

IN THIS ISSUE

News: SR pushes for ToFI suspension
Campus Cookie: CALOY-doscope World
Culture: So-Called EMO
Opinion: Defiance

p2
p6
p9
p14

It is September, and as the semester ends, Sarah, a freshman, struggles to budget her daily expenses as hand-outs, project contributions, printing and internet use eat most of her weekly allowance. She tries to make ends meet as she subsists on a daily fare of pancit canton and siomai meal. But deep inside she still worries because aside from a deluge of exams, papers and projects and the daily expenses that come with them, she has to deal with her monthly dorm fees. On top of that, she knows at the back of her mind that sooner or later she also has to settle her SLB and follow-up her STFAP appeal.

Skyrocketing loans

The Student Loan Board is availed by students who cannot afford to pay full cost of tuition. Under the SLB, students pay 20 percent of their tuition upon enrolment. The remaining 80 percent is paid before one can register for the next semester.

SLB applicants hit a record high of 1686 students this first semester, registering a 55 percent increase. Data from the Office of Student Affairs reveal that student loans for the first semester reached as much as Php 13,977,219.43 with Php 10,471,891.90 availed by 765 freshmen students.

Undeniably, the increase in tuition has caught the 2007 freshmen students and their parents dumbfounded. Despite criticisms and protests from different sectors of the university, the Board of Regents, UP's highest policy making body, passed the 300% ToFI on December 15 last year.

Aside from increase in tuition, miscellaneous fees also increased from Php 600 to Php 2000, library fees from Php 400 to Php 1100. New fees like the Php 260 internet fee and Php 425 energy fee were also introduced.

STF(L)AP

In the feedback gathered by the UPLB University Student Council during the freshmen registration period, most of the parents and students disapproved of the tuition increase thinking that it was "unfair" and "too much." The USC also said that most of the respondents either paid full tuition or applied for SLB since not all were fully aware of the STFAP.

From the 1989 STFAP bracketing system of 1-9, the new bracketing system was "adjusted" to five brackets (A-E). Bracket 1 is now bracket E while brackets 2-4 and 5-8 were lumped into bracket D and C, respectively. Bracket 9 is now bracket B and Bracket A is reserved for those whose family income is 1 million and above. This bracketing system identifies the tuition rates and the stipend that students receive.

The Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program was designed to socialize tuition collection – making well off students pay tuition at full cost while helping poor but deserving students. Since its establishment in 1989, the STFAP has drawn criticisms especially from students because of its inability to address the issue of democratizing access to UP education.

USC Councilor Christine Macabetcha said that "The STFAP is nothing but a scheme used to implement TOFI. Instead of benefiting from STFAP, more students are paying and only few receive subsidy."

In 1989, only 16 percent of UP students are under bracket 9. Eighteen years later, 88 percent of UP students are paying full tuition.

ToFI...p4

TOFI Monitor:

the real score behind the numbers

▲ Aaron Joseph Aspi

SR pushes for ToFI suspension

Calls to support tuition and enrolment policy review intensify

▀Christian Ray Buendia

Student Regent (SR) Mark Terry Ridon challenged UPLB students to support the campaign for the suspension of Tuition and other Fee Increases (ToFI) and the passing of the tuition and enrolment policy review in the next BOR meeting here at UPLB on September 28.

He urged students to turn this month into a “September protest,” saying that the strength of student’s opposition would “ensure that students still have a say on UP’s [thrusts in it’s] centenary.”

The tuition and enrolment policy study, conducted by the Office of the Student Regent (OSR) and participated by student councils in all UP units, aims to “determine the initial impacts of the tuition increase” and propose measures to “improve its [UP’s] fiscal health while ensuring democratic access to Iskolars ng Bayan.”

University Student Council Chairperson Leo Fuentes said likewise that the outcome of the BOR meeting would “determine how far our campaign for a nationalist, mass-oriented, and scientific Philippine education would go.”

He said that we must follow the “UP Baguio

example,” where around 800 students rallied in front of the building where the last BOR meeting was held, and succeeded in making Roman speak before them.

‘Favorable response’

Ridon told the delegates of the 2007 UP Luzon-wide Student Congress that the Board of Regents, in its meeting last August 22 at UP Baguio, gave a ‘favorable response’ to the policy review.

He said that UP President Emerlinda Roman even “recognized the validity of the hypothesis and recommendations of the OSR.”

He added that some regents consider the passing of the policy review the first time that students participated in the policy-making of the board.

The student congress, sponsored by the Katipunan ng mga Sangguniang Mag-aaral (KASAMA) sa UP and the OSR, was held last August 26 at UP Baguio. It was attended by around 75 delegates from UP Diliman, UP Manila, UP Los Baños, UP Baguio, and UP Extension Program in Pampanga.

Losing comparative advantage

The policy review consolidates various freshman enrolment data from all UP units after the implementation of the ToFI.

Titled “An Initial Impact Assessment of the Implementation of the New UP Tuition Policy 1st Semester, Academic Year 2007-2008,” the study shows a decline in new freshmen enrolment on certain courses in UP Diliman, including three courses in the Department of Filipino that incurred zero enrolment rates (See related story on page 1).

In UPLB, BS Agriculture, BS Forestry, BS Agricultural Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, and BS Agricultural Engineering registered below 50 percent qualifier enrolment relative to course quota, according to data obtained from the University Student Council and the Office of the University Registrar.

Ridon said that while many of these courses are already experiencing perennially low enrolment, the imposition of ToFI will just “add insult to injury.”

He said that economic considerations and practicality of parents and students will urge them to choose “marketable” courses like nursing and computer science over courses crucial to national industrialization and cultural development.

This, according to the policy review, will cause UP to lose “its comparative advantage of affordable tuition rates with proven quality instruction relative to other schools which charge high tuition rates as an assurance of quality instruction.”

The review also states that because the tuition in UP is now comparable to top private universities in the country, the university’s advantage of being the “default University of choice” would not hold true anymore.

Alternatives to ToFI

In the study, Ridon recommended the suspension of the ToFI this second semester pending further review.

He proposes the following measures to maintain UP’s “fiscal health” while ensuring democratic access: internal efficiency check by a multi-sectoral University Committee without prejudice to academic and non-academic personnel tenure, a Comprehensive Donations System where donations are subject to a three-tiered prioritization scheme, automatic guarantee of enrolment to all UPCAT passers, popularization of less known

courses, and scrapping of yearly tuition increase based on annual inflation rate without consultation with students.

In addition, Ridon recommended improving the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP) through information dissemination campaigns on STFAP and other available scholarship and financial aid programs, simplification of STFAP application process, and review of the STFAP bracket evaluation procedures.

Particular changes regarding the low-income brackets are also to be pursued, such as shifting the default bracket from B to C, granting bracket D qualifiers with full tuition discount, and annual increase of stipend for bracket E qualifiers based on the inflation rate.

Also, Ridon urged the UP administration to use its land grants for academic purposes and not for private leases and commercialization schemes, saying that “keeping the land of UP intact ensures the best and brightest Filipino youth shall continue to enroll in UP.”

Jamby: I’ll fight with you

Meanwhile, Senator Ana Consuelo “Jamby” Madrigal, keynote speaker in the student congress, expressed support in the campaign to scrap ToFI.

After hearing other students’ issues like military presence in UP campuses, UP Charter change, and commercialization projects for UP, among others, Madrigal said that she’ll do whatever she can in her “limited capacity” to address these problems.

Earlier, Madrigal authored a bill implementing a three-year moratorium on tuition increases in tertiary schools in the country.

Also, 25 congressmen filed last September 18 house resolution no. 245 directing the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education to investigate the effects of ToFI.

Madrigal urged the delegates to submit narrative reports on various students’ issues in their respective campuses. From these, the senator will form resolutions to be discussed in the Senate.

She added that if the administration will turn deaf on these issues, then students must take to the streets.

“Fight with mass actions [and] I’ll fight with you,” she stressed.[P]



■ **BRAINSTORMING.** UPLB student leaders passed resolutions tackling various students issues in the UP Luzon-wide Students Congress at UP Baguio.

CEAT Prof dies at 48

▀Nikko Angelo Oribiana

This year’s College of Engineering and Agro-Industrial Technology Outstanding Senior Faculty awardee died after 20 years of service as Chemical Engineering professor here at UP Los Banos.

Dr. Sixto Valencia, a BS Chemical Engineering graduate from UP Diliman, died last September 1 due to cardio-respiratory arrest secondary to multiple organ failure. His body was cremated last September 8 at Calamba City.

Valencia’s students express grief over the death of “Sir Vivi,” as he was fondly called. His students describe him as a very “vibrant and jolly teacher”, while his colleagues remember him as a friendly, approachable and good professor. According to his Chemical Engineering family, they will surely miss his “challenging” overnight examinations, which he is greatly known for.

Valencia was a recipient of the 2001 International Publication Awards, given by former UP President Dr. Francisco Nemenzo. He has also visited several universities in Japan and USA as exchange research scientist. He finished his doctorate degree in Ohio State University.[P]

Start of classes on September proposed

▀Sugar Marie Baula

UP President Emerlinda Roman urged the chancellors of all UP units to hold multi-sectoral consultations on the feasibility of moving classes to September, in lieu of Holiday Economics.

In response to this, Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco issued Memorandum No.90 requesting all Deans, the Office of Student affairs (OSA), the University Student Council (USC) and all other Student Councils to organize, “the soonest time possible,” consultations with their respective faculty and students regarding the proposal.

The USC conducted a general assembly of students last September 10 in compliance to this. The said consultation yielded different views regarding the said proposal.

Of the 73 feedbacks gathered from different organization representatives, only two expressed agreement in moving the academic calendar. The representatives

said they see nothing wrong with the proposal and that the days without classes are just wasted. They stressed, however, that the proposal should be further analyzed before it is implemented.

The majority of the representatives present disagreed on it because there is no enough rationale behind the proposal. The major contentions are as follows: first, starting the academic year in the “hottest” months of the year would be very inconvenient for students since there is a lack of electric fans and air-conditioning units. Second, holding classes at this time of the year decreases the university’s cost-efficiency because of the predicted increase in electric consumption. Last there is also a possibility that graduation of students will be delayed since summer months are usually used for practicum and vacation will be extended.

Also opposing the proposal, USC Councilor Rayan Brozula said, “We don’t see the

clear objectives and the rationale of the proposal. We also take into consideration students’ reaction to it.”

This proposal was in accordance to Republic Act No.9492, an act rationalizing the celebration of national holidays, uses the concept of Holiday Economics by providing lists of holidays with “movable dates” and those with “fixed” ones.

With this, holidays falling on a Tuesday or a Wednesday will be observed on the Monday of the same week and those falling on a Sunday will be observed on the Monday of the week that follows.

Consistent with RA 9492, the celebration of Ninoy Aquino Day was moved to the 20th (Monday) of August from the supposedly 21st (Tuesday). This is also true with the National Heroes’ Day, which was to be celebrated on the 30th (Thursday) but was moved to the 27th (Monday), instead. [P]

UPLB admin evicts ambulant vendors

■ Harriet Melanie Zabala

Since the start of the first semester of this academic year, ambulant vendors are already prohibited from selling their goods inside UPLB lower campus.

The University Student Council (USC) explained that the eviction was due to three reasons, namely, food and health safety, sanitary purposes, and public security. This was stated in Memorandum No. 90 released by the UPLB Administration.

According to the OVCA, vendors were prohibited from selling their goods inside academic and administrative buildings because they are not “registered leasees” of the university.

In an interview with the UPLB Perspective, Teresita Recto recalled that she has been selling foods inside the lower campus grounds since 1980’s and this job has been the source of income for her family. She believes that this policy is unfair because it denies her the right to work decently. Recto furthered that a policeman even threatened her with detention and confiscation of her goods if she will violate the said policy.

As response to the memo, the USC conducted a signature campaign “to fight for the rights of the ambulant vendors to work decently.” According to them, the memo implies that the

UPLB admin wis just trying to raise more fund and that only those who can afford the rental fee, which costs Php1,200 per month, will be allowed to sell their goods inside the campus premises.

At the dialogue with the PUJ Drivers and Operators’ Association attended by the USC last August 30, Velasco gave a verbal permission to allow ambulant vendors to peddle their goods at Freedom Park.

To confirm this, the USC held a dialogue the following day with the Vendors Association, the union of ambulant vendors in UPLB. A week after the meeting, they forwarded a letter to Velasco stating the terms and conditions formulated from the vendors’ suggestions in the said dialogue. They asserted that the university should recognize the Vendors Association as the official representative of the ambulant vendors in holding negotiations and allow them to sell their goods at Freedom Park and nearby buildings that are not used for academic and administrative purposes.

Furthermore, the USC followed up the response of Velasco last September 14 but his secretary told them that it is not yet encoded.

As of press time, the USC is yet to receive the letter of response from Velasco. [P]

Stabbing incident alarms UPLB

■ Angelica Mendoza

A recent stabbing incident alerted the university, causing the University Student Council (USC) and the University Police Force (UPF) to urge students to be more vigilant of surroundings.

Two new freshman students were assaulted last August 5 after refusing to surrender their possessions. The male student, 16, taking up BS Agricultural Engineering, suffered 10 stab wounds while the female, 15, a student of Veterinary Medicine, sustained three. Both students survived the accident.

For security reasons, SOII Concepcion Baraquio of the UPF refused to disclose the victims’ names as requested by their parents.

According to the report by Baraquio, the victims were walking from the main library at around 11PM after a study session when two drunk men approached and held a knife against them.

Minutes after the incident, Jozo Villar, who happened to pass by the crime scene in his motorcycle, reported the incident to the UPF. The police then rushed to the location and brought the victims to the University Health Service.

The alleged assailants, identified as Alvin Mirondo, 19, and Rovel Enteria, 26, were apprehended by officers at the UP gate as they matched the two victims’ description of the suspects. They were detained at the PNP - Los Baños Headquarters on charges of robbery with frustrated homicide. The police recovered the money and cellphones taken from the victims.

UPF Chief Norlio Aquino pointed out that while they were able to arrest the suspects, students still need to exercise caution. He said that with the lack of police officers patrolling the campus, securing the university is difficult especially at night.

To date, only nine officers per 12-hour shift are assigned to specific areas.

Because of this, Aquino stressed the importance of the students’ cooperation. He encouraged students to refrain from wandering during off hours.

“Hindi naman namin sila pinagbabawal[an] na lumabas sa gabi kasi wala namang curfew ang campus. Pero bawasan lang ng konti,” he added.

Aquino also said that as of now, they plan to launch information campaigns on campus safety. However, he did not to elaborate on the said plan.

University Student Council Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez agreed that students who have no business staying out late must be discouraged from doing so.

Bañez said that the administration and the UPF may be held liable for the lax in security that might have permitted the robbery.

She added that the administration must address the issue of the newly-built lamp posts. They being too close together, she puts in, leave several places in campus unlit and unsafe.

Bañez noted that the lack of police officers was due to meager funds. If the administration wants to prioritize campus security, then they must work out this problem first, she added.

Students also raised their concerns about campus safety. Richman Rodriguez, a BS Agriculture student, says, “Nakakatakot, kasi malapit lang bahay ko dun. Sana maging mas active ang UPF, [at] magwork na lahat ng ilaw sa loob ng campus.”

On the other hand, Caren Mercado, a BA Communication Arts student, said that she hopes people would be more careful in walking around the campus during late hours so that crimes and accidents will be avoided.

Bañez identified self-awareness as the best weapon to contest this kind of issue.

“Pinaka-importante pa rin ang responsibilidad sa sarili,” she said. [P]

CE student is new EIC

■ Harriet Melanie Zabala

A third year BS Civil Engineering student will lead this year’s UPLB Perspective.

With an accumulated score of 84.7 percent in the Editor in Chief exam ination conducted at the Interactive Learning Center last July 22, Christian Ray Buendia bested four other EIC aspirants.

Buendia, batch 2005, took the exam with Mark Vincent Baracao, BA Sociology ’06, Rula Yael Gongora, BA Communication Arts ’04, Remelizza Joy Sacra, BS Human Ecology ’05, and Franco Antonio Regalado, BA Communication Arts ’05.

He assumed position early last month.

The exam is administered annually by a selection committee whose members are appointed by the Chancellor. The members of this year’s selection committee are Dr. Constancio Dela Cruz from the College of Agriculture, Prof. Emmanuel Dumlaog from the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Bella Cruzana from the College of Veterinary Medicine, Christine Macabetcha from the University Student Council and Samuel Jay Pasia from the UPLB Perspective.

The accumulated points are based on the following criteria: editorial writing (40%), news writing (30%), front page lay outing (15%), and interview (15%).



■ Buendia

When asked regarding his feeling about his appointment, Buendia said that it is a challenge to provide the students with a newspaper that adheres with the highest journalistic standards. He also stressed that the paper should focus on issues concerning the students.

“Because the paper caters to the interests of students, we in the UPLB Perspective will make sure that we know where we stand and from there [we will] continue to serve the students through responsible journalism,” he added.

Buendia was also topnotcher in last year’s EIC exam but was not appointed by Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco. It was Samuel Jay Pasia, who placed second, who assumed the EIC position.

At 18, Buendia could be the youngest EIC of the UPLB Perspective as per latest records. [P]

Sa pagkamatay ni Mendez UPLB kinundena ang frat-related violence

■ Mark Vincent Baracao and Princess Mabilong

Isang candle lighting activity ang pinangunahan ng University Student Council-UPLB (USC-UPLB) noong Setyembre 6 sa Humanities steps bilang pakikiramay sa pagkamatay ni Cris Anthony Mendez, estudyante ng UPD at biktima umano ng hazing.

Ang naturang aktibidad ay dinaluhan ng mga fraternities, sororities, organisasyong pang-estudyante at mga guro.

Si Mendez, 20, ang College Student Council Representative to the USC ng National College of Public Administration and Governance ng UP Diliman ay nasa huling taon na sa kursong AB Public Administration.

Panganay sa pamilya at tubong Tiaong, Quezon, si Mendez ay dineklarang dead on arrival sa Veteran’s Memorial Medical Center noong Agosto 27 pagkatapos umanong mapaslang sa isang initiation rites sa pinapasukang fraternity.

Nanawagan naman si UP President Emerlinda Roman sa lahat ng chancellor ng UP Units na magpalabas ng memorandum na humihingi sa bawat fraternity ng “justification” kung bakit dapat manatili sa yunit ng UP ang kanilang fraternity. Nagbigay si Roman ng hanggang Oktubre 19 upang maisagawa ito.

Sa opisyal na pahayag ng USC-UPLB ukol sa pagkamatay ni Mendez, mariin nitong kinundena ang “paggamit ng dahas sa pagtanggap ng aplikante.” Gayunpaman, patuloy na itinataguyod ng USC ang karapatan ng mga estudyante na sumali at magbuo ng mga organisasyon.

Nagpaabot rin ng pakikiramay si Rainier Castillo, kasalukuyang Tagapangulo ng Interfraternity Council (IFC), sa pagkamatay ni Mendez. Binigyan-diin niya na mangunguna ang IFC sa kampanya ng pag-iwas sa mga fraternity-related violence sa UPLB.

“Tine-take ko as a challenge na maging intact ‘yung fraternity representatives para [kapag] magkakaroon ng problema, magiging open kami sa mga opinions at suggestions para maiwasan ang gulo,” dagdag niya.

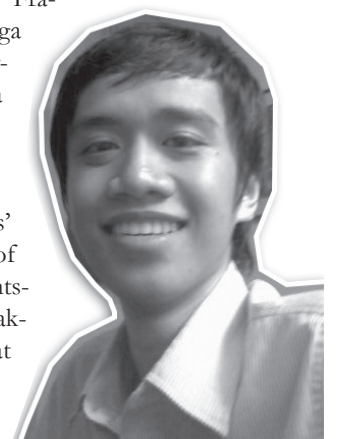
Sa kasalukuyan, hindi pa nakakapagpalabas ang Interfraternity Council ng kanilang opisyal na pahayag hinggil sa pagkamatay ni Mendez.

Dumalo rin sa naturang aktibidad ang Samahan ng Kabataan para sa Bayan (SAKBAYAN), ang pinakamalawak na alyansa ng fraternities, sororities, at organisasyon pang-estudyante sa UPLB.

Sa kanilang opisyal na pahayag, nanawagan ang alyansa sa mga awtoridad para sa agarang pagkamit ng hustisya sa pagkamatay ni Mendez. Gayundin, nanawagan ang SAKBAYAN sa mga organisasyon na “ibaling ang talino at lakas” sa “kolektibong pagkilos” para sa paggigiit ng karapatan sa edukasyon.

Ilan sa mga nagpahayag ng pakikiramay sa naturang candle lighting activity ay ang UP Junior Executive Society, Espaleklek Fraternity, Alpha Sigma Fraternity, Omega Alpha Fraternity, Pi Sigma Fraternity, UP Student Catholic Action, UPLB Writers’ Club, League of Filipino Students-UPLB, Anakbayan-UPLB at Center for Nationalist Studies-UPLB. [P]

■ Cris Anthony Mendez



ToFI... from p1

Bracket E: ENDANGERED LOT

The same trend is evident with the new STFAP. UPLB University Registrar data provided by the USC show that majority of the freshmen shouldered the tuition increase as 88 percent of the students were assigned to brackets A-D. Only 44 out of 1840 freshman received full subsidy and stipends under bracket E*.

What is even more disconcerting is that under the old STFAP, Bracket D corresponds to Bracket 2-4, under which students are exempted from tuition and miscellaneous fees. They also get to receive a stipend. Now, 87 students under bracket D are made to pay Php300 per unit.

“Our worst fears have been confirmed – more students from families with lower income did not enter UP. This is already expected because even with the old tuition rates, 30 percent of UPCAT qualifiers don’t register,” said Leo XL Fuentes, USC Chairperson and Convenor of Save Our Education Movement.

The increase in tuition rates implemented through the new STFAP disenfranchised poor but deserving students, thus, contributing to the low freshman enrolment particularly in courses that are “unpopular and unmarketable.”

Enrolment data reveal that there is a 42% no show rate among UPLB UPCAT qualifiers. This translates to low number of enrollees in relation to the number of qualifiers and course quotas. Of the 2569 UPLB UPCAT qualifiers only 1840 registered. From this, 318 are waitlist students.

Per course data shows that the degree programs BSF, PVM, BSA and BSAE registered no show rates above 50 percent. In BSA, BSF and BSAE, waitlist freshman students outnumber freshman qualifiers at 55 percent, 54 percent and 51 percent respectively. Other courses with relatively large number of freshman waitlist students include PVM with 46 percent and BSAEcon with 37 percent.

Moreover the prevalence of loan incident in the College of Agriculture (118 out of 192 freshmen in brackets B, C, and D) and the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (48 out of 62) raises doubts on students’ ability to enroll in the succeeding semesters.

Alarming numbers

This alarming trend is also observed in other UP units. Col-

Courses	Quota	Freshman Qualifiers (Regular and Non-quota)	Confirmed Enrollees	Actual Enrollees	Percentage of Actual Enrollees Relative to Quota
BSAE	100	54	28	25	25.00
PVM	150	121	66	45	30.00
BSAGCHEM	30	16	12	10	33.33
BSA	190	144	77	64	33.68
BSF	75	81	42	28	37.33

Table 1. Enrolment data on five of the most “unpopular” courses in UPLB.

Course	Quota	Waitlist who enrolled	New Transferees	Total	Percentage of Total relative to the quota
PVM	150	39	2	41	27.33
BSAE	100	27	6	33	33.00
BSAECON	60	19	2	21	35.00
BSA	190	79	3	82	43.16
BSF	75	34	0	34	45.33

Table 2. Percent of waitlists and new transferees relative to quota.

Type of students (by STFAP category/ brackets)	SY 2003-2004	SY 2004-2005	SY 2005-2006	SY 2006- 2007	SY 2007-2008 (1 st semester)
<u>TUITION FEES</u>					
Number of Loans	1033	949	896	931	1686
Total Amount of Loans	Php 4,020,563	Php 3,520,178	Php 3,502,676	Php 2,044,261	Php 13,811,774.18

Table 3. Five-year trend in Student Loan Board application.

STFAP Bracket	No. of Students
Bracket A	53
Bracket B	1091
Bracket C	382
Bracket D	87
Bracket E	44
TFE/ Local Govt / With Scholarship	183
TOTAL	1840

Table 4. Bracket distribution prior to issuance of STFAP appeals result.

State of Abandonment	P300/UNIT	P1000/UNIT	P1500/UNIT
TOTAL TUITION COST FOR 18 UNITS	P6,015	P21,240	P27,000
GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY	P21,543	P6,318	P558
PERCENT of GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY TO TOTAL COST	78%	23%	2%

Source: Taguiwala, Judy. A Commentary on the Open Letter to the UP Community on the Proposed Tuition Fee Increase from President Emerlinda Roman.

lated data from the Office of the Student Regent volunteers and KASAMA sa UP Student Councils show that in UP Baguio, only one of two UPCAT qualifiers registered. Sixteen percent decrease in freshman enrolment was observed UP Diliman , with its Filipino Department experiencing zero enrolment in all its three degree programs – BA Malikhaing Pagsulat, BA Filipino and BA Araling Pilipino. Popular courses like BS Business Administration and Accountancy and BS Business Administration only registered 53% and 43% enrolment rate relative to respective course quota.

In UPLB, even marketable and popular courses like BS Econ, BS Bio and BS Comsci also experi-

ence decline in enrolment relative to course quota.

In UP Visayas no show rate is pegged at 65 percent. Only 10 out of the 35 UPCAT qualifiers enrolled under BS Fisheries, UPV's flagship program.

This prompted the OSR to launch a policy study to review the impact of TOFI on a systemwide level. USC-UPLB represents the university in the OSR policy study. According to SR Terry Ridon, the policy study is part of the continuing assertion for democratic

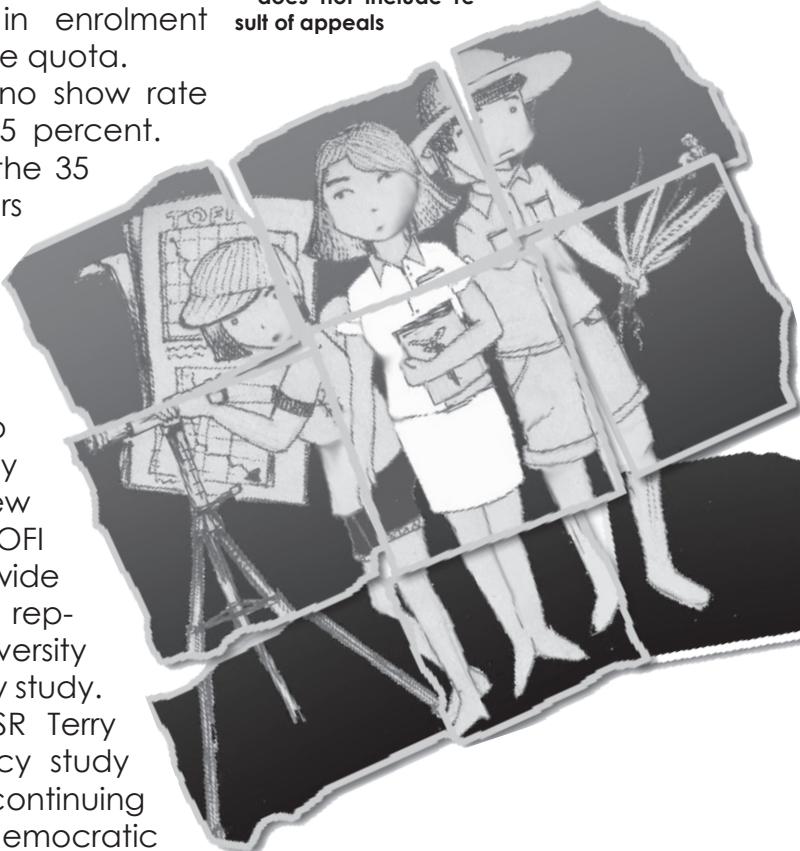
access and participation – key principles that are threatened by low freshman enrollment figures.

The OSR policy study warned the UP administration that low enrolment figures are indicators of prospective decreasing academic and market relevance of the abovementioned courses that would be further threatened with the continued implementation of ToFI. The policy study further recommends that the implementation of ToFI be suspended.

Decline in freshman enrolment has an implication on the University's leading role as a training ground of the best and brightest young Filipinos. Thus, UPLB is placed in a disadvantaged position – endangering its ability to contribute to the production of graduates and would be experts and policy makers on the fields of food and agriculture, environmental science and biotechnology. This is a central concern that UP should seriously address especially as it approaches its centennial year of reaffirming its mandate of service, leadership and excellence.

Sarah tries to collect herself as she recalls snapshots of memories that she holds dear – from the time she took the UPCAT to the look on her parents' face when she told them she passed; the long trip from the outskirts of her small town in the province to her first night in her room at Men's Dorm. She has come this far, she tells herself. Hopefully this would give her enough strength as she hurdles another week of exams, papers and projects. Hopefully this would give her enough strength, enough strength to stay. [P]

*does not include result of appeals



Malayung-malayo sa ipinapangakong kaligtasan, ang pagsasabatas ng Human Security Act of 2007 ay magluluwal ng napakalaking panganib sa buhay ng maraming Pilipino.

Ipinagmalaki ng gubyrerno ni Arroyo na isa itong makasaysayang pangyayaring institusyunal para sa pambansa at pandaigdigang laban sa terorismo. Ang nagdudumilat na katotohanan, isa lamang itong manobra ng gubyrerno upang panatilihin ang sunod-sunurang relasyon sa Estados Unidos. Higit pa dito, paraan ito upang padaliin ang pagsupil ng rehimen sa kanyang mga kritiko, sa mga makakaliwa, sa mga nasa oposisyon, na itinuturing niyang “kaaway ng estado.”

Isa itong malinaw na panunuya sa kung ano ang tunay na ibig sabihin ng seguridad para sa mamamayan.

Mangangahulugan lamang ng higit na pagsagasa sa mga karapatang pantao ng mamamayan ang pagpapatupad ng batas na ito ngayong Hulyo, lalo’t napakaraming butas, mga hindi malinaw at alanganing probisyon ang nakapaloob dito.

Ang pagbuhay sa Anti-terrorism bill

Taong 2002 pa unang ipinanukala ng gubyrernong Arroyo ang pagkakaroon sa bansa ng batas kontra-terorismo matapos ang “9/11 World Trade Center Bombing” at kasabay ng pagdedeklara ng Estados Unidos (US) ng pangdaigdigang gera laban sa terorismo noong 2002. Isa si Arroyo sa mga pinakaunang sumunggab sa kampanyang ito ng US. Sa wakas nagkaroon na ng tuntungan ang matagal nang itinutulak ni Arroyo at ang mga alipures nito. Subalit bunga ng matinding pagtutol mula sa mga mayorya ng mga mambabatas at mamamayan naisantabi ang panukala.

Muling binuhay ng gubyrernong Arroyo ang panawagan sa pagsasabatas ng Anti-terror bill (ATB) noong Pebrero 2005, pagkatapos ng sunod-sunod na pambobomba sa Makati, Davao, at Gen. Santos City na tinaguriang “Valentine’s Day Bombings.” Ipinag-utos ni Arroyo na gawing prayoridad sa Kongreso ang agarang pagsasabatas ng ATB dahil ito diumano ang sagot para masawata ang terorismo.

Isangnakakapagtakangpangyayari nga naman na sa bisperas ng pagsusulong ng ATB diumano ay naging sunod-sunod ang mga bombahan sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng bansa. Hindi malayo sa ginawa ng diktaduryang Marcos para makapagdeklara ng Martial Law noong 1972.

Di nakapagtataakang isa muli si Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile sa nangungunang tagapagtaguyod ng ATB. Sa pagpasok ng Oktubre 2005, nanguna si Enrile sa Senado, at Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong sa Kongreso sa muling paghahain ng lahat ng panukala kaugnay ng ATB. Itinuring na mahigpit ang pangangailangan sa pagsasabatas ng ATB kung kaya’t hindi na ito dapat pang idaan sa matinding parliyamentaryong pagsisiyasat ng mga mambabatas.

Inapura ang pagpapasa ng panukalang batas sa Kongreso at Senado noong unang kuwarto ng 2007, sa panahon ng pagbibigay ng kanilang mga pork barrel. Naunang inaprubahan ng Senado ang huling pagbasa sa bersyon ng panukala na pinamagatang Human Security Act of 2007 (HSA) noong Pebrero 8. Kinabukasan ay buong-buo namang pinagtibay ng bicameral committee ng parehong kapulungan ang HAS. Nagmamadali, agad ipinatawag ni Arroyo ang dalawang araw na espe-

HUMAN

SECURITY

ACT

TERORISMO NG REHIMENG US-ARROYO LABAN SA MAMAMAYANG PILIPINO

▲ Ted Ferreras

syal na session para ratipikahan ang panukala. At pagkaraan lamang ng ilang araw, noong Marso 6, matapos pirmahan ni Arroyo, ganap ng naging batas ang HSA.

Naging sentro ng puna at batikos mula sa iba’t ibang institusyong lokal at internasyunal, maging ng ilang mga mambabatas ang ginawang pag-aapura sa pagsasabatas ng HSA.

Matutulis na pangil ng HSA

Taliwas sa pananaw ng mga mambabatas na noon ay tumututol sa ATB subalit ng malaon ay bumoto rin pabor dito, matulis at nakamamatay ang mga pangil ng HSA. Direkta nitong lalabagin ang mga karapatang pantao na ginagarantiyahan ng saligang batas.

Maging ang Korte Suprema sa pamamagitan ni Chief Justice Reynato Puno ay nagsabing ang batas na ito ay ito ay parang hindi pinag-isipan (“mindless”) at tiyak na magluluwal lamang ng maramihang paglabag sa mga karapatan ng mamamayan. Ngayon pa nga lamang na walang pormal na batas kaugnay nito ay lag-anap na laganap ang extra judicial killing dahil sa pampulitikang paniniwala ng mga indibidwal, pagdukot, panonortyur, pag-aresto ng walang mandamyento at ang pagpiit nang walang benepisyo ng buong proseso ng batas.

Unang lalabagin ng HSA ay ang karapatan sa “due process.” Sa ilalim ng HSA, ang mga pinaghihinalaan pa lamang na terorista ay maaari nang dakpin kahit walang arrest warrant. Samantala ay maaaring patagalin ang pagkakakulong hanggang 72 oras kahit walang sampang kaso kung mayroon umanong aktwal o nakaambang akto ng terorismo, taliwas sa Section 18, Article 7 ng Saligang Batas na nagsasaad na sa pagkakataong nasuspinde ang pribilehiyo ng writ of habeas corpus, kailangang sa loob ng tatlong araw ay nasampahan na ng kaso ang sinumang ikinulong, at kung hindi, ay dapat na itong palayain.

Bagama’t nakasaad sa HSA na pahihintulutan magpiyansa ang isang suspek kung napakaliit ng ebidensya laban sa kanya, lalabagin naman nito ang kanyang karapatan sa paglalakbay. Ang sinumang suspek ay maaaring limitahan ang paglalakbay sa loob lamang ng munisipyo o siyudad kung saan siya nakatira. Pwede rin siyang isailalim sa house arrest sa utos ng korte kung saan pati ang karapatan niya sa anumang uri ng komunikasyon ay itatanggi sa kanya.

Binigyang daan rin ng batas ang ligalisasyon ng “surveillance” o ang paniniktik. Maging ang rekord sa bangko at iba pang transaksyon ng mga pinaghihinalaang terorista ay maaaring halungkatin at imbestigahan ng mga awtoridad.

Samantala, nakapaloob din sa batas ang pagbibigay ng kapangyari-

han sa gubyrerno na gawing iligal ang mga organisasyon o grupo na hinihinala nitong terorista. Wala itong ipinagkaiba at tiyak na mas malala pa sa nabasurang Anti-Subversion Law, kung saan sinumang miyembro ng anumang organisasyong itinuturing na iligal ng gubyrerno ay maaaring ikulong.

Mapanganib na depinisyon

Ipinaliliwanag ang terorismo sa ilalim ng ikatlong seksyon ng HSA bilang mga “krimen” na maaaring maghaisik at lumikha ng laganap at di pangkaraniwang takot sa mamamayan upang pwersahin ang gubyrerno na ibigay ang isang kahilingang labag sa batas.

Hindi maitatangging sadyang Malabo at malawak ang sakop ng depinisyon na ito. Ito din ang unang dahilan kung bakit vulnerable sa pang-aabuso ang batas. Hindi malinaw sa mga probisyon ng HSA kung paano pag-iibahin ang aktong terorismo sa karaniwang krimen. Kung paano masasabing ang isang krimen ay lumikha nga ng “laganap at di pangkaraniwang takot.”

Ang tinukoy ng HSA na mga krimeng maaaring ituring na terorismo ay laman na rin ng Revised Penal Code kagaya ng piracy, rebellion o insurrection, coup d’état, murder, kidnapping, arson, hijacking, illegal possession of firearms atbp. Sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang batas, ang mga aktong ito ay mayroon ng klaro at karampatang mga parusa. Sa usaping ito, kung pagbabasehan ang seksyon 61 o ang Repealing Clause ng HSA, maaaring kaligtaan at ipawalang bisa na lang ang anumang naunang batas na hindi naaayon sa HSA.

Kaya sa sobrang lawak at labo ng depinisyon ng terorismo, sinuman ay medaling bansagan o pagsuspetsahang terorista.

Binura din ng HSA ang linyang nag-iiba sa akto ng terorismo at rebelyon; sa pangkaraniwang krimen at sa pagsusulong ng pampulitikang paniniwala. Pinapawalang bisa nito ang mga pinagtibay na gawi sa sistemang legal ng bansa gaya ng Hernandez doctrine na nagsasaad na ang lahat ng aktong isinagawa ng sinuman dahil sa kaniyang pampulitikang paniniwala ay ipapaloob lamang sa isang kaso ng rebelyon. Ang mga kasong rebelyon na may layuning pulitikal ay mayroong magaan na parusa kung ikukumpara sa maramihang kasong kriminal, at maaaring solusyunan sa pamamagitan ng kaparaanang pulitikal at mapayapang negosasyon.

Pakubling pagpapatupad ng HSA

Hindi pa man naisasabatas, pakubli nang ipinapatupad ng rehimeng Arroyo ang nilalaman ng HSA. Daan-daon na ang naging biktima ng iligal na pang-aaresto, pagdukot at pagpatay, habang libo-libo ang nakaranas ng pandarahas, harassment,

paniniktik at paglabag sa karapatang pantao, dahil lamang sa akusasyon o pagbabansag na sila ay destabilize, coup plotter, rebelde, komunista, o terorista.

Mula Enero 2001 hanggang Mayo 31, 2007 lamang ay mayroon ng naitalang 864 na biktima ng extra judicial killing at 181 biktima ng enforced disappearance sa buong bansa.

Sa taong 2007 lamang, naging tampok ang pagdukot kay Jonas Burgos, isang aktibistang kasapi ng Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Bulacan at anak ng martial law press freedom fighter na si Joe Burgos. Sa naging daloy ng imbestigasyon sa kasong ito, nasugsog na ang plate number ng sasakyang ginamit sa pagdukot ay nasa custody ng 56th Infantry Battalion ng Philippine Army sa kampo nito sa Norzagaray, Bulacan. Hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay hindi pa natatagpuan si Jonas. Sa halip na hanapin ng mga alagad ng batas, naging abala ang mga ito sa pagtanggig wala silang kinalaman sa krimen, pagtatakip at paglalagay ng mga harang para sa mabilis na imbestigasyon.

Ang gera kontra-terorismo ng U.S.

Sa masaklaw na pagsusuri, ang HSA ay bunga ng mala-kolonyal na relasyon ng bansa sa Imperyalistang US. Bahagi ito ng Global War on Terror ng US o gerang agresyon laban sa mga bansa at grupong tumatangging magpailalim sa kanyang imperyalistang paghahari.

Ang US ang naunang nagbura sa linyang nag-iiba sa pagsusulong ng pampulitikang paniniwala at terorismo. Para sa US, ang lahat ng nagsusulong ng armadong pakikibaka para sa pambansang kalayaan; ang mga gubyrernong nats magsarili at ayaw magpadikta sa kanyang imperyalistang interes, ay mga terorista.

Kahit noong panahon ng Cold War, matapos ang Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig, ginamit na ng US ang terminong terorista sa mga kalaban niyang bansang sosyalista. Matapos ang Cold War, ang mga bansang Islam naman ang tinuran nitong terorista.

Una ang binansagang terorista at ginera ng US sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni George W. Bush ang Afghanistan, sumunod ang Iraq.

Malayo sa ipinapangakong kaligtasan para sa mamamayan, kaligtasan para sa rehimeng US-Arroyo ang hatid ng HSA.

Ang katotohanan, ang gera kontra-terorismo ay terorismo ng estado laban sa mamamayan. At ang tunay na terorista sa bansa ay ang rehimeng US-Arroyo.[P]

Una nang nailimbag ang artikulong ito sa Southern Tagalog Exposure (STeX) Tomo Bilang 3 Isyu 6 Serye 2007. Ang STeX ay isang independent multimedia collective.

Si Ted Ferreras ay kasalukuyang Konsehal sa Kalehiyo ng Komunikasyong Pangkaunlaran, UPLB.



campus
cookie

CALOY-DOSCOPE WORLD

by Jovy de Manuel

Isang malaking laboratoryo ang UPLB. Mula sa dibdib ni Maria Makiling na puspos ng likas na yaman, hanggang sa pusod ng teknolohiya at siyensya, nalilikha ang isang pamantasang nakatutok sa pagpapalaganap ng kapangyarihan ng agham.

Ngunit sa kabila ng paghinog ng agham sa UPLB, lagi't laging nagluluwal ang sinapupunan ni Maria Makiling ng mga bagong binhi ng mga artista at manunulat.

Ang isa sa kanila ay makikita natin sa pang-araw-araw nating paglalakad o pamamasyal sa UPLB. Isang bagong guro sa panitikan ng Departamento ng Humanidades at isang papausbong na manunulat: si Ginoong Carlos Monteza Piosos III, na mas kilala sa tawag na Sir Caloy.

"Ngaw ngaw" Poetry

"Marahil ito na ang aking huling liham. Pagkatapos mo itong mabasa, mangyari lamang na ito'y lamukusin at bilutin at saka ilublob sa lalim ng ilog nang ito'y matunaw, magsatubig at umagos."

Ang tulang ito ay ang unang saknong ng Mga Pangkaraniwang Lungkot, pinakapaborito ni Sir Caloy sa labinlimang tula sa kanyang koleksyong pinamagatang Corpus. Nito lamang Setyembre 1, iginawad kay Sir Caloy ang Unang Gantimpala sa Tula sa Filipino sa ika-57 taon ng Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature. Inilalarawan sa koleksyong ito ang paghahanap ng isang makata ng paraan upang makapagsalita. Ang makatang ito ayon sa kanya ay namulat sa mga isyung pampulitika, sumasama sa mga rally at sa huli, bumabalik sa sariling kwarto upang makapagsulat tungkol sa kaniyang karanasan sa loob ng isang marahas na lipunan.

"Tinitingnan ko sa lahat ng kontradiksyon ang pagkapanalo ko sa Palanca," saad ni Sir Caloy.

Ayon sa kaniya, nakatataba ito ng puso sapagkat sa wakas, nakilala din ang kaniyang panunulat sa Palanca.

"Noong college pa kasi ako, ang sabi ng mga tao tungkol sa mga tula ko ay masyado daw itong obscure at sentimental. Tinawag nga ng isa kong propesor noon ang mga tula ko na 'ngaw ngaw poetry', mahilig daw kasi akong magpa-iyak ng mga mambabasa," kuwento pa ni Sir Caloy.

Sa kanyang pagsali sa patimpalak na ito, tinitingnan ni Sir Caloy na isa pa ring problema ang pagka-canonize o pag-aanoint ng Palanca sa mga bagong manunulat. Ngunit sa kabila nito, malaki rin umano ang naitulong ng Palanca sa pagsuporta sa ilang makata at manunulat.

"Nakahahanap pa rin naman ng espasyo ang mga progresibo at radikal na manunulat para sa pagpopropaganda at siyempre sa pagsusulat."

Nang tanungin naman kung sinu-sino ang mga nakaimpluwensiya sa kanyang panunulat, sinabi ni Sir Caloy na karamihan sa kanila ay mga kakaibang manunulat din.

"Paborito ko si Federico Garcia Lorca, isang makatang Kastila noong taong 1920. Pulitikal ang mga akda niya at kaya niyang ipakita ang pulitika at personal sa mga akda niya. Gayundin sina Eric Gamalinda, Federico Licsi Espino at Rolando Tinio," saad pa niya.

[P]: Anu'ng reaksiyon mo na pumangalawa lang sa iyo si Rebecca Añonuevo, isang kilala nang manunulat?

Sir Caloy: Iniisip ko lang na pagkakataon lang 'yun. Masayang-masaya din ako kasi 'yung mga binabasa ko lang dati ay kasma ko na sa awarding.

Sa edad na 23, masasabing isa sa mga pinakabatang nagwagi ng unang karanagan sa Palanca si Sir Caloy.

Maliban naman kay Sir Caloy, nag-uwi rin ng karangalan mula sa Palanca si Bb. Layeta Bucoy para sa pagsulat ng one-act play (Ikatlong Gantimpala) ngayong taon. At noong nakaraang taon naman, nagwagi rin si Propesor Emmanuel Dumlaog ng Ikatlong Gantimpala para sa pagsulat ng tula sa Filipino mula pa rin sa Palanca.

Ilan lamang sila sa mga patunay na hindi pahuhuli ang UPLB pagdating sa husay sa panitikan.

Kaya naman ayon kay Propesor Jerry Yapó, tagapangulo ng Departamento ng Humanidades, tunay nga namang ipinagmamalaki ng buong kagawaran ang mga nagsipagwagi sa nasabing paligsahan.

"Hopefully, their entry in the Humanities Department would not only inspire their co-faculty but also their students who want to experience their so-called 'break' in the publishing industry," dagdag pa ni Yapó.

Pagsuong sa Laot ng Panitlikang UPLB

Halos isang taon pa lang nagtuturo ng panitikan si Sir Caloy dito sa UPLB. Ngunit sa maikling panahong ito, masasabi niyang maganda ang kanyang naging karanasan dito. Kahit pa sabihing isang siyentipikong komunidad ang UPLB, sinuong pa rin ni si Sir Caloy ang salimuot ng pagsusulat sa loob nito kasama ng marami pang propesor sa kanilang departamento. Aniya, mahirap na nga talaga ang magiging isang manunulat kaya naman doble ang hirap ng magiging isang manunulat sa loob ng pamantasang ito.

[P]: Kumusta naman ang UPLB, na nagpapakadalubhasa sa agham,

para sa iyo na isang manunulat at guro sa panitikan?

Sir Caloy: Wala pa talagang sentro ng pagsusulat dito sa UPLB. Wala pa. Pero, malapit nang dumating.

Ang ganito namang katotohanan, ayon kay Sir Caloy, ay mas nagbibigay ng kagan-dahan sa tuwing makakakita ka ng mga komunidad ng mga manunulat at makata sa loob ng UPLB na nakikipaglaban para sa ginagawa nila.

[P]: Ano namang gusto mong sabihin sa mga batang manunulat na katulad mo?

Sir Caloy: Patuloy tayong magsulat at huwag tayong matakot sa mga institusyon katulad ng Palanca. Dahil base na rin sa nangyari sa akin, posible talagang manalo tayong mga batang manunulat sa Palanca.

[P]: Ano 'yung mga karanasang hindi mo malilimutan sa pagtuturo mo dito sa UPLB?

Sir Caloy: Siyempre isa na dyan 'yung mga lingguhang palihan ng mga writing orgs dito. Dahil lagi't lagi naman, ito 'yung nag-aangat ng moral naming mga nagtuturo katulad nina Dennis Aguinaldo, Reagan Maiquez at ni Emmanuel Dumlaog. Sila 'yung mga tinuturing naming mga kasabayan din naming magsulat kaya handa rin kaming magpakritiko sa kanila. Kaya bawat gabi ng palihan na 'yun ay hindi namin malilimutan dahil dinadala talaga naming 'yun hanggang sa mga diskusyon at naitutulak din kami ng mga mag-aaral na ito na magsulat.

Hindi rin malilimutan ni Sir Caloy ang kanilang produksyong Pagbulas ng Sibol, kung saan siya ang sumulat ng iskrip. Nakita niya umano dito ang kasigasigan ng mga kanyang mga mag-aaral, gayundin nina G. Reagan Maiquez at G. Dennis Gupa, upang makabuo ng isang natatanging produksyon.

"Idadagdag ko din ang pagbuo ng Isko't Iska para sa taong ito. Dahil dito mo makikita na nagpapatuloy 'yung tradisyon ng pagsuong ng mga kabataan sa sining at panitikan, handang suriin ang lipunan at makibaka para sa kanilang mga karapatan," saad pa niya.

Balon ng Artista at Manunulat

Iba't iba rin naman ang masasabi ng mga araw-araw nakakasalamuha ni Sir Caloy tungkol sa kanya.

Ayon kay Jaime Rafael Ledesma, estudyante ni Sir Caloy sa Humanities 1, akala niya noong una na hindi mahusay magturo si Sir Caloy kung pagbabasehan ang kaniyang edad. Ngunit hindi naglaon, napasubalian niya rin naman ang pagtinging ito.

"Ayoko ng Hum 1 noong mga unang meeting namin pero nagawa niyang interesado at kapana-panabik ang subject na ito," saad pa ni Ledesma.

[P]: Ano naman 'yung pinaka-wirdong karanasan mo sa pagtuturo?

Sir Caloy: Siguro 'yung isang beses na kinausap ako ng isang estudyante ko na sobrang grade conscious tapos ang sabi niya sa akin "alam mo sir, sa iyo lang ako nahirapan". Hindi ko naman kasi sinasabi na lahat ng itinuturo namin sa klase ay mabilis maproseso. Parang gusto ko lang sabihin na darating 'yung panahon na makikita mo 'yung teorya na gumagalaw at naisasapraktika tapos doon mo malalaman na naiintindihan mo 'yung mga tinuturo. Ang mahalaga, hindi 'yung nakakalimutan.

Hindi naman kasi nasusukat ng mga marka mo sa unibersidad kung gaano ka katalino. Masusukat aniya ang talino ng isang tao kapag nagagamit nito ang isang teorya upang tuligsain o suriin ang aktwalidad ng

isa pang teorya.

Nakatatanggap din umano ng mga sulat si Sir Caloy mula sa mga estudyante niya lalo na sa mga panahong nagagalit siya sa klase.

Sa kasalukuyan, wala pang planong tumigil sa pagtuturo si Sir Caloy. Aniya, aalis lamang siya dito sa UPLB kung sakaling pinaalis na talaga siya ng administrasyon.

"Kapag nagsulat ka dito, gumagawa ka talaga ng paraan. Nagbubukas ka ng mga espasyo para sa iba pang tao na gustong sumuong sa pagsusulat," pagtatapos niya.

[P]: Ano 'yung gusto mong iparating sa mga estudyante mo?

Sir Caloy: Makikita mo talaga sa karamihan sa mga estudyante ko na wala talaga silang pakialam halimbawa na lang kay T.S. Elliot at sa mga pinagsasabi niya. Kaya naman ang malaking hamon talaga sa akin ay makapag-instill sa kanila ng kahit konting interes sa panitikan at tingnan ito bilang makapangyarihang armas ng pagmumulat. Gayundin kung paano dapat suriin ang lipunan at ang pagiging tao mo sa ganito karahas na lipunan.

Ayon pa sa kanya, nais niya ring iparating sa kanyang mga estudyante na sa huli't huli, ang mga akdang kanilang binabasa ay mga kritiko ng mga manunulat sa lipunang ginagalawan nito.

"At tayo bilang mga mambabasa, tinitingnan din natin 'yung ating lipunan sa isang kritikal na paraan," dagdag niya.

Kaya naman para kay Sir Caloy, isang magandang simulain na ang pag-usbong ng komunidad ng mga batang manunulat sa UPLB katulad ng Pantas, Samahang Layb at UPLB Writers' Club na nagpapatuloy ng tradisyon ng kritikal na pagsusulat. Kahit hindi pa kinikilala at binibigyan ng suporta ang pagsusulat dito.

[P]: Ano'ng mga bagay ang kinahihilingan mo?

Sir Caloy: Mahilig akong mag-layout. Actually, layout artist ako ng Children's books ng Adarna bago ako nagturo. Raket ko din 'yun.

Si Sir Caloy ay nagtapos ng kursong BA Comparative Literature sa UP Diliman kung saan naging miyembro siya ng UP UGAT. Naging kabakas na patnugot, patnugot sa kultura at layout artist din siya ng Philippine Collegian. Kasalukuyan siyang mukumuha ng MA Philippine Studies sa UP Diliman pa rin. Ipinanganak si Sir Caloy sa Olongapo noong October 18, 1983 at pang-apat sa anim na magkakapatid.

Ugat ng Pagkakakilanlan

Unti-unting nanunumbalik ang sigla ng sin-ing at panitikan sa UPLB sa tulong ng mga gurong katulad ni Sir Caloy. Pasasaan nga ba at darating na rin sa pamantasan ang sinasabi niyang "sentro ng panulat". At mula sa mga sentrong ito, muling nagluluwal si Maria Makiling ng mga binhing magpapatuloy ng malikhain at magiting nating kasaysayan. Maaari ring higit pa sa maningning na kinabukasang ipinapangako ng agham ang maaaring ibunga ng mayabong na sin-ing at panitikan.

Cookie Kookie Questions

[P]: Favorite word?

Sir Caloy: Basically.

[P]: Favorite expression?

Sir Caloy: Ewan ko sa 'yo ang dami mo'ng alam.

[P]: Favorite color?

Sir Caloy: Old rose.

[P]: Single ka pa ba?

Sir Caloy: Oo. May problema ka? Haha! **[P]**

DFI: TULOY ANG LABAN NG ISKOLAR NG BAYAN

Napakatagal na panahon na ang lumipas mula ng ipatupad ang 221% Dorm Fee Increase (DFI) noong taong 1997 na tinutulan ng maraming Iskolar ng Bayan. Ngayong ika-sampung taong paggunita sa DFI, muli nating balikan ang mga pangyayaring nagbigkis sa mga mag-aaral hindi lamang sa UPLB kundi maging sa lahat ng kampus ng UP.

Nagsilbing isang malaking hamon para sa kapwa natin mag-aaral noon na harapin ang mga patakarang hindi makatarungan na ihinahain ng administrasyon.

1994: Lumabas ang mga plano para sa isang Revised Dorm Policy (RDP) na naglalayong mga freshmen lamang ang maaaring tanggapin sa mga dormitoryo sa loob ng unibersidad.

1995: Ipinanukala ang pagkakaroon ng Alternative Fee Scheme (AFS) na nagsasaad na maaaring magtaas ng bayad ang mga dormitoryo batay sa renobasyong kailangan ng bawat isa.

Mayo 29, 1997: Inaprubahan ng UP Board of Regents (BOR) ang DFI dahil sa sinasabing pagkalugi ng mga dormitoryo at ang pangangailangan ng pera upang mapaayos ang mga pasilidad nito.

Hulyo 17, 1997: Walang takot na ipinahayag ng mga mag-aaral ang kanilang pagtutol nang ipatupad ang DFI sa pamamagitan ng mga iba't-ibang pagkilos upang kontrahin ang biglaang pagtataas ng upa sa mga dormitoryo ng kampus. Kabilang na rito ang pagsasagawa ng mga room-to-room campaigns, org hops, educational discussions at pagpapaskil ng statements at position papers sa pangunguna ng University Student Council (USC).

"Ginawananamin ang lahat ng mapayapang pamamaraan upang maiparating kay Chancellor Ruben Villareal ang aming pagtutol sa DFI," ani ni Allan Andres na noon ay Tagapangulo ng USC. Binatikos nila ang

kawalan ng konsultasyon sa mga residente at mag-aaral, pati na rin ang sistemang paggamit ng dorm fee bilang pampasahod sa mga empleyado ng mga dormitoryo na dapat ay kinukuha sa Central Fund ng UPLB.

"Kung hindi nyo kayang magbayad ay magsilalis na lang kayo." Ito ang tahasang sinabi ni Dr. Vivian Gonzales, noon ay Dean ng Office of the Student Affairs (OSA) laban sa mga mag-aaral na nagbarikada.

Hulyo 28, 1997: Nagpasyang magtipon-tipon ang mahigit 300 na mga estudyante upang sama-samang makibaka para mabasura ang DFI. Binoykot ang mga klase at malawakang ipinasara ang mga gusali.

Hulyo 30, 1997 7am: Isang estudyante ang nasagasaan ng sasakyang may plate number na (PBG 110) habang nagpoprotesta. Nagtamo ng pasa ang biktimgang si Jaime Cachero na agad namang dinala sa Infirmary.

Hulyo 31, 1997: Sa gitna ng paulit-ulit na banta ng marahas na pambubuway ng UPF, umabot sa lampas 400 na katao ang nagbarikada sa UP gate.

Agosto 1, 1997: Simbolikong tinanggal ang barikada at winakasan ang programa sa pamamagitan ng pag-awit ng UP Naming Mahal.

Tumagal ng apat na araw ang pagbarikada sa UP Gate. Ipinakita nito na sa sama-samang pagkilos ng mga estudyante ay maipaglalaban ang mga karapatan ng lahat ng mga mag-aaral.

Sa kasalukuyan, marami pa ring estudyante ang piniling manirahan sa mga dormitoryo sa kabila ng naging pagtaas ng bayarin noong 1997.

"Pinili kong tumira sa dormitoryo sa loob ng kampus dahil mas malapit ito at mas mura pa ang bayad. Gayun pa man, nananatiling problema namin ang kawalan ng tubig sa gabi at kung minsan ay ang hindi agad pagkakaroon ng tubig sa umaga," ayon kay Emmanuel Artuz, isang new freshman at residente ng Men's Dorm.

Sinabi naman ni Lisa Mercado, sophomore, at residente ng new Dorm "Madalas akong maglakad pauwi ng dormitoryo. Nakakapagod iyon pero malaking tipid sa pamasahé. Pinakamahirap kong naranasan sa dormitoryo ang minsang pagpasok ko ng hindi nakapaligo dahil sa kawalan ng tubig," dagdag pa ni Mercado.

Sa umpisa ng pananalasa ng Tuition and Other Fee Increase (ToFI) ngayong semestre, hindi malayong mangyari na magkaroon muli ng DFI dahil isa ito sa mga pinagkukunan ng panustos ng unibersidad para sa mga pangangailangan at gastusin nito. Karapatan nating ipaglaban ang ating mga karapatan. Isang pagpupunyagi para sa kapwa natin mga palaban na iskolar na makibaka para sa lahat. Tuloy ang laban! U-P-L-B! Tunay na Palaban! Makabayan!

[P]

Sanggunian: UPLB Perspective Archives
= Vol. 24 Issue 2, July 4-16, 1997
= Vol. 24 Issue 3, July 16-31, 1997
= Vol. 24 Issue 4, August 11-26, 1997
= Vol. 24 Issue 7, October 1-15, 1997
= Vol. 24 Issue 13, February 23- March 16, 1998
= Vol. 27 Issue 16, May 1-25, 2001



Requisite Sacrifice: A Neophyte's Ordeal

► Lara Katrina Tuazon

For decades, cases of fraternity violence have swept the University of the Philippines, claiming the lives of young men—from Gonzalo Mariano Albert's death, the first case of fraternity violence in 1954, until the case of UPLB Student Marlon Villanueva in 2006. All their questionable deaths and sufferings were supposedly borne from the pursuit of the coveted brotherhood.

High esteem

The term fraternity came from *frater*, a Latin word which means brother. Living up to its name, fraternities are generally perceived as organizations exclusively for men.

In the University, membership to fraternities is open to those who are willing to commit their loyalty to the group. Fraternities conduct orientation, publicized or not, to recruit potential members.

"Sa amin, may formal and informal

orientation. Sa formal, may program at andoon ang mga alumni. Sa informal naman, kami-kami lang sa tambayan," exclaimed Santi*, a resident member of a fraternity here in UPLB.

As the need for belongingness arises, some choose the path of becoming a full-fledged fraternity brother.

"Noong sumali ako, I was yearning for self-improvement. Gusto ko ring palawakin ang connections ko," he furthered.

Like Santi and the rest of the fraternity members, their perception of fraternities went far beyond the rumbles and violence it is usually associated with.

Fraternities also engage in activities and outreach programs within and outside the University.

"Kapag December, nagpapakain kami ng mga bata. Sumasali rin kami sa iba pang outreach programs para hindi masayang ang lakas namin," Santi shared.

Another fratman, Ran* shared their activities that keep him and the rest of his fraternity brothers busy.

"Nagsponsor kami ng quiz contest dito sa University. Dati, naikuwento rin sa akin na mayroon din kaming programang 'free circumcision' sa labas ng campus. Itutuloy ulit namin iyon," he said.

Further, Inter-fraternity Council Chairperson Rainier Castillo added that fraternities are generally "committed to serve."

"Huwag nating ikahon ang ideas natin tungkol sa frat. Tingnan din natin ang kanilang ideas and vision," he expressed.

Mendez Case

Cris Anthony Mendez, member of National College of Public Administration (NCPAG) Student Council and representative to the University Student Council in Diliman, excelled in academics and service. But this 20-year old Public

Administration student supposedly heeded the call of becoming a "fratman." However, he ended up dead at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center on August 27, 2007.

Autopsy indicated that the body suffered from "traumatic injuries on the upper and lower extremities." Furthermore, the victim had "contused lungs" or bruised lungs, an indication that he was hit hardy on the back or chest. These findings became a major foundation of the assumption that Mendez is a victim of hazing.

Ariel Paolo Ante, National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) Student Council Chairperson and Sigma Rho fraternity member, reportedly recruited Mendez to the said fraternity. As of press time, Ante still has to surface.

Ante, along with the rest of his fraternity brothers and alumni, maintained an inexplicable silence regarding the incident.

Although Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a distinguished alumnus of the fraternity, deplored his fraternity brothers saying that his frat has become a training ground for "thugs and killers."

Strict Defiance

After the incident, gripping news of yet another death of a UP student due to suspected hazing landed on major newspapers in the country. This recurrence brings to question the effectiveness of the Anti-Hazing Law.

Signed by Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Republic Act No. 8049, known as the Anti-Hazing Law, "regulates hazing and other forms of initiation rites in fraternities, sororities, and organizations and provides penalties for violating." Lifetime imprisonment is the gravest punishment contained within this law if "death, rape or sodomy results" from hazing.

Since the enactment of the law in 1995, cases of fraternity hazing did not cease to exist. The Villanueva case remained unresolved, as the case of two suspects, identified as members of Alpha Phi Omega, is still pending.

It seems that this law failed to effect an increased caution among fraternities as they continue to cling onto the culture of violence that has been passed onto them.

An alumnus of one of the fraternities in UP said that "initiation rites are well laid-out laws within the fraternity." Further, he emphasized that limits should always be set for any form of test, physical or otherwise.

"During the 70's, we had to endure a month-long initiation and physical test was heavy, but [it is] always [done] in the context of indoctrination on leadership, friendship, and service," he shared.

Former UP President Francisco Nemenzo acknowledged the difficulty of changing the culture of fraternities. However, he said that there are ways to prevent cases of fraternity violence.

A preventive measure, according to Senate Majority Floor Leader Francis Pangilinan, former UP Student Regent, includes the attendance of a school representative during initiation rites. He is also advocating for the aggressive and proactive enforcement of this law.

On the other hand, Senator Miriam Santiago proposed the abolishment of fraternities as the solution. Santiago even dared any student who is against the proposal to have a debate with her.

In response to the proposal, Santi said that banning fraternities is impossible.

"Mas dadami ang grupo na magiging underground kung nagkataon. Dahil doon, mas mahirap i-control ang violence na puwedeng mangyari," he asserted.

Culture of Violence

Machismo can be traced to the patriarchal system that is deeply rooted in the Filipino culture. It came from the viewpoint that male was the superior gender.

James*, another fraternity member here in the campus said that patriarchy kindles different actions of the fratman. It is sometimes exhibited even in the smallest instances within the group. According to him, it is

seen in the fraternity members' demeaning treatment of women.

"Ipinapakita nila ang pagiging 'super gentleman' sa babae dahil sa tingin nila, mahihina ang mga ito," he revealed.

He even disclosed that some sorority women were deemed as mere girlfriends of the fraternity men.

"May mga certain sororities na itinatatag, pero sila ay secondary lang sa fraternity brothers. Minsan pa nga, ang ibang sorority women ay nagiging ka-relasyon na lamang ng mga fratman," he explained.

In essence, fraternities represent power and manhood. Primarily, a fratman's belief of superiority results to fraternity rumbles and violence. But when suddenly faced with the rumored hazing incident, the 'manly' strength of the fratmen turns null.

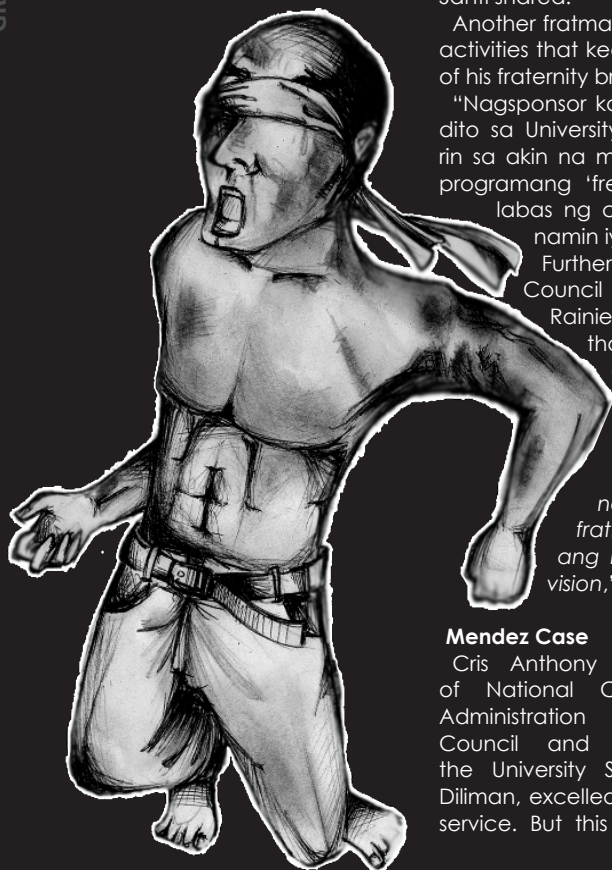
Blind Reverence (?)

With the emergence of another death from hazing, its relevance in a fraternity, sorority or even an organization's membership process is again being questioned. This is not only because of its 'indefinite' purpose, but most importantly, the sufferings and deaths incurred because of its execution.

The elimination of these student groups will not totally expunge the culture of violence; it will just violate the individuals' freedom of assembly. Regardless of whether they are abolished or not, the fraternity's culture will still persist as long as members blindly follow what has been done before, carrying the risk of sacrificing another life along the way.

Fraternity brothers are bound by their loyalty to the fraternity. Thus, adhering to the history and culture of the group is definitely called for. Conversely, as a fratman develops his fervor for the group, things done for the fraternity do not emerge as mere "favors" any longer.

But when the demand of the fraternity already involves peril, then breaking off from the tradition to spare a future member from harm is not utter insolence. [P]



FEATURES

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS
VOLUME 34 ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 27 2007

7

SystemOne

System-e-WAN?

Angelique Alazada

Isang estudyante ng UPLB ang sabik na para sa susunod na semestre. Makikilala niya ang Online Registration sa pamamagitan ng Systemone, kung saan gagamit siya ng internet at kompyuter upang makapagpalista ng mga asignaturang kailangan niyang makuha. Ngunit hindi siya siguradong makakakuha ng kumpletong unit para sa susunod na semestre. Hindi rin kasi siya sigurado sa impormasyong alam niya tungkol dito. Pero dahil wala siyang pagpipilian, susuungin niya ang mundo ng kawalang kasiguruhan.

Cannot find server

Magandang ideya ang paggamit ng internet sa pagpapa-rehistro at pagpapalista ng mga asignaturang kailangan ng mga estudyante dahil mabilis ito. Hindi na kailangang pumila pa sa mga dating nakatakdang lugar tulad ng New College of Arts and Sciences (NCAS) building para sa pagpapa-rehistro. At makatitipid pa sa oras dahil ilang click lang sa kompyuter ay makikita mo na ang account mo.

Ngunit ang paggamit ng internet ay tila nagpapakita sa mga estudyante ng hindi pagkakapantay-pantay. "Hardware-dependent" kasi ang internet. Ibig sabihin, kailangang may kompyuter ka upang makapag-internet. At hindi lahat ng may kompyuter ay may adbentahe na sa sistema dahil kailangan na may koneksyon ka rin sa internet.

May isa pa namang paraan upang makagamit ng internet para sa Online Registration: ang pagrenta ng kompyuter sa mga internet shops. Kalimitang dalawampu't limang piso ang upa sa kompyuter sa bawat oras na makokonsumo.

Ngunit hindi biro ang renta sa internet na babayaran ng mga estudyante. Hindi rin basta-bastang gastusin ang aabutin ng isang pangkaraniwang estudyante, dahil ang dalawampu't limang piso kada oras ay napakabigat na. Idagdag pa na maraming internet shops na may mga mabagal na kompyuter at pagbubukas ng pahina ng Systemone.

Kakataka ring sumabay ang pagtaas ng renta sa mga internet shops sa implementasyon ng Systemone. Noong mga unang araw ng registration, nag-uumpaw ang mga internet shops sa paligid ng UPLB dahil unahan sa pagkuha ng unit at pagpapa-waitlist ang mga estudyante. Kaya kahit sabihin pa na may mga nakahanda nang kompyuter sa mga

bintana ng University Registrar's Office ay kailangan pa ring magrenta sa labas dahil pipila ka rin naman sa harap nito upang makagamit.

Results not found

Hindi na bago ang samu't saring senaryo tuwing registration period dahil simula pa noong unang semestre, isang tambak na ang mga bagay na gumugulo sa mga estudyante tungkol sa Systemone.

Ayon kay Thea Ajes, BS Computer Science '07, "on-time ako gumawa ng account at nalaman ko ngang overload ako kasi 21 units ang nakuha ko, halos lahat ng ComSci ay overload." Gayunpaman, nalilito pa rin siya sa Systemone.

Si Mirriam Castañeda naman, BA Sociology '07, ay gumastos ng isang daang piso upang mabuksan lamang ang account niya sa Systemone dahil usad-pagong umano ang website. At ang lalo pang nagpa-init sa ulo niya ay nang malaman niyang siyam na unit lang ang nakuha niya at wala pa ang mga pinaka-kailangan niyang mga asignatura.

"Ayos lang naman ang Systemone para sa akin. Kasi, first come, first serve. Equal yung opportunities, kaso medyo parang hindi rin equal kasi yung iba ang dami-dami ng units at yung iba naman, super hirap sa pagkuha ng unit at subject. On-time naman akong nag-reg pero 18 units lang ang nakuha ko," saad ni Abigail Huelma, BS Agriculture '07'.

Ayon naman kay Sheila Mae Abucay, tagapangulo ng Konseho ng Mga Mag-aaral ng Kolehiyo ng Agham at Sining, "Yung unang sem kasi, ang CAS ang tumulong dun sa pag-aasikaso ng registration. Nakita namin yung mga ginagawang paraan ng pagpaparehistro. Yung sa part naman nina Mr. Rodolfo Duldulao Jr. ang administrator ng Systemone, nahihirapan sila kasi konti lang silang gumagalaw sa loob talaga. Usapan daw nila ay every opisina, halimbawa registrar ay may representative or parang maghahallili. Pero sa nakita namin buong week or buong duration ng Systemone, eh sila at sila pa rin. So, ang suggestion ni Sir Duldulao noon ay gawing mas maaga ang registration tulad nga ngayon, di'ba? Eh ngayon kasi, yung sa mga kakilala ko marami ang nagsasabing mas ok lang ngayon. Ang

problema lang, marami pa ring mga estudyante ang hindi informed."

Idinagdag pa niya na hindi naipapakalat ang mga impormasyon tungkol sa mga bagong sistema, tulad ng Systemone, nang maayos. Sino nga naman daw ba ang magbabasa ng isang anunsyo na nakadikit lang sa mga pader? Kaya ang kanilang konseho ay sinusubukang magpakalat ng impormasyon sa mga kapwa nila estudyante, dahil kailangang-kailangan ang mga ganitong klase ng tulong sa ngayon.

Sinabi pa niya na ang alam niyang hangarin ng Systemone ay para maalis na ang orm 26, na ginagamit kung kulang ang unit ng isang estudyante. Ngunit kung susuriin, problema talaga nito ang kasiguraduhang madadagdagan ang unit ng isang estudyante. Kaya naman kahit sabihin pang may Systemone na, at kulang pa rin ang mga inaalok na klase, ay hindi pa rin nasolusyonan ang dati nang problema ng mga estudyante.

"Gumawa ako ng account ng on-time tapos sakto lang naman 'yung units na nakuha ko, 19 units. Sa library ako nag-open ng account at nagbayad ako ng 10 pesos. Nakakahinayang kasi pangkain ko na 'yon tapos pang-iinternet pa. At tsaka ang bagal kaya nung site. Naguguluhan pati ako kasi first time nga, tsaka nung nagtanong-tanong ako for assistance, walang mapagtanungan kasi hindi rin sila maalam. Hindi kasi masyadong informed," giit ni Jeffrey Magtibay, BS Math and Science Teaching '07'.

Sa isang taong pagpapatupad ng Systemone, maraming prob-

lema ang patuloy na umuusbong. Pangunahin na ang gastos, hirap at kakulangan sa pagpapakalat ng impormasyon. Dumagdag pa ito sa mga una nang problema sa pagpapa-rehistro tulad ng kakulangan sa unit at kawalan ng mga pinakakailangang mga asignatura.

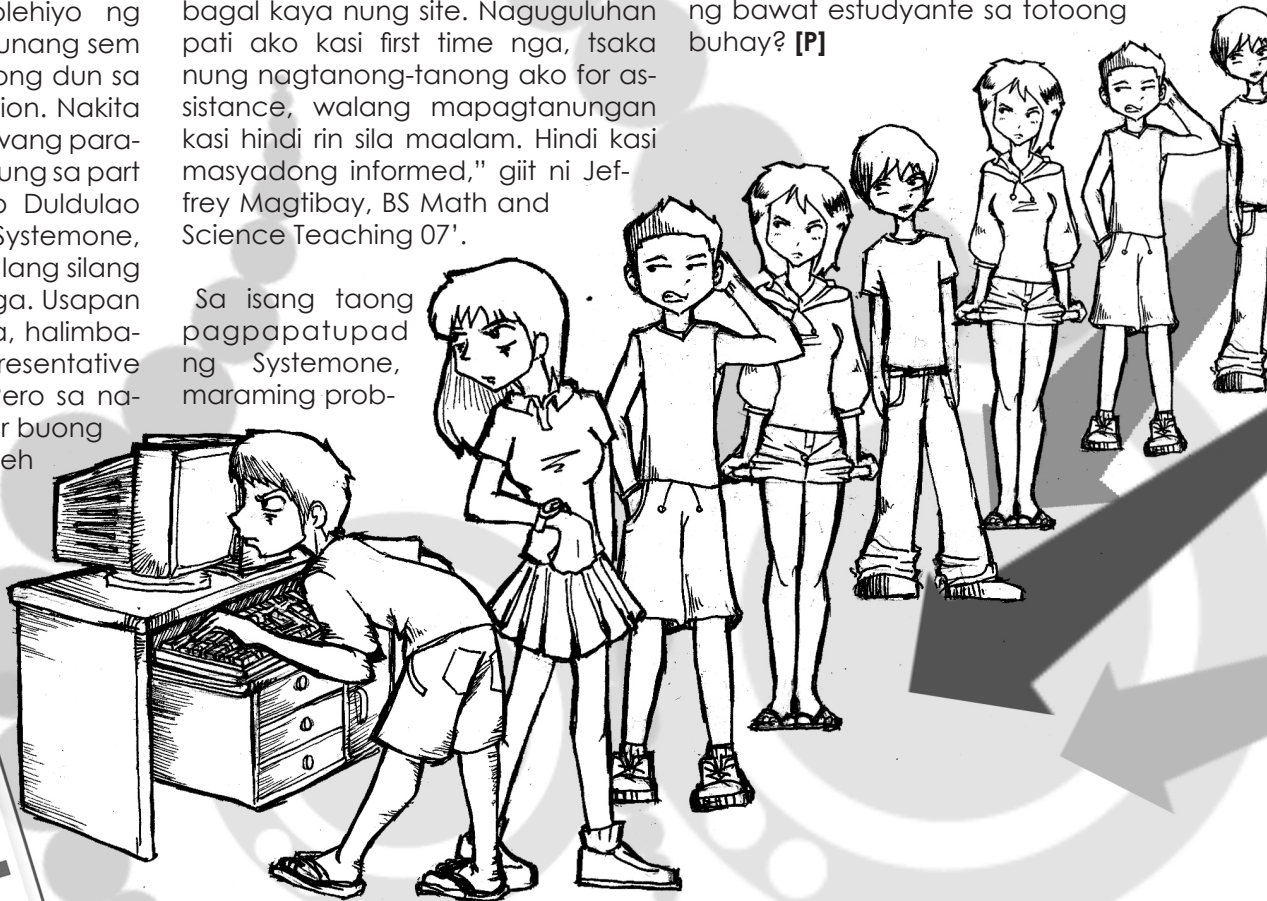
Hindi na bago ang samu't saring senaryo tuwing registration period dahil simula pa noong unang semestre, isang tambak na ang mga bagay na gumugulo sa mga estudyante tungkol sa Systemone.

Page cannot be displayed

Pagkatapos ng lahat-lahat, patuloy ang pakikipagsapalaran ng isang iskolar ng Bayan upang maiayos ang lahat para sa ikalawang semestre.

"The Online Registration aims to determine for a course of section for second semester 2007-2008 at an earlier time. This will help the colleges to take appropriate action to better serve the students' need."

Nakapaskil ang mga katangiang ito ng Online Registration sa isa sa mga bintana ng opisina ng University Registrar. Kung susuriin, masasabing para sa kabutihan ng mga estudyante ang Systemone. Makakatulong din marahil ito sa bawat kolehiyo upang mas mapadali ang kanilang trabaho at matugunan ang bawat pangangailangan ng mga estudyanteng sakop nila. Ngunit natatamasa kaya ito ng bawat estudyante sa totoong buhay? [P]



So-called EMO

▲ Beverly May Indino

I never knew how an easy makeover can utterly influence one's image—until I tried it myself.

Weeks before June approached, I considered a band of hair strands to cover my entire right face just to put some twist on my Plain Jane image. And well, after long days of idleness at home, I was thrilled to do something different that morning; something that will remind me of "what I did last summer." So I cut my lengthy bangs, without thinking much about it.

As expected, it was not only me who thought likewise. The semester in UPLB was welcomed by screaming diversity of fashion as seen in some Elbizens' way of dressing up; most of which are not really their look in the previous semester/s. One of the styles that stood out from the crowd is the so-called "Emo," the trend I was not aware some may associate with the simple change I did with my hair.

Simply Stereotypes

The term Emo covers too extensive interests that its definition cannot be contained by a single box.

A typical notion of the Emo fashion consists of dyed black hair (though sometimes with red or pink streak), eyeliner, thick black-rimmed glasses, tight jeans and shirt usually bearing names of Emo bands, studded belt, old-beaten Chuck Taylor All-Stars or other black sneakers, and yes, long bangs often brushed to one side of the face.

Gin*, BS Economics '05, an admitted follower of popular culture, cleared that "Emo is not just fashion. It is also music and lifestyle."

Emo is also a subgenre of Hardcore Punk which is linked by some musicians to several independent variations like Screamo, Indie Emo, Emo Punk, Emo Acoustic, and the likes. Precise or not, Emo is usually used to describe music of foreign bands like Fugazi, Embrace, Blood Brothers, Jimmy Eat World and the debatable inclusion of Dashboard Confessional, Fall Out Boy, My Chemical Romance, Paramore and local bands like Typecast and Fast Pitch.

Most Emo people, however, consider Emo style as something bound with sentimental attachment. "The weird part [is], is not all of these [Emo styleswww] supposed to be emotional?" Gin added.

In the attitude, an Emo person is usually thought of as self-centered, usually heartbroken, depressed and often quiet. Included in these attitudes is the idea of self-mutilation that includes cutting and burning, even reaching to the point of suicide.

However, these descriptions are not always acceptable, and for some, Emo is not always the "negative" attitude. "Meron din kasing mga Emo na masayahin. Emo pa rin sila kasi nakikinig sila ng Emo music or 'di kaya, nakakasunod sila sa Emo fashion. Kanya-kanya rin kasi 'yan. Tulad ko, ang kino-consider ko lang na Emo ay 'yung mga fans ng Emo music. Pwedeng 'yung iba, sa fashion sila nakatingin. The rest, sa kilos. Mahirap talagang i-generalize, kasi napaka-

broad nga ng term na Emo," Dan*, a BS Nutrition '05, explained. He claims that he has been a listener of Emo music long before its popularity hit the country.

Being called a poser is the other attack of some critics to those who are into the Emo trend. It is generally an offensive slang term for either the exaggerated or pretentious person who used to pose a certain fashion style, though



aware of it, when he knows nothing or at least, knows only insignificant things about such style.

Fashion, music, and attitude associated with Emo are taking place in expansive interpretations. Some Emo kids' idea on what Emo is really all about is too limited to catch up with its rising popularity.

Ain't Just a Scene

In a campus where the sense of academic freedom is somewhat visible, some Elbizens engage themselves in scenes like Hiphop, Rock, Punk, Reggae, and other genres. Some would just stick to the simple safe style of shirt and jeans while others would be creative (and bold enough) to modify the existing trends.

The real deal, perhaps, is not really in the diversity of choices but on how this "engagement" of students to these modes works. In a closer look, most teenagers package themselves in such a way that they will be labeled according to what they desire. Such practice of identity creation extends to their day-to-day activities.

Em*, BS Computer Science '06, admitted that swhe got obsessed to be branded as an Emo Girl in her first year in college.

"I read on the net na gani-

"All of a sudden, [I] got sick of it. Naisip kong wala naman akong napapala. In return, nega[tive] ang naging epekto sa 'kin dahil masyado akong naki-ayon sa uso without thinking of it first," Em said.

Some people also acquire Emo trends from the music style to the attitudes—for the main reason of "going with the flow."

Sociologists may call this conformity, a term referring to imitating such preferences of the majority resulting to changing one's actions due to peer pressure. There are two reasons that may explain this: they follow the trend because they think it is right; and they just feel good moving in a crowd.

An instructor from the Department of Social Sciences, who refused to be identified, suggested this basis of the rise of Emo trend.

"In the case of Emo dressers who know little about the so-called Emo, they might fall on both explanations. First, the persons whom they like are into it, so should they. Second, they find it cool; they feel good with the attention they are getting. Thus, they go with what they think is 'in' regardless of whether the pressure around them is real or purely imaginative."

Nevertheless, the labeling process associated with Emo is still subject to criticisms. Emo is often judged based on mere impression; it can be destructive and rarely constructive.

Arguments over matters that might not in fact do any good on parties involve is never a sound option. Calling names those who don't fit our definition of cool is not a very intellectual practice as well. So why fight over who is Emo and not? As an Avatar in glitter-graphics.com indicates, "Don't label me, I am not a can."

Mere Trend. Period.

Fads come and go. What may be "in" now will soon be "out." Conversely, what used to be "out" can enter the limelight again and be considered "in."

Whether in music, fashion, or attitude, people have their own interpretations of what is Emo and what it is not. Once these ideas matched each other, a certain concept becomes agreeable to many regardless if things can revolutionize in a snap.

UPLB can be a representation of the adaptation and general attitude of Filipinos toward changes. And Emo, minus the hugs and drama, is the current scene that may be replayed, deleted, or fast-forwarded. [P]

*not their real names

Sources:
<http://www.answers.com/topic/emo-slang>
<http://vampirefreaks.com/musicreviews/cat.php?c=5>
<http://www.fourta.comw>
<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=emo>
<http://emocemetry.10.forumer.com/index.php>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emo>
<http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Emo>



OVCCA rejects USC, LBCTF appeals

PUJ rerouting 'dry run' continues

▲ Rogene Gonzales

Students who have classes in PhySci, BioSci, Humanities and NCAS will still have to bear walking, as the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs (OVCCA) refused appeals to end the public utility jeepney (PUJ) rerouting 'dry run'.

The appeals were presented by the University Student Council (USC), and the Los Baños – Calamba Transport Federation (LBCTF), an alliance of five PUJ drivers and operators' associations.

For more than a month now, the new route prohibits access of PUJs to roads through the 'middle campus,' which includes the Institute of Biological Sciences, New College of Arts and Sciences, Humanities and Physical Sciences buildings. In conjunction, PUJs entering the UP gate can now turn left (Silangan Road) but are required to post "Kanan" or "Kaliwa" sign boards.

Noise-free, smoke-free campus

On August 31, Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco and Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Administration Elpidio Agbisit granted a dialogue requested by four out of five PUJ drivers and operators' organizations.

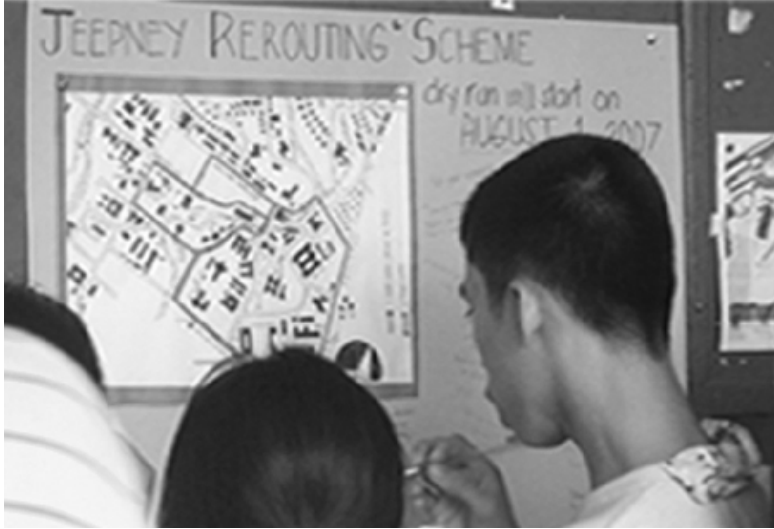
USC Chairperson Leo Fuentes Jr. and USC Councilors were also present in the dialogue.

Velasco stressed the idea of promoting the middle campus as a "walking campus" and reasoned that the classes being held there are now "noise- and smoke-free".

He insisted to retain the new route



KALIWA OR KANAN? Students can now take Silangan or Kanluran roads on their way to class but are not able to pass through the "middle campus."



IRATE. Students react on the PUJ rerouting "dry-run" that is now into its second month.

because according to him, it has considerably lessened the 'traffic' along Raymundo stretch.

Moreover, Agbisit pointed out that traffic is still heavy in the Raymundo stretch because the drivers refuse to take the alternative (Silangan) road. He added that the new route

is shorter.

Asked about the reduced income of the PUJ drivers, Velasco suggested regulating the entrance of PUJs in the campus since according to him, the overpopulation of PUJs is the cause of this problem, not the new route.

Also, Velasco assured the USC that the rerouting is not part of ecotourism.

No final date for the 'dry run,' however, was settled after the dialogue.

Bring back the old route

LBCTF Executive Vice-President Dominador Montecillo denied allegations that they are responsible for the "noise and pollution" inside the campus.

"Papaano naman kami magkakaroon ng polusyon kung ang mga jeep na pumapasada ay inexamine naman nila kung mausok o hindi?" he asked.

"Kung gusto nila ng tahimik [na lugar], maglagay sila ng karatula doon sa gate na: You are entering the University of the Philippines, Silence Please [and] No Blowing of Horn," he added.

Montecillo argued that since the implementation of the 'dry run' on August 1, the average daily income of PUJ drivers was slashed by at least Php100. He attributed this to higher fuel consumption of drivers dropping passengers at various points in the new route. He also complained of passenger loss since 90% of students are concentrated in the middle campus.

Furthermore, Montecillo said that the LBCTF wants the OVCCA to bring the old route back or at least open a one-way entry through the middle campus for PUJs.

Uphold students' rights

Meanwhile, Fuentes stated that the USC disagrees on the PUJ rerouting because no proper student consultations were conducted.

"Maraming estudyante ang nalalate

sa klase nila na tipong pawisan [kung mainit] at kung panahon man ng tagulan ay basang-basa na dahil walang masakyan," he explained.

During the dialogue, the USC asked the administration for a democratic process in decision-making. Velasco answered that students should abide by the laws of the University.

"Ang batas ng Unibersidad ay may consultation. At malinaw ang depinasyon natin sa consultation, pakinggan at iprocess ang pangangailangan ng bawat isa, hindi ibig sabihing ang mas marami ang nasusunod," Velasco said.

According to Fuentes, the OVCCA failed to show concrete basis for the rerouting implementation.

Last July 31, the USC posted 'Wall-speak' in several buildings around the campus soliciting feedback regarding the PUJ rerouting scheme. Fuentes said that most of the respondents reacted negatively on the proposal.

One comment was, "Dapat naman sana dadaan sa PhySci, BioSci at Hum... wala ng sense ang pagsakay sa jeep, lalo ka lang mapapalayo!"

"The problem is hindi naconsult 'yung prime stakeholders at 'yung direktang maapektuhan. The students themselves should at least know it before the implementation," was another.

A compiled list of these feedbacks was given to Velasco during the dialogue.

Fuentes urged his fellow students to join the protests on September 28 regarding pertinent issues like bringing back the old route in the upcoming Board of Regents meeting here in UPLB.

In connection, the LBCTF will stage a transport strike on the same day. [P]

In the wake of Sison's arrest ST groups rally at Crossing

Close to a hundred protesters from Southern Tagalog trooped to Crossing, Calamba last August 31 to condemn Jose Maria (Joma) Sison's arrest by the Dutch government.

Progressive groups Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN), Pagkakaisa at Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Laguna (PUMALAG), Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan- Kilusang Mayo Uno (PAMANTIK-KMU), Southern Tagalog Environmental Action Movement (STEAM), Anakbayan-Timog Katagalugan, and Gabriela-Southern Tagalog expressed opposition on Sison's arrest, saying that it "violates his civil liberties as a political refugee."

Simultaneous rallies demanding Sison's release were also launched at the Dutch embassy, Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, Hong Kong, and some countries in North America and Europe.

Sison is the founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Senior Political Consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), and current chairman of the International League of People's Struggles (ILPS).

According to a press statement released by BAYAN, Dutch police arrested him last August 28 for the murder of Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, two former ranking CPP officers who defected from the party during the early 90s.

Real terrorists

BAYAN-ST chairperson Arman Albarillo said however that the charges against Sison were "already dismissed, even his inclusion in the list of terrorists in the European Union."

He was referring to the Supreme Court decision absolving Sison and 50 other individuals associated with the CPP of the murder charges filed against them.

"It's the nationalistic Filipinos who end up in jail, which says something about the justice system in our country. The Arroyo and Bush administrations are the real terrorists because of their countless human rights violations," Albarillo added.

Infringing civil liberties

According to Christine Macabetcha, USC Councilor and member of Anakbayan-TK, the arrest violated Sison's rights as a political refugee.

"Joma has been a student leader who advanced the rights of the youth, and his arrest is an affront aimed at the youth sector," she added.

During his college days at UP Diliman, Sison was a student activist, and was one of the founding members of Kabataang Makabayan, a left-leaning organization of youth whose members went underground with the imposition of Martial law during the 70s.

Onset of HSA

Groups and individuals from different sectors

▲ Christian Ray Buendia

also feared that Sison's arrest would become a precursor for more human rights violations in lieu of the implementation of the Republic Act 9372 or Human Security Act (HSA) of 2007.

Since it took effect last July 15, several lawyer and human rights advocate groups have criticized the HSA.

They pointed out that the ambiguity in the use of the term terrorism, the additional powers accorded the police, and the invasion of privacy by military surveillance, can be used to silence the Arroyo administration's critics. (See related story on page 5)

BAYAN and other ally militant groups contend that HSA "will itself be an instrument that will inflict 'terror' on the people."

Continued Vigilance

Meanwhile, Albarillo said that even with the HSA in effect, they will continue to be vigilant.

He furthered that the rally, which coincided with the International Day of Desaparecidos (victims of enforced disappearances), is "just the beginning of bigger and more intense protests." against HSA.

Although Sison was already released last September 13 after the Dutch Justice Ministry found no "sufficient indications" of Sison's culpability, Albarillo said that they will continue to be on guard since threats of Sison's persecution are still present.. [P]

Dumalo at magpadalo sa gaganaping mobilisasyon kasabay ng BOR meeting!

September 28
7am
Humanities Steps

JUNK TOFI!

-[P]

Chem Eng stude dies from car accident

■ Ralph Martin Rivas

A UPLB student died while five others were injured as the car they were riding crashed on a tree along Pili drive last August 16.

According to the Los Baños police report, the victims were rushed to Los Baños Doctor’s Hospital by the Los Baños municipal government. Injured were Neil Dela Peña,18, Chino James Sison,19, Raymond Hernandez,18, Reynaldo Rasdas,20 and Joseph Christian Geli,22. Driver Allen Sapin,20, was pronounced dead on arrival by Dr. Janice Garcia.

Accident report of police stated that the rear left side of the black Toyota Corolla Altis driven by Sapin collided with a tree when he stepped on the brake pedal. Due to the wet road, the car swivelled to the other side of the path that resulted to another crash, damaging its right side.

All passengers are members of the Society of Chemical Engineering Students (SChEMES). Czar David Quijada of SChEMES was with the six passengers prior to the accident. According to him, there was a gathering of some SChEMES members in their organization house. “Nagreview sila [para sa exam], tapos nagkaroon nga ng balita na wala ngang pasok kinabukasan dahil sa bagyo [kaya] nagkayayaan na mag-inom na lang, Nakainom sila, pero hindi lasing,” Quijada said.

After the gathering, the six headed for Jubiliville. “Thahatid nila si Joseph sa Jubiliville, dun siya nakatira... ihahatid silang lahat [sa kanilang mga bahay],” he added.

Brett Laudato, President of SChEMES, said however that the accident was not due to drunk driving. He claims that Sapin stepped on the brake to avoid running into a “paranormal entity” that blocked the path.

“Sinasabi namin ang fact na ‘to para malinaw na ang lahat ng mga kumakalat na tsismis na

road trip yung nangyari tapos nag-lasingan. This is the truth, everything else is opinion,” Laudato stressed.

However, Norlio Aquino, Chief of the University Police Force claims that the accident is due to reckless driving.

“Walang reports tungkol sa mga paranormal activities dyan sa Pili drive,” said Aquino.

In addition, he related that the accident was the fourth major accident in recent years. The first accident, which occurred in the 1980’s, injured an employee of the International Rice Research Institute. The second incident happened in the 1990’s, in which a resident of Cabuyao, Laguna was involved. The most recent crash occurred during the commencement exercises a few years ago. Aquino was not able to give the exact year of the incident.

SChEMES sponsored a mass at St. Therese church for Sapin on the afternoon of the same day of the accident. Another mass was held at the Electrical Engineering auditorium on August 22. The second mass, according to Quijada, was done to ward off “evil spirits” in Pili Drive.

Laudato said the five other passengers of the car are already convalescing from the injuries incurred from the accident. He added that, all except Hernandez, were outpatients. Hernandez was at the intensive care unit and was last to recover from the accident.

“Ok na sila[ng lahat], pumapasok na sa klase, yun nga lang medyo nahihirapan maglakad... tapos masakit pa rin yung katawan,” said Laudato.

Sapin was buried last August 19 at the Los Baños cemetery.

UPLB Perspective tried to reach the students who were injured from the accident but they yet to appear as of press time.[P]

CHE Exposed tackles EBA on its 4th year

■ Lyka Mangla-lan

“Learning doesn’t stop immediately in the four corners of the room. It is just the start of putting your perspectives in action.”

This, according to Jenny Sunga, Department of Social Development Services (DSDS) instructor in the College of Human Ecology (CHE) is what CHE Exposed tries to impart to the UPLB community.

CHE Exposed is an annual activity by the Department of Social Development Studies under the College of Human Ecology (CHE). With the theme “Nasaan ang Agham at Teknolohiya sa mga Makabulahan, Makatao at Makalikakasang Produkto at serbisyo sa Larangan ng EBA (Environment, Biotechnology and Agriculture),” the three-day event serves as a venue for students “to express their social learning experience and incorporate those experiences in promoting environmentalism or ecological consciousness,” Sunga added.

This year’s CHE Exposed featured different UPLB products and services that promote positive reception to Environment, Biotechnology and Agriculture. Showcased in the exhibit and trade booths were dairy products, brown rice, virgin coconut oil, rice wine and many others.

Selected elementary, high school and college students also participated in discussions and workshops. A symposium on the “Role of Science and Technology in promoting viable and productive Social Enterprises” became the highlight of the three day event

held in the Student Union Building.

CHE Exposed 2007 is the College of Human Ecology’s contribution to the University’s celebration of its centennial year.

Members of CHE student organizations — Oikos, Human Ecology Student Society (HESS), Philippine Association of Nutritionists (PAN), Samahan ng mga mag-aaral ng Teknolohiyang Panlipunan (STP) and the Family Development Society (FD Soc)— served as volunteers in the said event.

“CHE Exposed is also a consolidation activity that aims to bridge the gap among the different CHE student organizations,” said Elaine Salvador, a member of Oikos.

The activities were co-presented by the Forest Product Research Development Institute (FPRDI), Institute of Biological Science (IBS), Crop Science Cluster (CSC), College of Engineering and Agro Industrial Technology (CEAT),

Philippine Rice Research Institute (Phil-Rice), Institute of Food Science Technology (IFST), National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (BIOTECH), Institute of Plant Breeding (IPB), Barangay Integrated Development and Nutrition Improvement for the rural poor (BIDANI), College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR), College of Development Communication (CDC), Dairy Training Research Institute- Animal and Dairy Science Cluster (DTRI-ADSC) and Carabao Center.. [P]

Reso hinggil sa ToFI isinumite sa Kongreso

■ Mark Vincent Baracao at Rogene Gonzales

Sa gitna ng mga pagtaas ng matrikula at pagkaltas sa pondo ng edukasyon, nagtipun-tipon ang mga lider-estudyante mula sa state universities and colleges (SUCs) sa timog Katagalugan (TK) sa ginanap na 16th National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) Regional Student leaders’ Convention noong nakaraang Setyembre 15-17 sa UPLB.

Tampok sa aktibidad ang pagbubuo ng resolusyon na sa pangkalahatan ay nananawagan ng mas mataas na subsidyo mula sa pamahalaan at pagbasura sa mga pagtaas ng matrikula at iba pang bayarin (ToFI). Isinumite ang mga nasabing resolusyon sa Kongreso noong Setyembre 17 sa Ipangunguna ng Save our SUCs Movement, isang komprehensibong alyansa ng mga lider-estudyante mula sa mga konseho, publikasyon at organisasyong pang-estudyante ng mga SUCs sa TK.

Ayon kay Christine Macabetcha, tagapagsalita ng Save our SUCs Movement at konsehal ng University Student Council-UPLB, mistulang “go signal” umano ang ToFI sa UP para magtaas na rin ang iba pang SUCs ng kanilang matrikula.

“After nga ng UP ToFI, may SUCs na nagtaas at may plano pang magtaas ng tuition. Ito ang bibigyang pansin ng Save our SUCs Movement,” patuloy niya.

Ayon sa NUSP, isa ang TK sa nagtala ng pinakamataas na ToFI (*tingnan ang sidebar*).

Sinusugan ito ni Alvin Peters, kalihim ng

NUSP at isa sa mga tagapagsalita sa nasabing convention, “Ang mga SUCs, they take their cue from the approved or the implemented tuition increase in UP since UP is a guinea pig of government policies for public tertiary education.”

“Lumalaki ‘yung drop-out rate dahil hindi na nakakayanan ng mamamayang Pilipino ‘yung unabated tuition and other fee hikes sa mga eskwelahan taun-taon, dagdag niya.

Binigyang-diin ni Peters ang “undemocratic access” ng mga Pilipino sa edukasyon bilang krisis na kinahahahrap ng bansa. Ayon sa kanya, ang kasalukuyang sistema ng edukasyon ay nasa balangkas ng komersyalisasyon. Epekto umano ito ng mga batas tulad ng Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997 at Long-term Higher Education Development Program (LTHEDP) (*tingnan ang sidebar*).

Ang LTHEDP umano ang naging dahilan upang mabawasan ng 154 ang bilang ng SUCs sa bansa, mula sa 264 noong 1998 patungong 111 noong 2004. Ilan sa SUCs ay pinag-isa na lamang.

“Itong mga pinamerge na SUCs na ito ay nakaranas ng pagtaas ng tuition at pagkakabuo ng exorbitant fees habang pinagkakasya ang dating pang-isang university ang subsidyo mula sa pamahalaan,” ani Pedro Santos, Regional Coordinator ng Kabataan Party-TK.

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy ang pakikipag-usap ng alyansa sa mga kongresista ng TK upang makuha umano ang suporta ng mga ito sa pagsusumite ng mga resolusyon sa Kongreso. [P]

State Universities and Colleges	Dating tantos (in Phil. Peso)	Kasaluku -yang tantos (in Phil. Peso)
UPLB	225	1,000
Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology-Cavite	15 (upper-classmen)	50
	15 (freshmen)	200
Southern Luzon State University	100	125
University of Rizal System (URS)	25	50
URS-Morong (miscellaneous fee)	600	1,000
Laguna State Polytechnic University (internet fee)	200	350

Mga batas na “Kontra”-edukasyon

Long-term Higher Education Development Program (LTHEDP)

- Isinabatas noong 1997 na naglalayong:
 - Ibaba ng 20 bahagdan ang mga SUCs, itransporma bilang semi-corporation ang anim na SUCs;
 - Ilako ng 20 bahagdan ng SUCs ang kanilang mga intellectual property bilang income generating projects;
 - Itaasww ang matrikula ng 70 bahagdan ng SUCs kapantay ng mga pribadong unibersidad; at
 - Makipagtulungan ang 60 bahagdan ng SUCs sa malalaking kumpanya.

Higher Education Modernization Act (HEMA) of 1997

- Ang HEMA ang nagbibigay ng kapangyarihan sa Board of Regents o Board of Trustees ng mga SUCs na magpatupad ng ToFI. Pinapayagan din ng batas na ito ang mga SUC na magkaroon ng joint ventures sa mga pribadong kumpanya.





Education for sale

■Mark Vincent Baracao

Ang pinakabagong produkto sa merkado, kumpleto-rekado, export quality pa—ang UPLB.

Kulang na lamang ay balutin ang produktong ito ng pula’t berdeng plastik, lagyan ng mga sangkap at nutritional facts sa likuran, disenyuhan ang harap nito ng magarang katawan ni Oble at sa tabi’y may malaking UPLB na may nakasulat sa ibabang “now fortified with ToFI vitamins” at natatatakan ng “Approved! World-class quality” mula sa mahal na opisina ng Pangulo ng UP at ng Pilipinas.

Nutritional fact #1: Higher tuition; lower state subsidy. Salamat sa sustansyang mula sa mga batas na pumapayag sa pagbenta ng edukasyon. Ngayon, tinutustusan na ng UPLB ang sarili nitong mga pangangailangan, habang kakarampot na subsidyo na lamang ang ipinagkakaloob ng gobyerno rito. Sa bigat ng pasaning dulot ng mataas na matrikula, kaliwa’t kanan naman ang sakripisyo ni Isko’t Iska, makapag-aral lamang. **Mga sangkap:** 100 gramo

Pruweba ang ating Form 5 na maging tayong mga Iskolar ng Bayan ay bumili ng isang edukasyong mabango at maganda ang disenyo sa tindahang may nakasabit sa pintong “education for sale here.”

ng UP Strategic Plan of 2008 para sa Centennial celebration ng UP (taglay rin nito ang sustansya para sa nutritional fact #4), isang piraso ng Higher Education Modernization Act, tig-isang piraso rin ng Long-term Higher Education Development Plan at Education Act.

Nutritional fact #2: smoke-free at noise-free campus; 0% public utility jeep sa middle campus. Salamat sa mabuting opisina ng Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs (OVCCA) sa planong baguhin ang ruta ng mga pampasaherong dyip sa UPLB, napawi na ang mga mistulang mikrobyo ng middle campus na nagdadala umano ng usok at ingay dito. Ang kaso, maging noong ang mga pampasaherong dyip ay dumaraan sa mga kalsada ng middle campus, wala namang pag-aaral na nagsasabing nagdudulot ang mga ito ng ingay at polusyon. Nabawasan naman ng ‘di bababa sa sandaang piso ang kita ng mga drayber ng mga pampaseherong dyip na ito, habang sa ilalim ng nag-aapoy na araw o sa pagbuhos ng malakas na ulan (o kung minsan sa sabay na pagbuhos ng ulan sa mainit na sikat ng araw), hindi makahagilap ng masasakyan ang mga pasahero sa middle campus. Ang malaking bulto man ng naaapektuhan ng polisiyang ito ay nagmumula sa estudyante at kawani ng unibersidad, gayunpaman, tila naparalisa naman ang OVCCA sa pagtugon sa kanilang mga reklamo. **Mga sangakap:** isang piraso ng Memorandum No. 11 pangtanggal sa usok at pangbusal sa maingay.

Nutritional fact #3: vendor-free campus. Pasasalamat muli kasalukuyang administrasyon ng UPLB, wala na ang mga itinuturing na “masakit sa mata” sa humanities steps. Wala na ang mga pagala-gala sa campus upang maglako. Wala nang mga “magnanakaw” kahit na

sila mismo’y nagtitiktik sa mga hinihinalang magnanakaw upang isuplong sa mga awtoridad. Wala na. wala na pati ang kabuhayan nila. Wala na ang kakarampot nilang kita upang ipambili ng lugaw na iduduldol sa nangangalam na tiyan ng kani-kanilang pamilya. **Mga sangkap:** isang piraso ng Memorandum No. 90 na aprubado pa sa termino ng dating Chancellor na si Wilfredo David para sa legal na pagtataboy sa mga manininda; at ilang bilang ng pulis para manghuli sa mga pasaway sa kanila.

Nutritional fact #4: ecotourist spot. Salamat sa planong maglagay ng cable cars, spa, at agricultural park sa UPLB, mapakinabangan na ang stratehikong kinalalagyan ng isang akademikong institusyon sa Bundok Makiling. Tatawagin ko itong “ecotourism project,” itanggi man ng administrasyon ng UPLB. Tulad ng dapat na layunin ng anumang proyekto ng administrasyon ng UPLB, mapapaunlad ng “ecotourism project” ang UPLB bilang akademikong institusyon. Paano? Mahahasa sa pagiging kritikal sina Isko at Iska sa pag-iisip kung ano ang kinalaman ng cable cars, spa, at agricultural park sa kanyang MST, AH, at SSP GE courses at sa kanyang major subjects. Sa huli, voilà, makabubuo na lang siya ng bagong teorya. Kikita naman ang UPLB ng dagdag na pondo. **Mga sangkap:** HEMA para sa pagyurak sa tunay na katangian ng UP bilang state-supported na unibersidad sa pamamagitan ng joint ventures at private leases sa mga pribado

at malalaking korporasyon sa unibersidad. Hindi na maiguguhit pa ang pagkakaiba ng UPLB sa mga pribadong pamantasan.

Nakamamangha.

Sa ganitong paraan pinatatakbo ang UPLB, at ang bansa sa kabuuan, habang pilit namang itinatanggi ng mga nasa kapang-yarihan, at ng ilang intelektwal, na tungong komersyalisasyon at pribatisasyon ang mga paraang ito. Ang paghahalu-halo ng lahat ng nabanggit na sangkap ay magtratransporma sa edukasyon mula sa pagiging batayang serbisyo tungo sa pagiging produkto sa merkado. Kung kaya, ang may-kaya na lamang ang siyang may kakayahang makatanggap nito.

Aminin mang pinili ng mga mahihirap ang kanilang estado sa buhay o idinikta lamang ng istruktura ng lipunan, malaking bagay ang magagawa ng sinseridad sa paglilingkod ng mga pinagkatiwalaan nating lider. Ang sinseridad na ito ay masusukat lamang sa kung gaano isinasalang-alang ng mga lider na ito ang kapakanan ng kanilang pinaglilingkuran.

Isa lang ang malinaw sa kasalukuyan, sa loob at labas ng akademya, lahat na ng bagay sa isang kapitalistang mundo ay commodity, lahat ay inilalako at binibili—kahit puri, kahit buhay. Pruweba ang ating Form 5 na maging tayong mga Iskolar ng Bayan ay bumili ng isang edukasyong mabango at maganda ang disenyo sa tindahang may nakasabit sa pintong “education for sale here.”

Sa lubhang pagkatakam ko’y nais ko nang punitin ang Form 5 ko tulad ng pagpunit noon ng mga katipunero sa kanilang mga sedula. [P]

I believe that the pen emancipates the rebellious soul entrapped in repression. The pen summons and awakens the aggressive being, to crumble apathy and advocate utopia. In the absence of ink, I am able to write—with the aid of blood.

I consider writing a craft that only those who persevere can master. I, too, did persevere. I held a pen in a confident grip and even foresee to fill in a blank paper with words; but my mind was

hold on the craft not mine. Later then, indolence drafted my write-ups, appearing to be poor in both content and style.

In the enthusiasm to juggle words, like any endeavor, I have discovered that what I lack in my craft are the most important things. That is purpose and inspiration.

I deeply appreciate those writers who, at the forefront of criticizing the oppressive status quo, use the pen to embark on their writings the urgent

need to awaken the people, encourage them to carry out collective action for positive change. These writers do such task though

defenseless from the paybacks of their insubordination.

With the genuine courage to offer their lives and craft in writing for the oppressed, I am empowered. I learned that writing poems, essays, or any literature, requires grievous bloodshed. Ink is not enough to put into words the life of the oppressed. Blood, red blood, induced in my pen will voluntarily tell their stories—of ideology, of human rights violations, of extra-judicial killings, of protests, of struggles, of proletariats, of farm-



Mumblings

Craft, blood and fearlessness

■Iskra*

ers.

Sculpted by the pen and paper, I was guided by that purpose and was strengthened by that inspiration. I learned that once I knew who and what to observe and describe, words would come in and the craft follows. Writing, however, does not end at that. I learned to use the power of the pen to direct the strivings and somehow lead them.

My very young craft developed into something that serves not only for itself. With writings depicting protest and discontent, I came out of it molded as human, serving human. [P]

Be a [P] staff. Take the [P] exams.

News
Features
Culture
Graphics
Layout
Photographer

Punta lang sa SU building Room 11 kahit ano’ng oras. Dalhin lang ang bolpen, sarili at kaibigan.

CONGRATS kina:

ANGELIQUE ALAZADA
SUGAR MARIE BAULA
CAROL DIEZMO
ROGENE GONZALES
JACOB LABITAN
MARY GRACE LUMENARIO
PRINCESS MABILONG
LYKA MANGLAL-LAN
PAUL ANDREW MANUALES
ANGELICA MENDOZA
NIKKO ORIBIANA
HARRIET MELANIE ZABALA

Bahagi na kayo ng masalimuot ngunit masayang buhay dyarista! :)

Magsulat.
Maglingkod.
Magpalaya.
[P]

[P] : Ano'ng masasabi mo sa Large Lecture Classes?

"Hindi ko masyadong nararamdaman kasi wala naman akong GE masyado. Mostly majors na ako eh. Pero if ever, ang corny 'non especially for SSP kasi iba-iba naman yung thoughts ng mga junior and senior faculties. Imagine, paano yung sa lecture and lab? Iba yung style ng pagtuturo. Buti sana kung puro formula lang eh kaso principles and theories eh. 'Di pa rin dapat."

-Tin Villagrancia, '05

"Para syang free time, kasi sa dami ng tao parang wala na lang ang klase dahil pakiramdam ko, wala na 'kong natututunan lalo na nung napalagay ako sa likod, pwede matulog o kaya gumawa ng assignment sa ibang subject."

-Mhar Allan, '07

"Large class? Badtrip. Basta iba yung feeling. Mas masaya kung konti para mas maka-concentrate..."

-Nicey, '03

"I think LLC has great effects on learning. If the university is really after quality education they should [put] into consideration its principles."

-Gratzdie, '06

"Okay lang since nasa willingness naman ng students and effectiveness ng teacher para mag-ing okay yung class. May mga large classes ako ngayon, nakita ko lang na disadvantage is mabilis mawala ang focus ko sa lecture and I don't think na-e-evaluate ng mabuti ng lecturer if naiintindihan ba nung class yung lecture nya."

-Michelle, '05

"The lack of student – teacher interaction makes hard to pass subjects more challenging plus the increase of mortality rate on major subjects"

-JP, '06

"Hindi nakakafocus ng mabuti ang karamihan sa mga estudyante at instructors ng large lecture classes ngayon. Mas maganda pa rin yung dati."

-Lea, '06

[P] : Ano'ng masasabi mo sa rerouting ng mga jeep?

"Ang hirap lalo na sa mga taga CEAT. Galing biosci, kailangan maglakad papuntang eng'g. hehe"

-Abet. Chem Eng '04

"Hassle sa mga estudyante. Bawas sa kita ng mga jeepney drivers. Mas maluwag na sa mga kotse."

-Pia, '06

"Mahirap kapag umuulan, lalo na kung ang class mo ay sa PhySci, Hum at NCAS, anlayo kasi sa babaan."

-Jaypee, '06

"Pwede na rin. Tahimik na sa Hum, 'di na kailangan sumigaw ng mga prof."

-Dana, '06

"Okay lang sa akin kasi nagbe-benefit naman ako eh. 'Fair' siya para sa mga nakatira sa kaliwa part ng campus kasi we don't need to walk long para makasakay ng jeep."

-Mica, '05

"Ah... Ano ba? Minsan kasi asar, asar kasi pag super madali ka na, kailangan mo pa maglakad kasi hindi dadaanan ng jeep yung building na pupuntahan mo. O kaya naman mas aagahan mo ang pagpasok moimbis na hindi. Bahala sila, isipin nalang natin, exercise ito! "

-Nicey, '07



Campus Forum

September 2007 - Filipinos' cries at the EDSA Revolution II finally bore fruit after six long years since the ouster of former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada. Though acquitted on perjury, he was sentenced guilty of the P4.097 billion plunder case filed against him in the Sandiganbayan.

It is never a secret to anyone that Erap would not be arrested, put behind bars, undergo trials, and eventually sentenced with reclusion perpetua if not for the millions of Filipinos who aired their dissent and made themselves heard despite the fascism of the regime.

Indeed, the spirit of democracy was on its peak on February of 2001. People will always be reminded of how vocal cords vibrated at their best to shout their call "Sobra nang pahirap! Patalsikin si Erap!" and how politicians appeared suddenly at EDSA to take advantage of that historical event. They were like cockroaches enjoying the harvest of the people's struggles. Who would forget

Certainly, GMA has proven herself to be an Erap devotee. But this can also be an understatement; for she has proven that she can do better than Erap in terms of politicking, silencing critics, violating human rights and other inhumane acts.

how Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA) suddenly emerged out of nowhere, took her oath as the new President of the Philippines as if the people ousted Erap because they were longing for her to be their new leader?

Six years later, GMA, still President,

No fury So loud



Aficionada

▀Jovy de Manuel

several activists, journalists and church people their right to know whether their loved ones are still alive or not.

It takes a lot of acting workshops to master deceit as you steal votes and still be "remorseful" about it afterwards.

And indeed, it takes two to tango as you and your spouse and/or your whole family swindle the money of the people for your own end.

Certainly, GMA has proven herself to be an Erap devotee. But this can also be an understatement; for she has proven that she can do better than Erap in terms of politicking, silencing critics, violating human rights and other inhumane acts.

They say that birds of the same feather flock together and that history repeats itself. Sometimes, these two could happen simultaneously.

As more and more Filipinos see the true colors of GMA's plumage, discontented feet will find their ways to EDSA or some higher paths to reap what they deserve. The bravery of the Filipinos will once again be proven. And GMA, who betrayed the spirit of EDSA II, will soon find herself in the same cage that imprisons Erap today.[P]

CAS sets new rules on tambayan

Orgs, Student Council oppose policy

▀Mary Grace Lumenario

The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) administration released a letter inviting CAS-based organizations to a dialogue last July 27. This was followed by another consultation last September 11. The agenda was to present the revised rules and regulations on tambayans.

Tambayan resizing emerged as one of the primary concerns during the consultation. According to the new policy, the existing tambayans should be reduced to a standard size of one by two meters. Tambayans made of steel, iron or concrete are banned. In addition, wall mounted boards should be used instead of standing boards.

The organizations were also asked to relocate in places where they would not block the corridors. The administration was also considering the Student Union Building as a possible relocation site for CAS tambayans.

Also, initiation and/or final rites of the organization (individual or group reporting to organization members) must be done discreetly; there should be no public humiliation of the new recruits as per "Anti-hazing Law of UPLB-OSA".

According to the Dean Asuncion, tambayans are becoming fire hazards most especially in CAS buildings which are prone to fire and accidents.

Along with this, additional policies were presented like requiring tambayan trash-

cans, posting "NO SMOKING" and "KEEP THE CAS AREA CLEAN" signs. Orgs were also asked to limit the use of tambayans to study groups and workshops to keep noise at a minimum. Any two organizations located in the same wing will not be allowed to hold simultaneous activities.

Furthermore, the revised rules prohibit smoking in all areas under CAS. Drinking alcoholic beverages, playing cards and other form of gambling, displaying public affection, dancing, loud singing, playing sports and parlor games are prohibited, along with using electronic equipment, as they consume energy and potentially cause fire.

The orgs are also tasked to maintain cleanliness and orderliness and to hold clean up drives every school term.

"Koza," a member of Microbiological Society disagrees on the resizing and relocation, saying that CAS tambayans have been in existence long before the policies were drafted. He does not see the reason why they should be changed, fearing that doing so might cause unwanted disagreement among CAS orgs.

Jeremiah of UPLB Zoological Society said that the idea of resizing and relocation is somewhat 'illogical'. Tambayans are not fire hazards according to her. Even if tambayans are

placed along the corridors, the spaces are enough for firemen to pass through, she added.

A member of Philobioscentia said that he did not agree with the new policies. He added that the space in the Student Union Building is not enough as an alternative location of their tambayan.

CAS Student Council Vice Chairperson Sheila Mae Abucay said that some of the rules are beneficial. However, resizing and relocation would need wider information dissemination and student consultation before being implemented.

Abucay also added that the proposed resizing is "impractical and anti-student," and that it is an added burden to the students especially because there are orgs incapable of disbursing funds for such adjustments. More so, clean up drives such as classroom renovations and building repainting are activities that must be funded by the administration, since there should be budget for these, she added.

She stated that, resizing is only a short-term plan of CAS administration. In addition, this resizing might lead to totally eradicating tambayans in the long run.

Amidst threats of non-recognition of orgs that fail to comply with this new policy, the CAS Student Council is collecting position papers from CAS-based orgs, which upon consolidation, will be submitted to the CAS administration.

[P]



Editorial

Defiance

As it enters its 100 years of existence, UP is constantly besieged on all sides by assaults on its integrity as a state university and, consequently, as a bastion of democracy. Behind the vibrant festivities, the nation’s premier state university is slowly losing grip of its reason for existence – the principle of democratic access – to threats of commercialization and state abandonment.

We have the aftermath of the recent Tuition and other Fee Increases (ToFI) to remind us of the direction UP is heading. Basically a means of allaying its financial difficulties, the UP ToFI effectively denied many deserving students of their right to affordable yet quality education, as enrolment data across all UP units show. The UP administration, instead of asserting for a higher state subsidy for education, has to resort to income generating schemes that abets government’s policy of abandoning education.

This larger policy, which inflicts different state-subsidized institutions of higher learning and the education system in general, is manifested in budget slashes and deteriorating quality of education – telltale signs that the country is shackled by perpetual social, political, and economic crises.

Indeed, during these times when heightened vigilance is required of every Iskolar ng Bayan, and the response to the need for a publication that will fearlessly take on the tradition of dissent and assume its role in empowering the masses will spell UP’s thrusts in it’s centennial, we fearlessly take on the challenges of our time .

It is imperative that we make our stand clear and accept nothing less than the upholding of our cherished ideals. We offer you this year’s UPLB Perspective.

For in a society moved by the surging, nip and tuck battle between contradictions, any alternative publication that desires to live up to the tradition of dissent must know whose interest it should serve. The lines must be sharply drawn, and the paper must assume a resolute stance, without fear or favor.

Thus, this year’s Perspective categorically declares

its resolve to align its thrusts with the struggles of the studentry and of the marginalized sectors of society, advocating among the media the tradition of vigilance and dissent. This requires unremitting engagement in people’s issues and staunch repudiation of apathy and neutrality.

We cannot be silent where circumstances call for the protection of the genuine interests of the Iskolars ng Bayan, keeping in mind that their aspirations cannot be isolated from the struggles of the oppressed. It is for this reason that we will continue to challenge and defy the prevailing social, political, and economic system that shackles the country in perpetual crisis. We will defy the untruths peddled by the current system to advance their elitist interests.

As we do so, we will promote responsible journalism through balance reportage and scientific analysis of pressing issues in society. Yet this time, ‘responsible’ will transcend its mainstream definition to take on a progressive, pro-people, and liberating character.

This year, we will remain true to these ideals and promise to do even more.

If we have to gain any meaningful lesson from its past, it is this: that the Perspective has relentlessly refused to propagate the myths that have clouded our perception as a university and as a nation. It has never hesitated to crumble the status quo.

If anything, UPLB Perspective’s thrusts for its 34th year must be the fortification of the ideals it has lived up to. Turning our backs from what the publication has stood for is something not only the students, but most of all the Filipino people, can ill afford.[P]ww

Under Scrutiny

To the studentry

Remelizza Joy Sacra

Students have felt the absence of UPLB Perspective for more than five months since it released its last issue March of this year.

Finally, you now have in your hands our first issue for this academic year. After several months of stagnancy, a new term starts another year of serving you, our publishers. But before anything else, we find it only proper to explain what transpired during the publication’s absence.

As of press time, students are asking why we have not yet released any issue. This delay is a consequence of the late editorial examination for the new Editor in Chief (EIC).

As stated in Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Publication of the UPLB Perspective, the editorial examination should be held before the second semester ends. However, last year’s term failed to prepare the examination earlier, that is, submission of letter to the Office of the Chancellor (OC), to inform the University that an editorial examination must be held and consequently, a selection committee must be formed (through recommendation by at least one faculty every college) whose members will be appointed by the Chancellor. Unfortunately, it was already late March of this year when the letter was submitted to the OC. During the previous terms, editorial examinations were also held late, but at least by the first month of the first semester, a new EIC is already appointed.

With this year’s EIC selection, it was approved middle of summer when the Chancellor arrived from his trip outside the country. The possibility of conducting the exam on May was dismissed. With the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee, which takes charge of the exam, last June, the exam was conducted only on July 22. And two long weeks after the exam, the Chancellor finally appointed the new EIC of the paper.

Last term’s laxity of being students and student journalists at the same time overshadowed need and urgency for service that the students, our publishers, ought to have.

And as this year’s term revives the paper, the adjustment and inadequacies in terms of facilities (i.e. computers, etc.) and manpower face the editorial board. To date, almost 20 people are using one computer for writing drafts and layouting the whole paper.

For several months of non-existence, the voice of the students seemed to be unheard amidst the pressing issues inside and outside the University. And now, the current term has to face the challenges of maximizing the rest of the academic year to truly serve the studentry. And as stated in our editorial policy, the publication will continuously advocate the students’ interests and abide by the rules of responsible journalism.