The **Magnificat**
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Pascung MipanUAnan:

A DECADE OF LIGHT, FAITH, AND ASSUMPTIONIST UNITY

by Rya Ysella A. **LISING**



Under a sky that tested both patience and faith, the University of the Assumption once again proved that tradition, when rooted in community and purpose, shines brightest even in the rain.

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> "Press Freedom is the **Oxygen** of Democracy.
>
> – **Dr. Arnel T. Sicat**
> Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of the Assumption

Loud and Proud! UA Senior High School Educators Shine Bright at APSA 2025

by Ma. Ana Ysabelle B. **MENDOZA**



In the halls of the UA Senior High School, excellence is not just a goal but a reality. Students are always acknowledged for their outstanding intellect, innovative minds, and their commitment to reaching their full potential. However, on this day, it is the experienced ones who take center stage. During the APSA World Teachers' Day and Education Congress 2025, the spotlight shone not just on one, but on three educators from the UA Senior High School, and the community is proud of their achievements. The event served as a grand stage for the teachers who hailed from the UA Senior High School, whose integrity, dedication, and commitment to their service have been recognized and rewarded.

The Mayap a Talaturu Award is not just a title to be given to those teachers who stood out, as it is also a recognition of the soul of the educators who poured their passion and all into serving not just the school but also answering their callings. Beaming with pride and joy, our Mayap a Talaturu Awardees, Ms. Princess V. Parungao and Sir Renzo G. Intal, have been conferred with this prestigious honor for their utmost commitment, dedication, and integrity to their service.

Also honoring our very own Ms. Camille D. Franco, as she was given the award of the 2025 RCAK Excellence Awardee for the Most Outstanding Senior High School Teacher. This is a testament to her innovative and transformative teachings that showcase the abilities that made her stand out in a room full of educators.

Truly, the UA Senior High School community continues to shine brightly and improve the future of its education because of its confidence in the brightest minds in the fields. The teachers will continue to contribute to their part of uplifting the school, leading young minds, and inspiring the community to ensure that the future will continue to shine even brighter. Hail Assumption!



UA Campus Journalists Shine at 2025 Division Schools Press Conference

by Audree Nathalie P. **LOGENIO**

Selected UA Senior High School delegates participated in the recently held Division Schools Press Conference at Pampanga High School on November 13, 2025, with the theme "Empowering Filipino Youth: Unleashing Potentials in Journalism and Creative Industries in the Era of AI."

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BY THE **NUMBERS**



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UA Campus Journalists Shine at 2025 Division Schools Press Conference

by Audree Nathalie P. **LOGENIO**

Selected UA Senior High School delegates participated in the recently held Division Schools Press Conference at Pampanga High School on November 13, 2025, with the theme "Empowering Filipino Youth: Unleashing Potentials in Journalism and Creative Industries in the Era of AI."

The whole community is honored to present the remarkable achievements of its student journalists—continuously raising the bar and championing campus journalism.

Pagsulat ng Balita - 1st place
Audree Nathalie P. Logenio

Sports Writing - 6th place
Denise Angel Quiambao

Editorial Writing - 10th place
Tryxia Lourence L. Gutierrez

News Writing
Rya Ysella A. Lising

Photojournalism
Ana Sophia D. Villanueva

Column Writing
Gemie M. Canda

Feature Writing
Ma. Ana Ysabelle B. Mendoza

Pagsulat ng Editoryal
Maria Louise Blessie S. Musngi

Pagsulat ng Lathalain
Larelyn C. Pabustan

Pagkuha ng Larawan
Hannah Nicole Cruz

Pagsulat ng Balitang Isports - 8th Place
Steven Franc S. Bulanadi

Science and Technology Writing - 2nd place
Jerilyn Mae R. Gutierrez

English Radio Broadcasting and Script Writing - 2nd place
Gracielle N. Feliciano
Trisha S. Lapuz
Charles Emrei H. Javier
Victoria Jean G. Nepomuceno
Paul Angelo J. Isip
David Jin P. Reyes
Thea Isabel G. Basilio

Filipino Radio Broadcasting and Script Writing - 3rd place
Xerxes Marie B. Cuyugan
Rhianna Tiffany M. Bernardino
Carlo Nathaniel Q. Perez
Vince Noel R. Roxas
Ashlee Rianna E. Garcia
Jeaneth Viane C. Albes
Charles P. Bautista

English TV Broadcasting and Script Writing - 2nd place
The Prime
Elijah S. Calilung
Shantelle R. Evangelista
Shantelle Myiesha S. Musngi
Aneishia Marthy L. Zablan
Sean Rey F. Castillo
Karl Jonah V. Regala
Timothy D. Lalusin
Anchor - 3rd place
Reporter - 3rd place
Production - 2nd place
Infomercial - 3rd place

Filipino TV Broadcasting and Script Writing - 3rd place
Tindig Bayan
Jaycel Karla C. Zapata
Isla Guenevere F. Banzuelo
Joseph Benedict B. Mandap
Yaelis Claudine P. Baligat
Cristine Mae Z. Samson
Aquinnah Luiz Mendoza
Rowen G. Yabut III

Anchor - 3rd place
Reporter - 3rd place
Production - 3rd place
Infomercial - 2nd place

English Collaborative and Desktop Publishing - 3rd place
Justine Jerome B. Mendoza
Jayleen Irish P. Bautista
Kristianne Erika R. Balajadia
Hannah Louise P. Rivera
Kiara Gail E. Garcia
Marco Abraham N. Roxas
Christine Angel C. Mercado

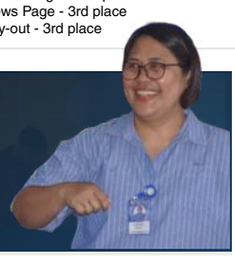
Best Feature Page - 2nd place
Best Sports Page - 2nd place
Best News Page - 3rd place
Best Lay-out - 3rd place

4 PARTICIPANTS RANKED IN TOP 10
1 in Filipino, 3 in English

12 SPECIAL AWARDS EARNED
8 in TV Broadcasting, 4 in Desktop Publishing

5 GROUPS PLACED WITHIN TOP 3 ACROSS CATEGORIES
Radio & TV Broadcasting | Desktop Publishing

UASHS KICKS OFF A.Y. 2025-2026 THE *UA-2K* WAY



by Audree Nathalie P. **LOGENIO**

The UA Senior High School community officially launched the Academic Year 2025–2026 through the Kickstart, with the theme "UA-2K: A Retro Letter Etched in Nostalgia for the UASHS of Tomorrow," held on August 5, 2025, at the Emilio Cinense Gymnasium.

Before the program started, Grade 11 students were welcomed with a lively parade, greeted by the cheers of Grade 12 students from Our Lady of Life, Our Lady of Good Counsel, and Our Lady of the Rosary at the Saint Thomas Aquinas Students Courtyard.

Hosted by UASHS SSC's Internal PIO, Hailey Chad Reyes, and Neo Kurt Quiambao from Our Lady of the Pillar, the program began with section roll calls and student interviews, followed by an opening prayer.

As part of the community's welcome tradition, UASHS faculty and staff from each department were introduced through a welcome walk.

UASHS Principal Ms. Chrysanta S. Rodriguez then delivered a heartfelt message, emphasizing the uniqueness of the new school year: "This year is going to be different. This year is going to be different because of you."

Dr. Violy Fernanda Santos, Quality Management Director, was also present and recognized during the program.

In line with the retro theme, the event featured a "Best Dressed" segment, hosted by Ms. University of the Assumption 2025, Shantel Myiesha Musngi. The following were awarded:

Grade 11
Sean Kent Diama (ABM 11 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary)
Ann Felicity Atienza (STEM 11 - St. Damien De Veuster)

Grade 12
Drew Isaac Dueñas (HUMSS 12 - Our Lady of the Rosary)
Micah Angel Tumang (STEM 12 - Our Lady of Fatima)

Faculty
Sir Albert Martinez (ABM Academic Chair)
Ms. Regine Clavo (EAR Department)

To bring even more energy to the gym, Indak Assumptionista delivered a nostalgic intermission number, joined by faculty and club representatives.

A surprise video tribute for Mrs. Rodriguez's birthday was also shown, featuring short messages from students and faculty, followed by a heartfelt group singing of Happy Birthday.

The event concluded with the singing of the Assumption Hymn and a club enlistment featuring: Theatre Arts Club, Sons and Daughters of OFWs, The Magnificat, Creative Team, Media Team, Peer Helpers, Vox Coeli, Indak Assumptionista, Commission on Student Elections, Teen Doctors and Nurses, and Campus Youth Ministry.

1,098
total student population

THE MAGNIFICAT Takes Oath in Uni-Wide Induction



by Rya Ysella A. **LISING**

On August 19, 2025, Regina, the official student publication of UA, organized a University-Wide Induction Ceremony at the UA Chapel with the theme "In Search of Truth, in Service of Others."

The event formally welcomed the staff members of the different university publications, marking the beginning of their commitment to serve through campus journalism.

The Magnificat, the official student publication of UASHS, was represented by its Editorial Board, Section Editors and School Paper Adviser, Ms. Princess V. Parungao.

Highlights of the program included the reading of the Preamble and Constitution of Service by Lei Mark Rufino, Regina's Associate Editor, and Irish Nicole Pangilinan, Managing Editor for Finance. Fr. Oliver Yalung, University President, also delivered an inspiring message, emphasizing the vital role of journalists to "not only inform, but form."

This was followed by the blessing of all campus journalists by Fr. Christian Kierr Tallorin, university chaplain, sealing their commitment to truth and service.

Regina's Editor-in-Chief, Trisha Yvette Ayson, delivered her closing remarks, reminding everyone that campus journalism a vow of truth and justice.

For The Magnificat, that was more than an induction—it was a pledge. With new voices joining its ranks, the publication stands firm in its mission to deliver only truth for integrity through freedom. As vanguards of truth, guardians of integrity, and servants of the people, The Magnificat remains resolute in championing campus journalism and amplifying the voice of the Senior High School community.

UASHS DSPC Participants Attend 2nd PPFC

by Jayleen Irish P. **BAUTISTA**

The 2nd Pampanga Press Freedom Conference, hosted by the UA Mass Communication Students Association (MCSA), commenced on October 10, 2025, at the UA Auditorium.



> Press Freedom is the **Oxygen** of Democracy.
>
> – **Dr. Arnel T. Sicat**
> VPAA, University of the Assumption

With the theme "Amplifying the Echoes of Truth through Campus Journalism," the conference gathered campus journalists across Pampanga who share the same mission of upholding truth and integrity in media. Representing the UA Senior High School, this year's Division Schools Press Conference participants attended the event to deepen their understanding of ethical and responsible journalism.

The program began with an opening prayer, followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. Dr. Arnel Sicat, Vice President for Academic Affairs, delivered an inspiring opening remarks that framed press freedom as the very oxygen of democracy. He emphasized that press freedom is both a responsibility and a calling to speak uncomfortable truths even when powerful forces oppose.

Words of gratitude were then shared by Dr. Edna Canlas, Assistant VPAA of the School of Health, Arts, and Sciences, who recognized the speakers, attendees, and event organizers.

A broadcasting soundcheck icebreaker followed, energizing the crowd and showcasing the powerful voices and confidence of young broadcasters from different schools

The conference formally opened with Ms. Charlotte Marceline Layson's keynote on the intersection of campus journalism and artificial intelligence. She underscored that while AI can assist in enhancing accuracy and precision, it must never replace human judgment.

Journalists must remain evidence-based, objective, and deeply aware of their communities. Ethical AI use includes disclosing AI involvement, ensuring human oversight, and prioritizing public benefit. Ms. Layson added and warned against letting AI supplant the journalist's role as the storyteller and truth-seeker

Mr. Ian Ocampo Flora charted the evolution of news media from print to the rapid pace of social media timelines. He noted the endangered state of traditional journalism in an era where "everyone can post," raising the crucial question: who verifies what is true? Upholding timeless journalistic principles—accuracy, balance, clarity, brevity—remains essential amidst digital challenges like clickbait and the short attention spans of audiences. Mr. Flora emphasized that journalists must adapt by using digital tools strategically while adhering firmly to ethics and truth verification as the foundation of trust.

Mr. Benny Guinto closed the seminar portion with a call for broadcast journalists to be "beacons of hope" who maintain fairness, factuality, and integrity. He urged the avoidance of hype, gossip, profanity, and sensationalism, focusing instead on informing with calm clarity and moral responsibility. Journalists must stand firm for what is right, especially when stakes are high.

The Pampanga Press Freedom Conference 2025 concluded with an open forum, where participants engaged with speakers, reinforcing the message that while platforms and technologies evolve, the commitment to truth and ethical journalism must remain steadfast. In an age of misinformation, campus journalists are vital torchbearers of democracy's integrity and freedom.

UASHS CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY; ENTREPRENEURSHIP CARAVAN 2025

by Samantha Nicolelaine J. **SANTOS**



The UA Senior High School celebrated its 10th anniversary on November 6, 2025, together with the opening of the Entrep Caravan from November 6–7, 2025.

The first day started with a special program prepared by the UASHS Supreme Student Council at the Emilio Cinense Gymnasium. The event began with a prayer and the singing of the Philippine national anthem, followed by an inspiring opening message from the UASHS principal, Mrs. Chrysanta Rodriguez. The program hosts, Ms. Camille Franco and Sir Renzo Intal then introduced the pioneer teachers of the Senior High School department. Some of the teachers shared their experiences and memories teaching in UASHS for the past ten years.

A touching tribute video made by the SSC was shown, featuring greetings from students across different sections to celebrate the school's 10th anniversary. To keep the energy flowing, several performances were showcased, including numbers from the UASHS bands, Vox Choeli Chorus, and Indak Assumptionista.

The celebration also featured fun activities like Teacher's Feud, where two teams of teachers competed to guess the correct answers to different questions. Team A, led by Sir Quincy Casupanan, won the game. Afterward, the hosts introduced the Time Capsule Project, where students wrote letters to their future selves that will be opened before Grade 12 students' Graduation Day and Grade 11 students' retreat next school year.

Later on, the Entrep Caravan officially commenced at the High School Covered Court. Each booth highlighted students' creativity, business ideas, and delicious products. A Mr. and Ms. Entrep competition, where contestants introduced themselves and represented their respective sections, was also held in the same day.

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During the afternoon, two more activities took place—Sell Me This, where participants were challenged to promote a random product using their marketing skills, as well as the interactive workshop for Grade 11 students, where they had the chance to cook, bake, or do bartending.

On the last day of the event, the celebration began with a thanksgiving mass at the university chapel. Then, the Inter-Barkada Dance Competition was held, where two groups faced off in a dance showdown. This was followed by the Entrep Caravan Street Dance.

In the afternoon, the final event took place—the ABM Quiz Bee. The topics included Business Ethics and Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, Fundamentals of Accounting, and Organization and Management.

The celebration ended with the announcement of winners and closing remarks. Overall, the 10th Year Anniversary and Entrep Caravan were a huge success, made possible through the efforts of the UASHS faculty and staff, ABM Department, and SSC officers.

Most Organized and Best Booth Design
12 - Our Lady of Life

Mr. and Ms. Entrepreneurship

1st Place - Elijah Calilung (12 - Our Lady of the Pillar) and Ysza Moreno (12 - Our Lady of Fatima)

2nd Place - Adrian Catacutan (12 - Our Lady of Fatima) and Maeve Ayessha Carlos (12 - Our Lady of Life)

3rd Place - Christer Villanueva (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) and Fionaleighl Dizon (12 - Our Lady of Lourdes)

Sell Me This
1st Place - Jett Andrew Pineda (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)
2nd Place - Aldrich Rain Cruz (12 - Our Lady of Lourdes)
3rd Place - Shawn Diama (11 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary)

Inter-Barkada Dance Competition

1st Place - 12 - Our Lady of Remedies, 12 - Our Lady of the Pillar, 12 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and 11 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2nd Place - 12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal

ABM Quiz Bee

1st Place - Group 4
Marco Abraham Roxas (11 - St. John Bosco)
Shalimar Pineda (11 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla)
Alysson Lhei Pitao (12 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help)
Merry Anne Mananquil (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)

2nd Place - Group 9
Kianna Ong (11 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla)
Timothy Lalusin (11 - St. Elizabeth of Hungary)
Caessy Cayanan (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)
Jaiden Garcia (12 - Our Lady of Remedies)

3rd Place - Group 3
David Jin Reyes (11 - St. John Bosco)
Nishka Avila (11 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla)
Rya Ysella Lising (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)
Andrei Railey Gonzales (12 - Our Lady of Remedies)

UASHS, Nakiisa sa Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa 2025

by Samantha Nicolelaine J. **SANTOS**

Ipinagdiwang ng UA Senior High School ang Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa noong Setyembre 3, 2025 na ginanap sa Emilio Cinense Gymnasium sa pangunguna ng departamento ng Filipino at Christian Living Education at ng UASHS Supreme Student Council.

Bago ang opisyal na pagsisimula ng programa, binigyang-pugay ang mga tauhan at kaguruan ng bawat departamento sa pamamagitan ng isang welcome walk. Sinundan ito ng mga pambungad na gawain gaya ng pambungad na panalangin na pinangunahan ng Presidente ng Supreme Student Council na si Binibining Raika Angelene Sadac at ang pagkanta ng Lupang Hinirang at ng Pilipinas kong Mahal na pinangunahan naman ng Vox Coeli Chorus. Pagkatapos, nagtanghal sa entablado ang mga opisyal ng Supreme Student Council kasama ang Indak Assumptionista upang malibang ang mga manonood. Nagbigay rin ng pambungad na pananalita si Dr. Arnel Sicat.

Nagsimula ang mga kaganapan sa pagpapakilala ng mga tagapagdaloy ng programa na sina Adrian Narciso mula sa Our Lady of Good Counsel at Cheska Lacap mula sa St. Damien de Veuster. Sinimulan nila ito sa pagtukoy sa iba't ibang patimpalak na magaganap. Sumunod dito ay ang pagpapakilala sa mga hurado na sina Gng. Jonalyn Dizon, Rev. Fr. Christian Kierr Tallorin, at Gng. Edna Martinez.

Ang mga selebrasyon ay opisyal na nagsimula sa pagtatanghal ng bawat grupo para sa patimpalak na Lakas ng Tinig. Sumunod naman ay ang Himig ng Lahi, kung saan ay pinakita ng bawat kalahok ang kanilang galing sa pag-awit. Pagkatapos nito ay ang Husay ng Kabataan, at pinamalas ng bawat grupo ang iba't ibang talento tulad ng pagtatanghal ng shadow play, pagkanta, at pag-arte. Nagpakitang gilas naman sa pagsayaw ang bawat koponan sa Indak Kasaysayan. Iba-iba man ang kanilang paraan sa pagsayaw ay tiyak na naaliw ang lahat ng manonood.

Ang pinakahihintay at huling patimpalak na naganap ay ang Kasuotang Moda. Kung saan ang mga naggagandahang mga Filipiniana at Barong ay ipinamalas ng mga marikit at gwapong kinatawan ng bawat grupo. Bago inanunsyo ang mga nanalo sa bawat patimpalak, nagkaroon muna ng pagtatanghal ang Teatro Assumptionista.

Inanunsyo ang mga nanalo sa pangunguna ni Ginoong Jonarld Manansala.

Timplang Kapampangan
Unang Gantimpala: Mangwayen
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Mariang Sinukuan
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Hanan

Wika sa Imahe
Unang Gantimpala: Mariang Sinukuan
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Dumangan
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Amansinaya

Lakas ng Tinig
Unang Gantimpala: Hanan
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Amansinaya
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Tagbusan

Himig ng Lahi
Unang Gantimpala: Hanan
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Mangwayen
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Amansinaya

Husay ng Kabataan
Unang Gantimpala: Mariang Sinukuan
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Amansinaya
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Tagbusan

Indak Kasaysayan
Unang Gantimpala: Tagbusan
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Mariang Sinukuan
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Hanan

Kasuotang Moda (Maria Clara At Ibarra)
Unang Gantimpala: Andrianna Healey (Amansinaya) at Kurt Heinrich Del Pilar (Hanan)
Ikalawang Gantimpala: Darlene Ann Balingit (Mariang Sinukuan) at Justin Dizon (Mangwayen)
Ikatlong Gantimpala: Ricci Punzalan (Mangwayen) at Cholo Galang (Mariang Sinukuan)

Nabanggit din ang mga nanalo para sa natatanging kasuotan na sina Alliyah Dela Cruz mula sa Our Lady of Montserrat at Jeric Yumul mula sa Our Lady of the Pillar. Para naman sa kaguruan at tauhan sa bawat departamento ay nanalo sina Ginoong Mark Niebres at Ginang Acell Ninobla mula sa STEM Faculty.

Bilang pagtatapos sa selebrasyon ng Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa 2025, nagbigay ng mensaheng pasasalamat ang ating punong-guro na si Ginang Chrysanta Rodriguez at sinayaw ng mga estudyante ang sayaw ng bayan.

UASHS Celebrates Math-Sci Day 2025

by Audree Nathalie P. **LOGENIO**

The much-awaited Math-Sci Day commenced on October 28, with the theme: "Transforming young minds the Math-Sci way." The event took place at the Cinense Gymnasium, bringing together the bright and curious minds of the UASHS community for a day filled with learning, creativity, and fun.

The program began with an opening prayer, followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem. Setting an energetic tone for the day, the masters of ceremony, Ms. Catherine David and Ms. Acell Ninobla from the STEM Faculty, kicked off the event with a lively TikTok dance break that lifted everyone's spirit.

For the opening remarks, Ms. Chrysanta S. Rodriguez, UASHS Principal, delivered a heartfelt message expressing her appreciation to the faculty, staff, and students of the community. She commended their creativity, innovation, and curious pursuit of excellence in the fields of Mathematics and Science.

To start the activities, the first game "MATHira MahuSCI" tested participants' knowledge and quick-thinking about general mathematics and sciences. Mr. Exekiel Baltazar, introduced and explained the rules of the game mechanics, while Ms. Marienelle Mallari facilitated the exciting competition.

Following the game was the much-anticipated quiz bee, "Pamágsalangsángan 2025: Sipnayan ampong Siyensya." The quiz covered topics in General Mathematics, General Science, and Earth and Life Science, and was participated by Grade 11 and Grade 12 STEM students, divided into nine groups from A to I, with four members per team. The mechanics were presented by Mr. Mark Bryan Niebres, and the game was once again hosted by Ms. Marienelle Mallari, who kept the energy exciting throughout the contest.

After a short break, the guests eagerly awaited the next highlight, "Tayo'y Math-Sci-yawan: Dance like a Scientist, Look like a Mathematician" competition. The judges for this competition were Ms. Jerlyn Gamboa, Sir Christian Anthony Tungol, and Ms. Veronica Mallari. Each STEM section showcased their creativity and talent through captivating performances that blended dance, science, and mathematics—proving that learning can be expressive as well. The criteria were later on presented by Ms. Rachelle Anne De La Cruz.

After a series of jaw-dropping and well-executed performances, Ms. Camille Franco, STEM Academic Chair, delivered a closing message, expressing her appreciation to all students, faculty members, and the Senior High School community for making the event a resounding success.

As a surprise, the UASHS STEM Faculty took the stage and performed a special intermission number featuring a remix of trending dances which left the crowd cheering and thoroughly entertained.

The event concluded with the awarding of appreciation to the judges, followed by the announcement of winners for each competition.

MATHira mahuSCI
Nicole Lumba (12 - Our Lady of Mt. Carmel)

Pamágsalangsángan 2025: Sipnayan ampong Siyensya
1st Place - Group I:
Allen Joseph David (11 - St. Maximillian Kolbe)
Kevin Kyle Tamayo (11 - St. Maximillian Kolbe)
Sebastien Philippe Mayrina (12 - Our Lady of Good Counsel)
Jharon Tac Brakhage (12 - Our Lady of Miraculous Medal)

2nd Place - Group B:
Eliza Carmela Lazatin (11 - St. Damien de Veuster)
Arabela Louise Flores (11 - St. Damien de Veuster)
Ronan John Gamboa (12 - Our Lady of Miraculous Medal)
Rhanee Nicola Zabala (12 - Our Lady of Miraculous Medal)

3rd Place - Group H:
Louisa Polintan (11 - St. Teresa of Calcutta)
Yezha Blaire Gabriel (11 - St. Teresa of Calcutta)
Aldrich Rain Cruz (12 - Our Lady of Lourdes)
Kimberly Nicole Galang (12 - Our Lady of Lourdes)

Grade 11 - Dance like a Mathematician, Look like a Scientist

Galileo Galilei - Yohan Polintan (St. John Marie Vianney)

Grade 12 - Dance like a Scientist, Look like a Mathematician

John Napier - Carlo Noriesta (Our Lady of Immaculate Concepcion)

Tayo'y Math-Sci-yawan: Dance like a Scientist, Look like a Mathematician

Grade 11
1st Place - St. Faustina Kowalska
2nd Place - St. Damien de Veuster
3rd Place - St. Camillus de Lellis

Grade 12
1st Place - Our Lady of Life
2nd Place - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception
3rd Place - Our Lady of Good Counsel



Photo by Rya Ysella A. **LISING**



Photo by Justine Jerome B. **MENDOZA**

UASHS Culminates Career Day 2025

by Samantha Nicolelaine J. **SANTOS**

The Career Day 2025, with the theme "Unfolding Aspirations: Seniors Navigating Their Future," kicked off at the Cinense Gymnasium on November 28, 2025. Before the program began, students had the opportunity to explore various career booths located at the back of the gym, showcasing potential college pathways. Each booth featured fun games, sweets, and other prizes designed to engage and attract students.

After the booth exploration, the program was formally opened by the masters of ceremony—Ms. Regine Clavo and Ms. Raelene Sicat from the English and Research Department, followed by a prayer and the singing of the Philippine national anthem. Ms. Camille Franco then delivered an inspiring opening remark on behalf of our dear principal, Mrs. Chrysanta Rodriguez.

To keep the energy high, the hosts interviewed several Grade 11 students about the careers they hope to pursue in the future. The event also featured a lively performance from the department's very own band, Marahuyo, who successfully captured the attention and enthusiasm of the crowd.

The main highlight of the program, the Career Talk, finally took place. Ms. Maria Elisa Angeles led the seminar for the Grade 11 students. Her talk focused on various career paths and the importance of understanding one's own skills when choosing a future profession.

The Grade 12 students' speaker, Mr. Leonel Samson, RPh, highlighted the importance of career planning and knowing one's interests and abilities in choosing a future career. Ms. Micah Manaloto from the UA Guidance and Admissions Office also discussed the application process for the different programs in the university.

In the afternoon, the Career Runway segment titled "Dress to Impress: Career Runway" commenced. The judges for this event were Ms. Eleonor Silva, Ms. Acell Ninobla, and Ms. Camille Franco. Selected male and female representatives from Grade 12 strutted the runway wearing the attire that represented their dream career. Jerica Angeline Nicole Cunanan from 11 - St. John Benedict Cottolengo also performed an intermission number before announcing the winners. To formally close the program, Ms. Tricia Mae M. Cunanan delivered the closing remarks, followed by the singing of the UA Hymn.

Dress to Impress: Career Runway

Male
1st Place - Charles Bautista (12 - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception)
2nd Place - Elijah Calilung (12 - Our Lady of the Pillar)
3rd Place - Rafael Lorenzo Caballes (12 - Our Lady of Life)

Female
1st Place - Erikha Mae Gamboa (12 - Our Lady of Immaculate Conception)
2nd Place - Xianthea Calderon (12 - Our Lady of the Pillar)
3rd Place - Darlene Ann Balingit (12 - Our Lady of Life)

UA Senior High Brings Passion to Marian Quiz Bee 2025

by Jayleen Irish P. **BAUTISTA**

Marian Quiz Bee 2025, organized by the Center for the Holistic Advancement of Religious Instruction, Spirituality, and Mission (CHARISM) in partnership with the UA Central Student Council. The inspiring event, themed "Indung Mariang MipanUAnan; Kekaming Bie, Lugud at Kapanayan," drew sharp minds to the UA Auditorium on August 12, 2025.

UA Senior High School proudly salutes its standout representatives—Terenz Perez, Rya Ysella A. Lising, and Eliza Carmela B. Lazatin—guided by coaches Sir Quincy Casupanan and Sir Jonarld Manansala. Their passion and teamwork represented the department with unwavering pride in this faith-fueled academic showdown.

UA Senior High School Claims 1st Runner-Up Spot in Super Quiz Bee 2025



by Jayleen Irish P. **BAUTISTA**

UA Senior High School, powered by representatives Rya Ysella A. Lising, Tryxia Lourence L. Guiterrez, and Eliza Carmela B. Lazatin, put up a fierce fight but slipped to 1st runner-up in the Super Quiz Bee 2025. The electrifying inter-department academic showdown was organized by the UA Psychology Society at the University of the Assumption's Domus Mariae Hotel Conference Room on October 8, 2025, from 8 a.m. to noon.

In a nail-biter against UA Junior High School, the Senior High trio clinched silver after battling through three grueling rounds: Easy, Average, and the brutal Difficult. Final scores told the tale—UA Senior High School tallied 8-12-5 for 25 points, edging out Junior High's 6-3-10. But the Education Department dominated with a flawless 8-15-10, securing the championship crown.

A big thanks to the University of the Assumption Psychology Society for organizing this exciting event that brought the whole university together.



Marcos Unveils Key Reforms and National Priorities in his 4th SONA

by Rya Ysella A. **LISING**

President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. delivered his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on Monday, July 28, 2025, before a joint session of the 20th Congress at the Batasang Pambansa Complex, Quezon City. The address lasted 1 hour and 11 minutes, highlighting the accomplishments of his administration and laying out its priorities for the remaining three years of his term—emphasizing food security, healthcare, education, digital access, disaster preparedness, peace and order, and good governance.

Opening his address with a call for national unity, Marcos said, "Isantabi na natin ang ating pagkakaiba, at magkasundo na sa tatlong bagay na nagbibigkis sa atin: sa ating pagiging Pilipino, ang ating pagiging makabansa, at ang ating sinumpaang tungkulin sa taumbayan." He emphasized urgency in governance: "Kailangan pa natin mas lalong galingan. Kailangan pa natin mas lalong bilisan."

Agriculture and Food Safety
Marcos emphasized his administration's success in lowering rice prices: "Napatunayan natin na kaya na natin ang bente pesos sa bawat kilo ng bigas, nang hindi malulugi ang mga magsasaka." Land reform beneficiaries now hold official ownership of their land without remaining debts, and the government aims to further engage the youth through agri-scholarships and training programs.

Electricity and Water
With 2.5 million households now electrified, the administration targets 200 new power plants by 2028. He also addressed water access, warning underperforming service providers: "…titiyakin nating mapapanagot ang mga nagpabaya at nagkulang sa mahalagang serbisyong-publiko na ito."

Education and Teacher Support
To address learning gaps, Marcos announced the Academic Recovery Program, 40,000 classrooms, and better digital tools for teachers. He directly acknowledged educators' struggles: "…ngayong school year na ito, makakatanggap na kayo ng kabayaran para sa inyong teaching overload at para sa inyong overtime."
Free college tuition will continue, with additional merit-based scholarships for high-achieving high school graduates. He also highlighted the expansion of daycare centers and guidance counselors across the country.

Healthcare Expansion
Healthcare reforms included new public hospitals, more accessible medical aid through the eGov app, and expanded PhilHealth benefits covering cancer, kidney transplants, dengue, cataract operations, and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities. Zero-balance billing in all DOH hospitals was also promised. Marcos proudly declared: "...sa kauna-unahang pagkakataon, ang bawat bayan po sa Pilipinas ngayon ay may doktor."

Infrastructure and Transport
Ongoing infrastructure projects include the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge and SLEX extension. The return of the "Love Bus" offering free rides in Visayas and Mindanao, and a mandate for the LTO to release license plates within 3 days, reflect efforts to improve daily mobility. Discounts for seniors and PWDs were raised from 20% to 50%.

Connectivity and Digital Access
Marcos announced the completion of Phases 1-3 of the national fiber backbone, ensuring faster, more affordable internet. One million SIM cards with free data were distributed to rural students, and all public schools are set to have free Wi-Fi by 2025.

Digital Response and Anti-Corruption
After four consecutive typhoons, Marcos ordered the construction of more evacuation centers and transparency in flood control projects. He criticized ongoing failures in flood control, stating, "Kitang-kita ko, maraming proyekto sa flood control mga palpak at 'yung iba, guni-guni lang," and warned corrupt officials, "…mahiya naman kayo sa inyong kapwa Pilipino."

Peace and Security
"Sa wakas, wala na ring nalalabing grupong gerilya sa bansa, at titiyakin ng pamahalaan na wala nang mabubuo muli," Marcos declared. He also renewed his administration's commitment to finding justice for the missing sabungeros, stating that no one—"sibilyan man o opisyal… kahit malakas, mabigat, o mayaman…"—will be spared from accountability.

Youth and Sports Development
Marcos also highlighted sports development as a national priority. "Magbubuhos tayo ng todo-suporta sa mga palaro at mga atleta sa buong bansa," he said, aiming to foster grassroots athletic programs and nurture national pride.

President Marcos ended his SONA on a note of reassurance and resilience, affirming government support amid global uncertainty. "Sa mga matitinding hamon na binabato at hinaharang ng ating mundo ngayon, nasa likod ninyo ang pamahalaan," he said. He urged Filipinos to remain strong and hopeful: "At huwag tayong matakot. Huwag tayong titiklop. Huwag tayong mawawalan ng pag-asa. Dahil ang Pilipino ay likas na matapang, magaling, masipag, matibay, at mabuti."



Former Bamban Mayor Alice Guo Sentenced to Life for Human Trafficking

by Merry Anne B. **MANANQUIL**

Former Bamban, Tarlac mayor Alice Guo was sentenced to life imprisonment on November 20, 2025, after the Pasig City Regional Trial Court found her guilty of qualified human trafficking linked to illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) operations.

The court also convicted seven other Filipino and Chinese co-accused, ordering each of them to pay ₱2 million in fines and provide compensation to trafficking victims rescued from a POGO facility in Bamban.

Authorities alleged that Guo — also known by her Chinese name Guo Hua Ping — is a Chinese national who falsified her Filipino identity to run for mayor in northern Tarlac. Investigators said she operated an illegal scamming hub beside the town hall, using her elected office to shield its operations.

Senator Risa Hontiveros hailed the conviction as a major victory in the fight against transnational crime.

"The conviction of Alice Guo, also known as Guo Hua Ping, is a victory against corruption, human trafficking, cybercrime, and many other transnational crimes," Hontiveros said. "But it is far from over."

She added that authorities must still hold accountable the government agencies that failed in their duties and continue investigating the full extent of foreign criminal infiltration in the Philippines.

Guo fled the country in July 2024 and went into hiding in Indonesia. She was arrested there and deported back to the Philippines in September 2024, where she remained detained while her criminal cases proceeded.

Guo's conviction is considered one of the most significant crackdowns on POGO-linked trafficking in recent years. Authorities said further arrests and investigations are expected as they work to dismantle the networks operating across the country.

Duterte: Sinampahan ng ICC ng Tatlong Kasong Pagpatay

ni Gemie M. **CANDA**



Illustrated by Renzie Elline P. **Maneses**

Pormal na sinampahan ng kaso ng International Criminal Court (ICC) si dating Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na may mga krimen laban sa sangkatauhan. Noong Lunes ng gabi, Setyembre 22, isang 15-pahinang charge sheet ang inilabas sa publiko.

Mula Marso, nakakulong si Duterte sa The Hague, Netherlands, ang lokasyon ng punong-tanggapan ng ICC. Batay sa warrant ng ICC, inaresto siya ng pulisya ng Pilipinas. Ang nasabing mga kaso ay batay sa kaniyang kontrobersyal na kampanya laban sa droga na umani ng maraming kritisismo dahil sa di-umano'y ekstrahudisyal na pagpatay at paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

Ayon sa tatlong bilang ng mga krimen laban sa sangkatauhan, si Duterte ay kasabwat sa 19 na pagpatay sa pagitan ng taong 2013 at 2016 habang siya ang alkalde ng Lungsod ng Davao. Isa pang alalahanin ay ang 14 na pagpatay sa mga "high value target" na naganap sa pagitan ng 2016 at 2017 habang siya ay pangulo. Ang ikatlong kaso ay may kinalaman sa 43 pagpatay na isinagawa sa panahon ng mga operasyon ng "paglilinis" ng mga sinasabing mas mababang antas na mga gumagamit o nagbebenta ng droga. Ang mga nasangkot na tao sa lahat ng kasong ito ay binura bago ilabas sa publiko ang dokumento.

Bukod sa pagiging unang suspek na dinala sa The Hague, sa loob ng mahigit tatlong taon, si Rodrigo Duterte ang unang dating pinuno ng estado sa Asya na kinasuhan ng korte. Mula Marso, nakakulong na siya roon.

Sa loob at labas ng bansa, umani ng iba't ibang reaksyon ang anunsyo. Pinuri ng mga aktibista sa karapatang pantao ang naging paratang. Nakikita ang mga ito bilang babala laban sa walang pigil na kapangyarihan ng estado at isang hakbang tungo sa hustisya para sa mga biktima. Samantala, itinanggi ni Duterte at ng kaniyang mga kaalyado ang mga akusasyon na nagsasabing may motibasyong pampulitika ang mga ito. Depensa niya kinakailangan ang aksyong ito upang tugunan ang problema sa droga sa Pilipinas.

₱545B Flood Control Projects, Iniimbestigahan ng Senado at COA

ni Merry Anne B. **MANANQUIL**

Nag-uumigting ang galit ng publiko kasabay ng mga protesta matapos ang mga nagdaang bagyo at matinding ulan na naglantad ng umano'y pagkabigo ng mga flood control projects. Dahil dito, sinusuri ng Senado at Commission on Audit (COA) ang bilyun-bilyong pisong inilaan para sa mga proyektong sinasabing hindi natapos, mababa ang kalidad, o hindi naipatupad nang maayos.

Simula noong 2022, tinatayang ₱545 bilyon ang ginastos para sa flood control. Lumabas sa mga ulat na malaking bahagi nito ay may irregularidad tulad ng mga proyektong hindi dumaan sa tamang proseso, mga kontratistang tumanggap ng pondo ngunit iniwan ang proyekto, at kumpanyang magkakaiba sa papel ngunit sinasabing iisa ang tunay na may-ari.

Sa mga pagdinig sa Senado, sina Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya at Sarah Discaya ay nagpahayag hinggil sa umano'y mga opisyal ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) at ilang mambabatas na humihingi ng 10–25% kickback. Kabilang sa mga binanggit sina House Speaker Martin Romualdez, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, at Sen. Joel Villanueva, ngunit mariin nilang itinanggi ang lahat ng alegasyon.

Bilang tugon, idineklara ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. na walang sinuman ang maliligtas sa imbestigasyon at nagbuo siya ng independent commission upang siyasatin ang umano'y anomalya. Ipinahinto rin niya ang mga flood control plan para sa 2026 habang binibigyang-prayoridad ang kalusugan, edukasyon, at agrikultura.

Samantala, nagpapatuloy ang protesta ng publiko matapos ang martsa noong Setyembre 12 na dinaluhan ng mga estudyante, aktibista, at mga sibiko. Ginanap din ang mas malaking kilos-protesta na tinawag na "Trillion Peso March" noong Setyembre 21 bilang panawagan para sa hustisya at transparency.

USA vs. Venezuela: A Clash of Nations

ni Gemie M. **CANDA**

President Donald Trump declared on January 2, 2026, that the United States will "run" Venezuela, following the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife in a military operation. This surprising turn of events has thrown the nation into turmoil after enduring weeks of escalating tensions.

The United States Armed Forces initiated Operation Absolute Resolve in the early hours of the morning, targeting key infrastructure across northern Venezuela. The operation began at approximately 2 a.m. local time, marked by a series of explosions that lit up the night sky as air defenses were suppressed.

"The United States of America has successfully carried out a large-scale strike against Venezuela and its leader, President Nicolás Maduro, who has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the country," he wrote on Truth Social early Saturday morning.

Prior to that, the United States government had announced the indictment of Maduro and his associate, Cilia Flores, on multiple charges related to narcoterrorism. The charges were formally presented in a Manhattan federal court, where both Maduro and Flores entered pleas of not guilty on January 5, 2026.

Venezuela requested an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council in response to the attack, Foreign Minister Yván Gil Pinto said.

From his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, Trump stated that the US would take on a central role in managing Venezuela's affairs indefinitely until a formal transition of power can be arranged.
When asked about the possibility of a prolonged military presence, Trump did not dismiss the idea, signaling a potential long-term involvement.



Edu-Action?

Easy to just promise something, but making it come true is a different story



by Tryxia Lourence L. **GUTIERREZ**

A child making a simple mistake about basic Philippine history can be seen as another joke in the lake. It's easy to just laugh at kids being kids, mistakenly saying Noli De Castro instead of Noli Me Tangere, and move on. Yet, that simple joke is a depressing reflection of the broken education system of the Philippines. However, if the government starts to not treat illiteracy as a joke and takes it seriously, the Philippines may still have a chance at saving its youth.

On January 5, 2026, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed the PhP 6.793 trillion national budget for Fiscal Year 2026, with the education sector receiving a budget of Php 1.34 trillion. As a constitutional priority, education consistently receives the largest budget out of all the sectors, yet this year's budget became a historic first, with it being equal to almost 4% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), meant for classroom constructions, teacher promotions, and additional teaching positions.

With such a big budget for a crucial sector, transparency and accountability must be upheld at all times for the money not to be spent on anything other than education. It is easy to just promise something, but making it come true is a different story. Not only is the Department of Education (DepEd) holding the funds of the dreams of countless children, but the trust of the people to put it into good use.

It is also just as easy to break the trust of the people, something that is not new in Philippine history. Children would know that fact if the money were properly spent on improving basic foundational skills, such as reading comprehension. The Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2024 report states that Grade 6 students cannot even comprehend simple texts, making the need for reforms even more apparent.

A good education system provides skilled workers, job opportunities, and economic growth. It is a good sign that the government is recognizing how crucial education is to a country's development. More funding towards education enhances its ability to reach even the most remote areas, giving children a chance at escaping poverty and creating a future for themselves.

No one can absolutely know the truth about whether there will be any improvement in the education system despite the generous budget it has received. However, acknowledgement is already a big victory in the fight for quality education. We can only hope for the best as the year progresses, lest we turn into clowns using the same jokes.

Illustrated by Christine Angel C. **MERCADO**

THE MAGNIFICAT

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A March Beneath the Rain

Breaking the silence: citizens take a stand, unite against corruption



by Hannah Louise R. **RIVERA**

Silence used to be an option. Now, in a country where corruption reaches every sector, it is a choice where people can no longer pretend it is harmless. What happened in the whole country was not made with the intention to overstate corruption, but to face how far it has already reached.

The people-initiated rally at the Metropolitan Cathedral in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, on September 18, 2025, reflected a growing realization that corruption is no longer distant; rather, it has become familiar—a familiarity that the Filipinos are determined to break ties with. This existed because the consequences of corruption have long stopped being taken seriously by those who hold power.

Corruption shows itself in flooded communities that were left behind, public services that never seem to improve, and the promises that sank with the money of the Filipino citizens. These aren't simple incidents, but an obvious work and pattern that many have failed to recognize.

What made the gathering big is not only about the commotion, but the presence of different sectors present at the rally made it more clear, about the growing issue and continuous disrespect and injustice of those who are in power. Students, workers, OFWs, PWDs, religious leaders, and other sectors have come together in this gathering, united with one goal: "Isang Bayan, Isang Laban: Tapusin ang Katiwalian," each affected in different ways, but burdened by the same reality.

Some dismiss rallies as unnecessary and disruptive, but corruption does thrive not because the citizens' efforts to call them out are ineffective, but because people have learned to live with it. They also claim that it causes disruption and is a mere act without any solution. Matters like this should be left to institutions, but accountability fades when no one demands it. Public action does not replace legal process; it is simply an act to call out those who are in power.

The involvement of the Church added weight to the message. What the rally showed was not an outrage for the sake of noise and mess, but a refusal to keep turning a blind eye to the injustice and a call for transparency. Speaking out becomes a responsibility, not a form of rebellion. Who still has the luxury to look away when it has become deeply embedded in one's daily life?

"The rally did not claim to end corruption in a single act. It was a reminder that everyone should stop turning a blind eye and refuse to let corruption thrive further."

When people from different sectors stand firm together under the rain, it becomes clear that this matter has been kept and silenced for way too long. In a country where corruption has reached everyone, choosing to speak up is not simply a want, but a necessity to get the justice everyone deserves.



Photo by Iara Gail E. **GARCIA**

Katotohanan: Para sa Bayan o para sa Kapangyarihan?



ni Hannah Louise P. **RIVERA**

Ang isang bansang sanay na sa mga drama sa loob ng politika ay hindi na nagugulat sa patuloy na paglabas ng mga isyu. Ang akusasyon ni Senadora Imee Marcos laban kay Pangulong Ferdinand "Bong Bong" Marcos Jr. sa paggamit niya ng ilegal na droga ay nagdulot ng maraming katanungan sa taong-bayan, at isa na rito ang tanong na: ito ba ay totoong pagmamalasakit para sa katotohanan at bayan, o isang hakbang para gamitin laban sa politika? Hindi ito tsimis, hindi ito simpleng paninira, at higit sa lahat ay hindi ito nagmula sa mga kaaway, kundi sa sarili niyang kapamilya.

Marami nang nasaksihan ang mga mamamayang Pilipino, sa rami ng drama, away, siraan, at iskandalo, wala nang bago sa mga ito. Ngunit nitong Nobyembre 17, 2025, sa gitna ng pampublikong pagpupulong sa isang rally ng Iglesia ni Cristo sa Quirino Grandstand, Maynila, ibinunyag ni Senadora Imee Marcos ang alegasyon na matagal na raw gumagamit ng ilegal na droga—partikular na ang cocaine, si Pangulong Marcos Jr., na umani ng samot-saring reaksyon mula sa mga dumalo sa pagpupulong.

Mariin ang naging tugon ng palasyo. Mabilis nitong itinanggi ang paratang at sinabing ito ay walang batayan at tinawag na "desperadong atake." Muli rin nitong inilabas ang naging drug test ng pangulo noong 2021. Ngunit sa kabila ng mabigat na alegasyon, ang naging mabigat na katanungan sa publiko ay kung bakit ngayon lang inilabas ng senadora ang impormasyon. Bakit ito nailantad sa gitna ng isyu ng kanilang pamilya at isyu sa korapsyon?

Ayon kay Sen. Marcos, ginawa niya ito dahil sa tawag ng kaniyang konsiyensya—bilang kapatid, senador, at Pilipino. Subalit, hindi mapagkakaila na kapansin-pansin ang tiyempo nito. Lumabas ang isyu sa kasagsagan ng maingay na usaping konektado sa mga may puwesto sa politika, sa pagbaba ng trust ratings ng pangulo, at ang patuloy na hidwaan ng kampo ng mga Marcos at Duterte. Bukod pa rito ay ang maingay na problema sa korapsyon ng mga nakaluklok sa gobyerno, kung kaya't hindi maiwasang pagdudahan ang kaniyang tunay na intensyon.

Hindi na bago sa lahat na isang krimen ang paggamit ng ipinagbabawal na gamot, paano pa kaya sa isang pangulong may mabigat responsibilidad sa isang bansa at kaniyang nasasakupan? Tunay ngang nakapagtataka ang panahon ng paglabas ng impormasyong ito, subalit para sa mga taong naniniwala, mayroon silang prinsipyo na mas mabuti na ang huli, kasya ito ay tuluyang itinago, lalo na kung mayroong moral na obligasyon sa bayan. Marahil ay mahirap para sa kaniya na gawin ito o 'di kaya ay inakala niya na mayroon pang pag-asa. Gayunpaman, kung ito ay dahil sa moralidad, dapat noon pa. Kung dahil sa takot ay bakit nagawa na niya ngayon? At kung tunay ngang ito ay isang instrumento para sa politika, malinaw na kung sino ang talo at kung sino ang sasalo sa paulit-ulit na kahirapan: ang mamamayang Pilipino.

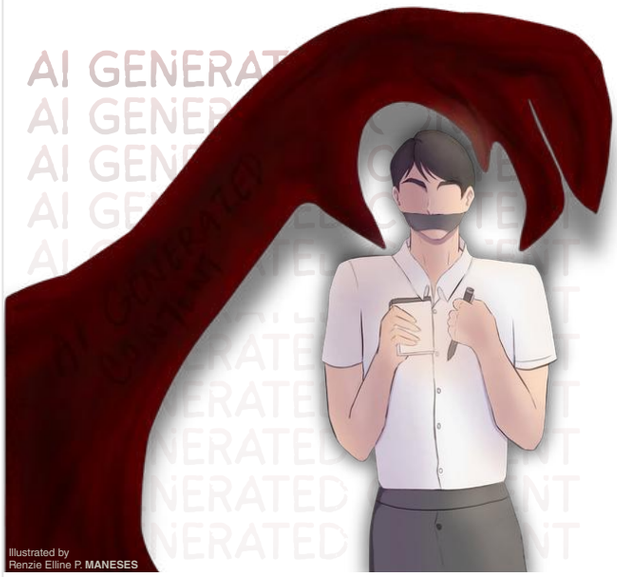
Ang paglabas ng ganitong usapin ay hindi lamang patungkol sa usaping droga, kundi pati na sa usaping integridad, moralidad, hustisya, katotohanan, at pananagutan. Kung gagamitin lamang bilang isang instrumento sa politika ang impormasyong ganito kabigat at kalaki, talo ang Pilipinas at mamamayan nito. Sa gitna ng hidwaan ng mga may kapangyarihan, mamayang Pilipino ang naiipit at naghihirap.

Ang nararapat na gawin sa halip na basta na lamang naniniwala at pumipili ng panig ay dapat magkaroon ng malalim na pagsusuri. Ang mga tao sa politika, media, at ang mamamayang Pilipino ay may tungkulin na siguraduhin ang katotohanan at suriin ang ebidensya nang matalino.

Sa huli, ang katotohanan ay dapat na maghari. Nararapat lamang na ito ay lumabas, hindi kung kailan lang ito napakikinabangan, lalo na sa politika. Hangga't patuloy na nagiging sandata at instrumento ang katotohanan, hindi ang mga makapangyarihan ang biktima, kundi ang mamamayang Pilipino na matagal nang naghihintay ng tapat, maayos, at responsableng pamumuno at gobyerno.



Illustrated by Christine Angel C. **MERCADO**



Illustrated by Renzie Elline P. **MANESES**

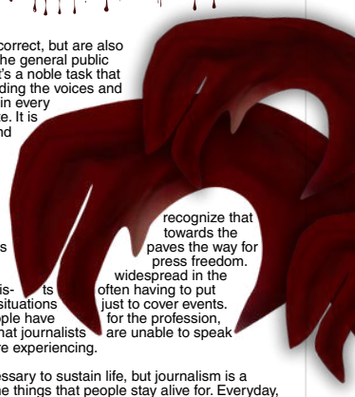
What We Stay Alive for

by Tryxia Lourence L. **GUTIERREZ**

As Artificial Intelligence continues to develop repidly, so do the people's concerns over it taking over vital jobs in human society. Technology, originally meant to do menial tasks, is now threatening the livelihoods of millions of people, who are now apparently disposable because a machine is cheaper to maintain than a fragile human. However, passion isn't something that can be easily replaced or replicated by a robot who is programmed with what to do. You can't replace a nurse with years of experience, a teacher with love for her students, or a journalist willing to sacrifice themself in order to inform the masses.

Many harmful stereotypes about journalists often play into why people don't give press freedom a second thought. Writers are usually rendered as professional liars who twist the narrative according to their beliefs. Photojournalists are often mistaken as event photographers that are only there to document people with their friends. Artists' abilities are dismissed as generative AI, which illustrate how easy it is to 'draw' with a single click. These often make people question journalism's relevance in a day where even newspapers are becoming obscure as technology comes up with something more convenient.

Yet journalists merely don't 'write' articles: they weave information and experience into a story that resonates with people. They create articles that are not only factually correct, but are also easily understandable by the general public and get the point across. It's a noble task that journalists take up—upholding the voices and rights of an entire country in every word of an article they write. It is the way a human thinks and expresses themself is something that can't be recreated easily with a preprogrammed robot.



Although, people fail to recognize that by feigning indifference towards the struggles of journalists, this paves the way for the potential collapse of press freedom. Red-tagging is still widespread in the country, with many journalists often having to put themselves in dangerous situations just to cover events. Along with the ridicule people have for the profession, it makes for a cruel irony that journalists are unable to speak out on the injustice they are experiencing.

Most professions are necessary to sustain life, but journalism is a profession that is one of the things that people stay alive for. Everyday, journalists continue to get up in order to gather information and intentionally go into harm's way so we don't have to. Everyday, they continue to serve the people even if they don't want to be served. This may make some people ask: why? Why do they continue to do it? And the answer to that question is really simple: because journalists know that their words and ideas can change the world.

COMMENTARY

Is the quote "The pen is mightier than the sword" even true anymore? Do the words of journalists hold a candle to the gunshots fired in the distance? Is the truth even still worth the cost of lives? With these questions swirling around, it isn't a surprise that in a list of the top 10 most dangerous jobs, there will always be a place for journalists.

it is very ironic that the national hero of a country that doesn't bother to prioritize press freedom is a well known writer and a journalist himself. How would Dr. Jose Rizal react if he saw what Philippine Journalism is subjected to? The endless threats to their lives, the red-tagging, the situations they shouldn't have gone through but did anyway for the sake of the truth, all of it would be horrendous for him to even think about.

However, a question will always linger: if it's not them who's going to do it, then who will? Who would be brave enough to go against false narratives and accusations? Who would have the courage to find the truth to eliminate the lies? Who would even want to face misinformation and deception with words, pictures, and art materials as their weapons? It may seem like the most impossible task in the world to most people, but to journalists, it's basically just another normal day at work.

It's easy to see why journalists never cease to work to bring the truth to light. Their willingness to serve the people veracity on a silver platter despite being held at literal gunpoint is admirable. They know how powerful they are with mere letters stringed together to form words that could ignite fires. They know how their pictures could not only capture scenes but could also captivate people.

They know that their art wouldn't just be a sight to see but an eye opener to be feared by injustices. With them, the pen, the camera, and the paintbrush would always be mightier than any weapon they're put against.

by Eliza Carmela B. **LAZATIN**

Pondo ng Bayan, Nilamon ng Katiwalian

ni Maria Louisse Blessie S. **MUSNGI**

Kasabay ng malalakas na patak ng ulan ang naghaharing pangamba sa puso ng mga mamamayang Pilipino na baka sa isang iglap lang, ang kabuhayang kanilang pinagpaguran ay siyang aanurin lamang ng mga nagtatataasang agos ng baha. Kasalungat nito ang kaginhawaang tinatamasa ng mga opisyales ng gobyerno na komportableng naninirahan sa matataas na pader ng kanilang tahanan. Hanggang kailan magtitiis ang mga Pilipino na sindihan ang upos na kandilang hindi mapalitan ng gobyerno?

Kamakailan lang ay binatikos ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang 15 kontraktor na dawit sa mga palpak na flood control projects. Kinlaro pa ni Sen. Rodante Marcoleta na ang 545 bilyong pisong tinutukoy ng pangulo ay siya lamang pabuya para sa mga 15 kontraktor at ang kabuuang badyet na nakalaan para sa mga proyektong ito ay nagkakahalaga ng 849 bilyong piso. Gayunpaman, tila ang bilyon-bilyong pisong ito ay hindi nagastos sa tamang paraan at dumapo lamang sa palad ng mga korap na politiko. Nasaan ang katarungan para sa mga Pilipinong kumakayod araw-gabi upang makapagbayad ng buwis na ngayo'y kinukurakot lang pala ng mga nanunungkulan?

Nakakaya nilang punan ang luho ng kanilang mga kaanak gamit ang buwis na binabayad ng taumbayan ngunit hindi nila kay ang tugunan ang pangangailangan ng kanilang nasasak tupan. Patunay nito ang labis na karangyaang tinatama sa ng mga anak ng mga nangungunang kontraktor sa Pilipinas na hindi makatatakas sa mata ng publiko. Makikita sa kanilang mga social media posts kung gaano kalaki ang ginagastos nila para sa kanilang mga kasuotan, bag, alahas, at ultimo ang gamit nilang sasakyan sa pagpunta nila sa iba't ibang bansa. Kaya kaliwa't kanan ang katanungan ng taumbayan kung saan nga ba talaga napunta ang nakalaang pondo para sa mga sinasabing proyekto ng gobyerno, ngayong napag-alaman na halos lahat ng itinayong flood control projects ay gumuho at nasira na.

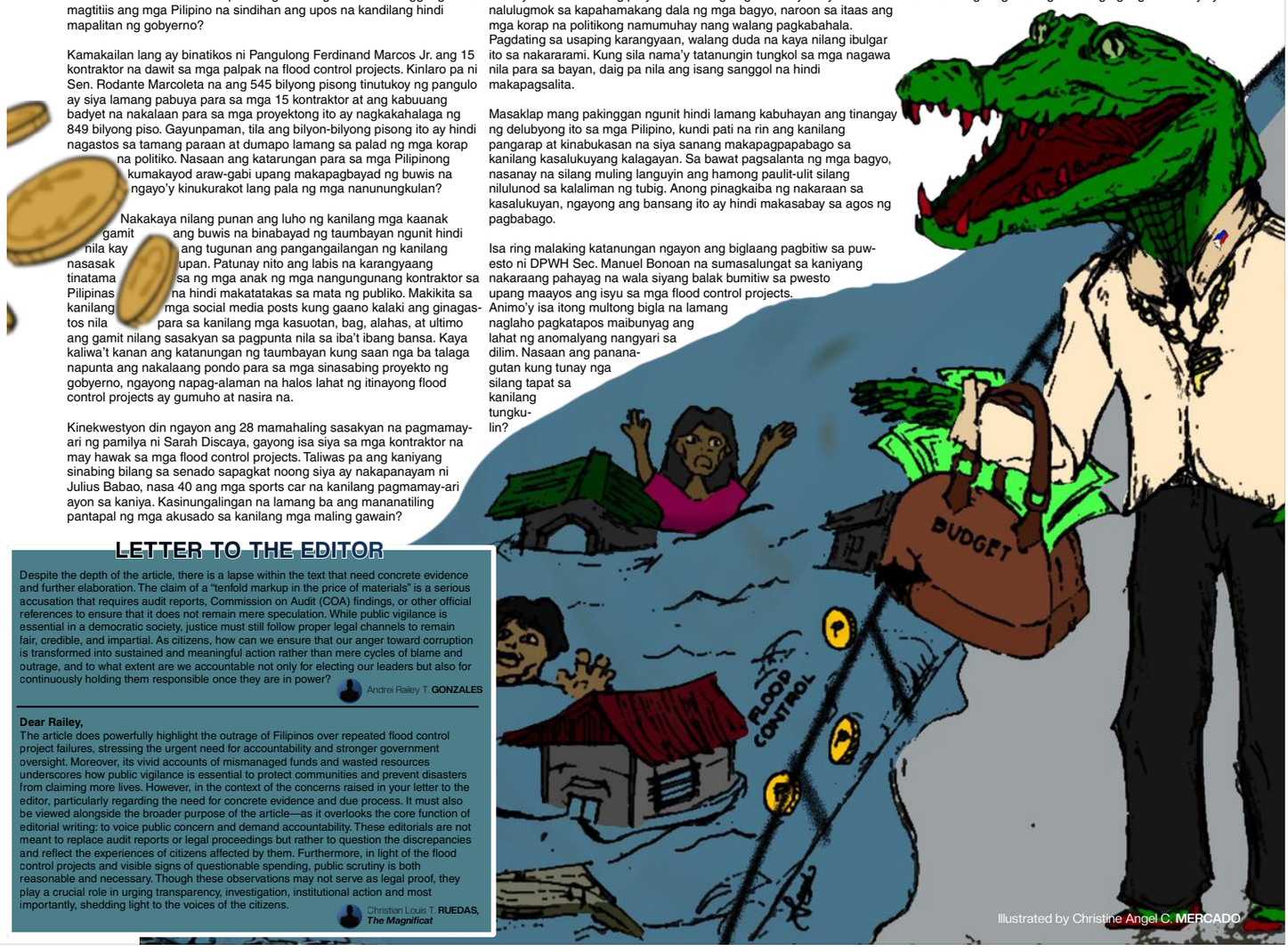
Kinekwestyon din ngayon ang 28 mamahaling sasakyan na pagmamay-ari ng pamilya ni Sarah Discaya, gayong isa siya sa mga kontraktor na may hawak sa mga flood control projects. Taliwas pa ang kaniyang sinabing bilang sa senado sapagkat noong siya ay nakapanayam ni Julius Babao, nasa 40 ang mga sports car na kanilang pagmamay-ari ayon sa kaniya. Kasinungalingan na lamang ba ang mananatiling pantapal ng mga akusado sa kanilang mga maling gawain?

Ang katiting na pag-asa ay patuloy na tinutuklap ng kadilimang dala ng korapsyon. Isang patunay pa rito ang sobra-sobrang halagang nakatala sa datos ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) ngunit tinapalan lamang nila ang katotohanang pinatungan ng mga kontraktor nang halos sampung beses ang tunay na presyo ng mga ginamit na materyales sa nasabing proyekto. Habang ang taumbayan ay nalulugmok sa kapahamakang dala ng mga bagyo, naroon sa itaas ang mga korap na politikong namumuhay nang walang pagkabahala. Pagdating sa usaping karangyaan, walang duda na kaya nilang ibulgar ito sa nakararami. Kung sila nama'y tatanungin tungkol sa mga nagawa nila para sa bayan, daig pa nila ang isang sanggol na hindi makapagsalita.

Masaklap mang pakinggan ngunit hindi lamang kabuhayan ang tinangay ng delubyong ito sa mga Pilipino, kundi pati na rin ang kanilang pangarap at kinabukasan na siya sanang makapagpapabago sa kanilang kasalukuyang kalagayan. Sa bawat pagsalanta ng mga bagyo, nasanay na silang muling languyin ang hamong paulit-ulit silang nilulunod sa kalaliman ng tubig. Anong pinagkaiba ng nakaraan sa kasalukuyan, ngayong ang bansang ito ay hindi makasabay sa agos ng pagbabago.

Isa ring malaking katanungan ngayon ang biglaang pagbitiw sa puwesto ni DPWH Sec. Manuel Bonoan na sumasalungat sa kaniyang nakaraang pahayag na wala siyang balak bumitiw sa pwesto upang maayos ang isyu sa mga flood control projects. Animo'y isa itong multong bigla na lamang naglaho pagkatapos maibunyag ang lahat ng anomalyang nangyari sa dilim. Nasaan ang panana-gutan kung tunay nga silang tapat sa kanilang tungku-lin?

Hindi mahirap ang Pilipinas, sadyang nabihag lang ito sa katiwalian ng gobyerno. Pagboto sa mga nararapat na kandidato ang pinakamalakas na sandata ng sambayanan. Walang kapangyarihan ang mga gahaman kung ang bawat isa ay mulat ang mata sa panlolokong nangyayari sa bayan at bukas ang tenga sa mga hinaing ng mga nasa laylayan.



Illustrated by Christine Angel C. **MERCADO**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Despite the depth of the article, there is a lapse within the text that need concrete evidence and further elaboration. The claim of a "tenfold markup in the price of materials" is a serious accusation that requires audit reports, Commission on Audit (COA) findings, or other official references to ensure that it does not remain mere speculation. While public vigilance is essential in a democratic society, justice must still follow proper legal channels to remain fair, credible, and impartial. As citizens, how can we ensure that our anger toward corruption is transformed into sustained and meaningful action rather than mere cycles of blame and outrage, and to what extent are we accountable not only for electing our leaders but also for continuously holding them responsible once they are in power?

Andrei Railey T. **GONZALES**

Dear Railey,
The article does powerfully highlight the outrage of Filipinos over repeated flood control project failures, stressing the urgent need for accountability and stronger government oversight. Moreover, its vivid accounts of mismanaged funds and wasted resources underscores how public vigilance is essential to protect communities and prevent disasters from claiming more lives. However, in the context of the concerns raised in your letter to the editor, particularly regarding the need for concrete evidence and due process. It must also be viewed alongside the broader purpose of the article—as it overlooks the core function of editorial writing: to voice public concern and demand accountability. These editorials are not meant to replace audit reports or legal proceedings but rather to question the discrepancies and reflect the experiences of citizens affected by them. Furthermore, in light of the flood control projects and visible signs of questionable spending, public scrutiny is both reasonable and necessary. Though these observations may not serve as legal proof, they play a crucial role in urging transparency, investigation, institutional action and most importantly, shedding light to the voices of the citizens.

Christian Louis T. **RUEDAS,** *The Magnificat*



“Palitan na natin ang pag-iisip natin. Hindi ito unusual. Hindi ito emergency.”

ni Gemie M. **CANDA**

Makikita sa bawat bagyong sumasalanta sa bansa ang kakulangan sa aksyon ng gobyerno. Hindi sapat ang pagnanais na kaginhawaan ng sambayanan kung ang tanging solusyon ng pamahalaan ay pagtitiis. Hanggang saan ang kaya nating sisirin kung ang mga tagapamuno ay wala pa ring pagsisisi?

Patunay na lamang nito ang kasalukuyang sitwasyon, kung saan tatlong magkakasunod na bagyo na pinangalanang Crising, Dante, at Emong, ang pumasok sa Philippine Area of Responsibility at nagdulot ng matinding pinsala. Ang bawat isa sa mga ito ay nagdulot ng malubhang epekto at nagbigay perwisyo sa mga Pilipino. Bukod pa rito, maraming kalsada ang nalubog sa baha at maging ang mga bahay ay pinasok na rin ng rumaragasang baha. Subalit kung may normal man sa mga nangyayari, ito ay ang hindi kasapatan na aksyon ng gobyerno. Sa bawat administrasyong dumaan, hindi na nalutas ang problema sa pagbaha tuwing may bagyo. Patunay nga ba ito na kada may sakuna ay wala nang mababago? Sa tingin ko ay hindi, bagkus hudyat ito upang magkaroon ng mas bagong pagtugon ang gobyerno.

Ayon sa Kagawaran ng Badyet at Pamamahala, 21 bilyong piso ang nakalaan sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund ngayong taon. Ang pondo na ito ay naglalayong bawasan ang mga pinsalang maidudulot ng mga sakuna at tulungan ang mga nasalanta. Subalit sa kalagayan ng mga komunidad sa kasalukuyan, tila naging bula na lamang ang pondo na dapat ay para sa pagtugon sa baha. Hindi natin kailangang magtiis kung ang problema ay kaya namang bigyang solusyon ngunit hindi lamang isinasakatuparan.

Lubog ang mga kalsada, puno pa rin ng mga basura, at pili lamang ang binibigyan ng ayuda. Hindi kailangan tuwing mayroong lamang na sa tuwing may pondo ang gobyerno, inilalaan ito sa ganito ang solusyon na sakuna. Nararapat mga tunay na nangangailangan. Dapat na inklusibo ang pagbibigay ng saklolo upang lahat ay makaiwas sa peligro. Kung patuloy na pilian ang pagbigay ng tulong, paano na lamang ang mga Pilipinong walang pribilehiyo?

Paano na lamang ang mga pamilyang nasa laylayan, kung saan nagdulot ng matinding banta ang mga Bagyong Crising, Dante at Emong? Ang kanilang mga bahay at ari-arian na bunga ng taon-taong pagsisikap ay nasira sa harap mismo ng kanilang mga mata. Para sa kanila, ito ay tila impiyerno sa lupa—hindi lamang isang kaguluhan, kundi isang pagsubok na mahirap lagpasan. Isa itong sapilitang pagbabalik sa umpisa, na para bang binura at binasura ang lahat ng kanilang pinaghirapan.

Marahil ay hindi ganoon kalalim ang epekto ng bawat bagyong dumaraan sa mga may maayos na kalagayang pinansyal, may matibay silang tirahan at sapat na salaping magagamit sa oras ng sakuna. Ngunit para sa mga kapos sa pribilehiyo, tanging perwisyo ang dulot ng bagyo. Tumatagas ang kisame at ubos na ang badyet dahil sa kanseladong trabaho o kaya ay mahina ang kita. Umaasa na lamang sila sa ayuda ng pamahalaan upang malagpasan ang pinsala, ngunit paano kung ni isang sakong bigas ay hindi pa rin dumating?

Sa katunayan, muling inilalantad ng ganitong mga kalamidad ang matinding agwat sa kalagayang panlipunan at pangkabuhayan ng mga mamamayan. Lalo itong lumilinaw sa paraan ng pagtugon ng pamahalaan sa mga hinaing ng sambayanan. “Palitan na natin ang pag-iisip natin. Hindi ito unusual. Hindi ito emergency,” ani ng pangulo. Ngunit dapat bang baguhin ang pag-iisip ng taumbayan, o mas kailangan bang gisingin ang damdamin ng mga pinuno? Sobra ba ang ating reaksyon o sadyang manhid lamang ang ilan dahil hindi nila nararanasan ang krisis sa parehong paraan? Habang ang iba ay nangangambang mawalan ng lahat, ang iba naman ay kayang tingnan ang isang bagyo bilang isang maliit na abala. Habang ang iba ay nagtitipid sa pagkain upang magkasya ito hanggang bukas, ang iba naman ay masayang nagsasalo ng masasarap na putahe sa kanilang hapag. Hindi madaling bumalik sa umpisa, lalo na kung wala ka nang babalikan. Pagkatapos ng bagyo at baha ang naiwan na lang ay wasak na bahay, kulang na pagkain, at walang kahit anong kagamitan.

Panahon na upang matigil ang bulok na sistema ng pagtulong sa bansa. Marahil panahon na rin upang tigilan ang pagsasabi ng mga insensitibong salita tulad ng: “Sana bumagyo para walang pasok,” “Sana lumakas pa ‘yong ulan para palaging suspended ang klase,” o “Mayor, kailan po suspension?” Ang mga salitang ito ay nakakalat sa lahat ng social media platforms—tila biro ngunit sumasalamin sa isang malungkot na realidad. Dapat magkaroon ng mas mainam na proyekto sa paghahanda sa kalamidad. Nararapat lamang na ang nakalaang pondo ay mapunta sa bawat Pilipino at hindi sa sariling bulsa.

Sa huli, ang tunay na sukatan ng katatagan ng isang komunidad ay hindi kung gaano kahusay nitong nalalabanan ang isang bagyo, kundi kung gaano ito kahusay na nakabangon mula rito. Kilala ang mga Pilipino sa pagiging matatag lalo na sa panahon ng mga kalamidad, ngunit kahit na ang pinakamalakas ay nangangailangan din ng tulong.

Huwag tayong mapagod lumusong upang makamit ang pagsulong na inaasam. Samahan ng pagsusuri ang pagtitiis para sa matagal ng ninanais na kaligtasan. Pumili ng mga pinuno na hindi trapo at ilalaan ang pondo para magbigay ng saklolo sa bawat Pilipino. Gayunpaman, kahit lubog na ang mga eskinita ay palaging may pagkakataon upang makaahon pa.



Illustrated by Christine Angel C. **MERCADO**



Wash Away

by Tryxia Lourence L. **GUTIERREZ**

Apparently, it is not only dreams and futures that the floods are washing away, but also the voice of the people. For those in power, it is easy to just let a natural disaster erase hindrances to their personal interests. That way, their hands would not be sullied with the blood of the people, and they could continue walking on the countless bodies that died due to their incompetence.

Hours before State of the Nation Address (SONA) was going to be delivered by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., on July 28, 2025, protesters gathered at Mendiola, Manila to present what they called the “true” state of the nation, with more than 500 individuals from different groups gathering to address issues including flood control funds, rising prices, and corruption.

With all of these issues attacking the Philippines understandable. Seeing the people who swore to serve the public only ever turn a blind eye to their suffering, countless times, builds up over time until it explodes. What the people want are not empty promises and white lies, but the truth, even if it’s ugly and hideous.

Yet the truth continues to be buried under the will of those in power, pulling strings inside to maintain control and scrub everything clean. The delayed impeachment of Vice President Sara Duterte is proof that, as long as there is a will, there will always be a way for the power-hungry to get what they want.

However, power does not come from those high up, but from the people who granted them the privilege to have that power in the first place. If the people’s voice says that there needs to be a change, they will see it done. And those in power know that it would not be the first time that the people tried to revolt and ended up winning.

The Philippines has been trapped in a cage created by its own leaders, hope dwindling that it could have another chance at freedom from the corrupt. There is a reason why it continues to suffer, and it is because of those in power intentionally making everything worse. It is not the end just yet, though: there is still time to save the Philippines from corrupt hands. Let the floods not wash away our hope, but the corruption that plagues our country.



Illustrated by Renzie Elline P. **MANESES**



When the Blind Refuses to Go Deaf

by Yaelis Claudine P. **BALIGAT**

Those who are born without golden spoons shoved up to their mouths are forced to learn to lick off knives—or perhaps, suck blood from the barrels of guns.

I once envisioned a lady looking so majestic, draped exquisitely in a robe that epitomizes dignity. In one hand, she held a scale of fairness, the other was a sword that portrays courage. Her eyes were concealed by a blindfold that promises justice.

That sometimes made me wonder, did she choose to be blinded to remain just? Or just to deprive herself from the sight of her sword that had long been covered in speckles of blood, and her scale which had lost its weight?

In Quezon City, streets were flooded with crowds of people, voicing protests that sounded like prayers. Hoping that not only the Highest Being would hear their pleas, but also those who are seated in high positions. With placards up high, rallyists raised their hands. No longer fighting for democracy, but to surrender—as guns with badges had entered the scene.

Politicians, feeling the fear creep within, rumoredly flashed destitute individuals with money which flamed the eyes of the saboteurs with brutality, aggression, and force. Disrupting the rally, the guard dogs turned into wolves, no longer guarding but hunting, jailing, injuring, and killing even the innocent.

With this incident, not only innocent people were forced to minimize their shouts into whispers of protests flying through the wind where the souls of the guiltless now travel, but also the media. Pens somehow lost their inks, cameras shifted directions, and posts associated with these issues were taken down, enforcing a part of history to be washed clean, erased—dimming the light of truth and accuracy in this country that's reminiscent of a vast black space of dark lies.

Chants faded in a blur, overpowered by gunshots. Teardrops flowing from the eyes of activists who weepingly begged for impartiality then turned into blood, muting the power that belonged to the people, not to the government. Silenced to death, activists had been reported missing during the Trillion Peso March, some, worse, continued their march towards the gateways of Heaven, never making it home once more.

Echoing chaos in the roadways of Metro Manila, who do we truly call when the police murders? With undenying beauty, Lady Justice may have her eyes veiled, but her ears are open wide, unflinchingly hearing the gunshots, mess, and our cries. And if she does, it is time for the whole nation to do so too.

"And if justice and the nation do not move, we, the people who hold the power, move them."

Illustrated by Ma. Katherine V. **GOZUN**

PASCUNG MIPANUANAN'

A Decade of Light, Faith, and Assumptionist Unity

by Rya Ysella A. **LISING**

Under a sky that tested both patience and faith, the University of the Assumption once again proved that tradition, when rooted in community and purpose, shines brightest even in the rain.

UA CapascUAn marked its 10th year of celebration last November 21, 2025, at the St. Thomas Aquinas Students' Courtyard (STASCY), bringing together Assumptionists from different departments and colleges for one of the University's most anticipated annual Christmas traditions. Bearing the theme "Pascung MipanUAnan," the celebration drew its name from the Kapampangan word nuan, meaning blessed—a fitting description of a night filled with light, faith, and shared joy.

Organized by the University of the Assumption Central Student Council (UACSC), the event transformed the courtyard into a living testament of creativity and devotion, beginning with the much-awaited parol display. Handcrafted lanterns made from recycled materials lined the grounds, each one reflecting not only environmental consciousness but also the Assumptionist spirit of innovation and stewardship. Every department and college poured weeks of effort into their designs, turning sustainability into storytelling through light.

Adding depth and soul to the celebration was the second staging of the Panunuluyan musical play, a dramatic reenactment of the search for lodging by St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Performed by the ever-talented Assumptionists, the production drew the audience into the quiet struggle, hope, and humility that define the true meaning of Christmas. Through powerful vocals, expressive choreography, and heartfelt acting, the Panunuluyan became more than a performance, it was a prayer in motion.

The night also served as a stage for Assumptionist talent across organizations. College students from the Rondalla ensemble filled the air with traditional melodies, while the UA Junior High School Dance Troupe energized the crowd with precision and passion. The celebration reached a stirring peak as the UA Grand Choir delivered harmonies that echoed throughout the courtyard, reminding everyone that music remains one of the strongest vessels of faith and unity.

Even a sudden downpour, the first to interrupt CapascUAn in its decade-long history, failed to dampen the spirit of the celebration. As rain fell, umbrellas rose, yet the program continued. The community stood firm, united by a shared resolve to celebrate despite the storm. The rain, instead of ending the night, became a symbol of perseverance and collective strength.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the Parol-Making Competition winners, recognizing both creativity and advocacy:
1st Place: College of Nursing and Pharmacy
2nd Place: School of Arts and Sciences
3rd Place: School of Education

Their works stood as glowing reminders that excellence can emerge when artistry, sustainability, and collaboration come together.

As warmth spread through the crowd, helped along by the simple joy of free puto-bumbong, the celebration reached its most breathtaking moment: the lighting of the University. One by one, the STASCY, campus façade, parking lots, and pathways came alive with lights and parols, bathing UA in a glow that signaled the official welcome of the Christmas season. It was a moment of collective awe, where silence briefly replaced cheers, and gratitude filled the air.

More than a festive gathering, Pascung MipanUAnan embodied the University's graduate attributes. The event showcased Assumptionists as Biasa, academically competent in their planning and execution; Maganaca, spiritually well-grounded in faith-centered performances and reflections; and Mayap, socially responsible through sustainable practices and inclusive participation. In celebrating Christmas, the Assumptionist community once again affirmed its mission to form Catholic leaders who lead with light, service, and compassion.

A decade on, UA CapascUAn remains more than a tradition; it is a living expression of what it means to celebrate Christmas as one Assumptionist family: blessed, united, and unwavering, even in the rain.

The Radiance of Indu ning Kapampangan

by Sebastien Philippe P. **MAYRINA**

The 8th of September truly is an exceptional day for Kapampangans as it is the time to commemorate the solemn image of the Virgen de los Remedios — ing Indu Ning Kapampangan. In the midst of uncertainty, chaos, and societal issues, let us not forget to look up to the image that once gave our fellowmen hope during their darkest days. Virgen de los Remedios was a symbol of reconciliation and healing, and to this day continues to be one. As Assumptionists, it is important that we understand what this celebration means not only to Kapampangans but to the entire province of Pampanga. In the same manner, let us take a moment to remember the history of the Virgen de los Remedios and how we are so connected to her gracious image.

Virgen de los Remedios, also known as Mother of Remedies, is the patroness of Pampanga, Philippines, and is a testament to the unwavering will that resides in each Kapampangan. The Marian image of Virgen de los Remedios became a symbol of healing, faith, and hope among Kapampangans back in the 1950s, when the province of Pampanga was plagued with unrest. After World War II had subsided, Pampanga was divided by poverty, social inequality, and violence by the Hukbalahap rebellion. Tension quickly emerged within the region, and the unity that once was there had seemingly disappeared. It was during that time, that Most Rev. César María Guerrero, the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of San Fernando, assimilated that the recent global tragedy had greatly affected the Kapampangan people. In his discernment, the Kapampangans displayed much piety but lacked charity. To combat this, he cultivated the Cruzada de Penitencia y Caridad (Crusade of Penance and Charity) during the
third Sunday of February 1952. It was also during this time that Bishop Guerrero turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary and was inspired by the image of Virgen de los Remedios — the image was then used for the Cruzada, signifying healing and relief. By taking time to pause and reflect on the beautiful and heart-warming history of Virgen de los Remedios, we ourselves feel the healing and reconciliation that she so graciously offers. It is important to realize that as followers of Christ, we must not only admire Mary's symbolism of healing but also imitate her actions. As Archbishop Florentino Lavarias once said during his homily for VDLR, "The Virgin is not looking for admirers… The Virgin is looking for imitators." As Assumptionists taught to be, and shaped to be Christian formators, we must live by the example of VDLR, being the healing that this world so desperately needs. In times of darkness, let us not forget the shining image of Virgen de los Remedios; through her abundant healing, and as our mother, we too will become symbols of unity and reconciliation in our world.

In light of today's celebration, let us not forget to thank and celebrate the Blessed Virgin as our hope and as our mother. It is said that mothers will always be the light that illuminates the path for their children. As such, may the ever-glowing radiance of the Indu Ning Kapampangan always shine upon us — and may she fill our hearts with immense love and healing on this day. May the Virgen de los Remedios continue to instill within each and everyone the value of peace, unity, camaraderie, and charity. Fellow Assumptionists, may we continue being agents of her healing grace as we celebrate her glorious intercession. "Numerous miracles and answered prayers are attributed through the intercession of Virgen de los Remedios. Marriages are strengthened, families reunited, the sick are healed, and disputes are settled." By the words of Vidal Aguas, may the Virgen de los Remedios become the center of our everyday lives. May we live by her purpose, spreading peace to all, helping in any way we can through charitable actions like lamac, and by continuing to be biasa, maganaca, and mayap.

The Solemnity of Our Lady of the Assumption: A Promise of Eternal Life Fulfilled

by Loraynne Reeth Concepcion A. **SADSAD**

The 8th of September truly is an exceptional day for Kapampangans as it is the time to commemorate the solemn image of the Virgen de los Remedios — ing Indu Ning Kapampangan. In the midst of uncertainty, chaos, and societal issues, let us not forget to look up to the image that once gave our fellowmen hope during their darkest days. Virgen de los Remedios was a symbol of reconciliation and healing, and to this day continues to be one. As Assumptionists, it is important that we understand what this celebration means not only to Kapampangans but to the entire province of Pampanga. In the same manner, let us take a moment to remember the history of the Virgen de los Remedios and how we are so connected to her gracious image.

Virgen de los Remedios, also known as Mother of Remedies, is the patroness of Pampanga, Philippines, and is a testament to the unwavering will that resides in each Kapampangan. The Marian image of Virgen de los Remedios became a symbol of healing, faith, and hope among Kapampangans back in the 1950s, when the province of Pampanga was plagued with unrest. After World War II had subsided, Pampanga was divided by poverty, social inequality, and violence by the Hukbalahap rebellion. Tension quickly emerged within the region, and the unity that once was there had seemingly disappeared. It was during that time, that Most Rev. César María Guerrero, the first bishop of the newly established Diocese of San Fernando, assimilated that the recent global tragedy had greatly affected the Kapampangan people. In his discernment, the Kapampangans displayed much piety but lacked charity. To combat this, he cultivated the Cruzada de Penitencia y Caridad (Crusade of Penance and Charity) during the third Sunday of February 1952. It was also during this time that Bishop Guerrero turned to the Blessed Virgin Mary and was inspired by the image of Virgen de los Remedios — the image was then used for the Cruzada, signifying healing and relief. By taking time to pause and reflect on the beautiful and heart-warming history of Virgen de los Remedios, we ourselves feel the healing and reconciliation that she so graciously offers. It is important to realize that as followers of Christ, we must not only admire Mary's symbolism of healing but also imitate her actions. As Archbishop Florentino Lavarias once said during his homily for VDLR, "The Virgin is not looking for admirers… The Virgin is looking for imitators." As Assumptionists taught to be, and shaped to be Christian formators, we must live by the example of VDLR, being the healing that this world so desperately needs. In times of darkness, let us not forget the shining image of Virgen de los Remedios; through her abundant healing, and as our mother, we too will become symbols of unity and reconciliation in our world.

In light of today's celebration, let us not forget to thank and celebrate the Blessed Virgin as our hope and as our mother. It is said that mothers will always be the light that illuminates the path for their children. As such, may the ever-glowing radiance of the Indu Ning Kapampangan always shine upon us — and may she fill our hearts with immense love and healing on this day. May the Virgen de los Remedios continue to instill within each and everyone the value of peace, unity, camaraderie, and charity. Fellow Assumptionists, may we continue being agents of her healing grace as we celebrate her glorious intercession. "Numerous miracles and answered prayers are attributed through the intercession of Virgen de los Remedios. Marriages are strengthened, families reunited, the sick are healed, and disputes are settled." By the words of Vidal Aguas, may the Virgen de los Remedios become the center of our everyday lives. May we live by her purpose, spreading peace to all, helping in any way we can through charitable actions like lamac, and by continuing to be biasa, maganaca, and mayap.



The Birth of Hope

by Ma. Ana Ysabelle B. **MENDOZA**

Every September 8, we come together to celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, the Mother of our Savior. While the exact date of Mary's birth is not mentioned in Scripture, it is recounted in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James, a second-century gospel narrating the life of Mary—from her parents' story to her birth and eventual marriage.

The eighth of September was chosen as her feast day because it falls exactly nine months after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, reflecting the natural course of a human pregnancy. Liturgically, this date lies between two significant feasts related to Mary's life, highlighting God's divine plan. Through His grace, Saint Anne, previously barren, was able to conceive Mary according to the natural order.

Saint Augustine of Hippo once wrote, "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth, the nature we inherited from our first parents changed." Mary's birth symbolizes the reversal of the disobedience of Adam and Eve, bearing our hope and salvation—Jesus Christ. In Mary, we see purity, humility, faithfulness, and perfect obedience to God's will.

Mary, born to Saints Anne and Joachim, gave the world not only its Savior but also hope and the promise of salvation. Though her Nativity is not a biblical narrative, it remains a silent and enduring miracle for Catholics across centuries.

In the Philippines, Filipinos are known as "Pueblo Amante de Maria" or "people in love with Mary," reflecting the depth of devotion to the Blessed Virgin. The day is celebrated through Masses, processions, praying the Holy Rosary, and visits to Marian shrines.

Yet beyond tradition and celebration, the Nativity of Mary calls us to reflect on our own lives. As Assumptionists, we are inspired not only to honor Mary but to emulate her virtues—compassion, love, faith, humility, and obedience. Her birth reminds us that each of us has apurpose in life, and by saying "yes" to God's plan, we fulfill it. Like Mary, we may not always understand God's plan, but unwavering trust in Him allows us to walk faithfully on our path.

Beyond the Golden Crown:

Emma Tiglao's Outstanding Win in Miss Grand International 2025

by Kristianne Erika R. **BALAJADIA**

A breathtaking moment echoed across the Philippines as Emma Mary Tiglao was crowned Miss Grand International 2025 on October 18, 2025, awarding the country's first back-to-back win in the pageant's history. Emma stood tall as the Philippine National Anthem resonated around the MGI Hall in Bangkok, Thailand— a meaningful testament to not only her victory but also the country's unending prominence in the global world of pageantry. For a nation deeply passionate in beauty competitions, Emma's triumph was more than a crown and a title—it was a statement of Filipino excellence in an international stage. As she succeeded her fellow Filipina, Christine Juliane "CJ" Opiaza, they both marked an outstanding consecutive win for the Philippines at the Miss Grand Internationa stage.

Emma Tiglao's runway to the global spotlight was anything but easy. Born and raised in Mabalacat, Pampanga, she first started in local pageants before stepping onto the larger stages. At just 18, she placed first runner-up in Mutya ng Pilipinas 2012, then continued to compete in several national competitions, including Binibining Pilipinas and Miss World Philippines. In 2019, Emma earned the title Binibining Pilipinas Intercontinental, representing the Philippines at Miss Intercontinental in Egypt, where she finished among the Top 20.

Despite her accomplishments, she stepped back from pageantry in 2019 and continued to step out of the spotlight for six years, a period she later described as a time for personal growth and clarity. As she eturned in 2025, marking her first pageant after the break, she graced her journey with a deeper sense of purpose.

In her interviews following her outstanding international win, Emma shared that her comeback was motivated by a desire to use pageants as a platform to elevate her voice on issues she cares deeply about, pursuing meaning beyond titles—blending her years in media, modeling, and advocacy into one poised performance on the world stage.

Throughout the competition, Emma shone and impressed judges with her eloquence, advocacy, and stage presence. In the final round, she confronted a challenging question about global scams and human trafficking with a thoughtful response, drawing on her experiences as a journalist to emphasize education, awareness, and justice system reforms. Beyond her performance, from her fashion to her speech, she showcased Filipino creativity and heart.

Filipinos celebrated Emma's historic win, praising her for embodying resilience and national pride. As posted by Miss Grand International on social media, her homecoming parade was held in Makati. The beauty queen reiterated that her victory belonged to all Filipinos who supported her pageantry journey. Her title brought pride not just to beauty pageant enthusiasts, but to a nation watching with collective anticipation.

Emma Tiglao's story is not just about wearing a crown and receiving a title. Rather, it's about dedication, perseverance, and courage. After a long and winding runway —marked by attempts and pauses, she returned to claim the title that many believed was always meant to be hers. In doing so, she didn't just make history, but she also reminded her country of what Filipinos stand for: beauty paired with purpose and dreams that shines far beyond the stage.



Mothering a Revolution

by Ma. Ana Ysabelle B. **MENDOZA**

When one hears of the infamous Philippine revolution against the Spaniards, the mind conjures the ripped cedulas, blood-stained gravel, echoed war cries, and a graveyard of warriors. Gore, violence, and rebellion were the primary languages of this period in Philippine history. Heroes were recognized for their contributions to the Philippines' liberation from Spanish rule, and it's time to introduce another. Finally, after years of being an Unsung Hero, it is her time to receive the recognition she finally deserves.

In her old age, maternal care was the language she spoke during the time of oppression and control from the Spaniards. Who would suspect an 84-year-old elderly woman, seemingly docile and gentle, to be one of the vital pillars that contributed to taking down the villains of that time? She held no Bolo in her hand. Her secret lies in her maternal touch and welcoming hands for the soldiers of the Katipunan, led by none other than Andres Bonifacio.

Truly, she treated them as her own children. Her home became a sanctuary for the sick and wounded soldiers. When night fell, she ensured they were well-fed, properly healed, and prayed for spiritual support for those who fought to loosen the chains shackling the beloved country. It also became the secret headquarters of the Katipuneros, narrowly hiding from the eyes of the Spanish colonizers to whisper the plans of their movement that would eventually lead to their success.

Even after she was captured for her contributions to the revolution against the Spaniards, it did not make people forget the sacrifices she made to gain ground towards the freedom that the Philippines and its people fought desperately for. She was acknowledged as the "Mother of the Katipunan" and "Grand Woman of the Revolution" until today, proving that her maternal care is as vital as any blade, even as the 84-year-old woman faced the cruel and cold faces of the Spanish colonizers.

For centuries, she was acknowledged through the quiet corners of the history books, briefly mentioned and then forgotten after a few days. But now, she has finally received the recognition she deserves. As President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared the day to honor the heroic deeds of Melchora Aquino, better known as 'Tandang Sora,' for the first time on the 6th of January 2026, this date is as important as it commemorates her birth anniversary. This day marks the moment her legacy has truly emerged out of the battlefield's shadows and entered the light and heart of the nation.

She is not only an inspiration but also a symbol of patriotism, for she has shown unwavering love and devotion to the country and its people.

"I have no regrets, and if I have nine lives, I would have gladly give them all up for my country" - Melchora Aquino.



The Olympian's Role

by Jayleen Irish P. **BAUTISTA**

In the gritty world of combat sports, where every punch tests limits, Hergie Tao-Wag Bacyadan stands tall as a trailblazer. The Filipino transman boxer and kickboxer didn't just compete at the 2024 Paris Olympics—he made history as the first openly transgender athlete to represent the Philippines on the Olympic stage in women's boxing. Now, he's adding bronze to his legacy at the 2025 SEA Games, proving that heart and hustle transcend categories.

Bacyadan's latest triumph came on December 12, 2025, in the women's 70 kg boxing division at the SEA Games. Facing Thailand's Baison Manikon in a gut-wrenching bronze medal bout, he fell short via split decision after a war of attrition. Yet, the loss only fueled the fire that ignited his passion. "I gave everything," Bacyadan said post-match, his voice steady. This medal caps a frenetic year, building on his Olympic debut, where he exited early but gained global respect.

Not one to stay in a single ring, Bacyadan showcased his chameleon-like versatility at the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. Switching seamlessly from Olympic boxing to kickboxing, he dominated Hungary's Valentina Keri in the women's K1 70 kg quarterfinals on August 19, 2025, at Sichuan Gymnasium. A unanimous 3–0 decision propelled him to the semifinals, where his explosive kicks and unyielding pressure left the crowds roaring at his dominance.

Born female but identifying firmly as male, "My heart and mind are that of a man," he told Preview magazine. Bacyadan has navigated identity debates with a quiet resolve. From the streets of Quezon City to the international arenas, his journey embodies defiance. At 28, with pro bouts in Muay Thai and a growing fanbase back home, he's not just winning fight —he's rewriting the rules.

As Bacyadan eyes the 2028 Olympics, one thing's clear: in a sport of warriors, he has the ultimate underdog story, punching above his weight and inspiring a nation.



A Decade to Celebrate, a Milestone to Commemorate.

by Sebastien Philippe P. **MAYRINA**

As hearts brim with gratitude and pride, the UA Senior High School commemorates a momentous milestone—a decade of Catholic formation rooted in academic excellence, moral competency, and social responsibility. From its dawn as an educational reform that many once doubted, UASHS has risen above any and all adversity and solidified itself as a paradigm of revolutionary education, redefining how teachings are imparted, practiced, and upheld. As a bastion of Christian formation, the Department is a living testament to the university's core values—excellence, integrity, and obedience—molding every student to be a servant leader. Through service orientation, teamwork, and open communication, UASHS continues to cultivate the minds and hearts of the future generation. It nurtures the youth to be Biasa, thinking with conviction; Mayap, leading with purpose; and Maganaca, serving with compassion.

Of course, the trailblaze would not have begun if there weren't brave souls who chose to bear the torch of our tomorrow. She has illuminated the path we stride and imparted to us a legacy that is still being cherished by her successor to this day. To join them in this pursuit of knowledge are the revered faculty and school personnel, who make it their life's mission to bequeath wisdom and values to the heirs of tomorrow. Finally, the vanguards of the future—the students and graduates of UA Senior High School—who carry forth the will of those who came before. Such a community built on fellowship, conviction, and aspiration can only be brought to life with the camaraderie and unity of the entirety of the department today. As we celebrate the first decade of this legacy, let us take a moment to recognize the voices of the very people who make up this community.

Every leader always has their hopes and vision for the future they are leading. In this case, our dearest principal has stated hers:

"I always pray for everyone's safety and success every day. I want to see everyone, particularly the students, to become successful also. For teachers, I want to see them na ma-establish nila or ma-develop nila 'yung path nila, the support of the UA Senior High School will always be there. So sa ating mga Non-Teaching Personnel, sila 'yung mga hindi natin nakikita pero I ang wish ko sa kanila, is talagang 'yung they will remain strong and healthy, because without them, talagang 'yung operations na'tin hindi matutuloy-tuloy."
- Mrs. Chrysanta S. Rodriguez, UASHS Principal

Of course, the department would not be able to thrive without one of its foundations. Her words sparked with pride as the SHS department achieved 10 successful years:

"The people in the Senior High School all make up a community for the betterment of our students. I really pray that it will continue to flourish, it will continue to do its mission of training or forming students to be not only Biasa, Maganaca, and Mayap, but also ready for the world."
- Doc. Violy Fernanda Y. Santos, former UASHS Principal

Our very own faculty would like to impart some messages as they join in this wonderful celebration:

"This 10th-year celebration is special because, aside from the program and performances prepared by the students and faculty, it also serves as a gathering of graduates from various batches starting from 2018. It is truly impactful to see all the graduates share their achievements and how UA Senior High School has shaped them into who they are today."
- ABM Department

"The most significant thing that I want to highlight is the product of the department, our students and graduates. In a decade of academic excellence and transformation, the UASHS became stronger every year, adapting to new modalities, curriculum, and generations. This year is extra important as it indicates the 10 years of continuous excellence, and the best proof of that is our current and previous students who are excelling in different fields. This celebration is for them and the teachers and non-teaching staff behind this 10-year amazing run."
- HUMSS Department

"The SHS anniversary celebration allows us to reflect on how far we've come—from the very first batch of Senior High students who took a chance on a new educational system, to today's learners who take on the strengthened curriculum. It not only honors the accomplishments of the past but also reaffirms the school's dedication to nurturing future generations of leaders, innovators, and compassionate citizens."
- STEM Department

"Ultimately, I'd like to celebrate the milestones of our graduates and those who have been with us in the last 10 years. In this community, I have seen people come and go, but they always take the lessons and values with them. Our sense of gratitude and humility in God provides a strong foundation for who we are and what we will become—not just better but a transformed version of how God wants us to be."
- EAR Department

"Nais nating bigyang-pugay ang tapang ng mga pioneer na guro at administrador na buong-loob na humarap sa mga hamon ng bagong sistema ng edukasyon. At higit sa lahat,
ipinagdiriwang natin ang tagumpay ng
bawat graduate na aktibo nang nagtatayo
at nagpapaganda hindi lamang
ng kanilang sariling
kinabukasan kundi pati
na rin ng kinabukasan
ng ating bansa."
- Filipino & CLE
Department

"For the past 10 years,
UA Senior High School
has consistently produced high-quality students with the attributes of Biasa, Maganaca, and Mayap students who will serve the people and our country. The fact that UASHS continues to produce students with the attributes and is formed into Catholic leaders, while the department and curriculum continue to evolve, is already something worth celebrating."
- Non-Teaching Personnel

Without a doubt, our very own students also want to convey how much the community means to them."I feel truly proud and grateful to be part of this milestone.

It means being part of a legacy built on perseverance and growth, a community that never stops striving for excellence. It's about finding your purpose and path, embracing challenges, and
becoming the best version of yourself that you can offer. It's learning to lead with a kind heart and to serve with humility."

I want every student to truly appreciate everything that UASHS has to offer. I've been on both sides—as a student and as an SSC officer. Through both, I've learned the meaning of servant leadership, dedication, and unity. UASHS has shaped me in ways I'll always be grateful for, and I hope each student embraces every moment, every opportunity, and every lesson it gives. Let us continue carrying these values forward, so that the spirit of UASHS lives on for generations to come. Here's to honoring ten transformative years of growth, passion, and excellence!"
- UASHS Supreme Student Council

Each sentiment echoes the aspirations and dreams of many and cultivates a mosaic masterpiece that truly reflects the very purpose of UA Senior High School. Truly, it remains a home for the plentiful individuals who have been shaped by the very ideals the university stands by. None of this would be possible if there were ever a single person missing—everyone has paved the way, and those who will continue along this path are vital pieces to the puzzle that keeps the heart of the Senior High School beating. Mamayagpag, Senior High! As we journey onward, may we all continue to transform and be transformed to be like Jesus through Mary! Hail Assumption!



Beyond the Equations

by Larelyn C. **PABUSTAN**

On the morning of October 19, 2025, while the world outside bustled with its usual rhythm, Marco Abraham N. Roxas, a Grade 11 Assumptionist, sat in the quiet sanctuary of his room. The clock ticked from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., marking not just the passage of time but the unfolding of a journey that would shimmer in memory—a journey filled with numbers, perseverance, and triumph.

It was there, in the comfort of his own space, that he faced the questions of the Thailand International Mathematical Olympiad (TIMO). The Olympiad is no ordinary contest; it is a crucible where young minds from across the globe wrestle with the complexity of mathematics. Each problem was not just a test but a puzzle waiting to be solved with patience and precision.

But what inspired him to take on the challenge? What was it that he hoped to gain from this?

"I wanted to prove to myself that I am still capable, that I still have what it takes to make others proud through academic competitions."

His inspiration came not only from within but also from the people around him: friends who believed in his potential, mentors who pushed him beyond his comfort zone, and family members who supported him all throughout.

In the end, the silver medal he secured gleamed as proof of his hard work and determination. It is a testament to the idea that passion, when nurtured, can transcend borders and bring honor andinspiration not only to oneself but to many. With Leonardo da Vinci's words echoing in his heart: "Learning never exhausts the mind," his journey closes not as an ending, but as the beginning of greater pursuits, reminding us all that perseverance and passion will always light the path forward.



One Bead

by Loraynne Reeth Concepcion A. **SADSAD**

"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." This m
it seems like the rosary is nothing more than just a string of beads used i
helps us strengthen our spiritual life and draw closer to God through Mary
highlighting its significance in our lives as Catholics. And yet, Pope Pius I
have any sharp edges or violence laced in its beads. Although a simple p
that makes it one of the most enduring and transformative devotions of th

The Holy Rosary is a traditional prayer dedicated to meditating on the live
giving the Rosary to St. Dominic to use against the Albigensian heresy. T
recited using a string of beads. As time went by, the "Our Fathers" were re
followed by them being divided again into the four mysteries. Finally, Pope
Pontifices. Its rich history aside, in the present time, the prayers being rec
making it a Scripture-based prayer. This affirms its power and efficacy in l
and Glorious—the Rosary guides the faithful in recalling and reflecting on
events in memory, but we also deepen our relationship with Christ, allowi

The Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary is commemorated on October 7
remembrance, the faithful gather as one in praying the Rosary, embodyin
of Our Lady, usually being done on the first days before the feast. Anothe
one household to another, with families and neighbors gathering to pray t
one, reflecting and becoming closer to Jesus hand-in-hand. We pray the R
bead we hold and prayer we recite, we wholeheartedly remember Jesus.
find difficult to take—in following God. Through Mary's intercession, the R
step closer to our own salvation as well.

As a timeless devotion, the Rosary remains a powerful aid for us individu
today's fast-paced and distracting world, its simplicity offers a much-need
its rich history and centuries of practice, but also in its enduring ability to
envisioned. An army not of violence, but of faith, thus conquering the wor
to carry on this sacred tradition together, not just in October but as part o

GLOBAL CLASSROOMS: UA-UFE FORGE NEW HORIZONS



by Sebastien Philippe P. **MAYRINA**

Gertee tavtai mori!! In April 2025, the University of the Assumption partnered with the University of Finance and Economics (UFE) in Mongolia for the Faculty Exchange Program that focused on strengthening cross-cultural ties, enhancing educational practices, and building lasting partnerships amongst global institutions.

More than just a professional milestone, this program has not just served the school but also the teachers who were sent to participate in this cultural exchange. It provided meaningful experiences and valuable insights that will be part of their growth throughout their years of service. In addition to this, it also fosters opportunities for academic collaboration, cultural exposure, and professional development.

Despite being thousands of miles away from home, UA Senior High School's representative, Ms. Chinee S. Nucup, bridged the gap with her courage and expertise. Teaching in a new environment with new surroundings and culture, she didn't just deliver lessons, but she also absorbed them just as much. Now, after months of being away, she has returned home with more than just souvenirs. She carries with her the weight of the success of the program, the memorable experiences, the invaluable lessons, and the unforgettable relationships she has made throughout her stay in Mongolia. She has done her purpose in becoming one of the contributing members who played a vital role in the expanding goal of the school because of her courage, dedication, and expertise.

The successful completion of the exchange has strengthened international partnership, mutual respect, and growth, and shared commitment to the goal of global education and excellence. Welcome back, Ms. Chinee! Hail Assumption!

SINULID NG PAGKAKAISA



ni Larelyn C. **PABUSTAN**

Sa bawat titik na bumubuo sa ating baybayin, sa bawat salitang ibinubuga ng ating mga bibig, at sa bawat tulang niliikha ng ating damdamin—dito naglalakbay ang diwa ng isang wika. Sa pagsapit ng buwan ng Agosto ay ipinagdiriwang ang Buwan ng Wika, isang paalala na ang ating sariling wika ay hindi lamang kasangkapan sa komunikasyon, kundi isang sinulid na nag-uugnay sa puso ng bawat Pilipino. Pagsapit ng buwang ito ay muling nabubuhay ang diwa ng pagiging Pilipino sa puso ng bawat mamamayan.

Tuwing sasapit ang Buwan ng Wika, tila muling nabubuhay ang diwa ng ating lahi—nagigising ang alaala ng mga bayani, umaalingawngaw ang mga salitang matagal ng nakabaon sa kasaysayan, at muling sumisiklab ang apoy ng pagkakakilanlan. Sa bawat dekorasyong makabayan na isinasabit sa mga paaralan at sa bawat balagtasan na isinagawa sa gitna ng palakpakan, nabubuo ang imahe ng isang sambayanang hindi lamang ng paggunita ang hinihingi, kundi patuloy na pagpapatibay. Gayon pa man, hindi lamang ito isang simpleng pagdiriwang, isa itong paalala na sa gitna ng makabagong teknolohiya, banyagang musika, at globalisasyon, nananatiling buhay—lumalaban, umaangkop, at nagtataguyod—ang wikang Filipino.

Sa mga paaralan, ang Buwan ng Wika ay isang pista ng kultura; mariringig ang mga sigaw at tinig—mga tinig ng mga kabataang umaawit ng kundiman at masayang sumasabay sa ating musika. Ngunit, sa gitna ng mga palakpakan at paligsahan, namumulat din ang mga kabataan na ang wika ay hindi lamang aralin kundi isang sandata sa buhay. Mula sa sabayang pagbigkas, patimpalak sa pagsulat, at pagtatanghal ng mga katutubong sayaw, nagiging makulay ang silid-aralan sa pagdiriwang ng ating wika. Ang pagdiriwang nito sa paaralan ay tila isang munting rebolusyon—isang tahimik ngunit makapangyarihang hakbang tungo sa mas malalim na pagmamahal sa sariling wika. Sa pagtatapos ng bawat aktibidad, hindi lamang alaala ang naiiwan, kundi panata—panatang gagamitin, iingatan, at ipagmamalaki ang wikang Filipino sa bawat yugto ng buhay.

Ang Buwan ng Wika ay hindi lamang isang pagdiriwang, ito ay isang panawagan—panawagan na gamitin, pagyamanin, at ipagmalaki ang ating wika. Ito ay isang paalala na sa bawat titik at salita, naroon ang kasaysayan ng ating lahi, ang sigaw ng ating mga bayani, at ang pangarap ng isang bansang nagkakaisa. Kahit saan ka man mapadpad—sa kabundukan, sa dagat, o sa gulo ng lungsod, huwag na huwag kalilimutan ang wikang unang bumigkas ng salitang "Kalayaan." Sa kabila ng lahat, sa wika, tayo'y nagkakaisa; sa wika, may buhay ang kultura.

, ONE STEP O SALVATION

essage from Pope Pius IX reminds us of the great and immense power of the rosary. At first glance, n prayers or liturgical practice, but it is far more than that. The Holy Rosary is a prayer in itself that y, the loving mother of Christ. Every October, the Church dedicates it to celebrating the Holy Rosary. X emphasizes that praying the Rosary can conquer the world. However, the said prayer does not rayer that anyone can learn in a few minutes, the Rosary carries a profound history and meaning e Church.

es of Jesus and Mary, dating back to the beginning of the 13th century. It started as a legend of Mary hen, during the Middle Ages, illiterate monks and laypeople kept track of the 150 "Our Fathers" being placed with "Hail Marys" as this tradition grew. The 150 prayers were then divided into 15 decades. e Pius V in 1569 approved the present form of the Rosary in the Papal Bull, Consueverunt Romani cited in the Rosary are mainly from the Sacred Scripture—primarily the Our Father and Hail Mary—honoring Mary, the mother of Christ. Through the four mysteries—the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, the key moments of Jesus' life and Mary's role in salvation. Not only do we preserve the sacred ng us to grow in holiness, faith, and reflection.

7th, the anniversary of the triumph of the Catholic naval forces against the mighty Turkish fleet. In g the "army" Pope Pius IX once described. Special masses and novena prayers are offered in honor r cherished tradition is the Block Rosary, a tradition in which the image of Our Lady is moved from he Rosary together. In our own university, we start our mornings with the Rosary, praying together as Rosary not out of obligation, but out of a sincere desire to grow closer to Christ. With every prayer the path He set for us, the teachings He gave out, and how He initiated the first steps—the steps we losary recalls salvation history. When we recite every prayer assigned to each bead, we take one

als in deepening our relationship with God while also strengthening us against the forces of evil. In ed moment of peace and reflection amidst the noise. The importance of the Rosary lies not only in bring us closer to Christ. Praying it together as one allows us to manifest the "army" Pope Pius IX ld by leading souls to salvation. One bead does not make up the Rosary, but many, so let us continue f our daily lives, with every bead as one step closer to salvation.

THE BLOOD THAT BIRTHED DEMOCRACY

by Jerilyn Mae R. **GUTIERREZ**

In a bleak country with a bleak yesterday, hope was born out of sacrifice. The silence of oppression was broken by the voice of a man who dared to stand for freedom, even at the cost of his life. The late Senator Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino's courage reminded the people that democracy is not a gift bestowed by the powerful, but a right that must be fought for and defended by all. His story is not just history—it is a call to every generation to guard the liberty he gave his life for.



Every August 21, the nation pauses to acknowledge Ninoy Aquino Day, honoring the man who bravely stood against dictatorship and injustice. Ninoy Aquino was a senator, an opposition leader, and a journalist, who used his influence to speak out for our country's freedom. His assassination in 1983 awakened the Filipino people and became the spark that ignited the People Power Revolution, forever changing the course of our nation's history.

Ninoy Aquino's legacy continuously lives on, not only in the pages of history but also in the hearts of Filipinos who continue to cherish freedom and democracy. At a time when division and trials persist, his words, "The Filipino is worth dying for," stand as both a promise and challenge: a promise that the nation is capable of greatness, and a challenge for every citizen to prove those words true. Ninoy's death was not the end of his fight; it was the spark that awakened a nation. Today, it is up to us to keep that flame alive.

A MOMENT OF PERFECT BALANCE

by Jerilyn Mae R. **GUTIERREZ**

Monday, evening of September 22, 2025, a quiet moment of balance unfolded high above us.

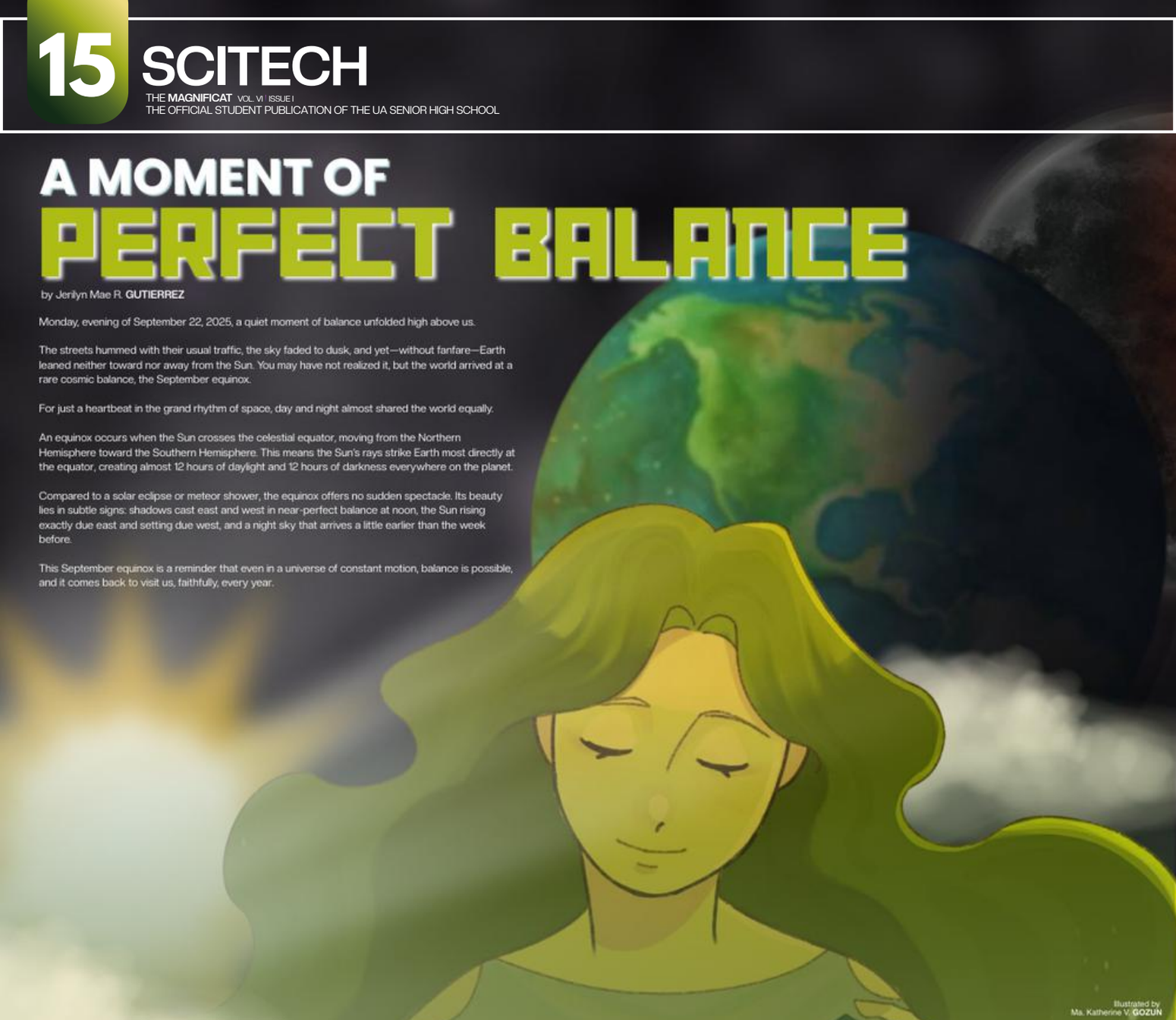
The streets hummed with their usual traffic, the sky faded to dusk, and yet—without fanfare—Earth leaned neither toward nor away from the Sun. You may have not realized it, but the world arrived at a rare cosmic balance, the September equinox.

For just a heartbeat in the grand rhythm of space, day and night almost shared the world equally.

An equinox occurs when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, moving from the Northern Hemisphere toward the Southern Hemisphere. This means the Sun's rays strike Earth most directly at the equator, creating almost 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness everywhere on the planet.

Compared to a solar eclipse or meteor shower, the equinox offers no sudden spectacle. Its beauty lies in subtle signs: shadows cast east and west in near-perfect balance at noon, the Sun rising exactly due east and setting due west, and a night sky that arrives a little earlier than the week before.

This September equinox is a reminder that even in a universe of constant motion, balance is possible, and it comes back to visit us, faithfully, every year.



Illustrated by
Ma. Katherine V. **GOZUN**

THE GREAT WALL OF LUZON: BEAUTY WITH A PURPOSE

by Rianne Clarine R. **DE MESA**

The Great Wall of Luzon sounds a bit too much like a wearisome role, doesn't it? By depending on the lives of numerous Filipinos on Sierra Madre during times of calamity, it is undeniable that the mountain range reaches a withering point. But even so, time and time again, Sierra Madre's role as the "backbone" of Luzon has proven to be undefeated. However, is relying on it enough to keep us safe?

Sierra Madre, also recognized as the "natural barrier" against typhoons from the Pacific, continues to be unceasing. It spans over 540 kilometers or 340 miles, making it the longest mountain range in the Philippines. With its dense forestry along with its fascinating length, it is able to play a crucial role in flood control and climate regulation.

Environmental science has long shown that mountain ranges like the Sierra Madre weaken typhoons by disrupting wind patterns and absorbing excess rainfall. Modern climate studies and disaster-risk technologies continue to confirm their role in reducing flooding and storm-related damage across Luzon.

From a bird's-eye view, the mountain range presents a breathtaking sight of beauty. But little did we know, within its beauty is a warrior-like purpose—taking in the first toll of potential damage as it is placed at the frontline. Because of this, Filipinos have unshaken trust in Sierra Madre.

By lessening the force of typhoons, Sierra Madre helps prevent massive economic losses, protecting homes, agriculture, and infrastructure that sustain millions of Filipinos. Without this natural barrier, the cost of disaster response, rebuilding, and lost livelihoods would provide an even heavier burden on the national economy.

Because of the fact that it is hauled over, we cannot argue that we become more vulnerable as we continue to depend on this mountain range. Several inadequacies in self-preparation, such as the failure to push through with flood control projects, continue to arise. Besides this, our acts of overexploitation of the natural resources it has to offer become the breaking point of Sierra Madre.

In spite of the fact that this mountain range makes us feel at ease that we are secure, we must remember that Filipinos also have a role to play, and it goes both ways.

Indeed, Sierra Madre protects us—so we must protect it as well.

BLOOD MOON

SCIENCE DEMYSTIFIED

by Franz Jeric G. **PANGILINAN**

Last September 7–8, 2025, the Moon had risen—not with its usual silver sheen, but with a haunting crimson red.

The total lunar eclipse, aptly called the "Blood Moon," has struck fear and wonder alike over millennia. From early Mesopotamians associating it with an attack on their king to modern omens linking it to bad luck, there are many superstitions and legends that pervade discussions of this celestial phenomenon.

These myths were mostly born as a result of trying to explain the unexplainable. But with technology now on our side, one question remains: what is the science behind it all?

How Does a Blood Moon Come to Existence?

Occurring once every one to three years, a blood moon happens when the Earth is perfectly aligned between the Sun and Moon. The Moon moves into the inner parts of the Earth's shadow and receives the sunlight passing through Earth's atmosphere, lighting it a red hue.

Why Does a Blood Moon Turn Red?

As sunlight scatters and filters through the Earth's atmosphere, blue wavelengths diffuse, which allows the longer red wavelengths to reach the moon. This phenomenon, called the "Rayleigh Scattering," is what gives the moon its signature blood red color.

For the Blood Moon Onlookers...

Visibility

The earlier Blood Moon was visible to approximately 77% of the world's population. Most regions were able to bask in the Blood Moon's view, with the Americas being the only major regions missing out.

Asia and Western Australia – The regions with the best view, with the entire eclipse being visible from start to finish.

Europe, Middle East, and West Africa – While the eclipse was still mostly visible in these regions, the view may falter slightly with the Moon's premature rising or setting during totality

Eastern Australia and New Zealand – The later phases of the eclipse were only visible partially in these regions.

North and South America – These regions only saw the eclipse for some phases, as the Moon had set before totality could begin.

When will it Occur Again?

Don't fret if you missed the chance to view this striking starshow! The next blood moon is predicted to happen on March 2–3, 2026, with it being visible in Asia, Australia, and North America.

Common Myths vs Scientific Facts

Myth – The blood moon brings bad omen, often being linked to misfortune within communities.
Fact – This phenomenon is a predictable astronomical event with no link to luck. Any significant connection is cultural and likely stems from the fear of the unknown, especially when we didn't have the means to determine its causes using current technology.

Myth – The blood moon damages the eyes when looked at directly.
Science – While the sun rays during a solar eclipse can cause eye injury, the light in a lunar eclipse is completely safe to look at with the naked eye.

Myth – The blood moon causes a higher chance of earthquakes.
Science – There is no significant connection between the occurrence of a total lunar eclipse and an earthquake. The gravitational pull of the Moon is too small compared to Earth that it is highly unlikely to induce an earthquake.

Next time a blood moon appears, let us appreciate the true magic in motion: not in its mystifying folklore or mythologies, but the atmospheric scattering of the Earth that bathed the Moon in its scarlet glory.

Smiles Aren't Always Happy

by Franz Jeric G. **PANGILINAN**



"Filipinos are the happiest people in the world."

You may have heard this phrase one way or another from your teacher, family, or even people on the internet. Filipino resiliency is romanticized as an indomitable barrier that allows us to face adversity with hope and optimism. Even when typhoon Yolanda ravaged our land, our homes, and our lives, we were still able to smile.

But a picture of a smiling Filipino does not tell the whole story. All too well, people with mental illnesses are also accustomed to smiling, especially in a country that puts happiness on a pedestal.

Mental health disorders are not to be taken lightly. They are clinically recognized conditions studied by psychologists and psychiatrists, involving chemical imbalances in the brain which directly affects a patient's mood, behavior, and daily functioning.

The prevalence of mental disorders ranges from 11.3% to 11.6% in the Philippines, translating to about 13 million Filipinos suffering from mental illnesses. Even so, only about 5% of our healthcare budget is allocated towards mental health services. This reflects a greater cultural stigma in our country, where mental illness is seen as a sign of personal failure and weakness. Filipinos who don't fit society's standard of normalcy are labeled with the derogatory term "baliw" (crazy), causing them to conceal their inner suffering and consequently avoid seeking professional help.

Families, who should be one's emotional support system, are sometimes the very people who ostracize their members with mental illnesses in fear of putting their reputation at stake. Friends, who should provide comfort and assistance, sometimes downplay their issues as if they were easily remedied by simply being "positive." Furthermore, many people are still stuck with the belief that mental illnesses are just an illusion, not debilitating disorders. Even people who suffer from mental illnesses themselves are sometimes the ones with self-stigma due to a sense of shame, self-blame, and fear of negative judgment.

Over the years, advances in psychology, aided by science and technology, have made diagnosis and treatment more effective through therapy methods, medical interventions, and digital platforms such as teleconsultations. However, limited funding and access prevent many Filipinos from benefiting from these advancements, affecting their ability to work, study, and live productive lives. A suffering nation results in a suffering economy and vice versa.

Despite the continuous effort of mental health professionals and organizations, progress remains slow. The government should be a primary source of support, yet it is often unresponsive to these issues, providing little to no economic support to further mental health advancements and reforms. Although we have existing mental health legislation, there are no reports that monitor their implementation and compliance with international human rights.

These issues surrounding the topic of mental health have culminated in a culture of self-reliance and toxic positivity. Because of stigma, discrimination, and the lack of support, people with mental illnesses are discouraged from getting the help they need.

And thus, they are often left with one option: to put on a smile.

Because in a society that values outside appearances over individual well-being, it's their best hope of surviving.

Let us begin World Mental Health Day with acknowledgement and acceptance. By encouraging open discussion that includes mention of mental health without shame, we can push back the harmful social norms that pervade this issue. Let us strive to create a culture where people with mental illnesses aren't forced to hide their issues behind a veneer of smiles, because we all have the right to feel and be truly happy.

THE ECHOING CATASTROPHE IN THE CITY

by Rianne Clarine R. **DE MESA**



Illustrated by Christine Angel C. **MERCADO**

As the conflict between Palestine and Israel continues to be unceasing, so do the lives of humanity put at the frontline of facing life and death. Hunger and famine overrule the lands of Gaza as the adverse effects of the bloodshed and disunity of the two countries prevail. What was once the Holy Land is now in ruins. Is it a mere call for help? Or is it an echoing catastrophe?

Malnutrition, impaired development, and cognitive and physical disabilities are just a few of the countless effects caused by prolonged hunger and famine to human beings. For the City of Gaza, food insecurity leaves the lives of Palestinian people with no choice but to face the days going by with empty stomachs. As reported by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), one in three people's refuge can't be found through food, as they go days without consuming the proper nutrition needed by their bodies.

Prolonged famine causes severe physiological and cognitive damage, particularly in children. Studies in nutrition and developmental biology show that chronic malnutrition impairs brain development, immunity, and physical growth, leading to long-term health consequences.

According to Hospitals, the overwhelming number of 20,000 children are being treated for acute malnutrition, with 74 deaths reported as of today. This number speaks volumes about the situation that not only puts their lives on the line but also their future. Their future should've been filled with dreams, but instead, it haunts them. They lack security, are robbed of ambition, and are deprived of the plans they once had for themselves. Humanitarian organizations rely on technology such as food security databases, satellite imagery, and logistics tracking systems to identify at-risk populations and deliver aid. Unfortunately, ongoing conflict disrupts these systems, worsening the crisis.

Journalists, too, face an everyday battle in Gaza. They continue to fight and risk their lives just to let the rest of the world know about the city's reality. Carrying only their pens, cameras, and voices, they walk through the rubble of danger to report the truth. Yet many do not make it back home. Gaza has become one of the deadliest places for journalists, with countless reporters injured, arrested, or killed while on duty. Their commitment is not simply to their profession but to humanity itself—reminding us that without their courage, much of the world would remain blind to Gaza's suffering.

Everything seems so irreversible due to the burdening weight of the two countries' unceasing conflict. The fear of losing the rate of survival fosters the home of many. But for Gaza, it's not just a scare—it's a nightmare. The city is facing the worst-case scenario of hunger. Classified as prolonged hunger, famine is not temporary and cannot be easily addressed. And yet, we turn a blind eye and choose to overlook their situation because we are aware that it does not affect us. Some sympathize, but never commit themselves to act on it. Is this really what they need?

The uncertainty of the country's helpless state is evident, but the hope is never zero. The Palestinian people put their hope and are counting on the rest of the world to open up their eyes and realize that lives should not be lost for freedom to be earned. As people who are privileged enough not to be deprived of freedom, it is a must to speak for those who can't.

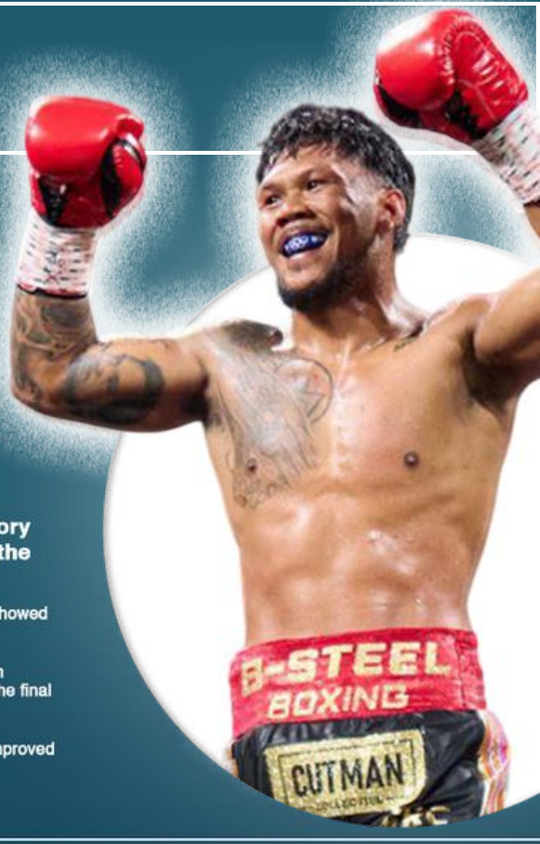
Ondeed, it is an echoing catastrophe, longing to reach out to the rest of humanity. However, it is also a test of our shared unity, as we hope to put an end to this calamity.

Marcial Rises, Conquers Thrilla

Marcial's Thrilling Comeback Clinches WBC Title in Thrilla in Manila Anniversary

by Jayleen Irish P. . BAUTISTA

Filipino Olympian Eumir Marcial persevered to claim a hard-fought majority decision victory over Venezuelan boxer Eddy Colmenares in the co-main event of the 50th anniversary of the Thrilla in Manila on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at the Araneta Coliseum.

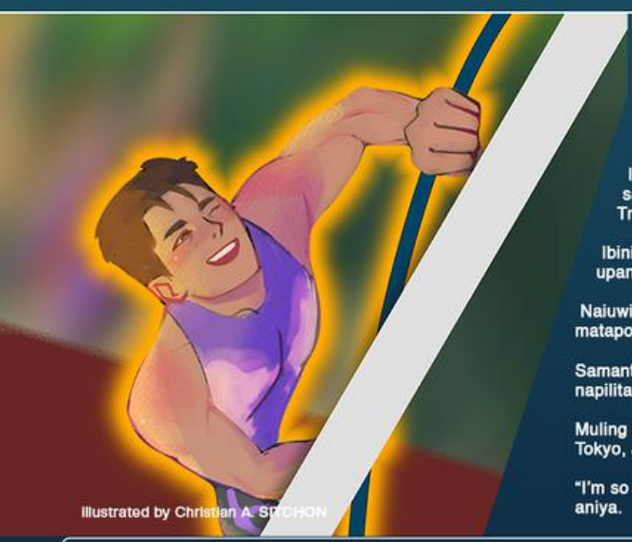


Marcial, who won a bronze medal after a crucial bout against Oleksander Khyhniak at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, once again showed dominance over Colmenares to secure the World Boxing Council international middleweight title.

In the third round, Colmenares landed a powerful blow that knocked Marcial down. The Filipino boxer regained control through disciplined pressure, but in the tenth round, the heavy-hitting Venezuelan sent Marcial to the canvas for a second time. With the final seconds ticking away, Marcial mounted a relentless rally until the final bell.

One judge scored the bout a 94-94 draw, while the other two gave Marcial a 95-93 edge, awarding him the victory. This win improved Marcial's record to 7-0 with 4 knockouts.

Colmenares' record now stands at 11-3-1 with 11 knockouts.



Illustrated by Christian A. SUCHON

Obiena, Naghari; Nakopo ang Ginto sa Pole Vault

ni Steven Franc S. BULANADI

Tibay, tapang, at puso—iyan ang puhunan.

Ito ang binigyang-buhay ni EJ Obiena matapos niyang masungkit ang kampeonato sa sarili nitong teritoryo sa umiigting na World Pole Vault Challenge nitong Linggo, Setyembre 21, na ginanap sa mataong Ayala Triangle Gardens, Makati City.

Ibinida ni Obiena ang kaniyang naitalang pulidong 5.80 metro sa loob lamang ng dalawang subok, dahilan upang mapasakamay ang ginto.

Naiuwi naman ni Thibaut Collet ng France ang pilak via countback at tanso para kay Piotr Lisek ng Poland matapos magrehistro ng 5.60 metro.

Samantala, si Ben Broeders ng Germany, na isa sa mga inaasahang dadalo para sa gintong medalya, ay napilitang umatras sa kompetisyon dahil sa back spasms.

Muling nagningning si Obiena matapos ang kaniyang mapait na pagkatalo sa World Athletics Championships sa Tokyo, Japan, kung saan bigo itong umabante sa finals.

"I'm so happy for a bit of a comeback win, a really good way to end the season, and a fairytale finish, I would say," aniya.

Max Verstappen Sets Fastest Lap Record Ever

by Denise Angel D. QUIAMBAO



On September 6, 2025, at the Italian Grand Prix in Monza, current World Champion Max Verstappen made Formula 1 history by setting the fastest qualifying lap ever recorded in the sport. He posted a time of 1:18.792, at an average speed of 264.681 km/h, earning pole position with this lap record.

The lap not only broke Lewis Hamilton's previous record from 2020 but also showcased Verstappen's masterful control and speed at the famed Autodromo Nazionale Monza, otherwise known as the "Temple of Speed."

"Happy with the laps, and of course, to be on pole here for us is fantastic. The car's been working a lot better the whole weekend, and to be able to fight for pole, I'm very happy with that."

For Verstappen, this is yet another highlight in a career full of outstanding achievements. Holding every major record for a Red Bull Driver, this simply puts him as the most successful Red Bull Driver in F1 history.

With 45 career pole positions, overtaking Sebastian Vettel's tally, he has established himself as the qualifying king of his generation. Thus, being the only driver with four or more world championships to not have driven for Ferrari, he continues to strengthen his case as one of the most remarkable drivers in the sport's history.

Capping off his stellar weekend, Verstappen carried his momentum into race day. On September 7, 2025, he converted his pole into victory, claiming P1 at Monza and sealing a dominant performance that will be remembered as one of the finest in his career.

Xipto Esports Dominates Team Secret in Predator League PH 2026 Opener

by Jayleen Irish P. BAUTISTA

The opening match of Predator League PH 2026 delivered a gripping spectacle as Xipto Esports faced off against Team Secret on the Bind map, ultimately claiming victory with a 13-7 scoreline on October 28, 2025.

From the outset, Xipto Esports demonstrated exceptional coordination and tactical discipline, executing their plays with precision and maintaining control throughout the game. Their synergy was evident, with each player contributing to a well-oiled machine that consistently outmaneuvered Team Secret's attempts to disrupt their rhythm.

Team Secret, however, refused to back down, launching aggressive counterattacks and bold gambits to challenge Xipto's dominance. Despite their resilience and moments of brilliance, Team Secret struggled to find consistent momentum, often facing impenetrable defense and sharp counters from Xipto. The match was marked by high tension and dramatic swings, but Xipto's composure and adaptability proved decisive in the end.

This electrifying clash set the tone for Predator League PH 2026, establishing Xipto Esports as a formidable contender and highlighting the fierce competition that defines the tournament. Team Secret now faces the challenge of regrouping and refining their strategies, while fans look forward to more thrilling encounters as the league progresses. With such intense rivalry and skill on display, the stage is set for an unforgettable season of Valorant action.



Kapampangan Pride Shines Bright at SEA Games 2025

by Rozette A. SESE

The whole of Pampanga is full of pride and joy as they witnessed Kapampangan athletes bring home a haul of medals in the recent SEA Games that took place in Thailand on December 9–20, 2025, filling the hearts of all Filipinos, especially their hometown, Province of Pampanga. Representing the Philippines in various sports, from swimming to baseball, these local heroes showcased their grit and skills on the international stage, earning a big round of applause from Filipinos across the world.



Photo Credit: Google

Starting off strong, Jamie Malonzo of San Simon and Veejay Pre of Floridablanca, together with the rest of Gilas Pilipinas, captured the gold medal in the men's 5x5 basketball event.

On the other hand, in women's basketball, Trina Guytingco of Sta. Rita led the Gilas Women's team to secure the gold medal.

Speaking of gold, Justin Kobe Macario, also from Sta. Rita, bagged the country's first gold medal in the games through the men's individual freestyle poomsae event.

Kayla Sanchez, whose father is from Mabalacat, made history after becoming the first Filipina to win several gold medals in this year's SEA Games, earning three gold medals and a total of five medals in swimming.

Also from Mabalacat, Gian Christopher Santos surged to a second-place finish in the men's 200m individual medley,

In other sports, Nigel Paule from Guagua won gold in baseball, and lastly, Esports SIBOL player Sanford Vinuya, who has roots in Sta. Ana and Candaba, helped his team secure the gold for the Mobile Legends: Bang Bang Men's Division.

Their victories were not just individual triumphs but a testament to the province'passion for sports and its commitment to nurturing talent. The success of these Kapampangan athletes is not just a win for Pampanga, but also for the entire country.

Vice Governor Dennis Pineda praised the Kapampangan athletes for their success in their respective sports, saying, "Pasalamat keng Governor Nanay king maragul yu binye
galal king Pilipinas ampo alawigan Kapampangan. Luid!"

The SEA Games may be over, but the legacy of these Kapampangan athletes will continue to inspire and motivate every Filipino. Their dedication and perseverance serve as a reminder that with hard work and determination, anything and everything is possible.

8 GOLD MEDALS **6 SILVER MEDALS**

Alex Eala Soars High After Making History as the First Filipino Grand Slam Champion

by Rozette A. SESE

In a thrilling display of skill and determination, Alex Eala surged into tennis history as the first Filipino player to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era. She secured a hard-fought 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (13-11) victory over World No. 14 Clara Tauson of Denmark on August 25, 2025, in her main draw debut at the US Open in Flushing Meadows, New York—igniting a wave of pride and hope among Filipino sports fans worldwide.

Eala's determination and fighting spirit were on full display as she bounced back from the brink of defeat. The crowd's energy, fueled by an overwhelming Filipino presence, played a crucial role in her

"I'm super over the moon with what I was able to do today, especially coming back in the third," Eala said, beaming with pride. Her historic win is not just a personal achievement but also a symbol of hope and inspiration for young Filipino athletes.

As Eala advances to the second round, she is set to face the winner between World No. 95 Cristina Bucsa of Moldova and American qualifier Claire Liu, World No. 317. With newfound momentum, Eala is poised to make even bigger waves in the tournament.

"I'm always in the mood for more history," she said, hinting at her determination for the rest of the US Open. Her victory has ignited a wave of pride and hope among Filipino sports fans worldwide, cementing her status as a rising star in women's tennis.



Photo Credit: GMA News