para rin sa iba," he said.

Not anti-government

Behind his success and recognition around the world, he is criticized by cynics for exposing the country's educational problems to the world. HF asked him what he could say about these cynics who have said that his recognition is a slap against the government's inability to solve the education problem.

"No, hindi naman ganun 'yung gusto namin gawin," Efrén said. "Parang nakita lang namin na may problema, so instead na gamitin namin 'yung energy namin sa pagko-complain, why not think

of something na magiging solution 'dun sa problema. Like dito sa community namin, dito lang talaga 'yung naging focus namin eh. Nakita namin na may problema sa education, kaya 'yun ang ginagawa namin. Parang pamilya, nakita mong nahirapan si Nanay at si Tatay, magko-complain ka ba kay Nanay o kay Tatay na 'Ano ba yan hindi n'yo ginagawa ang trabaho n'yo." You think of something na magiging kagaanan sa kanila na makikipag-collaborate ka with them para mai-angat 'yung pamilya n'yo. That's how we see what we are doing now. 'Yung mga tao masyadong jaded, masyadong negative, sinasabi nila anti-government kami. We're here to help, we're here to collaborate, sana gamun din ang isipin ng ibang mga tao. Instead na mag-isip sila ng mga negative, mag-isip sila ng mga positive na pwede nilang gawin para makatulong sa iba."

"No one is never too strong to do things on his own. Kailangan nagtutulungan tayo. Kailangan hindi lang nasa isang tao ang solution. Kundi nasa collective at collaborative efforts ng mga tao," he said.

True enough. A single person cannot change everything. It takes the whole efforts of each member of society to make a difference. Some may say Efrén has succeeded with his international recognition. Truth be told, he is just beginning.



NEWS FEEDBACK

Non-disclosure of CBASC's past financial statements and the students' right to know

By **Julius Rocas, PSC31**

There's a very interesting news feature on the most recent issue of the Heraldo Filipino about the budgetary deficits incurred by the University Student Council (USC) and the various College Student Councils (CSCs), an issue that concerns every student of DLSU-D and therefore one that all of us must talk about if we are to effectively address such issue.

However, I am very much curious as to what reasons the incumbent officers of the College of Business Administration Student Council had for not disclosing to the HF the financial statements of the previous set of officers. As can be seen from the handy-dandy graph in the article, all of the CSCs and the USC have come out clean with the budget deficits they have incurred since 2006 to 2009 except for the CBASC. Where's the data from the CBASC? Does this mean that they have not incurred any deficit? Or is it the opposite? Until the CBASC makes public their past financial statements, we the students will never know for certain.

I ask these questions because we students are the ones who provide for the funds of our student councils with the belief and trust that such funds would be used for the general benefit of us, the students. Since their funds came from us, we have every right to know how those funds were used or spent.

The 2008 USC Constitution is crystal clear in guaranteeing our right to know how our student councils have spent our parents' hard-earned money. In Article III, Section 5, it says that every student has: "The right to information."

a. "Every student has the right to information on matters of

student concerns which includes but not limited to: academic records and evaluation. Access to other official records, acts, transactions, decisions and fiscal matters, as well as data used as basis for policy formulation shall not be impaired."

Certainly, if the 2008 USC Constitution guarantees this right to every student of DLSUD, the members of the Heraldo Filipino who are also students themselves are guaranteed to enjoy the very same right. On top of this basic right to information, stands the right of the HF members as campus journalists to be part of a free press so that they could perform their sacred duty of informing the students about the news and information that matter to them.

Again, the 2008 USC Constitution upholds the right to press freedom and publication in Article III, Section 3 which reads:

b. "Student Publications shall have the right to express responsibly their views and opinions without fear of persecution from authorities, and without threat of being in any way penalized or punished by authorities. This includes the right against news blackouts."

I believe that strong defenders of the freedom of the press could view the refusal of the CBASC to release the financial statements of the previous councils as a news blackout. Wouldn't you agree?

However, there's still hope in knowing the truth. The 2008 USC Constitution does not only guarantee the students' right to information on matters that concerns them including fiscal matters and freedom of the press including protection against news blackouts, it jealously guards these rights by requiring the College Student Councils to make public or release information that pertains to their official acts and functions through a

mechanism in which it commands the CSCs to do the following in Article VI, Section 8:

d. Submits a copy of monthly report to the University Student Council which will include:

- d.1 accomplishment reports
- d.2 financial statements

Since the USC is accountable to the students, it has the obligation and duty as commanded to it by the 2008 USC Constitution to make such monthly reports of the CSCs available to any student or student organization if it so wishes including financial statements in particular, unless for valid reasons which up to now, the CBASC has given none.

The USC and the other CSCs must be applauded for making such information public which is well within the spirit of accountability, transparency and honesty. Values which we are now looking for not just in our student-leaders but the next leaders of our country.

Now why is such information so important? Simply because we are talking about the funds of the student councils which were just entrusted to them by us the students for our general benefit. Since most of our student councils are draining such funds by incurring budget deficits there's a need to address this problem.

This problem is not just a problem for the student councils to solve alone, for we students in general have a part in it for we are the largest stakeholders in the use of such funds and thus we can work together to come up with solutions to fix this issue.

But how can we have a well-informed discussion and how can we come up with a solution to this issue if we are denied vital information about this problem? Alas, only the incumbent CBASC officers hold the answer to this many questions.

Wow ayos to. Kala ko sa facester at friendsbook lang uso ang thread, pati pala sa likod ng pintuan ng cubicle meron din. At take note ha, iba-iba pa yung mga stories na ibinubulgar. Kapag tuloy umupo ka, eh para ka na ring nakapagbasa ng dyaryo.

Kahit talaga mga GWAFO may baho pa din. Speaking of baho, alam mo bang nung isang araw napadaan ako dun sa tapat ng museo at talaga namang muntik na kong himatayin dahil sa sobrang kabahuan ng lake! Juiceko! Pamatay talaga parang bulok na isdang isinawasaw sa bulok din pula ng itlog ng elepante ang amoy. Malas lang talaga siguro ako kasi kung kelan naman napadaan ako dun eh nagkataon pang ang baho ng singaw ng lake.

Hoy, mga nagba-vandal! Janitor niyo 'to. Kayo kaya ireklamo ko? Ang hirap kayang magkiskis. Kung may pera lang ako ay pininturahan ko na tong pintuan dito sa CR. Mapa-babae at lalake, ang gastos niyo sa sabon. Kung may reklamo kayo, padala niyo na lang sa: kampusapusapan@yahoo.com



O kaya pumunta na lang kayo sa GMH 213 at dun kayo mangbulabog! Ako piniperwisyo niyo sa ginagawa niyo!

KAMPUSAPUSAPAN

Uy, nabalitaan niyo na ba yung nangyari sa isang lab? Mantakin mo may naghalikan dun. Ang kahalayan naman talaga o!

Pati nga sa loob ng classroom namin may kalokohang nangyayari. One time may autistic na nag-sub samin sa isang mahirap—sobrang hirap—UBOD NG HIRAP na subject. Imbes na kaming mga estudyante ang turuan niya, eh sa board siya nakipag-usap. Ang masama dun, hindi pa siya sigurado kung tama ba yung tinuturo niya sa board—este sa amin—at dahil hindi siya sigurado, eh mag-self study na lang daw kami. Aba kung ganun lang naman ang sistema, eh talaga namang tatamarin ka na lang mag-aral 'no!

Best friends ata nila ang mga GWAFO. Ay wait, 'pag GWAFO na ang napasok sa usapan ay mas madami pang mas interesting at mas nakakahibang na mga istorya.

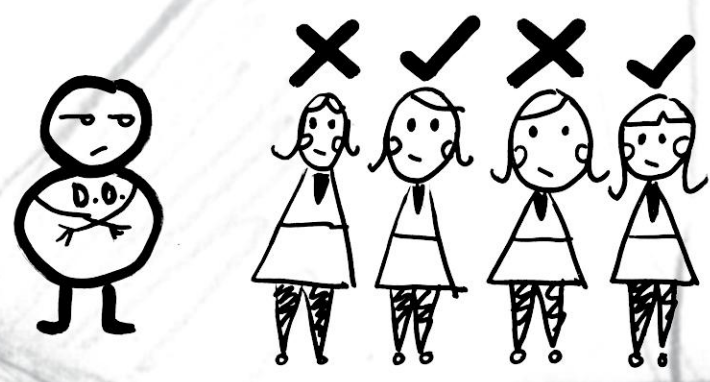
Mga students na naman ba? Parang kelan lang may nabalitaan na rin akong ganyan.

Yung friend ko nga eh dati ok sila sa mga GWAFO pero nalaman nila na hindi consistent yung mga 'yun sa panghuhuli. Kasi daw yung ibang mga GWAFO, pinapalagpas yung mga estudyanteng naka-leggings kahit maikli yung pang itaas pero yung iba naman, kahit mahaba na yung damit hinuhuli pa din basta naka-leggings. Bwisit talaga! GWAFO pa naman sila pero hindi alam ang bawal sa hindi!



Estudent? Nakow inday hindi estudent ang mga hinayupak na itetch! Pumapasok din sila dito at naka-uniform din. Minsan nga mas late pa umuwi sa atin. Pakalat-kalat lang, palinis-linis din. Siguro dahil walang magawa yung mga hinayupak na 'yon at gumawa na lang ng lagim. Ay, kadi ayokong imaginin.

Miski nga kahit napilayan ka at nakita na walang nakabalot sayo na bandage diyan sa paa mo ay huhuliin ka dahil nag-slippers ka. Gusto siguro nilang gumapang tayo habang kagat-kagat yung sulat ng doctor mo or parent o guardian para lang maawa sa atin. Bili din kaya sila ng lie detector, no?



Baka that's the scent they were going for. Eh dun sa building na SM ang dating, yung elevator nila parang sports car ng rapper na dumadagundong. Kung claustrophobic ka at natsempohan mo ang dispalenghadong elevator na yun ay para kang tinapon sa kisame. Kung madami pa kayo ay baka nagkapalit na kayo ng mukha. Pati din siguro ng kaluluwa. Kung may seksi ay baka nahipuan na din. Kung maglalagay sila, sana i-check muna.

Nakaw don't tell me yan yung mga nakaputing uniform din? OMG! Kala ko pa naman mga pasaway na mga bata ang hindi mapigilan ang bugso ng damdamin ang gumagawa ng lagim. Buti hindi sila nahuli ng mga GWAFO.



Buti nga kung yung mismong elevator lang yung may diperensya, eh pati yung mga taong nagpapagana eh maluwang rin ang mga tornilyo! Kasi ba naman nung may dalawang miss na sumakay, biglang nag-jamming ng Careless Whisper. Tapos nagtinginan at nagtawanan pa. Aba kung gusto nilang magkabastusan ay wag na silang mangdamay.

Naka-relate ako ah. Kasi etong one time sumasakay ako dun tapos nagfi-feeling na direktor yung mga sira ulong mga yun. Tinapat ba naman sakin yung camera ng phone nila. Akala nila di ko napansin yung mga pinag-gagawa nila.



Baka akala nila bulag ka.

Aysus maryosep. Mga ser-ma'am, magka-iba ang depenisyon ng cabaret at elevator.



Wala yang titser mo sa titser kong epa!! One-sixteenth lang sa block namin ang ipinasa niya. Yung ibang subjects namin na-carry namin pero sa kanya lang talaga ang lumagapak ang grades namin. Tapos yung isang girl sa class na absent at kumuha ng special quiz nung December pa eh hanggang ngayon di pa niya nache-checkan! Naku, Ma'am, prelims pa yon! Paano naman niya na-compute yung grades nung girl na yon kung di nasama yung quiz!? Iwaksi niyo na yang ugaling yan! Don't blame us and call us weak, okay?



EDITORIAL

Out of time

Many people have fallen prey to the traditional politics that has dominated the recent pre-election and election season. That is not surprising, that has always been the case since the Filipino people are given the right to suffrage.

The recent presidential campaigns that have invaded our streets, televisions, radios, and even the internet have shown us how effective their campaigns are with the more popular candidates having the help of their political arsenal like inherited popularity, untold riches, political dynasties, powerful allies, and very efficient PR firms.

Another weapon that the presidential candidates are utilizing is the pre-election surveys by Social Weather Stations (SWS) and Pulse Asia. In recent months, news articles about who's winning in the pre-election surveys are all the rage with presidential candidate Manny Villar and Noyonoy Aquino duking it out to top the "race." There was even one headline on the Philippine Daily Inquirer that focused on Noyonoy taking a 7-point lead in the surveys.

There is nothing wrong with commissioning these pre-election surveys. If it would satisfy the candidates' curiosity to know who's more popular among them, then let them do so. However, when divulged to the public, it may lead to the following effects: the bandwagon effect, when voters rally to the leading candidate; the underdog effect, when voters rally to the trailing candidate; the demotivating effect, when voters decide not to vote because their candidate is already sure to win; or the free-will effect when voters cast their votes to prove the polls wrong. This would only influence the outcome of the coming elections whether it is in the favor of the candidates leading the surveys are the underdogs. The bandwagon effect only feeds the people's need to belong and their desire to belong to the winning group.

On the other hand, there is a law that supports the publication of the survey results, as stated in Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9006, otherwise known as the Fair Elections Act. There had been motions to ban the publication of pre-election survey results but the Supreme Court ruled the ban as unconstitutional as it violates the freedom of speech and of the press. But the laws do not justify the purpose of the said surveys other than to reflect current trends nor is it clear what they accomplish.

There is also the matter of the surveys' reliability. Back in 2004, it became known that SWS and Pulse Asia use the same field research firm Trends. So there is no way that the surveys by both groups validate each other as both groups use the same research firm. Pulse Asia is still using Trends but SWS, after the 2004 controversy, has changed to another research firm but they have not divulged details on this new firm which should not be for it would prevent newspapers from publishing the necessary details about the surveys to make them reliable and legal (see Section 5 of the Fair Elections Act).

Also, newspapers do not specify details that Section 5 of the Fair Elections Act requires before their publication to make these survey results reliable like the person/s who commissioned the survey, the methodology of the survey including the period in which the survey is conducted the number of individual respondents and the areas from which they were selected, and the specific questions asked; the survey's margin of error and their contact details.

While these pre-election surveys are problematic and an object of concern for the presidential candidates and media men; and that the survey results cannot also accurately predict the outcome of the elections, nor are they reflective of the total votes, it all boils down to how strong the media's hold is on public opinion. It cannot be denied that, as a country with one of the most liberal media in the world, the media here has a very powerful position in society. And if the media still has the power to sway public opinion, whether the information they tout is reliable or not, have the people matured enough to make the right choices on their own?

Some people fear the pre-election surveys because they think that people can be swayed by surveys, that they can be affected by the media, and not rely on their own judgement, which only goes to show how a lot of voters here in the Philippines are either vulnerable or mistrustful of other people's capacity to judge people (in this case, presidential candidates and other party-list members). Even the surveys themselves show that the majority of the Filipinos are not very knowledgeable of what's going on in the elections. According to a survey by Pulse Asia, 46% of Filipinos has little knowledge of the poll automation while 25% has no knowledge at all of the automation. Only 20% know enough and 8% know a great deal about the automation.

The choices of the voters in the past have shown us how little people know of what's going on and we are feeling the repercussions of this collective decision until now, although, of course, this is disputed by the fact that President GMA (may she no longer hold that title in a few months) has a lot of allies in Mindanao, and that counted a lot in the elections.

So does the problem lie with the media? Quite. Does the problem lie with the people? Very. Until the majority of the electorate learns to make wise decisions can we know true progress. But we don't have much time.

Illustration by Nikko Andrew Dollesin



A Slice of Life


CORNERSTONE

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Michaela B. Grimaldo
I've already seen the worst of 2010; the best are yet to come.

Tulad ng karamihan, sinalubong ko ang bagong taon nang buong sigla, punong-puno ng pag-asa, at pananalig na lahat ay ayon sa aking kagustuhan.

Pero hindi talaga sa lahat ng pagkakataon, kakampi sayo ang tadhana.

Isang araw makalipas ang bagong taon, isang nakapanlumong balita ang sumalubong sa akin—nasa ospital ang tatay ng *bestfriend* ko at nasa kritikal na kundisyon.

Matagal kaming hindi nagkita ng *bestfriend* ko at matagal ko ring hinintay ang pagkakataong magkasama ulit kami. Pero hindi sa ganitong sitwasyon—hindi sa ganito kaalangang sitwasyon na ni hindi ko alam kung saan ilulugar ang sarili ko, hindi alam kung paano kililos, at hindi alam kung anong sasabihin. Malayo ito sa *scene* na gusto ko—yung masaya kami, yun bang parang *making up for the lost time*—ganun.

Wala naman akong magawa. Sa ganitong pagkakataon ako tinawag ng panahon. Walastik! Kung saan ka pa mahina, dun ka pa susubukin. Sa ganitong mga pagkakataon, ka-*convyhan* man 'to, ipinagdarasal kong sana ako na lang si Super Mica na merong *super powers* tulad ng nakapagpapagaling ng may sakit, nakapagpapasya sa mga nalulungkot, nakapagligtas ng mga nasa panganib, atbp. Pero dahil hindi

...malaki pa rin ang pasasalamat ko dahil alam kong senyales ang mga ito ng mas maraming magandang pangyayaring bubuo sa aking pagkatalo.

puede, magiging ako na lang muna kung ano ang kaya ko.

Hindi naging madali sa akin ang tagpong 'yun, at alam kong doble o higit pa ang hirap at sakit na nararamdaman ng *bestfriend* ko. Sa loob ng isang buong araw na nandun ako sa tabi ng *bestfriend* ko, pakiramdam ko, na-*compensate* na nung araw na 'yun 'yung mga araw na 'di kami magkasama; sa araw na 'yun lalo akong bumilib sa lakas at tibay ng loob niya dahil kung sa aking nangyari 'yun, baka 'di ko kayanin.

Pero mali ako—kaya ko pala. Kaya naman pala talaga kung gugustuhin lang na kayanin.

Mahusay si Bro, may sarili siyang paraan upang turuan tayo. Sa kaso ko, kakaibang diskarte ang ginamit nya—hindi ordinaryo; hindi kaswal.

Makalipas ang isang linggo, ang pamilya ko naman ang sinubok Nya. Nalagay sa alanganin ang kalusugan ng lola ko. Sa pagkakataong 'yun, sa parehong ospital, hinarap ko ang kahinaan ko—pero higit pa ang *demand* nito kay sa una. Dahil kalakip ng panghihinang nadarama ko ay ang sakit na makita na nahihirapan ang lola ko. Hindi naging madali sa amin ang *phase* na 'yun. Parang gusto kong *i-revind* sa panahon na malakas si lola, 'yung nakikipagkwentuhan siya sa akin na parang nagbe-*babytalk*, 'yung tinatangalan ko siya ng puting buhok at tatatungin niya ako kung gusto ko raw ba siyang kalubihin dahil halos lahat ng buhok niya ay puti na, at kapag

susuklayin ko ang buhok niya para ayusin pero ang totoo, nilalagyan ko lang naman ng gel para i-style na pang-*bagets* at pagagalitan niya ako habang nakangiti o di kaya naman *i-fistforward* na lang sa panahong malakas na siyang muli at pagkatapos ay ipapasyal namin siya sa Luneta dahil doon niya raw gustong mamasyal. Sa ganitong mga pagkakataon, parang normal na lang ang magpaka-desperado at hilingin ang maraming SANA sa mundo.

Sa puntong 'yun, higit ko nang nauunawaan ang *bestfriend* ko. Hindi mo nga talaga lubos na mauunawaan ang pinagdadaan ng ibang tao kung hindi mo ilalagay ang sarili mo sa sitwasyon nila.

Masakit makita ang mga mahal mo na nahihirapan. At lalong masakit na nakikita mo silang nahihirapan pero wala kang magawa para tapusin ang paghihirap nila. Nililit kong maging nakita ko ang lola ko na nagpupumiglas at pilit na tinatangal ang tubo na inilagay sa kanyang bibig. At higit pa akong napayak noong makita ko ang napanatili ko na umiyak at halos hindi na makuha ng sulapang man lang si lola.

Noon, iniisip kong kawasaan sa pagkatalo ang pag-iyak. Pero, mali ako. Umiyak ako hindi dahil mahina ako, kundi dahil napatunayan kong kaya kong maging matapang para sa mga mahal ko; dahil nakaya kong harapin ang kahinaan ko at nakaya kong tugunan ang hinihingi ng pagkakataon—'yung ako na inaakala kong kahit kailan ay hindi magiging ako.

Pero hindi pa pala dun natatapos 'yun, dahil sa unang *quarter* ng taon na 'to, napag-alaman kong wala pa ring

improvement sa heart problem ko. Hindi madaling tanggapan 'yun lalo't higit kung marami ka pang gustong gawin. Pero hindi ako gaanong nabababala dahil alam kong kaya kong gawin anuman ang gustuhin ko at alam kong *okay* ako.

Ang pagkakaroon ng ganitong klaseng karamdaman ang nagtulak sa akin upang lalo pang pagtibayin ang relasyon ko sa mga tao sa aking paligid; ito ang nagturo sa aking pahalagahan ang bawat pangyayaring nagdulot ng kasiyahan sa akin; at lubusin ang bawat araw na parang hindi na mauulit muli.

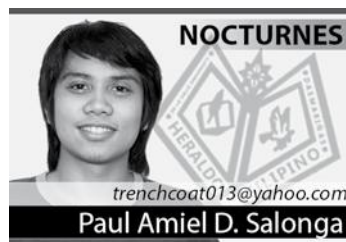
Sa kabila ng mabibigat na pangyayaring nagapan sa simula pa lamang ng taon na ito, malaki pa rin ang pasasalamat ko dahil alam kong senyales ang mga ito ng mas maraming magandang pangyayaring bubuo sa aking pagkatalo. Bulkod pa rito, ang mga pangyayaring yaon ang naging instrumento upang maipakita sa akin at sa aking pamilya ang maraming bagay na higit na dapat ipagpasalamat tulad ng magandang pagsasamahan sa aming pamilya na hindi kayang tumbasan ng kung anuman, mga kaibigang handang tumulong at dumamay ng walang hinihintay na kapalit, at isang masayang buhay na kailanman ay hindi mo gugustuhing ipagpalit.

Positibo pa rin akong ayon ang taon na 'to sa akin. Bakit hindi? Nandyan ang nalalapit na *graduation*, ang aking 20th *birthday*, unang eleksyon na boboto ako, unang trabaho, unang sweldo, at marami pang iba.

And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count—it's the life in your years.

Amamang komento o reaksyon, ipagbigay-alam sa may akda sa 091589610401-e-mail sa micagrimaldo@gmail.com

How I met 2010


NOCTURNES

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Paul Amiel D. Salonga

If there's something we can bet on this year, it's either things get worse, or things get better.

 January 1, 2010
 5:53 pm

A few hours ago, as I was walking downstairs from my room, I was awed at seeing the year 2010 on my phone calendar, making me pause mid-stairs, drinking in the fact that it's already 2010 and thinking how cool it is to see that year on my phone. Just like that, the first decade of the 21st century is over and now it's on to a new one.

Several hours before that, we celebrated the turn of the decade and amidst the drinking, eating, incomprehensible screaming (which turned out to be greetings, toasts, and other appropriate adjectives for the past year were it not for the fireworks), and more drinking, the events of 2009 flashed before my eyes—which only made me eat and drink more.

Never have we seen a year so packed with shockingly/disturbingly big events passing by in quick succession. For the Philippines, it was nothing short of traumatic. For the whole world—well, in the crudest words, we can say "Whew, what a year!"

The year 2009 was a time of many significant (or, to put it bluntly, well-publicized) deaths. Although 2009 had a lot of deaths like any other year, there were also a lot that stood out, more so because our generation knows them—or they just have so much media coverage.

Perhaps the most significant death of the year, and also the most widely felt, was the unfortunate passing of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. It

shocked everyone, for he seemed to everybody that he's in good health. He even seemed immortal; but more than anything, his death proved that point.

Aside from his going beyond the veil, there were others, mostly from Hollywood. There were David Carradine, Farrah Fawcett, Patrick Swayze, and Brittany Murphy. They stood out because Carradine was the fringing Kung Fu master and Bill in, well, *Kill Bill*; Fawcett was a Charlie's Angel, Patrick Swayze's that guy from *Dirty Dancing* and *Ghost*, and Brittany Murphy was in quite a few films in the last few years—and she was 32. Then again, there's also the matter of John Travolta's son, Jeff, who died at 16.

The world saw again the demise of a Kennedy—two Kennedys in fact (Senator Edward Kennedy and sister Eunice). Les Paul, the real guitar hero for creating the Gibson Les Paul electric guitar, also hit the final rest in the musical score sheet of his life. Also, the last survivor of the Titanic tragedy, Millvina Dean, and the world's oldest person (until her passing at 115 years and 114 days) Maria de Jesus pushed the daisies this year.

And then, there was home. Former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Corason Aquino's passing last year reminded us of the glory days of People Power, foreshadowing this year's presidential elections. Francis Magalona's last breath also reminded us of nationalism of a different kind. He was at the forefront of promoting nationalism in

the entertainment industry through his music and, recently, his T-shirt line. It is also worth noting that Ted Failon's wife, Trinidad Etong, died mysteriously of a gunshot wound to the head, which upturned Failon's life when he was suspected of having a hand in his wife's death.

Also taking to their earthy bed were Johnny Delgado, a popular, respectable, and decent actor, and Paraluman, another actress who's more popular these days for appearing in Eraserhead's hit song Ang Huling El Bimbo. (Ironically, Eraserheads performed for—what seemed to be—the last time in that same year.)

Interestingly enough, Genoveva Edroza-Matute, renowned Filipina writer whom you may have read in one or two of your elementary or high-school textbooks, also crossed the bar last year.

2009 also saw one of DLSU-D's number ride the ship to the white shores. Social studies professor Ricardo Santiago was well-remembered (if not well-loved) by the local Lasallian community to be the cheerful, funny man, however frail, who would stand up for what is right armed with reason, faith, and two packs of Winston reds on his shoulders.

But, however sad these losses may be, nothing compares to the deaths suffered by mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, friends, and lovers at the hands of uncaring Pepeng and Ondoy, and the Ampatuans, whose name can no longer be described by petty adjectives. No loss has ever been so painful and unjust as these.

Coupled with events like the A(H1N1) virus outbreak/scare (you decide), the Conficker worm outbreak (digital, this time), the sinking of Superferry 9, the deepening Recession, the implementation of Martial Law

in Mindanao (the first since its last appearance in the Marcos regime more than 30 years ago), the ever growing climate change concern and lava flow from Mount Mayon, the year 2009 was indeed eventful. I apologize for the understatement of the year.

We have the media, traditional and new, to thank for delivering to us what's happening around the country and the globe. Sadly enough, they're the ones who took the most casualties.

However that may be, there was a ray of sunshine in that year. Efrén Peñaflorida was named CNN Hero of the Year for his efforts in teaching impoverished children and, as much as I hate to admit it, Pacquiao's victory that earned him his 7th title.

And so we come to 2010. Every beginning holds promises, and that's what they will always be, for their fulfillment is another matter. There are so many things to expect and things on the line this year. There are the 2010 general elections and the future of the country, and there's my graduation and, well, the promise of work. I say the same for my fellow graduating students. There's also the matter of Mayon Volcano raining fire on Albay anytime soon, the recession, and global warming. There's the possible bout between Pacquiao and Mayweather. There's HF's 25th anniversary, and a lot movie sequels. For Chinoys geomancers (feng shui experts for you), it will be the year of the tiger, the year of change and great upheaval. Well, no surprise there.

If there's something we can bet on this year, it's either things get worse, or things get better. If there's something we can be so sure of, many fates are decided this year.

Can you feel the winds changing? E-mail your thoughts at wherispaulsalonga@yahoo.com.

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Kabuwanan na...



BROKEN STRINGS

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Thammylet C. Tudio

Hindi ko alam kung ano'ng magiging reaksyon ko noong makita ko ang dami ng mga taong kakandidato sa pagkapangulo: mga pulitiko, mga negosyante, mga taong walang malay kung paano magpatakbo ng isang bansa, at mga taong umaasang sila ang pagbabagong hinahanap ng mga Pilipino. Mapababae o mapalalaki, mayaman man o mahirap, marunong mag-Filipino o mag-Ingles, lahat sila'y pumila, ngumiti sa kamera, at ibinigay sa mga taong tagakuha ng mga COC ang kanilang panata sa mga Pilipino—na kung palarin silang mahalal, babaguhin nila ang bansang ito.

Hindi ko man naisip kung ano'ng magiging reaksyon ko, isa lang ang naisip ko noong mga sandaling 'yun—napakaraming tao ang gustong baguhin ang Pilipinas. Naisip ko, *aba, himala... marami pa lang taong may pakialam sa kalagayan ng Pinas, na ang pamumuno ni Arroyo*

Naisip niya, sa tinagal-tagal nila sa palaruang ito, wala bang gustong kumilos para baguhin ito? Ito na yata ang panahon. Ngayon na siguro ang oras para umahon.

ay may sukduhan at makababantong sa puntong maski ang mga ordinaryong tao mismo ay nagnanais na tumakbo sa pinakamataas na posisyon, upang magkaroon ng pagkakataon na baguhin ang kapalarian ng mga Pilipino.

Nakatataba ng puso na marami palang mga Pilipino ang may pakialam sa kapwa nila Pilipino. Maaring kalahati ng mga tatakbo ay tata ni Arroyo o ganid o silaw lang sa kanpangyarihan. Bakit nga ba nakatataba ito ng puso? Simple lang—dahil tatakbo sila sa isang pwestong may pinakamabigat na epekto sa buong bansa, na lalo pang pinahirap ng katotohanang lahat ng tao ay nakatingin sa'yo. Lahat ng galaw mo, huhugahan at wala kang pwedeng maging reklamo dahil pinili mong maging isang *public servant*. Higit sa lahat, sa'yo ang hulung salita (kahit kaaway ka pa ng buong kongreso at ng bansang Pilipinas)

at responsibilidad mo ang isang bansa. Ikaw ang may kakayahan na maging *representative* ng Pilipinas sa ibang bansa. Ikaw ang laging may nakahandang *speech*, at lahat ng tao, kahit galit na galit pa sa'yo, ay ngingiti pa rin sa harap mo sa paghanga nila sa kapal ng apog mong manatili pa rin sa pwesto. Ganito ang pangulo. Pasan mo ang isang buong bansa. *Package deal* na diyari ang mga problemang iniwan ng pangulong pinalitan mo, ang ugali ng mga mamamayang wala nang pakialam sa'yo o sa mga ipagagawa mo at bagama't umaasa pa ring ng pwesto pang mabago ang bansang tinitirhan nila. Ito ang pangulo sa Pilipinas.

Dumating na ang bagong taong nagdala sa'kin ng kasabikan dahil unang beses kong boboto. Unang beses kong magiging parte ng kasaysayan ng bansa ko. Unang beses kong mapapasama sa mga grupo ng mga Pilipinong magreklamo kapag maling tao ang nailuklok sa pwesto na may tunay nang bahagi at karanasan sa eleksyon. Sa pagdating ng 2010, ganap na 'kong Pilipino (para sa'kin) dahil mararanasan ko na marahil ang pinaka-*exciting* na eleksyon (maging literal man ito o figurative).

Sa totoo lang, wala akong inaasahang magandang mangyayari sa mismong araw ng eleksyon. Pero bilang isang Pilipino, at parte ng kabataan, hindi maalis sa'king magkaroon ng pag-asang ang 2010 elections na ang pagbabagong hinihintay ng bansa natin. Umaasa ako sa pagbabago—makuha man ito sa isang kumbensiyonal na paraan o hindi. Mayroon pa akong pag-asa, at sana hindi ito sayangin ng mga kandidato sa darating na Mayo.

Maglalaro na lang sila uli sa palaruang may sira-sirang *sesam*, hindi madulas na *slide* at swing na malapit nang maputol mula sa pinagkakabitang nito. Ang bunso sa kanilang lahat ay napatigil habang tinitingnan niya ang mga nakatatanda niyang mga kaloro. Naisip niya, sa tinagal-tagal nila sa palaruang ito, wala bang gustong kumilos para baguhin ito?

Ito na yata ang panahon. Ngayon na siguro ang oras para umahon.

Para sa mga reklamo o suhestyon, magpadala lamang ng mensahe gamit ang iyong madaling mabitbit kahit sa'n na telepono sa 0905-453-2943 o sa beiah_tudio0419@yahoo.com.

Breadcrumbs



QWERTY

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Disyembre 31, 2009
Mga 10:00 ng gabi
Naghahanda ang mag-ate ng mga pagkain para sa *Media Noche*. Kasalukuyan silang nasa kusina noon at nagrorolyo ng tinapay na may *naan* sa breadcrumbs. Tahimik sila nang biglang nagsalita ang nakababatang kapatid...

Nakababatang kapatid: Hay grabe, ang dami ko pang gagawin, partida

magbabagong taon na. Buong taon na naman siguro akong gagawa ng paperwork.

Ate: Pero nag-e-enjoy ka naman? Nakababatang kapatid: Hindi. Sino namang mag-e-enjoy nun sa bakasyon?

Ate: Ano ka ba? Dapat ini-enjoy mo ang college.

Nakababatang kapatid: (Napaisip sandali) Oo nga 'no?

Hanggang ngayon, *undecided* pa rin ako sa maraming bagay. Naaalala ko pa nga noong una kong nahawakan ang *application form* ng DLSU-D; nang makita ko ang mga blangkong linya sa tapat ng mga kursong pagpipilian, at noong matagal kong pinag-isipan kung

Ano ka ba? Dapat ini-enjoy mo ang college.

ano'ng ilalagay ko roon. Sa tagal nga, dumating na ang mismong araw na kailangan ko nang ipasa ang papel, pero nanatiling blanko ang mga linya, hanggang sa maisulat ko ang AB Communication sa *1st choice* na para bang binulong lang sa akin ng hangin.

Ang nasa isip ko noong mga oras na 'yun, kapag sinimulan ko nang kunin ang kurso at alamin isa-isa ang mga saklaw nito, mawawala na ang pagkalito ko at unti-unti ko nang makukumbinse ang sarili kong tama ang mabilisang desisyon ginawa ko. Ang kaso lang, magtatatlong taon na, pero pakiramdam ko *undecided* pa rin ako.

Hindi lang sa pag-aaral nakakonekta ang ganitong sitwasyon. Hindi ito simpleng enjoyment lang. At hindi lang din sa akin nangyayari ang ganitong *dilemma*. Ang totoo, ito pa lamang ang *starting point*; ang magiging basihan ng mga posibleng kahahantungan ng kanya-kanyang mga larangan sa hinaharap, dahil sa *enjoyment* nagsisimula ang *passion*, at sa *passion* hinuhugot ang pagiging produktibo.

Ayon mismo sa *Information Officer V* ng *Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)*, ang pinakamalaking balakid sa kanila ay pagkakaroon ng *skills* and *jobs mismatch* sa bansa. Paliwanag ng

DOLE rito: hindi nagtatagpo ang kakayahan ng mga empleyado o manggagawa at ang demand ng industriya pagdating sa kakayahang hinihingi nito. Bilang resulta, patuloy na tumataas ang bilang ng mga *unemployed* at *underemployed* sa Pilipinas. Pumapasok din dito ang *needs-versus-wants* na problema dahil maaaring ang gustong kurso kung saan tunay na may potensyal ang isang estudyante ay isinasantabi dahil sa mga sumusunod na salik: (a) laki ng sweldo, (b) pagiging in-demand ng kurso sa ibang bansa, (c) pagiging "uso" ng kurso, (d) estadong pinansyal, at (e) kagustuhan at ekspektasyon ng mga magulang. Anuman sa mga ito ang lubos na makaimpluwensya sa desisyon ng estudyante na direktang salungat sa totoong interes at kakayahan niya, masasalamatin na agad ito sa hinaharap.

Kung sa pag-aaral pa lang wala na ang interes ng estudyante na siya ring nakaapekto sa *performance* nito, hindi lang ang buhay at magiging larangan ng estudyanteng iyon ang nalalagay sa hindi magandang kondisyon; nakakadagdag na rin siya sa *statistics* ng *skills* and *jobs mismatch* sa Pilipinas.

Ang pakiramdam na parang may hinahanap pa ay mapupunan lamang kapag nagsimula nang *mag-enjoy* nang lubos ang isang estudyante sa kabila ng mga paghihirap na kailangang daanan tungo sa pagkatuto—personal kaysa mga eksternal na

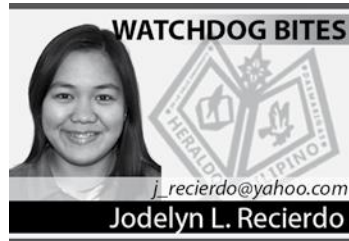
salik. Sa ganitong paraan, hindi lamang mahahasa ang kakayahan niya, magiging *passionate* na rin siya sa kanyang ginagawa. Gayunpaman, hindi pa rin mawawala ang mga negative energy sa paligid na patuloy na magpapahina sa motibasyon ng estudyante upang mapagtagumpayan ang isang gawain. *They come in different forms*—mapa-ibang tao, pinansyal, emosyonal, sitwasyon sa buhay, kalusugan, power tripping, at iba pa.

Nagsilbing tila malamig na tubig na binuhos sa sistema ko ang mga katagang, "Ano ka ba? Dapat ini-enjoy mo ang college." Oo nga naman; 'yun na nga marahil ang nawawalang rekord sa buhay-kolehiyo ko. Masyadong direkta ang paningin ko sa pag-aaral na ang nakikita ko na lamang ay ang *finish line*; hindi ko sinubukang tumingin-tingin sa paligid, umiba ng daan, mag-eksperimento, maligaw, magpapanga sandali, at muling magpatuloy. Hindi ako lumalabas sa *comfort zone* ko, kaya siguro parang palagi na lang may kulang.

Magandang simulain na nga marahil ito para sa 2010, at siguro naman, sa pagkakaatong ito, magiging komportable na ako sa anumang desisyong gagawin ko—na kahit buong taon pa ulit akong malunod sa *paperworks*, makakangiti pa rin ako.

Anumang reaksyon o komento ay tinatanggap ng may-akda sa cathleasos@gmail.com.

Twinkle (2x) Human Star



WATCHDOG BITES

recierdo@yahoo.com
Jodelyn L. Recierdo

"Twinkle, twinkle, human star. How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high. Like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle, human star. How I wonder what you are!"

Everybody's favorite event has once again unfolded. This time a bigger and brighter star was formed, as they said. The event was considered to be a dry-run activity in preparation for the coming Centennial celebration of La Salle Philippines. So, another Lasallian star will once again shine next year because the celebration will be spearheaded by our very own University. The event reached various TV networks, newspapers and gained big hits in many net sites. The glory of its recognition is everywhere. Kudos to everyone! But let's not forget the cause for attending such events.

Primarily, the Great Human Lasallian Star is a support for the One La Salle Scholarship Fund Campaign. It aspires to give to the mission of the One La Salle Scholarship. I just hope everyone who attended that event knows what cause they are attending for. I hope that it was not just an event where you take photos and post it in your Facebook accounts. And I hope that the administrators

Doing public service entails selflessness not self-centeredness.

would stop "mandating" the students to participate. Is this all just about mandating? Can't you think of other ways to "encourage" students, or should I say pupils, in actively participating in events and not just mandating them to be involved?

As much as the Philippines and its countrymen hasten everything just to be called an industrialized nation, yet majority of its efforts results to raw outcomes. The national election is almost two months away and the Comelec might be the busiest commission in the government but the laziest of them all. For obvious grounds, there have been so many loopholes done by the commission. One of which is the recently implemented Section 6 (6.6) of the Fair Election Act or Republic Act No. 9006, which states "any mass media columnist, commentator, announcer, reporter, on-air correspondent or personality who is a candidate for any elective public office or is a campaign volunteer for or employed or retained in any capacity by any candidate or political party shall be deemed resigned, if so required by their employer, or shall take a leave of absence from his/her work as such during the campaign period."

This is a raw law and no one's following it. The

fair elections act is unfair. Undoubtedly, a journalist or a celebrity has a certain level of influence to the masses and because of this great influence it should be controlled. Sure thing, the Comelec has its point of implementing this law. But its rawness leaves some query to the public. If all personalities and journalists campaigning for any political candidate would resign or take a leave of absence from their jobs, everything will still be quite the same. For instance, if Willie Revillame, the noontime host of ABS-CBN's *Wowowee*, abide by this law and resigned in his job, outside the studio he will still be the Willie of *Wowowee*. The image of the personality still doesn't change and is still attributed to its program. My point is its not possible to separate the profession of a celebrity from his/ her imagery in the public.

When everything gets worse, why do people tend to deny its association to a person or certain group? In the recently held University Student Elections, a political party was caught in the middle of an issue after violating the 2008 Revised Election Code, specifically Article V, Section 28 (Unauthorized partisan activity), "Any political party which holds political conventions or meetings in or outside the campus to nominate/campaign its official candidates earlier than the period set by the SCE shall be liable for violation." This political party

insists that their party and its Alumni group, which is said to be the culprit of the violation, are two separate entities. How's that? I don't get your logic folks. Don't insist something vague only to break away from your issues.

More attachments to the detachment issues:

On the Pagbabago 2010 Presidential forum held last February 5 attended by only two of the Presidential candidates, Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro and Sen. Richard "Dick" Gordon, there were conspicuous actions that happened during the event. Though it was organized by the collaborative units of the University, some glitches were not avoided. But I sensed something underhanded. As if there was an inclination on the forum, although Bro. Gus Boquer clarified in his opening speech that DLSU-D is not supporting any candidate.

Gibo was the first to deliver his campaign supported by the local politicians of Cavite, Cong. Elpidio Barzaga and Mayor Jennifer Barzaga. After delivering his campaign and answering some ready questions, those local politicians left even before Gordon arrived in the venue. Obviously, they support Gibo. But was the forum supposed to be just between DLSU-D and the candidates?

Why do some organizers pass around an event credit and detach their efforts after some setbacks happened? No one should use a public event for his/ her personal motives.

WIT BREAD

Journalism is Liberation— not a Dead End

By Camille Therese Tinio

I certainly do not wish to die yet. Why then did I ever consider taking up Broadcast Journalism? It is not exactly an ideal job in this country. The cash cow doesn't graze much on this field, and here in the Philippines where journalism and politics coexist in peace and harmony (sarcasm intended), killing journalists has seemed to become a past time for a few scheming psychos. Who has gotten over the shock of the Maguindanao Massacre, yet? The whole incident has been able to plant a seed of fear inside every one of us, especially journalists and aspiring journalists. It's safe to say that people have the right to say that being a journalist in this country is a one-way death ticket. *Papunta ka pa lang sa giyera, lagot na agad ang hininga mo.*

Through the eyes of innocent spectators, journalism may seem as glamorous as show business, but the truth is, being under the lime

It's safe to say that people have the right to say that being a journalist in this country is a one-way death ticket.

light for a mere five minutes means hours or even days of hard work and taking risks. If the peril-infested world of journalism is to be compared with the treacherous world of glitz and glamour, the world of show business would surely seem like a haven. Often times, feeding the hungry mouth of

society with hard news means having journalists dig up their own graves.

Why then do I want to become a journalist? It's not like it was my childhood dream. I even remember that I spent almost half of my life dreaming to become an animator. The whole memory of being sucked into where I am today is a blur. One time, someone even asked me why I wanted to become a journalist. To be honest, I couldn't answer at all. All I was able to mutter was that I wanted something exciting and a journalist's life seemed appealing to me (though I'm not so excited about the dying part).

But looking back, I think that the reason why I chose to walk the path to a risky future is for the love of life. Ironic isn't it? My love for life made me decide to saunter on a deadly course. Of course I'm not a hero and I don't think I have this righteousness about me but still, in my own way and through journalism, I am hoping to make a change in the world I treasure. How? I have no idea.

Kidding. I think I know how to...I'm hoping I do. We've heard them so many times before: "*Liga ng katotohanan, walang kinikilingan, serbisyong totoo lamang*" (isn't it pretty evident which channel is dominant back home?) I suppose that delivering the news is the main mission of every journalist, but it's not only about that. Journalists are also supposed to deliver the truth, which is essential to living. Life is made up of decisions, and decisions are most of the time based on truth. Whatever the masses hear from journalists influences their decisions—no matter how big (who should I vote for?) or small (traffic *kaya ngayon?*) Journalists can either bring people together or tear them apart. Their voices certainly have much power bestowed on it that they may manipulate or free a society. I know very well that delivering the truth is not exactly a walk in the park. It takes guts and a lot of courage to unlock the truth for everyone to see.

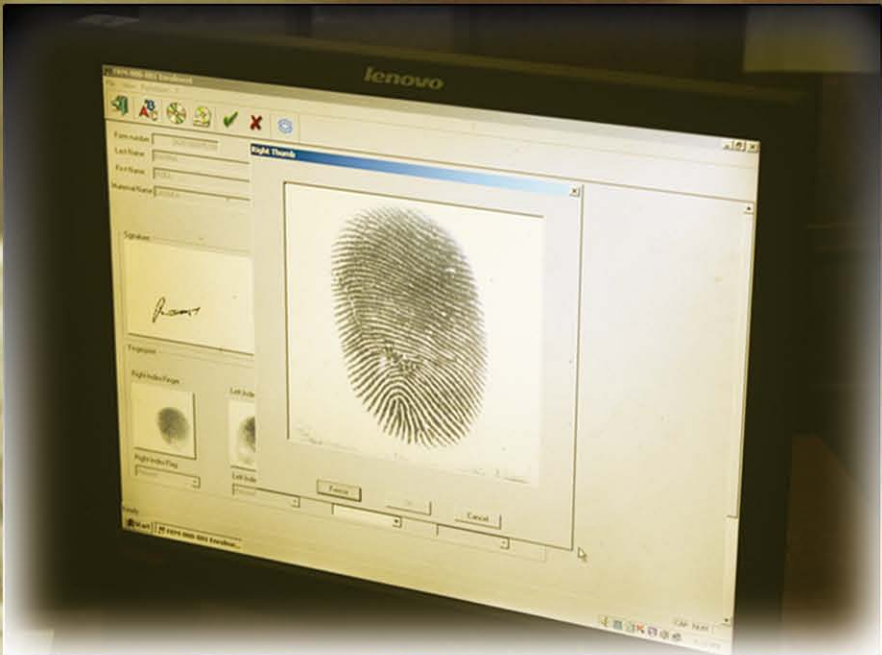
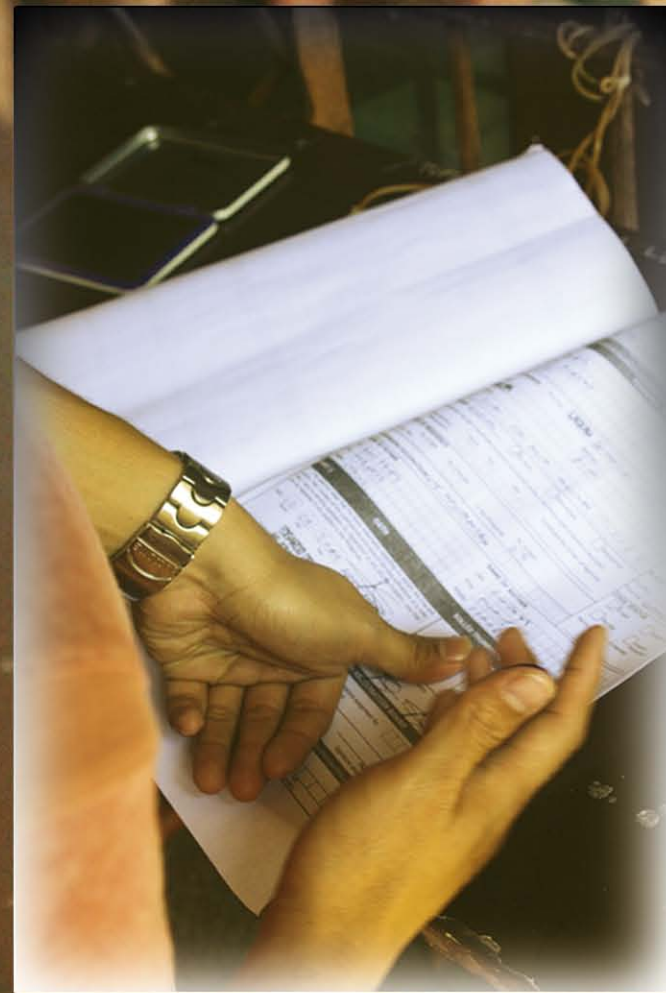
Many journalists have paid the price just to let other people see the light—they have paid it with their lives. Though journalism has become a "dead end" for some people who practice it, it has also become a form of liberation for many. Today, whether a person likes it or not, he or she is controlled by the hungry dogs that run our society where beliefs are often bought with an offer of a seemingly good life (which in many ways are actually not). The way a person lives his or her life is often dictated by society's pseudo-gods without that person realizing it. For those who have long been trapped by society and the fiends who run it, journalism has served as a beacon of hope that gives sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. Through it, many have realized society's flaws and that the gods who dominate it are just pretentious pricks.

Journalism is like a splash of cold water, awakening those who are in deep slumber. The truth offered by journalism gives the people another chance to take the wheel and decide which direction to take as they drive their own lives. Through it people are finally able to step out of the dark and turn their lives around. In so many ways, journalism can change a person, society, or even the whole world.

To make a change is to stand up for what is right; to tell the truth. If God wills that I become a journalist, I hope that I would be able to make a difference. Unlike some who have walked before me, I trust not to dwell in silence out of fear. I hope I would have enough courage to free the voice of truth that has long been caged. And I hope, I would not need a shovel to do so.

This world is full of uncertainties and my life is filled with them as well. However, I am grateful that there are still a few things that I am sure of and to become a journalist is one of them. I am not sure what the future holds for me but I am certain that where I stand right now is where I want to be.

I am not sure what the future holds for me but I am certain that where I stand right now is where I want to be.



Para sa'ting kinabukasan

Photos by Carlo Angelo Hernandez
Lay-out by Gretl Misare
Photo Staff: John Ceasar Javier
and Maria Cristina Ramos



K-popped Philippines

By Brian Mey Tomas

Quirky, colorful, and upbeat.

By the time Filipinos danced to the tune of Wonder Girls' "Nobody," Korean music was already on a grand culture domination spree. It captured the general Filipino audience's sensibilities (as with any *foreign* stuff) through popular Korean TV shows aired on free local programming. Faculty from the Behavioral Sciences Department Jeannie Perez said that Korean pop is popular, "because they are being aired on TV, where *Koreanovelas* are featured among other Asian soap [operas]." But obviously, the occasional ballad tease did not satisfy our heightened craving for anything Korean. According to the Korean Times article *Filipinos Get Hooked on K-pop Craze* by Jonathan Hicap, fan groups like Super Junior United Philippines, form internet and mobile communication tools to spread the word about K-pop across the country. They also downloaded (legally or not) and made online orders of K-pop songs, even the full albums, and lulled themselves to addiction.

In the first few years of Korean music here in the Philippines, it wasn't that widespread at all. It particularly catered to the pre-teens and teens who put up fan groups, or are members of the said fan groups. This is because no K-pop act shows up in local TV and the only access Filipinos make use of are the Korean cable channels and the ever-trusty internet. According to Alexa Villano's, The Philippine Star article *The Korean Pop Invasion*, these media exposed the Filipinos to Korea's most popular singers and boy/girl groups. Your parents did not know of its existence, then. Until the *Womovee* girls danced "Nobody

Westlife times four

The rise of K-pop, which actually extends outside of Asia, is usually ascribed to the current "Korean wave," the rapid surge of South Korean pop culture all over the world. Its popularity in the Philippines is described to be "unique," by Hicap, since no K-pop group has ever visited the country for a concert. In his article, it was written that Filipinos are hooked with their music because, "[it comes in] a complete package, meaning they can sing, dance, act..." On another note, K-pop also feeds Filipino audience the same R&B, dance, and hip-hop tunes our people have always been fond of. The presence of new and unusual beat in this new music, like bubblegum pop and *electropop*, genres that are marketed to appeal to pre-teens and teenagers, just adds up to the music's ingenuity.

Hannah Reyes, a member of Hottest Philippines, the Filipino fan community for the K-pop act 2PM, said, "Why do I love K-pop? Number one, it's new to my ears. *Iba kasi 'yung* arrangement *ng mga* K-pop songs. *Tsaka* they play with the melody. *Di ba* usually if sad *'yung* theme *nung kanta*, *mabagal ang melody at tono?* *Ang* K-pop songs, *kabit* sad *'yung* theme *niya*, *may beat pa din at medyo may angas*, as others would say."

May Anne Lopez from PSY25 also finds K-pop tunes appealing, but she hinted that the content of these songs lack substance. "'*Yung* melody *niya maganda*, except *'yung* lyrics, *parang 'pag inintindi mo siya*, *parang wala masyadong sense*," she said.

"*Makikita mo 'yung*...presentation *ng kultura nila* [Koreans], very rich. I think that's one of the reasons...And then we have the song now, the 'Nobody,' right? That's another one. Even in music, in fashion, there's really a great impact from this Korean culture among the Filipinos," said Isolde Valera, full-time faculty from the Communication Arts Department.

Unlike in many other foreign music industries, Korean pop still revolves around groups. Ranging from a staple four to a whopping 13 members

(yes, enough to form a basketball team), these groups usually perform as an all-out show brigade, singing and dancing at the same time. They usually keep a rapper, a lead vocalist, and a lead dancer, which may or may not be different with the leader of the group itself.

Top K-pop artists emerge from three big talent companies in South Korea. There are Jin-Young Park Entertainment, Star Museum Entertainment, and Yang Goon Entertainment that according to Han Tang Sang-hee, another Korean Times reporter, hold "slave contracts" that extend to more than ten years of rights for an artist in a single deal. These agencies also get to say something on various decisions their talents make in their careers and even in their personal lives. As to K-pop groups, their names are typically chosen by either their manager, or again, the talent agency they are contracted to.

K-pop groups such as F.T. Island, Papaya, and Long Pretty Girls have names that would sound weird enough for a typical Filipino, but actually, there are yet stranger titles that these K-pop acts take. It is quite obvious that they observe a template in naming themselves. Many groups, like 2N1, 4minute, SS501, 2AM, and 2PM are to be confused for product codes because of the baffling inclusion of numbers in their labels. It's also a trend for some groups to be named in familiar abbreviations like with K-pop acts M.I.L.K, N.E.X.T, H.O.T, and G.O.D among others. However, this trend seems to prove effective as the leading groups in the K-pop scene include TVXQ, MBLAQ, and f(x).

Then it came rushing

One concern with this craze, aside from the oh-so-bothering, yet sometimes adorable outfits K-pop artists wear, is the threat it poses on the current local media. Other Korean products, like *Koreanovelas* and its Filipino franchises, are already and quickly shifting our TV stations into an *Arirang* channel twin. But apparently, this is merely the elaborate overture for a grand opera where we are the audience. Now that even the music from our Korean buddies has reached our land, there is a hysterical response from our compatriots—and it's *really* hysterical.

Since no K-pop album was sold in the country then, many fans demand music companies to import some of them. But it wasn't until early September 2009, that the first K-pop album was sold in a local music store. Universal Records took the first move to release a Korean pop act, Super Junior (also popularly called SuJu), and their third album *Sorry Sorry*. This immediately dominated the charts, ranking first in the sales of Music One, a music store here in the Philippines. This success was followed by more K-pop albums almost instantly. In the chart published in the October 13, 2009-issue of Philippine Daily Inquirer, three among the top ten albums



Illustration by Nikko Andrew Dollesin

in Odyssey Music and Video Store's list are Korean acts. First in the list was *Genie* by Girls' Generation; third spot was SHINee's *Romeo*; and ninth was SuJu's *Sorry Sorry*.

Then again, albums still didn't suffice—the Filipino fans have to see these artists in the flesh. In retort, several K-pop communities and fan groups created various petitions, asking for these talents to visit the Philippines. One of these appeals came as far as the South Korean Embassy. As a generous reply, the Embassy scheduled a free K-pop concert as part of the Korean Cultural Festival they incorporated with the 60th anniversary of the Philippine-Korea diplomatic relations. Groups like SHINee and Mighty Mouth performed in the event that was held in the Cultural Center of the Philippines on November 27. Since it's free, everybody's happy.

What about tomorrow?

With the promise this new wave of music has shown, it is easy to foretell how it would continue to bring forth new fans, thus making it grow bigger. As more K-pop artists are planned to set stage in the country, it's becoming pretty clear that this kind of music would not be leaving the Philippine airwaves anytime soon. So you better ready yourself for more songs with just more clapping and lyrics you would never, ever, fathom.

However, like the Taiwanese music popularized by the phenomenal F4, K-pop might also leave us some time in the future. Valera said that "Maybe there will come a time that another country will try to invade the future generation." When that happens, it's time for another scavenger hunt on what foreign music would then fill your iPod playlist.

Life in a Foreign Land



Moving to a foreign land is tough and living in it is tougher. Sometimes it leads to people taking up a sort of double life: one at home and another at school. Sometimes we bump into our foreign friends and exchange hellos without knowing their struggle to overcome the cultural barrier. What is the deeper story behind that hello?

If people had a choice, they wouldn't want to be away from their homes for too long. However, times have changed. Due to some circumstances, people need to go away to seek greener pastures or to pursue a dream. They would then need to embrace a whole life as they step on a foreign land.

When kimchi becomes extra, extra sweet

Peter Kim, a Korean student who is taking up Physical Therapy here in DLSU-D, said that he felt hardships, too, as they moved here in the Philippines. Not only did he have to adjust to our country's warm climate, he also felt a bit culture-shocked because things here were a bit different from Korea—from the food to the surroundings.

He also had difficulties in socializing with other people. "My older brother taught me some English. [The] first time [we came here] I didn't know how [to speak the language]," Kim explained. He said that the reason why they moved to the Philippines was because his father wanted him to learn English and at the same time, his father wanted to preach. "My Filipino friends helped me [to cope] by teaching me English," he added.

Even though Kim said that he misses Korean life like playing in the snow and eating various kinds of Korean food (they still manage to cook some at home because his parents do not eat Filipino food much). He is able to adapt, little by little, to Filipino life. He has even taken a fondness for one of our Filipino dishes: *sinigang*.

To cope, Kim said, "I [try to] act the same as Filipinos." In the Philippines, Kim has observed that Filipinos are friendly to foreigners. He then compared them to Koreans back at home and said that it is

different because most of the time, Koreans ignore foreigners. He added that one of the reasons could be that Koreans do not want to approach foreigners because they may be good in written English but not speaking the language. "I [also] act friendly because people are friendly to me," he said. He also shares that some of the things he has learned in his stay in the Philippines is that one should be patient and friendly.

Still missing his friends back in his homeland and more Korean food, Kim said that the whole experience of moving here to the Philippines makes him feel lonely but at the same time, he is happy that he met people who make him feel comfortable in a foreign country.

Life is all about rules

After a short glimpse of how a foreigner fares in our homeland, here is another side of the story—how a Filipino copes in unfamiliar terrain.

Jeremy Andrew San Diego, another student here in DLSU-D, who is taking up Communication Arts, shared his experiences while growing up in Saudi Arabia. "Sixteen years *ako sa* Saudi. Sixteen years feel like growing up in a different culture, different set of social rules of different social hierarchies," said San Diego. He explained that Saudis are very strict with foreigners and if they see a foreigner out in the public, they immediately ask for his or her citizenship identification. He adds that most Saudis believe that foreigners may cause trouble and that they are strict because they want to prevent any mischief from happening.

San Diego also shared that he didn't really have a hard time in Saudi Arabia because he lived in a Filipino community and he practically grew up there, but he believes that if it were other Filipinos, it will surely be difficult for them to live in a foreign land. When he moved back here in the Philippines for college, it was easy for him to adjust. The school he attended was an International Philippine School in Jeddah so more or less, his classmates there were Filipino.

He also added that when he came back to the Philippines, the first thought that crossed his mind was that he was now free to do almost anything; go anywhere he wants to, and maybe date girls—in Saudi Arabia it is not allowed for a boy and a girl who are not married or related to each other to be close in public. He believes that one is free to do almost anything here. "[In the Philippines] *pwede magsuot ng shorts sa labas* while in Saudi, *bawal* and the girls need to wear *Abaya* to prevent temptation according to religion." Here in the Philippines there is religious freedom. Unlike in Saudi Arabia, Christians cannot practice their faith openly so they do it inside their homes and one could even get punished for carrying religious relics.

Though Saudi Arabia has strict rules, it wasn't hard for San Juan to accept it as his home. "Dual culture *ako pero natutunan ko rin 'yung* values *nila*. It's just a little different. Somehow *naging* Muslim *din ako*." Aside from Muslim culture, he added that he also learned other things. "[I learned] patience and respect for their religion. [Also], if you don't abide by their rules, *mahihirapan* or

pahihirapan ka," he said.

Even if Saudi Arabia seems scary to those who do not know much of it, San Diego explained that Saudis are not very different from us and that most of the Saudis he know are peace-loving people. He stated one example, "Dati, nabangga 'yung car namin sa Saudi. *Dito [kapag nagkabanggan] away agad*. *Doon*, they say 'mafimushkilah' meaning 'no problem' [and most of the time], the same goes for other incidents." For those who are prejudiced against Saudi Arabia, San Diego said that they just don't understand the Saudi culture. "*Ayaw nila ng away*. *Siguro 'yung mga nandito lang*," he said. "*Ayos sana na ma-experience nila na mabuhay doon*. There's something good in it *naman*. When you get exposed to a different culture, you learn respect for yourself and others."

Even if San Diego is now back in the Philippines, there would always be a place in his heart for his other home, Saudi Arabia.

Troubles in a foreign land

Of course, not everything is easy-breezy for someone in a strange land. There would always be issues and struggles that would accompany them. According to Dr. Jing Reyes, a professor from the Social Sciences Department, foreigners usually have a hard time in adjusting to their new surroundings. Not only would they have a hard time with the language barrier but he also said, "*Apektado ang lahat sa kanila, ang mga paniniwala at kultura and hindi nila alam kung ano ang dapat i-expect*. The only way to be one with a group is to study and adjust to their culture. It is the only way to get into the minds [of the natives] There would also be effects on their emotions [*pero*] *depende 'yun sa maturity level nila*." Dr. Reyes also said that there are some people who are biased against foreigners because they are different. Usually, some people cannot or do not want to accept those that are not within the norms.

Though they may seem different from the locals in the way they look, act, and speak, they share with us the struggle to live in a continual state of change and normalcy. Theirs is a life of seeking acceptance for who they are in a land that did not give birth to them—until they can go back home.

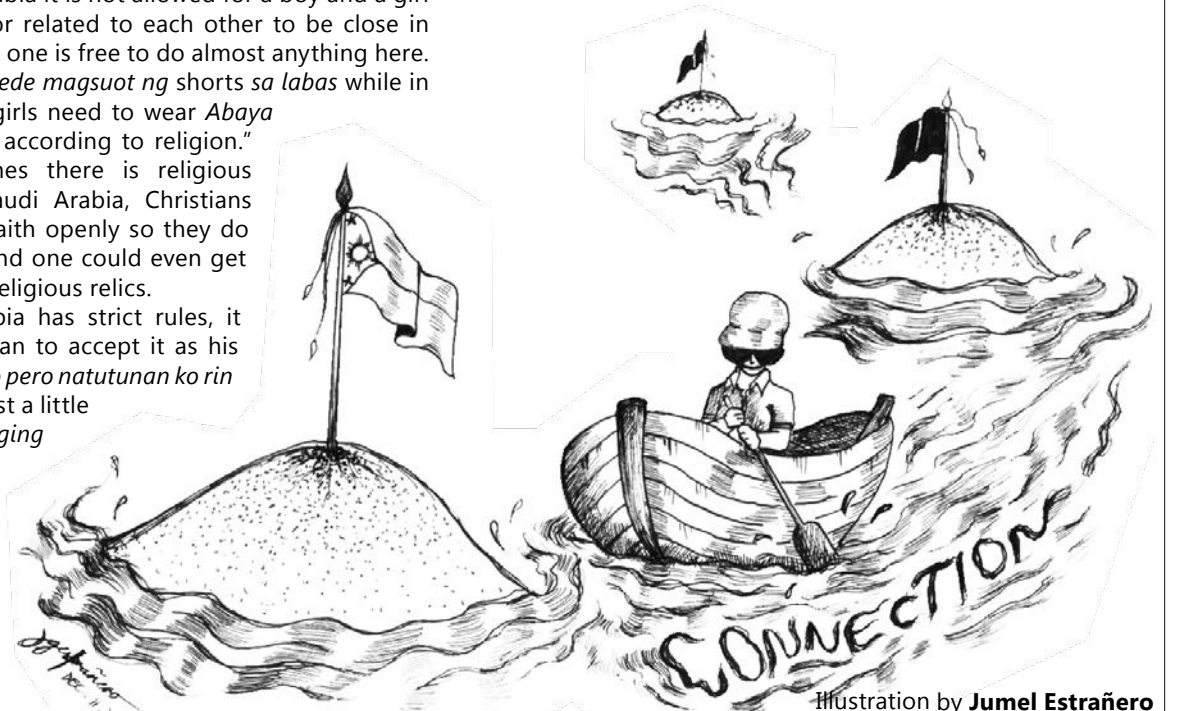


Illustration by Jumel Estrañero

APOCALYPTIC

The truths behind the end of the world movies

By **Carlo Angelo Hernandez** and **Ikko Oquias**
with reports from **Jumel Estrañero**

In 1897, an 8-year-old girl named Virginia asked if there is really a Santa Claus.

Virginia wrote a letter to the *New York Sun* as suggested by her father. Editor Francis Pharcellus Church replied to it in the newspaper's editorial page, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

He said that it exists as love, generosity, and devotion do. What would it be like without Santa Claus every Christmas? "There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight... The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see."

In 2010, a 7-year-old boy named Luther John asked if the world will end soon.

- How will you answer Luther's question?
- A. "Yes, Luther, the world will end soon."
 - B. "No, there's no truth to that."

Calendar of doom

The end of the Mayan Calendar cycle is where it all begins.

The infamous calendar says that the Earth has a 26,000 year-cycle which is divided into five ages or about 5,200 cycles. Our generation today is said to be in the fifth age and it will end on December 21, 2012.

According to Adam Hart Davis in *2012 and Earth Changes*, a documentary aired in the UK History Channel, the Aztec and the Mayan civilizations "believe that the earth has five ages and in each is headed to disaster before the world was reborn. The bad news is that according to their calendar we are living in the fifth and final age which is due to end in December 2012 when civilization will be destroyed by earthquakes." The idea of the end of human civilization through earthquakes was very evident in the 2009 Sony Pictures movie, *2012*.

In the said documentary, it's up to the audience if they will believe in the prediction of the Mayans or not, with doubts lingering on the consistency of the Mayan calendar.

History Channel cited that in the 8th century A.D., the Mayans predicted using the calendar "that a white-skinned bearded god will be coming on March 5, 1519." On the very same date of 1519, Spaniard Hernan Cortez and his conquistadors arrived in the new world and conquered the Aztec Civilization. Thus, supporting the 8th-century predictions. Coincidence?

But in Vanessa Tencati's article in the National Geographic website *What's supposed to happen in 2012?* the Mayans did not leave any clue on what will happen or what we should expect at the end of the fifth earth cycle.

Some researchers say that it will not be the end of the world; it will just be a new era of human consciousness. In an interview with Associated Press writer Mark Stevenson for the article "2012 Isn't the End of the World, Mayans Insist," independent researcher John Major Jenkins said, "If we want to honor and respect how the Maya[ns] think about this, then we would say that the Maya[ns] viewed 2012, as all cycle endings, as a time of transformation and renewal."

In the hype of the 2012 predictions, many historians tried to delve into the issue by talking to the decedents of Mayans to confirm or to rebuff. "The doomsday theories spring from Western, not Mayan, ideas," says Guatemalan Mayan Indian elder Apolinario Chile Pixtun in the same write-up by Stevenson. However that maybe, the stigma of 2012 will still linger.

Big revelations no more

"Every world culture has always had its own prophecies of an end time. And I think it's only natural that people are feeling a connection between our cultural tradition on what is happening in the world today," said Rabbi Ariel Bar Tzadok, author of *Walking In the Fire* in History Channel's *Nostradamus 2012*.

In the Christian world, Judgment Day is something to look forward to.

The world has seen and experienced a lot in the last decade, like the war in the Middle East, the Influenza A(H1N1) virus, the tsunamis caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake which killed nearly 230,000 people in 11 countries, and other phenomena. They are also pretty much like the signs stated in the Book of Revelations

(Revelation 20:11-15) that the end of days for both humanity and the world is coming.

There are many passages on the day of the Lord's coming in the Bible. I Timothy 3:1 shows what the signs are before the end of days and what the Earth and humanity will experience on the Day of Judgment—according to God's plan.

In the Book of Genesis, God annihilated all life with a huge flood, only saving Noah, his family, and a pair of every animal in the world. But in the second coming of the Son of God, He said that He will never use water again. It will be fire that's going to end humanity.

"The elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up (II Peter 3:10-13)." It isn't that too far from Global Warming, isn't it?

The proof everyone wants

Recently, these chilling predictions about human extinction riling up the human psyche long before the apocalyptic movies stated have come to be supported by scientific facts.

The sensational Polar Shift Theory, made popular by the movie *2012*, is currently being studied by scientists all over the globe. The theory says that the Earth's axis of rotation undergoes relatively rapid shifts in location creating calamities such as massive floods and large scale tectonic events. Polar Shift must not be confused with Plate Tectonics where a plate of the Earth's crust moves relative to other plates, therefore creating volcanic and seismic activity around its margins; nor with Continental Drift Theory which explains the formation, alteration, and extremely slow movement of the continents across the Earth's crust. On the other hand, Polar Shift, as the name suggests, pertains to the shifting of the poles where the North goes to the South's position and vice versa, or somewhere else.

Meanwhile, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration have been studying solar flare cycles (sunspots) and the shifts in the magnetic field of the sun and its effects on our planet. They have found actual links between the solar flare cycles and the abnormal weather that we have been experiencing for the past year. It has been proven that the Earth had a different geographic arrangement once and, if the theory proves to be correct, will have another on in the near future because of the abnormal solar flares and shifts in its magnetic fields. According to research of Charles Hapgood, an American academician and known for his books about Polar Shift, the most recent change happened approximately 10,000 years ago.

Meanwhile, certain scientific revelations have confirmed that Antarctica has been under ice and snow for only about 10,000 years. Scientists originally believed that there is proof to the theory that Iceland has been under ice for 175,000 years. This theory came from the snow-freeze-thaw cycle that was evident in 2-mile-thick ice core samples. However, the evidence found in Greenland suggests the opposite.



Illustration by Vibert Maceda

The "Lost Squadron," the American planes that crashed in Greenland during World War II, was found in 1986 under 267 feet of snow and ice. That's forty feet per year. At that rate of deposit, Greenland may have been ice free only 400 years ago. It certainly could have been ice free 10,000 years ago, or else it wouldn't have been named "Greenland".

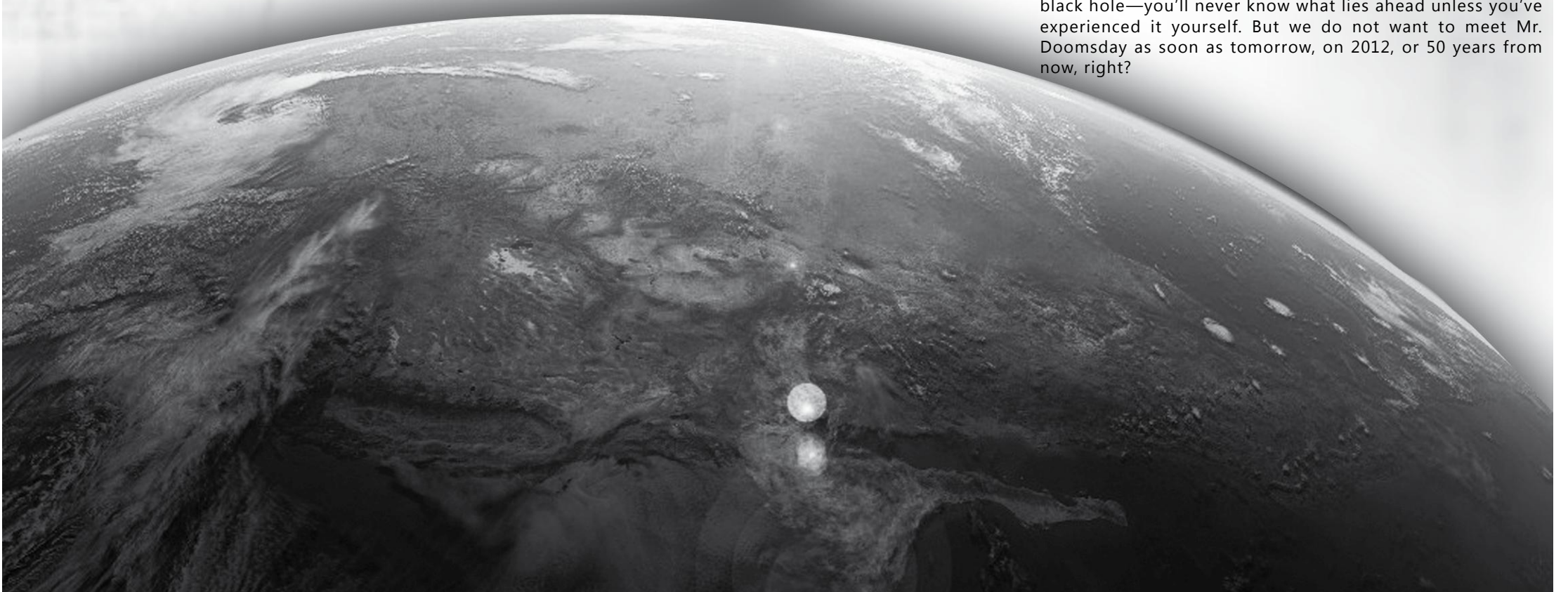
Polar wandering

A research titled *The Polar Wander* was first published in 1981 by a certain Donna Jurdy and was a controversy for a time. After that, interests in the hypothesis and how it works rose. In 2001, the true polar hypothesis was tested by examining Paleomagnetic data from Granitic rocks from across North America. The data from these rocks conflicted with the hypothesis. The evidence indicated that the spin axis has not deviated by more than about 5 degrees over the last 130 million years.

However, in 2006, the early work by Jurdy was brought up again by Adam Maloof of Princeton University and Galen Halverson of Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse, France. The publication found evidence that the Earth rebalanced around 800 million years ago during the Precambrian time period. The ideas were tested by studying magnetic minerals in sedimentary rocks in a Norwegian archipelago. As the mineral grains were deposited or excreted by microbes, they aligned themselves with the Earth's magnetic field, acting as frozen compasses which point to an ancient North Pole. Using this evidence, both scientists found out that the North Pole shifted more than 50 degrees—about the current distance between Alaska and the equator—in less than 20 million years. This was reported in the September-October 2006 issue of the *Geological Society of American Bulletin*.

End of the—article

The whole end-of-the-world story is a very big picture to put into writing. One book cannot explain it all together; even a movie cannot show us exactly what might happen. What may happen in 2012 cannot be proven as truth, like a black hole—you'll never know what lies ahead unless you've experienced it yourself. But we do not want to meet Mr. Doomsday as soon as tomorrow, on 2012, or 50 years from now, right?



Panukalang Kurso:
AB Batmanology

RHYTHMS

Patrick Rowell A. Quintos

Rationale:

Hindi maikakailang malaki ang responsibilidad ng edukasyon sa lipunan. Ito ang pwersang mapagpalaya at mapag-usig na tumutulong sa mga taong resolbahin ang anumang problemang kakaharapin nila sa kanilang sarili, sa kapwa, at maging sa komunidad. Sa paniniwalang ito, sinubukan kong tukuyin ang isang problemang maaaring pagtuunan ng pansin ng edukasyon sa ating bansa.

Sa gitna ng mga kontrobersya na kalimitang lumalabas sa mga palabas sa TV katulad ng *Startalk*, *The Buzz*, at kung anu-ano pang *entertainment news*, napagnilayan kong mah ng korporat at political world alagang bigyan pansin ng edukasyon ang problema ng kurapsyon (*corruption*).

Ang kurapsyon bilang akto ay hindi lamang limitado sa pamahalaan ng Pilipinas, kundi sa lahat ng mamamayan nito dahil ang kurapsyon ay isang problema o sakit na maaaring kumapit sa kahit sino. Walang pinipili, walang kinikilingan, parang *tagline* ng mga *news program*.

Napagnilayan ko rin ang pagkakahawig ng sitwasyon ng Pilipinas sa *fictional* na

Kailan niligtas ng algebra ang mga naho-hold-up?

syudad ng *Gotham*. Tulad ng *Gotham*, hindi na alam ng ating mga mamamayan kung kanino magtitiwala. Ito ay dahil ultimong ang mga namumuno sa atin ay tiwali. Kahit sa *corporate world* ay nagkakaroon na rin ng mga isyung katulad nito. Tulad rin ng *Gotham*, ang moralidad sa ating bansa ay tuluyan nang bumababa. Bukod pa sa mga ito, talagang lagapan na ang kahirapan sa Pilipinas. Tag-Gotham na.

Tinitingnan din ang *Gotham* dito hindi lamang bilang syudad kundi bilang isang *social-environment* tulad ng *corporate* at *political world*, kung saan maaaring magkaroon ng kurapsyon.

Kaya naman naisip kong tulad ng *Gotham*, kakailanganin natin ng mga *methods*, *philosophies*, at *theory* ni Batman at sa kung *incorrigible vigilante*. Naisip ko ring ito ay maaaring ituro sa *collegiate level* dahil may mga *theories* at aklat tungkol rito.

Deskripsyon ng Programa:

Ang programang AB Batmanology ay isang pang-akademikong paraan ng pagpapalawig ng isipan ng tao sa mga pamamaraan, pilosopiya, at teyorya ni Batman at sa kung paano ito mai-aapply sa iba't ibang klase ng *environment*—*corporate*, *political*, *religious*, atbp. Ang mga layunin nito ay ang mga sumusunod:

1. Upang imulat ang mga estudyante sa importansya ng Batmanology sa lahat ng klase

ng environment na nag-eexist sa lipunan.

2. Upang bigyan ang mga estudyante ng kaligiran sa kabuuang ginagawa ni Batman sa Gotham City.

3. Upang bigyan ang mga estudyante ng pagkakataong i-apply ito sa kanilang *environment* na tingin nila ay nangangailangan nito.

4. Upang makagawa ng sandamukal na Batman para sa sandamukal na *social-environment* sa lipunan kahit pa walang pagbaril ng magulang ang nagaganap.

Curriculum:

P.E. Bat01: Ra's al Ghul Martial Arts

The course focuses on the Martial Arts that Batman uses in the actual fighting as taught by his own teacher and enemy, Ra's al Ghul.

P.E. Bat02: Blind Kinetics and Combat Training

The course focuses on teaching the students the art of moving and fighting at night and other places with zero visibility.

P.E. Bat03: Batmobile Driving School

The course teaches how to drive the Batmobile.

P.E. Bat04: Equipment Training

The course teaches combinations of Batman's martial arts with his technology.

Batman101: Batman Appreciation

This course aims to let the student

know the necessity of Batman to a fragile world.

Batman102: Batman History

This course teaches the life of Batman in all DC and non-DC universes.

Batman103: Batman Psychology

This course teaches the mental-constructs of Batman, how it affects his being and how to control it.

Batman104: Batman Science

This course introduces students to the technology of Batman.

Batman105: Batman Theories

This course introduces students to different Batman Theories according to Bob Kane, Bill Finger, Christopher Nolan, Christian Bale, Ed Brubaker, Paul Dini, Val Kilmer, Devin Grayson, Frank Miller, Alan Moore, Joey de Leon, and all other writers and portrayals of Batman.

Mga Elective:

AB Batmanology major in Corporate and Institutional Vigilance:

Batman kontra kurapsyon sa mga institusyon at iba pang organisasyon—relihiyoso, media, cultural, etc. (Batman 106A: Wayne Corps. Theories and Practice)

AB Batmanology major in Political Vigilance:

Batman kontra kurapsyon sa loob ng pamahalaan. (Batman 106B: Batman and Dick Gordon)

AB Batmanology major in Religious Vigilance:

Batman kontra kurapsyon sa loob ng mga relihiyosong

institusyon. (Batman 106C: Batman Morality)

AB Batmanology major in Crime Fighting:

Ang Batman na pambugbugan—action star. (Batman 106D: Applied Batman on Villains)

AB Batmanology major in Literature:

Sumusulat ng Batman. (Batman 106E: Batman Literature)

AB Batmanology major in Graphic and Visual Arts:

Nagdo-drawing ng Batman at kung anu-ano pang Batman propaganda. (Batman 106F: Batman Strokes)

AB Batmanology major in Film and Performance:

Nagdi-direktor at gumaganap sa Batman films. (Batman 106G: Digital Film Productions)

AB Batmanology major in Technology:

Taga-innovate ng mga gadget ni Batman (Batman 106H: Lucius Fox Technology)

Mga Requirements para sa Mga Eskwelahan:

Batman Costume (Batman Dark Knight type), Batmobile (basta sasakyang itim at mabilis), Batcave (for classroom and laboratory), Bat-technology (Consult: Hollywood)

Mga Career na Maaaring Tahakin:

Manunulat ng Batman, Aktor/Aktress sa Batman, Direktor, Tagabugbug ng Masasama sa Ayala Corp.,

Maynila, Vatican, mga Pamantasan, atbp.

Tala:

1. Maganda itong alternatibo sa pagko-call center agent at sa kung anu-ano pang *nightshift* na trabaho sa *agency*, sapagkat maliit ang *chances* na maging *obese* ka. At least, mapapakinabangan ka naman ng lipunan.

2. Anong *match* ng BS *Applied Math* dito? Kailan niligtas ng *Algebra* ang mga naho-hold-up?

3. Hinahangaan natin ang mga bayani tulad nila Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, Aguinaldo, at sa ating panahon, sina Superman, Flash, Batman, X-men, at iba pa. Pero bakit walang nakaisip mag-lagay ng kurso para sa mga gustong maging bayani? Dahil ba ito:

a. Mga *villain* ang nagpapatatko ng mga eskwelahan.

b. Baduy maging bayani (ayon sa SWS Survey).

c. Sa tingin ng mga institusyon, walang naaapi.

d. None of the above.

e. All of the above.

f. Let us leave it all to "Him up Above."

Ano sa palagay mo? Boto ka ba rito? Gusto mong mag-enrol? May naiisip ka bang iba pang magagandang kurso at programa para sa ating pamantasang maganda? I-text ang Yes or No at ang dahilan ng iyong sagot sa 09278423915 o mag-e-mail sa hf_panitikan@yahoo.com.

MARTIAN'S
LAW:
MARTIANS RULE

By Vanessa Baldecañas

Disclaimer: Habang hawak mo ngayon ang dyaryong ito, sigurado akong laos na sa pandinig mo ang Maguindanao massacre. Pero hindi ito tungkol dun, *promise*.

Hindi *positive trait* ang pagiging matiisin. Kung duduraan ka sa mukha ng taong hindi mo naman kakilala, hindi *positive* na ngingiti ka lang at kakamayan mo pa ang taong gumawa sa 'yo nun (*believe me mentally-challenged* lang ang gagawa nun). Kapag sinampal ka naman, manghihinayang ka pa siguro sa dos pesos na pandesal na ipambabato mo.

E paano na 'yan, matiisin daw ang mga Pinoy?

Kumbaga habang maiksi ang kumot, marunong mamaluktot si Juan dela Cruz. 'Yun nga lang hanggang kailan ba niya kakayaning mamaluktot? Hanggang ang mamintig ang mga binti niya? Hanggang sa makuba na siya? *Scolio* kaya? E paano kung patay na siya?

Nakatutok ang mundo sa 'Pinas. Nakatutok ang mga Pilipino sa 'Pinas dahil nakatutok ang mundo sa 'Pinas. Pangit mang pakinggan pero kaya kong ipusta ang *prelim exams* ko na kung hindi pa ginawang malaking *issue* ng *international community* ang Maguindanao massacre, hindi man lang aabot ng dalawang linggo sa telebisyon, dyaryo, o radyo ang mga balita tungkol sa krimeng ito. Walang maaarasto dahil bubulagin ang mga *witnesses*, mapipipi ang mga pulis, at napilayan ang *media*. Malamang katulad ng Hello Garci scandal, ZTE Broadband deal, C-5 road extension scandal, at iba pa (mahaba kasi ang listahan ko baka ma-bore ka lang), isang matinding *cover-up* lang, *solved* na. Papatungan lang nila ang isang malaking isyu ng isa pang mas malaking isyu tapos parang kaning-lamig lang na ilalagay ng mga tao sa kaning baboy ang nakaraan. Buti sana kung isinasangag man lang, nilalagyan ng bawang at asin para mas lalong sumarap.

Teka, ano bang meron sa *international community*? Wala na bang *say* ang *national society*? Kung hindi pa umiral ang pagka-colonial *mentality* ng mga Pinoy, hindi pa malamang gagawing *big issue* ng Palasyo ang Maguindanao massacre. Kung sakali, walang *record-breaking* (*well record-breaking* na 'yun para sa atin) sa bilis na *inquisition orders*, *warrant of arrest*, at *search warrant* na maipapalabas dahil wala namang *suspect*. Walang *private army* na madidiskubre, at wala rin sanang *military official* na aamin sa pag-aarma sa Ampatuan *warlords*. In short, wala—wala nga siguro tayong mapapala.

At hindi pa sila nakuntento sa pagpapasikat, nagdeklara pa ng Martial Law. May nagmurang kongresista, may nag-disappearing act na *AFP official*, *defense secretary*, at Pangulo; may nagmarunong na mga senador, at may nag-amok na mga kritiko tungkol dito. Nabobobo na ba si Juan o nambobobo

lang si Gloria? O baka naman ako talaga ang bobo? Kung sabagay, kung lahat ng matalino magiging katulad ni Gloria, sana naging bobo na nga lang talaga ako.

Siguro nga sa 2012 ay katapusan na ng mundo, siguro dito sa 'Pinas ang *ground zero*.

Pero siguro nga hindi pa sa 2012 ang katapusan ng mundo.

Hindi naman talaga ako 100% nadismaya sa mga pangyayari. Tingin ko pa nga isang *divine intervention* ang nangyari (*well can you blame me with all this sh*t happening?*) dahil kung susumahin natin hindi naman puro *negative* lang, ang binunga ng krimen na ito. Kumbaga may mga paconsuelo de bobong hatid ito, halimbawa na lang ay naresolba na ang mga mala-mystery-cases na patayan at *underground system* ng administrasyon. Alam na rin natin kung sino ang dapat sisihin sa pag-aarma ng mga Ampatuan *warlords* at kahirapan sa Maguindanao. At panghuli, siguradong wala nang maaasahang *fairytale happy ending election results* ang administrasyon sa susunod na halalan—mga 12-0 results at *landslide victories*.

Kapag sinampal ka, hindi mo naman kailangang manampal din. Pwedeng ipamukha mo sa kanya na mali ang kanyang ginawa. Maraming paraan, imahinasyon mo ang limit.

Kung isa ka sa mga nasampal sa balita ng Maguindanao massacre, kung pakiramdam mo rin binobobo ka nila, e 'di ibalik mo sa kanila ang pabor. Magsimula tayo sa 2010 Elections. Pwede nating ipakita sa mga humahamon sa intelektwalidad natin, lalo na 'yung mga nagsinungaling na hindin-hindi na raw tatakbo pang muli, na sukang-suka na tayo sa mga pangalan nila. Pati na rin 'yung mga nagpapapilit; 'yung nagmamayabang na hindi na raw siya mangangampanya? Sayang hindi ako makakaboto sa distrito niya.

Matiisin daw si Juan dela Cruz. Malilimutin din ba siya? Kailangan na yatang isama sa inirarasyong gamot ng D.O.H. ang *memo plus gold* at gawing pambansang inumin ang Enervon Prime ng nagkaka-alzheimer's na yatang si Juan.

Kung nagiging malilimutin ka na, ilita mo sa papel ang lahat ng ayaw mong makalimutan.

Disclaimer sa *disclaimer*: I lied.

Dibuho ni Vicbert Maceda

LOSE AND ENDURE

By Francesca Garchitorena

My writing is the creative counterpart of hide-and-seek. As a writer, I often adapt a chameleon's skin, revealing myself in the work, and yet still remain concealed.

We all have our gifts and talents, and mine is creating characters and telling their stories. It has become more than just a hobby; consuming all my time that I've learned to identify myself solely as a writer, and anything that would make me less of one must be set aside. I was quite obsessed, really, nurturing this fantasy that I was meant for something great and unordinary, refusing to compromise that maybe—just maybe—I am *not* that special. In my age, I guess it's only normal to attach my self-worth in something that fulfills me emotionally, and writing has done a great deal of that. The driving force behind my writing is probably *to feel relevant*. I want so badly to matter to people. I starve for the affirmation of others even though I won't admit it, and I know that the only means that I could 'get love' is if I write something that can move people and make them relate to me, because I could not relate to them with anything else. Every story I write, every character I breathe into, has a trace of my dread and loneliness, parts of me that ache and want to be heard for the pain only diminishes when a character that I create is the one who can portray it for me. It also seems like I feel nothing about my life, and so I let the stories I write to do that for me. When I get rejected by normal folk under normal circumstances, the only way I'll be able to communicate that is through pen and paper. I guess for the longest time, my writing is a therapy, my sounding board—my selfish little paradise.

And that was until I decided to join the school's student publication, *The Heraldo Filipino*. I've claimed that this year 2009 is my year. It's true.

I can honestly say I know my faults and that I am very much capable of acknowledging my weaknesses. I've also learned how to cover the blemishes and make the stretch marks work to my advantage as a human being. But I'm always very proud, and have a huge sense of entitlement that I get blind-sighted and perhaps, even greedy. Writing was the only journey that made

sense to me all my life. I can always find the right roads that would slowly lead to the place I wanted to belong to, no matter how unrealistic my expectations of it have become. When I had the opportunity to get a panel interview for the staff position in HF, I was mortified to realize that I wasn't good enough to qualify completely, that all those notions of me being meant for greatness are nothing but half-baked fantasies that I took too much at heart. Nevertheless, I was still determined to make writing as a career in the future, and so I tried my best to impress the editorial board. Even though I've kept the façade until the interview ended, I knew I fell short in some irreversible way and that I was a bitter disappointment to myself. Imagine my surprise when I did get in. Something in me felt like I deserved it, and yet there's also this voice in my head telling me that I don't have what it takes.

Failure knows me so well that we could share a bed and eat on the same table, and my fear of it have gradually decreased when I made a decision to strive to be productive every waking day since I studied here in La Salle. I was a drop-out from St. Scholastica in Manila because I was very unhappy there, living in a dorm miles away from home here in Cavite. I'm very blessed to get another shot with my education, and I've already planned to make sure that there wouldn't be a day of regret. Being a part of HF was a great way not only to harness my craft, but also to improve my people skills. I'm not the most sociable person out there and I'm happy to say that that's about to change. All those defense mechanisms I have just to avoid making new friends and being part of the team are almost non-existent now.

I wouldn't go as far as considering that what I've written here is something that may inspire other young girls. I've given up on the silly fantasy that I'm this maverick of talent or something. It's lame and unrealistic, and now that I'm old enough to know that you're not always going to be the perfect version of yourself, you still have the choice of how you're going to live the best of your potentials, because I realize now that whatever you do every single day affects the sum of your life as a whole. I may not become a famous, best-selling

novelist that I've always dreamt of since I was ten. I may also not get a Nobel Prize in Literature because what are the odds of that becoming a real shot anyway? But you know what else? I will be taking more risks, even if the outcome isn't what I would expect. There's no harm on shooting for the moon because if that doesn't work out, at least you could still land on one of the stars.

My writing used to be all about hiding. I hide my frustrations, conceal all my hypocrisy and dissatisfaction, and then expose it as art. I would wait for someone out there who will read my stories to seek me out, and possibly feel the same way I feel. I cling onto it because it's a costume I never get sick of wearing—because life is tough and I never had the courage to suck it up before and take a leap of faith. Sometimes regrets can't be avoided too; especially when one contemplates so much on the battles lost and let the defeat dictate the outcomes of his or her life.

Still, silver linings do exist, even if you work hard enough, and sacrifice for the greater good for yourself and the people who you love and care about without compromising your aspirations. I started feeling good about myself once I've nurtured my self-esteem with positivity and hope. I outgrew the whole no-one-understands-me phase and learned to let people in my life when they deserve it and especially when I deserve it. I don't have to earn or get love. I don't have to write just because it's some sort of a golden ticket to the attention of others. I write because I live and an existence that's defined by achievable goals and good choices is a life that I don't need to write about; it's a life that I must live.

I'm grateful and blessed to be part of *The Heraldo Filipino*. I used to sit on a corner, seeing life through my eyes alone, but ever since I've joined this family, I've met people who are very willing to share that corner until it becomes the world. No wonder that every day that I step into the office, I'm always ready to create wonderful memories and make sure, no matter how stressed or spread thin I may get after a long day, to smile, because I've been told I glow when I do, and that's exactly how would feel for the rest of this school year.

Dibuho ni Vicbert Maceda

Pirated Scenes ng mga Telenobela

Ni Angelica Mei Dollesin

Bahagi na ng buhay nating mga Pilipino ang panonood ng mga telenobela, Kapuso ka man o Kapamilya. Nakakalibang kasi manood ng mga ito kaya nga ako mismo ay *updated* sa mga telenobela ngayon sa telebisyon. Natural na kasi sa ating mga Pilipino ang maging interesado sa buhay ng iba—chismosa *for short*. Pero sa ngayon, kapag nanonood ako ng mga telenobela, nakakaramdam na ako ng sawa *factor*; partikular na sa mga gawang Pinoy. Karamihan kasi sa mga ito ay parang nagkakaparepareho na lang ang mga eksena at minsan nga pati na ang mga kwento. Nagkakaiba man ang mga ito sa pinaka-kwento, nagkakapareho pa rin naman sa mga *minor details*. Kaya 'di magtatagal ay parang masasabi mo sa sarili mong, "teka, napanood ko na 'to ah." O kaya naman, nagiging *predictable* na yung mga eksena na medyo gasgas na para sa mga manonood na katulad ko. Heto ang ilang mga senaryong gamit na gamit na sa mga napapanood natin (tingnan mo baka pareho pa tayong mga napapansin):

1) Yumayaman ang mahirap na bida at maghihiganti

Napakagasgas na nito—sobra. Sa mga telenobela, dalawa ang pwedeng maging dahilan ng pagyaman ng bida. Una, sa simula ng kwento, aapihin ang napakabait ngunit mahirap na bida pero magsusumikap siya ng husto para yumaman. Pangalawa, ang pagkakaroon ng isang milagro sa buhay ng bida gaya na lang ng pagkadiskubre niyang siya pala ang *long lost daughter/son* ng isang mayaman na tauhan sa kwento. Siyempre sa huli, kapag namatay na ang magulang ng bida (na madalas na ring nangyayari), ipapamana sa kanya ang lahat ng ari-arian nito kaya bigla siyang yayaman. At kapag nangyari na ang mga ito, magkakaroon na ng pagkakataon ang bida para maghihiganti sa mga nang-api sa kanya at as usual, magsisipi ang kontrabida sa mga pinaggagawa niya noon sa bida. Ilan sa mga natatandaan kong sikat na telenobela na may mga ganitong senaryo ay ang *Marimar*, *Rosalinda*, at *Pangako Sa Yo*.

2) Sibling rivalry sa pagitan ng magkapatid na bida at kontrabida

Sa isang tipikal na telenobela, ang kontrabida ay sobra na lamang ang galit at pagpapahirap sa bida. Pero sa kalagitnaan ng kwento, malalaman nilang magkapatid pala sila. At kapag nagkaalaman na, dalawa ang posibleng mangyari sa kwento nila: pwedeng magkakabati sila sa kabila ng pagkasuklam nila sa isa't isa noon o magpatuloy ang pagkasuklam nila sa isa't isa dahil hindi nila matanggap na magkapatid nga sila.

3) Magkaibigan effect

Actually may dalawang halimbawa ang senaryong ito. 'Yung bidang lalaki at babae na kadalasan ay mag-*childhood sweethearts/bestfriends* ay magkakahiwalay, ngunit muling magkikita sa gitna ng kwento at magkakatuluyan din sa. Ang

pangalawa naman ay may koneksyon sa una. Kapag naghihiwalay kasi ang mga bida, meron silang makikilalang bagong *bff* na makakasama nila hanggang sa magkita ulit sila. Pero ang mga kaibigan palang 'to ay may H.D. (*hidden desire*) sa bidang lalaki o babae na magiging dahilan ngayon para magkaroon ng seksan, agawan, at awayan, na magiging dahilan naman ng kaguluhan sa mga buhay-buhay nila. Kaya ang *ending*, 'di na sila *bff*.

4) Mga kamalasan, sadya man o hindi

Isa 'to sa mga *classic* na pangyayari sa isang telenobela. Lagi na lang may nabubunggo ng sasakyan na matuwi sa pagkakaroon ng *amnesia*, nasasabugan ng bomba o kung ano man kaya papangit 'yung isang tauhan o kaya sasabuyan ng asido sa mukha kaya lalo pang papangit. Idagdag pa 'yung mga *kidnapping*, nahoholdap, *nare-mpe* at kung anu-ano pang kamalasan na nangyayari. Ang masama niyan, may mga pagkakataon na 'yung bida pa ang nakakaranas ng lahat ng mga ito. Pero napapansin ko lang, ang mga kamalasang ito ay isa lamang strategy na minsan ay pilit na ipinapasok sa palabas para mapahaba ang kwento, kaya lang minsan nasosobrahan ang mga ito kaya nananawa ang mga manonood.

5) Terminator na kontrabida

Sa ngayon, dumarami na ang mga ganitong klase ng kontrabida, na kahit ilang beses nang naaksidente, pinahuli at kinulong, nabaril, nasaksak, hanggang sa nagkabangas-bangas na ang mukha, hindi pa rin mamatay-matay. Isang malupit na halimbawa nito ay ang kontrabidang ginanapan noon ni Princess Punzalan sa programang *Magmula sa Puso* (sana lang natatandaan nyo pa rin ito). Ito na yata ang naging epitonya ng mga kotrabidang may kung anong anting-anting na nakapagpapahaba ng buhay.

Napapansin mo man o hindi ang mga senaryong ito, unti-unti na talagang naluluma ang mga ideya at istorya na nagpapatkbo sa mga telenobelang pinapalabas ngayon. Kaya naman naisip ko na gumawa ng mga sariling senaryong gusto ko sanang makita sa mga telenobela natin ngayon:

1) May special powers 'yung bida

Tingin ko, ito na ang magiging gamot sa laging sakit ng bida sa kwento *which is* ang pagiging utu-uto. Naisip ko lang, kung magkakaroon siya ng *power of telepathy* o yung nakakabasa ng inisip ng isang tao, hindi na siya mauuto pa ng kontrabida. Kasi malalaman na niya ang tunay na pakay nito. Pwede rin namang magkaroon 'yung bida ng kakayahang makita ang mangyayari sa hinaharap para makita niya ang magiging resulta kapag nagpa-uto siya.

2) Matalinong bida pati ang mga tao sa paligid niya

Kung hindi uubra ang pagkakaroon ng *special powers* ng mga bida, bakit hindi na lang sila gawing matalino? O kahit nga yung may *common sense* na lang? Nakakaasar na kasi yung mga utu-uto *moments* ng mga bida tulad ng isang eksena kung saan ang bida ay naniniwala agad na bumait na nga ang kontrabida porke nag-*sorry* ito sa kanya with *matching fake tears/eye-mo* sa mata, *to think* na ito ang nagpahirap sa buhay niya at halos patayin na siya nito. At sa kasamaang palad, ang pagiging utu-uto ng bida ay masyadong *contagious* kaya pati ang ibang tauhan sa kwento ay mabilis na ding mabilog ang ulo. Ilan sa mga nakakalokang halimbawa nito ay ang mga tauhang kasama nina Narda, Teng, at Clark Kent na hindi man lang nakakahalata na sobrang kahawig nila sina Darna, Captain Barbell, at Superman *minus the red, yellow and blue outfits*. Porke ba pilay, mahirap na may bangas sa mukha at *nerd* na may *curly* bangs eh hindi na pwedeng maging superhero?

3) Mga out of this world na love teams

Tutul marami nang mga manonood ang nagsasawa sa mga pare-parehong tumbalang napapanood nila sa telebisyon, bakit hindi na lang yung mga *mutlang out of this world* ang ipagtambal? Puro na lang kasi mukha ang pinagbabasihan ngayon sa pagbuo ng *love team*. Kapag ba hindi ka kagwapihan o kagandahan e wala ka nang karapatang sumikat? O kaya naman, para mas bago sa panlasa e ibalik na lang si Kokey at ang mga kalahi niya sa telebisyon? At para mas *unique*, dapat meron siyang *ka-love team* na kauri niya rin para makita natin kung paano ba maging *sweet* ang mga *aliens* sa isa't isa. Kapag nangyari ito, sigurado akong wala nang magreklamo sa pagiging sobrang *cheesy* ng mga *love team* sa telebisyon.

4) Bida-kontrabida no more

Karaniwan na sa isang telenobela ang pagkakaroon ng bida at kontrabida na nagbibigay kulay sa kwento. Pero minsan kasi, sa kanila na lang umiikot ang buong istorya kaya nakakalimutan na ang iba pang *details* at tauhan sa kwento. Kaya para hindi na mahirapan ang mga *writers* sa panggagaya este pag-iisip ng mga eksenang may kinalaman sa bangyan ng bida at kontrabida, e di wag na lang magbigay ng *distinctions* sa mga tauhan sa kwento. Medyo komplikado pa ito dahil hindi karaniwan ang ganitong senaryo. Pero hindi naman ito imposible lalo na kung kakawala ang mga *writers* ng mga telenobela sa traditional bida-kontrabida *line*.

Hindi naman ako nangangarap maging *scriptwriter* ng mga telenobela. *Well*, medyo lang. Isa lang naman kasi ang gusto ko sanang mangyari, at 'yun ay ang magkaroon ng *innovation* sa mga telenobela na ipinapalabas sa ating mga telebisyon. Wala na kasing bago sa mga ito ngayon. At bilang manonood, gusto kong makakita ng mga bagong kwento—'yung orihinal na gawang Pinoy talaga at hindi 'yung pinilit lang na gawing pang-Pinoy.



STRONG OFFENSE. Patriot Rico Rivera shows dominance over opponents in PRISAA Provincials.

Photo by **Michaela Grimaldo**

Cagers defend Prov's crown

By **Krishna Lou Doliente**

Posting clearly their dominance in the provincial basketball scene, the green-and-white men's basketball team has once again defended their PRISAA-Provincials title by ripping a hapless St. Francis of Assisi College (SFAC) squad in their championship square-off, 88-52 on December 3 at the Ugnayang La Salle.

Before barging their way to the finals to face SFAC, the Patriots nosed out University of Perpetual Help System-Molino (UPHS-M), the tourney's third placer, 75-62.

Usual game hero Rico Rivera together with co-Patriot Bryan Igtiben, whose hands were hot as he fired most of his shots from beyond the arc, led the Patriots in their onslaught against UPHS-M in most parts of the game with 26 and 22 points, respectively.

Igtiben drew first blood in this semis game with back-to-back trey stunners following his two-pointer, during the first quarter. Eventually as if initiating good vibes to the Patriots, they managed to sustain their point-hauling

scheme and carried it through to end the quarter in a satisfactory finish, 14-6.

However, a change in the winds came against DLSU-D as they found themselves being chased down in points by their Molino-based counterparts. Despite the efforts to keep up and widen their lead by utilizing Patriot Kater Licudine and Rivera's additional arsenal of points, UPHS-M still managed to sneak passed the Patriots to eventually claim the second quarter at two-point edge, 32-34.

Bringing back the momentum to their side, the third quarter turned to be another Rivera-dominated period as the said Patriot nailed most of his points here in this quarter to claim back the lead and to give a wider score margin against their opponents. The quarter ended at 63-47.

The final quarter opened with Patriot Sam Plameras and Igtiben initiating another point rampage towards the win for the green-and-white squad. Patriot rookie Anthon Castro secured the Patriots ticket to

finals ending the game at 72-62.

Compared to their semis game, the Patriots had an easier take against SFAC as they started stomping off against their opponents, who seemed unable to put up against the plays of Patriots such as Rivera and Licudine during the first quarter. This seemed to awaken SFAC and had them make a run to narrow down the scores. Still, the Patriots claimed the first half convincingly at 48-31.

The second half showed how the Patriots steadily moved to defend their title against SFAC as they scored more, which mostly came from Rivera. The third quarter ended with a twenty-point lead for the Patriots, 66-46.

As for the final quarter, the Patriots continued to maintain and widen their lead against SFAC as this time they had Licudine, Ian Genova and Tashiro Llenos to rely on in terms of points. Eventually they won another PRISAA-Provincials championship as Patriots Paolo Gorospe and Castro's back-to-back points sealed the game at 88-52.

Spikers reign in PRISAA-Provincials

By **Buddy James Gempis**
and **John Patrick De Guzman**

The defending champion DLSU-D spikers came out undefeated after an easy-breezed straight set encounter against University of Perpetual Help Jonelta (UPHJ) -GMA 25-17, 25-18, 25-22, in the week-long Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) - Provincial tourney at the Ugnayang La Salle (ULS) on December 3.

Powered by team captain Poli Gil, with Alnakran Abdilla, and rookie Bonnie Villanueva, the Patriot spikers built their offense and defense early in the first set with a series of spikes and blocks while getting help from green-and-white tosser Raymond Ramirez ending the first set at 25-18.

The GMA-based squad had a rough start in the second set from the astounding triple-block courtesy of Ramirez, Hudri Kona, and Gil, obstructing the opposing team from piercing a down-the-line kill which eventually raised a five-point lead.

The air was filled with excitement after an exchange of rallies on the latter part of the set as UPHJ-GMA tried to cut down their errors and continued to provide the ammunition. However, sophomore Patriot spiker Abdilla delivered a down-the-line hit which eventually concluded the set, 25-18.

Joven Racelis, a gem of a find for the green-and-white squad, scored five points

with his service aces to give the Dasma-based team an 11-5 lead. But UPHJ-GMA pounced on the Patriot spikers scoring back-to-back hits which eventually tied the score at 15-15. It was a nerve-wracking third set for the GMA-based squad after an exchange of spikes and errors from both teams which brought the scores to a deuce again at 20-20.

The rancorous support from the DLSU-D crowd helped the Patriots' win the third set as Louie Dimapilis bombarded the court of UPHJ-GMA with a down-the-line kill forcing the opponents to bid goodbye in the third and last set of the final series with a 25-22 finish.

Come from behind

The DLSU-D spikers won the first game in their best-of-three final series after a crucial bout against UPHJ-GMA 23-25, 23-25, 25-17, 25-17, 16-14 on December 2 at ULS.

Both teams fired up at the start of the first set with a constant exchange of points. UPHJ-GMA converted the Patriot spikers' two errors into points until Jefferson Patanao of the former finished the first set with a kill at zone four, 23-25.

The GMA-based squad was still hyped up as they created a five-to-nothing run. The Patriots countered the opposing team's run with their own to slash the lead of UPHS-GMA to three, 5-8. Since then, both teams kept a steady exchange until a surprise drop from UPHS-GMA's

Mark Glennrabe ended the second set at 23-25.

With both losses on the first two sets, the Patriots started the third canto with two consecutive kills by team captain Gil, hoping not to lose the do-or-die set. Then, DLSU-D ruled the third set with spikes and kills from Gil ending the set, 25-17.

The DLSU-D spikers, led by Gil, Abdilla, and Kona, bombed the UPHJ-GMA's side with kills giving the former team an eight-point lead, 13-5, before engaging into another exchange of points. With just one-point shy to tie the match, Patriot Gil launched a drop shot surprising the GMA-based team at the end of the set, 25-17, forcing the match to a deciding fifth set.

At the start of the fifth set, UPHJ-GMA blasted a 9-4 run for them to get the lead but the Patriots managed to comeback from the consecutive errors created by the former team tying the scores at 10-all. The blue-clad tossers then made a 3-1 run making them one point away from getting the first finals slot but the Patriots launched a counter attack turning the scores to a deuce in the next rally. Patriot Gil bombed the UPHJ-GMA's side with staggering kill to win the sudden death set, 16-14.

On their first assignment, the green-and-white spikers trounced University of Perpetual Help System Dalta-Molino with a straight-set match with 25-5, 25-20, 25-21 on December 1 at ULS.

Patriots athletics team banners Provincials

By **Krishna Lou Doliente**

In preparation for their upcoming PRISAA-Regionals stint, the DLSU-D track and field team, secured their spots in a breezy encounter against other Cavite-based athletes by collecting titles in the PRISAA-Provincials, December 1-4 at the DLSU-D track oval. The green-and-white men's athletics team bannered the Patriots output as they swept all first-place finishes in all of the events.

Patriot Marc Daven Agdasiv was Cavite's fastest man as he clocked 9.99 sec in the 100-m dash finishing first against teammate Noli Torres at 10.90 sec who settled for second place. Meanwhile, Torres finally clinched his gold title as he made a 22.91 sec-record to beat another Patriot, Vermei Anderio with 24.10 sec in the 200-m event.

DLSU-D's Lamex Hermoso won first place by clocking in at 53.89 sec in the 400-m as he beat fellow trackster John Rey Tumanda who copped the silver with a time of 55.41 sec. Tumanda again reaped a silver with a time of 2.14 min in the 800-m lagging behind Gerald Villa, another green-and-white runner who snagged the first spot at 2:09 min.

On the other hand, in the 1500-m has Mervin

Lomarez of DLSU-D winning the gold at 4:16.87 min ahead two University of Perpetual Help System-Molino (UPHS-M) runners.

As for the relay events, DLSU-D's ale tricksters bagged two golds against UPHS-M in the 4x100-m and in the 4x400-m at 43.76 sec and 3:48.80 min, respectively.

Meanwhile it's a one-on-one match up between two Patriots, Jerome Oclaret and Rolly Gusi for the discuss throw, shot put and javelin throw events. However, it was Oclaret's day as he collected all gold outputs in those three events leaving Gusi to settle for three second-place finishes. Oclaret has a 32.40 m/cm output to beat Gusi's 26.63 m/cm in the discuss throw. In the shot put event, Gusi was 3.14 m/cm short of a first-place title compared to Oclaret's 12.19 m/cm. Then for the javelin throw, again, Gusi was behind by Oclaret's output as the two marked 42.80 m/cm and 44.31 m/cm respectively.

For the long jump event, Patriot Norman Flores placed first with a distance of 6.12 m/cm and defeating two contenders from UPHS-M.

As for the women's long jump, DLSU-D scored a one gold one silver output courtesy of Regine Ganiolon, 4.55 m/cm and April Panco, 4.55 m/cm (with fault).

KYOT- SSDD Combo



Ngayon, higit kailanman kailangan mo ang motivation. Bawal ma-burnout dahil pag ganun, ikaw ang todas.

Gusto kong matulog.

Gusto ko din bumalik sa panahon ng buhay estudyante ko na halos wala na akong maisip gawin *just to kill time*. Gusto ko, parang dati lang na wala halos akong ginagawa bukod sa pagpasok sa klase, pakikipagkwentuhan sa *classmates* at ang tanging inaalala ko lang halos ay 'yung mga *assignment* at *quiz* ko.

Teka nga, sa apat na taon ko na sa kolchiyo, parang 'di ko na 'ata matandaan kung gaano kaminsan ko lang naranasan 'yan. Hala, baka wala pa yata. Sana kulang lang talaga ako sa tulog, kung kaya't 'di ko na maalala.

Tapos *finals* na ng *second sem* pa ngayon. Alam naman ng karamihan sa atin na higit na sinumpa ang *second sem* kesa sa *first sem*. Di ko alam kung napansin nyo na pero higit na mas nakakawindang ang *second sem*. Kumbaga sa *game*, ito yung pinaka-crucial part. Basta mararamdaman mo na lang na mas konti na ang oras mo. Di ka na pwedeng magpapetiks lang kung ayaw mong kuyugin ka ng *deadlines* ng *projects*, *term papers* at sa mga *graduating* (nag-fe-feeling na ga-graduate at umaasa na finally makaka-graduate)—*thesis*.

Oo, alam kong marami sa inyo ang nakaka-relate, lalo na sa panahon na dahil sa *thesis* at *pressure* mula sa ibang *acad-related stuff* tulad ng *projects* at *term papers*, halos di mo na maalala kung ilang oras lang ba lumapat ang likod mo sa kama dahil halos magdamag kang gising matapos mo lang ang ginagawa mo.

Ngayon, higit kailanman kailangan mo ang *motivation*. Bawal ma-burnout dahil pag ganun, ikaw ang todas. Pag kulang na sa tulog at lakas tulad ngayon, parang mahirap isipin kung pano mo pa magagawa iyan. Pero wala kang *choice*, kailangan talaga. I-motivate mo ang sarili mo, mag-isip ka ng mga dahilan kung bakit kailangan gawin mo ang lahat makasurvive ka lang. Imbes

na umangal ka sa hirap at *pressure*, isipin mo na lang ang lahat ng positibong mangyayari sa'yo pag di mo sinukuan yang mga *requirements* na yan. Kahit mukhang ewan sabihin, kailangan mo talagang laging mag-isip ng *happy thoughts* sa ganitong sitwasyon. At ngayon mo din ilabas ang *competitive side* mo para mas maganda kahinatnan ng mga ginagawa mo, kumbaga dapat nasa *championship* palagi ang *goal* mo. Ibig kong sabihin para *less pressure* ba at *better results*, iwasan mong isipin na kaya mo lang pipilitin ang sarili mo ay para lang may maipasa ka at makumpleto ang *requirements*. Wag ganun kababaw ang rason mo. Ngayon, kung masyado na talagang nalason ng *deadlines* na di mo na maabot abot ang isip mo at puro *negative* na lang ang naiisip mo, ganito na lang, isipin mo na ngayon ka pa ba mabu-burnout kung kailan halos *brain dead* ka na sa kakapiga ng utak mo magawa mo lang yang *requirements* mo? Ayun, siguro naman sapat na 'yon para mamotivate ka ulit. Sana nga ganoon.

Dahil sa ganitong mga panahon kung saan halos pagbaliktarin mo na ang araw at gabi, sa dami ng ginagawa mo, hindi na "*killing your own time*" ang sitwasyon mo kundi "*time is killing you*" na.

"Madaling kumuha ng professor, pero mahirap maghanap ng players"

Nabasa ko lang yan mula sa isang *thesis* dito sa *library* natin. Naalala ko tuloy ang mga naikwento sa akin ng ilang mga kakilalang varsity tungkol sa mga ilang propesor na walang konsiderasyon (at para sa akin ay mga kampon din ng kasamaan).

Isipin mo na lang na *varsity player* ka, pagkatapos mong magpahirap sa *training* at gawin ang lahat ng makakaya mo para maipanalala ang mga laro mo dahil dala-dala mo rin ang pangalan ng *school*, saka pa ipagdadamo sa iyo ng propesor mo ang mga konsiderasyon na dapat ibigay sa'yo bilang estudyante.

Grabe naman. Nakakabadtir talaga yun. Tapos may pagkakataon na paulit-ulit kang gaganunin ng *prof* mo. SSDD na ang tawag sa nangyayari at nararamdaman mo. Lalo yung isipin na di ka makaalma sa *prof* mo sa pagiging *inconsiderate* nya dahil bukod sa mapapaway ka lang e pag-iinitan ka pa at lalong ipagdadamo sa'yo ang konsiderasyon na hinihingi mo.

Para sa mga propesor, grabe naman kayo. Kung ayaw nyong

kilalanin ang *excuse letter* na binibigay ng *athletes* sa inyo 'e di wag. Yun na lang dapat yun, hindi na yung kung ano pa ang sasabihin, tulad na lang pag kinukwestiyon nyo pa kung totoo bang *letter* yun. Ang lakas nyong mag-*power trip* ah, kita nyo namang pirmado yun ng mga kinaaukulan tapos sasabihin nyong *fake*. Ano ba tingin nyo sa mga *athlete*, ganoon kadesperado ma-*justify* lang yung *absence* nila *to the point* na makagagawa pa sila ng *fake 'signed' excuse letters*? Mga propesyunal man kayo, tao pa rin kayo, may '*common sense*', gamitin nyo sana ng tama at patas. Sabihin man nating balewala lang sa mga tulad ninyo ang *achievements* ng *athletes* na pinagdadamutan nyo ng konsiderasyon sa klase, para sa iba at sa higit pang malawak na Lasallian community, malaking bagay yun. Kapag kayo hindi na nagtuturo sa La Salle, wala na talaga kayo di tulad ng mga tropeyo at iba pang parangal na natanggap ng La Salle sa larangan ng sports na mananatili pa rin naka-display.

Sana man lang bago nyo niyakap ang kasamaan nyo at pagiging *inconsiderate* nyo ay alam nyo na merong Section 6.5 at Section 20 sa aming Student Handbook. Lalung-lalo na ang Section 20, na dapat di nyo lang alam kundi dapat ginagawa nyo rin. Irerevise na nga at lahat-lahat ang handbook na yan, mukhang di nyo pa ata nabasa.

Para sa mga *athlete* naman, basahin nyo rin para may pangdepensa at panglaban kayo pag inaapi kayo ng ibang propesor nyo. Kung tutuusin nga, dun pa lang may laban na agad kayo kung bakit di kayo basta dapat tratuhin ng ganun. Hangga't sa inyong parte naman na hindi nyo inaabusong pagiging atleta nyo para ma-*excuse* at mabigyan ng iba pang konsiderasyon nsa klase, may karapatan kayong hingin na ibigay sa inyo ang nakasaad sa handbook.

Siguro naman, kahit pa ma-revise ang handbook ay di mawawala ang mga *guidelines* na yan. Unless na lang siguro may *involvement* sa *revision* ang mga ilang *inconsiderate* din na tao. Tiyak, SSDD yun.

Para sa mga kumento, reaksyon, suhestyon at kung anu-ano pa, mag-text sa 09279206222 o 09099392094. Pwede din mag-email: magnum.enigma12@gmail.com

Lady Archers stop Lady Patriots' campaign in UniGames

By **Jonh Patrick de Guzman**
with reports from **Kevin Marco Roxas**

The DLSU-D Lady Patriots tumbled down from a three-set defeat against the De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M) Lady Archers in the 14th Philippine University Games (UniGames) volleyball women quarterfinal round: 17-25, 22-25, 16-25 held on October 24-30 at the Central Philippine University-Iloilo gymnasium.

DLSU-D started the first set with a spike from volleybelle Jennifer Manzano but Lady Archer Jaqueline Alarez blocked it giving them a 0-1 lead. Since then, both teams went into constant deadlocks in the next rally. Led by Camille Cerulez, DLSU-M got away with surprise drops to take the lead at 13-19. DLSU-D's April Almaden and Precious Abaño cut DLSU-M's lead at 15-19 with kills as both teams went to a steady exchange of points until Lady Archer Klarissa Martinez's consecutive service aces ended the set, 17-25.

Both teams are still exchanging points in the second canto until three consecutive errors from the Lady Patriots gave DLSU-M a three-point lead, 11-14. However, Patriot Almaden's kills and Satchel Senupe's block to Cerulez tied the scores to 15. After that, both teams went again to fix deadlocks in the previous plays. But then, Lady Archer Stephanie Mercado led DLSU-M to get away with three consecutive attacks, giving them another three-point lead against the Lady Patriots at 20-23. DLSU-D then cut the lead to one after the Lady Archers committed two successive errors, 22-23. The Lady Archers finished the second set with a 22-25 finish.

At the start of the third set, the Lady Archers got an early lead, forcing the Lady Patriots to commit errors, 0-3. DLSU-D managed to come back as Patriots Jeushl Wensh Tiu's and Manzano's spikes tied the scores at six. Both teams went on to exchange points until DLSU-M's spikes gave them an eight-point lead, 14-22. Patriot Almaden's spikes cut the lead to six. But then the Lady Archers launched the final blow ending the Lady Patriots' campaign in the UniGames, 16-25.

Winning streak

The Lady Patriots won three consecutive matches before losing against the Lady Archers in the UniGames volleyball women quarterfinals. They had a smooth start by winning their first two assignments at the beginning of the UniGames,

defeating Colegio De La Purisima Concepcion three sets to none: 25-13, 25-14, 25-6; and also upsetting powerhouse Foundation University-Dumaguete Greyhounds: 23-14, 25-16, 25-21.

Before dueling with the Lady Archers, DLSU-D battled the University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP-D) Lady Maroons to grab the quarter finals slot of the volleyball women event.

The Lady Maroons started the first set with a scoring rampage led by team captain Cathy Barcelon, giving the latter a 10-point lead against the Lady Patriots, 9-19. However, DLSU-D created a 10-5 scoring run to narrow down the lead to five. UP-D then took control of the set, forcing Patriot Manzano to make an error ending the first set, 19-25.

DLSU-D tried to comeback in the second canto with Patriot Abaño hitting a service ace after Lady Maroon Denise Pata's service error giving the former a two-point lead. UP-D then retaliated, putting the scores in stable deadlocks in the next rally. DLSU-D finally got away with three consecutive attacks from Patriot Abaño, 23-21. Then, Almaden and Tiu finished the set with kills favoring the Lady Patriots, 25-22.

Starting the third set, both teams were continually trading points until Lady Maroon Carmela Lopez' spikes gave UP-D a 5-10 lead. DLSU-D answered with their veterans Abaño, Almaden, and Manzano in the frontline to tie the score at 16. Since then, both teams went into constant deadlocks in the next rally with UP-D's Venus Garcia and Lopez eventually finishing the set, 21-25.

In the start of the fourth canto, DLSU-D made an early 4-1 run to give the Patriots a three-point lead. Both teams then started a nerve-wracking exchange of blows as Manzano and Almaden bombarded the UP-D side with kills while the Lady Maroons countered it with their spikes. The Lady Patriots eventually got away with the lead through Manzano and finished the set with a kill from Almaden, 25-14.

At the final set, DLSU-D started off with an early run giving them a 10-to-nothing lead. UP-D could not gain their momentum as the Lady Patriots bombed the former's side with kills, finally ending the game with a bone-tingling kill from Abaño. After upsetting the UP-D from a five-set match, the Lady Patriots grabbed the quarterfinals slot, where they battled against sister school, the DLSU-M Lady Archers.



DOUBLE TEAM. Volleybelles April Almaden and Jennifer Manzano counters an attack to get a grip for their strong campaign in the UNIGAMES.

Photo by **Michaela Grimaldo**

Lady Patriots hook beach volleyball crown

Spikers also take a lead

By **Kevin Marco Roxas**

DLSU-D beach volleybelles and spikers dominated the beach volleyball tourney in the recently concluded Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA)-Provincial meet. It was the latest beach volleyball crown that April Almaden and Jennifer Manzano got after winning the championship in the 14th Philippine University Games (UNIGAMES) held at Iloilo City.

University of Perpetual Help Jondra (UPHJ)-GMA

landed on the first runner-up spot after losing to the DLSU-D volleybelles duo. On the other hand, it was Saint Francis of Assisi College System (SEACS) beach volleybelles who took the second runner up spot.

DLSU-D's beach volleyball spikers Alnakran Abdilla and Poli Gil also clinched another championship crown in the men's division after defeating the SEACS tandem Crisje Villahermosa and John Paul Manuntag, making them land on first place. Meanwhile, the UPHS-GMA beach volleyball spiker also failed to fight up to the finals as their tandem copped on second.

Chessers shine in PRISAA-Prov'ls

By **Albert Gamino**

The De La Salle University-Dasmariñas chess team stood out as they garnered three golds and five silvers in the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA)-Provincial meet 2009 on December 1-4 at DLSU-D.

In the women's division, Patriots Angelica Caranto finished first runner-up in Board 1, Audrey Brillantes

ceased with a champion in Board 2 while Arianne Malibiran and Angeli Roble sealed their first runner up victory in Boards 3 and 4, respectively.

Meanwhile in the men's division, DLSU-D woodpushers Ephraim Mailam settled for first runner-up in Board 1 whereas Genesis Ignacio and Nicko Punzalan completed Boards 2 and 3 as champions, respectively while Francis Ricasio with another first runner-up finish in Board 4.

Almaden, Manzano grab 3rd beach volleyball championship

By **Kevin Marco Roxas**

After winning the third and fourth leg of Petron's beach volleyball competition, April Almaden and Jennifer Manzano of DLSU-D bagged their third beach volleyball championship title in the 14th Philippine University Games (UNIGAMES) on October 24-30 in Iloilo City.

Almaden and Manzano's triumph posted a 4-1 win-loss record against other pairs from different schools nationwide. Their first game in the elimination round with their opponent Foundation University (FU) started rough with a 0-1 standing. FU beach lady spikers' attacks worked for them as they scored 10-7 on the first half of the game against the green-and-white beach volleybelles who struggled with receiving errors. Their first game went to a 14-21 loss against FU.

Despite their first game loss, the two veteran lady Patriots came out stronger and more confident as they faced their second opponent. Cebu-based University of San Carlos (USC) failed to give the Patriots another loss as the DLSU-D tandem started the game tough, 5-1. The DLSU-D beach volleybelle towers continued to dominate the game as their non-stop powerful spikes and effective anticipation moves ended the game with a 21-10 victory against the Cebuana beach volleybelles.

In their last game at the eliminations, the Patriot duo had to win their third game to qualify to the semi-finals by facing co-Lasallian volleybelles from De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde (DLS-CSB). The Cavite-based beach volleybelles overpowered the Benildeans as they earned the first two scores of the game with no answer from the opponent side. However, the Benildian beach volleybelles did not let the crowd-favorite Patriots have an easy slot to the semis as they regained momentum, 4-3.

The Patriot tandem

countered DLS-CSB's skills and determination as the game tied at 7-7. Almaden's spike smashed the confidence of the Benildian beach lady spikers midgame as they scored 12-9 against DLS-CSB. The game turned into a crucial fight with the pairs scoring continuously until the scoreboard hit another deadlock at 12-12. The Lady Patriots did not let their co-Lasallian rival steal the victory from them as the former finished the game at 21-15 earning them a slot in the semi-finals.

Semis against archival school

The next day, the blue-versus-green battle started to heat up as the Lasallian beach volleyball duo faced their opponents from rival school Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU). The game kicked off very tightly as both the Lasallian and the Atenean beach volleyball spikers attacked each other's side of the court forcing the game to tie at 4-4 then 8-8. The game continued to keep the audience at the edge of their seats as both tandems kept their scores close to each other, 17-18, in the latter part of the game. When the Atenean Lady spikers stepped up, 17-20, the green-and-white beach volleyball tandem attacked and fought the opponent by doing their battling moves step-by-step as they scored consecutively, 19-20. The crowd's cheer got louder when the game arrived to a deuce, 20-20. The Blue Eagles beach volleybelles went down on the sand as DLSU-D's Manzano delivered a smashing beach volley spike which ended the first set, 22-20, in favor of DLSU-D.

On the second set, the ADMU beach volleyball duo was completely astounded by DLSU-D's beach volleyball pair as the scoreboard hit 14-6 in favor of the Almaden-Manzano tandem. The Patriots went straight to the finals as they defeated the blue-and-white beach volleyball tag on the second set with Almaden's service ace which concluded the semi-final game, 21-10.

Three beach volleyball wins

After having two championship crowns from different beach volleyball events, the Patriot Lady spikers were more than ready to get their third beach volleyball crown as Almaden and Manzano battled it out against Mary Ann Balmaceda and Jemberly Dawn Dizon of the University of the East (UE) on the same day.

On the first set, the battle of the green-and-white duo against the red-and-white tandem started with the latter dominating the game at 2-5 against DLSU-D. The Lasallian beach volleybelles did not let their opponent have an easy fight as they attacked UE's spikers back with powerful spikes and service aces to tie the scores at 5-5 then 8-8. Almaden and Manzano went far to the Lady Red Warriors from overpowering them as the Patriots poured powerful and unstoppable hits and drops, 17-9. DLSU-D continued to outshine the two lady spikers from UE as the DLSU-D Lady spikers gave them a hard time recovering from their lead. DLSU-D's Almaden and Manzano showed their form as they delivered striking spikes, service aces, and drops concluding the first set in their favor, 21-11.

When the second set started, the DLSU-D Lady spikers showed their determination to end the game in two sets. By instantly posting a 6-2 score against UE in the second set, the Patriot beach volleybelles were in full-power to grab another championship crown as the Lasallian duo hit the ball in full force, scoring 16-13 against UE. The game did not last long as DLSU-D's Almaden and Manzano fired up their beach volleyball moves and marked a score of 20-15 approaching the end of the set. The Red Warriors then answered, 20-16, but their play was not working as Almaden's drop ball sealed victory for the Patriots at 21-16.

The UNIGAMES beach volleyball event ended with DLSU-D grabbing the championship title, UE landing on first place, and ADMU on second place.



LEAPING POWER. Patriot Jeff Manuel lifts in the air for action in NCRAA.

Photo by **Krishna Lou Doliente**



DLSU-D tankers sweep all medals in PRISAA-Provincials



THREAT. Patriots Cagebelles show lethal threat to opponents in their UNIGAMES debut.

Photos by **Michaela Grimaldo**

Cagebelles remains PRISAA Provincial's Champ

By **Albert Gamino**

It's definitely not just luck for the DLSU-D cagebelles after holding the title since 2006 as they drape a three-to-nothing record to dominate the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA)-Provincials on December 1-5 at the Ugnayang La Salle. This gave the Patriots the clout to represent Cavite for the PRISAA-Regionals on December 20-23.

After subduing University of Perpetual Help System (UPHS)-Molino, DLSU-D lifted their cards to a 2-0 record as they clashed against UPHS-GMA Altas, 98-25.

The Patriot cagebelles took an early ten-point to zero advantage in the first quarter as they kept the Altas from scoring after Patriot Allalaine De Gomas snatched the ball from the opponent and ran for a solo lay-up, 10-0.

The Altas scored their first point against the Patriots, 13-2, coming from a jump shot but the latter team had the rhythm to stretch their lead after Genalyn Alday's several steals and assists to Dianne Marie Gelisan who dominated the defensive and offensive ends of the Patriots to shut the first quarter, 25-3.

DLSU-D controlled the perimeter and three point areas in the second quarter while solidifying their defense, freezing the score of the UPHS-GMA to 31-3. Patriot De Gomas blasted a three pointer before Cecilie

Mai Garces fired a jump shot coming from Alday's assist to tie the first half, 42-3.

Alday spilled a three-pointer at the 6:59 mark of the third quarter to inflate the gap against the UPHS-GMA at 75-8. DLSU-D's pressure defense against the inbounding of the Perpetual squad forced the latter to consign errors that led to the cagebelles' smooth play and bordered the Altas to 81-13 in the last four minutes of the third quarter.

UPHS-GMA got their last two baskets at the remaining two minutes—not enough to close the gap against DLSU-D's score before Patriot Charmaine Cruz fired a boarding jump shot to melt the third quarter in her team's favor, 88-18.

It's still the Lady Patriots who had the bullets to stab baskets in the last quarter after DLSU-D's De Gomas spotted a steal and made an assist to Clestelyn Macato for a solo shot while Abigail Sumato secured the rebound department, 94-18.

Altas surged two jump shots before a free throw fell in but Macato abruptly altered it with her hook shot, 96-23. In the last minute of the fourth canto, Gelisan snatched an offensive rebound from Clarisse De Lara's lay-up, firing a turned around for a jump shot to rattle a basket before the UPHS-GMA sneaked a lay-up at the remaining seconds of the quarter, finishing the game at 98-25.

Anticipation

As what Coach Tito Reyes had expected from his players, the Patriot cagebelles trounced the De La Salle-Health Science Institute (DLS-HSI) Crusaders by a 30-point margin in the latter's home court.

Reviewing the bout against DLS-HSI the Patriots had proven their efficiency in terms of offensive and defensive strategies. DLSU-D's Alday contributed lay-ups inducing a 21-point fringe in the first quarter, 25-4.

Alday was still on fire as she went on a shooting rampage, finishing with a game high of 11 points which eventually fused their campaign to a 48-8 edge.

The Crusaders penetrated the painted area and clattered jump shots to cut their 40-point deficit in the opening of the third quarter to a 24-point margin against the DLSU-D cagebelles. The latter was still in the flow as they concluded the quarter, 56-26.

The same story continued for DLSU-D and DLS-HSI in the last quarter as the Patriot cagebelles sealed their victory, 63-36.

"First and second quarter, pressure defense *lang kami tapos* third to fourth *'di na masyado kasi lamang naman kami at sister school naman at para do'n na rin sa mga bench warmers na mabigyan ng playing time,"* said team captain Rosemarie De Guzman of the DLSU-D cagebelles.

By **Kevin Marco Roxas**

The DLSU-D tankers had an easy win as they grabbed all medals in the Private Schools Athletic Association (PRISAA) Provincials on December 1-4 at the DLSU-D swimming pool.

The triumph story

For the 100-m women freestyle event, DLSU-D's Genevieve Zamora marked a time of 1:21min for the third place spot as another Lasallian from DLS-HSI, Tessa Alcantara, emerged second behind DLSU-D's Andrea Fuentes who copped the gold with a .01sec-time difference while the two runner up clocked in at 1:10min and 1:09min respectively. For the men's division in the same event, Rizaljun Jurado of DLSU-D won first place with a time of 59.23sec over co-Patriot Robin Hartmann who landed second place by having a 59.79sec finish.

For the 200-m women's breaststroke, Patriots lady tanker Elaine Sabroso clocked in at 3:27min, few seconds behind her teammate Anna Jemimah Puyo's 3:22min as they clinched the silver and gold plums. DLSU-D's Ando Munchiko clocked in at 2:43min to win gold against teammate Kevin Mercado's 3:03min in the men's division. As for the 100-m butterfly event, Erleane Medina defeated Mariz Palma, both from DLSU-D, with a time

of 1:21 min compared to Palma's 1:27min time. For the men's division, Patriot Kiervienne Libat clocked in at 1:12.11min to grab the gold medal against teammate Roque Hizola's 1:12.39min. Patriot's lady tanker Medina again finished first at 3:23min over Palma who placed second at 3:24min in the women's 200-m butterfly. Meanwhile, for the men's division, Hizola had a 2:57.11 min time over teammate Libat with 2:57.81min. Palma landed second place again in the 100-m breaststroke women's division with a time of 1:45min over this event's champion, Sabroso, who recorded a time of 1:43min. The Patriot men's tankers had the same story as Kevin Costales won first place at 1:13min, above second placer Munchiko with 1:15min in the same event.

DLS-HSI's Alcantara won in the 50-m freestyle event with 30.81sec on top of two DLSU-D lady tankers, Kimberly Briones and Marien Rosales, with records 31.34sec and 31.77 sec respectively. As for the men's event, Hartmann got his second medal by clocking in at 27.11 sec over co-Patriot Jurado who finished with the silver medal at 27.31sec. For the 200-IM event, Puyo grabbed her second gold as she clocked in at 3:02min while Medina again landed on second, 3:09min. The men's Patriot tankers also prevailed in the

same event having a record of 2:27min by Munchiko making him the champion while co-Lasallian tanker Jaevic Dalay landed second with 2:28min.

Dalay got his second medal, but this time, as a champion of the 200-m backstroke event as he clocked in at 2:36min against co-Patriot tanker Devron Bondad with a time of 2:44min. For the women's division in the same event, Briones won the title with a 2:36.00 min time against another Lasallian tanker Medina who got second place with 3:04 record. The 100-m backstroke title in the women's division was taken by Rosales at 1:20.41min while Alcantara finished at 1:20.58min securing her the silver output before third placer Zamora's 1:28min. Also in this event, male tanker Bondad snagged his second medal but as a champion this time by clocking in at 1:13min over fellow green-and-white tanker Reden Costales at 1:18min. The 200-m freestyle event landed also on the hands of the Lasallian tankers as Jurado won a gold medal with 2:16 min while Costales recorded on 2:37 finish giving him the second slot. The Lasallian women tankers also bagged the medals from this event as Fuentes claimed her second gold medal by clocking in at 2:40min while Lira Gabayan finished second with 2:55min.



LONG JUMP. Patriot Norman Flores shows strong determination to cop title in his event in the UNIGAMES.

Photo by **Michaela Grimaldo**

Paddlers advance to PRISAA-Reg's

By **Buddy James Gempis**

Four gold medalists from the DLSU-D paddlers advanced to the PRISAA-Regionals after conquering their hapless Cavite-based counterparts in the PRISAA-Provincials on December 3 at the Ugnayang La Salle.

For the men's division, Ian Co snatched the gold medals in men's singles B while Rolando Gabriel of the University of Perpetual Help System (UPHD) Dalta-Molino (UPHSD-M) and Mark Yap from De La Salle-Health Science Institute (DLS-HIS) managed to snatch the silver and bronze, respectively. On the singles A division, Patriot Jefferson Valeroso ranked first runner-up, granting Renz Stephen Lozada of University of Perpetual Help System (UPHS) JONelta-GMA the championship title.

Patriots Oscar Bucad and Chester

Gutierrez scored a championship title for men's doubles, beating Angelo Linsangan and Ronald Louie Sarmanta of UPHSD-M, as PJ Barzaga and Christopher Paulino tandem settled for second runner-up.

In the women's division, Lady Patriot Kathleen Kiamson settled for silver in the women's singles A while UPHS-GMA's pride Mary Jane Crisostomo clinched the gold medal. Fellow Patriot Kristine Solis settled with the same fate as they both landed first runner-up giving the championship crown to Mary Jane Crisostomo of UPHS-GMA. The green-and-white paddlers Jeunesse Tejada and Camille Valle won the gold medals for women's doubles A while Lovely Sarimos teamed up with Jam Javillonior of UPHS-GMA got sidetracked to a silver finished. And for the mixed doubles, Elicia Jose and Valeroso outshone the other competitors by clinching gold medals.

Chessers dominate NBOL

By **Albert Gamino**

The DLSU-D chess team was hailed champion in the 2009 North Batangas Open League (NBOL) after overpowering host school First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in second place, leaving Emilio Aguinaldo College

on the third spot on November 28.

The green-and-white team also dominated over the Junior Individual Championship after Genesis Ignacio ruled the men's division while fellow Patriot Angelica Caranto maneuvered the women's division granting them the overall champion title in the NBOL.