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Dawn

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Photo by Nathaniel C. Rosalejos/UE Dawn

Warriors condemn flood control corruption

by Mae Rocelle D. Sulit

THE UNIVERSITY of the East (UE) community, through several statements and demonstrations, united in outrage and fiercely condemned the recently-exposed systemic corruption involving the billions worth of government-funded flood control projects all over the country.

On August 11, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. revealed to the press that there were almost 10,000 flood control projects since the start of his administration in June 2022 until May 2025.

He noted that the projects were worth PhP 545.64 billion, PhP 100 billion of which were cornered by only 15 contractors.

Since then, the Senate has probed into the anomaly, with former employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and private contractors being questioned, some of whom exposed government officials allegedly involved in corrupting the Filipinos' tax money.

In a statement by the UE Faculty Association (UEFA) dated September 17, they deemed corruption a "slow and systemic form of murder" and the flood control scandal as the "grandest heist" in Philippine history.

The association expressed their outrage as educators who witnessed the repeated class suspensions and endured the destruction of homes, school books of students, as well as school facilities.

"Public education, already starved of resources, bleeds even more, while those responsible for this betrayal toast in luxury," they wrote, stating that the alleged corruption is not mere negligence but "premeditated cruelty."

"[We] stand with the Filipino people in saying: No more lies. No more plunder. No more lives lost to corruption," the UEFA affirmed.

Meanwhile, the UE Caloocan Central Student Council (CSC) and college student councils (SCs) expressed their solidarity with transport groups MANIBELA and PISTON in a statement released on Sept. 19, urging the community to demand justice and people-centered governance.

"Every year, billions of pesos are allocated for flood control projects and other infrastructure meant to serve the people and improve daily life. Yet, our streets remain flooded—and worse, the floodwaters rise higher with each passing year," the unity statement read.

"Instead of implementing systematic and long-term solutions, authorities resort to band-aid fixes. The hard-earned money of Filipino taxpayers has been stolen—funneled into the green and lavish lifestyles of corrupt individuals," the authors added.

Moreover, in an official joint statement released on Sept. 21, UE Manila students demanded the removal and prosecution of corrupt officials, declaring their act of stealing from the nation as treason against the Filipinos.

"Every peso stolen from the people is a peso stolen from the nation's future," they affirmed.

Warriors called the billions of pesos meant for life-saving flood control projects as "blood money" embezzled by corrupt government officials.

"Funds that should have built schools, funded scholarships, created jobs, and protected communities from deadly floods; not line the pockets of the corrupt," the statement read.

On the same day as the release of the joint statement, Warriors brought their outrage to the streets as they joined the nationwide protests "Baha sa Luneta" and "Trillion Peso March."

Sept. 21 also marked the 53rd anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law under the regime of late President Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

To further amplify their calls, UE Manila students staged an on-campus walkout protest on October 8, voicing out their anger and demanding justice and accountability from public officials and private contractors.

Warriors bravely raised their placards and voices as they marched from the Lualhati Building (LB) towards the Gastambide gate and back to LB.

The student-protesters, however, were not permitted by the Student Affairs and the Security Office to walk out of the campus to S.H. Loyola Street and were barricaded by the security personnel, as it was agreed upon by the student-organizers and University officials that the protest would be done inside the campus only.

The movement was led by the UE Angat Kalikasan Pilipinas (AKAP), UE Kapit-Bisig, and UE Political Science Society (PSS), with the support of the student councils of the Manila campus.

Following the march on campus grounds, a candle-lighting ceremony was done to symbolize hope, remembrance, and the collaborative call for change.

Providing a platform for Warriors to express their stances, the program included an open-mic session where they were able to share their statements against the systemic corruption.

"Hindi tayo dapat manahimik. Hindi titigil hangga't hindi nakukuha ang serbisyong para sa atin," a student-leader expressed.

The University, through President and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Zosimo Battad, also issued an official statement condemning said scandal.

"There should be no place in society for officials who break the law or citizens who engage in practices involving the people's hard-earned taxpayer contributions for wanton enrichment," the statement read.

Battad expressed support for the peaceful and orderly efforts on attaining solutions for the existing problems, and condemned any violent action that may hurt individuals in any way.

The president also thanked the Warrior community for the passion and fortitude it showed in the ongoing national discourse.

"Such critical thinking and assertions of their entitlements and advocacy for their rights are admirable as they are invaluable," Battad added.

The UE administration promised to do its part in "helping to shape a better Philippines, one filled with so much hope and promise of countless bright tomorrows."

On November 24, eight of 16 DPWH officials with arrest warrants issued by Sandiganbayan were already taken into government custody.

As of current, warrants of arrests have yet to be issued to many personalities implicated in the issue, such as the infamous Discaya couple, while former member of the House of Representatives Elizaldy "Zaldy" Co remain on the run.

UE Pep Squad lands 4th in UAAP S88 CDC

by Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez



Photo by Carl Edson Altamira/UE Dawn

REACHING for the stars, the UE Pep Squad once again finished as fourth placers, just one step short of a podium finish in the UAAP Season 88 Cheerdance Competition (CDC), on November 29 at the SM Mall of Asia Arena. The cheering squad performed a High School Musical-inspired routine featuring songs including "Breaking Free," "Start of Something New," "I Want It All," and "We're All in This Together."

Tallying 623 points overall, UE scored 57 points in tumbling, 83.5 in stunts, 73 in tosses, and 74 in pyramids.

In the dance aspect, the Red Warriors earned 36.5 points in overall effect, 98.5 in dance choreography, 139.5 in technique, and 66 in execution, while also recording the second-fewest errors with just five deductions.

The Warrior cheerleaders took home the Chingu Cafe Bestie Chemistry Award for being the most synchronized, having the best team chemistry, and delivering clean execution of the routine.

Meanwhile, the NU Pep Squad was hailed back-to-back champions, claiming their ninth CDC crown with a score of 695 points, fueled by their Ninja-inspired routine.

Coming in as first runners-up was the AdU Pep Squad with 659 points, featuring an explorer-themed performance, while the FEU Cheering Squad claimed second runner-up with 658.5 points, showcasing their Larong Pinoy theme.

Looking back, the UE Pep Squad last reached the podium in Season 80, earning the second runner-up spot performing a Phoenix-themed routine.

UE freshmen enrollment declines in 1st sem

with reports from Czarina Angela A. Evangelio

IN RECENT data from the University of the East (UE) Information Technology Department (ITD), freshman enrollment turnout declined across all college departments except the College of Dentistry (CDent) for the first semester of academic year (AY) 2025–2026.

UE Manila's College of Business Administration (CBA) recorded the largest drop in enrollment across both campuses, decreasing from 312 first-year students last AY to 213 this AY, representing a 32.38% decline. Engineering (CEng'g), all yielded a decrease in freshmen enrollment ranging from 18.18% to as high as 25.67%.

A similar trend was observed in the Caloocan campus as the College of Fine Arts, Architecture and Design (CFAD) registered the largest decline at 29.52%, dropping from 311 freshmen in the previous AY's first semester to 222 this semester.

Meanwhile, UE Caloocan's CAS, CBA, and CEng'g saw decreases ranging from 14.22% to 21.25%.

Despite the significant drop in freshman enrollees, overall college enrollment in the Manila campus slightly increased by 0.51% compared to the first semester of last school year.

CDent recorded the highest increase in overall enrollment at 12.16%, while CBA Manila posted the highest decline at 12.56%.

CAS Manila also saw a 1.51% overall increase, while CCSS decreased by 0.84%, CEduc by 4.21%, and CEng'g Manila by 3.56%.

On the other hand, UE Caloocan recorded an overall enrollment decrease of 2.29% across its four colleges.

Similar to the Manila campus, CBA Caloocan registered the largest decline at 11.85%, while CFAD's enrollment decreased by 1.15%. CAS Caloocan and CEng'g, however, posted slight increases of 0.26% and 0.82%, respectively.

According to the UE Admissions Office, the administration is currently working on projects and initiatives to address the decline in enrollment numbers, but details have yet to be disclosed to the DAWN as research and development efforts are still ongoing.

Enrollment Turnout For First Semester of AY 2025-2026

Campus	Department	Enrollment Total S.Y. 2025-2026	Enrollment Total S.Y. 2024-2025	Difference	Percent
Manila	CAS	351	447	-96	-22.00%
	CBA	213	312	-99	-32.38%
	CCSS	189	230	-41	-18.18%
	CDENT	455	371	84	22.31%
	CEDUC	55	74	-19	-25.67%
	CENG	157	196	-39	-20.30%
SUBTOTAL		**1,420**	**1,630**	**-210**	**-13.36%**
Caloocan	CAS	163	203	-40	-21.25%
	CBA	198	236	-38	-16.80%
	CFAD	222	311	-89	-29.52%
	CENG	428	493	-65	-14.22%
SUBTOTAL		**1,011**	**1,243**	**-232**	**-19.69%**

UE's early semestral opening stirs reaction from Warriors

By Ma. Althea F. Franco & Alleine Marie B. Quiñones

THE UNIVERSITY of the East (UE) opened its doors earlier than usual for the first semester of academic year (AY) 2025-2026, with classes for college and graduate school students beginning on July 7, a move that has stirred mixed reactions among the student body.

According to the University Registrar, the adjustment aims to gradually revert UE's academic calendar to its pre-pandemic schedule of June to March.

However, the transition came with tighter scheduling. After the second semester ended on May 31, students had only a week-long break before the summer term began on June 9, followed by just a four-day gap between the end of summer classes on July 3 and the start of the new semester.

Adding to the challenge, several class suspensions due to typhoons further disrupted the schedule, leading to adjustments in preliminary exam dates.

UE Manila University Student Council (USC) Public Relations Officer Mawen Iringan, an Accountancy student, shared his struggle in keeping up with the rapid changes in the school calendar.

"Being an Accountancy student na kagagaling sa comprehensive exam tapos summer [classes] agad, walang pahinga 'yung bayad namin ng tuition fee," Iringan told the DAWN.

Meanwhile, Jade Palmerola, former Dentistry Student Council president and now a clinician at the UE College of Dentistry (CDent), cited the difficulty of balancing patient availability and fatigue during the short summer clinic period.

"Personally, going into summer clinics just for three weeks and two days [was] a tough decision to make," Palmerola shared.

Students who completed their on-the-job training (OJT) during the summer term also experienced a reduction in their required training hours, from the usual 200-250 hours to 150-160 hours.

Despite the challenges, some students expressed optimism about the early semester opening.

"It felt a bit unusual at first—parang ang bilis ng pahinga—but after thinking about it, I realized maybe it's the school's way of getting back to a normal routine," a freshman Tourism student said.

"It just took a bit of adjusting, but I eventually understood why the change was made. I kind of like the idea that the school year will end earlier too," they added.

A first-year Multimedia Arts student from UE Caloocan also viewed the change positively, saying it encouraged productivity.

"I am someone who values productivity and dislikes wasting time, so starting earlier actually felt beneficial, as it allowed me to maximize my time and maintain a structured routine," they said.

When asked if the current academic calendar should be retained, a third-year Tourism student suggested keeping the schedule but improving its implementation, noting that "the workload and lessons felt rushed."

The current academic calendar is set to end in April 2026, while AY 2026-2027 is expected to begin as early as June 2026, officially marking UE's return to its pre-pandemic June-to-March school year.



Photo by Nico S. Corong/UE Dawn

UE breaks ground in Laguna campus

by Hillary Alexis T. Lavilla

MARKING a new milestone in its history, the University of the East (UE) held its second groundbreaking ceremony for its upcoming Laguna campus on October 15 in Eton City, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, 10 years after the first one.

Opening the ceremony with enthusiasm, Vice Chairman of the UE Board of Trustees (BoT) David Chua warmly welcomed all of the guests in attendance.

This was followed by the ceremonial turning of the first shovelful of dirt led by the UE BoT, Eton Properties officers and members, Laguna local government officials, and the family of UE Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Lucio Tan, and selected UE officials.

"Let us continue to be united in the same goal of establishing the UE Eton Laguna and our goal of giving hope to all of its future students for their truly bright tomorrows," Tan emphasized in his speech.

Concluding the ceremony, UE President and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Zosimo Battad expressed his gratitude to the attendees and invited everyone to the reception, held at Elements on South Lake Village, Eton City, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Showering the reception guests with talent and inspiration, UE Silangan Dance Troupe, UE Band, and UE Chorale showcased the rich cultural heritage of the University.

UE Laguna is the first campus of UE outside of the National Capital Region and the fourth campus in the country, following UE Manila, UE Caloocan, and UERM Memorial Medical Center Inc. (UERMMMCI) in Quezon City.

The 19-hectare Laguna campus will be the largest campus of UE yet and is set to open for the academic year 2027-2028, catering to both basic and higher education.

"It's not 'hopefully,' we will do it," UE's chief academic officer assured when asked of the targeted year for the start of the campus' operation.

Battad shared that Laguna campus will initially offer five programs, including University's flagship programs business management and accountancy under the College of Business Administration.

Additionally, UE Eton Laguna will open the architecture program under the College of Fine Arts, Architecture and Design and courses under College of Arts and Sciences.

When asked about the delay of the Laguna campus' construction, the UE president revealed that it was due to the fire that broke out in 2016 that took out the old UE Manila College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Building.

The funds supposedly for the Laguna campus was reallocated for the 10-storey Lualhati Bldg. that replaced the old CAS Bldg., which is now occupied by the majority of Manila Warriors.

Also in attendance are UE President Emeritus Ester Garcia, and UE board member Vivienne Tan, UERMMMCI Vice Chairman Wilson Young, and other UE officials.

President and CEO Kyle Tan and Director Karlu Tan Say of Eton Properties Philippines Inc., the property development partner of UE, were also present in the remarkable event.

CAMPUS FORUM

WARRIORS DISMAYED ON LB FACILITIES AMID TOFIs

by Dalyah A. Benito & Juliana R. Song

TWO YEARS after the University of the East (UE)-Manila Lualhati Building was inaugurated in October 2023, several facilities from the University remain unavailable and damaged despite the rise in tuition and other fees increase (TOFI).

Over 5% TOFI was added in the school year 2025-2026, from the effective 9.5% and 6% of previous academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025, respectively.

The Warrior community expressed their disappointment on the matter, with some accusing the UE management of using substandard materials in the construction of the building.

To back up these claims, the malfunctioning and unavailability of the building's facilities earlier this year were recalled such as the inconsistent availability of LB elevators and escalators since May as well as the collapse of LB room 917's ceiling due to heavy rain.

Incumbent University Student Council (USC) President Andrea Osinsao shared that the prolonged inaccessibility of facilities due to regular maintenance are causing great inconvenience and distraction to students.

"Despite the requests, survey results, and dialogues conducted with the concerned offices, not a single change has been implemented. [...] This lack of action fails to justify the hidden fees that students and parents continue to shoulder," Osinsao told the DAWN.

Similarly, former USC Vice President Althea Pojadas stated that time and energy are being wasted on the inconvenience of the unavailability of facilities in the building.

"If they are going to impose these increases and [justify] it with reasons such as facility improvements, then the students shall at least experience and enjoy these 'improvements' that they kept on bringing up during TOFI consultations," Pojadas added, recalling the fight against TOFI during her term, noting that the student outcry persists amid recurring tuition hikes.

Earlier this year, UE President Zosimo Battad released a statement justifying the validity of the proposed TOFI claiming that it is for the maintenance of the University's facilities which were "directly" beneficial to the students.

Additionally, Pojadas also nudged LB's first occurrence that planted doubts among the UE community on the building's safety and stability.

"Let us not forget that incident where there used to be a hole in the fifth floor before. [...] How confident can we become that we'll actually feel safe if any disaster—like earthquakes, occurs?"

"Walang bidet, walang signal or wifi, sira [ang mga] escalator and elevator [...] parang nabibilang ko lang ilang times [ako] naka-use ng escalator and elevator," Charlene, a third year Management Accounting student from UE Manila, shared in an exclusive interview with the DAWN.

Charlene also expressed doubts and concerns about the structural integrity of the Lualhati Building, considering the recent earthquakes felt in the Philippines.

"Feel ko hindi safe 'yung Lualhati Building, kasi hindi pa nga nagkakalindol may mga nabibiyak na," she added.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), on the other hand, during a dialogue with the student councils, said that LB undergoes maintenance regularly and malfunctioning escalators and elevators get looked into as early as possible.

Michaela (2nd year BA Broadcasting): *It's actually dismaying, kasi the tuition keeps increasing pero not all the facilities are working properly. It makes me wonder where our tuition fees are really going kasi pataas nang pataas ang tuition kada semester pero the quality of facilities we're getting in return is so disappointing.*

Jezqer (1st year BS Information Technology): *Sa mga classroom overall okay naman malamig naman siya kaso sa signal minsan nagkaka-problema. Ang hirap din umakyat dahil minsan sira 'yong escalator tapos isang [elevator] lang 'yung gumagana para sa mga estudyante eh sobrang daming sumasakay.*

Jasmin (1st year Doctor of Dental Medicine): *I think the overall quality of the Lualhati Building is good. It's clean and generally functions well. However, not all the escalators are working all the time, and the water faucets haven't been working recently due to the lack of water.*

Alexine (3rd year BS Management Accounting): *The Lualhati Building in UE Manila is far from satisfactory, especially now that our tuition fees are increasing. I've been in UE since 2023, and even before then, we've experienced constant issues—the elevators and escalators are often not working, and the WiFi in many rooms is not working well.*

Rainier (4th year BS Mechanical Engineering): *'Yung library [ay] medyo maliit for a building [that big] and marami din kasing [programs] 'yung nasa LB kaya I think they need to provide more study spaces sa LB kasi hindi naman naa-accommodate lahat ng students dun sa ganon lang kalaki na library.*

EDITORIAL

THE COST OF BUREAUCRATIC CAPITALISM IN UE

THE UNIVERSITY of the East (UE) once stood as a sanctuary of accessible education and student-centered service. However, it increasingly resembles a profit-driven enterprise masquerading as an academic institution.

Once, students were not obliged to pay for parking fees, scholarship quotas were humane, and tuition hikes were not an annual ritual. But everything has changed over the years as students now endure tuition and other fees increase (TOFIs), surcharges, and miscellaneous fees that multiply without mercy, yet the return is pathetic at best and insulting at worst. We pay more, but we receive less. This is not education; this is extraction.

The decay is palpable. POD–CIT Building elevators have remained inoperable for three consecutive semesters, while basic restroom necessities like bidets and tissue are treated as imaginary luxuries—an embarrassment for a university of this stature.

Students are billed sports development fees, yet athletes repeatedly lament the insufficiency of funding and support. We are compelled to finance programs that never materialize, an arrangement both exploitative and insulting.

A maintenance staff member explained that the elevators in the Lualhati Building (LB) frequently malfunction because of the pervasive effects of the onslaught of typhoons, and that they themselves must respond first to every crisis.

Yet even this three-year-old building itself is not exempt from decay. It was only this October when huge blocks of cement fell from the third floor all the way down to the lobby, posing a serious hazard to students, faculty, and employees alike.

If a storm is all it takes to cripple a building's infrastructure, then the system is not merely flawed—it is dysfunctional.

The rot has reached even the campus press. DAWN's sharply diminished budget curtails student journalism, limiting our capacity to investigate, to critique, and to speak truth to power.

And while Manila and Caloocan campuses crumble from neglect, UE Laguna continues to rise. A groundbreaking was held in 2016, and another one—nearly a decade and three consecutive TOFIs later—was staged again. Meanwhile, students in existing campuses are left to endure dilapidated facilities, like tenants funding a landlord's new property while their own ceilings collapse.

Under the influence of powerful corporate interests, shaped by figures like business tycoon Lucio Tan, the University is operated like a conglomerate with classrooms rather than a learning institution with integrity.

This is bureaucratic capitalism on full display: An elite few profit at the top, while students, workers, and athletes shoulder the grit and the grief. Extracting as much as possible, investing as little as necessary, and treating quality education as a commodity instead of a constitutional right.

The cost of this brazen system? A steep drop in the enrollment turnout, leaving those who remain carrying the burden of sustaining UE.

Basic services are not luxuries. Functional elevators, potable water from fountains, hygienic restrooms, funded programs, and accessible scholarships are obligations—not privileges granted at whim.

The University must reclaim its moral compass. If it continues to prioritize revenue over responsibility, expansion over excellence, and profit over people, the trust of its community will collapse long before the next building does.

Education should liberate. It should never be treated as merchandise sold to the highest payer.

The students are watching. The faculty is watching. History is watching. And this time, silence will no longer save those in power.



LAYA

League of Favor?

Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez

FAIR PLAY is supposed to be the lifeblood of every sports league. Yet for the University of the East (UE), the playing field within the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) often seems tilted against them.

Time and again, sanctions imposed on UE appear heavier, swifter, and more publicized than those given to other member schools facing similar or even worse violations. It's a pattern that has become too familiar for the UE community to ignore.

It began in Season 86, when Precious Momowei, then a strong Rookie of the Year contender was suspended late in the season, making him ineligible for any individual award.

To many fans who watched every game, the punishment felt harsher than what the situation deserved. It wiped out months of effort in the blink of an eye.

In Season 87, Momowei again proved himself as deserving Most Valuable Player (MVP) contender. But instead of celebrating his rise, the spotlight turned bitter. After a one-game suspension, he was disqualified from MVP consideration and deemed ineligible for the Mythical Five despite ranking second overall in statistical points.

It's a cruel reminder that sometimes, wearing Red-and-White means your achievements come with an asterisk.

And now, here we are in Season 88. The story repeats itself, this time with Wello Lingolingo, who suffered a bitter three-game suspension after an unsportsmanlike foul that many viewed as purely accidental loose-ball collision.

Meanwhile, similar or even more deliberate plays by athletes from other universities, such as UP's Malick Diouf's closed-fist contact in Season 86, which caused serious injury to NU's Mark Padrones, never saw a suspension at all.

This inconsistency exposes a troubling double standard. Why is UE punished so severely for a borderline play, while marquee players from other universities seem to receive the benefit of the doubt?

UE athletes pour their hearts, discipline, and passion into the game. They deserve the same respect and fairness granted to every competitor wearing different colors.

If the UAAP prides itself on fairness, then its actions must reflect that principle—not favor tradition, popularity, or institutional influence. And if the league truly stands by its own creed of "Strength in Motion, Hope in Action," then that strength must come from justice, and that hope in equality.

Until that happens, the Red Warriors will continue to fight—not only for victory on the court, but for fairness beyond it.



AURORA

Red is the color of rage

Karen Louise C. Delos Angeles

"Do you remember the 21st night of September?"

To the rest of the world, this line from Earth, Wind & Fire's "September" brings to mind joy, dancing, and music.

But in the Philippines, it evokes something far more somber—a memory soaked in red blood, a date forever marked by injustice.

Because yes, we remember.

Filipinos remember the 21st of September as proof that our collective call for change often ends in tragedy.

On Sept. 21, 2025, 53 years after the declaration of Martial Law, the "Trillion Peso March" and the "Baha sa Luneta: Aksyon na Laban sa Korapsyon" protests were held in a strong demand to end government corruption in flood control projects marred by substandard construction and alleged "ghost" contracts.

Contrary to official claims, what unfolded was far from peaceful. Riot outbursts broke out, infrastructure was damaged, and chaos consumed the crowd. Reports surfaced of gunfire, arrests, injuries, and, tragically, of lives lost.

And then, everything dropped when I saw it with my own two eyes: Civilians carrying a man who had just been shot, desperately trying to save him as the crowd shouted in unison: *"HUSTISYA! HUSTISYA!"*

The police had promised "maximum tolerance." Yet the scene that followed told a different story.

If protection was truly their goal, why were they armed to kill? Riot shields are one thing, but guns in a protest meant something else entirely: They came prepared to use them, as though the blood of the citizens were expendable.

Moments like these really change your perspective on the policemen because the truth is hidden in plain sight. Those in uniform were not there to protect the people, they were there to protect power.

How painfully ironic that the men who wear the badge "To serve and protect" have forgotten who they were sworn to serve. In the end, it seems only the corrupt are protected, while the people are left to bleed.

On October 8, students from the University of the East (UE) Manila staged a walkout protest in solidarity against corruption.

It was a reminder of a legacy long built by their predecessors, students from the 1970s who once defied the dictatorship during Martial Law.

Now, decades later, they have rekindled that spirit of defiance, turning rage into courage and silence into action. Without realizing it, the UE students walked out of their classrooms and stepped into history.

Because to be a Warrior is not just to wear red—**it is to bleed for what is right**. And so, just like the thousands who cried out for justice, the UE students joined the growing wave of dissent.

This is no longer just a protest. This is a movement rising from the classrooms, and flooding into the streets.

The revolution has begun. And this time, we will not forget. **We will not be silenced.**



DAWN

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THE ROADS WE TAKE

by Riand M. Argabioso

The hums and roars of the engine
do not quiet my thoughts.
They creak, shift, and yell
even when heard.

I can barely see among the sea of people,
dressed in uniforms, suits, and everyday wear,
all rushing to chase a clock that won't stop,
that will never turn back.

It stops. It brakes. I *crash*.
Too short for the bus handles,
too far from the handrails.
I stop. I break. I *crash*.
And every breath feels far too short.

Breathe, I remind myself,
since this, too, is motion;
even the stillness,
even in the dread of uncertain pause.

For sometimes, we tire of the weight we carry,
yet still choose to *move through*.

LINGERING LEFTOVERS

by Allyssa Kellie B. Pestelos

I was told that the right train won't pass me—and though I know that it teaches me the value of patience for the fruit of the delay, I somehow still find myself riding the wrong train over and over, even if it only brings me back to the platform where I once stood waiting.

There is something strangely peaceful about entering the same train again, not because it's convenient but because it feels familiar.

The jam-packed ride feels like a tight hug, not comforting, yet grounding, as I watch the scenery change until a glimpse of my destination peeks through the window.

Sometimes, I still hear the echoes of laughter and whispers when I look at the empty seat across from me, it looks like the ghosts I used to go home with.

Notes, keyrings, bracelets, and even the umbrella my mother gave me on my first subway ride—they're no longer where I lost them, yet they seem to linger in the same cart that brought me here again.

There's this sting in realizing that I'll never find them, that maybe they're just lingering leftovers, reminders of the rides that I chose to stay with.

But maybe we just have to ride the wrong train sometimes. Not to rush toward a destination or to revisit faded faces we once shared our hearts with, but to remember that life moves like a bullet, indifferent to who leaves and what's missing, yet still pressing forward through the rails.

So the next time I wait at the tracks, I'll let the same train pass me by, because there is beauty in what *doesn't* remain.

To move forward doesn't mean holding tighter to what once was, but maybe it means grasping new journeys, where no leftovers remain, only fragments of gratitude to keep me going.

I left a part of myself on the train yesterday, and though it's lost, there's comfort in knowing that there will always be pieces of me to look for again and again, until they become memories to hold on to as I take the next step.

TRAVELLER'S ANECDOTE

by Amariah C. Dimatangal

In the bustling highway of Samson Road, where everything arrives just as quickly as it passes, there I stood, waiting for my jeepney home.

It was everything but comfortable; smoke filled the air as I jumped from one ride to another, trying to squeeze into worn-out seats.

How ironic it is that despite the nuisance, we remain bound to the chaos, accepting the discomfort of a fate that towers above us all.

And yet, there's a strange warmth cold ride home.. the thought that someone out there feels the same exhaustion—that a stranger could easily resonate with the traces of your dissatisfaction.

As the vehicle moves, the scenery changes, but the people continue to groove to the rhythm of the roads. There I saw uniforms in every hue, each one a story, each one a struggle.

Life, at times, can be both different and deceiving..

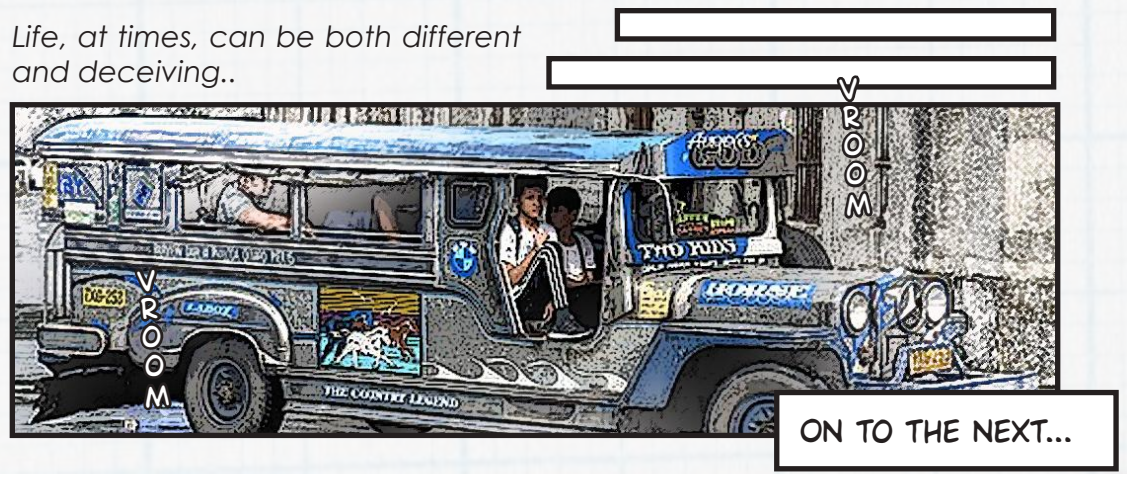
It can feel as though misery alone awaits, as deadlines tower over us, while someone else, somewhere, drags their feet simply to survive.

Someone is out there longing for the life we dread, while another tries to make amends for their own lapses, those that linger like unfinished business.

We become so caught up in the pollution of our own minds that we forget to pause, to take a seat, to breathe, to ride along the whims of busy timelines, to wait for the next vehicle toward our destination, and most importantly, to call out the loudest "*Para po!*" to our final stop.

After all, we're all nothing but mere commuters, abundant in stories to tell, secrets to keep, and a sheer will to move forward.

Soon enough, every journey meets its final destination, waiting only to be written as another memory.



Sa Takbo ng Tren, Sa Ikot ng Buhay

ni Angela Mariel M. Cometa

HAPONG-HAPO, ang hiling ay sa alapaap humimbing, ngunit nagigising sa reyalidad ng maghapong pasanin.

Kape ang unang sasalubong sa pagbangon, sa bawat lagok, may kapayapaan, kasabay ng paghahanda sa kinukukubling pait ng nalalapit na laban.

Sa paglipas ng dagling init, sasalubungin ang kahabaang kalsadang lulan ng tagiktik ng araw at nakabibinging ingay ng lungsod.

Kasunod ang tren, hindi lamang lulan ang mga taong may kaniya-kaniyang pasanin, kundi ugat ng pagkakataon.

Ngunit ito rin ang sukdulang daing ng bayang naghihirap, kung saan ang himig ng ginhawa ay bihirang marinig.

Titiisin ang pakikipagsiksikan, tila nakasilid sa lata ng sardinas, ang init na parang apoy na walang patid, dahil ito lamang ang tanging daan upang magpatuloy sa takbo ng buhay.

Sa pagtatapos ng araw, ang sahod ay hindi gantimpala, kundi isang malupit na pagtutuos—mabilis na naglalaho, na parang dumadaplis lamang sa palad.

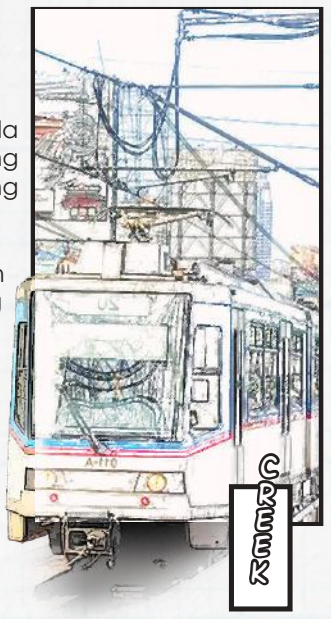
Ang "isang kahig, isang tuka" ay buhay na nakakulong sa sistemang tila ba hindi kailanman uusad.

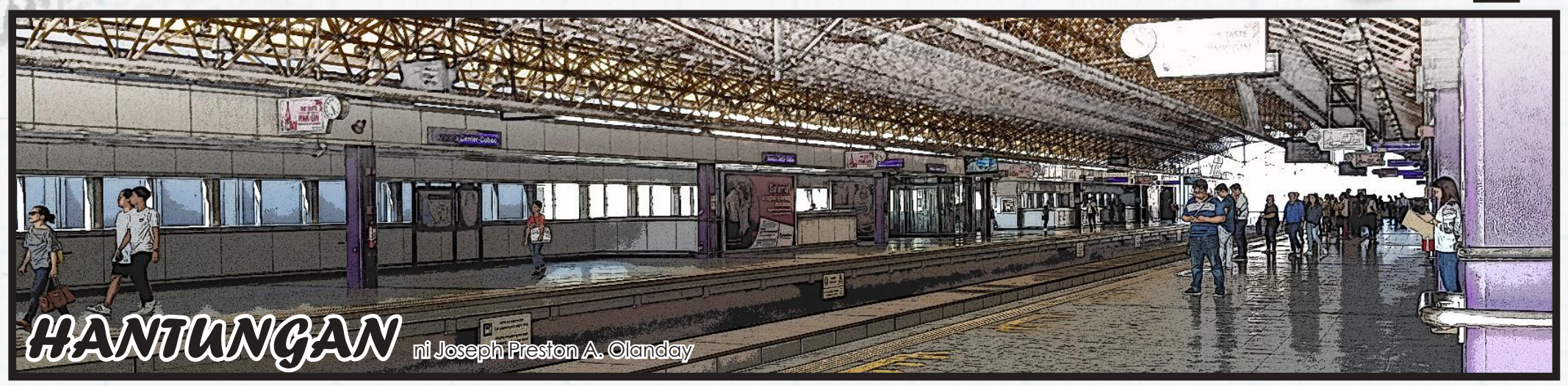
Ang ugat ng lahat ng kakapusan ay ang sistemang bulok–ng korapsyon na umaabuso sa kapangyarihan at pumupuslit sa kaban ng bayan, at unti-unting umuubos sa pag-asa ng mamamayan

Sa pagtatapos ng araw,maaalala nating hindi natin mababawi ang ninakaw, hindi mababago ang sirang balangkas.

Sa dulo ng gabi, tayo pa rin ang magbabayad ng utang at buwis, ang tagapasan ng pamatok ng karangyaang ipinagkait.

At bukas, sasakay muli sa tren, isang pribilehiyo kung tutuusin, bitbit ang pangarap na sana'y mabago ang ihip ng hangin.





Sa bawat hakbang ng ating mga paa, may simula.
Mga daanang marumi, ulap na mabigat sa mata,
at pag-asang tila abong humahalo sa hangin ng umaga.
Ngunit sa gitna ng pagod at pagkaligaw,
may mga matang nagnanais mabuhay;
umaasang may saysay ang dinaranas sa paglalakbay.

Ang "hantungan" ay hindi lamang dulo ng daan,
kundi salamin ng lahat ng ating pinagdaanan.
Doon natin matatagpuan ang mga sagot
sa mga "bakit" na dati'y ating iniiwasan.
Sapagkat sa bawat pagluha,
may binubuong direksyon ng pagbabago.

Hindi lahat ng dumating ay mananatili,
at hindi lahat ng nawala ay dapat habulin.
Minsan, ang pagkawala ay pagtuturo ng langit
na may bagong landas na dapat tahakin.
Sa dulo, ang ating hantungan
ay bunga ng mga desisyong nilikha ng puso.

May mga daang madilim, walang gabay na ilaw,
ngunit doon natututo ang kaluluwa ng tapang.
Ang bawat pagkadapa ay paalala—
na ang pagbabago ay hindi biglaan,
kundi mabagal na paghinga sa pagitan ng unos at pag-asa.

Kapag narating mo ang dulo, huwag agad hihinto;
sapagkat ang bawat hantungan ay bagong simula.
Ang wakas ay paanyaya sa panibagong yugto,
at ang dating takot ay magiging alaala ng lakas.
Ganyan magmahal ang panahon:
tinutulak tayo patungo sa sariling pagbangon.

Kaya sa bawat umagang dumarating,
ipagpasalamat mo ang mga sugat at pagod.
Sila ang patunay na ikaw ay nagbabago;
na ang hantungan mo ay hindi basta dulo,
kundi tahanan ng isang bagong ikaw—
Buo, handa, at muling lalakbay sa panibagong daan.

Muni-muni

ni Alice Marianne C. Zaño

Sumakay ako sa tren papuntang eskwela, bitbit ang bagahe na ubod ng bigat—hindi dahil sa mga libro, kundi sa mga bagay na hindi ko pa kayang bitawan.

Mula sa bintana, tanaw ko ang lungsod na hindi magkanda-ugaga; pinapanood kung paanong umandar ang mundo kahit minsan, gusto ko ring huminto muna.

Unang Istasyon: Pagtanggi.

Hindi lahat ng biyahe ay diretso, at hindi ko matanggap na ang batang laging nangunguna noon ay may marka na ng pagkadapa. Isang klase lamang naman pumalya, ngunit tila ba araw-araw na akong bumabagsak kahit walang pagsusulit na nakuha.

Ikalawang Istasyon: Galit.

Habang sumisilip ang sikat ng araw sa tren, ramdam ko ang init ng galit sa mga trapong nasa itaas na ginawang laruan ang buhay ng mga tulad kong pagod na sa paulit-ulit nilang palabas.

Ikatlong Istasyon: Pakikipagkasundo.

Natigilan ako nang maalala kong dito ako madalas maligaw noon—hindi sa lugar, kundi sa kanya.

Pilit na kinukumbinse ang sarili na baka maaari pang bumalik, ngunit tuwing titigil ang tren, napagtatanto kong ako na lamang pala ang naghihintay sa istasyong matagal na niyang nilisan.

Ikaapat na Istasyon: Depresyon.

Lahat ay aalis, mayroon lang talagang mauuna. Hindi ko alam kung paano uuwi sa bahay na walang buntot na masayang umiikot, at walang tahol na bumubunot ng lungkot sa bawat araw.

Ngayon, bawat ugong ng riles ay parang pusong hindi sigurado kung gusto pang tumibok.

Ikalimang Istasyon: Pagtanggap.

Sa wakas,handa na akong bumaba, bitbit ang bigat na ngayo'y tinatanggap ko na.

Hindi paglimot, kundi ang pag-upo sa tabi ng mga alaala nang may tapang.

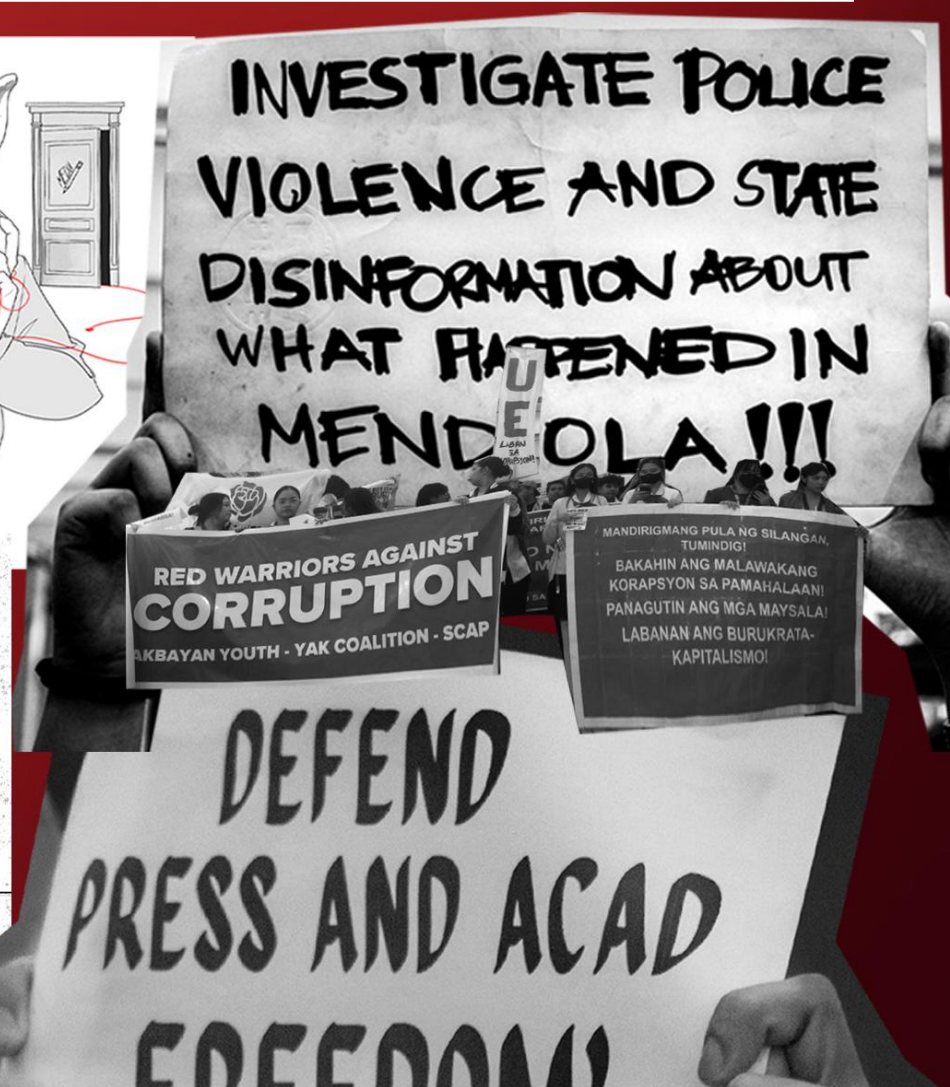
Sa kabila ng pagdadalamhati, may biyahe pang naghihintay tungo sa panibagong yugto ng buhay.













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UEMBT, UEWBT battle through winless UAAP S88 campaigns

by Samantha A. Alulod & Christianne Dominica S. Ellsworth

DESPITE putting forth their best efforts, the UE Men's and Women's Basketball Teams ended the UAAP Season 88 Collegiate Basketball Tournament without a single win, both finishing at the bottom of the standings with a 0–14 record.

The Red Warriors' struggles intensified after the suspension of Wello Lingolingo and UEMBT Head Coach Chris Gavina in their October 15 match against the DLSU Green Archers.

Gavina received an unsportsmanlike penalty, while Lingolingo was suspended for using profanity during the post-game press conference.

"It was never my intention to hurt anyone. I was simply going for a usual loose-ball dive—something we players instinctively do in the heat of the game," Lingolingo shared in a statement posted on social media.

"I'd like to apologize to the UE community for my profane outburst, but I could no longer restrain myself from the lack of respect we were being shown by the referees," Gavina explained in an exclusive interview with DAWN.

Even in defeat, co-captain Precious Momowei posted a personal career-high 42 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the match, coming close to former Red Warrior Alvin Pasaol's 49-point feat in Season 80.

What followed was yet another major loss for the UEMBT, not in a game, but in a key player as team captain John Abate's career was cut short after he suffered a nasal fracture, eventually deciding to depart from the team early.

"Thank you for allowing me to lead and grow while playing the sport I love. UE will always have a place in my heart, and I will be forever grateful," Abate shared with DAWN.

At the end of the second round, Momowei still raised the Red-and-White banner by placing fifth on the Statistical Points (SPS) leaderboard with 75.214 SPS, while Abate landed eighth with 63.800 SPS.

The Red Warriors wrapped up the season with a 0–14 slate, their second winless finish following their first in Season 84 in 2022.

Meanwhile, the UE Lady Warriors recorded another winless campaign, extending a drought tha dates back to Season 87.

Taking the helm this season, UEWMBT Head Coach Ian Carlo Valdez made his head coaching debut with the Red-and-White.

"As a rookie coach, marami akong natutunan this year. Mahirap mag-prepare for only two months, not an excuse, but that's the reality, need na ma-accelerate talaga 'yung program," he said.

Despite the tough run, Valdez maintained pride in the team's effort.

"I'm very, very proud of the girls. I told them to keep their heads high, this season is not a failure. These are just steps toward becoming successful," he expressed.

Valdez shared that the team remains focused on rebuilding and growth as they work toward returning to their Season 80 Finals run.

"Things we need to improve, boxing out and getting rebounds. Second, we need to share the ball more, create opportunities for others, make better decisions, and find the best shot available," the head tactician said.

Rachel Lacayanga made waves in the steals leaderboard, ranking third with an average of 3.00 per game at the end of the eliminations.

Both UE squads will now shift their focus to offseason training and program adjustments as they prepare for UAAP Season 89.

UEMBT takes on Warrior Legends in celebration of UE's 79th anniv

by Andre Emmanuel V. Bautista

CARRYING the theme "Uniting the Warriors Generation," the University of the East (UE) Red Warriors hosted a friendly exhibition match in celebration of UE's 79th Foundation Anniversary, as the current UE Men's Basketball Team (UEMBT) outlasted the Warrior Legends, 131-126, on October 2, at the Lucio K. Tan Jr. Gymnasium, UE Manila..

The two squads traded baskets early in the game, with the UE Legends building an 11-point lead in the second half behind the hot shooting of James Martinez. However, the current Red Warriors rallied late, fueled by clutch baskets from Keian Spandonis and rookie Kristoper Lagat, to complete the comeback and seal the 131-126 win. In an exclusive interview with the DAWN, former UEMBT standout Ronald Tubid shared his thoughts on guiding and motivating the current UE squad.

"'Yung heart of a Warrior, kailangan lang i-remind sa kanila," he remarked.

"Nandun na lahat eh—position-wise, talent, nandiyan eh. As long as they compete, are determined to play [defense], sacrifice for the team, and play their roles, then everything will follow," Tubid added.

Rookie Dylan Despi expressed his pride and excitement in sharing the court with some of UE's basketball greats.

"Playing with them [in] my rookie year is nakaka-proud and nakaka-overwhelm because syempre, isa na doon is pinapanood ko lang sila before like Ronald Tubid and my coach KG Canaleta," Despi said.

Lagat also seized the opportunity to learn from the UE legends , determined to carry their advice into future games.

"They gave emphasis on playing with pride as a UE Warrior, [and] it felt great hearing those words from one of the best former Red Warriors, Ronald Tubid," he expressed.

Still searching for a breakthrough in the UAAP Season 88 Men's Basketball Tournament, the Red Warriors aim to carry the lessons and inspiration from this memorable exhibition as they face the challenges ahead.

UE's 4–3 victory vs ADMU overturned after UAAP sanctions

by Alexis Nicole D. Hornopia

THE UE Men's Football Team (UEMFT) was on the brink of a breakthrough with a 4–3 victory over last season's silver medalists, the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) Men's Football Team, but the result was later overturned following a post-match ruling.

An early scare fueled the action, and in the 44th minute, team captain Jhong Magallon's clever pass found returning veteran Eldrin Madrid, whose strike broke the deadlock and put UE ahead 1-0 before halftime.

Riding the second-half momentum, attacking midfielder Jerome Abarca fired a solid strike in the 53rd minute, doubling UE's lead to 2-0.

Just four minutes later, Magallon slotted home the third goal, putting the Red Warriors firmly ahead of the Blue Eagles at 3-0.

Still pressing their advantage, Red Warriors midfielder Jam Mariveles netted in the 60th minute to extend UE's lead to 4-0.

With 11 minutes remaining, the Blue Eagles mounted a late rally, scoring in the 79th and 85th minutes to narrow the deficit and apply pressure on the Red Warriors.

Tension peaked in the 90th minute as Ateneo's third goal was allowed despite fierce protests from UE, prompting a brief walkout before the Red Warriors returned to finish the match.

Their defense held firm through four minutes of added time to secure a 4-3 victory on the field.

However, the aftermath proved costly. On September 30, the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) suspended head coach Frank Muescan for one match after leading a walkout in protest of a disputed goal.

Additionally defenders Rainier Mark Maghinay and Christian Tio received four-and two-match bans, respectively, for on-field misconduct.

The league also issued an indefinite stadium ban to an unidentified UE member accused of locking the team's locker room.

In an exclusive interview with the DAWN, Muescan shared his perspective on the protest that led to the sanctions.

"It was the last resort, a stand against what we felt were repeated injustices in the officiating. As a coach, I believe it is my duty to act when the fairness of the competition is compromised," the head tactician expressed.

Despite UE's 4–3 on-field win, the UAAP deducted three points from the Red Warriors under Article 30 of the PFF Disciplinary Code for breaching the league's values of discipline, respect, and fair play.

Winless after seven outings, the Red Warriors remain anchored at the bottom of the UAAP Men's Football Tournament table with zero points and a -11 goal difference.

UST hosts UAAP S88 Grand Opening

by Christianne Dominica S. Ellsworth

HOSTED by the University of Santo Tomas (UST), a new beginning dawned as the UAAP Season 88 officially kicked off with more than 36,600 attendees on September 19 at the UST Grandstand and Open Field.

The opening ceremony featured introductions of athletes from each member school and a drone display, with the University of the East (UE) being represented by University President Dr. Zosimo Battad, PE Director Leo Viajar, and Board of Trustees member Wilson T. Young.

Leading the Oath of Sportsmanship was Growling Tigress Kent Jane Pastrana, while the Flame of Hope was passed from Cherry Ann "Sisi" Rondina to Jervy Cruz and Sydney Sy, before reaching Olympian Ernest John "EJ" Obiena, who took over the torch and ignited the hopes of all student-athletes.

Illuminating the tiger's den, fireworks lit up the sky, giving each UAAP member-school its moment to shine.

Despite the unexpected rain, the celebration stayed electric as UST alumnus Kean Cipriano performed this season's theme song "Strength in Motion, Hope in Action," followed by P-pop icon Sarah Geronimo, who energized the crowd with her hit songs "Tala" and "Kilometro."

During her performance, Geronimo delivered an inspiring message to the youth, underscoring their power to spark change.

"Kayo ang magbabago ng bulok na sistema ng bansang ito. 'Wag kayong mawalan ng pag-asa," the singer expressed.

Capping off grand opening, OPM artist Earl Agustin serenaded the UAAP community with "Dito Sa'kin," followed by Rob Deniel's performance of "Sinta" and a roaring finale by Lola Amour with their chart-toppers "Fallen" and "Raining in Manila".

Different fields but united by culture and pride, the UE Red Warriors enter the season carrying the spirit of Lualhati and the enduring legacy of the Red-and-White.

UE's Althea Franco returns as correspondent for UAAP S88

by Jonas Jr. P. Cosico

UE Broadcasting sophomore Althea Franco once again took the courtside spotlight this UAAP Season 88 as the official correspondent for the UE Red Warriors.

Franco first made her debut in UAAP Season 87 as one of the few homegrown UE students chosen to represent the University.

The last homegrown UE correspondent before Franco was Yvette Dion M. Din UAAP Season 77 in 2014.

A senior news writer for the DAWN, the official student publication of UE, Franco shared that her motivation comes from her deep affection for University.

"I always want UE to win, so I use that energy to fuel what I write," she remarked in an exclusive interview with the DAWN.

She also shared how she keeps her job enjoyable by focusing on the bigger picture.

"Go there with confidence and school pride, whether we win or lose, there will always be stories worth telling," the Warrior-reporter shared.

"Each report should reflect the passion that players bring into every game, that's what makes the job meaningful and memorable," Franco concluded.

This season marks Franco's final year as UE's courtside correspondent, capping off two consecutive seasons representing the University with pride and passion in the UAAP.



Photo by Carl E. Altamira/UE Dawn

UE Athletics Group rules UAAP S88 Athletics Championships

by Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez

THE UE Athletics Team dominated the track by breaking records and sweeping multiple medals in the UAAP Season 88 Athletics Championship held from November 6 to 10 at the New Clark City Athletics Stadium.In the Men's division, Vianmar Dela Cruz claimed new record in the 10,000-meter (m) race walk, clocking an impressive 45:12.61 in the 10,000-m race walk, surpassing his previous mark of 48:27.08 from the last season. He first set the record in UAAP S86 with a time of 49:33.97, breaking NU's John Aaron Arandia's previous mark of 50:19.20. Leading the Girls' division, Junior Warrior Rhian Encomienda has been named Rookie of the Year after taking home the silver medal in the Girls' Javelin Throw with an impressive distance of 34.48-m. Setting the bar higher than ever, Sep Placido rewrote her own Girls' 2,000-m walk record with a time of 10:03.19.

The Junior Lady Warrior surpassed her last season's record of 10:15.39, while also holding the record in the 5,000-m walk.

Placido continued her dominance with another double-record performance, winning the Girls' 5,000-m race in 26:39.78, smashing her own UAAP S87 record of 28:47.54.

Meanwhile, in the Boys' Division, Josh Salcedo, Arsenio Quimbo, and Anthony Cariaso made history, continuing UE's record-breaking streak.

Salcedo delivered a 46.52-m heave in the Boys' discuss throw to secure the gold.

In the Boys' Shot Put, Quimbo clinched the gold medal with a throw of 14.47-m, toppling UST's Gary Santiago's 13-year-old record of 13.64-m set in 2012.



LIST OF MEDALISTS

MEN'S DIVISION

Gold Medalists
Vincent Dela Cruz
- 10000-Meter Race Walk

Silver Medalists
Vincent Dela Cruz
- 5000-Meter Race Walk

Bronze Medalists
Vincent Dela Cruz
- 1000-Meter Race Walk

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Gold Medalists
Mariel Abuan
- High Jump

Louise Mtanangan
- 4kg Shot Put

Silver Medalists
Jazen Araño
- 4kg Hammer Throw

Emma Bolden
- 4kg Shot Put

Bronze Medalists
Emma Bolden
- 4kg Hammer Throw

Beatriz Pelaez
- Pole Vault

Janice Nemi
- 600g Javelin Throw

GIRL'S DIVISION

Gold Medalists
Sep Placido
- 2000-Meter Race Walk
- 5000-Meter Race Walk

Daisy Tomaque
- 600g Javelin Throw
- Discus Throw

Alyannah Ico
-4kg Hammer Throw

Shaira Fantilaga
- 5000-Meter Race

Silver Medalists
Meljane Dano
- 5000-Meter Race Walk
- 2000-Meter Race Walk

Shaira Fantilaga
- 1500-Meter Race
- 2000-meter steeplechase

Alyannah Ico
- 4kg Shot Put

Rhian Encomienda
- 600g Javelin Throw

Bronze Medalists
Shaira Fantilaga
- 3000-meter race

Edzel Villasis
- Triple Jump

Maria Lambino
- 400-Meter Race
- 100-Meter Hurdles

Jena Transfiguracion, Angel Cagas, Meryl Bongabong, Maria Lambino
- 4x400-Meter Relay

BOY'S DIVISION

Gold Medalists
Josh Salcedo
- 1.75kg Discus Throw

Romel Cadorna
- High Jump

Anthony Cariaso
- 1500-Meter Race

Arsenia Quinlob
- 6kg Shot Put

Silver Medalists
Anthony Cariaso
- 800-meter race

Romel Cadorna
- Long Jump

Bronze Medalists
Erzl Borres
- Triple Jump

Jericho Cantil
- 400-Meter Hurdles

MIXED DIVISION

Bronze Medalists
James Santos, Herralyn Ordonio, Anthony Cariaso, E dzel Villasis
- Mixed 4x400-Meter Relay

Zachary Ganacias, Jyzel Gabriel, Rico Lubiano, Janice Nemi
-Mixed 4x400-Meter Relay



Photos courtesy of UAAP Media Team

UEWVT, UEMVT bag podium spots in UNIGAMES 2025

by Samantha A. Alulod & Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez

THE UE Women's Volleyball Team (UEWVT) and UE Men's Volleyball Team (UEMVT) secured podium finishes in the Philippine University Games (UniGames) Season 26, held from October 24 to 30 at the Natalio G. Velez Arts and Sports Center in Silay City, Negros Occidental.

The Lady Warriors clinched first runners-up, capping a strong tournament run before yielding to the DLSU Lady Archers in three sets, 12–25, 14–25, 14–25.

Team captain Angelica Reyes was named Best Libero, while offensive standout Beatrice Anne Zamudio claimed Second Best Outside Spiker, and Angel Lynn Pepino secured Second Best Middle Blocker.

The UEMVT contributed to UE's podium haul with a bronze-medal finish, concluding their bid against Iloilo Doctor's College in three sets, 14–25, 22–25, 19–25.

Further boosting the team's haul, standout Andre Bicar was honored as the tournament's Best Setter.

The UniGames is a national collegiate sports competition in the Philippines organized by UNIGAMES, Inc.

With preparations shifting into high gear, the Red and Lady Warriors brace for the upcoming UAAP Season 88 Volleyball Tournament, slated to open early next year.

UE Junior Paddlers punch in bronze, extend 28-year podium run

by Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez

THE UE High School Boys' and Girls' Teams extended their 28-year consecutive podium streak after clinching second runner-up honors in the UAAP Season 88 High School Table Tennis Tournament.

The Junior Lady Paddlers secured the second seed with an 8–2 record, while the Junior Paddlers claimed the third seed at 6–4, with both teams advancing to the semifinals.

UE battled through the stepladder for a Finals berth, with the Boys' Team falling to AdU, 2–3, and the Girls' Team bowing to DLSZ, 1–3, to conclude their campaign.

The Junior Warriors also became the first of two teams to defeat a thrice-beaten opponent under the Advantage Rules.

In an exclusive interview with the DAWN, head coach Rogelio Ponte expressed pride in his 31 years of coaching the Red-and-White.

"As a coach, proud ako sa sarili ko na marami akong nagawa sa UAAP […] I'm very thankful sa taas at sa UE community, sa support ng UE," he shared.

The tournament took place from November 15 to 21 at the Amoranto Sports Stadium.



Photos courtesy of UAAP Media Team

UE-ADU denounce corruption

by Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez

THE UE Red Drummers (UERD) and the Adamson University Drummers Yellers On-Line (AUDYO) delivered a powerful halftime performance during the October 25 UE–AdU match, boldly voicing their stance against corruption.

As their set concluded, the drummers raised their shirts emblazoned with "NO TO CORRUPTION!", turning their routine into a striking statement of advocacy.

In an exclusive interview with The Dawn, UERD Snare Captain Tristan Marcelo shared how it felt to deliver such an impactful piece to the UAAP community.

"Kasabay ng mga issues ng corruption na nangyayari ngayon, as students gusto rin naming ipakita through our performance na aware kami and we also stand against it. Hindi lang kami basta nagpe-perform for entertainment, but also to send a message na may mga kabataan na gusto ring manindigan para sa tama."

"Gusto naming iparamdam sa crowd na drums and movement can also be a form of protest," he added.

Meanwhile, AUDYO President John Richard Neri reflected on how their group used its platform to raise awareness.

"Na-feel ko 'yung suporta ng bawat tao sa crowd na sang-ayon sila sa stand namin against corruption, kumbaga kasama namin sila lumaban kontra sa korapsyon na sobrang talamak ngayon sa Pilipinas," he highlighted.

"Kaya 'yung performance na inihanda namin ay isang mensahe na pinapahiwatig namin sa mga korap na mga pulitiko na 'di na namin papalampasin pa itong nangyaring katiwalian sa bayan natin," he added.

Neri also emphasized the meaningful bond between UERD and AUDYO, both on and off the arena.

"Napakahalaga talaga 'yung pagiging isa namin 'yung turingan na parang magkakapatid sa labas ng arena. During games, wala gaanong rivalry na nagaganap; mas nananaig 'yung friendship."

"Sa liga ng UAAP, ang ganda nung nabuong relasyon ng AUDYO sa UERD. May sportsmanship after games kasi 'yon naman talaga 'yung essence ng bawat sport, may respect, integrity, at siyempre, mag-enjoy tuwing naglalaro," he shared.

The 'AdUE' tradition, now spanning more than a decade, began during UAAP Season 71 in 2008.


Photo by Richgen Regina S. Rodriguez