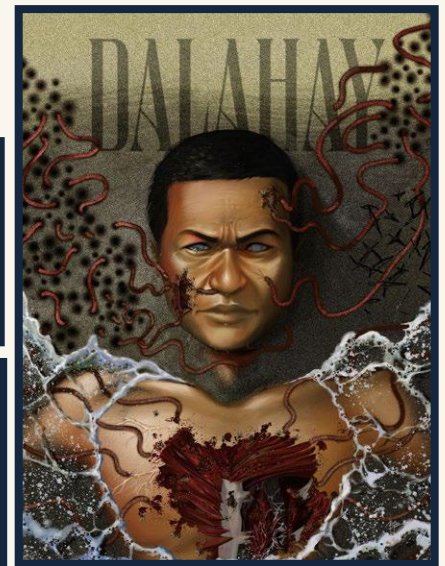
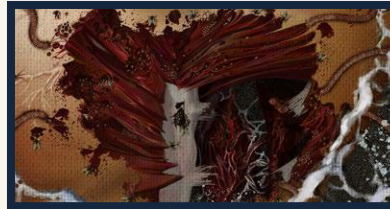
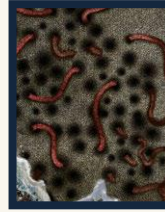


DAWAHAWA



About the cover



Backward. Aftermath. Uninterrupted.

Those are the words commonly used when the Cebuano word “Dalahay” is defined.

The backward flow of water from breaking waves would undoubtedly drown those who try to crest with it. No one is brave or foolish enough to face the tides, knowing that going against the cycle can possibly cost their life. For years, it became taboo to stay away from the ocean and settle for what's available on the shore.

One day, a man foolish enough to risk everything he has for the sake of seeing what's beneath the horizon came breaking the system. He grew sick of the restrictions. He went on an adventure and started exploring the sea.

However, whether you consider him reckless or brave, going against the flow would never be a simple thing to do. Just when he was about to reach the line where the sky meets the sea, he found himself overwhelmed and overpowered by the gigantic waves and the monstrous tides. He drowned and died, and his body was later washed off the shore.

The aftermath of that catastrophe was gruesome. His chest was slit open, worms started devouring his

flesh, and flies were slowly infesting his body. Only a trace of him was now left, and in no time, he would be completely buried in the sand.

Despite dying in the most unimaginable way, his face does not reflect fear nor worry, but his eyes mirror hope, strength, and desire. He may look foolish to many, but we are hoping that those who have witnessed his journey will hear the echoes of his bravery. The desire of wanting to move forward despite the challenges and the hardships is never imprudent nor laughable. You can never blame someone who aims for development and change, even if it seems completely beyond reach.

Being in a country that was once dubbed as Asia's Sick Man, and seeing it continue to progress backward, dragged down by the corrupts even until today, is sickening. Surely, he was not the only one who wanted to escape, but sadly, only he had the courage. Only he tried, so only he was able to witness what was beyond the place.

It is never wrong to go against the flow. It is never wrong to dream of witnessing what's beneath the state and the situation you are used to, and hope to find something better

and progressive. What's wrong is completely allowing oneself to be tied down by the rules and construct society imposed. Some were just made up to maintain control of the people, and it is wrong to allow yourself to be their victim.

There was once a man who tried and risked getting out of the situation we are now all in. He may not have succeeded in his journey, but he has proven that it is possible to do the unimaginable. He went on a quest with an aim in mind, dreaming of progress, development, and growth. Never once did he regret risking everything he had to achieve those, despite failing.

May he be an inspiration for those who are hesitant to move forward, to those who are afraid to face the aftermath, and to those who feel like the situation they are in is uninterrupted.

He never closed his eyes until the moment of his death, because he would continue to watch over those who would like to embark on the same journey. It is now your turn to look him in the eye and pledge to achieve what he failed to do.

Forward. Reinstated. Interrupted.



Editor's Note

Waves coming in a backward flow would surely be scary.

It can ruin your ship, it can wash you back ashore, or worse, it can even drown you.

All of us are on a voyage, seeking for something. There are few who are fortunate enough to board yachts, others are accompanied by their boats, but most had to struggle paddling their rafts. Regardless of what means of transportation is accessible, everyone is dedicated to head out for the sake of reaching the horizon—the meaning of one's journey.

The expedition entails a myriad of trials and struggles. From doubting the destination up to the dangers of the voyage, those who are not courageous enough would surely fail to navigate. The uncertainties, the crashing waves, and the heavy storms are just a few of the things to be conquered to succeed.

Sailing across the sea of life can be terrifying. Unlike the usual flow of water, its waves come crashing from unpredicted directions. A few may

be fortunate enough to survive the impact, but oftentimes, those with not enough resources are drowned by the overwhelming pressure. As disheartening as it may be, not all are able to reach their destination.

The journey towards one's goal would never be smooth sailing. You may get lost in the vastness of the ocean, you may be overwhelmed with the distance of your destination, or you may get tired of the never-ending sail, but what matters is that you keep on going. It is alright to take a pause, but never let yourself be drowned by the depth of the things you are going through.

In the journey of life, some succeeded while some failed, but what's important is they gathered up the bravery and the strength to move forward. With that, *The Industrialist*, presents this year's magazine entitled "Dalabay". A piece that aims to put the adventures, the success, and even the struggles of the people who tried and who are still trying to sail towards their goal. It is an ode for those who flourished and survived, and a eulogy for those who failed but still tried.

We have compiled different stories and proeses that aims to impact those who are currently navigating their own voyage. There are some who serve as a wake-up call for the privileged to extend their hands and open their eyes for those who are barely keeping their head above the water. While the others are written to inspire those who are currently doubting and hesitating to take off. Most importantly, it is for everyone who is currently on a journey, proving to them that at times, completing an almost impossible one can be possible with dedication and hardwork.

Backward flow is not always scary, sometimes, it can also bring new experience, and we are now giving you a chance to traverse the pages. It is never wrong to take a step backward, as long as it means remembering and reminiscing the hardworks and the sacrifices that allowed you to develop and move forward. Immerse yourself and allow realization, learning, and actions to emerge.

Enjoy the adventure, go against the flow, and learn how to swim.



Ara Jesusa D. Costamero
Features Editor, *The Industrialist*

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A TREASURE FROM MOTHER NATURE:

Discovering A Hidden Oasis in the Central

■ Kylie Mae B. Abegonia

Pampanga may not be a dream province that one desires to travel to. Among all the places in the country, most locals or even those from abroad are hooked for the most part in the enchanting beauty of the north and the rich culture of the south, especially if you are looking for a destination where you can unwind like swimming. But, if you are one in the know, having been in one of the central parts of the country, Pampanga is also a province that has a lot to offer.

It has always been known for so many things, from the distinct DNA of the Kapampangan folks, its finest palate, and even its remarkable trip-worthy destinations. And, to kid you not, one of them is something even those who are within reach don't know that it exists.



There are a lot of resorts around the province that offer an array of rest and relaxation, but having the feeling of the rocky sand trickling your feet while breathing the fresh air that exudes from its nearby mountain, like what a beach can offer, is a different scenario. “Beach” and “in Pampanga” are like a magic word that might be in every Pampangueno’s wildest dreams, especially in the peak of the hot season. If you are residing in Pampanga and want to go to a beach, the only thing you can do is pack your bags and travel through the other parts of the region—Bataan and Zambales are always the best options, as aside from the creeks and rivers, you cannot find one here. Or you haven’t looked hard enough, because in a remote area in Pampanga, at the end part of one of its towns, a safe haven was found and is now ready to cater to those who want to have a break in the bustling noise of the city—the Consuelo Beach in Macabebe, Pampanga.

A Beach in Pampanga

Macabebe which literally means “bordering the river bank”, is one of the oldest towns in Pampanga that is most commonly known for constantly being flooded yearly. But, aside from it, there lies Consuelo Beach, a hidden destination that may be considered the first and only beach here in Pampanga. Who would’ve thought that this is real? If you are going to ask the locals, they may only shrug and gasp at that information because it is quite shocking that for a long time, the word hasn’t spread and not many people, even those who are born and raised in the province had no idea about its existence.

The specific geographic area where the Consuelo Beach is located might confuse travelers. Back in the day, Masantol, also one of the municipalities in the province, was a part of Macabebe. However,

since the number of barangays under Macabebe is a lot, the local government unit decided to split the two, and are now considered as different municipalities. Technically, barangay Consuelo should be under Masantol, but Macabebe refused that idea.

From the town proper of Macabebe, you still need to travel a 22-kilometer drive before you witness the hidden beach. That may be the reason why it is unknown, if you are a commuter and don’t have any private transportation, it will be a challenge. Though there are available tricycles, they are quite pricey. But, you will surely enjoy the journey, for you are surrounded by trees, and along the way, you can also stop by and enjoy the breeze of the Pampanga River. A full ride towards a gem waiting to be discovered by travelers who want to experience the thrill of finding a treasure from Mother Nature.

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The Consuelo beach is a manifestation of how Pampanga is as a province—progressive and a magnificent trajectory of both culture and nature that must continuously be nurtured and cultivated. A proof that even a stray of ash leaves marks, and those marks eventually become footprints, even on muddy sand, that serve as a guide to those who are looking for an escape, a home, or even a place to regain themselves again.

A Newfound Destination

Consuelo is not the typical white sand beach with crystal clear water, in fact, the sand is black; imagine the color of slimy and slippery mud, that is also the feeling when you try to walk along the shore. It's mostly because of lahar caused by the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo Eruption. It is not totally developed—the roads are mostly cracked due to floods. But, according to some locals, it is much better compared to before. It is still feasible for road bikers who are mostly tourists. There are also bike stands in front of the municipal annex building where they can lock their bikes while exploring the beach. There are also street lamps that provide clear paths when roaming at night.

No entrance fee is collected here, even the restrooms and parking are free. Though there are cottages for renting, unfortunately, only two remained, as the others were taken down by typhoons. Sari-sari stores are also around the vicinity where you can buy food and refreshments. It is a beach, but the downside is the water conditions here are not yet proven to be safe. It is not advisable for tourists to swim or ingest as the water is somehow connected to Manila Bay. The water quality is still being analyzed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for fecal coliforms. But people, locals or tourists, regardless of the hazard, still swim in Consuelo's brackish water. The good thing is the place is also being cleaned and maintained by caretakers, "pagdating po sa mga ganyan. 'yung pasensya namin mahaba," Apple Gueverra, 27 years old, one of the caretakers and a local from Consuelo, narrated when asked how they are dealing with those kinds of situations. She also added that the best thing that they can do is to report the matter to the authorities which will then take action.

Swimming may not be an option, but you can still unwind and enjoy your stay here with your family and friends by doing picnics and appreciating the breathtaking view. A great place for photo shoots, video shoots, and simple outings. From the beach, you can see Mt. Mariveles and the Mount Samat Cross. Consider Consuelo Beach as a breather when the city is too loud and suffocating. It is quiet, preserved, and silent. Very peaceful, a place for "senti" moments and doing life reflections. Here, you can free your mind and relax your body in its serene surroundings and if you are not in a hurry, you can also witness the sun setting in its full glory—a perfect vivid picturesque of God's gift of nature.

More Than Its Aesthetics

Aside from its soothing vibes, Consuelo Beach is also considered an ecotourism destination. There are 55 hectares of Mangroves surrounding it that help with shoreline protection. A huge aid to a flooded area like Macabebe, as this is beneficial to prevent soil erosion by stabilizing the sediments with their tangled roots, all while filtering pollutants originating from land. A lot of migratory birds also flock in this area, a bonus if you are into bird watching.

As for security, the area is also well-protected by military officers on duty, who are roving around for parked vehicles and possible

troublemakers around the area. Consuelo is open the whole week from 5:00 AM to 6:30 PM. According to Apple, during weekdays, an estimated number of 60-70 tourists per day. But during weekends, that is when the influx of people takes place. Mostly, the visitors are from outside the region, even those from Metro Manila. The main task is to keep it clean and free of waste even after a long day. Tourists are highly encouraged to be mindful of their surroundings and take action to help in caring for the environment.

Fishing is the primary source of income for residents in Macabebe. The beach is also a sanctuary that literally puts food on their tables. The people of Macabebe have high hopes for Consuelo. Their local government unit has plans to develop and renovate the place by building a bay walk and 30 more cottages to accommodate those who want to pay a visit. They are also planning to offer water activities like banana boats and jet skiing. As of writing, there are no business stalls around the area, but the locals, including Apple, hope that one day, the beach will not be considered as hidden. It will be known and will offer not just a place to do recreational pursuits, but also open a lot of opportunities for them.

Dear reader, if you are a Kapampangan and still don't know this place, this is your sign to explore. Maybe this isn't hidden, you just have to put yourself out there. If you are on a budget and too lazy to go on a long trip but want to go to a beach, this is a getaway option that you might want to consider. You can enjoy the view, have a nice walk on the shore, and draw silly things on the sand, in your own company or with the people that you love. A little tip, it's best to visit when it's low tide for great sand stretches and be able to do other on-the-shore activities.

Like that of a phoenix, the province also rose from the ashes. Cemented in its history is how it encountered and withstood a lot of tragedies, even the one that once almost buried it to the ground, the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. The Consuelo beach is a manifestation of how Pampanga is as a province—progressive and a magnificent trajectory of both culture and nature that must continuously be nurtured and cultivated. A proof that even a stray of ash leaves marks, and those marks eventually become footprints, even on muddy sand, that serve as a guide to those who are looking for an escape, a home, or even a place to regain themselves again.

It's true. Pampanga may not be a dream province that one desires to travel to. But, maybe you haven't experienced what it's like to be here. A place where tranquility lies amid the noise, experience the hidden beauty that nature has to offer, and be able to carry it wherever you go. Maybe you haven't been to a place, on a beach called Consuelo.

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As of writing, there are no business stalls around the area, but the locals, including Apple, hope that one day, the beach will not be considered as hidden. It will be known and will offer not just a place to do recreational pursuits, but also open a lot of opportunities for them.

TIMELESS TRAILS:

The Lasting Odyssey of Philippine Kalesa

■ Yolka Patricia L. Calagui

Today, a quintessential representation of the old Philippine landscape in the minds of most Filipinos evokes images of Nipa huts, ample rice fields, and vast greenery in the countryside. Cities, on the other hand, are typically pictured with vintage houses, age-old churches, busy bazaars, and cobblestone streets resonating with the clip-clop sounds of horse-drawn carriages—the ever-famous Kalesa.

The Kalesa conjures the classic essence of ancient Filipino transportation as it was one of the main means of transit before, gracing the bustling streets in the country. At the present time, the horse-drawn carriage is recognized as an iconic symbol of the Filipino past, a historic emblem beyond its functional role in transportation.

The Wheels Through Age

The origin of Kalesa in the Philippines can be traced back to the 18th century. Even though it is considered a part of Filipino cultural heritage, it was initially introduced by the Spaniards during their colonial rule in the country. Back then, they also regarded it as caritela, karitela, or carromata. Its name came from the Spanish word calesa, derived from the French word calèche, which pertains to a two-wheeled horse-drawn carriage with a driver's spot on the back.

A well-trained horse with the guidance of a single driver seated on a block of wood in front of the carriage mainly propels the Kalesa. Of course, the carriage accommodates the passengers, which are usually two or more. In the Philippines, carriages are inclined carts with all bearing elements made of steel and wood, including running gear frames, axles, and seats. Leather is utilized for upholstery, synthetic materials like rubber or nylon are used for wheel bands to maintain a strong grip, and the wheels that help it easily navigate roads are made from famous Filipino narra or mahogany wood.

Back then, only wealthy people such as noblemen and high-ranking officials could afford to ride the Kalesa. Thus, it became a symbol of affluence in the old society. However, during the beginning of the 20th century, it became a primary mode of transportation for office workers and students, becoming accessible to the majority of people.

From Horse Hooves to Honks

In the face of the unrelenting passing of time

that continuously brings the emergence of modernization, the Kalesa has inevitably faced its struggle for survival due to the rise of newer and faster transportation in the country. The clattering sounds from the hooves of horses and the rhythmic rolling of wheels are now replaced with booming engines and blaring horns from modernized conveyances like cars, jeepneys, and tricycles because, like the rest of the world, the Philippines is constantly shifting to modernization.

Fortunately, the country keeps its efforts to preserve the horse-drawn carriages as a way to honor this cultural heritage. Currently, they are commonly found around famous tourist landmarks, including the National Museum and Intramuros in Manila. Some are still ridden daily by commuters in old towns like Laoag in Ilocos Norte, Vigan in Ilocos Sur, and in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

A Fernandino Kutsero's Ride

San Fernando is one of the most known cities where horse-drawn carriages still ply on the road. Kalesa coachmen or kutseros, as they are known in the Philippines, roam around its town proper every day from late morning to dusk, endeavoring to pick up passengers. The minimum fare for the Kalesa starts from 50 pesos if the destination is just around the town proper itself. This fare can get up to 70 pesos and above, depending on the distance. Surprisingly, these carriages can go as far as Arayat, Angeles, or Lubao, which are miles away from San Fernando, according to Rodel Ibay, 58, a kutsero from San Fernando.

Mister Ibay has been a kutsero since 1988. In his interview, he mentioned, the local government of San Fernando has been buying horses as a gift ever since, but they also buy their own horses and carriages in nearby provinces such as Bataan, Nueva Ecija, and Bulacan. However, there is already a scarcity of people who repair carriages, so they just do it themselves. Also, feeding and taking care of the horses is in their hands. Although they do not spend a cent on gasoline, they attend to the food and needs of their horses.

Despite these struggles, Ibay is still persevering to maneuver his Kalesa even though there are just a few daily passengers ranging from three to five opting to ride carriages, as most of the people around the city prefer riding electric bikes or tricycles nowadays. His love for steering the Kalesa is what keeps him navigating the streets of San Fernando. Also, he mentioned that what he earns is enough for their family to get by through the day.

“Nakaka-enjoy dahil kabayo siya. Kung talagang hilig mo, hindi mo mararamdaman yung pagod”





Photos by Zardani P. Santiago II

(It is enjoyable because it is a horse. If you love what you are doing, you won't feel tired).

Keeping the Road of Cultural Legacy

To help preserve and promote the historical spirit in San Fernando, the CSFP local government, spearheaded by the City Tourism and Investment Promotion Office (CTIPO), launched the CSFP Calesa Preservation Program last year with the goal of conserving and promoting the city's Kalesa culture. Different activities highlighting the significance of Kalesa are being conducted under this program. Last year, the city dedicated the 13th of May as the "Aldo ning Kalesa" or Kalesa Day, where different activities were conducted centered around the Kalesa, including story-telling about its history, art exhibitions showcasing Kalesa paintings, and an on-the-spot painting contest joined by various Kapampangan artists, honoring the carriages and the kutseros behind them.

A designated Kalesa terminal has also been established in the Poblacion area of the town proper after this matter was brought up by the CSFP Kalesa Association to the LGU. Now, the passengers can easily locate the carriages, and the kutseros can have a proper queue in the terminal. Following the discourse with the CSFP Kalesa Association, the CSFP LGU, in partnership with the City Agriculture and Veterinary Office (CAVO), also promised to provide vitamins and medications to the horses to take care of their well-being. Ibay himself has personally requested and received antibiotics and vitamins from CAVO for his horse after it was once wounded. He also

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Kalesa is not just a reminiscence of the narratives of Philippine history, for it is persistently traversing the roads of our ever-changing nation.

shared that the LGU provided food for the kutseros and their horses during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, these initiatives aimed at conserving and honoring the Kalesa are vital, for they serve as our carriages to the routes of our past down to the gateways of our history. In the Filipino psyche, they are perpetually seen as navigators on our nation's journey that brought us our rich cultural legacy. As a kutsero, Ibay is one of the people who firmly believe that Kalesa is one of things that makes Philippine Culture vibrant.

"Kapag nawala 'yung kalesa, para sa akin, parang tatamlay 'yung kultura. Mawawala yung kultura" (If the Kalesa will be gone, for me, our culture will lose its vibrancy. The

culture will vanish).

However, it is also imperative that we nurture these carriages, rather than simply preserving and honoring them. The Kalesa is not merely a historical emblem that mirrors our cultural heritage. The horse-drawn carriages are beyond being cultural icons as they are a way of living to the kutseros that steer them. These drivers are continuously grappling with financial challenges in the face of modernization. Thus, let us not forget that these carriages were a livelihood for the kutseros, and it is a way of life for them up until now. So, it is significant to instill in Filipino minds that the Kalesa is not just a reminiscence of the narratives of Philippine history, for it is persistently traversing the roads of our ever-changing nation.

The Tale of *Baliti's Lion-Head*

■ Ara Jesusa D. Costamero

Picturesque. Relaxing. Serene.

Those are the words most suitable to use when given the chance to describe Baliti, a barangay located on the slope of Mount Arayat. The scenic place nestles a variety of relaxing spots like Gintung Pakpak, Bale Batu, and Kapeng Sinukuan that offer a closer look to nature. As time passed by, not only the locals, but also some tourists who wanted to take a break from the noise of the city started to check out the marvels that area has to offer.

However, it has something more to showcase besides beauty and aesthetics. Beyond the tranquil environment and the therapeutic view, what most people forget to check out, is the place's true wonders--- it's people who share different stories of sacrifices, handwork, resiliency.

Among the touching stories that lie in the place, let us go through the tale of a boy who took his life's greatest risk for the sake of achieving his prolonged childhood dream.

The Sprout of the Seed

It was on September 6, 1999, when Danilo and Elvira Cadiang welcomed their youngest child to the world. Their son grew up watching them take care and manage a farm they co-own in Telapayong, Arayat. Unlike other children, their rice and corn field became his playground, and everything in it is his toys. Despite being raised in a humble environment, he had a happy childhood. In the process of having fun, he was able to plant a deep connection with nature.

Time really flowed at a fast pace. The child had to say goodbye to his life on the farm because he must go to school. As a student, he never really liked to write never-ending lectures, and he feels like he is being tortured for having to memorize hundreds of lessons. Schooling is not really his thing, but because of his friends' influence, he decided to choose a skill-based program in college. He decided to take up Electrical and Installation Maintenance as his vocational course at The College of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Fortunately, he graduated at the age of 20.

Not long after his graduation, he decided to marry his long-time girlfriend. He admitted

that building a family at that age was never an easy thing to do, that is why he had to work hard to provide. He went to Zambales to work as an electrician, but despite having a job in-lined with his course, it seems like a part of him is still longing for something. He felt like he is not really growing in the current environment he is in.

The Deepening of Roots

He went back to his wife's hometown in Baliti after months of being away. This is where he decided to take the biggest risk of his life. It is never easy for a man to quit his job, but what's tougher is the idea of making the woman work instead. However, despite the criticisms that he had to receive, he and his wife decided to go with that option to provide for their new-born daughter.

Despite being a house husband, in order to help pay the bills, he decided to develop the 5,000 square meters of land they inherited. Giving everything he has, even if it means letting go of his career as an electrician, he decided to give farming a try. Even if that would be his first time managing his own field, he said that it never really felt that way. As someone who nature, it is as if he started growing his roots deeper.

After years of being away from the embrace of the refreshing wind, he was welcomed by the warm feeling of being home again. He tried growing rice for their personal consumption, and he even dug a fishpond. Although all these are not easy to accomplish as a beginner, he is thankful to all the people who assisted him in the journey. He also highlighted how crucial experiences are, because they are what teaches you how to become better.

"Anggang unang basis mung gawan, enaka man magkasakit nung ating mag-advice ampong sasaup keka. Atsaka ing experience mu turu naka, magkamali ka man, atin kang abalu"

("Even if it is your first time, you won't struggle if you have people advising and helping you. In addition, your experience would teach you, even if you make a mistake, you'll learn something from it.")

He was able to succeed in his venture, that is why he decided to further develop his land. A helper was hired to dig five more fishponds where he can grow more African Catfish. With his business growing, he started becoming a distributor to the fish vendors and grillers of the Pandacaqui Public Market. In order to maximize his property, he also started raising ducks and goats, and selling them. The risk he once took is now slowly growing, not an exception. What made things worse is the fact that the catastrophe he went through left a life-long destruction. Two years ago, his closest brother had a car accident. They were able to rush him to the hospital, but because they cannot afford to pay the hospital a huge sum of money, his surgery has been delayed. This led to his demise, and this left a scar on his family's hearts that is still bleeding up until now.

After that heartbreak, just when he was about to pick up the broken pieces, a stronger tragedy struck him. Three months after his brother's death, his father followed. In a blink of an eye, he lost two important people and his life. He was badly damaged, and for sure, it would take a long time for him to heal. Up until now, even if he just narrates the story, the pain is still being reflected in his eyes.

The Bloom of a New Hope

No matter how painful the things he had to go through, at the end of the day, he is not just a brother or a son. He is also a father and a husband. He needs to keep moving for his own

rted Son

family, especially now that they are expecting their second daughter. Even if his scars are still not fully healed, he decided to use them as his motivation to win over the challenges of life. He decided to pay his full attention to his field, because doing something that he loves helps him forget the pain of the past, even for a while.

His business selling African Catfish is thriving that is why he wishes to focus on. Last January 16, he released 15,000 fingerlings on his fishpond, which he would be harvesting after 6 months. He is making a decent amount of money with that, that is why he is planning

to stop planting rice and convert the space into fishponds.

They are also planning to sell the field they co-own now and split the money among siblings. Beside doing this as a way of liquidating their inheritance, it may also be because they want to let go of something that reminds them of their father. Remembering how they spent their lives in that field with him can trigger

happy memories, but can inflict greater pain.

At present, he is not just the boy who took his life's greatest risk to fulfill his prolonged childhood dream. He is a son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a businessman. He is Danvie Jocson Cadiang from Baliti, Arayat.

Brave. Strong. Determined.

One sip at Mapa Coffee, where dreams percolate and flavors resonate – a journey that's brewed, not stirred.

In the bustling streets of Magdalena, San Juan City of San Fernando, Pampanga, a unique aroma wafts through the air, drawing both locals and passersby. Established on April 21, 2023, a quaint coffee shop “Mapa Coffee” has caught the attention of the community, not only for its exceptional brews but also for its owner, John Clark T. Santiago, who at his young age, stands as the youngest Kapampangan cafe owner. Let's delve into the journey of Clark and the distinct features that set Mapa Coffee apart.

Nurturing the Dream: From Idea to Reality

Clark's journey with Mapa Coffee began with a vision sparked by recognizing a strategic location near Don Honorio Ventura State University. “I grabbed the opportunity na meron akong nakitang potential na lugar para makapag-start up ako ng isang coffee shop,” he shares. His entrepreneurial spirit and desire to offer something unique to the community laid the foundation for Mapa Coffee's success. Balancing academic pursuits in civil

engineering with the demands of running a coffee shop, Clark underscores the importance of effective time management. “Time management is the key,” he emphasizes, navigating his days seamlessly between classes and tending to Mapa Coffee's operations.

Crafting Identity: Minimalist Charms and Signature Blends

The aesthetic appeal of Mapa Coffee is defined by Clark's minimalist approach to design, aimed at creating a clean and inviting atmosphere along the highway. “Gusto ko kasi minimalist lang,” Clark explains, highlighting the intentional use of a white palette to maximize the modest space. Beyond aesthetics, Mapa Coffee is known for its signature blend, a robust yet creamy concoction proudly dubbed “Ang kapeng kaya kang ipaglaban.” This distinctive offering sets Mapa Coffee apart in the competitive coffee scene, resonating well with patrons seeking quality and affordability.

Community Hub: Embracing Support and Overcoming Challenges

From its inception, Mapa Coffee has garnered significant support from the local community, particularly from nearby students and residents appreciative of its warm ambiance and flavorful offerings. “Noong una kasi nakitaan ko siya ng potential dahil sa malapit kami sa eskwelahan,” reflects Clark on the initial community response. Despite challenges such as time constraints balancing academics and business ownership, Clark's resilience and support from friends have been crucial in overcoming hurdles. Grateful for collaborations with social media influencers and local partnerships, Clark acknowledges their role in expanding Mapa Coffee's reach and fostering growth.

Looking Ahead: Navigating Trends and Customer-Centric Focus

As trends evolve, Clark remains focused on maintaining Mapa Coffee's authenticity and identity amidst changing consumer preferences. “Sa totoo lang hindi mo din masasabi kung

BREWING BRILLIANCE:

An Honorian's MAPagnificent Coffee Chronicles

■ John Alexis S. Dela Cruz

hanggang kailan ka nila tatangkilikin," he acknowledges, emphasizing the importance of staying true to their bold coffee offerings. Crafting an environment where customers feel genuinely valued is paramount to Clark. "Yung pag approach siguro sa kanila," he notes, highlighting the significance of personal interactions and a welcoming atmosphere at Mapa Coffee.

In the heart of San Juan City of San Fernando, Mapa Coffee stands as a testament to John Clark T. Santiago's entrepreneurial spirit and dedication. From the unique minimalist ambiance to the bold flavors of their signature brew, Mapa Coffee has carved its niche in the local coffee scene. As Clark continues to navigate the delicate balance between academia and entrepreneurship, his story serves as an inspiration for aspiring young business owners. Mapa Coffee is not just a coffee shop; it's a community hub where the aroma of success lingers in every cup, inviting patrons to savor not only the coffee but the story behind its creation.



A CULINARY ADVENTURE: Introducing Some Kapampangan Exotic Delicacies

■ Sharina B. Santiago

Pampanga is known for its rich and innovative cuisine, thus living up to its title as the “Philippines’ Gastronomic Epicenter”. The province offers a wide range of mouth-watering foods; from hearty meals, to sweet desserts, and even exotic entrees. With all these, we cannot really deny that the town has it all.

Kapampangan exotic cuisine displays not only their culinary ingenuity but also a piece of their history. They have suffered from famine in the past, prompting the locals to come up with foods from the most unlikely creatures and ingredients. As a province brimming with resources, populated with people whose heart is close to cooking, it is without a doubt that Kapampangans could turn insects and odd critters into delectable meals.

From crickets, to snails, and frogs up to mice, here is a list of some of the unique Kapampangan exotic dishes to look out for:

Adobong Kamaru (Cricket Adobo)

Pestering rice fields and damaging crops, the farmers discovered a way to solve this dilemma: transform the pests into tasty treats. Kamaru (mole crickets) are commonly found in rice fields, which is why they are also called rice field crickets. They can be prepared in a variety of ways like stir and pan-frying, but the popular recipe is the Adobong Kamaru.

Although some recipes are quick and easy to prepare, cleaning the crickets themselves is a different

story. This takes some time, as the crickets must be diligently cleaned with their heads, wings, and legs removed.

This peculiar delicacy can be served as an appetizer or finger food. People who have tasted it describe it as crispy on the outside and chewy on the inside. It is also high in protein, making it a healthier alternative to meat.

Tugak Betute (Stuffed Frog)

Tugak, or frog in Kapampangan, is the chief ingredient for the next Kapampangan exotic dish on the list, Betute. It is a wordplay of “butete”, which means tadpole in English. As the most common tugak recipe in the province, it is a deep-fried frog stuffed with minced pork and other chopped ingredients making it an ideal viand.

The preparation of Betute starts by cleaning the frog and removing its head and skin. The stuffing is made up of ground pork, garlic, onion, carrot, and other spices. After stuffing the frog, it is marinated in a mixture of salt, pepper, and vinegar. Then, it would be deep-fried until golden brown.

They say that frogs taste like chicken. Would you give it a try if given the chance?

Adobong Dagis (Adobo-Style Field Mice)

This next dish is not for the faint of heart because its main ingredient is mice!

But don’t worry, these are field mice, which are safe to eat because they are grown in rice fields that are not frequently sprayed with pesticides.

Adobong Dagis is a popular exotic cuisine from the province that features mice as the main ingredient. The said cuisine is typically cooked in vinegar, soy sauce, ginger, chili, and other seasonings. This dish is also perfect to serve with rice.

Pindang Damulag (Carabeef Tocino)

Probably the mildest exotic food on the list is Pindang Damulag. Also known as Carabeef Tocino, it is a thinly sliced cured carabao meat. This delicacy has been a staple of Kapampangan cuisine for a long time. Contrary to the customary sweet Filipino tocino, Pindang Damulag may tickle your taste buds with a kick of its sourness as a result from its meat curing procedure, which takes many days. The meat might also be tough to chew because it comes from aged carabaos, as only old carabaos that are no longer fit to work are allowed to be slaughtered.

Historically, the Kapampangan term “pindang” referred to the slice of meat, or the strips, rather than the curing procedure.

Ahas-Pagong Sisig (Chinese Softshell Turtle Sisig)

Ahas-Pagong, or Chinese softshell turtles, are regarded as pests in fisheries, which is why fishermen capture them and put them on

sale. Aside from selling them, the creative minds of Kapampangans in the kitchen devised a way to turn these pests into an innovative culinary delight—The Ahas-Pagong Sisig. This dish works well as an appetizer or finger food during drinking sessions.

To prepare the dish, they first clean the Ahas-Pagong and extract its meat and boil it with ginger, tamarind, and guava leaves. It is then fried in a pan until crispy, and transferred in a bowl or plate, then add the onion, garlic, and chili and then it would be mixed.

Ebun Barag (Monitor Lizard Egg)

Ebun Barag is a Kapampangan exotic delicacy from eggs of Ahas-Pagong or monitor lizard, also known as bayawak in Filipino.

Kapampangans would create the dish by soft boiling the egg. The contents of the egg were then squeezed through a small hole from the top of the egg. It can be eaten in a variety of ways, the most popular being mixed with rice; however, it can also be enjoyed on its own.

Aside from its egg, Barag can also be prepared in several ways such as adobo, sautéed, or boiled in coconut milk

Ginataang Kuhol (Snails In Coconut Milk)

Ginataang Kuhol is a flavorful exotic dish from the central and southern parts of the island of Luzon. Farmers see snails as a threat to their crops, so they collect and cook them in coconut milk instead of just throwing them away.

Before cooking, the snails are properly washed to remove any dirt and slime. This mollusk specialty is often cooked in coconut milk, ginger, chili, and leafy greens.

The thrill starts with eating the kuhol, which can be challenging to eat because you have to suck the meat out of the shell. This meal pairs wonderfully with rice.

Which of these exotic meals drew your attention? Have you already tried one?

These foods may appear and sound unusual, but they will undoubtedly broaden your gastronomic experience! So, which Kapampangan exotic delicacy would you like to try?



KULITAN:

A Tale of Hope Against Waning Indigeneity

■ Raymond B. Figueroa

Using every stroke and lines, skilled artists harness their ancestral prowess while evoking a sense of pride through their Kapampangan spirit. With each swish of the brush, they infuse the canvas using a fragrant ink, they leave a mark of their heritage. Every curve takes months to perfect and every letter and phrase takes time to practice. It is more than a way of writing, but a form of art that requires years to master and an unfaltering amount of dedication to learn.

Kulitan or Súlat Kapampágan is a form of indigenous writing script unique to the kapampangans. It is a majestic treasure once known only to few. Like a gem losing its shine, it started to fade as it was buried in the memory of the past.

Steadfast to their duty and advocacy, the Committee on Culture and Arts under the University's Psychology Society (PsychSoc CCA) refused to let the treasure lose its brilliance. With the hope to help the Honorian community reconnect to their ancestral roots, they spearheaded the Free Kulitan Calligraphy-Booth. During school programs, they started offering to write words and phrases in Kapampangan using Kulitan script free of charge.

Paintúngulan: Navigating The Future Of The Past

Just like literary pieces, every character written in Kulitan is unique. Every slide of the brush is a dance so enticing that one could find him/herself mesmerized and drawn. Behind the majestic façade the "Free Kulitan Calligraphy" is a group of stalwart students dedicated to their cultural and linguistic cause—The Psychology Society's Committee on Culture and Arts (PsychSoc CCA).

The PsychSoc CCA is a subgroup of the Psychology Department's student

organization that focuses on the revitalization of cultural and artistic facets of the students. It is composed of a handful of selected students that carries with them not just the figure of a student leader, but also both artistic skills and resolve to maintain and propagate the cruciality of cultural awareness.

According to Rowel Buan, the former Secretary of the CCA, the starting concept of this advocacy first came to him after attending a lecture about Kapampangan culture. He was deeply inspired by the words of the well-known expert on the field, Mr. Michael Pangilinan, that is why he decided to push for the activity.

"Mibuclat ya ing capanamdaman cung Capampangan at mibuclat cú naman caisipan qng ulaga ning quecatámung ámanang cabiasnan, at nung nānu ne estadu ngeni,"

("My Kapampangan spirit suddenly awoke, bringing with it the realization of the importance of our local culture and its current state.")

Buan highlighted that their goal is to further introduce Kapampangan culture to his fellow Honorias, and that there is no better way to do this than visual arts, thus birthed the Free kulitan Calligraphy booth. Although the first year of the beginning of their activity-advocacy is also his last year as a student, he believes that his fellow advocates and committee members will carry on the work they have started with the same blazing fervor and love for the craft.

Pámangambul: The Start of Reviving a Tradition

In the midst of the crowded campus, a small group of artists with a small, almost undecorated booth managed to catch the attention of many. Using a mix of squiggly lines drawn with absolute precision, the artists

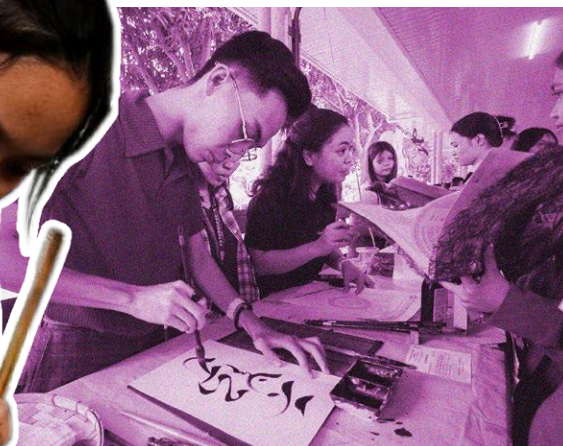
offer to send those who are willing back to the time of their forefathers-- through a form of writing at least.

Aside from beautiful calligraphies, the passionate student-advocates also takes the opportunity to spark a conversation with the students. Aiming to help them navigate the importance of culture in this time of modernization, they impart some trivias and knowledge to keep the curious students entertained. With a smile on their face, a heart full of pride, and love for their culture, they expressively introduce Kulitan to students who seem oblivious of the greatness from which their identity as Kapampangan bore.

Overwhelmed by the support and requests they have received on their first pop-up booth, the PsychSoc CCA decided to keep it going, booking a spot on every major University-wide event. During every campus celebration, the "Free Kulitan Calligraphy" is always on most of the student's bucket list to visit hoping to secure a scroll with their favorite words or phrases written on it. There are even those who decided to put their copies on frame, not only because they are inspired by what's written, but because the calligraphy is pleasing to the eye and it is a part of who they are.

The PsychSoc Committee on Culture and Arts maintains their resolve of aiming to revitalize and reintroduce not only the indigenous Kapampangan script, but also a variety of cultural and artistic initiatives.

Kulitan transcends mere aesthetics; it embodies the very essence of hope for the Kapampangan identity. Beyond its visual appeal, it carries the enduring heritage of the kapampangan people, similar to the fragrance of ink—a timeless reminder of the essence of antiquity. In the ever-expanding scope of intercultural exchange, Kulitan stands as a symbol of hope, anchoring the Kapampangan identity with a subtle yet powerful connection to tradition and resilience.



Photos by Dannia G. Bondoc

Unang Gumalaw, BADING:

Widening Peripherals to the Spectrum of Colors

■ Ritan John R. Tanaleon

Deep along the streets, where people would freeze when told “whoever moves first is gay,” transcended these clementines that would absolutely twirl and gladly dance around. A vibrant track of becoming, overcoming challenges, and embracing their identities characterizes the stories of Patricia, a 20-year-old who is pansexual, and “Yeri,” a 21-year-old lesbian. Both of them are Honorians, brimming illumination to their narratives by promoting hope and guidance to those who withstand the same blur.

Path of Becoming

Doubts abide in the wake of social stigmas, but resilience defies them.

“Yeri” struggled with her sexuality, initially hesitant to label herself as a lesbian. This is because, at the age of 13, she identified as bisexual, unsure of her attraction to the same sex until discovering Red Velvet. This is a K-Pop group she adores, and the inspiration behind her pseudonym for this article affirmed her feelings for girls. Despite that, the conundrum persisted when she developed fleeting romantic feelings for a male friend, leading her to eventually identify as queer.

In the face of numerous confusions, she felt like “It’s easy to identify as queer, bisexual, etc., but when it comes to ‘lesbian’, it’s hard.” Despite calling it a “messy process”, over time, she found clarity and recently embraced the label of a lesbian, finding solace in her relationship with her girlfriend.

On the other side of the prism stands Patricia, who discovered her sexual orientation when she developed an attraction for her female senior in high school. While telling the story, she mentioned that she firmly believes that “There is nothing wrong with loving a woman.” However, embracing her identity challenged her to confront internalized

homophobia deeply ingrained in conservative societal norms. She also had to experience those bitter and difficult moments when she had to deal with how others regarded her and make hurtful comments about her identity. Despite the doubts and the questioning, as time passed, she realized that it was easy to embrace yourself once you accepted who you really are. Ultimately, consuming negativity was no longer on Patricia’s palm since caring what other people think does not matter to her any longer.

Steps Through Overcoming

Marching along the walk of life, stumbling blocks are scattered throughout the way.

People often undermine homosexual relationships to validate heterosexual ones, a dynamic that “Yeri” and her partner have encountered firsthand. They frequently face questions about who assumes the traditional male role in their relationship, when in fact, it’s “as simple as two women loving each other for who they are.” This oversimplification ignores the complexities and individuality inherent in same-sex relationships, turning them down to bygone stereotypes that reject captivating the genuine bond between partners.

Despite Patricia’s personal growth, she continued to struggle with her family’s difficulty accepting her sexuality, as she admits that “some of them are still in denial that I am like this,” which weighed heavily on her. This ongoing challenge became even more burdensome when her mother expressed disapproval. Moreover, Patricia maintained a compassionate perspective, highlighting that she never even thought negatively about her mother as she recognized the impossibility of bending others’ beliefs to align with her own. She slowly found her truth in accepting that not everyone would understand or approve, as she realized that she “does not need validation from others” just to accept herself.

A Letter For Those Who Belong

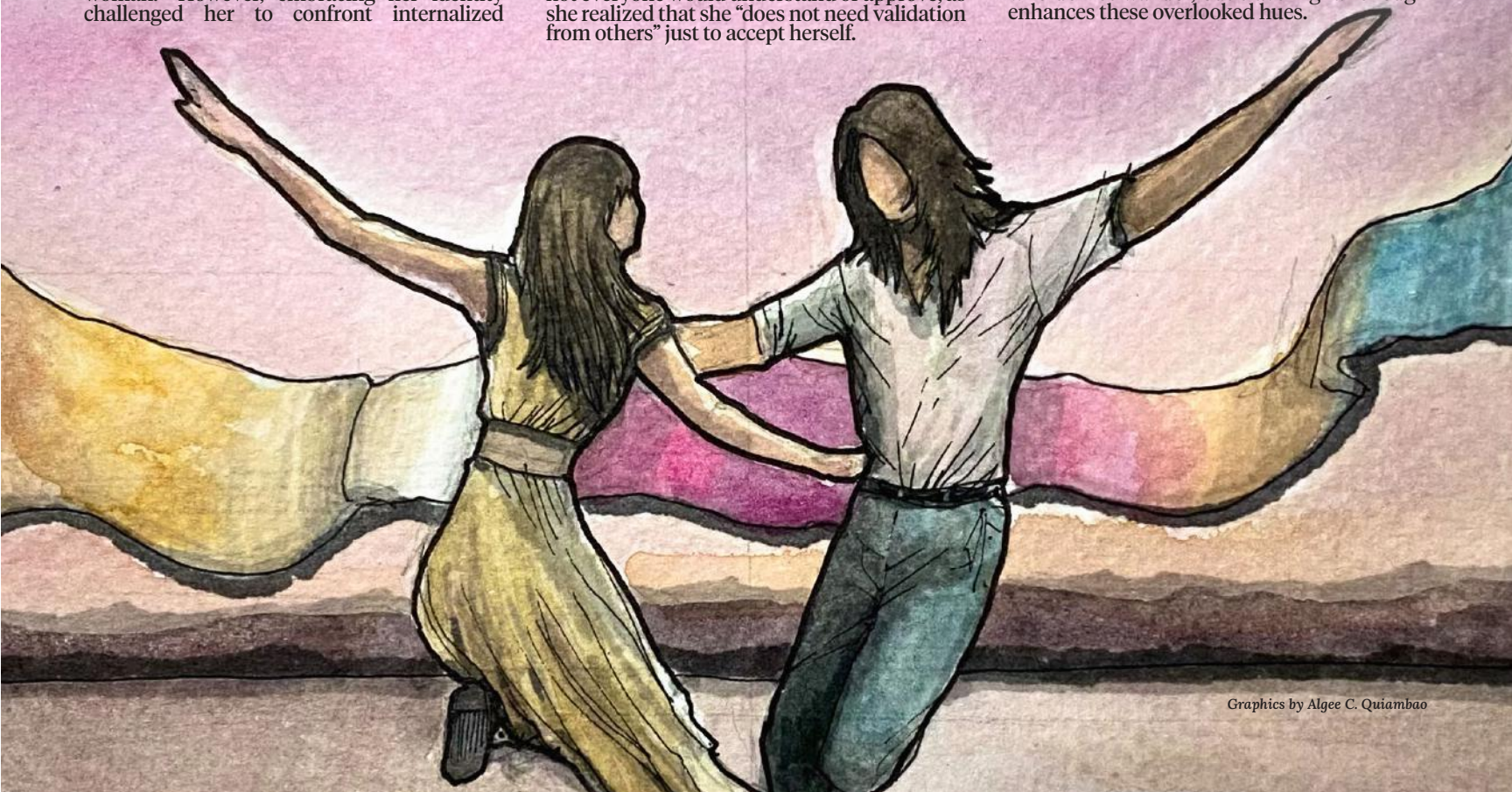
Behind these stories are a thousand more untold, each representing unique journeys of self-discovery within members of the rainbow community. Patricia affirmed, “At this point in my life, I want people to know that I am part of something,” echoing a desire for visibility and recognition of their identities. The voices they speak are grains to be heard and acknowledged, affirming their presence as an individual who has dreams.

In support of that, “Yeri” emphasized that “It’s not a sin nor is it a phase,” challenging misconceptions and declaring the validity of their sexual orientations. They further assert, “Let’s dismantle the thinking that women are only for men,” and vice versa. These declarations reclaim personal truths and advocate for acceptance in a world that often misunderstands or marginalizes LGBTQ+ experiences.

Their words resonate not just as a tribute to personal progress but also as a guiding light for those who tread similar roads of discovery. Patricia mentioned that “We, the LGBTQ+ community, are standing not just for our rights but also for those who came before and will come after us,” showing a growing hope that more hearts and minds will open.

The community in which they embrace will always be the same, but the experiences of individuals on the same platform will be different. They underline that it’s going to be difficult, complex, but, at last, fulfilling to truly know who they are.

While progress towards societal acceptance continues, there are still many who remain frozen in time, hesitant to join the dance with these butterflies. The prism is broad for those who do not wander, but traveling far enough enhances these overlooked hues.



PESTS TURN GRACE:

The Gastronomical Journey of Farm Pests from Paddy Fields to the Kapampangan Plates

■ Raymond B. Figueroa



In a country where agricultural production stands as a primary economic contributor, it is dismaying to see that even up to this day, the farming community continues to be one of the most impoverished and underappreciated sectors. Alongside their ongoing struggle against the low selling prices of their crops, exacerbated by high agricultural costs, they also grapple with the daily challenges of pest infestations.

Rice-field rats and crop-eating snails, or as they're called in the local Kapampangan language; Dagis Pale and Susu, are only two battalions of a huge army of pests that threatens the farmers in the country. However, when the Filipino resiliency is what they chose to rival, these vermins are of no match, especially to the culinary genius—The Kapampangans.

Unbeknownst to many visiting tourists, in the depths of Pampanga, there's a town where gold is tilled and cultivated from grass-looking crops. Traveling deeper into the heart of the province, one may find himself astonished by the magnificent landscape of hectares upon hectares of golden rice-fields in the small town of San Luis.

The Slithering Disaster

Gata (done in coconut milk), lutung sale (cooked with lemon grass), and gisa (sauteed) are common dishes found in the Kapampangan 'lutung bale' (home cook) menu. They are usually prepared with staple sources of meat. However, for some, these cooking techniques are best complemented by the slithering savor of rice-eating snails.

Starting from the hour of planting down to the very day of harvesting, snails are a lingering danger to the farmers. As emphasized by Arnel Suba, a counselor and the chairman of the agricultural committee of the same municipality, an unmitigated infestation of these mollusks can devour hectares of field produce overnight.

"Yan ang unang problema sa mga farmers dito sa San Luis, 'yang mga kuhol. Kung hindi

mo maagapan, talagang walang matitira sa palay mo."

Although the rainy period is a time where these hungry gastropods are particularly abundant, for the farming folks, they're silent assassins all year round. "Basta pag magpatubig ka, asahan mo, andiyan na din sila."

According to the locals, the practice of eating these creeping pests has been around since the time of their ancestors. Others even claim that the infusion of these unconventional ingredients into the well-developed cooking techniques of the culinary nation of the Kapampangan is as old as the practice of cultivating rice itself.

Councilor Suba, recounting his early days in the farmland, expressed that the snails present in the open fields today are no longer exclusively domestic species, the ones locals are accustomed to eating. Instead, they are now dominated by the giant Golden Kuhol. At first glance, one may observe no distinction between these two species. However, according to locals, the native suso, known as Susong Papa, is smaller, while the Golden Kuhol or the Golden Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) is significantly larger and stands out as the most crop-hungry snail.

"Dati, sa panahon namin, yang mga suso, tulong pa sa mga magsasaka kasi nakakain. Pero hindi na mula nang dumating yang mga bagong kuhol," Suba added.

It must be noted, however, that although the locals are not accustomed to these invasive species as a substitute or mix with the native Susong Papa, other towns and provinces have started to incorporate them with their local cuisine. In fact, its neighboring town of Candaba proudly presented their rendition of the sinigang sa bayabas (guava) using Golden Kuhol in a nation-wide feature show.

A Million Worth of Rat Tails

In the later months of 2020, residents of San Luis, Pampanga were all on high alert, scouring over bushes and fields looking for

fugitives with a million pesos, not on their heads, but on their tails—the rats.

Municipality officials, led by Mayor Dr. Jason Sagum, initiated the "Wanted Mr. Rat" project in response to the growing rodent infestation in their town's farm fields. The local government unit (LGU) allocated one million pesos, aiming to capture at least two hundred thousand rodents. They offered a reward of five pesos—later increased to ten pesos the following year—for every rat tail submitted by residents. The choice of rat tails was deliberate, allowing the rest of the animal to be sold or consumed by the catchers.

"Kapag buntis ang palay, ayan, ang daga na ang kalaban,"

Those are the words of Ferry Mata, a local resident, and one of the farmers who was affected by the rat rampage. This is the reason why he decided to take part in their municipality's project. Recounting those years, he mentioned that the highest amount they received was around 4,800 pesos, equivalent to 960 rat tails.

The rest of the rat's carcass will not be put to waste as it is also a good alternative for chicken or pork meat. A kilo of rat meat, according to him, can be sold for up to around a hundred pesos a kilo. Locals love to feast on these gifts from nature, especially by incorporating them into local dishes like adobong malangi (dried adobo) and other culinary delights.

"Nakatutulong na sa bukid, nababawasan na mga peste; tapos napapakinabangan pa dahil sa pabuya at dahil nakakain din yung laman," the farmer added.

The practice of sourcing unconventional foods has been a well-used tool for our culture. It is a tradition that played a crucial role both in history and cuisine. In times of famine, it saved thousands from the scythe of starvation. As the people grow accustomed to it, no boundaries can still bind the culinary genius of our predecessors, crafting dishes from scratch or infusing age-old techniques with these newly discovered ingredients.

“

features

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Photos by Joelson F. Diaz

**Nakatutulong na sa bukid,
nababawasan na mga peste; tapos
napapakinabangan pa dahil sa pabuya
at dahil nakakain din yung laman**



From Hands to Heritage: Pagtitike's Narrative Beneath the Leaves

■ Jerome L. Alipio

Under the Philippine sun's morning embrace, the islands reveal more than scenic beauty—they guard a secret garden. Envision each leaf as a stroke on nature's canvas, narrating stories of a nation embraced by diverse and vibrant flora, mirroring the smiles that line its shores.

Yet, amid this rich narrative, there's a whisper—a story lesser-known—waiting to unfold. It's the tale of "Pagtitike" or "Pamagtike," where threads weave the cultural fabric of communities. These humble artisans, known as "maninike," are the unsung heroes in creating not just beautiful woven wonders but a potential economic lifeline for their families and the nation.

However, the sun casts long shadows, and the future of pagtitike seems uncertain. Can we revive the craft, breathe life into the hands that weave dreams, and let the world witness the magic of our maninike?

**Unveiling the Essence of
"Pagtitike"**



Photo by Lidl Chianti Fiasco Website

In the exploration of traditional crafts, one encounters the notable Tikiu, scientifically labeled as *Scirpus grossus* L.f. Recognized as "Tikiw" and "Tike" in Filipino and Kapampangan, this sturdy herb boasts triangular stems, reaching heights of 1.5 to 2 meters. Thriving in freshwater swamps, pond edges, and newly opened rice lands

across Central Luzon to Mindanao, Tikiu stands out with its broad leaves, becoming a distinctive feature in the local scenery.

Originating from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and various Southeast Asian countries, Tikiu has seamlessly adapted to new environments, making itself at home in Australia, Borneo, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indochina, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Its dark brown or black, shining nuts underscore its resilience and widespread presence.

Looking into the side of the leaf, it becomes evident that there is a notable lack of awareness among Filipinos regarding the crucial role played by Tikiu in sustaining livelihoods. This oversight may be attributed to the overshadowing effect of more familiar materials such as abaka, bamboo, and coconut. The prevalent focus on these well-known resources has, unintentionally, pushed the significance of Tikiu into the background. This oversight warrants a critical examination, urging us to re-

Photos by Exzur N. Ulayan



evaluate the recognition and appreciation we accord to the plant.

Processing Tikiu

The journey of Tikiu begins on the farm, where it is carefully harvested and its hard seeds are removed from the middle part of the plant. Once freed from their seeds, the Tikiu strands are then tied at the end and left to sun-dry for about a week. After this period, the Tikiu undergoes a second round of cutting into three parts: head, middle, and tail. The 'balbas' resembling hairs found in the head section are discarded, while the sharp ends are located in the tail section.

Following this, the Tikiu undergoes a shaping process, which can be done manually by scraping it using bamboo or by using the second method of heating the blade in the fire to make it easier to shape. Once shaped, it is taped and bundled in a 'padrun,' a Kapampangan term that resembles wood. A set of 12 bundles contains 25 pieces each. This concludes the process, and the bundle is then ready for the next phase, to be taken by the processor.

A bundle, which used to be priced between Php1 and Php5 in the past, now fetches only Php25. Despite the seemingly low value, it doesn't

reflect the great effort exerted by the "maninike"—the artisans who painstakingly harvest, dry, and shape the tikiu. The scars and sweat of these craftsmen may not be seen in the price tag, but they undoubtedly echo the dedication and tradition woven into every piece of Tikiu. As these traditional crafts find their place in the international market, protecting delicate items or serving as unique containers, the value of Tikiu extends beyond its economic price, vibrating with cultural significance and sustainable practices.

Pandemic's Pulse and Crossover of Modernity

Amidst the lockdowns and work closures brought about by the pandemic, pagtitike, particularly in San Simon, Pampanga, found a renewed vitality. With people confined to their homes and traditional sources of income lessened, pagtitike emerged as a beacon of opportunity for the maninike. The enforced pause became a chance to strengthen their connection with nature. Faced with financial constraints, pagtitike has become a lifeline, enabling these artisans to recover their daily lives.

On the other side of the pandemic, where modernization also prevails, the traditional art of pagtitike faces a quiet existence. The increasing preference for modern materials, particularly the widespread use of bubble wrap

for packaging, poses a threat to this age-old craft. While embracing contemporary methods may seem convenient, it carries environmental consequences. The shift towards modern packaging disregards the traditional practices that not only showcase Filipino culture but also contribute to sustainable living.

In the dance between tradition and modernity, pagtitike emerges as more than a craft; it is a testament to resilience and cultural identity. The pandemic provided an unexpected stage for its revival, reminding us of the unstoppable spirit of the maninike and the craft's intrinsic ties to nature.

In pagtitike, every woven strand tells a story of tradition, adaptation, and the intricate balance between heritage and progress. Pagtitike stands as a living art, a bridge between generations, and a reminder that in preserving tradition, we ensure that the echoes of our cultural legacy resonate far beyond our time.

The choice is ours—we stand at a crossroads where the artistry of pagtitike, nurtured by skilled hands and interwoven with rich narratives, can either fade into nonrecognition or be held as a timeless treasure. This choice holds the power to shape a legacy, passing down the craftsmanship and stories to weave a richer narrative for generations yet to come.

In the Province of Pampanga, the municipality of Candaba was previously known as “Candawe,” which is divided into three regions: Tagalog, Poblacion, and Capampangan.

The Tagalog region, which shares a border with Bulacan, has 14 barangays. The majority of residents in the region speak Filipino, while many can also speak Kapampangan. Meanwhile, the Poblacion region, or municipal town, is divided into 11 barangays separated by the vast Candaba Swamp. The Capampangan region consisted of eight barangays that shared borders with both Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

On the other hand, Candaba has established itself as a major producer of tilapia and duck eggs. The region is also well-known for its unique delicacy, burung asan. More specifically, for its large and beautiful swamp, migratory birds, catfish (hito), and mudfish (bulig/dalag). Its rich farmlands contributed to the popularity of sweet watermelons.

But have you wondered what is special about Candaba?

The Foreign Visitors of Candabeños

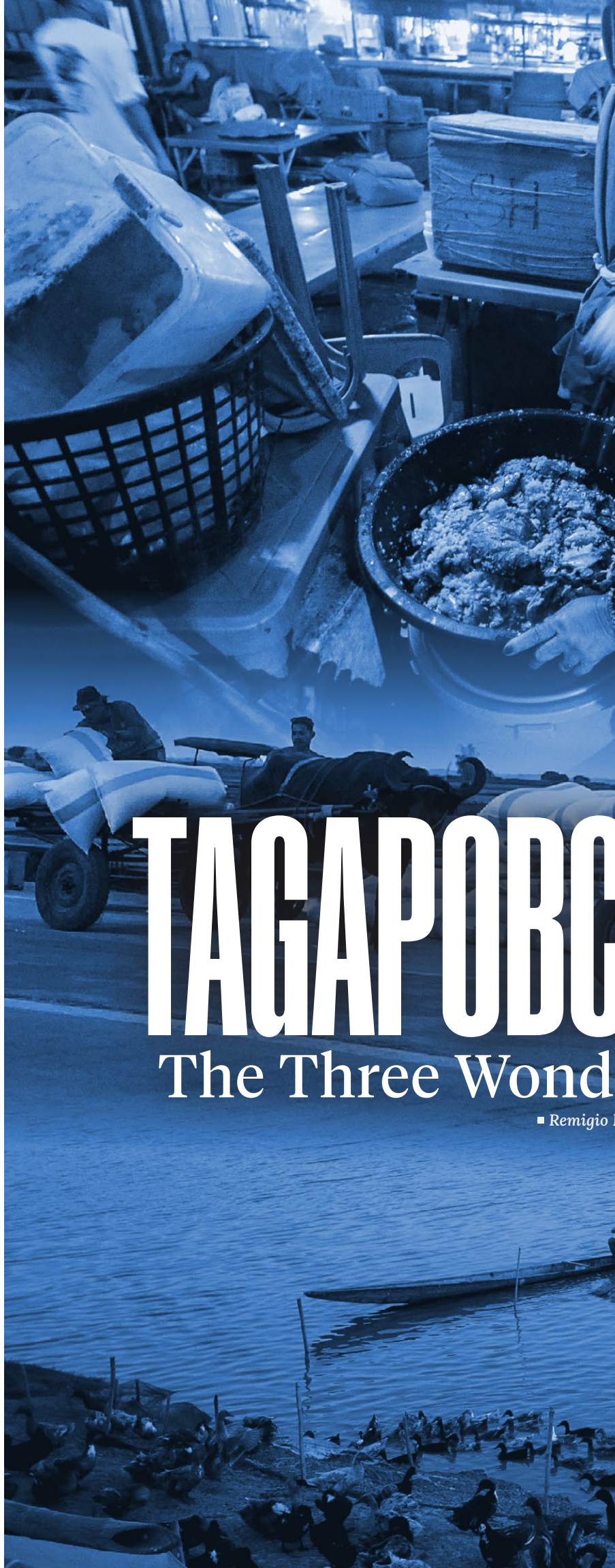
In order to break away from the winter season, migratory birds enjoy the vast and scenic swamps of Candaba, Pampanga, as a popular travel destination to escape the winter season during the town’s tropical temperature. Arriving in the month of October and departing in the months of March and April. Escaping the winter winds from Siberia, New Zealand, China, Mongolia, and other parts of Asia.

The Candaba Swamp is home to a variety of bird species, including the Chinese Pond Heron, Shrenck’s Bittern, Eurasian Spoonbill, Purple Swamp Hen, Great Bittern, and Black-Crowned Heron. The foreign guests visit the beautiful wetlands, making Candaba their annual sanctuary.

Wet and Dry Land: The Two Seasons of Candaba

In the Philippines, there are two seasons, namely the dry season and the rainy season. These seasons can be taken advantage of by the Candabeños, particularly in terms of their livelihood. The wide swath of land known as Candaba Swamp, or Pinac locally, is a flexible space that serves as farmland during the summer and a floodplain or large fishpond during the period of heavy rainfall.

Farmers turn to fishermen; Candabeños rely on rice production as their primary source of income. The farmers are able to plant one cycle of rice per year, from December to March. Flooding from July to early December turned the rice fields into a vast fishpond with a variety of fish. As cited from Tangingco, Candabeños who get the best



TAGAPOBO

The Three Wond

■ Remigio



of both seasons can assure a year-long supply of food and livelihood.

After providing rice for their family, farmers will become fishermen, bringing a variety of fish to their tables or as a source of revenue. Meanwhile, in an article by the Living Lakes, “the Paligi Wetland is facing both natural and human-induced threats such as land filling for housing and commercial development, invasion of alien species, migratory bird hunting, electro-fishing, and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.”

The Home of Fermented Fish Paste

Pampanga is the culinary capital of the Philippines; thus, it is considered the birthplace of Filipino food classics. Candaba is one of the regions of Pampanga and is known as the biggest producer of buru in the region.

A fermented fish paste, commonly known as “Burung Asan (Burong Isda),” is a trademark of Candaba, Pampanga. It is a mixture of cooked rice, fresh fish, and salt, fermented for a week in jars. In Candaba, rice fermentation has different varieties, including burung tilapia, burung dalag or hito, and burung hipon. It is usually served with boiled vegetables like ampalaya (bitter gourds), talong (eggplant), sitaw (string), and broiled fish like dalag (mudfish), hito (catfish), or tilapia.

Pamagburu, or rice fermentation, is not only popular in Candaba but also in other regions of Pampanga, including Sasmuan, Guagua, and Sta. Rita. Although burung asan appears to be a simple dish, it actually reveals more about Kapampangan society and culture than it does.

The Unsung Hero of Burung Asan

Most of the time, people perceive things in their final shape. They overshadow the people that devote time and effort to providing a delicacy that will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many. It has been passed down from generation to generation. The unsung hero deserves recognition for safeguarding Candabeño practices and authenticity.

A 60-year-old from San Agustin, Candaba, Pampanga named Myrna Balagtas, known by her nickname Dalaga, is one of the makers of burung asan in the Poblacion market. She’s been working in the industry for 30 years. According to her, she grew up witnessing her aunt, who was formerly one of the makers, make burung asan and eventually learned to make it herself. She now carries the family legacy of making the burung asan. In addition, her children also know how to make the delicacy. Candaba offers a variety of fermented fish pastes, including burung dalag, burung tilapia, and burung hipon.

Indeed, Candaba has a lot to offer, from its majestic views to their livelihood. It demonstrates that the region boasts a progressive culture and economy. No season can break the Candabeños spirit.

CANDABA REGION: Fishers of Candaba

R. Dungo III

Photos by Reiner Eliazher G. Pasion

FROM RISK TO RELIEF:

Decoding the Government's Flood Control Projects for Pampanga

■ Sharina B. Santiago

Pampanga is not only noted for its distinctive people and rich culture, but it is also known as one of the country's flood-prone regions. Pampanga, as a low-lying province in topography, is more vulnerable to flooding due to its lower elevation. The province had been devastated by blustery winds that destroyed many homes and furious waters that submerged not only the land we stepped on, but also people's livelihoods, and tragically, innocent lives.

Every disaster that has occurred comes with lessons that might be applied in the future to reduce the harm in the event of a recurrence, but it appears that we have kept returning to the same problem that struck us. The recent typhoons that ravaged the country only emphasized that Pampanga requires urgent action to address the severe flooding, to which government agencies have their solutions to aid.

Enduring Weeks of Flood

Pampanga was declared under state of calamity on July 31, 2023, due to massive floods caused by the Southwest Monsoon, which was exacerbated by Typhoons Egay and Falcon. Based on ABS-CBN's news report on the recent flooding, Barangay Batasan, one of Pampanga's lowest lying localities, experienced the worst flood in the province this year.

More than three weeks after Typhoon Egay slammed Luzon, the neighborhood is still inundated, with residents struggling to manage. Residents were forced to endure heavy flooding after the Pampanga River overflowed, affecting neighboring towns like San Simon, Apalit, Masantol, and Macabebe as the water emptied to Manila Bay.

According to Pampanga Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office's (PDRRMO) report, the majority of the villages that experienced three-foot-deep floods are in the municipalities of Masantol, Macabebe, and Guagua. The flooding concerns prompted a discussion on how to solve the flooding problem in Pampanga.

Flood Control Projects on Track

DPWH-Region III officials recently evaluated two major flood control projects in Pampanga being undertaken by the Regional Constraints Division. These projects are the P193-million, 2,465-linear-meter flood control project at Sasmuan Section of the Guagua-Pasac River and the P426-million Lubao Section of the Lubao-Guagua-Minalin-Sto.Tomas (LGMST) Bypass Road.

Construction Division OIC Chief Jayson Jauco reported a 48.91% completion rate for the Guagua-Pasac River flood control project. He went on to say that the project, which makes

use of Geotube technology, includes dredging along the river channel and embankment work to desilt waterways, building of flood mitigation structure, stabilizing the riverbank, and to prevent erosion.

Right after the assessment, DPWH Regional Director Roseller Tolentino emphasized the importance of building a road dike atop the flood control structure to provide access to local communities in the low-lying zone prone to flooding, as well as the construction of connecting road dikes in the area leading to Guagua that would eventually connect to Jose Abad Santos Avenue.

Meanwhile, Project Engineer Juanafe Magpayo highlighted the extent of progress at the Section 6 of the LGMST Bypass Road project, which includes embankment, installation of separation Geotextile, sodding, topsoil placement, and construction of a series of box culverts. The project includes the construction of an interchange to connect the area to the viaduct being built parallel to the site, and the construction of access roads to enable motorists from Porac and Sasmuan to conveniently access the LGMST.

Tolentino headed up efforts to identify and address any funding shortfalls in order to ensure the successful completion of the projects. He further stated that DPWH remains committed to complete the projects, which would contribute to the region's infrastructure development and enhance the residents' lives.

President's Flood Control Initiatives Faces Local Opposition

President Bongbong Marcos Jr. conducted an airborne survey of flood-affected communities in Pampanga. Following the inspection, PBBM sat down along with Pampanga local officials for a briefing in the Pampanga Provincial Capitol to discuss possible solutions to the

Photos by Joelson F. Diaz

193
MILLION PESOS

2,465-LINEAR-METER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
at Sasmuan Section of the Guagua-Pasac River

426
MILLION PESOS

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
at Lubao-Guagua-Minalin-Sto. Tomas (LGMST) Bypass Road

province's perennial floods.

For a long-term solution, PBBM ordered a study for the development of a water impoundment facility at Candaba. This sparked a heated debate during the briefing, as several local officials quickly opposed the proposal. According to Pampanga 4th District Representative Anna York Bondoc, the development of a water impounding facility is not worth it as it would jeopardize the livelihood of the town's palay farmers. Notably, Candaba is a prominent rice producer in the region. President of Metro Pacific Water and Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, Rogelio Singson, pointed out that only a section of the Candaba swamp will be used for the project and not the entire area.

When PBBM asked for alternatives, Rep. Bondoc replied that dredging work should be pursued. PBBM went on to explain that dredging is only a temporary and expensive solution to floods. On the other hand, Pampanga Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda agreed for the continuation of dredging works and blamed DPWH for the unfinished dredging job.

Later on, PBBM agreed to the notion of continuing dredging activities, but only as a short-term solution. He also advocated for the construction of the impounding facility, since this would alleviate the flood and allow the water to be used for other purposes. The president also stated that the national government will look after the welfare of the affected farmers.

He also approved the proposal to elevate a portion of the Tulaoc Bridge in San Simon to avert flooding, North Luzon Expressway

(NLEX) Corporations began working on the project on September 23, 2023.

Government Takes on Major Flooding Project

On August 9, 2023 hearing, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) proposed the 60-kilometer-long and 400-meter-wide floodway project named the Central Luzon-Pampanga Floodway and San Antonio Swamp Ring Dike Project, which is expected to provide relief to inhabitants of various provinces in Central Luzon from incessant floods. DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan stated that this will be a huge project in Central Luzon.

According to the presentation, the project's alignment begins at the mouth of San Antonio Swamp and passes through seven towns in Pampanga, specifically, Arayat, Sta. Ana, Mexico, Sto. Tomas, Masantol, Minalin, and Macabebe. The project is anticipated to dispose flood waters from the Upper Pampanga River catchment straight to Manila Bay by constructing a 100-year flood design floodway channel.

The project is intended to aid 44 towns in Pampanga, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija by decreasing flood damages at about P21.3 billion on infrastructure, enterprises, and other facilities, with approximately 356,000 people being protected or alleviated from floods. It will also reduce agricultural and aquaculture

damage by 89.5% and 92%, respectively. With a 76% reduction in the length of floods and impoundments.

Several senators showed support for the project. Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva, who descends from Bocaue, Bulacan, has voiced his entire support for the project and to Bonoan. Senator Robin Padilla also expressed his optimism for the project's success.

It was first reported from the hearing that the project is in the planning stages, and that the project will be funded by the Asian Development Bank and will most likely begin next year. However, it was disclosed during a separate Economic Cluster hearing that the project is not included in the 2024 National Expenditure Program, which surprised Senator Villanueva. According to Bonoan, a feasibility study was undertaken, and the Department of Finance (DOF) is now arranging for infrastructural preparations and project facilities. He also stated that the actual structural design with a comprehensive engineering process will begin as early as next year, with construction likely to begin in 2025. When asked about the project's quality assurance, Bonoan stated that it would be subjected to hazard tests.

All of the aforementioned actions and measures may not prevent a natural catastrophe from occurring, but they may reduce the damage and help save lives in the process.

“

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THE HIGHER IT GROWS, THE DEEPER IT CRACKS

■ Renz Louie P. Susi



Poets and nobles refer to it as “Poor Man’s Timber”. Alignment with its significant past brings with it a fresh spring of hope and excitement. A natural blessing is accompanied by a sense of pride for the place where it grows. Strong, light, and flexible are the words that describe the beginning of Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park that springs up in the first-class municipality of Pampanga.

The journey began with a proactive initiative aimed at safeguarding Barangay Sta. Catalina from soil erosion by introducing bamboo along the riverbank. However, the effort to propagate various bamboo species for commercial purposes unexpectedly blossomed into a promising tourism venture for the town.

The once six-hectare riverbank has transformed into a thriving eco-tourism hotspot known as the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park. Setting itself apart from natural eco-parks in the region, this site is entirely man-made, except for its waters, and overseen by the Lubao Municipal Government. It has emerged as a beloved destination for tourists, drawing in families and wellness enthusiasts who are satisfied with its offerings, such as sheltered pathways, biking trails, and a unique fish spa.

Yet, the primary attraction for many visitors lies in the opportunity for strolls beneath the

lush canopy of hundreds of bamboo clusters that adorn the eco-park.

Bamboo: Flexible Yet Firm

The Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park are a symbol of optimism in its community, providing not only recreational opportunities but also livelihoods for those who live nearby.

“It gives hope for the municipality, its people, and especially the environment, through the various benefits it provides: tourism for the town, livelihood for its locals, and cleaner air for the environment,” as stated by Engineer Danilo Aquino of Lubao Municipal Planning Development Coordinator, clearly outlines the value of the eco-park.

Dozens of signs scattered throughout the park convey insightful messages such as “bamboo is considered a grass, not a tree” and “bamboo comes in various shapes and colors.” These nuggets of information enrich visitors’ leisurely strolls, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for bamboo’s remarkable qualities.

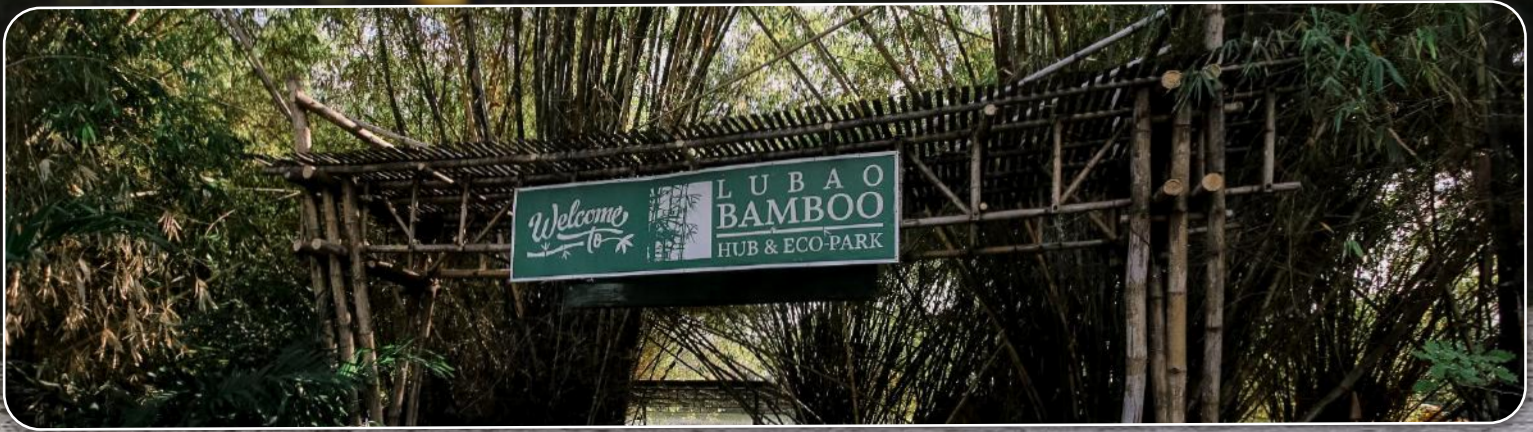
As visitors walk through the park, they absorb fresh information that enriches their experience and deepens their fascination for the wonders of bamboo. This blend of leisure and education emphasizes the park’s

dedication to comprehensive enrichment and sustainable living.

Moreover, bamboo’s benefits extend far beyond the park. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) encourages bamboo planting as a powerful climate change mitigation strategy. Bamboo’s remarkable ability to act as a carbon sink, as well as its role in reducing global warming, make it an essential component of nature-based solutions. Bamboo has a remarkable ability to restore degraded land, adding to its environmental importance.

The Lubao Local Government Unit (LGU) conducted research that uncovered startling statistics about bamboo’s environmental impact. Bamboo is found to release 35% more oxygen into the atmosphere than a stand of trees, enriching the atmosphere and promoting cleaner air for all. Furthermore, it can absorb an impressive 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide per hectare per year, contributing significantly to efforts to combat climate change.

The Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park, with its unique blend of education, recreation, and environmental advocacy, is a shining example of sustainable development and community empowerment. Through its initiatives, it not only provides hope for the present but



Photos by Raniel C. Alejandrino

also lays down the foundation for a brighter, greener future for the upcoming generations.

Echoes from Nature's Produce

Bamboo, known for its sustainability and versatility, undergoes a remarkable transformation into engineered bamboo, a material used to create a variety of furniture pieces such as chairs, dozens of indigenous crafts, and even entire homes. This engineered bamboo also serves as the foundation for a variety of meticulously crafted products made from this eco-friendly resource. Among these products, the Bamboo Speakers stand out as a shining example of innovation, the result of the Department of Trade and Industry's ambitious vision to expand the product portfolio available at the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park.

The LGU customized these Bamboo Speakers, giving them a distinct identity among a variety of similar products found around the world. The creativity lies in the creation of a vessel-like form that is cleverly designed to harness the natural acoustics of bamboo. As soon as a cellphone is inserted at the top, the speakers emit a captivating sound that reverberates through both left and right bamboo ears, creating an immersive auditory experience that captivates visitors.

Beyond their functional use, Bamboo Speakers have grave symbolic significance, with the incumbent Mayor Esmie Pineda frequently bestowing them as tokens of camaraderie and goodwill to prominent people in the political field. A recent gesture witnessed each lower house representative receive these speakers, symbolizing political unity and appreciation.

Nowadays, the speaker is produced in batches based on client requests, as opposed to back then, when it was already manufactured and sold into the park, as it was generally done during peak tourist season.

Bends until it Breaks

The once-thriving tourism industry surrounding the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park is now sliding into confusion, a far cry from its former glory. This downturn can be attributed to a significant shift in administration at the local government unit in charge of the hub's operations. The changing of the maintenance brought an air of uncertainty and a lack of cohesive direction, leaving the tourism sector floundering in the aftermath of administrative moving.

While plans were presented with hopeful enthusiasm, execution has proven to be as slow as bamboo growth itself. What was once

a beacon of hope for the town's tourism now fades into insignificance due to oversight and neglect. The Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park's initial vision as a thriving eco-tourism destination has become muddled due to a lack of focused strategy.

The intricate pathways and biking trails, once filled with excited visitors, are now strangely quiet and underutilized. The one-of-a-kind fish spa, which was once popular among wellness enthusiasts, now sits idle, its full potential unused. Even the lush canopy of bamboo clusters, which was once a picturesque backdrop for strolls, now serves as a silent testament to the hub's unrealized potential.

The slow pace of progress has disappointed both locals and tourists, as the once-promising tourism hotspot struggles to regain its confidence. The Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park fade into obscurity with each passing day, overshadowed by the neglect of those entrusted with its upkeep.

Despite the gloom, there is a ray of hope—that the winds of change will blow favorably once more, breathing new life into the Bamboo Hub and restoring its status as a beacon of tourism excellence. Only time will tell if this hope comes true, or if the Lubao Bamboo Hub and Eco Park fade away as a result of missed opportunities.

Developing Stories Through Generation: Homemakers' Gentle Care

■ Rowena Mae C. Soliven

Over time, the rampant belief of humankind about Gender Roles is growing and sometimes getting much out of hand. It cannot be taken away in just a span of time, even months or years.

Many still have this mindset that men should always act tough. Men are considered the superior ones in society. The expectations of others such that they should always be the ones to do the heavy work like carrying large amounts of boxes, repairing machinery, and working on industrial jobs. They are the ones who earn the family income by being the primary breadwinners. For years, the authoritative positions are always played by men.

In contrast, women are portrayed as needing to stay inside their respective homes and be submissive to their partners. Remember the stories of elderly people that women couldn't even enter school before? Most of them don't even have the right to vote. They were expected to focus solely on domestic responsibilities, such as caring for their children. The ones in charge of always thinking about what to cook and eat every day, and of course budgeting the income because they are the woman.

Backtrack of former times

Housewife. The first recorded usage of this word was way before 1300-1500 and the word "hussy" is used as an alteration of the word before. The increasing numbers reached its peak in the 1950s, when WWII just ended. It was also used in the 18th-20th century, especially in World War II as a

term for roll-up sewing kits of British Soldiers made by their wives. The term Housewife was also altered as "hussif" or "hussuf" for the kit.

In the ancient Philippine Times, women were not reserved only for being Housewives. Egalitarianism does exist in our history. Women in pre-colonial times played the role of Babaylan – the spiritual leader of a tribe pleasing the Bathala. They can also treat people, especially with plants and herbs. Babaylan of a tribe always leads the ritual when their leader is going to conquer a war or if there's an incoming conflict with the other tribes. They are one of the most respected women in history considered as the 2nd highest in position after the datu in the pre-colonial era.

Unfortunately, The Patriarchal System of the family was introduced to the Philippines by the Spaniard's colonization teaching the father is the head of the family; imposing a social structure of different works as naturally for men or for women. Giving more value and significance in society. On the other hand, it marks the minds of the old Philippine Society for delegating women to stay at their homes and take care of their families and do different household chores. Assigning them only in the sphere of their families. That's why housewives are more predominantly than househusbands.

Shifting to Domestic Supervision

On a YouTube video of a Feminine Lifestyle Vlogger, Cynthia L. titled "Why do women become housewives?" A lot of moms spoke their perspectives regarding this matter flooding the comment section of the video. Their reasons are, they got inspired by their moms and how she took care of their family, taking their kids on what things they were interested in, being able to be available anytime when her family needed her cause she loves to show availability as a sign of gift too, to balance their life by making the household chores while her husband is doing the work.

Lots of insights were shared but the common denominator was coming up with the idea of serving and ensuring the care their family gets is good enough. Many were still sticking to the construct of the husband is the one who is at work and making the income of the family while the wife is responsible for what was happening inside their homes. It's like they have more time to spend not only with their

families but also with themselves. Having the freedom, they want to do whatever they want to do and enjoy every moment of their lives and enjoying even the smallest details.

Fostering Growth

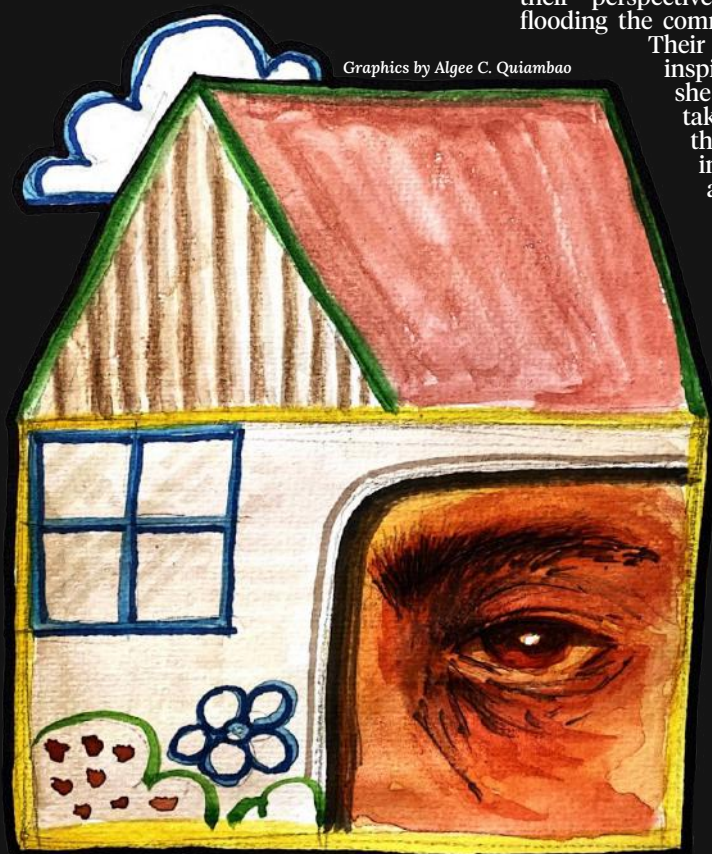
"Alas kwatro palang ng umaga nagluluto na ng pagkain dahil maaga ang pasok ng mga anak at asawa ko. Kapag umalis na sila ay doon ako nagsisimulang maglinis ng bahay katulad ng paglalaba ng mga damit, pagbabantay sa tindahan, at marami pa," stated by one housewife from CSFP. Showing her routine as lady in their house that is in-charge of almost everything after her family goes to work and school. She's one of those mothers who experience the usual daily life of home-based mothers.

Being a Homemaker is not an easy task. It is a job that requires to be full-time yet unpaid. It requires a lot of strength physically and emotionally. Being able to multitask is a common thing for doing this role in a family. Doing your laundry while taking good care of your small kids is tiring yet they are doing it every day, for free. The term "makita ko lang kayong masaya, masaya na ako" or "makita ko lang kayong kumakain, ay busog na ako" are the common phrases families heard from their housewives as they think first the well-being of their family before concerning the well-being of themselves.

Modern Day Maria Clara

In this era where everything is normalized and even equality is voiced across the globe, being a housewife is not the only role used for those who are responsible for keeping their homes in a normal state. There are also called "househusbands" where the social construct of "should always stay at their home" was flipped, making the men do household work too while their wives are the ones who make the income for the family.

Various works were also played by women now. From the smallest sectors of society up to the highest positions in the government. It shows that women are not only reserved for being housewives of their families but also a pillar of our society.



Graphics by Algee C. Quiambao



Can a Rainbow Stand on Cliff:

■ John Dale M. Taruc

Campus Tolerance in the Shadow of an Alleged Beacon of Inclusivity?



Graphics by Reign Alexa V. Galang

The Philippines, a country renowned for its vibrant culture and hospitality, has made significant strides in supporting the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community; it appears that the nation is moving towards a more accepting environment.

However, beneath this apparent progress, a glaring paradox emerges, while the LGBT community is publicly embraced by society, legal safeguards are still frequently disregarded most especially in some universities around the country.

This paradox of tolerance raises questions about the true extent of acceptance and comprehensive legal protections. In such a situation, how can we support a community where the country is obviously resisting? Often, they end up creating their own support system.

The Trap of Acceptance

The predominantly Catholic Philippines might seem LGBT-friendly in Southeast Asia. According to Pew Research Center study, a minimum of 73% of Filipinos believe that homosexuality ought to be tolerated by society. During the 2023 Pride March in Quezon City, over 110, 000 people turned out, making it the largest LGBT congregation in Southeast Asia. However, a measure that would have made it illegal to discriminate against someone based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC) has been languishing in the Philippine Congress for more than two decades. The legislation of this bill has

been reintroduced and rejected—this has been the cycle every year, leaving queer people with no legal resources when facing discrimination. The March and Festival celebration of diversity feels incomplete when there is no substantive legislative action to defend the rights and dignity of the LGBT people.

It is crucial to understand that acceptance goes beyond protests and open proclamations of support. A society that genuinely embraces its people must ensure their legal equality and create an atmosphere where everyone can thrive without fear of prejudice or the traps planted by the government.

The Avoided Legal Void

Notwithstanding the advancements in society, the legal system in the Philippines is proving to be less and less effective in protecting the rights of LGBT individuals. Considering the various viewpoints expressed by LGBT students on this controversy, it is evident that the absence of legislation or anti-discrimination law leaves the community vulnerable to prejudice and injustices. For instance, many LGBT people continue to face challenges such as hate crimes, discrimination, and denial of basic services.

Meanwhile, same-sex marriage remains illegal in the Philippines, reflecting the country's commitment to conservative values deeply rooted in its predominantly Catholic culture. A mere two in 10 Filipinos support the idea of legalizing same-sex marriage. According to a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey, 61% of Filipinos oppose proposed legislation that would allow same-sex marriage, while 22% support it, and 16% remain unsure.

A big slap to a country that is known for its LGBT pride and influence yet supports a legal vacuum which not only denies same-sex couples the right to recognize their unions but also perpetuates a sense of otherness, reinforcing societal divisions and unjust

services.

The Campus is at the Edge

Beyond educational initiatives, the Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) Bahaghari Organization is an important part of creating a welcoming atmosphere for students who identify as LGBT. Bahaghari fosters a feeling of community that provides emotional and social support, greatly enhancing students' wellbeing.

However, what if Bahaghari were to lose its color? How could Honorians maintain a well-balanced community? In an interview with a former member of DHVSU Bahaghari 2022, who requested anonymity, she expressed, "once the rainbow fades one color, the balance of each color will disappear as the stars will then hide their shine."

Disbanding such an organization sends a concerning message to the entire university. It might be perceived as a disregard for the rights of every LGBT student, posing a threat to the institution's goals that prioritize diversity and inclusivity.

At this pivotal moment in its history, DHSVU stands at the end of the cliff where social development and legal systems must converge to create a more peaceful and welcoming institution.

Albeit, the paradox of tolerance of our nation should act as a catalyst to reform, urging legislators and institutions to further enact anti-discrimination and reevaluate antiquated laws that perpetuate injustice.

To truly become a society that protects the rights of its LGBT people, we must adopt a holistic strategy that seamlessly combines legislative protections with widespread societal acceptance and balance.

Right from the River's Mouth: The Tales from the Ilug Wawa

■ Terrence Clairo M. Guevarra

The flow of the river is intertwined with the flow of the civilization that bloomed in its bank. Ever since the dawn of the civilization, human survival and culture is cultivated around the rivers. Testament to this are the mighty rivers that birthed the greatest civilizations of the ancient world, the earliest human settlements were built in Mesopotamia which means “the land between the rivers” (namely Euphrates and Tigris); in the banks of the Nile, the Egyptians chose to build their rich culture and its great pyramid and the Tiber cradled the mighty Roman Empire.

Locally, the province of Pampanga whose name came from the word “pampang” or riverbank has a fair share of rivers in its jurisdiction from which culture, livelihood,

and communities thrived and prospered. One of these rivers is the Guagua River or as it was called back in the day Ilug Wawa.

Guagua River is a river that runs through the entire town of Guagua, channeling through the interconnected brooks and streams of Betis (which others consider as its own river) and directly connected to the open sea of Bataan. Due to its connection to the open sea, it was called “Wawa” the Kapampangan term for “saliva” because it is the mouth of the river—the channel that connects the river to a larger body of water be it a sea or a lake. The river is so interwoven to the town's identity that it was actually the town that is named after the river. And as its tides shift with the time, a lot has

changed and some things remains within its banks.

At the Opposite Sides of the Banks: The Raft and the Mamaduas of Tatang Ruping Boulevard

The river bank in front of Guagua National Colleges (GNC) was named after Ruperto De Leon Nicdao or as he is fondly called “Tatang Ruping,” who was a teacher and a principal, become a spot for fisherfolks to gather with their paduas (fishing rods) most of them bringing more than one and a can of their baits to fish and share the bounty that the generous river provides. It was an informal fishing club, friends and strangers alike are patiently waiting and hoping that a fish will be caught and as they do, small talks that turns into meaningful interactions occur between them and eventually friendships were born.

As the river has the power to bond people together and make bridges and connections amongst people like it does to the mamaduas, it can also be a literal means of separation as



10 PESOS

MINIMUM FARE

According to Renato Torres, a long time bankero, the minimum fare is 10 pesos—a cheap compensation for a significant convenience. Ferrying passengers came a long way for him because due to this job he was able to put his two children through college. He proudly stated that one of them graduated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and the other graduated Bachelor of Public Administration.

the residents of the riverbank experiences.

The Tides that Move the Village, Lives and Faith Forward

The river are the first highways, and their tides guided and brought inhabitants to and from their destinations. At the banks of Guagua Public Market, specifically at the Fish and Wet Market, there is a row of boats and their bangkeros (boatmen) who ferry goods and passengers across the river. During the morning, when the market is at its peak, it serves as the trade delivery route for banyeras (large basins full of fish) that are harvested from nearby nets and fish ponds scattered along the river. This allows the fishes to be delivered fast and fresh right from the river itself, providing livelihood to vendors and boatman alike. As the market closes the day, the bangkeros job is not yet done, as the noisy wet market transforms into a passenger port during dusk.

On the opposite side of this part of the river is Barangay San Rafael or commonly known as Duck Island. The bangkeros cater to the residents who are mostly workers coming home after a tiring day. Most of these people live across the river, and it is much more convenient for them to use ferry than to go around it.

According to Renato Torres, a long time bangkero, the minimum fare is 10 pesos—a cheap compensation for a significant convenience. Ferrying passengers came a long way for him because due to this job he was able to put his two children through college. He proudly stated that one of them graduated Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and the other graduated Bachelor of Public Administration. His story is one of the many bangkeros who earn their living in navigating and sailing through the turbulent tides of the river and of life.

For them the river is a grace that provides

blessings unto them. This is why, during the feast of Señor Sto. Niño de Guagua, which is held on the fourth Sunday of February, a fluvial procession of its image in its Pagoda graces the waters of Guagua. Locally known as the “Libad Bangka,” this event takes place a day before the feast day. Bangkeros of the river participate in this occasion, accompanying the Señor Sto. Niño, in its waters which by their faith, they consider the most important passenger that will ever cross the river. This is their form of thanksgiving for the gift and the abundance that the river gives.

The river has its many turns and shifts, so is the story it tells; it is not just a setting in many lives’ story but a living entity, it is an active participant on building lives of the people on its bank. It is poetic and ironic to think that the cornerstone of the edifice of a great man or a society lies not on a sturdy bedrock but on the uncertain tides of a river’s course. It will flow or it will crash, it does not matter for it will march on like the time and the next thing you’ll know it is not the same river and it is not the same man. Whatever happens and whatever becomes of it all are safely kept within the river’s mouth.

Photo by Raniel C. Alejandrino



Hindi na maabot pa ng aking alaala kung kailan namin ito huling nakita—ang makita sa himpapawid ay purong mga munting bituin at mahiyaing buwan lamang. Ang mga ulap na hindi tumigil sa pagbagsak ng ulan ay numipis at naging maaliwalas na muli ang ibayong kalawakan na kailanman ay hindi mararating.

Sa aking pagmasid sa biyayang hatid nitong nagmagandang-loob na araw, hindi ko naiwasang mapansing bagamat may mga naglalakihang usok sa ibang bahagi ay may kapayapaan na bumati. Kumalma ang aming mga tainga mula sa mga pagsigaw, maging sa loob ng isip. Hindi na muna kailangang magsitakbuhan papalayo gamit ang mga paa naming dinungisan na ng mainit na asupre at mga bato.

Pumalaot nawa nang tuluyan ang kalupitang aking kinasusuklaman. Kung anong katahimikan ang aming inihandog sa hinaba ng pamumuhay ay siya namang kasagsagan ng krisis na binalik sa amin. Minsan ay napatatanong na lamang ang kabataan, “Ganito ba ang maisilang na may kasalanan?” At hindi kami mabigyan ng kasagutan ng mga magulang, sapagkat tulad namin ay baguhan lamang sila sa

mundong ito na mapagpasakit.

Walang pinapatawad ang marahas na pag-ulan dito. Nalulunod sa kasiraan ang bawat tahanan at gusali. Halos wala nang maituring na santuaryo sa pagkaubos ng mga moske. Ubos na rin ang mga namumukadkad na bulaklak upang pamugaran ng mga hayop. Maiintindihan pa kung kolateral na pinsala lamang ang lahat sapagkat may ikinagagalit na may-sala ang sangkalangitan, ngunit para ituring na katangi-tanging damuhan na kailangang linisin ay tunay na nakapanlulumo. Ganito ba ang kabayaran para matamasa ang minimithing ‘kalinisan’ sa lupain?

Ngunit sa kabila ng pagkasuklam namin sa kapalaran na ito, wala rin namang magawa. Tila ay pinabayaan na kami ng mundo sa hindi mawaring dahilan. Kung anong bilis umapaw ng krisis dito ay siya ring pagka-usad-pagong ng tulong na dumarating. Huwag naman sana, ngunit pakiramdam ko ay nakakalimutan na kami ng mga kapatid namin sa ibang lupalop ng mundo. Umaagos ang buhay nila palayo sa amin, at ang natitira sa kanayunan dito ay mga nangapira-pirasong alitaptap na

noon ay kumislap sa langit bago bumaba at nagsiliwanagan; ang noon ay tahanan ng mga nananahimik na paru-paro at ibon ay nauwi sa pagiging palaruan ng mga bomba.

At ngayon, hindi lubos maisip ng nakararami kung paano na ang buhay. Para sa akin, mahirap man, ngunit kailangang magpakatatag. Gusto ko pang masilayan ang pamilya ko sa matagal na panahon. Naiisip ko rin ang bagong-silang na anak ni Tiya na matagal niyang hiniling na ipagkaloob sa kanya. Kapag pumapasok sa isipan ko na baka hindi ko na rin marinig ang mga boses nila, hindi ko kakayanin. Magpasahanggang ngayon ay hindi ko magawang isakatotohanan na ang mga paghilik ni Itay ay pawang alaala na lamang. Kung narito lamang siya, hindi niya kami pababayaan.

Ngunit sa ngayon, kami na muna ang bahala, Itay. Kumakalam na ang tiyan, paos na ang boses sa



Isang Baso Lamang

■ Klarence S. Layug

pagkatuyo ng lalamunan, at nanghihina na nang lubusan ang katawan, ngunit hindi kami pipikit. Hihiga ako sa kandungan ni Inay, at tulad ng mga nakalipas na araw at buwan, aawitan niya kami.

“Shh...shh...,” malumanay na pampakalma ng inay.

Sa aking pagtingala sa himpapawid, hindi ko maiwasang makaramdam ng kirot sa damdamin. At gawin man ang abot ng makakaya, sunod ko na lang na nalaman ay may mainit na luha na lumaya mula sa rehas ng aking mga mata. Ano nga naman ang malunod sa uhaw at gutom kung ikahihimbing ng tulog ng mga Israelita? Hindi ko lubos mawari kung bakit ganito na lamang ang aming sinapit. Pinaghalong kalungkutan at galit ang bumalot sa puso kong pagod na.

Hindi ko na alam kung anong awit ang aawitin ko nang makatulog ang mga sugat ko. Hindi ko na alam kung anong lulunukin ko para maghilom ang kawasakan ng kaloob-looban ko. Hindi ko na alam kung may magagawa pa ba. Hindi ko na alam.

At sa hindi ko inaasahang pagkakataon, pinunasan ni Inay ang aking mukha at bumati na may ngiti sa lugar ng sakit na ramdam kong pilit niyang isinasantabi.

“Maligayang kaarawan, anak,” bigkas niya sa akin, at siya namang paglapit ng mga kapatid ko.

Sa aking pagbangon, wala na akong ibang naisip pa kung hindi ang magpasalamat at maghandog ng hiling. Narito na rin naman ako ngayon, pinapanood ng mga bituin sa itaas. Ano pa ba ang kulang kung hindi ang pagsatinig ng aking

daing? Sa kanilang paghintay sa akin, ako ay dumalangin nang ilang saglit.

Isang baso lamang. Isang baso lamang muna ng tubig ang aking ninais. At balang araw, makauwi ang lupaing ito na linunod sa kadalalahamtian—mula sa nakasasakal na kasikipan ng ilog hanggang doon sa pinakamalayang dagat.

At sa pagpapakita ng isa pang alitaptap para sa aking kaarawan, wala na kaming iba pang nagawa. At sa huling pagkakataon, ako ay pumikit.



Hindi Ito Senakulo

■ John Jerome M. Santos

Ala una y medya ng tanghali't tirik ang araw,
Miyerkules santo at tahimik ang kanayunan,
Maya-maya't umugong ang malakas na hiyaw,
Sa tabi ng ilog, mga boses ay umalingawngaw,
Ani ni Ina, ito'y Senakulo raw.

Habang sumisilip mula sa butas ng dingdingan,
Nakita ko ang mga matang puno ng takot,
Mukha'y may bahid ng awa sa panonood,
Ang iba'y nagtago at baka sila'y masangkot—
Naduwag, umatras, nabalot ng katahimikan.

Anim na kawal, hinahabol si Hesus,
Walang bitbit na latigo, ngunit may armas,
Naka-uniporme, planstado't pantay na kwelyo,
Paniguradong walang laban sa anim na hudyo;
Siya nama'y walang sandata o kahit na ano.

Para sa buhay, siya ay tumalon sa ilog,
Yaring isang kawal ay tumango,
Pagkanaka-naka'y pinaulanan ng sundalos,
Isa, dalawa, tatlo...siyam, sampu—
Nang lumabo ang tubig, sila'y huminto.

Dumating si Maria—ina ni Hesus,
Wagas ang pagluha't dalamhati;
Sa kawal ay lumuhod at nagmakaawa—
Na anak ay mahagkan, malapitan.
Hindi pinayagan, anila, sila'y nagsabwatan.

Sa kakarampot na pag-asang natira,
Nagbakasakali na may hininga pa,
Tatlong oras ang lumipas bago maiahon,
Hindi pinako, ngunit may sugat ang kamay,
Si Kristo'y wala ng buhay.

**Ilang oras makalipas ang pagkamatay ng aba,
Bumulong ang kawal sa lider,
"Tunay na siya ang anak ng Diyos"
Sa pagsisisi'y napawika na lang ang armado,
"Mali tayo ng pinaratangang tao."**



Martsa ng mga Martir

■ Ritan John R. Tanaleon at Klarence S. Layug

Gabi'y pagsapit ng lamikmik, kawit ni Tinyente ang palakol,
Kung saan kutob ang lulunukin dahil gutom sa panalangin,
Animo'y bato ang kamao ng Heneral na dumatal,
Kaya't napilitang sumama sa madugo nitong pagtatanghal.

Napakalayo ang minartsa't natuyo ang lalamunan,
"Malapit na tayo," ani ng matinik na boses,
Habang katawan ay kinaladkad nila nang ilang beses.
Waring tupang nasa Martsa ng Kamatayan sa Bataan.

Labis na kaginhawaan nang makarating sa hantungan,
Sa pagluhod, hinagis kay Tinyente'y gantimpala,
Haplos nito'y kakaiba—magaspang at may palamang bakal,
Tila aserong may pulbura, tulad ng yaong itinutok sa kanya.

Sinubukang itaas ang manginig-nginig na kanang kamay,
'Di maitapat ang mga daliri sa dibdib,
Kaya't minabuti niyang itaas din ang kaliwang palad,
Baka sakaling mapagbigyan pa ng lunos at tawad.

**"Huwag po! Huwag po!" na lamang ang sinambit ng nasiil,
Nag-alangan ang binata para sa kinabukasang nandilim,
At bago pa manamnam ni Tinyente ang mabigat na biyaya,
Dalawang beses itong ipinalamon—diretso sa ulo ang pabuya.**

Sabi nila'y mapusok daw si Tinyente sa baril
May dalawang pakete itong tangan bilang isang kapit-talim,
Ngunit iba ang kasaysayan para sa narinig ay "Tama na po!"
Taliwas sa kwentong "nanlaban" ang isang binatang sundalo.

Kaya't kung paniniwalaan lahat ng mga dilang matabil,
Paparangalan ang sangkatutak na bayaning kumikital,
At dumaan man ang dantaon, sila pa rin ang huhulihin—
Silang walang kapangyarihan pa rin ang palalakaran.



Nang Lumunok ng Buwan ang Bakunawa

■ Ritan John R. Tanaleon

Payapa kung ituring ang bayan sa silanganan,
Lapitin ng mga kaibigang naghahangad ng kapayapaan,
Ngunit matunog ang alitan sa may tabi ng dalampasigan,
Dambuhala ang bakunawa't nag-aamok sa karagatan.

Tila limang bituin ang sukat ng mukha't pula ang balat,
Parang piratang naghahamon at kay gaspang ng salat,
Kumikitil sa lakas ng puwersa nitong kumukulong habagat,
Pinapatos lahat ng naglalakas-loob at dumaraang mandaragat.

May anunsiyong pampakalma si Tatang na huwag mag-alala,
Dahil may kasunduan daw sila ng maligalig na bakunawa,
Walang kibo't nagkibit-balikat sa pinag-usapang tiyapan,
Ani ni Babaylan, baka itinaya niya ang kalayaan ng buwan.

Namahay nang maluwat ang halimaw sa kastilyong inagaw na trono,
Paggimbal at pagpapakita ng matalas na kuko ang panakot ng bandido,
Bumubuhol ang tahi ng lambat sa pagkakataong dumagpi sa tulisan,
Kahit mayuming pamimingwit ay delikado na doon sa pasigan.

Paglupig na ng laman ang katumbas ng paglalaot sa kanluran,
'Di makukubli ang panganib kahit yumapak sa sariling kalupaan,
Pawang uhaw yaong hidhid at mapagkankam sa tabing dayungan,
Salin-salin na bulong ng mga dila'y limang daang taong kasakitan.

**Huli na nang mapagtanto na 'di lamang buwan ang linulunok ng bakunawa,
Sapagkat bihag rin niya ang mga uring taksil, ulong sakim at pariwara,
At ilan mang duguang daliri ng kanilang kapwa ang umanod sa pampang,
Walang panama ang liwanag ng perlas sa sinag ng kanilang panlilinlang.**



Hindi Dinukot ang Batang si Persipona

■ Klarence S. Layug at Ellyza Loise B. Del Fin

Musmos, walang kamuwang-muwang sa buhay,
Lupa na lamang ay biglang bumuka't ako ay tinangay.
Hindi mawari kung diyos ng kamatayan ang sa aki'y gumapos,
'Pagkat bubuhayin raw kami sa paraang walang panlilimos.

Walang katapusan ang pagdikit ng apoy sa leeg at braso—
Inay, nasa kama lang pala ang sangkalaliman na naglalampaso,
Habangbuhay na pagkalugmok ang uri ng awa na nayapos?
Ngunit ano ang magagawa ni Inay na walang pantubos?

Sa paghingi ng kapatawaran na 'di maibigay, boses ko'y napaos,
Ngunit perang kakarampot ay inilatag sa balat kong nalapnos.
Dumaan man ang maraming taon ay hindi pa siguro makakalaya,
Mananatili, marka ng mga halik sa katawang pinagpiyestahan nila.

**Kapag tapos na sa akin ay baka itatapon pa ako na nakatihaya,
Sana lamang ay 'di ako maabutan ni Inay na naaagnas na sa lawa—
Ito ay kung mali ang napagtanto at tinangkang tanggihan
Na siya ang tunay na nagtulak sa akin dito sa kailaliman.**

Inay, gayunpaman ay lubos kong nauunawaan
Kung bakit para mabuhay ay ito ang tanging nakita na paraan.
Subalit sakaling bigyan muli ako ng isa pang pagkakataon,
Mariin nang tatangi sa palaruan na malabo nilang matunton.



Dibuho ni Billyrei L. Rubia

Pasahero ng Pagbabago

■ Klarence S. Layug

Igagarahe na ang mga lumang dyip
sa banta ng moderno at hinaharap na pinapasilip.
Para sa aming sa barya na lamang umaasa,
hindi pa pala ligtas sa nakawan
ng natitirang pag-asa.

**Talo na nga sa kawalan ng pamasahé
tungo sa marangyang buhay,
talo pa sa labanan ng karapatan
na mamuhay.**

Masakit man na malimot ang 'di mabilang na paghahatid,
sa pagtalima sa kagustuhan ng mga aba
na sa kwento nila ay nausukan, nainitan
sa parehong impyernong sumusunog sa mga
namamasada—
o kaya nama'y napuno sa mga 'hari-hariang hambog',
maraming buhay tsuper ang ngayo'y susunduin ng
pagbabago
para kanyang ubusin.

Taliwas sa nakasanayan na may bukas pa,
Naiwan na lamang ang buhay sa katanungang
"Paano na kaya?"

Dibuho ni Billyrei L. Rubia



GUAGUA. BACOLO



Dibuho ni Algee C. Quiambao

Hanapan ng Itlog na Baog

■ Christian Arvin R. Regala

Sa pinagtalupan ng Sabado't pag-usbong ng Linggo—
Nagtitipon-tipon ang mga deboto.
Batid nilang kulang pa rin ang mga panauhin,
Kahit pa ang laman na ng entablado'y bente-kuwatro.
Sa pagkakataong ito, ang pakay nila'y hindi makukulay
na mga bilog—
Kung hindi ang sumupil ng halimaw, dakmain ang bulok
nitong mga itlog.

Ang bawat isa ay nakamasid, mistulang naglalaro ng tagu-
taguan,
Nakatenggang mga atraso'y inabot ng 'di mabilang na mga
buwan.
Pagbilang ng tatlo,
Karapatang pantao'y marahas na itinakbo.
Apat, lima, anim,
Tumangging sumipot, ipinagpag ang mga kasim.
Pito, walo, siyam,
Panaka-nakang pagpaparamdam—
At sampu,
May hatid itong kautusan, gabayan tayo ng espiritu.

Ito ay liham na nag-uumapaw sa mga kundisyon.
Kulang ang mga daliri sa pagbilang ng hiling na konsumisyon.
Patuloy na tinatarantado ang mga nakapiblas sa pasimano;
Iniiputan, pinaikot, at tila inaabutan ng pamukpok sa kanilang
mga ulo—
Galit na ang lahat, desperadong makasakmal ng isang santo-
santuhan.

**Sa panahong narumihan at may putik ang pangalan,
Marapat itong linisin at saka muling bihisan—
Dahil ang tunay na Mesias ay lumalaban nang patas,
Hindi nagkukubli mula sa mga mambabatas.**



EDSAPWERA

■ Jerome L. Alipio

Hindi makalilimot ang bayang minsang ginapos.
Patuloy na mauulinig ang mga boses, nagawa mang mapaos.
Mananatiling patunay sa kung paano nagsimulang kumilos,
Silang Pilipinong nagtamo ng panloob at panlabas na galos.

Dalawang dekadang pula ang siyang natatanaw na kulay,
Ng mga mata at damdaming lumasap ng bagsik ng buhay.
Saksi ang madugong pamamaraan upang masabing mapayapa,
Masigurong walang lumilihis sa konsepto ng mapanlinlang na malaya.

Nagising, kumilos at matapang na tumindig.
Ginising ang pinatulog na makapangyarihang pag-ibig.
Nagtipon-tipon sa makasaysayang daan, binagtas tangan ang paninindigan,
Para sa mapagpalaya, makatarungan at makataong bayan!

**Pagdiriwang sa araw na ito ay tinanggal man,
Ngunit mananatili ang kasaysayang demokrasya ay nakamtan.
Hindi rin sa pagdedeklara ng natatanging araw ang magiging basehan,
Sa kung paano ang Pilipinas ay umalpas sa tanikalang gumapos sa kalayaan.**

Lumaya na mula sa pulang pamamahala ngunit ang kulay ay muling ibinalik,
Ngunit hindi na gaya ng dati, ang baya'y hindi na mananahimik.
Demokrasyang napasakamay ay hindi na nararapat ipagagaw,
Patuloy na kikilos, maririnig ang nag-aalsang mga palahaw.

May saysay ang kasaysayan, subukin mang burahin,
Ngayon ay paggunita sa mga buhay, boses at pagkilos na inialay.
Alisan man ng natatanging puwang upang magdiwang,
Ang tulang ito ay palatandaan na nananaig ang malayang pagdiriwang!

BACKWARD BOUNDARIES



It is all too common knowledge that journalists are put on the pedestal to be responsible for cascading election-related information to the public to keep people informed, especially about real-time and relevant events. For the swift delivery of information, these upholders of truth have the right to access such information from the election management bodies and political candidates, whether that be at the national or university level.

The Industrialist, as have all other campus publications in the archipelago, has undyingly committed to ethical and independent journalism. Echoes from non-campus journalists that dictate what and what not-campus publications should do amid elections only urge this body to be firmer in its roles, duties, and responsibilities.

Recently, an election-related issue arose long before the day of filing for candidacy for the 2024 University Student Council and Local Student Council elections of the university came. Minutes after the posting of the news, the Student Commission on Elections (SCOM) was quick to make an advisory, reminding every entity at the university that no other office is authorized to address any election-related activities. While it is true that SCOM has all the right to lead the electoral undertaking, they do not have the right to dictate the publication on what issue to publish. Otherwise, the publication will deviate from its true essence in its direct community.

Relatively, even the commissioner from the College of Business Studies reminded one of the editors of the publication to focus on covering the election alone. This is a big disgrace to the publication's principles, as it compromises press freedom. The

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The Industrialist officially reserves its right to not only 'cover' but also to scrutinize election-related events, all without the external approval—or disapproval—of other student organizations. Most importantly, it shall remain true to its advocacy of serving as the ears of the members of the Honorian community.

SCOM, who cried that they were bypassed for the said matter, should understand that student publications are not passive entities—even in the slightest of ways, publications are not echo chambers.

With this said, the publication strongly refutes claims that its role in the upcoming University Student Council and Local Student Council Elections is to 'cover election-related' events only. Student publications such as The Industrialist do not commit to serving the studentry as mere news outlets that deliver information that is made readily available by sources. Instead, student publications swear into the practice of campus journalism of being vanguards of truth as well, equipped with the power to approach individuals of interest to retrieve information first-hand should it make the information more truthful and substantial.

If the SCOM sees the need to conduct any fact-checking, investigating, and addressing election-related matters, they are more than free to do so, all without policing, restraining, or painting that of the publication as an 'interference'. After all, the publication has not 'addressed' any election-related issue but has only acted to amplify the voice of a dismayed aspiring candidate over election-related changes. Not one non-student publication could have given this personality the platform needed to raise such a concern, hence the publication's commitment.

In the current election climate, it is worth reminding people that the investigative nature of the work of journalists is what has long earned them the watchdog role. Journalists cannot afford to passively wait for opportunities to come to them; instead, they actively pursue the truth. The fact that even one student organization misconstrued this practice in campus journalism as invasive of their role in the university only raises concerns over the awareness of the purpose of campus journalism.

The publication has long unwaveringly served not only in independence and impartiality but also in good faith since its establishment in 1940. The methodology of The Industrialist and other campus publications within and outside the university in verifying the accuracy of the information, their pace in doing so, and their overall credibility are not worth the cynicism. If anything, unanswered election-related questions surrounding a local council deserve this energy more.

All that having been said, The Industrialist officially reserves its right to not only 'cover' but also to scrutinize election-related events, all without the external approval—or disapproval—of other student organizations. Most importantly, it shall remain true to its advocacy of serving as the ears of the members of the Honorian community.

Bearing with the Bare

CAN

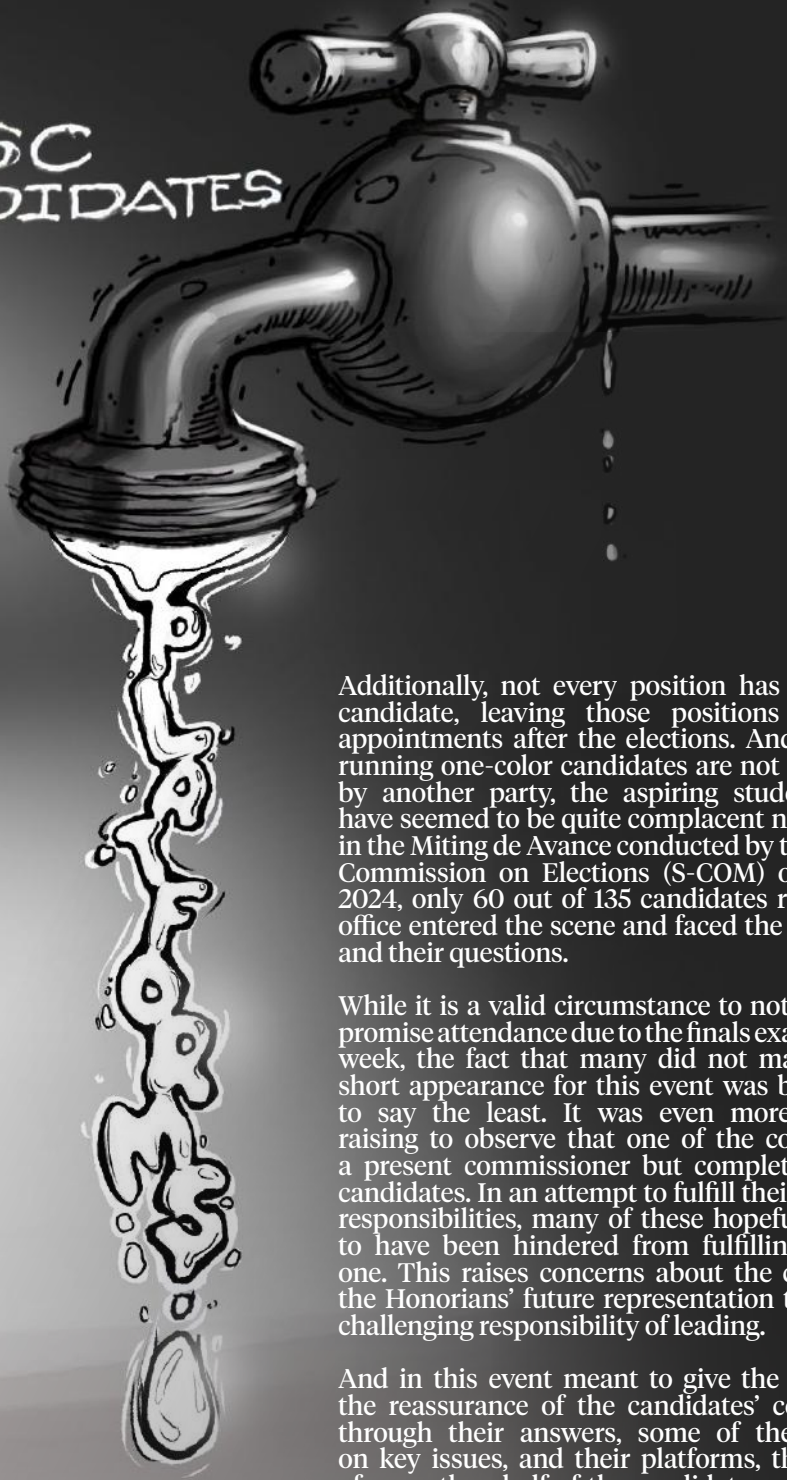
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one are the days when student-elections served their actual purpose—to let the students select the next public servants that will lead the student body at large. These days, the students have no choice but to settle with whoever is served to them since almost all of the candidates are unopposed.

DINSU

SHELDON | LUNAR LYRE

SC
CANDIDATES



Additionally, not every position has a running candidate, leaving those positions open for appointments after the elections. And since the running one-color candidates are not challenged by another party, the aspiring student-leaders have seemed to be quite complacent now. In fact, in the Miting de Avance conducted by the Student Commission on Elections (S-COM) on May 31, 2024, only 60 out of 135 candidates running for office entered the scene and faced the Honorians and their questions.

While it is a valid circumstance to not be able to promise attendance due to the finals examinations week, the fact that many did not make even a short appearance for this event was bittersweet, to say the least. It was even more eyebrow-raising to observe that one of the colleges had a present commissioner but completely absent candidates. In an attempt to fulfill their academic responsibilities, many of these hopefuls seemed to have been hindered from fulfilling a bigger one. This raises concerns about the capacity of the Honorians' future representation to bear the challenging responsibility of leading.

And in this event meant to give the Honorians the reassurance of the candidates' competence through their answers, some of their stances on key issues, and their platforms, the absence of more than half of the candidates only left the community with more questions.

Another concern arose from the answers of many of the candidates to queries on social and political issues concerning both the university and the society in general. It is both alarming and disheartening that some aspirants lack even the most basic knowledge regarding timely sociopolitical issues. Aside from controversial stances and opinions, it is also notable how some answers failed to provide any substance to the discussion. It is such a shame that even the most ordinary students are more opinionated to issues affecting the public than some of the candidates who have decided to become their representatives. True enough, student-leadership is not just about having the stance to things, but the mere fact that some soon-to-be student leaders are not even aware of some looming issues is a bit concerning,

because how can you lead a community if you do not know what their needs and predicaments are?

The Industrialist, the official student publication of Don Honorio Ventura State University, is among the many student bodies that recognize the importance of competent representation and student leadership. It affirms that the role of student leaders at the university is parallel to that of government officials in the country, thus its expression of dismay over the current turn of events in this year's university and local student council elections. What difference can the studentry collectively bring to society if it is just as complacent with whatever is served to the table? As long as the students bear the responsibility of fighting for justice for marginalized people, equality, and true peace, the need for councils that truly understand and advocate for them will always be present.

While it cannot be denied that a series of unfortunate events, such as the shift to online classes for a month and the subsequent examinations this week, contributed to this disadvantageous schedule of the Miting de Avance, the university should not leave it that way. If anything, this circumstance has only taught us that the schedule of the USC and LSC elections should be given more priority in the coming years, and it should not coincide with any major examinations to improve the chances of the studentry to actively engage. Additionally, the next Miting de Avance should be conducted in a much bigger venue to include more Honorians who have the willingness to scrutinize the aspiring student leaders.

On the other hand, there is no denying that academic performance matters. However, in the pursuit of bigger responsibilities, it does not look promising for many of the candidates to let their academic responsibilities hinder them from proving they can handle them. The needs of the university for better student leaders just become greater as time passes, especially with the threat of its changing landscapes. Each year, new proposals, policies, and mechanisms are laid out and implemented, and it is the duty of student leaders to be aware of their implications and effect on the Honorian community to prevent misleading progress.

However, thus far, many of the aspiring student leaders exhibit a blurred vision of what the student needs and what their role is within that framework. The publication reiterates the role of student leaders in becoming not only the voices of the students within the university but also of society at large. It is about time the DHVSU community gives more regard to the student election and refrains from treating it as a mere annual event of passing down positions from formerly uncontested candidates to another.

We must recognize the unequivocal importance of encouraging more students to step up and lead, especially those who have what it takes. We have seen enough at the national level what being complacent with what is being served has done and is doing to the country. And now, more than ever, this complacency needs to be put to a stop.



FATRICACY

Patrick Bryan H. Porras

DUGONG TINTA HINDI TINTANG DUGO

Isang kabalastugan ang pagsabi na ang pinakamataas na karangalan sa pamamahayag ay ang ma-red-tag—lalo na kung ang katagang ito ay nagmula mismo sa kapwa mo mamamahayag.

Nakailangi-scroll na akosa aking facebook feed at pang ilang beses na ring dumaan ang isang satire post na nagsasabing, “Hindi ka journalist kung hindi ka pa na-redtag,” na sa huli kong pagsaliksik ay burado na yata. Gayunpaman, hindi mapapawi ang iniwan nitong implikasyon—na kahit pawang mga mamamahayag ay itinuturing na biro o ‘di kaya’y “badge of honor” ang redtagging. Nakadidismayang tingnan na ang isang bangungot para sa ibang mamamahayag ay charot-charot lang para sa iba.

Napapawalang-saysay nito ang mga panawagan na mas paigtingin ang karapatan ng mga mamamahayag, dahil mismong mga kabaro namin ay ipinagwawalang-bahala ang napakalaking isyu na ilang buhay at pangalan na ang niyurakan.

Sa datos ng National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), mayroong 159 na insidente ng red-tagging sa mga peryodista mula 2016 hanggang 2024, hindi pa kasama rito ang bilang ng mga kasong hindi naitatala dahil sa takot ng mga biktima na magsiwalat ng kanilang karanasan. Sa nasabing bilang, 90 or 56.6% dito ay mga mamamahayag sa alternative media o yaong mga nagbabalita ng mga istorya ng mga kulang sa representasyon o nasa laylayang sektor

ng lipunan. Samantala, ang naiwang 69 o 43.4% ay mga mamamahayag sa ilalim ng dominant o mainstream na midya.

Patunay ang nasabing bilang na hindi basta-basta ang red-tagging—na dapat itong pagtuunan ng pansin, dahil maraming buhay ang nalalagay sa alanganin bunsod ng mga hindi makatarungang paratang ng mga nasa katungkulan at ibang mga pwersa na nasa luklukan ng kapangyarihan.

Kaya sa tuwing nakababasa ako ng mga posts na ginagawang katatawanan ang red-tagging ay napapataas talaga ang aking kilay, lalo na’t ako mismo ay nakaranas nito noong kasagsagan ng pandemya sa mismong guro ko sa hayskul. Nakapanlulumo isipin na ang simpleng pagtuligsa sa maling gawain ng gobyerno o kaya’y paglabas ng opinyon sa mga isyung panlipunan, ay itinuturing nang masama. Nakalulungkot ding makita na minsan, kung sino pa ang mga kinililala nating ilaw, ay sila pa itong nagtutulak sa atin sa kadiliman.

Kung tutuusin, hindi ko nakitaan ng anumang dahilan para ituring na biro ang red-tagging—dahil nagdulot ito sa akin ng trauma, na ngayon ay baon ko pa rin. Para sa isang mamamahayag na dumanas ng nasabing suliranin, isang malaking insulto ang makabasa ng naturang sabi-sabi kahit pa na satire ito kung ituring. Wari ko’y ang mga mamamahayag na nag-share ay hindi dumanas ng redtagging, kaya balewala lang sa kanila

ang problemang nabanggit.

Kung kaya’t nagbubukas ng diskusyon ang isyung ito na kailangan pang pagtuunan ng pansin ang pagsasanay sa mga mamamahayag na maging sensitibo at mas palawakin pa ang isipan sa mga ganitong isyu na mismong mga alagad ng midya ang mga biktima. Dagdag pa rito, simula’t sapul ay kailangan ding mas paigtingin o dagdagan pa ang mga batas na nagbibigay proteksyon sa mga mamamahayag. Walang mali sa pagbabalita ng katotohanan lalo na kung ang katotohanang ito ay susi upang mabigyang boses ang mga taong madalas binubusalan—ngunit kaakibat ng tungkuling ito ang dagok lalo na kung ikaw ay nananahan sa bansang kibat-balikat sa pagtanggap ng katotohanan.

Kaya sa mga kapwa ko mamamahayag, libre lang naman magkaroon ng kamalayan, hindi natin kailangan maranasan ang isang bagay para masabi na nangyayari ito at hindi lang ito basta isang katatawanan. Bilang tagapagtaguyod ng katotohanan at malayang pamamahayag, sa atin dapat nagsisimula ang pagtindig laban sa mga isyung hindi makatuwiran—katulad na lamang ng redtagging. Hindi na dapat tayo dumadagdag pa sa problema bagkus tayo ay kasama dapat sa solusyon. Sa huli, walang sinuman ang nararapat mapasailalim sa redtagging, dahil ang isang mamamahayag ay hindi dapat dugo ang tinta—tinta ang dugo niya.



HIRAYA

Kylie Mae B. Abegonia

FALTERING PROGRESS OF A BROKEN SYSTEM

“My dream is to graduate.”

Concise. Straight to the point. I know it isn't just me who answered this when asked what we want when we grow up. The future has always been uncertain, and when you still don't know the path you're heading, that statement is always the easiest one to convey. Short as it may seem, the journey in getting that hard-earned diploma is far from traversing a straight route, especially if you are studying in a country like the Philippines.

Earlier this year, news broke out that starting the school year 2024-2025, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) will discontinue senior high school (SHS) programs in state and local universities and colleges (LUCs and SUCs) across the country. This is due to the agreement with the Department of Education (DepEd) that they can only offer the said program during the transition period from 2016-2021. It only got extended because of the pandemic.

Everyone was born with their given rights, and since then, they have instilled in our minds that one of them is our right to study and receive a proper education. But, for most people, it doesn't seem to be that way. It's already a privilege, something they want and need but can't afford. That is when the government must come into the picture, it should be an avenue that will provide equal opportunities to less fortunate students—except sometimes it's not. “There was no legal basis to fund it” a declaration from CHED's chair Prospero De Vera III, pertaining to stopping the funding of the SHS program—including the students and teachers—in government-run higher education institutions (HEIs) with the exemption of grade 12 students in SY 2023-2024 to complete their basic education.

Based on numbers by DepEd, there are around 17,700 Grade 11 students, who are non-voucher recipients, enrolled in SUCs

and LUCs this current school year. This is where the problem might originate, these affected students also need to be displaced in public and private high schools that offer SHS programs. They can still avail the voucher, especially if they opt to enter a private school, but just imagining the influx of students, certain institutions surely cannot absorb all of them.

To keep up with the world's ever-evolving learning standards, in 2016, K-12 was introduced with the aim that every student in this generation is prepared for their career path, may it be college/university, industry work, or entrepreneurship. While that is favorable, the promise lies only at the surface. Based on numbers, an estimated 400,000 students failed to enroll. While the government implemented a voucher system for tuition fees, it did not cover other expenses that eventually became a burden to parents. The same fate may happen once more due to the discontinuation of the SHS program in SUCs and LUCs and their displacement to other institutions.

As an alumna, a product of the SHS program from a state university, I am aware of the cut-throat struggle in finding the perfect opportunity to continue studying, literally pushing myself to fit in a tiny needle's hole. Some schools have entrance exams, cut-offs, or sometimes give advantage to those students from their school to settle before accepting transferees. Along the way, it's either you get accepted or rejected. Let's be real—in order to get in it's either you're smart or have a connection. These are also reasons why most students decided not to continue their education. Much more if the availability that an institution can offer is not feasible to cater to too many of them, including displacing teaching and non-teaching personnel. The loss of jobs will affect thousands of families.

They couldn't just scrap senior high school in LUCs and SUCs without consulting or even just asking those who they said

must benefit the most—parents, students, and teachers. This isn't the bigger picture if they can't visualize a parent and their children who struggles to knock for opportunities but the doors of each institution are too full even to be opened. A teacher who cannot memorize his/her students' names anymore because there are too many to handle, not to mention the pile-up workloads but with not enough compensation.

Different opinions have surfaced since K-12 made its mark, but for years, we have embraced what it offers. We may think of it as an upgrade, a step forward for us, and a way for our students to be more equipped in whatever trajectory they may pursue. Truth be told, the initiative has always been good, but up until now, the execution is still off the edge. With this even bigger but questionable step, if not ready and not done properly, discontinuing the SHS program to LUCs and SUCs may result in a compromised learning environment, a loss of many students' potential, and a downgrade in the value of education in the country, especially as we are still recovering from significant shifts brought about by the pandemic. It's not like we're not experiencing it already.

Beyond everything, education is still generally believed to be one of the pillars of having a better life. In all honesty, it really is. Unfortunately, we live in a world where it's not always fair. It's a right, but we still need to fight for it to be ours, especially in a country where opportunities come scarcely and people in positions are making decisions that are not for the greatest interest of many. Our children deserve better, we cannot put so much expectations on them if we cannot even provide the bare minimum—support and resources. Now more than ever, let's continue to be stubborn by knocking and holding those who vowed to be accountable by not depriving us of what we deserve—a better system, in all aspects, more so in the education sector.



ALPAS

Clark Andrei B. Flores

NOT DANCEABLE AT ALL

As I was about to take my seat at the table and enjoy the hot soup my mom made, I was stopped by an intriguing sound and a flicker of light that came through the screen. That's when my eyes noticed an unusual commercial that I hadn't seen before.

"EDSApwera...Sa 1987 Constitution, natigil ang asenso natin," "Ang pinayaman ng konstitusion, mamamakyaw at negosyante," "Malusog na ekonomiya raw para sa lahat! Pero pangako, nahinto."

At first, I was baffled with what I witnessed and heard. It's a political advertisement showing the alleged losses of the country under the provisions of the 1987 Constitution and the social issues faced by Filipinos. What's more bothersome is how it seems to blame it all on the innocent Constitution. However, regardless of what I witnessed, one concern was carved in my mind: Whoever is the mastermind behind this advertisement, do they really think that with this initiative, everything will be fixed?

I realized that amid the country's long-standing issues that tremendously affect and burden us Filipinos, people in power have yet again chosen to direct their attention toward the 1987 Constitution instead of dealing with more important

matters, such as corruption, rising inflation, unemployment, and livelihood concerns, and other challenges faced by the majority. Many of our fellow citizens have raised their voices to seek solutions to these certain problems, but instead, individuals whose veins are embedded with greed chose to stick with their guts and targeted the 1987 Constitution for the sake of their interests.

This attempt to amend the Constitution, however, is not quite new. In fact, countless attempts for a charter change, popularly known as cha-cha, have been made by the previous administrations already. Fortunately, similar to the previous campaigns, the amendment of the Constitution hasn't been successful. Perhaps because people saw the real motive of its promoters and that is why it never landed well in the first place.

Now that cha-cha is being pushed once again, it is surely and without a doubt that President Ferdinand 'Bong Bong' Marcos Jr. will benefit if it succeeds. As a matter of fact, One of the actively known promoters of this initiative is none other than his cousin House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

With their desire to push through the amendment of the Constitution, a mode of constitutional amendment called

'People's Initiative' has been secretly enacted across the country during the Christmas break of December 2023. The goal of this initiative is to collect petitions from all the registered voters that will end up giving away power to legislators to amend the 1987 Constitution; thus, this initiative is not truly driven by the people, but rather by those in power seeking to prolong their influence and alter the rules to their advantage.

I doubt that they want to amend the Constitution to fix the country's current status. It is being pushed for an amendment to cover the country's long-term problems that the government failed to deal with effectively. It is being held liable for its non-progressive approach to dealing with the real issues that have been manifested through its actions.

The problem is not with the Constitution, it's the elected leaders of our country. Let us not blame it all on the 1987 Constitution. Everyone is tilting their head with the option of amending the Constitution because they don't want to recognize the root of the country's social ills. The Constitution is the symbol of our democracy, protecting the foundation of our nationhood while serving as a reflection of our citizenry. Thus, let us not turn a blind eye to the real enemy of our nation and protect the Constitution at all costs.



WANDERING SOUL

Ara Jesusa D. Costamero

IBALIK ANG INAGAW NA UPUAN

Kayo po na nakaupo, subukan niyo namang tumayo, at baka matanaw ninyo na ang mga hindi laki sa layaw ay nauubusan na ng espasyo sa sarili nilang teritoryo.

Sa pagtuntong natin sa paaralan, paulit-ulit na ang pagbatingaw ng kasabihan na hindi hadlang ang kahirapan sa pag-abot ng pangarap. Kung titingnan, sa dami ng mga unibersidad na libre ang matrikula, totoo ito, pero para lamang sa iilan. Sa dami ng mga gustong makatipid at makalibre, hindi lahat ng mga mahihirap ay nabibigyan ng pagkakataong makuha sa loob ng silid-aralan, lalo na sa kasalukuyang panahon. Nanatili pa ring pribilehiyo ang edukasyon, dahil sa kabila ng pagiging libre nito, nagiging limitado pa rin ang iba, lalo na yaong mga kapos palad na dapat sana'y mas nakikinabang sa mga pampublikong unibersidad.

Ang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas ay isa sa mga paaralang suportado ng pamahalaan kaya't mas mababa ang matrikula rito kumpara sa mga pribadong pamantasan. Kung dito mag-ee enrol, hindi ganoon kabigat ang gastusin dahil katuwang ang taumbayan sa pagpaparaal. Hindi kagaya ng dati, kaltas na sa sakit sa balsa ang matrikula, ngunit nakakalungkot makitang ang unibersidad na sana'y magiging daan sa pagtupad ng maramig pangarap ay mas populado ng mga may kaya namang magbayad.

Sa datos na inilabas ng Manila Times noong 2013, lumabas na 72 porsiyento ng mga Isko at Iska ang nagmula sa mga pamilyang kumikita ng halos kalahating milyon sa isang taon. Doble ang bahagdan nila kumpara sa mga mag-aaral na nagmula sa mga pamilyang salat sa buhay. Ika nga ng sumulat ng nasabing artikulo, ang mga dapat na "Iskolar ng Bayan" ay unti-unti ng nagiging mga "Iskolar na Mayaman".

Pagkalipas ng ilang taon, dahil marami pa rin ang hindi nakatutuloy sa kolehiyo bunsod ng kahirapan, noong 2017 ay ipinatupad ang Republic Act Number 10931 (RA 10931). Ang batas ang naging dahilan sa pagbubukas ng pintuan ng 112 State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) at 78 Local Colleges and Universities (LCUs) nang libre para mas maraming mga bata, lalo na iyong mula sa mahihirap na pamilya. Maganda sana ang layunin ng programa, ngunit katulad ng problemang kinahaharap natin noong nakaraang dekada, unit-unti na namang naagawan ng upuan ang mga mahihirap.

Pitong taon na simula ng inilabas ang batas. Imbes na gampanan nito ang tungkuling mas pumanig sa mga maralita, patuloy na mga mayayaman ang nagpapakasasa. Problemado ito umpisa pa lang. Ayon kasi rito, basta ang mag-aaral ay kwalipikado pagdating sa grado, matatamasa na niya ang libreng matrikula, mahirap man o mayaman. Hindi naman ito maging problema kung prayoridad sana ang mga mahihirap, lalo na't sila ang mga mas may kailangan.

Sa ngayon, ito ang unang dapat ayusin at rebisahin, dahil kahit na ang lahat ay may karapatang makapag-aral, hindi lahat ay may maipambabayad sa matrikula. Kung mayroon ka namang sapat na pinansiyal na kapasidad, ang pag-ee enrol sa mga unibersidad at paaralang libreng matrikula ay maituturing na problema. Ang pagkuha sa benepisyong para sana sa mga mas may kailangan ay para na ring pagtapak sa kanilang karapatan at pangarap. Tila pag-aagaw ito sa isang bagay na para sa kanila dapat.

Malayo pa ang lalakbayin ng batas bago nito tuluyang makamit ang mandato na maging 'maka-mahirap'. Kailangan mas masusing

pag-aralan ang ilan sa mga parte nito. Hangga't hindi magtatakda ng limitasyon kung sino dapat ang mga dapat nitong i-prayoridad ay patuloy itong maging 'maka-mayaman'.

Idinisenyo ito upang tulungan ang mga mahihirap, kaya't marapat na siguraduhing sila ang unang nakatatamasa sa mga benepisyong dala nito. Ang problemang ito ay hindi mahirap o imposibleng solusyunan. Noong nakaraang panuruang taon, isang proseso ang idinagdag ng Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) sa pagsala ng mga tatanggap mag-aaral. Isinama ang Income Tax Return Form ng mga magulang sa mga dokumentong kailangang ipasa ng mga nagnanais makapasok sa unibersidad. Ito ay ginawa upang maliban sa pagpili sa mga estudyante base sa kanilang kakayahan, ay masala rin kung sino ang mga dapat unahin. Marahil ilang taon ang ginugol bago ito gawin, ngunit ang mahalaga'y na-umpisahan na nila ito.

Imbes na maghintay lamang sa mga nasa pwesto, sa ngayon ay kailangan din nating gisingin ang mga may pribilehiyo sa katotohanan. Hindi naman sila tinatangalan ng karapatang makapag-aral, ngunit huwag naman sanang sila ang maging dahilan para may isang salat ang masaraduhan ng pintuan. May kakayahan silang pumili kung saang paaralan nila gustong matuto, pero ang mga umaasa sa libreng programa ng gobyerno ay ang makakaupo lamang sa loob ng silid-aralan kung bibigyan ng libreng upuan.

Matagal nang naninindigan ang mga mahihirap para sa kanilang karapatan, kaya't huwag ka naman sanang maging isa sa mga dahilan sa pagpanglaw ng kanilang pangarap na makaahon sa kasalatan.



VENDETTA
Klarence S. Layug

WILL YOU BE MY WI—BARE MINIMUM ENJOYER?

“Sa mga nagdedemand ng mamahaling engagement ring Jan...Siguraduhin niyo lang na virgin pa kayo para fair sa magbibigay Lalo kung plano talaga kayong pakasalan...” This was a comment by Sid Nunez that I found in a shared post by the Facebook page StreetTuning x Boss Ar, which garnered 265,000 reactions and 16,000 comments that mostly agree. When I read such words, I could not help but think, “How does that sound to women who have slowly and effortfully gained their ground against this patriarchal world?”

It is no secret that many of us no longer see ourselves getting married given that we are not financially ready. In fact, as outlined in the findings of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the number of registered marriages from January to August 2023 reached 263,752 only. Comparing this figure to that of the same period from the previous year, a 14.4% decline stands out. Looking at the condition of our world, it is clear that living in independence is one route to a peaceful life. You are your only problem. You have only yourself and your family to support.

It is okay to admit that we may feel the fluctuating desire to get into a relationship. Despite that, we still choose to not trek that path so as to avoid suffering the consequences of being somewhat a burden in the relationship. But it appears that this is not the case for everyone, as I recently learned through a circulating issue that a number of men would propose to their beloved with an engagement ring controversially priced low—at P299.

“Papayag ka sa P299 engagement ring?” In a now-deleted Facebook post, user Tina Alaba put the differing answers of two women side by side to the question. Their contrasting answers led Facebook users—mostly men—

in the comment section to express their appreciation for the lady who answered yes and to point out the ‘audacity’ of the other. To my surprise, it does not end there; they—including women—also assert that a girl should not demand for a pricey engagement ring as ‘all she contributes to the relationship is her vagina’.

So, it appears that we still have a long battle against patriarchy. Although we have gone far from the bygone male-dominated years, we still have miles to walk before women finally achieve freedom from discrimination. And this difficulty stems greatly from the patriarchal mindset having ingrained itself deeply even in women themselves. As evidenced by the Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 99.5% of Filipinos are biased against women based on 2017 to 2022 data. How much of that number had to consist of women for it to extend to almost a complete hundred?

Virginity has long been used as a metric for the worth of women, and to see that it remains persistent is concerning. As I have read from other comments, many men continuously perceive that they do most of the work in the relationship and thus have some right to demand for their partner’s virginity. However, women have the capacity to stand on their own and with their husbands. As such, that mindset that men still hold onto is now but outdated.

Filipinos have diverse takes on escalating standards today. However, no one is forcing their wooer to secure a luxurious Pandora engagement ring before they get the right to propose. It is just that many of us treat engagement proposals as a very important and intimate event, so to experience it with

minimal effort and sincerity would be a shame. More so, it gives a glimpse of how they may be treated beyond marriage. If your man can do so much for two bottles of beer amounting to about P300, why not even much more for an engagement ring?

It is not that much of a dilemma for some to be content with what little price their wooer can give in this economy. If they are fine by leveling their demands with their own capabilities and conditions, that is not for us to make a problem out of. It is true that many skipped the engagement part and went straight for marriage and lived the life and they were able to spend money elsewhere. To them, the ring’s monetary value is not a metric for love nor financial capability. What would be considered crossing the line is ridiculing those who find meaning behind the price of a ring, an engagement one at that. Filipinos still have to work on refraining from invalidating feelings over ‘small things’ that matter personally to many.

It all boils down to having clear and thorough communication; engaging in a discussion will give both parties a middle ground where they may recognize the expectations of one and the capacity of the other. Not only that, there is also the option of giving a ring beyond marriage—when time and money finally permits. Everyone is trying to make ends meet in these trying times, and mutual agreements can help.

So, what do you say, would that be a yes? But let it be said, now more than ever, we have the freedom to never settle for anything less than we think we deserve. So, whether you find yourself being proposed to with just a paper ring or a flashy diamond sitting on top of a gold ring, you have every right to say no.



MEDUSA
Nathalie C. Miranda

ACCOUNTABILITY

As what we all know, media or press is the courier of the hottest news, bringing the truth to the general public, and embodying professional ethics, journalistic practices and etiquettes, and being accountable for whatever they release, but in an instant, they are also the one who tainted their own credibility and image to the citizens due to an incident published online.

Everyone is surely aware that plagiarism is a crime thus, when one of the researchers/writers of Rappler was found doing such, a public apology and accountability was enacted by its management including the name of their researcher-writer, which collected various negative comments from the netizens. Furthermore, with this action by Rappler, their so-called accountability turned into an agony of the person involved.

In accordance with the article published by Rappler regarding this plagiarism matter, this researcher-writer has already numerous articles circulated online but none of the editorial board of one the bravest media outlets in the Philippines corrected and tapped its written

works. Which one has the greater mistake now?

Truth be told, being part of the editorial board is not an easy task, it takes a lot of re-readings, fact-checking, and plagiarism-checking before approving the article and sending it to the higher editorial board for more inspection. With that, it can be stated that there is negligence on the side of the eagle-eyed editors because numbers of plagiarized works were obtained through their sight.

Moreover, it is good that Rappler acknowledged the mistake of their researcher-writer but not to the extent of name-dropping the person which put this individual into shame and agony, it must be noted that a person's privacy is being protected by the Data Privacy Act of 2012. If an organization is truly embodying professional ethics, it will never put its employees into public humiliation especially when they are part of the media industry.

Given that one of the pillars of Rappler is technology, if they truly invest in

technology for the betterment of the community, a plagiarized work must be seen when it was made for the first time due to the fact that, technologization is there so, a lot of applications can be utilized to trace such. A mistake cannot be repeated when no one is tolerating it and when one is certainly doing its job in a just and right way.

With all of the above-mentioned, it must be noted that no matter how pure your intention is, if the action acted upon is not just and humane, only shows that accountability is not being reflected but blaming and shaming is.

Rappler can address this plagiarism issue in a fairer way, public apology for their researcher-writer and being held truly accountable for the said matter or issue – face the consequences of their mistake as a media as a whole.

This is a wakeup call that media or press and anyone who is in the same industry must deliver unbiased and uncopied articles to the people because they are the bridge of the truth.



SILVERWING

Paul Chester S. Galang

CLOUDED RAINBOW

In this colorful era of self-expression and artistry, one would hope for an inclusive space that embraces diversity and celebrates identity. Regrettably, recent events shed light on an unsettling incident involving Pura Luka Vega, a talented drag queen performer. Pura, known for transcending boundaries and challenging the status quo through their art, found themselves facing a legal predicament for their expressive strives. The blatant injustice that unfolded when Pura Luka Vega was arrested became a signal that revealed how opaque the justice system is when certain groups were offended by an expression of art form and collectively decided their faith is sovereign over freedom of expression.

The arrest of Pura Luka Vega serves as a stark reminder that even in the 21st century, some individuals, particularly the LGBTQ+ community, continue to face prejudice and discrimination for expressing true selves. From the report of CNN Philippines, “Amadeus Fernando Pagente, whose drag name is Pura Luka Vega, was arrested in Manila on October 4 after being accused of blasphemy.” Having them taken into police custody shocked many who believed society had progressed beyond artistic expression.

Art is a powerful tool that one uses to express the depths of feelings, emotions, and perspectives of one’s unique identity. Drag performance, a vibrant unit of artistic spectrum, allows individuals like Pura Luka Vega to transform their creative persona into life by utilizing their wits, creativity, and challenge preconceived notions. That being the case, this arrest suggests that not everyone is ready to embrace such forms of individualistic expression.

Pura Luka Vega’s arrest not only highlights a bottleneck but also pushes us to question the saturation point of freedom of expression within the realm of art. The criminal case filed against Pura Luka Vega by the Kapisanan ng Social Media Broadcasters ng Pilipinas Inc.

was based on Revised Penal Code Article 133, which penalizes the “offending religious feelings” crime. In 2019, Sen. Leila De Lima argued that this article, deemed obsolete, violates the Constitution’s non-establishment clause. Similarly, in 2013, artist Carlos Celdran faced charges for ‘offending religious feelings’ during a protest supporting women’s reproductive rights at Manila Cathedral, illustrating the ongoing challenges faced by those pushing societal boundaries through their art.

In the wake of Vega’s arrest, there has been widespread public support and advocacy for drag performer’s rights. Notably, queens from “Drag Race Philippines,” “Drag Den Philippines,” and local artists rallied behind Pura Luka Vega through special fundraising show, which raised over 890,000 pesos, crucial for Pura Luka Vega’s bail, legal fees, and day-to-day living expenses subsequent to cancellations of future shows. “Efforts to repeal Article 201, deemed unconstitutional by lawyers and activists, face resistance from the Court of Appeals, which argues that free speech doesn’t allow unrestricted expression,” on an article of The Diplomat, 2023. The collective voice demanding justice reflects a growing awareness of the need to protect artistic freedom within the LGBTQ+ community.

In the resilient tapestry of the LGBTQ+ community’s history, Pura Luka Vega’s arrest is a confrontation to us all that challenges persist despite progress. A recent study by Williams Institute at UCLA in 2022 reveals that one in 10 violent victimizations against the LGBTQ+ community are hate crimes. These sharp figures prompt a revisitation of Article I of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, emphasizing the deep-rooted freedom and equality of all. Beyond a mere ideal, this quote becomes a call to action in the face of situations like Vega’s, urging us to translate principles into practice. Now is the time to actively combat prejudice and hatred, creating a society where the LGBTQ+ community can

thrive without discrimination.

One aspect frequently brought to the surface in such incidents is the need for cultural sensitivity and education. Vega’s arrest may result from misconceptions or a lack of understanding about drag culture. In today’s digital age, as netizens, we bear responsibility to seek available information and educate ourselves about what drag culture entails. It costs nothing to gain insight into how drag serves not only as entertainment but also as a platform for education in both physical and virtual settings. In the UK, the National Education Union’s (NEU) annual conference in Harrogate has expressed support for “drag queen story hours” and LGBTQ+ inclusive spaces in schools. These initiatives are vital steps in challenging “heteronormative culture and curriculum,” creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students, and promoting inclusive teaching.

In times of injustice, allies play a crucial role in amplifying marginalized voices. When life becomes tumultuous, solace is found in those who accept you wholeheartedly. It is during such moments that you witness who truly values you as a human being. In Pura’s incident, many who claimed to be allies to the LGBTQ+ community unveiled an unexpectedly antagonistic stance. Irrespective of the viewpoint, an act of self-expression occurred, and an innocent person faced punishment for it. Let us bid farewell to archaic beliefs and the hypocrisy of institutions that turn a blind eye to even more egregious offenses, such as our justice system.

The arrest of Pura Luka Vega is not merely an isolated incident but contemplation of wider public attitudes towards artistic dynamicity and diversity. As we steer around the intricacies of the justice system, cultural understanding, and the LGBTQ+ rights movement, it is imperative to stand united against injustice. Pura Luka Vega’s story is a critical point that urges us all to champion the cause of artistic liberty and inclusivity.



INVICTUS

Danin Cayle R. Saguban

AROUSING TRADITIONAL MINDSET

“Nakahihiyang bumili ng condom.”

As a product of the Philippine cultural landscape, my upbringing was marked by a predominant silence around the topic of sex. I remember growing up watching movies with my mom, and whenever a kissing scene came up, she would hurriedly tell me and my siblings to close our eyes. This simple act spoke volumes about the prevailing attitudes towards sexuality in our household and society at large.

From an early age, society embedded in us the idea that discussing matters related to sexuality was strictly taboo. Words like “pekpek,” “tongtong,” “puke,” and “tite” were hushed, treated as if uttering them aloud would somehow tarnish our moral fabric. The rarity of hearing words like “kantot,” “karat,” and “pakikipagtalik” in everyday conversations contributed to the discomfort and humor associated with them. These terms, which refer to intimate or sexual activities, are often shrouded in silence. Consequently, when they are occasionally spoken, they elicit a reaction of laughter or awkwardness, highlighting the deep-seated societal unease surrounding discussions of sexuality.

This silence around sex had its consequences. It left us in the dark, grappling with confusion, misinformation, and a sense of discomfort when it comes to understanding our own bodies and relationships. This lack of sex education

has been passed down for generations, prolonging a cycle of ignorance and reinforcing harmful societal norms.

As a result, a deeper issue has manifested in the form of the stigmatization of safe sex practices in the country. The hesitancy to openly discuss and address sexual matters has contributed to an atmosphere where even purchasing condoms is viewed with embarrassment. This widespread stigma has led to a situation where people compromise their sexual health due to fear of judgment. Consequently, individuals engaging in sexual activities often sidestep the potential “embarrassment” linked to purchasing condoms. This, in turn, has contributed to the widespread occurrence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and unintended teenage pregnancies in the Philippines. This not only affects individuals on a personal level but also contributes to the broader public health challenges faced by the Philippines.

In 2022, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, 5.4 percent of women aged 15 to 19 years in the country were reported to be pregnant. Examining the data by area of residence, Central Luzon stood out with the second-highest percentage, recording 8% of the total teenage pregnancy cases. Meanwhile, according to the Department of Health, in 2023, there were an average of 46 daily reported cases of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), reflecting a remarkable 41% increase in daily

incidence over a decade. This not only affects individuals on a personal level but also contributes to the broader public health challenges faced by the Philippines.

To break free from these constraints, we must champion a cultural shift towards openness and understanding. Sex is an intrinsic aspect of human nature, and fostering a culture that acknowledges and respects this fact is essential. Normalizing conversations about sex is not just a matter of personal empowerment but a societal responsibility. It is about equipping individuals with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

Promoting the use of contraceptives, especially condoms, is crucial in this transformation. Condoms are not just a means of preventing unwanted pregnancies; they are also effective in preventing the transmission of STDs.

By creating a dialogue, we get to reject the shackles of embarrassment and judgment surrounding discussions of sex and contraception. Let us prioritize education, awareness, and access to contraception as fundamental rights for all. In doing so, we contribute to a future where safe sex is normalized, not stigmatized, and where everyone has the knowledge and resources they need to lead healthy, fulfilling lives. This cultural shift is not just about breaking taboos; it's about building a society that values the well-being and autonomy of every individual.

55.56% of SC aspirants no-show at MITING DE AVANCE

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

Recording the lowest number of attendees in the recent memory of the DHVSU student election, the 2024 Miting de Avance revealed that only 60 out of 135 aspiring student leaders put in an effort to deliver their advocacies and faced several questions in the penultimate stage of the electoral process on May 31 at the University Hostel.



IN THE HOT SEAT. An Honorian throws question to the aspiring candidates for University Student Council Elections during the open forum portion of the Miting de Avance. Photo from Brenz Gonzales

The said number is translated to 44.44% of the total aspirants, which means that 55.56%, or 75 of the 135 candidates for elections, were no-show in the said undertaking.

Notably, colleges that appeared with zero candidates for the said process include the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA). The College of Education (COE), which has nine posts on its slate, managed to send at least one candidate.

Relatively, among the regular campuses of DHVSU, only Lubao Campus carried on to the Miting de Avance.

Meanwhile, two out of the six University Student Council (USC) hopefuls were not also present in the aforementioned undertaking.

In the defense of the absentees, the Student Commission on Elections told the publication that the common reasons why these contenders did not make it to the event include the final defense, final examinations, college-based endeavors, and laboratory activities.

While there were those who had valid excuses, some candidates did not announce the reasons why they did not participate in the said event, since SCOM mentioned that they did not require the Miting de Avance mandatory for the aspiring student-leaders.

Honorians share split opinions on renaming of DHVSU

■ Denser Ace V. Arce



ACADEMIC NEXUS. The DHVSU signage adjacent to the University Admin building.

As another transition is deemed by the Honorian community, students echoed their varied perspectives weeks after the passing of House Bill No. 9989, a bill that seeks to rename Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) to Pampanga State University (PamSU).

Shedding positive light, the proposed change poses great potential from the perspective of students like Neil Lawrence Bau, a first-year Honorian.

“Tyong parang benefit naman yata niyan, I’m not really sure, pero magdadagdag yata ng mga bagong courses. So, siguro, magandang opportunity iyon sa school para mag-expand,” he stated.

On the other hand, however, Bau, who has been studying at DHVSU for seven years, affirmed that renaming the university would constitute a challenge to the legacy of the Pampanga-based public institution.

“I don’t think it is necessary for our university to [be renamed] since it has been— parang legacy na siya. So, parang ‘pag kasi pinalitan pa siya, I don’t think mako-continue ‘yung legacy na inumpisahan,” he added.

Meanwhile, another Honorian also shared his neutrality with said bill, citing his approval of the provisions while still considering the impact on the identity of the university.

HIGHER POPULATION, BIGGER PORTION

FHE earns over half of DHVSU's 2024 budget, enrollees climb to 46K

■ Ellyza Loise B. Del Fin

Among the Locally-Funded Projects (LFP) of Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU), Free-Higher Education (FHE) is the most budgeted one, based on the released 2024 budget appropriation of the Department of Budget Management (DBM) last December 25, 2023.

According to DBM, the university will get a total budget of 1,095,339,000 for the fiscal year 2024, of which FHE's allocation is at 601,841,000 or almost half of the appropriated budget of DHVSU.

The said amount could be attributed to the number of students that the university has for this academic year, which as per the data released by the Office of the Registrar, is currently standing at 46,000.

DHVSU's Budget and Finance Unit also nodded when asked if the said allocation for free higher education correlates to the number of students the university has.

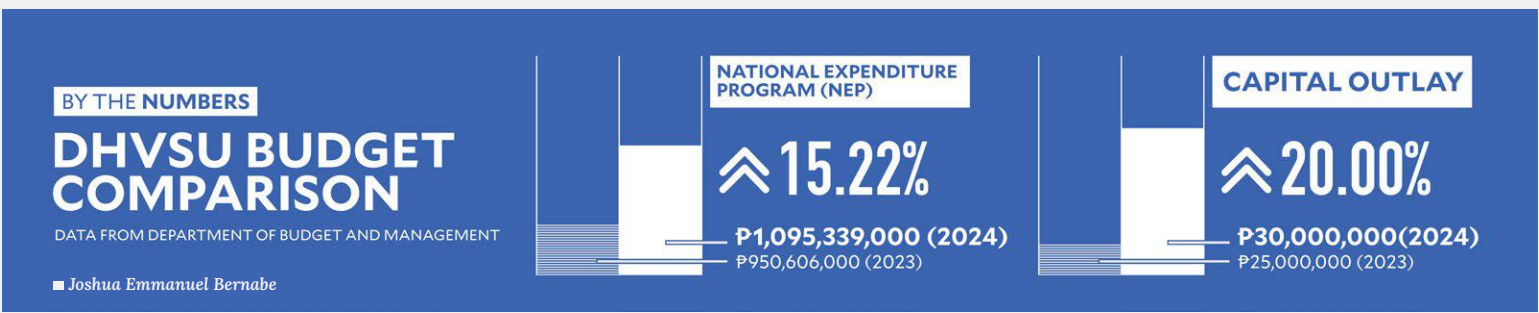
"Oo. Kasi malaki yung enrolment natin eh," Charito M. Layag, Administrative Assistant VI of the said office, shared in an interview with

The Industrialist.

Relatively, an amount of 50 million is intended for the establishment and/or support to the College of Medicine, Sto. Tomas Campus.

The data from DBM also reveals that the Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) Tulong Dunong Program has four million at stake.

Notably, DHVSU's general appropriation last fiscal year was at 950,606,000.



"Nag-neutral ako (citing his approval of the provisions) kasi, ... kapag natanggal yung 'Don Honorio Ventura,' parang tinatangalan ng pangalan si 'Don Honorio' sa mismong Bacolor since kilala siya dahil din sa school na ito," the student mentioned.

Student leaders' perspectives

In light of this, the leaders of the student body consequently had their say on the matter.

"Honestly, ba't pa natin papalitan 'yung DHVSU, sobrang ganda niya," USC Senator on Student Affairs King Alden Carlos asserted in an interview with The Industrialist.

Carlos, upon reading all the pertinent information included in the bill, then understood that this undertaking aims to "extend the best effort of the university," as he highlighted the movement as a great prospect for catering to more students with quality and free education.

"Kasi, hindi naman ibig sabihin na 'pag [naipasa] natin yung bill, mawawala na 'yung pagkakakilanlan natin as Honorians... hindi pa rin naman maiiba 'yung mga gawi natin—pangalan lang natin 'yung maiiba,'" the senator expressed.

Consequently, support for the bill is also evident from the Student Regent, headed by USC President Paul Andrei Macaspac, underscoring the priority of "offering free



Okay lang naman yung name na Pampanga State University pero mas okay ako sa DHVSU na name, at least kapag narinig nila yung DHVSU, alam nila yung mga achievements na nagawa ng mga Honorians, hindi yung manghula pa sila kung new school ba ang PamSU or what

quality tertiary education to a broader number of learners."

"The USC fully concurs for a higher budget and the expansion of the university to cater to a much larger population of the masses. Thus, we support the measure as it embodies the fundamental equalizer, access to quality tertiary education," the Student Regent highlighted.

PamSU in clamor on digital facet

In the report released by The Industrialist concerning the matter via Facebook post, netizens, particularly Honorians, were quick to respond as numerous insights flooded the post, most of which were not in favor of the provision replacing the renowned "Don Honorio Ventura" from the name of the university.

Many commenters expressed their sentiments in which they shared that the renaming is unnecessary given the existence of Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU), saying, "May PSAU na nga e, Parang mas okay [pa rin na] DHVSU ang name."

The same trend of disagreeing tones accrues in the following IndAsks segment posted by the publication, where many students have pointed out that the name PamSU diminishes the essence and pride of being an Honorian.

"Okay lang naman yung name na Pampanga State University pero mas okay ako sa DHVSU na name, at least kapag narinig nila yung DHVSU, alam nila yung mga achievements na nagawa ng mga Honorians, hindi yung manghula pa sila kung new school ba ang PamSU or what," a student responded.

Now, with just a few stages remaining before the approval of the bill by higher committees, Honorians are left weighing the iconic resonance of Don Honorio Ventura and the promises of renaming it Pampanga State University.

Heat wave leads to 196 HEAT-RELATED CASES in March – univ clinic

■ Clark Andrei B. Flores

As the province continues to experience extreme heat temperatures, the DHVSU University Medical and Dental Clinic (UMDC) revealed that there were 195 Honorians admitted to the medical facility last March due to the challenges posed by the said weather condition.

Based on the data provided by UMDC, the most commonly recorded cases of heat-related illnesses include dehydration, heat exhaustion, hyperventilation, nausea, vomiting, and asthma, which is the most frequent case.

The said number is much higher than that of those recorded cases for the previous months. In January, there were only 40 students brought to the clinic for heat-related conditions, while 210 were logged in February.

Shifting to online mode

In recent days, prior to the rescheduling of midterm examinations in the university, countless shifts from face-to-face classes to online learning modalities were made at DHVSU due to the persistent heat waves.

Relative to this is the concern raised by first-year Angelo D. Castro regarding the challenges brought by the current heat crisis during face-to-face classes, saying, “One cannot focus to do what they must if the heat is way too meddlesome.”

On top of this, Castro also mentioned that “the best option” at the moment is to “continue the academics online.”

Raising the same opinion, another Honorian shared his perspective regarding the matter, “It’s better—kapag mainit—na mag-synchronous (online class) kasi hindi lang nagsa-start sa school ‘yung heat e, mags-start din siya sa transportation, especially sa mga students natin na malayo pa ‘yung pinagmumulan.”

The student also mentioned that having a synchronous mode of learning can be considered an “alternative” when heat is prevalent in the university.

Poor ventilation intensifies heat among Honorians

Meanwhile, one of the factors that Honorians see as a contributor to the heatwave at DHVSU is the poor ventilation of classrooms.

“Nakakatanggal siya ng focus minsan, especially, kunware, magte-test ka na lang magpa-paypay ka pa kasi sobrang init na sa pakiramdam,” the Honorian, who wished to not disclose his name, expressed.

In response to this, he mentioned that having “more ventilations” as well as the “continuous efforts on repairing the equipment that has been broken down over time” will help students cope with the heat.

Wearing plain, white shirts

In light of the heat situation, the university also reiterated its previous policy regarding clothing, allowing students at all levels to wear civilian clothing provided that they follow the approved dress code and carry their respective IDs.

However, the university clinic raised its concern with regard to the policy, emphasizing the need to “specify what kind of white shirt” the Honorians must wear.

“Kapag sinabing white shirt, dapat specific siya; dapat cotton siya, hindi ‘yung mga jersey na nakaka-ano (boost) ng init talaga,” they clarified.

Looming suggestions

As hotter days are still affecting the Honorian community, the UMDC urged everyone to take precautionary measures against the potential risks that heat may bring, most commonly advising them to “drink plenty of fluids.”

The clinic also noticed the lack of shaded areas inside the university, saying, “They have to plant trees around the university to make the school very cool.”

Aside from this, the implementation of “free water dispensers” to quench the students’

BY THE NUMBERS

≈ 195

admitted to the medical facility last March due to the challenges posed by the said weather condition.

40

students brought to the clinic for heat-related conditions

210

were logged in February in UMDC

■ Joshua Emmanuel Bernabe

“

Nakakatanggal siya ng focus minsan, especially, kunware, magte-test ka na lang magpa-paypay ka pa kasi sobrang init na sa pakiramdam

thirst as well as marketing e-fans are the recommendations of Lawrence A. Sinamban, a BScPE student.

“Ang mahal kaya ng bottle water and most ng students is hindi naman ganon ka-yaman para makabili ng worth 100 pesos per day and sasabihin na magdadala ng tumbler, hindi naman enough yun for the whole day need ng refill,” she raised.

It can be remembered that last April 2, the heat temperature in the province reached 40°C.

Admission clarifies ‘no official list of programs’ for DHVSU SF yet

■ John Jerome M. Santos



GUARDIAN OF THE FACADE. Brenz Gonzales, City of San Fernando, Pampanga’s city counselor oversees the facade of the newly built academic building in the city’s future DHVSU satellite campus on January 20, 2024. Photo from Brenz Gonzales

As Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) is yet to welcome its extension campus this upcoming academic year, the Admission Director Richard Briones clarified that there is still no actual list of offered programs laid down to them for the opening of DHVSU San Fernando Campus (DSFC).

In an interview with The Industrialist with the director last January 26, the director clarified that the program offerings will be available once the university executive board provides the official list.

Briones then expressed his concern as the admission application approaches, saying, “Sana mabigyan na kami ng official communication kung ano ang mga program offerings.”

Aside from that, the Dean of the School of Law and the Officer-In-Charge Campus Director of the DHVSU San Fernando, David Robert C. Aquino, explained that the proposed programs are yet to be approved as the university is still seeking permission from the Commission on Higher Education Region III.

“Ang pino-propose nila kasi hindi pa final kasi we have to seek permission from the CHED Region III,” he stated.

Aquino also shared that the infrastructure itself can cater to at least 2,000 students and will have two class shifts.

“According to the donor, ang donor kasi yung family in Cong. Dong Gonzales, si Cong. Dong, si Konsehal Brenz, at saka si Senior Board Member Mica, and of course according din kay Pres. Baking, it can accommodate at least two thousand pero two shifts yon, one in the morning and one in the afternoon,” he explained.

Meanwhile, the campus director expressed his hopes for the opening of the extension campus in August, saying, “ready na yung buildings, we’re working on the authorization from Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to operate yung programs dun sa campus, hopefully, we could operate by August.”

Student-commuters air concern over blowing dust at DHVSU terminal

■ Marc M. Navida



THROUGH THE DUST. Honorians shield themselves from the blowing dust at DHVSU terminal during dismissal time. Photo by Jeremiah James Bacani

Almost a month since the opening of the second semester of the academic year 2023-2024, Honorians have also started to complain about the problem of the student-commuters regarding the frequent blowing dust in the terminal beside the DHVSU main campus amid the extreme heat temperature.

According to the students who were interviewed by the publication while queuing in the said terminal, Elyca-Wil Pangilinan and Jasmin Guiiao from BS Accountancy, the concern has become an everyday struggle already.

Aside from experiencing it going home, the students mentioned that they have also encountered it before while going to the university, affecting how they present themselves, like their shoes being dusty and white-like instead of shiny black.

In light of this, students from BS Biology emphasized the problems this situation could bring among the students, such as health-related conditions, especially since coughs

and colds are rampant these days.

“Ngayon maraming nagkakaubo, tapos yung nauusong walking pneumonia pa, dumadagdag pa rin talaga yung factor ng alikabok sa pagkakaroon ng sakit ng mga estudyante,” the student shared.

A student from the same program, John Perez, also added the fact that there are students wearing all white uniforms like them, and their struggle is doubled; he said that they need a lot more effort in cleaning their clothes because of the looming problem.

It can be remembered that even before the Puregold beside the terminal was built, this dilemma already existed, and most of the students had already just adapted to the

situation.

When asked whether the students can still last with this, most of them answered yes since they don’t have a choice, but according to them, if there is a chance to at least improve the situation, they are hoping for it to happen.

“Sana magawan nila ng paraan kahit ano lang, kung kaya naman nila ipasemento much better kasi kunware ganito kainit, sandstorm, tapos kapag maulan naman putik naman ang kalaban namin,” one of the students suggested.

As of the moment, it is noticeable that students are never seen walking down the terminal without their umbrellas as a shield instead of using them against the heat.

Regular campus pub reports acad chair over meddling in org's transaction

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras



PILLAR OF KNOWLEDGE. The facade of the academic building in DHVSU Candaba campus. Photo from Municipality of Candaba Official Website

A student publication from a regular campus of DHVSU has reported that their academic chairperson is interfering with the transactions of their publication.

In a letter dated March 3, 2024, Lualu, the official student publication of DHVSU Candaba Campus, expressed their sentiment on how their academic chair meddled with their functions, particularly in the recent event

the publication joined in, which was the 4th University of the Assumption Outstanding Campus Press Awards (AOCPA) on March 1, 2024.

According to the Editorial Board of Lualu, their letter to participate in the awarding ceremony was already signed by their Office of Student Affairs (OSA) coordinator; however, the academic chairperson and the overseer of the campus didn't manage to sign the letter.

“The letter is signed by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). The publication attempted to get in touch with the Academic Chair and Campus Overseer, but they happened to be on the main campus at the time. With this, the Editor-in-Chief and publication adviser decided to leave the letter at the office to notify them when they return,” the letter read.

On the other hand, Lualu admitted their lapses in joining the awarding ceremony since

NEW BLOOD. Junior staffers recite the new YJAR III creed at the General Orientation on January 18, 2024 at DHVSU COE building. Photo by Dannia G. Bondoc



Indus reminds juniors of pub's prerequisites, opens new YJAR III creed to tribe

■ Ma. Francesca Fatima Paule

Ripples of hope echoed through the walls of the AVR of the College of Education Building on January 18, as new additions to the tribe were officially introduced through general orientation, which highlighted the prerequisites inside the publication.

During the event, the section editors provided a brief introduction of their positions and roles, with Editor-in-Chief Patrick Bryan Porras explaining policies, guidelines, work ethics, offenses, rights, privileges, and management of funds.

the latter didn't comply with the documents needed for an off-campus, non-academic undertaking.

Since the publication proceeded at the said ceremony, the academic chair called them for a meeting, but according to the EIC of the publication, they were not allowed to bring their advisers to the said assembly.

"The body is requesting for our advisers to join the meeting, yet he refused, arguing that those are not our advisers," the publication cited, noting that their academic chair, without their knowledge, already decided who their adviser is.

"The publication is quite disappointed with messages and decisions made by the head of the academic unit given that we have been accredited and, as stated in our CBL, the publication should be entitled to choose its own adviser, yet they keep dictating upon us," the Candaba-based publication expressed.

Notably, although Republic Act 7079, or the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, recognizes that a publication adviser shall be selected by the school administration, the same law also mandates that it is the publication staff's right to recommend names of possible advisers, whose functions shall only be limited to technical guidance.

Following the violation of non-compliance, the publication was about to face a three-day suspension, but since they submitted an explanation during the meeting, the overseer opted not to lift one; however, the academic chair who initiated the meeting was not able to make it at all, according to the EIC.

Along with this, the general orientation also highlighted the precedent tradition of a talent portion by junior staffers as they introduced themselves, showcasing skills including comedic stunts, puns, and even some singing and dancing on the stage.

Amidst the laughter, the program introduced the new Young Journalists Association of Region III (YJAR III) Creed, featuring the gratitude of being the first batch of the Indus tribe to solemnly pledge led by the EIC.

In his speech, Porras mentioned that despite winning contests, the main goal is to serve the studentry with impartiality, ending his speech with, "Kahit na graduate na kami, magre-render pa rin kami ng service sa inyo sa abot ng aming makakaya kasi ganoon 'yung culture na binigay or pinass sa amin ng mga ninuno ng Indus."

The orientation then recognized the juniors who showed not only outstanding work but the best during the Pamananam 2023 with an award ceremony.

This year's junior staffers are the 83rd batch of campus journalists who serve as the prospects of the publication.



SCHOLARLY STEPS. Honorian Senior High Schools students roam around the DHVSU Bacolor on a fine day. Photo by Zardani Santiago II

Aspiring DHVSU-SHS studes puzzled as CHED ends program in SUCs, LUCs

■ Ylien Shane B. Mitu

It is a chapter closed for some upcoming Senior High School (SHS) students who aspire to enroll in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs), as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) marked the end of the SHS program for schools under the said higher educational institutions.

In a memorandum dated December 18, 2023, the commission directed the said institutions to stop offering the program for the next school year 2024-2025, as there is no more legal basis to fund the mentioned program.

The letter was then clarified by CHED Chairman J. Prospero De Vera III, explaining that the decision aligns with CMO Nos. 32 and 33, series of 2015 and 2016.

The chair also noted that, "beginning SY 2023-2024, there should be no more government assistance to students and teachers in private education beneficiaries from SUCs and LCUs, except those who will be entering Grade 12 in SY 2023-2024 to finish their basic education."

In light of the CHED's decision to terminate the SHS program, Jack Deneal Carlos, an aspiring SHS student from DHVSU, shared with *The Industrialist* that he, just like his fellows, is saddened and discouraged upon

hearing the news.

"I actually don't know if meron pa bang possible decision or meron pa bang possible way for everything to just be back to normal na meron na ulit na SHS, pero we really can't fight their decisions, so we just got to accept them, so right now I'm in the process of moving on," the SHS aspirant said.

Moreover, Carlos now faces uncertainty with his educational plans, saying, "I'm in the process of rethinking everything that I have planned for myself, but all in all, I'm just very sad right now and very discouraged, but there's nothing we can do, so we just gonna keep moving on, moving forward."

The said decision also covers the end of vouchers for SUCs and LUCs that have laboratory schools whilst allowing them to continue accepting enrollees.

Meanwhile, as misconceptions started to pile up, the Department of Education (DepEd) cleared that SHS would not be removed from the K-12 program.

"We're not removing Grades 11 and 12 because DepEd and CHED cannot remove [SHS] unilaterally....What we're talking about is the [discontinuation] of the SHS program in SUCs and LUCs because the transitory period is already over," Education Undersecretary Michael Poa said.

Honorians converse with Zonta Manila 1, cite importance of financial aid

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

Emphasizing the vital role of financial assistance in their academic pursuit, Honorian scholars from various colleges, departments, and campuses conversed with Zonta Manila 1 as they shared stories of perseverance during a genderized dialogue last February 26, 2024 at the University Hostel.

One of the Honorian beneficiaries from the Aeta community, Mary Jane Carredo, shared how the initiative makes an impact in her life, stressing the fact that being part of the program helps her to pursue her education.

“Gusto kong makita ng mga tao na hindi lang kami basta Aeta lang,” the student stressed as she shed tears, narrating their journey just to get to the main campus that day.

Aside from Carredo, there were a total of 29 Honorians from the sectors of Indigenous People, Solo Parent, Women, and Differently Abled who

were given cash assistance by Zonta Manila 1.

In her message, Vice President for Student Affairs and Services (VPSAS), Dr. Dolores T. Quiambao, noted how such programs help alleviate poverty and assist marginalized students in achieving education.

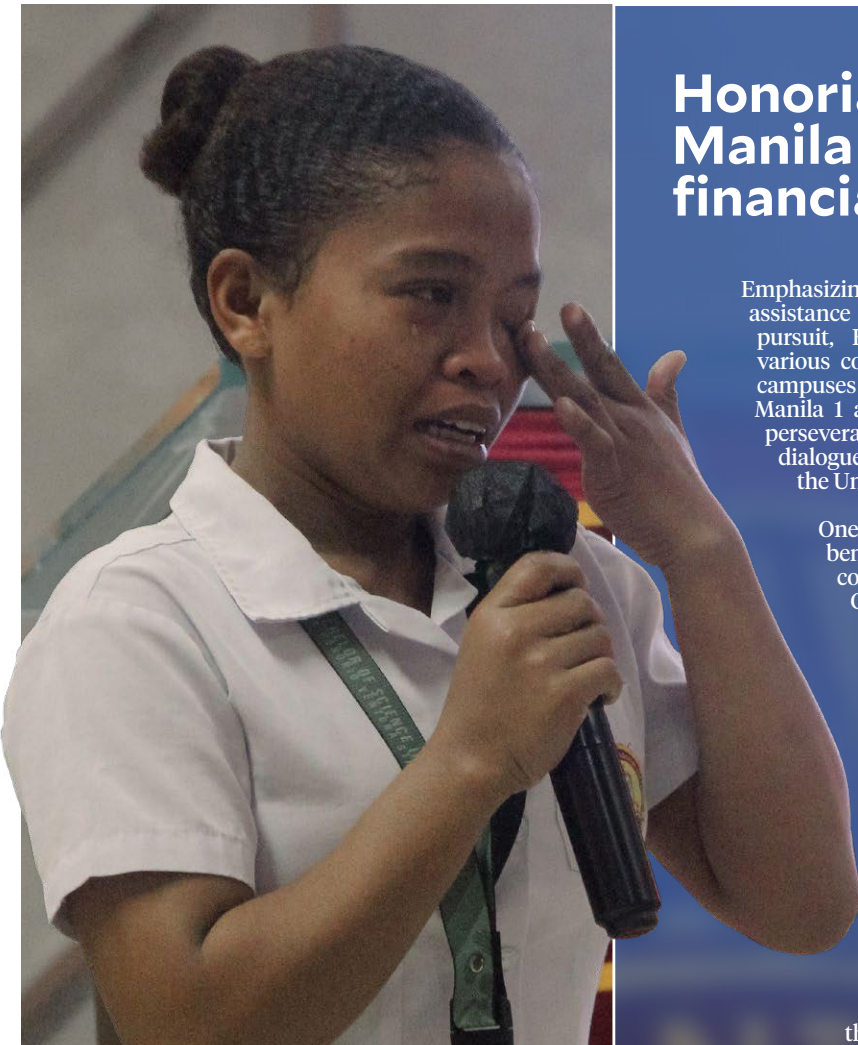
“We need to cut the cycle of poverty through education,” the VPSAS stressed.

As the program went on, Zonta Manila’s President, Dr. Gisela Padilla Concepcion, together with their other core officials, thanked the beneficiaries for allowing them to become part of their academic journey.

“Thank you for the chance to make a difference in your lives,” Concepcion expressed.

MOA with DHVSU to aid marginalized students in their schooling, and as per Mercado, they started with 25 scholars.

Notably, it was in 2019 that the organization first signed a scholarship MOA with DHVSU to aid marginalized students in their schooling.



CULTURAL ECHO. Mary Jane Carredo, a beneficiary from the Aeta community speaks on behalf of other scholars of Zonta Manila 1 on February 26, 2024 at DHVSU Univeristy Hostel. Photo by Patrick Bryan Porras

DHVSU-based lantern makers dazzle in Ligligan Parul 2023

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

Considered to be one of the new generations of lantern makers in the city, two Honorians proved that they too can spark their own light in lantern making as they seized two respective milestones for their barangays during the 2023 Ligligan Parul at Robinsons Starmills on December 16.

Jeremiah F. Balboa, Rotor Maker of Brgy. Telebastagan and John Luigi

T. Flores, Head Electrician of Brgy. San Juan made sure that their giant lanterns would shine bright during the annual festival, setting a consecutive podium finish for the both of them.

It should be noted that Brgy. Telebastagan won the championship title this year, whereas Brgy. San Juan was relegated to 2nd runner-up.

In an interview with The Industrialist, the 2nd year mechanical engineering Balboa

“

As a Kapampangan, siguro nakaka-proud ‘yung hindi nawawala ang tradition, lalo na rito sa San Fernando, ng lantern-making industry

Thief steals Honorian's motorcycle at Gate 5

■ Clark Andrei B. Flores

Through the surveillance camera of DHVSU, an unidentified thief was caught stealing a white Yamaha Mio i 125 motorcycle belonging to a first-year BSIT student on April 12, parked in front of Gate 5.

According to the details provided to The Industrialist, it was at 3:30 p.m. when the Honorian left his vehicle in the said parking lot, while at exactly 4:26 p.m., the incident happened.

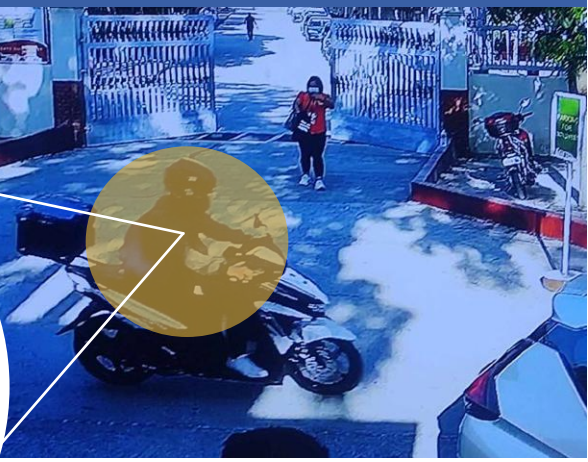
The victim, who wished to remain unnamed, explained that when the incident happened, they were supposed to take their examinations.

"Supposed to be mag-exam kami pero nag check lang pala," the student told the publication.

Meanwhile, around 5:20 in the afternoon, when he noticed his motorcycle was missing, the victim sought immediate help from the university guards.

The Honorian claimed that he was assisted by the barangay to report the situation, which unfortunately was closed, leading them to direct the report to the police station of the municipality of Bacolor.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT. A surveillance camera of DHVSU recorded an unidentified thief stealing a motorcycle in front of Gate 5 on April 12, 2024. Photo from DHVSU CSU



'oh ayusin 'yung motor niyo, ayusin 'yung padlock," CSU assured.

The security unit also added that, "Kasi nakikita natin ngayon na sa loob ng DHVSU hirap tayo, wala tayo talagang available o malawak na lugar para sa slot sa parking, kaya sana makapag-ano tayo ng isang lugar para sa mga estudyante."

In response to the above mentioned case, the security head shared that they already had a meeting with the local PNP of Bacolor on Saturday, April 13.

In light of this, the OIC of the Civil Security Unit of the university, Javier Espiritu Jr., told the publication that what happened calls for more feasible security measures, even though the incident took place outside the premises of the main campus.

"Ang gagawin natin, para ma-prevent na 'yan, continuous na patrolling doon at maga-announce kami sa megaphone

The stolen motorcycle was not yet recovered, as of the time the article was written.

mentioned that he is proud of how the lantern-making tradition in the city still prospers these days.

"As a Kapampangan, siguro nakaka-proud 'yung hindi nawawala ang tradition, lalo na rito sa San Fernando, ng lantern-making industry," Balboa shared as he noted how their family keeps up with the tradition.

On the other hand, Flores, a 3rd year electrical engineering student who happens to be a cousin of Balboa, told the publication that he is delighted as to how the event turned out to still be in their favor after their championship stint last year.

"Masayang-masaya kasi sulit ang pagod, nakamit namin ang panalo," the head electrician of San Juan affirmed.

Keeping their hopes high, the Honorians are looking forward to more prosperous Giant Lantern festivals, as they urged young generations of aspiring lantern makers to stay at their core and love what they are doing.



HONORIAN BRILLIANCE. Mechanical engineering student Jeremiah F. Balboa and electrical engineering student John Luigi T. Flores triumph in the 2023 Giant Lantern Festival at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga on December 16, 2023. Photo by Danna G. Bondoc

Stud-pubs unearth home in CSP after spending years of accreditation at USC

■ Clark Andrei B. Flores

Aiming to enhance the essence of campus journalism at DHVSU, student publications across various colleges, departments, and campuses, are now under the watch of the Committee on Student Publications (CSP), led by The Industrialist, the university's official student publication.

This came after Indus pushed through the initiative of transferring the accreditation of all student pubs from the University Student Council (USC) to the main publication of the university due to conflict of interest.

Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Director Dr. Gloria B. Gigante also mentioned that the mandate of a publication, which is delivering "firsthand information" to students, does not align with the USC, whose focus leans toward "leading the students".

According to her, "It is but right that The Indus [The Industrialist], being the official [student] publication of the university, should handle the matters pertaining the operations of the different publication that are within our university, including that of the extension campuses."



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY. Editor-in-Chiefs from different student publications across the university attends the first-ever gathering of the Committee on Student Publication spearheaded by Indus-EIC Patrick Bryan H. Porras, last September 8, 2023 at the GAD Wellness Center. The gathering was done to set foundation for the transition of the acquiring of the publications from the Blue Ribbon Committee to the CSP. Photo by Cyrinx Butiu

Dr. Gigante also pointed out that with all the student pubs that are now accredited under Indus, activities involving the spreading of vital information will be managed and monitored effectively.

"The trust of the Honorian community lies on responsible journalism coming from the publication. So, they rely much on what you are publishing. So, therefore, you should be responsible for providing the latest, updated, and the correct news," the OSA director then emphasized.



HEART RATE CHECKED. University Medical and Dental Clinic staffs assist Honorians who avail free electrocardiogram on February 26, 2024. Photo by Patrick Bryan Porras

CE stude stretches DHVSU's win streak in PRC quiz show

■ Cherry Mae M. Uy

Sustaining the Civil Engineering quizzers' hot streak, John Aldrich Pingul, a student from the College of Architecture and Engineering (CEA) placed third in the recently held Padilla Review Center (PRC) 3rd Annual Civil Engineering Quiz Show, held via Zoom Meetings last March 26.

Out of 31 participating schools and 105 official lineups of student participants, Pingul bagged the top spot under the guidance of his teacher coach Engr. Jafet C. Culala, ultimately bringing home another feather to the cap of the university.

Meanwhile, when asked about his preparation for the PRC competition, he mentioned "Due to our hectic schedule, both thesis and academic tasks, very limited lang talaga ang preparation. Ginagawa ko kapag free time ay magosolve lang ako ng problems from different subjects to exercise my mind sa mga concepts and formulas."

It may be recalled that Pingul also took part in the competition last year and finished 18th



TRIUMPHANT SCHOLAR. John Aldrich Pingul from the College of Engineering and Architecture. Photo from PICE - DHVSU Student Chapter

and 7th, respectively, after successfully qualifying for the quarterfinals and semifinals.

"Since 3rd year palang ako non, may mga topics talaga na lumabas non which I have no idea to solve. I'm happy and glad naman that this 4th-year nasagutan ko na yung mga hindi ko nasagot noon," Pingul added during his interview with The Industrialist.

Notably, CE quizzers have consistently taken the top three spots in the said competition for the past three years, showing the impressive skills and capability of Honorian Engineers.

Limited ECG offered to Honorians to cap off Hearts Month

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

With only 64 allotted slots, the Health Services Unit of DHVSU and the Florence Nightingale Society (FNSOC), in partnership with the Philippine Heart Association and the Pampanga Medical Society, provided a free electrocardiogram (ECG) to Honorians on February 26, 2024, in celebration of Heart Month.

According to Charles Kevin Utulo, Director of FNSOC, half of the patients pre-registered days prior to the event, whereas the other half went as walk-in patients, wherein most of them were students.

When asked about whether the beneficiaries were pre-selected, the director told The Industrialist that the service was already offered through announcements on various group chats and social media pages of college faculties and personnel days before the event.

"If they are interested, pre-registration is required. This is also to ensure that they can bypass the long line of walk-in patients," Utulo added.

Following the initiation of the ECG procedure and consultation with the doctors, the patients were given prescription medicines depending on the results of their ECG.

OSS alarms Honorians over threat of walking pneumonia

■ Vassili V. Radam

The Office of Student Services (OSS) released a memorandum order No. 030, series of 2023, on December 6, concerning the spread of Mycoplasma pneumoniae infection, also known as walking pneumonia, which served as a precautionary measure for Honorians against the mentioned infection.

As per the Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Local Health Development and National Epidemiology Center, the infection is a type of bacteria called Mycoplasma which is a transmittable disease that in some cases will lead to tracheobronchitis.

“Their condition may appear normal, but when you have it X-rayed, you will be alarmed by what you see in the X-ray results,” the letter wrote.

Meanwhile, symptoms may occur when a person is infected which includes coughing for more than two weeks, sneezing, headache, fever, sore throat, and chest pain.

In a report by the Department of Health (DOH) on the same day, there are so far four cases of the said infection in the Philippines.

Notably, the OSS advised the Honorian community to get flu vaccines, together with the practice of proper hygiene and wearing protective masks when going outdoors.



BLAZING HUSTLE. Honorians walk their way to their respective classes in the heat of the sun at DHVSU Bacolor. Photo by Zardani Santiago III



EMBEDDED CULTURE. Willie Layug, a Kapampangan sculptor shares his expertise and experiences in Duking making during the Dukit making workshop on January 4, 2024 at DHVSU Extension Lot. Photo by Dannia G. Bondoc

Betis-based master sculptor debunks claims Dukit is dying

■ Klarence S. Layug

“Atin kung dimdam a study na karin sinabi... ing pamandukit kanu, mamamate ne. Ot, ot baligtad ya aku?”

These were the words that the Betis master sculptor Wilfredo “Willy” T. Layug said on the opening programme of the Dukit-making training-workshop on January 4, 2023 at DHVSU COE Building Room 3.

In his message, Layug likened the Dukit-making tradition with the Kapampangan song, Atin Cu Pung Singsing.

“Ketang kanta, mewala ya. Mewala ya itang singsing. Ngeni, e ta na panayan mawawala. Itang e mawawala, itang singsing ayta—ing kekatamu. Ning malyari mu, pakinangan me pa at dinan meng dyamanti,” he

shared.

Earlier, Dukit-making Head Cluster Rogelio L. Pacatcatin Jr. said in the project’s statement of the purpose that it has appeared as if the “manukit” from when the university still bore the name DHVCAT have disappeared.

To ensure the sustainability of the training-workshop, Pacatcatin added that the project will transcend its 10-day duration, expressing, “Kailangan apagpatuluy ta ya. Ali ya mu pu attendings. Sooner or later, metung na kayung maging trainer.”

As a starter, the participants immersed in a discussion on tools, materials, and equipment immediately after the opening programme.



EXAM CONQUEROR. Johanan Tayag, DHVSU alumna on her graduation shoot.

CEA alum obtains 14th spot in CIE exams

■ Ciprinita Dhay L. Carisma

An alumna from Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU), Engr. Johanan P. Tayag, secured the 14th spot among the topnotchers in the recently held 14th Certified Industrial Engineer (CIE) examination, administered by the Center for Educational Measurement, Inc. (CEM) held last April 14 and 17, 2024.

Based on the data provided by CEM, the Summa Cum Laude grad garnered an average of 77.29%.

In an interview with the publication, Tayag stated humorously that monetary incentives were what kept her going. She then expressed her joy as she recalled the individuals who had inspired her throughout her entire college and review period.

“Kidding aside, surely, the factors that kept me motivated during those four years were my whole family’s never-ending support and my friends, mentors, and peers’ continuous encouragement. Well, it is more like what kept me surviving were their support, reassurance, and concerns. Yung feeling na susuko ka na pero nakasalo sila sa’yo, without any judgment,” the engineer stated.

Aside from Tayag, three other alumni were listed among the new CIEs namely Engr. Dave Dela Cruz, Engr. Jerico Gotis, and Engr. Jena Mae Lumanlan.

On a national level, there were 312 examinees who aced the said exam, resulting in a national passing rate of 85.2%. However, in terms of the university’s passing rate, CEM did not release any data.

The now-CIEs are now qualified to apply for the title of Associate ASEAN Engineer through the Philippine Technological Council which serves as the overarching organization for 13 professional engineering associations and is responsible for managing the ASEAN Engineer Registry in the Philippines.

Local vestment makers fuse to revive ‘Inuod’ via seminar-workshop

■ Franchesca Sofhia H. Capulong



GOLDEN VESTS. Gemma Guinto, a Inuod maker, demonstrates the initial steps of making a vest in the seminar-workshop at DHVSU on January 18, 2024. Photo by Danna G. Bondoc

Aiming to restore the culture of Inuod, also known as vestment-making, in the town of Bacolor, Pampanga, prominent figures of the crafts and arts sectors joined efforts to revive the long-standing tradition by conducting the first leg of the two-day seminar-workshop for students on January 18, held at the university’s new assessment center building.

The event started with a discussion of the fundamentals of crafting vestments led by Leonida S. Flores, who is considered one of the professional trainers in dressmaking and tailoring in Pampanga.

Flores also emphasized how beneficial it is to learn and be proficient in sewing vestments in the business world.

“Kaya kung ako sa inyo mag-specialize na kayo rito! May pera na, may blessing pa!” she jokingly said as she went on and discussed the various kinds of embroidery. Additionally, she highlighted the importance of reviving traditional vestment-making, saying, “We are going

to share what our expertise is. Extend your hand and your help to others, para lumawak ang industry.”

Meanwhile, as the event went further, one of the participants shared her insights into making the garment and how ‘Inuod’ broadens Bacolor’s arts industry.

“Nacurios ako kung paano gumawa ng damit ng mga santo. Parang for me, pinapalago niya [ng Inuod] po yung arts industry lalo rito sa Bacolor na konti na lang po ‘yung gumagawa,” the Honorian expressed.

Apart from Flores, aspiring tailors were assisted by Gemma Guinto, a well-known artist who creates clothing for sculptures, along with her husband Antonio Guinto Jr., a famous sculptor in Pampanga, to demonstrate the fundamentals of a handsewn vestment.

The said initiative is part of the “EduTourism” project, a collaboration between DHVSU and CHED Region III that aims to revive and preserve the various arts and cultures in Bacolor.

AMID ANTICIPATIONS FOR OFFICIAL RESULTS

S-COMELEC reports voter count 'below required threshold', declares failure of election

■ Klarence S. Layug

In an unexpected turn of events, the highly anticipated official results of the University and Local Student Council Election 2024 was superseded by the declaration of a failure of election due to the voter turnout falling short of the required threshold of 40 percent, a first in the university's election history, July 12.

Based on a post on the official Facebook page of the Student Commission on Election (S-COMELEC), the declaration of failure of election was in adherence to Article VIII, Section 59 of the Election Code, which states that a failure of election shall be declared when less than 40 percent of the voting population cast their votes in any election and the student COMELEC involved shall immediately call a special election as provided by law.

Notably, the number of votes cast during the election day on June 6 reached only 9,261, which composed less than a quarter of the voting population of over 40,000.

Following this announcement, the S-COMELEC announced that they will plan and schedule a 'special election'.

A Reason Behind The Anticipation

Previously, while the results of the election were already released on June 9, the S-COMELEC said that they will convene in making a decision on the official results of the election with regard to 'legal references', after an appeal arrived to their office.

On June 10, a day after the results of the election, the election body announced through a Facebook post that the lone University Student Council (USC) presidential candidate, Maillart Dean Diaz, filed an appeal seeking to contest the percentage of the vote of confidence followed by the election body.

In his appeal addressed to the S-COMELEC and the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Director, Dr. Gloria Gigante, Diaz cited Article XI, Section 56 of the 2019 Student Manual, which states that in cases of only one candidate running for a position, the candidate shall be subjected to the vote of confidence of 30 percent of each respective voter's turnout.

During the commencement of this year's



HITTING THE GOAL. University Student Council aspirants relay their plans and platforms for the Honorian community during the Miting de Avance. Simultaneously, they face various questions and topics that test their stand and knowledge on different issues. Photo by Janna Perez

elections, the S-COMELEC announced the vote of confidence of 40 percent, which was based on Article XI, Section 69 of the Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) signed by the OSA Director.

Upon receiving the appeal, the S-COMELEC sought the legal counsel of Atty. David Robert Aquino, the Dean of School of Law, who then interpreted that the CBL of the election body has not yet been elevated to the Board of Regents unlike the 2019 Student Manual.

"We note that policy declarations such as COMELEC Rules need appropriate approval from the policy making body which is the Board of Regents as endorsed by the University President. Thus, in this matter, the provisions of the Student Manual as approved by the Board prevails," the attorney stated.

It can be remembered that based on the results released by the S-COMELEC on June 9, the appellant candidate failed to amass at least 40 percent of the votes cast in the presidential post after reaching only 38 percent.

On June 12, the election body announced that the 2019 student manual shall govern the recently concluded student elections but did not yet release the official results.

Overwhelmed By Abstentions

The appellant, however, was not alone the only candidate who failed to reach the vote of confidence of 40 percent.

In this year's election, all USC posts were unopposed as no party nor independent candidates stood up against the long-standing Youth-Nited (YN) Movement party.

After a two-day validation of votes, the results released by the S-COMELEC showed that all the candidates of USC posts won in their election bids except for USC President aspirant Maillart Dean Diaz and Senator on Student Services aspirant Blesse Kathlyn Leoncio.

The said candidates garnered abstention counts of 5,736 and 6,064, respectively, which placed them below the set vote of confidence quota of 40 percent.

While all other successful candidates received over 40 percent of the votes cast, they were also met with significantly high numbers of abstentions.

Notably, among the USC candidates, Diaz and Leoncio drew flak online for their answers during the Miting de Avance.

In his explanation of the YN Movement's advocacy, flag-bearer Diaz said the promotion of peace and security is to avoid DHVSU organizations from getting linked to the CPP-NPA-NDF.

"Kailangan hindi natin hahayaan ang mga estudyante na pumasok dito dahil mapapansin mo ang mga pumapasok sa NPA...pumapasok ng NPA na mga kabataan ay pinaaakyat nila sa bundok, 'no?'" he said.

Leoncio, on the other hand, failed to elucidate her opinion on the legalization of divorce in the country.

The total votes for each USC candidates according to SCOM are as follows:

- President: Maillart Dean Diaz
3,525 votes with 5,736 abstains
- Vice President: Missy Ruela Cortez
5,402 votes with 3,859 abstains
- Senator on Records: Jericho Abad
5,019 votes with 4,242 abstains
- Senator on Finance: Joedi San Vicente
4,986 votes with 4,275 abstains
- Senator on Business Affairs: Alpha Tricia Cagang
4,950 votes with 4,311 abstains
- Senator on Student Services: Blesse Kathlyn Leoncio
3,197 votes with 6,064 abstains



SPORTS FEATURE

Revisiting the Roots:

Kapampangan Prowess Through the Lens of the Past

■ Jasmin C. Apostol

Teeming with the richness of water's embrace that molds Pampanga's historical landscape, it springs forth an enchanting tale of Kapampangan virtuosos. Truth be told, Kapampangans are "mayabang," a positive trait—perhaps sugarcoating. But this stems from its vibrant heritage, which is not limited to the province's accomplishments in various domains but extends beyond the sports realm.

Representing the country and competing in the holy grail of all sports tournaments—the Olympics—is not an easy feat. They have to endure exhausting pieces of training, long-draining hours of preparation, and extreme pressure to make the country proud. From their journey, lessons unfold, teaching us the greater treasure behind the sweat and tears—earned medals and trophies.

As the nation that is cradled by scorching heat is already all eyes on the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics, let's have a quick dive into the annals of Pampanga's renowned Olympians. Here an extraordinary sentiment unfolds: As the Kapampangan spirit knows no bounds in the field of sports, from the depths of its bodies of water, a Kabalen will rise.

Kapampangan Giants in the Hardwood Battleground

Tucked within the confines of hardwood is a timeless tale of legacy—the beginning—the history itself that ignites the spirit of Kapampangan athletes.

A Masantoleño named Fortunato Yambao, set a momentous record as the first Kapampangan

athlete to grace the Olympic Arena. Yambao was a member of the Philippines basketball team, "The Islanders," where they finished fifth in the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics with a 4-1 record. This placement remains the highest rank our national team has ever peaked in the Olympic basketball competition.

With this hauntingly majestic history, the dynamic duo of the legendary "Fajardo Brothers" from Floridablanca—Felicisimo "Fely" Fajardo and Gabriel "Gabby" Fajardo—continued the Kapampangan prowess in basketball as they took part in the 1948 London Olympics.

During the 1940s, Fely was coined as one of the top forwards in Philippine basketball, where he also earned his spot on the national team in the 1938 Far Eastern Games in Tokyo alongside Gabby. With his exceptional performance, the Philippines nabbed second place, and he also secured his spot on the 1940 RP team in Manila.

Fely achieved another milestone in his basketball career as he was appointed as the head coach of the Philippine basketball team at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. His remarkable legacy in Olympic coaching broke new ground as he was recognized as the first Filipino referee accredited by the FIBA (International Basketball Federation). Without a glimpse of doubt, Fely was indeed a towering giant in the expansive landscape of basketball and a testament to a great Kapampangan athlete.

To complete the phenomenal Kapampangan sets of ballers, Lubao pride and two-time Olympian Carlos “The Bad Boy of Philippine Basketball” Badion shared his far share in this line-up of remarkable Olympians as his rough play served as a testament to his unmatched competence.

During his time, he was regarded as the Most Valuable Player by the Asian Basketball Conference (ABC). In 1956, Badion marked his first play as a national team player in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, serving as one of the key players to seize seventh place when he teamed up with the basketball icons Caloy Loyzaga and Kurt Bachmann.

Expanding his athletic legacy, he graced the victorious 1958 Asian Games, the 1959 FIBA World Cup with an eighth-place finish, and the 1960 Rome Olympic team, where he suffered a knee injury against Uruguay, which eventually marked the end of his playing career.

Bullets of Fate

“A multifaceted soul” best describes the Kapampangan gem from Bacolor named Adolfo “Chito” Feliciano, embodying tenacity as he conquered diverse worlds of Olympic marksmanship—archery and fencing—military service, and television dance hosting. This three-time Olympian marked the beginning of his shooting journey in 1949, when he took Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines. During his sophomore year, Chito outshined 80 students, leading him to a spot on the six-man UP shooting team. This shaped his path to the 1954 Asian Games where he swept gold in the small bore-rifle, 3-position game.

His journey continued at the 1960 Rome Olympics, where he clinched 51st place among 54 contenders in the small bore rifle. Undeterred, Chito vied for Olympic glory twice more: in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, where he landed 2nd spot in the small-bore rifle prone, and in the 1968 Mexico Olympics, where he placed 22nd among 30 participants in the free rifle game. With his exceptional shooting skills, Chito graced the Philippine Navy as a decorated Marine Major and head of the Sniper Training Unit during the dictatorship of Marcos Senior. However, he met a tragic incident—a helicopter crash—that took his life in 1972.

In line with the realm of fire rangers, the name Arturo Macapagal echoes within the borders of the Olympic shooting. His trajectory transcends beyond marksmanship as his story weaves across the country’s political tapestry. This two-time Olympian from Lubao is the eldest son of the 9th President of the

Philippines, Diosdado Macapagal, and half-brother of the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Despite hailing from a lineage of public servants, Arturo took a different path, forging an indelible influence on Philippine sports.

During the 1972 Munich Olympics, he displayed unparalleled skill, gunning 47th place among 59 shooters, setting a national record for free pistol feat that stood unchallenged for 21 years—the longest reign in our country’s shooting lore. While at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, he placed 37th out of 47 competitors. This remarkable milestone earned him the esteemed “All-Around Filipino Sports Awardee” title, a recognition bestowed by the Philippine Sportswriters Association for two consecutive years in 1973 and 1974.

As a relentless vanguard, Macapagal steered the Philippine National Shooting Association for an extensive year, employing his expertise to foster progress and excellence within the field of shooting sports. His influence expanded further in the Olympian domain, assuming the presidential role of the Philippine Olympians Association.

Also, Melchor Yap of Angeles City bannered the province of Pampanga in the 1972 Munich Olympics, where he competed in the skate-shooting event, and despite the absence of victory, his groundbreaking feat established pride for Kapampangans as he joined the elite league of the world’s finest marksmen.

From Rice Fields to Snowy Peaks

Despite the nation cradled by scorching heat and torrid sunlight, two prominent names proved to the world that a Kapampangan prowess knows no boundaries and the frozen realms aren’t as hostile land as they once danced in the frost-kissed world. Olympic victors Raymond Ocampo Jr. and Elizabeth Punsalan, both from Lubao, emerged as ice royalties, following their legacy in the frozen arena.

Raymond Ocampo Jr. carved a historical feat as the third Filipino to compete in an Olympic winter competition during the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics, where he secured 35th place among 38 participants in the men’s single luge event. His Olympic journey was far from a breeze due to passport concerns and Filipino-American dual citizenship, but the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) allowed him to participate in the said event. In 2010, Ocampo was appointed as Honorary Captain, leading the U.S. Olympic luge team in Vancouver, Canada.

Skating with the same path forward, Elizabeth Punsalan a two-time Winter Olympian and son of pure-blooded Dr. Ernesto Punsalan, rose to fame in Ice Dancing as she infused a touch of Kapampangan ancestry when she represented the United States. In the wake of a tragic incident with her mentally troubled sibling shortly before the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics, where she placed 15th overall, Punsalan exhibited remarkable resilience in the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics, where she clinched 7th place.

A Warrior’s Pulse

Embracing Kapampangan’s mark, this combative stellar proved to the world what it takes to have a fighter’s blood. Donald “Donnie” Geisler, a taekwondo athlete from Angeles City, allured the world with his combative doughtiness.

This two-time Olympian bannered the country’s flag in the 2000 Sydney Olympics and 2004 Athens Olympics. With his skills and enthusiastic spirit, he was sent to compete in his first World Junior Taekwondo Championships in Spain in 1996, where he clinched bronze, which kicked off the start of an illustrious career. Following his triumph, he bagged another two silver medals: the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games and the World Cup Taekwondo in Germany. In 1999, he secured the gold in Brunei Darussalam. Geisler’s quest for glory continued as he fought in the preceding South East Asian Games, winning silver in 2001 and gold in 2003 and 2005, respectively.

From Boys Town to Gymnastic Stellar

Behind an athlete’s success is a dream defining their pulse—a legacy worth the spotlight. From Boys Town, a gymnastic gem named Norman Henson of Arayat carved a gymnastic triumph. Henson’s exceptional talent in the field of gymnastics led him to claim the title in the Floor Exercise event, besting competitors from ten countries in Copenhagen International School Games at the age of 18, along with fellow Boys Town mate Ernesto Beren. Henson’s first and only Olympic participation was at the 1968 Mexico Olympics, where he demonstrated unwavering prowess in individual All-Around games, Men’s Rings, Horse Vault, Parallel Bars, and Floor Exercises.

But just like in other remarkable stories, Henson had to embrace the waves of hurdles with determination to keep him afloat. In the Men’s Individual All-Around category, he placed second to last and came short to qualify for the final leg in the Men’s Floor Exercise, emphasizing the tidal adversities of an elite competition. Still, his participation alone signaled a historical feat for the country. Henson’s legacy extended beyond the Olympic beam as he continued to contribute to the gymnastic world. He imparted his expertise through a coaching role until his passing in April 2014.

Success is a tough yet daring adventure—whether through land, water, or air, the path is not a walk on feathers. It requires perseverance, resiliency, and a burning passion. Along the journey, there is a story to be told. Through the lens of the past, we witnessed Kapampangan’s dauntlessness, and from there, it continuously lived up to its name.

The number of Olympians that hailed from the Kapampangan blood line in the world’s most prestigious sporting event is a testament to the notion that as boastful as the Kapampangan tongue may be, the astounding talent always justifies and validates this action.

You have probably seen them by now, commonly misunderstood due to the unique sense of freedom and swag they emit while navigating the bustling streets with rebellious spirit in their quirky fashion and edgy four-wheeled deck; freely cruising through the urban landscape of this concrete jungle or shambling along open spaces to feed their adrenaline with astounding stunts on ramps and rails. If there's one thing that these passionate, self-expressive, and thrill-seeking individuals share in common, it's skateboarding.

Personalized by a subculture that highly influences art, fashion, and street culture, skateboarding is an extreme recreational activity turned action sport that originated in the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s by a group of surfers who wanted to do something when the waves were flat and called it "sidewalk surfing". From there on, as a sport that knows no boundaries, skateboarding rapidly gained popularity over the years and recently debuted at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

As popular as it gets overseas, skateboarding steadily slows down its roll in the country and fades down in the shadow amidst the change in cultural interest, lack of facilities, societal norms, and the rise of digital entertainment. In Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU), one group once ruled the campus with the sound of the wheels clattering against that pavement and brought a vibrant atmosphere—the DoveZoo Boys.

Knight Dizon, a member who joined the group in his

freshman year in 2013, said that the community of the DoveZoo Boys was unearthed as early as 2005, where the skaters play and made use of the old Bacolor public market as the canvas of their art. Dizon and the other members, during their era, represented the group's second generation, bonded together by their shared passion for skateboarding, forging an accidental yet enduring bond.

"Nabuo yung grupo namen basta-basta. So una may nakikita kami na nag lalaro ng skateboard noon, eh sakto skater din ako, naisipan ko sumama sa kanila sa DHVTSU every time na nag lalaro sila, and ayun dumami nalang kami ng dumami bigla!" Dizon said.

Composed of 20 or more diverse students from different programs, DoveZoo Boys showcased their prowess on the deck and catered to the group's invitation to skateboarding competitions. Dizon reminisced about how loud the cheers were as they entered the gate of the venue, bannerizing the university in a 2014 event.

In shooting their shot to get support from the university and secure a spot in the campus rear ground, DoveZoo Boys tried to formalize and merge hands with DHVSU, but the attempt went down the drain as they were snubbed and no actions were taken. In a previous article published by *The Industrialist*, The DoveZoo Boys said that they were not warmly welcomed and went on a full route of challenges as they weren't allowed to ride inside the campus and the guards confiscated their skateboards, which forced them to stay in gasoline stations and covered courts.

Today, the group is still in touch with one another, even if some of them have already stopped rolling their skateboards. Contrary to the bad stigma they were weaved with, like bystanders, drug addicts, brawlers, people with no dreams, and so on, many members of the group are now successful professionals and businessmen who are earning six

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For the forgotten DHVSU skateboarding scene, there are high hopes of a renaissance on campus as new blood of skateboarders can form their brotherhood with shared passion, just like what the DoveZoo Boys did a decade ago, with skateboarding now much embraced in society today.

Minna Eliby G. Mamboloto

DHVSU'S SKATEBOARDING SCENE CEASED WHEEL ROLLING

DoveZoo Boys



SPORTS FEATURE

figures a month and touring the country with their band. Also, two members found love in the group, as they are now happily married with three kids.

However, the skateboarding scene on the campus right now has vanished and is nowhere to be found. The once overflowing raw energy and creative spirit of these skaters that transform ordinary landscapes into their own canvas for expression slipped into the shadow of the rise of the digital stage and societal shifts. The baton of tradition that was started by DoveZoo Boys decades ago wasn't passed on to a new generation that could have taken the scene DHVSU a notch higher given the awakening that the skateboarding

community serves today. The query of whether the skateboarding community at DHVSU would bloom if the university supported the request and invested in DoveZoo Boys way back lingers as skateboarding is now a multi-billion dollar industry and an Olympic event.

DHVSU might have a grassroot talents by now if the request for support and space on the university grounds was granted before. There are multifaceted reasons why skateboarding ceased to exist not only on campus but also countrywide, such as the struggle for recognition, lack of infrastructure, societal norms, and changing cultural interests. These factors forced many to abandon the adrenaline-fueled art form of skateboarding in exchange for much safer and more convenient digital thrills.

The search for distinctive graphics and stickers on every jaw-dropping deck flip, counterculture attire, clattering roller sound, and people who defy gravity with creativity on the campus continues. With the skateboarding downturn in

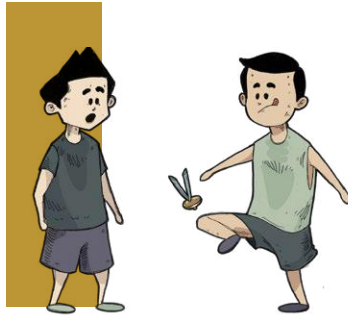
recent years, the hope of it rising from the ashes lives on thanks to athletes like Margielyn Didal, who served as one of the catalysts that turned the boat of the Philippines' skateboarding scene to the right direction.

Notably, Didal delivered the gold at the 2018 Asian Games and introduced the Philippines to the skateboarding realm at the Tokyo Olympics. Didal was selling street foods in Cebu to live years ago, but she had the opportunity to unleash Filipino talent on the world stage and capture the hearts of many with the charm she brought to the park. This transcends beyond the walls of the Olympics, as this served as an eye-opener on the opportunity that skateboarding can give and broke years of stigma that surround it.

For the forgotten DHVSU skateboarding scene, there are high hopes of a renaissance on campus as new blood of skateboarders can form their brotherhood with shared passion, just like what the DoveZoo Boys did a decade ago, with skateboarding now much embraced in society today.

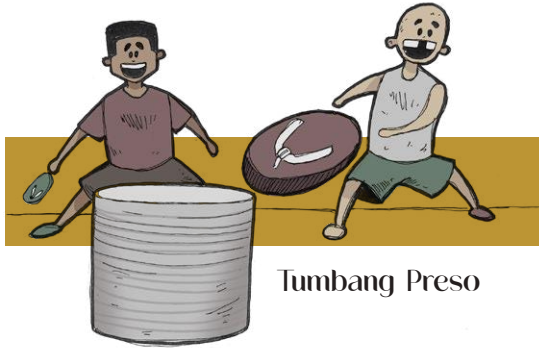
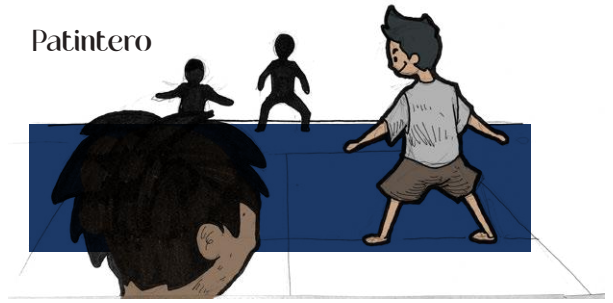


Tagu-taguan



Sipa

Patintero



Tumbang Preso

Luksong Baka



SPORTS FEATURE

Restoring a Youngster's Smile: Diving into Totoy's former battleground

■ Anjelli L. Santos

One's childhood undoubtedly consists of a core memory that lingers as one grows up. Games play a huge part in one's youth, specifically to someone who was once a Totoy—a street-buffed Filipino kid whose battleground was the city streets.

Yet as time went by, an unexpected nemesis turned the tables around, making emerging technologies dominate traditional games by providing much more advanced versions of them that could be played anytime, anywhere, effortlessly.

Some chants including “Tagu-taguan maliwanag ang buwan...”, “maiba, taya!”, “nanay, tatay, gusto kong tinapay” were silenced as exciting sound effects transpired. Little-to-no resources, youngsters' boredom and curiosity, as well as Filipinos' obsession with inventing games that fit their interests, have driven them to create their own palaro, which meritoriously served and set a high standard of fun for the people of the past—a significant change indeed.

These ‘palaro’ come in numerous types and are utilized as long as the player can; a ‘larong lahi’ player should have it all. However, in a spontaneous turn of events caused by the colonization of foreigners and even technology, the flame of traditional games withered away.

Gear up to dive deeper into Totoy's battleground and reminisce by indulging in the array of larong Pinoy children once experienced.

Tagu-taguan

Hiding from ‘it’ and being the last to be found was the main objective of the game. Hide and Seek, also known as ‘tagu-taguan’ in Tagalog, is an all-time classic game where the ‘it’ counts like a clock with its eyes shut until its count reaches ten.

Within the battlefield, the other players shall hide and make sure they are not located by the ‘it’ in order to not be the next ‘it’. These players, at the same time, could save themselves by touching the base—the place where the ‘it’ counts.

Sipa

Those who wished to be football players in the past surely had an interest in its look-alike Pinoy version, ‘Sipa’. Despite its level of difficulty, Sipa has become one of the go-to palaro of youngsters. A cute, soft ball-like material, also known as a washer, was the main ingredient of the game. These days, a washer can also be made out of a five-centavo coin and a piece of candy wrapper. A Sipa player can win as long as they have the highest number of counts among other players. These counts can be gained depending on how many times the player kicks the washer, only with their feet.

Tumbang Preso

Anyone who owns a slipper can play! Kids enjoyed tumbang preso, and almost everyone has their own story behind this palaro. This

has been a part of their childhood, and this game has made competitiveness arise in each Filipino neighborhood.

Aside from tagu-taguan, an ‘it’ also exists in this game and is defined by who was the farthest to throw a slipper on the line. Once identified, other players will be designated as hitters.

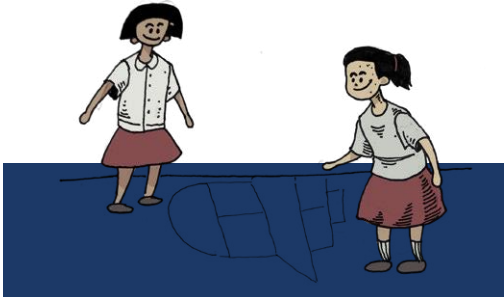
These hitters will bump the can by throwing their slippers, yet they should never actually cross the line. Meters away from the toe line was an existing circle—the next target of the ‘it’ wherein he or she shall place back the can. Within the game, hitters could recover their slippers as fast as they could; if not, they could be tagged by the ‘it’ and will be the new ‘it’.

Patintero

The combination of speed, agility, and strategy is the key!

Patintero is a game that turns the street with marked lines into an arena in which two teams with equal numbers of participants will play the roles of runners and taggers. Patintero has a simple rule: the runners must avoid being tagged by the “taya” or “taggers” guarding the lines as they pass through them. The runners have the main objective of crossing all taggers and getting back into the base without getting tagged, or else the teams will switch roles.

The taggers can only move along the lines and stretch out their hands to reach the runners, whereas the runners can utilize the whole space allotted to do their tricky moves in



Piko

Jackstone



Holen



Chinese Garter

Trumpo



Graphics by Kay Patrick G. Tudeo & Reign Alexa V. Galang

getting passed through.

Patintero cries out good teamwork and incredible strategy mingled with physical fitness between the players, as it is very difficult to pass through the taggers one-on-one, so a certain trick sync with the teammates must be done to successfully win the game.

Luksong Baka

High jump? It seems to be familiar somehow. Players jumping over one another is the major scene in this game. With three to ten players present in their so-called neighborhood arena, luksong baka is utilized simply by avoiding getting touched physically whenever they needed to jump over by the Bakang Lala (cow), which is the 'it'.

Bakang Lala will begin at the lowest position it could be—kneeling down the ground.

Afterward, once the rest of the players pass over the first round, the Baka will rise higher until a new Baka is identified. Additionally, even physical contact is prohibited in this game; jumpers touching the back of the baka through their hands is an exception.

Piko

A player's balance and coordination are a plus! With a giant grid present on the ground comes a fantastic adventure waiting over. Kids of the past played piko for fun, yet sometimes it turns into a challenge everyone wishes to survive.

There are various maps that are drawn with lines and numbers that will be passed by each player while following certain rules and patterns. A player who fails to hop through the grid until the end will also fail to qualify for the next play to be held.

Chinese Garter

Do not trip, or your win will be ripped. The Chinese garter, a beloved game typically played by girls, held a prominent place among

youngsters in the past. Two players from the 'it' team will act as 'posts' placed side by side, holding onto a garter that increases as the game goes—beginning from the lower leg up to the overhead position.

Jumping crosswise along the garter was the task given to the other players. Take note: a player should finish the round without getting tripped to arrive at its end goal—to complete the game without contacting the garter or skipping a certain level.

Chinese garter consists of different levels, starting from the feet up to the head, each to be completed successfully by the team; otherwise, they will be the next game posts. There are also other various games that can be played through the loop of rubber bands connected together used in Chinese garter, such as "ten-twenty" and "luksong lubid."

Jackstone

Eye and hand coordination at its finest!

First things first, those who play jackstones start the game by making the stones scattered along the surface. Each player must have a quick response time to pick up a single stone with their backhand while the ball thrown into the air bounces.

Jackstone is a game played between two people, and each is given five jacks (or stones). The player who's able to complete the most number of levels will be the winner.

Trumpo

Put some thumbtacks on top of it for a +99999 shield!

Commonly played by boys, the game Trumpo gave a challenge to the youngsters back then. In this game, the players will throw their trumpos simultaneously on the ground, and the last trumpon to stop spinning will lead to victory.

The spinning time of each trumpon depends on how good the player's style is at throwing it to the ground. In short, the player is in control of their victory.

Aside from the lasting game, other versions of trumpon games were played before, such as when trumpos were placed inside a circle and an attacker unleashed the trumpon in it with the aim of kicking the trumpon out of the circle.

Holen

Colorful marbles indeed complete a Totoy's childhood, as they can utilize them in any way possible. Some play holen against other players, some collect and brag, and some add them to their collections. They come in different variations and designs, which make them more attractive!

One of the common ways to play holen was somehow the same as bowling, as the player should flick their holen and make sure to hit the other marbles placed as targets inside a circle precisely. The player who hits the most marbles in one shot will be considered the winner.

In this bowling-inspired game of marbles, called holens, the marbles may roll outside their designated circles, becoming available for players to grab and add to their collection.

Thinking of these games does not only recover a youngster's smile; it heals the inner child of someone whose childhood was different from what is currently in the present due to the sudden surge of technology, which paved the way to making the practice of traditional games unusual. Nonetheless, laro ng lahi carved a deep mark in history and held a great value to the name of traditional games in the country.

Admit it or not, these games, laro ng lahi, also nurtured the youngsters of the past to become competitive individuals—someone who reflects the characteristics of the Filipino athletes of today.

Homerun

■ Denser Ace V. Arce

The Run Back Home of Diamond Action to DHVSU



aggressive floor defense, barrage of fiery baskets, and most of all, absolute domination inside the court, might just be the spectacle mostly associated with Don Honorio Ventura State University within its fellow SUC's in Region III with the third consecutive and reigning champion Honorian basketball squad. However, this rising stronghold of DHVSU looked up in the region has not just always

been built on basketball courts as several years ago, when it was still known as DHVCAT, towering golds were fortified in diamond fields.

For almost a decade, gold was brought home by the Honorian baseballers, not until no more gold was earned—not until there was even no home to bring something back.

Stepping out of the Dugout

Despite the dwindling local interest to the bat and ball sports from the 80's, efforts within the Philippines were observed to preserve the diamond field action, especially the collegiate athletic meets. SCUAA for instance, which for decades has been the pinnacle of sporting events for state universities and colleges across the country, is consistent in including the baseball and softball in the battle lineups. Coincidentally, the time around the reappearance of the Philippine baseball team to the global watch happened to be the time when SUC III witnessed the Wild Cats' historic championship in the diamond field.

"Noong time na naglaro na kami ng BulSU, first game, ang defending champion, tinalo namin," remarked Ernesto G. Brown, the former team captain of DHVCAT's baseball team, as he reminisced their first SCUAA experience emerging as dark horses of the competition.

Brown shared that the Gold Gears had been the team-to-beat for the longest time in the athletic meet's baseball division, yet they managed to secure a win against them in their first match up despite the apparent disadvantage in height. From this time forward, history was made by them as not only did they cut the reign of the record holders,



Photos by Patrick Bryan H. Porras

but actually being able to defend the highest podium in the same event for nine straight years.

New Inning, New Beginning

While the glorious run of Wild Cats is imprinted in bold, highlighted colors, the following pages from thereafter started to lose prominence and later became obscure.

After failing to turn the history pages with the several years-long hiatus in the said sporting event, a brand new chapter has finally started to be written after the comeback of DHVSU in the 2024 Regional SCUAA baseball and softball division after the decision of the university's Office of Sports Development (OSD) headed by Dir. Normando Simon and Asst. Dir. Rexan Cunanan to join again in the competition.

Sure enough, the individuals who have once written history as players were the ones tapped to create another, but now as coaches, one of which is Sir Brown, who experienced first-hand the rise of DHVSU baseball as mentioned earlier.

"Nasiyahan kami noong marinig namin na ibalik ang baseball and softball. 'Yung para bang, 'yung puso mo, uminit, naging pulang pula,'" the former catcher said, as he ecstatically described the time he first knew about the announcement, being a baseball player at heart and a pure-blooded Honorian at the same time.

Homerun in the Making

While the resurgence served as the sequel for the veterans, it was a breakthrough story for the young guns who hit the ground in the SCUAA for the first time, like Ellaine Tiongson, pitcher and the team captain of DHVSU softball team. Being a daughter of a seasoned softball player, Ellaine became immersed early in the diamond field and became fully engaged to the sport at the age of just ten years old.

However, despite her growing skill

and passion in the bat and ball action at an early age, she found herself dribbling and shooting in her junior to senior high journey since softball competition was not offered. "Wala na [pong] choice e, kaya nag basketball na lang po ako," she added. Ellaine then disclosed that occasional barangay tournaments were the only avenue for her not only to put her abilities to test, but also do what her sports-centered heart really desires.

Having 'no choice' for the longest time in school athletics became the driving force for Ellaine to not think twice when she knew that there was a search for baseball and softball players in the university. She even said that she hastily went to the campus out of eagerness and excitement the time she was tapped to attend the assembly of new players. "[Sobrang] saya po. 'Yung pangarap ko po [na] maging player po ng DHVSU, natupad," she exclaimed, noting the pride and honor she felt going in, and fighting inside the diamond field for her alma mater.

Catching up to the Pitch

Even though Honorian bat and ball teams failed to bring home a medal, it is definitely better than having no home to go back to. Their resurgence proved that having lack of equipment and facilities, being under the scorching sun for hours, and just starting from the

ground up cannot extinguish their burning desire, as long as they have the opportunity to represent their home, again and again.

We should not deprive any more prodigies like Ellaine of the opportunity to play the sport closest to their hearts. Instead, we should harness the expertise and knowledge of veterans like Eduardo Brown to mold new champions. Indeed, it is through offering another page for another history to be written in maroon and gold.



FROM SCRATCH TO GRANDSLAM:

Withstanding Pressure on a Golden Stage

■ Meona Junamyn F. Pabustan



Photos by Jeremiah James S. Bacani

SPORTS FEATURE

What happens if you put gold under pressure? Most people would assume that it would flatten into a pancake. Yet, the process is more complicated than that. Gold—when subjected to pressure that surpasses its limits—shows its tenacious nature by withstanding the heat that compacts it into a small shape by retaining its golden hue and stubborn hardness.

As a testament to their resiliently immovable drive to win, Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) listed 235 Honorian athletes on its roster to resist the heat of the 2024 SUC III Olympics among 13 other state colleges and universities who were called to gather and represent the Third Region to see which of them would topple their enemies and reach the top unscathed. Included in their list are the Basketball and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang teams who took CHEDRO III Director Lora Yusi's speech on "making

history" to heart as their performance pivoted the podiums and placed the university's name on the Top Five in the biggest sporting event of the region.

Dribbling on Cemented Dreams: A Slam dunk for the Honorians

For many years, DHVSU has prided itself in being the breeding ground for cultivating the best basketball players within its walls, racking in multitudes of awards from all kinds of competitions, always hungry for the next victory that its athletes can sink their claws into.

With Basketball Head Coach, Sir Rexan Cunan, assisted by Coach Normando Simon and Sir Phil Soto, the Honorian dribblers were exposed to a rigorous training program on self-discipline to ensure their legacy from past SCUAA battles will continue.

Julie Ann Terese Reguindin, captain of

the Women's Basketball team, admitted how the pressure from the expectations of their coaches and spectators has fired up the heat in an already high-stakes game. "Pressured kami that time kasi they expected na makuha ulit or maka abot [kami] sa finals," she said.

The Lady dribblers pulled up a jump shot across the finals, countering Bulacan State University (BULSU) Gold Gears and ending their match with an 88-56 win.

Meanwhile, the men's division did not lag as they stretched their strategies from offense to defense, rebounding the tide to their favor as they persistently probed the ball from the elimination round up to the grand finale. According to Enrico "Jhayar" Bugarin, the men's point guard, the tenacious Tarlac State University (TSU) Firefoxes became their biggest obstacle in clinching the gold.

There was no “I” in the basketball team as each member synergized well with one another’s chemistry to win every round unbounded and undefeated. “Kami naman lahat nag contribute dahil gusto talaga namin manalo para sa karangalan ng school,” Bugarin added, making this his first winning league as a freshman in a 19-man team, one that has been amassing awards and medals all for the glory of the university.

Even with their bodies battered and aching, both the Women’s and Men’s Basketball teams gave out grateful smiles to the cameras, their drive to win shined clearly as they added another bullet point under DHVSU’s athletic history.

Toppling Towers: Kings and Queens Besieging the Stage

E-games have slowly carved out their reputation as more than just a leisure playtime for the younger generation. Mobile Legends: Bang Bang revamped itself by pulling the game out of the trenches and into one of the most viewed e-sports worldwide.

Bringing in a set of fresh blood to mix in with the old, the vicious Victress of the Women’s MLBB team is now composed of Kaila Nicole Lucas Verde, Stephanie Lintag, Anna Cathlene Guevarra, Caryl Ann Semilla, Mikaila Yamson, and Aena Almario David, with Leigh Ponce (Captain) as their spearhead. These ladies have been slaying their enemies since last year’s edition and have toppled towers so swiftly that it would come as a surprise how most of them felt anxious during the recent scrimmages.

Verde, the Victress’ EXP Laner, recounted the tense atmosphere between her and her teammates during the prelims up until the finals round, “Kinabahan lang kami nung una naming mga game but habang tumatagal po mas nawawala na po ‘yung kaba namin.”

All their anxious worries ceased once the MLBB Victress seized the grand slam title in their rematch against the Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU) Stallions in a best-of-five final round, guarding their bases against enemy lines.

For self-assured Hyrum Gaspan, the

captain of the Men’s MLBB team, MLBB Paragon, the Men’s MLBB team, was confident in each member who was carefully handpicked to give them the edge needed in overthrowing their competition. With Ken Manalo, Eiven Celso, Mark Basilio, Alexander Ricardo, Dale Galvez, and Timothy Gonzales as his vanguard, Gaspan launched his team to formulate battle strategies, drafting attacks and counterattacks formed after performing a deep dive into their opponents’ backgrounds.

The Paragon has been striking gold in competitions inside and outside the school. Their duel between the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST) Phoenixes was just another rank game as the Honorians remain seated on top of the MLBB throne, with both the Honorian kings and queens ruling on an unblemished golden record.

Gears Rewriting History: A Path Streamed with Gold

Efforts from years of experience and months of gruesome training have not gone unnoticed as the Basketball and MLBB teams were hailed as the Grand Slam Champions for both the men’s and women’s divisions, showing the true meaning of being a part of the Honorian community.

On sieging towers and shooting up shots, the men and women divisions held up the maroon-and-gold flag, not bulking from the weight in the slightest. Five years since the last time the university shined, DHVSU’s name placed fifth among the participating universities in the SUC III Olympics after racking 39 golden medallions proudly won by its players. Thunder clouds couldn’t rain on their parade after ending it on such a brightly lit podium with the stage gleaming in gold.



SPORTS DEVCOMM

BRINGING SPORTS DOWN TO THE T

■ Terrence Clair M. Guevarra

The struggle for affirmation and recognition of the rights of trans people and the LGBTQIA+ community as a whole has been a subject of debate and struggle for years. Sports is not an excuse for this, as the realm is divided on whether trans women have a place in the women's division or not. In recent years, science has revealed some of the answers to the dispute and clearly said that trans people shouldn't be banned from their chosen division as long as they meet requirements that diminish their sex-linked traits.

A point was made by trans rights advocates that trans women athletes must be allowed to compete in the women's division, for they, by their transition, are indeed women and should be identified as such. The point was made clear: trans women are women, and it holds true as a person has every right to identify and express whichever gender they identify as and, at the same time, every right to play the sport they love and excel at.

However, in this case, it cannot be ignored the fact that biologically and physiologically, a man's body is leaner and more muscularly built than a biological woman's, giving them superiority in physical traits, which can be the difference maker in most sports. That is why concerns and calls that allow trans women to compete in the women's division are unfair towards the biological women linger, because somehow and somehow they still possess the attributes and advantages of a man's body.

One of the hottest topics that surfaced was American transgender swimmer Lia Thomas, who roared from mid-500's ranking when she was in the male division to one of the top-ranked swimmers in the NCAA women's competition after her transition in 2020. She made headlines after breaking numerous US women's records at the University of Pennsylvania. This, from the naked eye, clearly suggests that there is an advantage on her side against the non-transgender in her division. What happened highlighted the need

for much more studies, considerations, and qualifications for transgenders to be embraced in their chosen division.

Studies have shown that if a gender transition happens before the age of puberty, the development of the body will follow the gender in which it is transitioning. This will give them an immense advantage, as their testosterone level will give them a competitive edge. In this case, if a biological man opts to start their transition towards being a female before puberty, they will experience puberty as if that of a biological woman, hence the same testosterone level. Some experts suggest that to achieve this, the transition must start as early as the age of 12.

Yet, the biggest hindrance to this type of transition is that many governments, especially the more conservative ones, regulate or prohibit the transition of a minor—the typical age when puberty occurs—and cannot do so until the legal age.

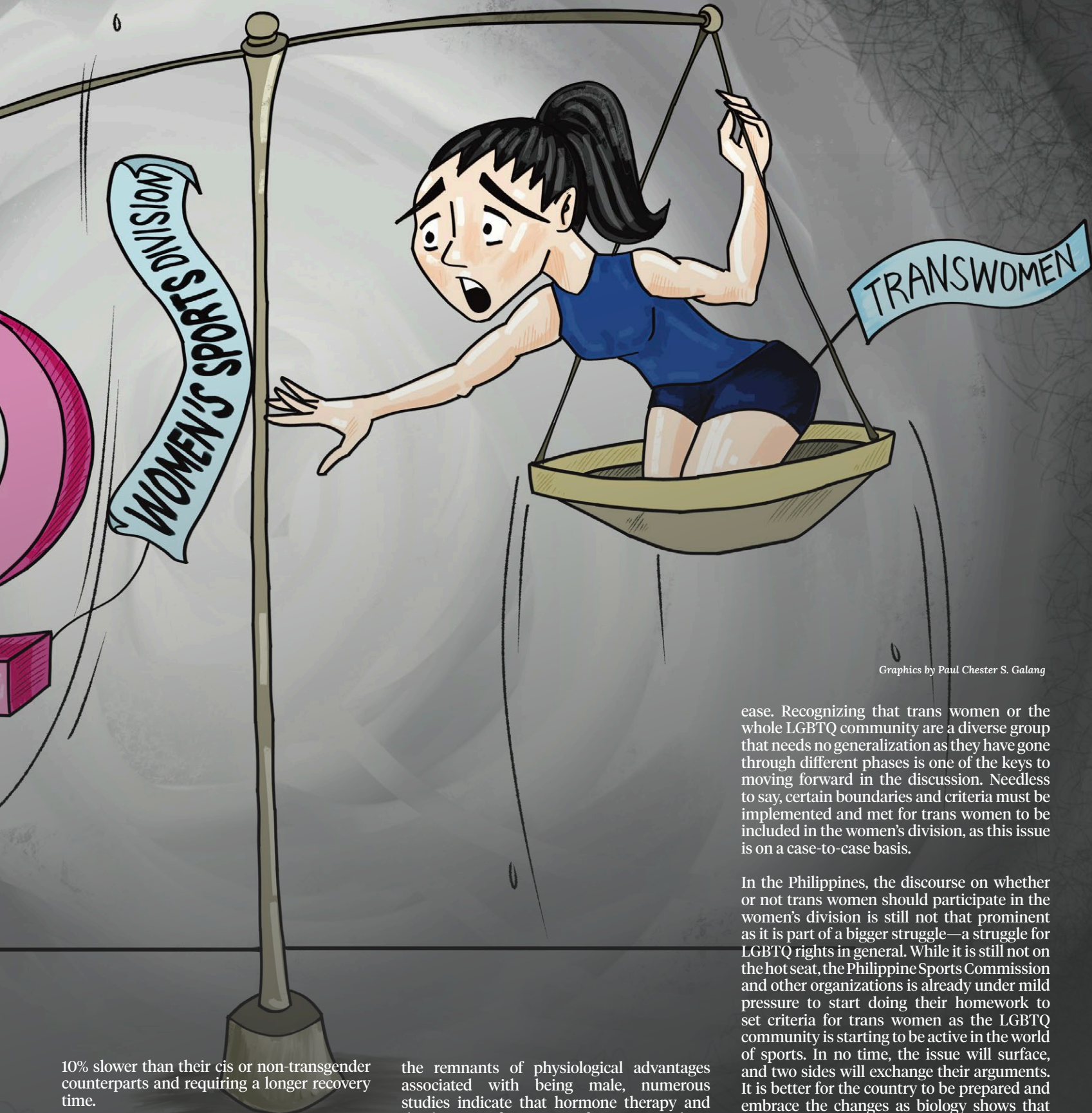
Furthermore, most sports governing bodies, such as the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the governing body of international cycling, say that they would only let trans women compete in the female category if they kept their testosterone level below 2.5 mL for 24 months. World Aquatics (FINA) and World Athletics banned transgender women from competing in elite swimming competitions and women's track and field events, respectively, if they had gone through any part of male puberty. On the contrary, the International Rugby League banned trans women from the division in the meantime until further consultation and research that could solidify the stand were found.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) left the decision to the respective sports federations, with guidelines focusing on fairness and inclusion. The US NCAA requires transgender athletes to undergo hormone therapy for one year before competing in

women's events. Also, the World Triathlon requires transgender athletes to meet specific hormone concentration limits and undergo transition before competition.

A study conducted by the University of Manchester concluded that a trans woman's muscular advantage is 5% compared to a biological woman after a one-year testosterone suppression treatment. Researcher Joanna Harper from Loughborough University observed that there is an endurance disparity amongst trans women because of their larger frames, which is now being maintained by a smaller aerobic capacity due to reduced hemoglobin levels, resulting in them being





Graphics by Paul Chester S. Galang

10% slower than their cis or non-transgender counterparts and requiring a longer recovery time.

Though this 10 percent disparity seems drastic, Harper said that it can be made up for with the right training, which an athlete must do regardless of their gender. Another study commissioned by the Canadian Center for Ethics in Sports found that biomedical factors are insignificant to an athlete's performance; rather, it is nutrition and training that do. Therefore, as science speaks, the door for transwomen in sports should not be entirely closed. While it's undeniable that transitioning doesn't completely eliminate doubts or

the remnants of physiological advantages associated with being male, numerous studies indicate that hormone therapy and the duration of transition often mitigate these advantages to varying extents.

There isn't one answer that fits all the questions about whether they should be allowed or not. As embraced by various sporting organizations today, the principles of inclusion and fairness, supported by robust data and studies, serve as powerful tools to address and potentially equalize disputes within sports. Committees must follow and be open to considering trans women's participation in different sporting events with

ease. Recognizing that trans women or the whole LGBTQ community are a diverse group that needs no generalization as they have gone through different phases is one of the keys to moving forward in the discussion. Needless to say, certain boundaries and criteria must be implemented and met for trans women to be included in the women's division, as this issue is on a case-to-case basis.

In the Philippines, the discourse on whether or not trans women should participate in the women's division is still not that prominent as it is part of a bigger struggle—a struggle for LGBTQ rights in general. While it is still not on the hot seat, the Philippine Sports Commission and other organizations is already under mild pressure to start doing their homework to set criteria for trans women as the LGBTQ community is starting to be active in the world of sports. In no time, the issue will surface, and two sides will exchange their arguments. It is better for the country to be prepared and embrace the changes as biology shows that many of the queries on whether they should be included are answered by adaptability on testosterone, hormones, and transition time.

The struggle for LGBTQIA+ rights in sports and society in general has more laps to go and distance to cover, yet as it strides in the right direction, picking up steam, it is only a matter of time until it gets to the finish line. And when the finish line is met and when the struggle is won, one must know that in every trans athlete who runs, a community struggles and is running with her.

TRAGICALLY CLICHÉ

■ Ryza Carmela L. Salta

SPORTS LITERARY



Graphics by Kay Patrick G. Tadeo

As I waited for a call, I saw Dan shining on his way to dunk along the grounds of Tarlac State University. Flaunting its shine, crowds screamed like Dan was the only one on the court. Well, I could not help but to agree. I mean, look at his ball sports' clean orange-coated rough coverings; they look well-maintained. No wonder they stand the best amidst the giant crowd of diverse athletes from various state colleges and universities in the region.

"Ley, stop stalling! We still need to practice! Our fans are waiting for us!" exclaimed one of the shortest among us, Anisa.

I stared at Anisa and I saw hope in her bulging eyes. Oh—we should practice. I felt exhausted and ashamed as I tried to remain unbothered by how clean the courts are in this university in contrast to our shoes. After all, it was our first day representing DHVSU, and our opponent in the match came from this university.

"Aren't you tired at all? I mean, look at you—us," I replied. I fully examined her with my red and puffy eyes, reflecting hers.

I shivered looking into her hands, seeing untreated wounds from her tireless arnis quest. Her shoes liken our fit—ragged as hell. It seems like we are not even taking a bath. I saw Eba on her way to interrupt while looking almost similarly rusty, if not only for our sweat then we would have been there.

I noticed co-athletes from other universities like TSU; true enough, we were not the only ones experiencing the old tangled laces... except for the usual favorites.

Eba interrupted us as she kicked her ball, "What are you yapping and thinking about Ley? Just because you are finally getting some of that shine, huh?" pertaining to my sport, volleyball, which has gained some attention in state colleges and universities.

He sounded triggered while saying that. I shook my head as I knew that this topic seemed difficult for some of them to acknowledge; Sally noticed my gesture and hopped into the growing tension.

"Ley, we can't just rest here."

And she was right. This was not even a new issue. It felt like our sports have been on the sidelines for the longest time. But for those who fund them, our feet are merely a foot. They only love to see what is above.

We continue striving with our potential—waiting for that call as we practice our own sport.

As we paid attention to our training, I suddenly heard Dan just beside us ranting about their experiences as basketball players.

"Oh, no worries. Regardless of the sport, representing a region or a country does not mean much of a thing unless you win," he said.

That led me to acknowledge their struggle, too. Well, it was an unforeseen random realization while spiking the ball. However, for us, players of sports that are kind of glowing under the shadows of basketball, we cannot deny the struggles of the majority, too. Above all, a third-world country is a third-world sport.

In the long run, as the time has come to apply our determination, I still question our lingering presence amid this gracing essence: Really, what are we in this place?

Come on, Ley! You're already about to serve the ball.

Okay. Now, it is just time to grab whatever clings from within—it is our time to play after the dearest basketball game has finished its way in this place. Finally, even just for a while. I smiled at my teammates while I grinned at the opponents; I could feel their competitive gazes. Whatever, we bleed the same love.

Yet, fine—maybe even karma loves basketball because as I served the ball with my almost-tattered shoes, I tripped.

As expected, the crash blew straight into my face, like a harsh reality slapping me again and again. I heard some gasping from the audience, but when I stared at them, I saw Dan walking towards my side, with his seemingly new basketball shoes.

That might better explain it. How I desire to fit into that—How I wish our sports were treated the same as his.

And even better, how I wish all players were treated better.

One point for the opponent. Ley, focus. Amid imbalance exists a ball as powerful as nobody but those who hold it. There, while the other team was about to serve, I focused on what I could balance: myself and our ball.

Someone received it like a middle child, hoping it would gladly embrace us as we are just souls longing to be nurtured. Truth be told, the other side cannot just enjoy their service without our forces; hence, when it was our time, I smashed the ball like it was the disparity of everyone on the sideline—a force to reckon with but was never treated as much of a beacon.

BANG! One point for us! Our crowds went wild. We also have them, of course! But then, our team heard a whistle followed by the 'outside' hand signal of the referee. Our smiles have dropped. The ball has overstepped the line.

It's not about the game, is it?

This is so dramatically cliché... Fighting for equal rights has been such a cliché plot since the beginning of time. Everyone must hate sweating over something so bare, at least for us—for those who cannot be supported. But can we ever coequal with our diverse values?

Against All Odds

Emergence of DHVSU's Football Stronghold from the Dust

■ Mian Elly G. Manaloto

Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) and football are like poles that are supposed to repel each other. With no history of winning, football field, proper training, or materials to execute the game, DHVSU and football dominance can't just be synced and are beyond imaginable to be in a single picture.

However, the doughty DHVSU footballers muscle their way to revoke the written prophecy and pull off what no other Honorian football team has done—reign the SUC III Olympics Football Tournament and bag the university's monumental maiden gold.

Dark Horses' Stepping Stone to Stardom

Serving as a warm-up to set the tone for the gold feat in the coming year.

With no trace of dominance and always looked forward as bonus rounds in their years competing in the tourney, Honorian footballers, from nowhere, came off the gates hard in their comeback in the field and pounced on opponents one after the other before eventually running out of gas over the hands of the President Ramon Magsaysay State University Blue Jaguars in the finals to settle for silver.

The Honorian odyssey took a colossal boost after turning heads right from the opening whistle, unleashing a prodigious, 11-0, upset and shocker over the defending champion Central Luzon State University Green Cobras. From there, the trend remained unaltered for DHVSU, which retained its steamy momentum to reach the championship round.

For team captain Justin Tolentino, last

edition's unprecedented success was a pivotal stepping stone in building the chemistry along the team, as they are just built again from scraps from different campuses with the goal of showcasing the Honorian talent in the field.

Issues and Hurdles

As if the lack of a football field, and equipment isn't heavy enough burden to carry, the Honorian squad walked on a tightrope after taking massive blows with the availability of the players. Balancing academic and football commitment came crashing to storm and tatters the goal of being in full strength coming into the big day, but the player's grit and passion served as the catalyst to turn the Honorian boat in the right direction.

With only one week of training, and not even being complete in sessions, Honorian footballers exploited everything out of their limited resources to train and regain composure. The lack of attention for the game from the higher table propelled the team to do more and steal the spotlight for a moment.

Former-player-turned-head-coach, Jhobert Manuel, and captain Tolentino cried the same sentiments, hoping that the support would be even and fair not only for the football team but also for all athletes representing DHVSU in the annual meet. Coach Manuel emphasized that the leverage or support granted to a team or player should be given to all.

This plea came after the football team faced scarcity, lacking basic supplies like water and energy drinks. The team scrambled to look for replenishments

right in the middle of the finals match that gave the university its very first gold, whereas the other DHVSU teams were abundant and overflowing with.

Sweep of the Belittled

The Honorian team went on a full route of grueling challenges, fending off near lost games before pulling out the big guns to bag victories one after the other. DHVSU dealt with three consecutive go-big or go-home penalty shootouts from the quarterfinals until the glory-deciding championship game against the co-Kapampangan squad from the Philippine State College of Aeronautics, where they prevailed, 4-2.

Grit and passion served as the bread and butter for the Honorian team to stamp their class all throughout the competition inside Tarlac Recreational Park, amidst the lack of preparation. Team Captain Tolentino spearheaded the charge for DHVSU after finishing a goal shy of a hat-trick to open the season's campaign over the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy Marines.

A come-from-behind triumph over PSAU Soaring Eagles in the second round of elimination booked the Honorian squad a direct berth in the quarterfinals. Kian Xedric Co took the heroic act as he dazzled with a game-winning header to find the back of the net and close-out the game over Philippine State College of Aeronautics, completing the elimination sweep for DHVSU.

For a moment, DHVSU lost its steam as it groped for form most of the match in the knockout rounds as they struggled to draw production from the supporting cast. Clinging into optimism with the right strike of talent and luck,



Photos by Patrick Bryan H. Porras

the Honorian team came out firing on all cylinders in the penalty shoot-out battle against Bataan Peninsula State University in the quarterfinal and Tarlac State University in the semifinal.

What is Next

The next steps and what to expect for the DHVSU Football team aren't as clear, with four of its core players, including team captain and scoring machine, Justin Tolentino, leaving the team at the end of the season with their graduation coming up. The big question that lingers now is where to find the

players who can fill the big shoes. Coach Manuel stayed true, saying that the university can't scout players as it has nothing to offer. More so, the only place where they can acquire new breeds of talents is during the futsal tournament in the intramurals.

Before the start of the season, Coach Manuel said that he planned to skip the next season and focus on his work in the meantime, but that was before their momentous gold medal run. On the other hand, team captain Tolentino keeps his hopes high, as he expects the youngsters to continue and solidify the

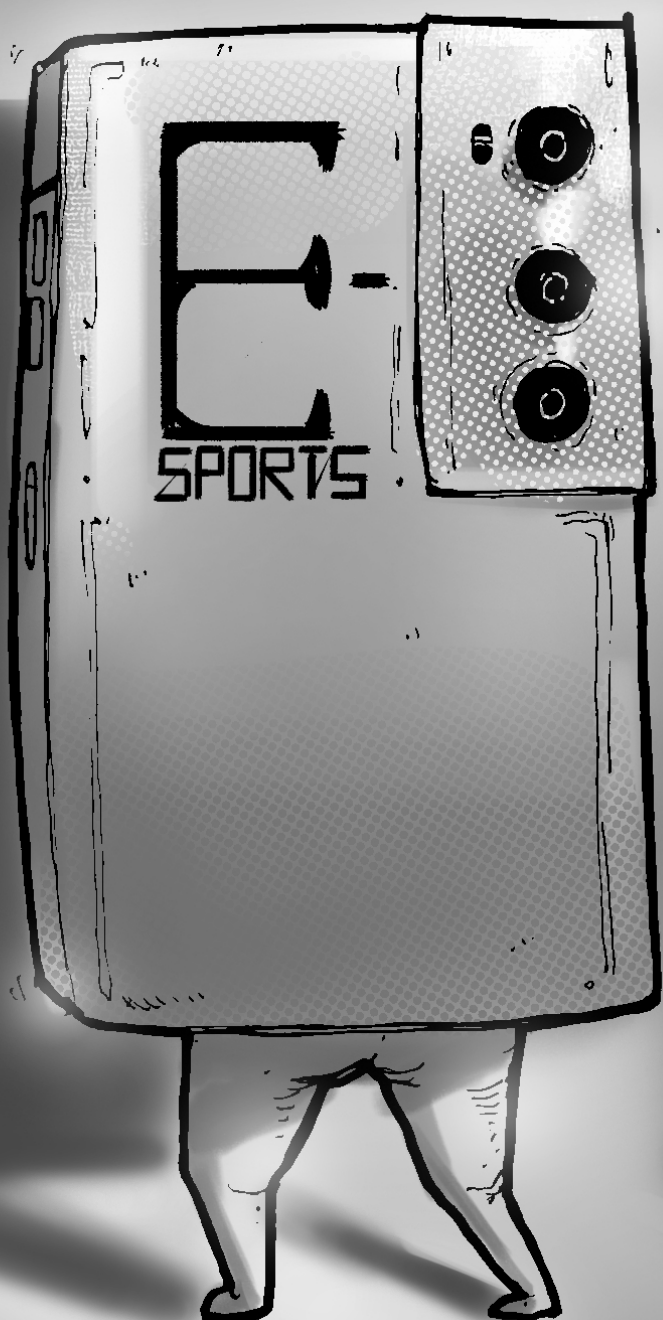
foundation that they built within the span of two years.

DHVSU's football team success is living proof that one can achieve their goals with hard work, perseverance, and teamwork. Not even a lack of resources and support can block one's dreams, as the Honorian squad roused from the ground, defying all odds. On paper, DHVSU is out of football contention with its lack of resources in executing the game, but the scorching heat from the torrid sunlight served as the sound for the mighty DHVSU team to lift their feet off the ground and banner the true Honorian spirit.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

ENTERING AN ERA OF ADAPTABILITY

Change is inevitable and full embracement of it is a key to last. Sports is no exception; as the years pass, many changes in the field are knocking on the door, offering something new to look for. While in many aspects it sheds light and provides opportunities, some have a hard time catching up, and most of these so-called “changes” were manipulated, affecting many. Through the years, athletes have gone through a lot — from having their talents hidden, being thrown under the bus, to striking at their dreams, thus missing a point. Just like any other societal problem, sports and athletic issues are becoming more and more of a foul.



The DHVSU Intramurals had a dose of it as the last edition of the highly anticipated university sporting event was rained with issues and concerns—from the choice of sporting events and venues to the connection between the event itself and the crowd. Some alterations in the system might bring back the dying spirit of sports in Intramurals, given the changes inside the campus and the shift in students' interests.

One radical adjustment that can propel DHVSU Intramural's appeal is the addition of more Esport games. With the rise of the digital realm in recent years, more people, especially the young generation, are transitioning into cyber warriors and engaging in virtual battlefields. Serving as a pastime and a competitive sport for some, online games thrive in the country,

with around 43 million gamers of all ages.

Therefore, there is no doubt that integrating more Esport games aside from Mobile Legends: Bang Bang will boost the viewership and interaction of DHVSU Intramurals. Everyone has their mobile phones, so equipment is not a question in the matter of expanding to more mobile games like Call of Duty Mobile, Farlight 84, Wild Rift, Clash of Clans, and PUBG. On the other hand, there is also the possibility of computer games such as DOTA 2, League of Legends, Counter-Strike, and Valorant. All of these can also be streamed and watched online for a hassle-free experience.

Not only that, grassroots talents can be unearthed with the use of Intramurals, as Esports tournaments are everywhere these days, whether on the pro scene or even at international sporting events like the Southeast Asian Games, where a Kapampangan teen named Lee "Owl" Gonzales won gold in Hanoi in the MLBB Tournament. Esports players are also gaining a fortune with their salaries and prizes, as well as through streaming.

In terms of safety—a controversial subject that created buzz on campus because of the women's futsal removal in the 2023 DHVSU Intramurals—Esports is a very safe sport that is far from injuries and concerns.

Speaking of the exclusion of women's futsal, another note that the Intramurals organizer must take is that risks are part of every game. According to a news article by The Industrialist, the decision was made in consideration of the safety measures. This disheartening decision evokes a lot of emotions, especially since there are student-athletes who are once again halted in running for their dreams because of an incident that, ironically, could happen anywhere, to anyone, men and women, and to any sport. While society is still having a hard time stepping one foot forward towards inclusivity, it is like we took two steps backwards in this situation.

Eliminating an event because of a previous incident just doesn't justify it. A better orientation for strengthening, warm-ups, officiating, gear, and medical backup must be done instead of the removal. It just drew flak and caused different speculations.

Another issue that arose among Honorians is the venue selection for events, notably the exclusion of the newly renovated university gymnasium due to past overcrowding, despite potential solutions like crowd management. The scattered venues and unknown time slot for the events also caused chaos as the Honorians were left hanging on where the games were and at what time they would kick off. An enhanced communication between the organizer and the Honorians with the use of social media can mitigate this problem.

Furthermore, the dormant Olympic pool on campus presents an opportunity for Intramurals, potentially uncovering new talented swimmers for future competitions, considering the stacks of medals that swimming events can contribute to the SUC III Olympics. With regards to homegrown talents, CHED's decision to stop offering Senior High School (SHS) among SUCs sparks concerns about the search for local talents. Given that SHS students are so-called "potentials" of the Honorian community, as they are seen as the future of the university, their absence will leave a void in talent scouting. A separate Intramurals for the laboratory (junior) high school students can ease this dilemma, as with the exit of the SHS, the lab high students are now against high odds of excelling or winning in the Intramurals. Leaving the young ones in their right matchups can uphold the emergence of new stars that can serve as DHVSU phenoms.

Over the years, the inevitability of change has been truly observable and evident, but there are changes that were seen to disappoint the crowd and hinder others from achieving their full potential, thus having their dreams and admirations go nowhere near the finish line.

It is now time to shift gears and change the landscape of DHVSU sports, as a few tweaks here and there can offer a lot on the table. Investing in the future is the best route to take, not only for the good of the university but also for the development of the Honorian community. Sports are not just merely competition; they are a celebration of human prowess, fostering unity and discipline while empowering personal development and social integration.





PLACIDO PENITENTE
Mian Elly G. Manaloto

GAME CHANGER: BIRTH OF AI IN THE SPORTS SCENE

The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

Since the dawn of time, sports have captivated human beings with its astounding displays of drama and athletic prowess—from the ancient games in Olympia to the rising digital battlefield—but stepping into the future introduces a new double-sworded player in town. It is a dream innovation that can be utilized to its fullest, or a nightmare for some. Forget about Rocky Balboa; the promising newcomer isn't another flesh-and-blood contender but rather something made from codes and algorithms that will be the catalyst that will turn the world of sports into a new dimension—artificial intelligence (AI).

With its introduction in recent years, AI is rapidly taking over the realm of sports, but this doesn't mean the departure of human touch and sense in shaping the existing and future of the sports that we love. A union of human creativity and the never-ending potential of emerging technology will just intensify the games and make them safer. Contrary to the fears of job displacement and the disappearance of human sense, artificial intelligence is a friend that can neutralize shortcomings and guide people to heights beyond their boundaries.

The application of AI through predictive modeling is probably the most prominent use of AI in the world of sports, as it cuts down the work with greater accuracy. It transformed how people approach sports, as its capacity to break down vast amounts of data and footage offers a multitude of merits, including unfolding patterns and trends. All of this can be used in predicting opponents' tactics, creating perceptive planning, shortlisting players, and scouting, as well as customizing training that is unique to each individual based on their skill needs and weaknesses—increasing efficiency and securing a more competitive edge.

A prime example of AI dominance is the 2022 Qatar FIFA World Cup, where the organizers

made use of artificial intelligence in the highly contested event. The adidas ball used has a motion sensor inside that can transmit precise ball location 500 times per second, and there are also video assistant referees that use algorithms and data points to help in making right calls, with the assist of tracking cameras mounted underneath stadium roofs to track the ball, and up to 29 data points on each player's body at 50 times per second.

Also, the National Basketball Association employs an AI tool called HomeCourt to help players improve their shooting form and monitor performance. Even, some of the sporting equipment we commonly use is already incorporated with AI, such as running shoes, which adapt their cushioning level depending on the user's fatigue.

In terms of viewing experience, media outlets, organizers, and teams are already tapping into the power of AI to deliver sports a notch higher than they are used to. AI is revolutionizing fan experiences by providing immersive VR experiences, personalized content, player interaction, and optimizing stadium navigation, transforming sports stadiums into smart arenas for a more engaging and hassle-free experience. For example, Spain's LaLiga utilizes AI to enhance fan engagement through its Beyond Stats software portal, providing real-time player analysis, personalized content, and AI-generated graphics for enriched live broadcasts.

With all the positive attributes, AI is also caught in the crosshairs of backlash and criticism, especially with the introduction of GMA's AI sportscasters, who can give real-time commentary and insights. As amazing as this technology is, the threat of job displacement reigns as the main concern, along with the issue of bias and fairness, because AI are programs that can be manipulated and adjusted to what people want.

Another concern in the reign of technology and AI is how small teams will adapt to this

fast pace, as they are on the verge of being left behind without the capability to afford the emerging technology. As uncanny as it seems, it is the future, and as you read this passage, AI is already doing its work in shaping the sports realm, and we cannot do anything to stop the innovation other than to adopt and embrace it. Surely, in no time, cheaper alternatives to the sophisticated AI-guided technologies will come into great demand.

Given its endless potential that can elevate the game, it is just right that the sporting community is diving deep into exploiting the capabilities of AI with ease to their advantage. Every breath is counted in sports as the landscape of the game can shift in a single snap. So, getting systematic help from a remarkable creation to prevent idiotic mistakes and improve the sport is not cheating, but rather taking advantage of your cards in the deck. Embracing AI benefits is multifaceted, as it has its own poison that can subconsciously sting if not ethically used. There may be concerns here and there, but its overall impact can be seen on the positive side. To dictate the trajectory of AI in sports, the governing bodies must establish standards and ethical frameworks to preserve the integrity of the game even with the augmentation of AI in it. Striking the balance between ethical consideration and technology will eliminate the threats of possible job displacements and ethical conflicts because, at the end of the day, it is the people who created and manipulate the codes and algorithms behind AI.

The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. That is something AI will never feel, yet little do you know that the new thrilling viewing experience, neck-to-neck player skill exchange, and jaw-dropping team plays you are watching behind your screens or live today are mostly products of AI. It makes us feel the thrill of triumphs and the agony of setbacks in the game we have loved for ages at an unprecedented level.

**CELESTINE**

Anjelli L. Santos

DHVSU'S TALE OF FALLING BEHIND

Educational and research programs are probably set to portray a university's success, so does the standing in any regional and national competitions. If a university aims to appear in any aspect as a jack of all trades, it must pile up stepping stones for its people to be able to render their plans and seal all of them successfully.

In line with this, just like any other institution in the region, Don Honorio Ventura State University (DHVSU) does its part to hone student-athletes to appear the strongest in the field of sports, particularly during the SUC III Olympics. However, despite them trying, the result of the university's overall performance mirrors its failure and shows no signs of success in stopping this never-ending dilemma of falling behind the podium.

This is not about the athletes themselves but about how they were molded through practices that the administration believes are perfectly tailored to meet the expectations of higher-ups. However, these were often just the bare minimum and did not fully address the athletes' needs. They expect athletes to reign supreme yet provide them only a span of one month as proper training, except for those who were taken good

care of because they need to maintain a good reputation and good record as well. At the same time, athletes were not given equal opportunities. They ran down a path where fair treatment was nowhere to be seen. Within the large pool of athletes all attempting to show off their best shots, only a few were provided with an efficient and reasonable training unit; only a few were supplied with a pair of shoes—I am not really talking about the shoes.

Aside from that, athletes deserve more, both financially and physically. If they wanted to, each athlete could have received a larger amount of funds per sport, allowing them to afford the necessary training equipment and reach their full potential. Also, athletes should be provided adequate meals to optimize their performance; it would actually be better if a proper meal plan were proposed, yet during the SUC III Olympics, the meals served in front of them were not-so-healthy, not-so-fresh, and not-so-planned meal combinations. Foods were prepared as early as dawn and packed as soon as possible, to the point that when the athletes were set to eat, everything was already spoiled and could not be eaten. They were served oily foods, and the absence of

fruits and vegetables was noticed.

The occurrence of these scenarios should serve as an eye-opener for the administration on what they need to improve. They were not asked to provide the best, but if that is what their athletes deserve, then it should be considered; otherwise, the athletes themselves would lose their capability of returning the same favor to the administration.

Enough with pointing out that athletes were aided by experienced trainers and coaches, as that was already a given responsibility. Enough with prioritizing only the mainstream sports; the spotlight should also be pointed out to others, as they also have the potential to bring home a medal. Enough with claiming that the student-athletes were provided sustainable facilities when, in fact, they were not. It is now time to accept the fact that the university and its administration have a lot more to offer. Only by doing so will the university inspire and attract more sports enthusiasts. If they just consider these factors, individual wins will increase, and so will the overall ranking of the institution, making DHVSU finally able to step up on the podium.

BY THE FIGURES

SUC III OLYMPICS

The final and official medal tally of DHVSU



Honorians pulls out big guns in final stretch, crawls back to top five in SUC III Olympics

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

Clutching the big games in the penultimate scene and ruling the final match of the season, the DHVSU Honorians bounced on the top five overall ranking of the SUC III Olympics held at Tarlac Agricultural University from May 19–24, 2024.

Since finishing 7th in the last edition of the region-wide sporting competition with a triple-double medal record of 30 golds, 36 silvers, and 37 bronzes, DHVSU has jumped up to the top five this year with 38 golds, which is by far the highest gold haul of the university in recent years.

With a combined output from individual sporting events, Honorians inscribed a total of eight top rankings in the second to third day of action, having three golds in arnis, two in athletics, one in taekwondo, and another one in chess.

The golden run of DHVSU continued on the third day of the SUC III Olympics, as both of its divisions in MLBB seized the gold finish, with the men's category recording a back-to-

back championship win while the women's team retained their title and went for a grand slam.

Dribbling from all sides of the court and shooting fired-up shots, the Honorian men's and women's basketball squads came through all the way from eliminations to finals unblemished, delivering back-to-back wins and securing their respective rightful grand slam records.

Meanwhile, with a goal of realigning the stars on their side after their tough loss last year settling them in silver, the Honorian footballers didn't allow history to repeat itself as they reintroduced themselves in the field with a bang, netting a historic gold for DHVSU in the football scene to cap off the medal haul of DHVSU at 39-9-42 gold-silver-bronze record at the final day of this year's SUC III Olympics.

It can be remembered that the last time DHVSU entered the Top 5 overall ranking in the SUC III Olympics was during the 2019 edition.



NAIL-BITER END GAME. Honorian dasher Janice Patdu gets assisted by a medical staff and her fellow runner after her final run in classical relay during the last day of athletic events at the State Universities and Colleges III Olympics. Photo by Patrick Bryan Porras

‘Laban lang, wala pang medal si ate’: Patdu dashes for senior in classical relay amid dizziness

■ Patrick Bryan H. Porras

All for her senior.

Intramural standout and SUC III Olympics gold medalist Janice Patdu was unfazed by the dizziness she felt during the women’s classic relay, where she served as the team anchor, darting towards the bronze medal for her athletic kin, Jeryll Dawn Abigail.

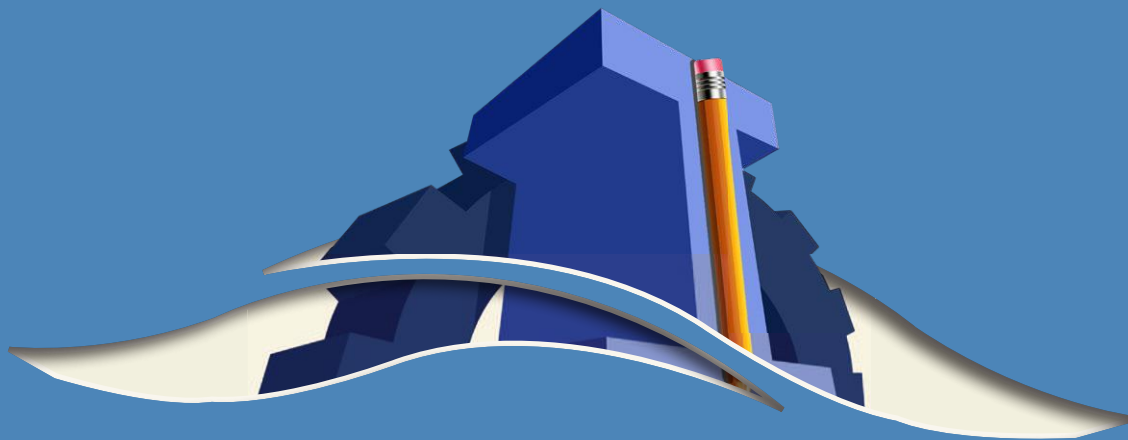
Patdu, who already had two

golds in her pocket, was not yet satisfied, as she wanted to deliver another win this time for her senior, who at that time still had not made the cut for a podium finish.

In an emotional turn of events, the golden queen experienced some dizziness as she was assisted to the ambulance thirty minutes before the main event.

“Laban lang, wala pang medal si Ate,” the sophomore dasher expressed when her teammates were asking her if she could still run amid her dizziness.

Paving the way for her team even behind during the third huddle, Patdu maximized her speed and agility after crossing the exchange zone, pulling away towards the hard-earned bronze with a time stamp of 2:49.



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