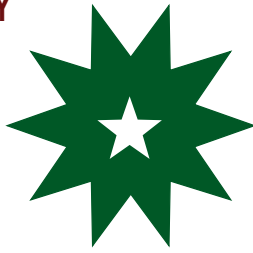


THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

For our Anniversary issue, we look back at what has transpired over our 48 years of existence.

SEE PAGE / 8



The LaSallian

SC REPORTS FIRST TERM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Intended to follow-up their performance for the first term of the school year, the Student Council (SC) submitted a report to the Council of Deans where accomplished projects were reported. SEE SC REPORTS / 5

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21 OCTOBER 2008

THE PHENOMENON OF World university rankings

BY LORAIN SAGUINSIN WITH REPORTS FROM ALEXI ASCALON

“RANKINGS ARE ALSO INEVITABLE-IN the era of massification, those who finance higher education and the public want to know which academic institutions are the best.” said Prof. Philip G. Altbach, director of the Center for International Higher Education at Boston College on his work, Dilemma of Rankings.

International rankings of universities and colleges have been gaining worldwide attention. But its methodologies and validity were questioned by several educators and government officials. Yet despite criticisms, world university rankings compel policy makers and academic institutions to develop internationally-acclaimed academics and improve specifically their research performance. These rankings can no longer be ignored by the Philippines, especially the government, if it wants to get ahead or at least keep up with the global race of world-class universities.

Implications

World university rankings cast a powerful and significant critical influence on university systems and national governments especially in research. It is because government funding is important in developing world-class universities. Dr. Ellen Hazelkorn, a consultant with the Programme for Institutional Management of Higher Education (IMHE) in Paris concluded in her findings that rankings have influenced the development of research in research-intensive universities and in some comprehensive universities with important research activities.

“Research is not only the most globalized of all activities in higher education, research capacity is a key marker in the higher education landscape because the research standing of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and nations feed into both their capacity to produce globally-salient outputs and their generic attractiveness to other HEIs, to

SEE THE PHENOMENON / 3

DLSU ranking, no big deal

BY LORAIN SAGUINSIN WITH REPORTS FROM ALEXI ASCALON

After a roller coaster ride, DLSU barely made it back to the top of Times Higher Education-Quacquarelli-Symonds' (THE-QS) list of 2008 World University Rankings by placing 415th out of top 500 schools worldwide. But instead of celebrations and fanfares done in the past, results this time were received with indifference by the school because of the questionable validity of the ranking system.

Free falling universities

Since their inclusion to the list in 2006, four Philippine universities were included in the THE-QS World Rankings of University with highly fluctuating places each year. Two years ago, the University of the Philippines (UP), De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), and University of Sto. Tomas (UST) ranked 299th, 392nd, 484th, and 500th respectively. But in 2007, only UP in the 398th place and ADMU in 451st place made it on the rankings.

For this year, the ranking released earlier this month of the four universities have been greatly reversed. Placed in 254th, ADMU switched places with UP, which ranked 276th in leading the Philippine universities in the rankings. La Salle and UST made a comeback in the list with ranks 415th and 470th respectively.

2008 Asiaweek Best Universities	
48	University of the Philippines
71	De La Salle University
72	Ateneo de Manila University
74	University of Santo Tomas

This free fall phenomenon is not limited to Philippine universities. Dramatic rises and falls in span of three to five years have also characterized the ranks received by other universities around the world especially those who are in top 200 and above. The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Australia ranked from 55th in 2004 to 146th in 2006. In Korea, Seoul National University advanced from 118th in 2004 to 63rd in 2006. Vanderbilt University in the United States also had a roller coaster experience in ranking in five years with the following places: 2004 – 156th, 2005 – 114th, 2006 – 53rd, 2007 – 82nd and 2008 – 101st.

Mystery explained

Ever since it started, the THE-QS' World University Rankings have been open to many criticisms. It has been described to place more emphasis on reputation than research performance. This is unlike Shanghai Jiao Tong's Academic Ranking of World Universities, one of the two most globally influential

ranking systems aside from Times. This was evident of their criteria used with 50 percent of the total score subjected to opinion – 40 percent peer review or how institutions rank other institutions and 10 percent employers' review or how corporate employers rank universities depending on employability of their graduates.

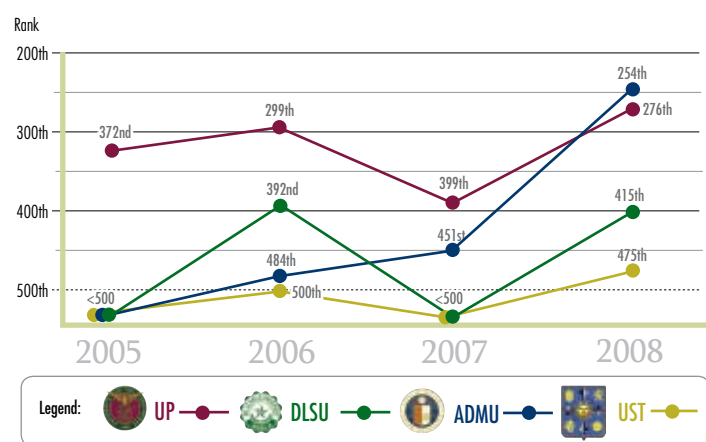
Simon Marginson, renowned professor of Center of Higher Education from the University of Melbourne concluded on his research about global rankings, “The Times results are too easy to manipulate. By changing the recipients of the two surveys or how the survey results are crunched, the results change and often change markedly. This illustrates the more general point that rankings frame

SEE DLSU RANKING / 7



ARTWORK BY AIRI BELTRAN

THE-QS PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITIES RANKING 2005-2008



source: <http://www.topuniversities.com/worlduniversityrankings>

INFOGRAPHICS BY MIGUEL REYES AND CARMELA PRADO

Pollution, a major concern for Lasallians

BY JOLO TAMAYO AND ALEXI ASCALON

4,968 FILIPINOS DIE EACH YEAR because of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases that are accumulated through exposure to poor air quality.

The alarming figure was part of the findings in Philippine Environment Monitor, a tie-up report of the World Bank and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, published in March 2007. A year and a half later, not much has changed in the air quality in the country's cities. Manila's Taft Ave. is no exception to this pollution. The prolonged exposure of DLSU students to this poor air quality may soon manifest in health complications.

Taft pollution

Philippine Daily Inquirer published last April 9, 2007 an article entitled “Air pollution kills nearly 5,000 Metro residents yearly” which reports that until today 18 million Filipinos live in cities “with unhealthy levels of particulate matter.” Metro Manila merited the distinction of having the largest share of burden in terms of air pollution, and highest share of death toll amounting to 12%. Rahul Returni of World Bank's Rural Development, Natural Resources and Environmental Sector said that “particulate matter emitted from motor vehicles is the largest health risk from air pollution.”

With a wide range of air and other pollutants that might be present around Taft Ave., Dr. Glenn Sia Su from the Biology Department said that it will be hard to determine what kind of pollutant dominates Taft Ave. specifically in front of DLSU. In addition, Dr. Sia Su stated that certain studies must be conducted in order to know what kind of pollutant is dominating Taft Ave. in order to perform the right adjustments from the outbreak

of pollution. However, he believes that control can be done in order to lessen pollutant emissions but warned that it would be rather difficult. “It's difficult because remember the atmosphere we have is not localized in one particular location,” he said.

LRT combating pollution

Another pervading issue that has Lasallians concerned is the issue of lead combustion coming from the Light Rail Transit (LRT). According to Dr. Jaime Janairo of the Chemistry Department, people should not be alarmed because LRT train coaches use electricity as a source of power. With this regard, it will be impossible for train coaches to emit or combust lead. More so, Dr. Sia Su said that it will only be possible for LRT trains to combust lead and other obnoxious gases if it is using gasoline. In addition, through the stipulation of the Clean Air Act, gasoline stations were already prohibited of distributing leaded gasoline in the market. Contrary to the use of electric power, Dr. Sia Su warned that even though electricity is used in LRT trains, one cannot ascertain for a fact that it does not produce waste after all. In the case of electricity, the second law of thermodynamics applies wherein “waste will still be generated because everything is not 100% efficiently used.”

On the government's side, promoting the use of train coaches as a primary means of transportation encourage the campaign of lessening the pollution around Metro Manila. Presidential Management Staff Director General Cerge Remonde, through the official website of the Office of the Press Secretary, said that: “priority railway projects will cut travel time, reduce

SEE POLLUTION / 7

NATIONAL SITUATIONER

Melamine scares the country

BY AUDREY VERGULA

THE DISCOVERY OF THE INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL melamine in Chinese-made milk rattled the silence of milk-based products in the market all over the globe, alarming milk patrons nationwide.

Last September 23, the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) banned then withdrew all liquid and powdered milk, candy, biscuits, chocolate bars, drinks, and yogurt containing milk products from China. This was done to maintain the safety of dairy products after reports of four dead and nearly 53,000 infants fell ill due to infant formula incorporated with tainted milk.

China, being the world's largest milk exporter and having the local consumption increasing by ten percent each year, guaranteed prevention of tainted milk products from reaching manufacturers after the devastating outbreak. Consequently, it was also insisted that products manufactured after September 14 are considered safe from melamine.

According to the World Health Organization, there has not yet been an official track as to which countries



PHOTO BY JARED DELA CRUZ

Clearing operation. Groceries and supermarkets have withdrawn melamine contaminated products shortly after the incident.

have been affected with the melamine-contaminated products and have been warned against illegally exported and imported infant formula. However, milk-based products have already

SEE MELAMINE / 6

US Financial Downfall and Philippine Connection

BY MORGAN SAY AND MICHELLE BERNARDO

Global market stocks plummeted last September 16 when two of Wall Street's biggest financial corporations, Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., and Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. collapsed due to numerous bad assets on housing loans. With no one to absorb its losses, Lehman Brothers, the fourth-largest American investment bank, filed for bankruptcy and reopened again under the acquisition of Barclays Capital last September 22. Merrill Lynch, on the other hand, was acquired by Bank of America sparing the United States' biggest brokerage firm from insolvency.

According to economists Douglas Diamond and Anil Kashyap, on a post in freakonomics.com entitled *The F.A.Q.'s of Lehman and A.I.G.*, the current financial crisis started Sept. 8 when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, US mortgage financiers, were placed under government control acknowledging the collapse of the US mortgage market and the institutions that operate such. The takeover was due to losses from the subprime mortgages and the large amount of debt would have triggered collapses everywhere had the US Treasury not guaranteed their debt. But even though the debt was already guaranteed, "no self-interested investor was willing to supply more equity to help buffer the losses." This necessitated Fannie and Freddie's nationalization. A week later, investment bank Lehman Brothers also filed for bankruptcy.

According to Dr. Tereso Tullao Jr., Economics Department faculty, there was a lot of money circulating in the United States which gave banks large amounts of funds. These banks became imprudent in extending loans because they had a surplus of funds. They provided housing loans even to those who were "not qualified under normal times" to be given credit to.

Tullao explained that during that time, there was a housing boom. Thus, aside from the huge demand of houses, housing prices were also increasing. The mortgages were turning into derivatives—securitized mortgages that are being traded—that Lehman Brothers and other banks bought. These banks created financial instruments based on the assumption that the housing prices would go up. The financial instruments, also considered as assets, became very attractive and profitable to the banks; hence, neighboring banks also demanded these financial instruments based on mortgages. Tullao said that the prices of these financial instruments were increasing but all of a sudden, some people were not able to pay the mortgages on their loans incapacitating some banks to pay their obligations to other banks. Since banks were holding financial instruments based on housing prices, the financial instruments as well as the banks' assets went down, incurring losses in their

Yahoo! Philippines promotes website for developers

BY ANTHONY TANG

IN ITS BID TO CREATE INNOVATIVE programs for a better Internet experience, Yahoo! promoted its website for software developers in a press conference at the National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3, Makati City, last September 30.

Yahoo! Philippines General Manager Jojo Anonuevo, and Yahoo! Southeast Asia Head Engineer Sau Sheong Chang, were at the press conference to discuss the features and the aims of the website.

developer.yahoo.com provides application developers access to content and services to build new applications. For example, developers can combine Yahoo!'s data and services with those created in a desktop application or those offered by other web sites such as YouTube and Friendster. Giving developers open access to source codes or application programming interface (API) for Yahoo!-based applications is part of Yahoo!'s strategy to be "the best, the must-buy, and the partner of choice." The website is for developers, businesses and researchers interested in using Yahoo! products, services, data and content as a resource in their applications.

One of Yahoo!'s latest Web Services

books.

Tullao said that losses can be covered through borrowing. However, according to Diamond and Kashyap, Lehman Brothers could not even keep on borrowing, which resulted in their collapse. Due to the imminent decline in their credit rating, legal restrictions were going to prevent firms from lending to Lehman Brothers, Diamond and Kashyap stated. Other firms which might have lent decided not to extend credit thinking future credit conditions would worsen and force Lehman Brothers to bankruptcy during that time.

Another Great Depression?

In an interview of NewsHour with Richard Sylla, an economist and financial historian at New York University's Stern School of Business, he stated that the recent financial crisis is not necessarily the same with the Great Depression of 1929. Although both financial institutions are in jeopardy, Sylla explained that it is the weak financial leadership that led to a great deal of economic damages in 1929—a problem that was promptly addressed prior to the downturn. However, he mentioned that the possibility of losing around 8000 US banks can happened like in the Great Depression.

Amey Stone, in her news analysis entitled "The Great Depression vs. the Millennial Slowdown" posted in BusinessWeek Online, discussed certain unsettling parallels between the current financial crisis and the Great Depression. After the stock market crashed in 1929, consumers remained optimistic. It took a while before investors' confidence in the strength of the economy faded. A similar situation is happening today. According to Edward Deak, an economist from Fairfield University, consumers continue to take loans against their homes, betting that the current economic slowdown will be brief.

Deak mentioned that the current economic slowdown has been triggered by substantial and recession-level declines in business capital spending. Cash was also conserved during the Great Depression but ordinary people hoarded the cash whereas business managers are the ones reluctant to spend at present.

promoted at the press conference was Yahoo! BOSS (Build your Own Search Service), an open search web services platform. By developing BOSS, Yahoo! hopes to "foster innovation in the search industry." Its lure lies in letting users customize indexing, ranking and relevancy algorithms of the entire Yahoo! Search index for web-scale search products.

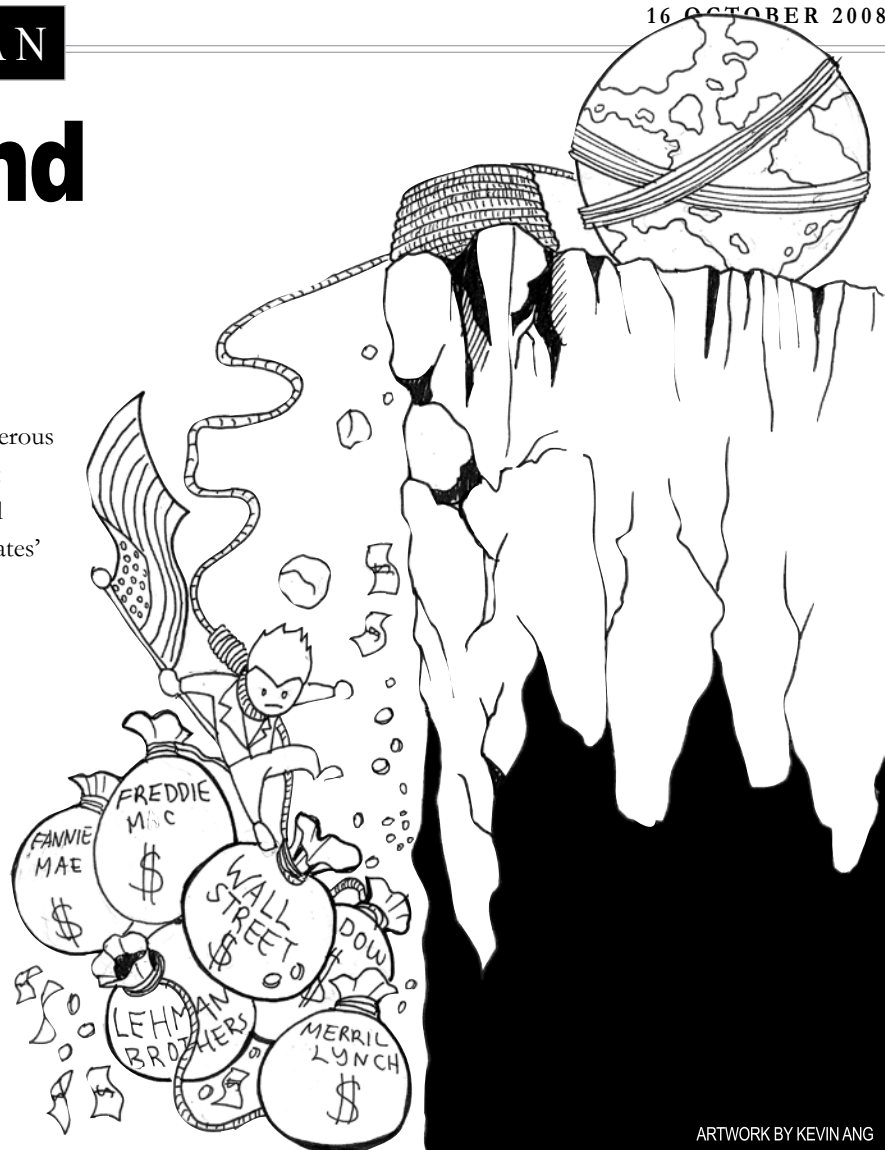
The Philippines' representative to Open Hack Day, Andrei Navarro, a software engineer and developer from Antipolo, was also present at the press conference to share his experience. At the Yahoo!-sponsored event held last September 12-13 at Sunnyvale, California, USA, participants were tasked to create a "hack" or a program integrating both Yahoo! services such as Messenger, and Mail, and other web applications within 24 hours. Participants were given access to Yahoo!'s APIs and open source libraries. The hacks are later presented to fellow programmers and web companies similar to Yahoo!

Anonuevo expressed Yahoo!'s interest in Filipino programmer's and its effort to reach out to other universities to extend help to student programmers and developers.



PHOTO BY JUSTIN DE JESUS

We're open at Yahoo! Yahoo General Manager Jojo Anonuevo announced Yahoo! Open Strategy (YIOS) during the Yahoo press conference at National Sports Grill in Greenbelt 3. The YIOS allows developers to integrate their own application to Yahoo core products, giving users a richer Yahoo! experience.



ARTWORK BY KEVIN ANG

The root cause of the Great Depression, making it so severe and prolonged, is still one of the unanswered questions in economics, says Economic Professor Elmus Wicker from Indiana University during an interview with BusinessWeek Online. Economists say that the probability of another Great Depression happening is small mainly because of better regulation of the financial industry, better capitalization of banks, and federally backed deposit insurance in place.

\$700-B Bailout Strategy

The \$700-billion rescue plan was signed by US President George W. Bush after it was junked in Congress, but given another chance for ratification when passed in the Senate. However, markets continue to drop despite the signing of the bailout strategy. The rescue plan was proposed by the US Treasury to address the root cause of the current financial crisis—the upward trend of bad mortgage debt.

Tullao thinks that the rescue plan is a wise decision despite some economists being skeptical about it. He said that the financial sector is the "bloodstream of the economy" and if the US Government does not intervene, it will not only ruin the US but the whole world as well.

He argued that banks should be rescued because they supply funds to other firms. However those people who do not want to intervene contend that saving these banks will give them the chance to repeat the same thing in the future. Tullao said that this can be corrected through government intervention in the form of regulatory reforms. According to him, since the US Government is buying all the bad assets, in effect the government owns these financial institutions giving rise to heavy government involvement.

In the bigger picture, panic spread like wildfire to markets after US lawmakers unexpectedly rejected a \$700-billion bailout plan for the financial industry, with Asian stocks opening sharply lower after Wall Street's biggest fall since 1987's crash. The US itself experienced an overnight -7.0 percent index drop, while Philippine stocks plunged sharply as well to -6.2 percent, but then recovered and came out to just -1.5 percent on the same day as a number of investors came in the picture looking for bargain purchases.

Talking about government investments, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) made a lot of noise last year that it was launching a massive \$1-billion investment program abroad where well-known foreign investment firms were apart of. Now, after the financial meltdown, Winston Garcia, President and General Manager of the GSIS, has been unusually quiet by continually delaying the disclosure of the investments result. This reluctance comes in spite of the demand of Senator Loren Legarda and other columnists to open up to the public.

President Arroyo's economic managers state that the US credit crisis may be worse than the 1997 Asian financial crisis as there are more intertwined investments

of local and foreign institutions both here and abroad. But they believe that the government's firm economic policies minimize the effect in the Philippines. After the 1997 Asian Crisis of over borrowing, countries including the Philippines have implemented economic policies such as limiting foreign borrowing, equalizing deficit spending and boosting dollar reserves. Debts have made the Philippine market a more conservative one increasing its buffer zone from an economic crisis. When the US Senate approved the bailout plan, the President's economic team in a press conference in Malacanang on October 2 lauded the approval and said that the rescue package lessens the chances of a US recession that would certainly impact markets.

One major hit that worried many Filipinos is the collapse of American International Group (AIG) in the US given that Philam life is its direct subsidiary and currently has a huge market share of plan holders nationwide. Although Jose Cuisia, AIG-Philamlife President and CEO, mentioned in an interview with ANC that despite the AIG downslope in the US, Philamlife is insulated and separately capitalized from its parent company. He also claims that their investments are not in US Stocks and can meet all obligations. "Our investments are principally in local government securities, prime corporate bonds and blue chip equities. There should be no impact at all on Philamlife and its policy holders or even our affiliates such as Philamlaps, Philam Asset Management Inc. and so on," Cuisia said. Currently, the parent company AIG has put Philamlife up for sale to be able to pay the \$85 billion debt loaned to them by the US government and has appointed the Blackstone Group and JP Morgan as its global coordinators for the divestiture program. This in turn has attracted several local industry giants like the Yuchengco group, Ayala group, San Miguel Corp., and several Chinese-Filipino businessmen as well as big foreign groups in related businesses. Cuisia said Philamlife's parent company, AIG, is seeking top-rated financially strong brand

SEE US FINANCIAL / 6



PHOTO BY JURIC CANCIO
Unleashing. Harlequin Theater Guild members perform emotional song numbers during the play, Unang Ulan ng Mayo.

The phenomenon... from page 1

prospective students and to economic capital." Simon Marginson, professor from University of Melbourne confirmed.

Due to American universities dominating the top 50 in different world university ranking systems, the European Union (EU) proposed the European Institute of Technology (EIT) which would bring together existing research bases in a mega-university or network that can challenge US universities' superior rankings position. Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) created a world ranking of universities to benchmark Chinese universities. It emphasizes research performance in science and technology because it is an area in which China wishes to be strong. Germany has responded by moving away from egalitarianism and plans to create 10 elite or Ivy League school and grant competitive research funding to universities. In response to the low standing of their universities and research, Korea's Ministry of Education created Brain Korea 21 in the late 1990s which provides funding to fellowship for researches.

Here in the Philippines, the results of world university ranking systems, particularly that of the Times Higher Education-Quacquarelli Symonds (THE-QS)—formerly known as the Times Higher Education Supplement-Quacquarelli Symonds (THE-QS)—have been almost ignored especially by government officials. Two years ago, Vice Chancellor for Academics, Dr. Julius Maridable commented on The Lasallian about the results of THE-QS, "...It's high time for the government to make a wake-up call. It is difficult for us to work without government intervention." But a year later, when only two Philippine universities remained on the top 500 list, the rankings did not serve as a wake-up call but was disregarded by education officials. "The results [THE-QS 2007 ranking] may be discouraging, but it should not be a big deal," Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Executive Director William Medrano said in an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer. "I think what is important here is the employability of graduates. If you produce quality graduates, quality nurses, maritime professionals, world-class accountants... then ranking does not matter at all," he added.

Different kinds of survey
Each international ranking has its own set of standards when evaluating each university. Currently, there are two globally influential ranking systems of universities namely SJTU's Academic Ranking of World University and THE-QS World University Rankings. In 2003, SJTU's Institute for Higher Education created a world ranking of universities called Academic Ranking of World University cited by critics to be more credible than THE-QS. They based their ranking on the progress of research each university has achieved.

The criteria used by SJTU are: quality of education in terms of alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Field Medals-10%; quality of faculty in terms of staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Field Medals-20% and in terms of highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories-20%; research output in terms of articles published in Nature and Science-20% and in terms of articles indexed in Science Citation Index-expanded, and Social Science Citation Index-20%; per capita performance in terms of per capita academic performance of an institution-10%. To date, no Philippine university has ever made it to the top 500 list of SJTU.

THE-QS is made up of Times Higher Education (THE), a London-based magazine and Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a company specializing in education and study abroad. Since 2004, the THE-QS ranks universities more on university reputation. They have "peer review" surveys which they use to refer to as they place each university in their spots. The criteria used by Times are: academic peer review-40%, employer review-10%, faculty student ratio-20%, citations per faculty-20%, international faculty-5% and international students-5%. Four Philippine universities have made appearances in rankings with varying places each year: University of the Philippines, De La Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University and University of Sto. Tomas.

There are also other less influential global ranking systems of educational institutions. Newsweek has also published an international ranking of universities. This publication combined the basis of THE-QS and SJTU and used those two as the criteria on how to rank universities. Another international ranking system is the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE) in Germany. They rank universities by surveying a vast amount of students and academic faculty. Their surveys ask about the student experience and satisfaction and academic recommendations on the most favored places in each field of study. Probably the most diverse ranking is the Webometrics Ranking of World Universities. This list of universities was put together by the largest research body in Spain and using websites of universities as their references to place each institution.

Criticisms

A global phenomenon such as world university rankings is not without criticisms. Universities have different goals and missions. So, universities are internally differentiated and cannot be measured as a whole. "The problem with ranking concerns the practice, not the principle," wrote Altbach. He proceeded in questioning how accurately could a nation's academic institutions or quality of a single institution be measured. Number of articles published is included in the factors in ranking but it does not relate the quality or impact of the articles

Security in campus questioned, SSO share load

BY JULIE ANN YANG

The job of the Security and Safety Office is to implement the necessary security measures all around the sprawling 5.04 hectare of De La Salle University. With thousands of students enrolled in the prestigious University, there are some who express their doubts if the security of the University is enough.

The Security Office has some difficulties in maintaining the tight security of DLSU. Escarez said, "Sometimes, students do not want their bags to be checked and some guests get irritated if they are held up by the security because of not securing a permit".

Asked to rate the University's security on a 1 to 10 rating scale, with 10 being the highest, Escarez gives it an 8. "The security of the school is not perfect because some situations are beyond the control of the security office (like some outsider stealing the things of the students and some students are victimized outside)".

Also, the scope of La Salle's security is only in its vicinity. The worst cases of lack of security are those students who are victimized outside the university. However, DLSU is not responsible for any incidents happening outside because it is beyond the school's security protection. "We cannot just disperse the guards outside of the University and leave the inside of the University unprotected," Escarez said. However, if the victim seeks the help of the SSO, then the office will respond and help the students. The security office also coordinates with the establishments and their security and the local police in catching the offenders.

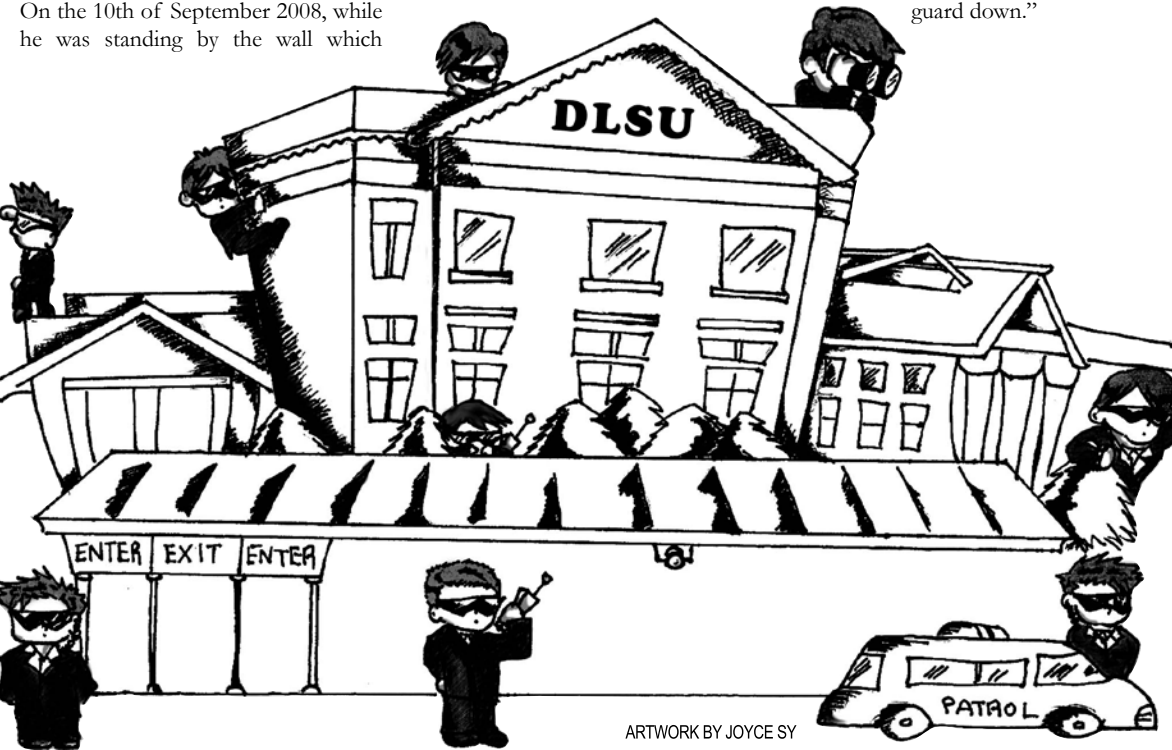
Such is the case of Carlo Ocampo. On the 10th of September 2008, while he was standing by the wall which

separates the South Gate of La Salle and the parking lot of McDonalds, he was suddenly attacked from behind by four guys, one of them using a short metal pipe. After 10-15 seconds, they simply dropped their weapons and ran. Carlo immediately sought help from the guardhouse and was brought to the University clinic and later rushed off to Makati Medical Hospital. He underwent a CT scan and got 10 stitches.

The theft cases happening inside the University are outside the control of the SSO as well because it is the student's own responsibility to guard his/her own belongings. The students should be careful enough not to let their things out of their sight. "This should be done because even students steal things from other students" said Escarez.

Further improvement of the security level of the University is being examined as of now. "We are thinking of installing turnstiles at every gate of the University and we will also add some security cameras in the future. It really depends on the present peace and order of the campus".

The SSO should not be the only implementers of the security inside and outside the campus. "It is our job to implement the security measures but we need the full cooperation of the community to be able to do this



ARTWORK BY JOYCE SY

published. The same could be concluded with number of faculty to teaching quality. There were also perceived biases towards research-intensive and English-speaking institutions.

Dr. Ma Assunta C. Cuyegkeng, ADMU Vice President for the Loyola Schools, commented on Ateneo's performance in last year's Times world university rankings, "Finally, we maintain that rankings like these (their survey instrument, the weights they use) don't reflect our vision/mission. Thus, we will not allow these to distract us from pursuing our goals..."

Dr. David Woodhouse, Executive Director of Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) wrote on University World News, "Most rankings rely on two types of data: data given by institutions that may not be validated, and data obtained from opinion polls in the name of 'expert opinion'. With both

components on shaky ground, the use of complex formulae with weights and indicators only helps to project a pseudo-scientific image to outcomes that may be statistically irrelevant."

In a previously released statement by UP Vice President for Public Affairs Dr. Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, the University of the Philippines manifested its refusal to participate in THE-QS survey in because Times could not explain where it got the figures on which UP's rank was based in 2006.

Future Implications

While the methodology of ranking systems is subjected to many appraisals, critics agree that their methods are improving each year and they will continue to grow in influence worldwide in the future.

Jon Torfi Jonasson, professor from University of Iceland, stated on

successfully. You can help us by doing the following: If you see anyone who is acting suspicious, report them at once, cooperate with the checking of bags and issuance of permits, and protect your personal belongings."

The Discipline Office (DO) coordinates with the security office in keeping the peace and order in the University. "If there are offenders outside, then it is the Security office's responsibility. But when an incident happens inside the campus and the offender is a student, it is the discipline office's responsibility" said Escarez.

The student's take

Innah Darthee Gan (II-AB PSM) thinks highly of the University's security, "I think the security in DLSU is great because of it being very strict. My friends from other schools can't even enter the University. Parents send their children to [DLSU] because of the safer environment compared to other universities."

However, students like Ana Czarina Esquejo (II- BS PSYC) have some worries. "The tightness of the security in DLSU gives my parents and I the confidence that nothing bad will happen to me and my sister while we are in school. But I do worry because there times they seem to be not strict

and the security [lets] their guard down."

EDITORIAL

Guinea pigs

Last June, The LaSallian published its advocacy against the lack of critical thinking among students in the University. The application of critical thinking should not be limited in our academic endeavors but should be further applied in the crucial and practical decisions we make. Much of these decisions involve assessing different academic policies and proposals that arise with the intention of improving our education.

The recent proposal to move the U-Break from Friday to Monday is an academic decision that calls for critical thinking from the various sectors of the University. Unfortunately, the decision-making process behind it and the response of students shows that there was not enough evaluative effort involved.

With the announcement made more public in Ang Pahayagang Plaridel's headline last September, students were not only instantly shocked but also ready to oppose the proposal. A report by VP-Academics Aimee Chua that gathered the students' sentiments on the move had a significant number of shallow and subjective reasons. These included Monday being perceived as the start of the week, the inconvenience of cramming on a Monday, and feeling lazy to attend Tuesday class. It was commendable that Engineering students were very specific about their arguments, indicating that having their quizzes and laboratory classes on a Friday is more practical than on Monday. They had countered a change that was done for the sake of lost classes with the advantages of the current academic situation. However, no academic arguments stemmed from the other colleges, such as the College of Science, whose laboratory schedules would also be readjusted.

The participation of students in activities became the primary concern, without regarding the need to make up for lost class hours. Although it is important that students are able to participate in a wide range of activities, this does not make the loss of class hours any less significant. Students should have evaluated the proposal based on the pros and cons of the aspects affected instead of only focusing on one side of their

arguments.

Had the student body been informed earlier of the proposal, then they would have been less surprised. The SC seemed to have forgotten their basic duty of informing the student body about relevant concerns. The "Memorandum Regarding the Plan of Making Monday as the Official U-Break of De La Salle University-Manila" released by the LA insisted on postponing the decision because they were not given any research or study backing it up. However, it was confirmed that they had already known about it weeks before the headline. It remains questionable they did not follow up such research and only began collaborating with student sentiments more publicly after the headline's release. Had it informed the students earlier, they would have had more time to explore and assess the situation.

The Monday Holiday Economics was implemented in 2006. The University of the Philippines moved its activity day from Wednesday to Monday in the beginning of last school year after it studied the implications of moving their activity day. It seems like our Admin did not do any prior study to accompany the proposal of moving the U-Break. Their answers to the students' questions were based on considering the Monday Holiday Economics taking away class hours. Although these are valid, what other effects does this have on the students?

Moreover, it is apparent that the Monday Holiday Economics was not considered when the four-day class week was initially planned. The Admin can say all they want about constantly changing to improve DLSU's quality of education. But it should realize that students are not guinea pigs to be subjected to constant trials without proper justification or explanation. Students are able to comprehend the explanation of the Admin's decisions, especially if it's not just based on the "wisdom" that their age and position permits.

Nonetheless, all sectors of academic community should never stop at being "for" or "against" any decision. It is through constant inquiry to truly understand the issues and implications of any particular decision can it be considered successful.



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Second thoughts

Chuzzlelle Francisco

The working senate

...a reminder that their attitude towards their work is essential to maintain a healthy and working senate.

In his privilege speech last September 21, 2008, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said that their three-day session is not enough for the Senate to debate and fine-tune legislations pending before them. Looking at the shortlist of accomplishments of our lawmakers, they represent themselves to their countrymen as latecomers on the scheduled session. It is therefore not surprising that until now they are not even halfway through the 2009 National Budget.

As Enrile puts it, "there is so much work and so little time to do it in." Since our Senators are tasked to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation and should really scrutinize the bills proposed, the current schedule is not enough to accommodate all the bills lined up in their agenda.

According to the statistical data published in the Senate website as of September 29, only 305 of the 2636 Bills filed before them by their fellow Senators were acted upon and passed. And only 20 of 546 bills from lower house were passed in the upper chamber from July 2007 to September 2008. I am not certain what is happening to our solons but they seem to be behind schedule. They must work more efficiently since the Congress took a break last October 11 and will resume its session on November 5.

Before the term of Senate President Franklin Drilon, both lower house and the Senate met four days a week. The current schedule was adopted "ostensibly to conserve power," and allot time for the lawmakers in the Congress to attend to their constituents. But this seemed to underscore the inefficiency of the Senate as records showed that only 13 laws were passed by the 13th Congress out of 2563 Bills filed before them.

If Sen. Enrile will really push for the restoration of the four-day schedule, our law makers must learn to maximize their time during these sessions. Currently, the Senate meet from Mondays to Wednesdays every 3pm to discuss the efficacy of the pending bills. It is a time for them to raise their views on the order of business for the day and accordingly bring up the merits and demerits of the proposed bill. However, it was mentioned in the same privilege speech that the session usually starts at around 4pm. This clearly showed the length of time wasted because the members of the upper chamber were not able to start their session on time. A lot can happen in an hour and if they begin the 14th Congress as such, there

is a great probability that each session will hardly start early.

I suddenly realized that until now, our lawmakers still embody the traditional notion of Filipino time. Instead of being the role models of maximizing the time given to them, they represent themselves to their countrymen as latecomers on the scheduled session. It is therefore not surprising that until now they are not even halfway through the 2009 National Budget.

The four-day session should not only address the need to have longer time for the pending bills but should also serve as a reminder that their attitude towards their work is essential to maintain a healthy and working senate. I don't think penalties and signature campaigns would be needed for the Senators to hear the demands of their countrymen for more efficient discussions in the Senate.

The Filipinos elected them believing that they can improve the country. The salaries they are earning came from the purse of ordinary taxpayers who have hopes that these Senators would create better laws for them. It is dismal that a large P7.78-million is being paid only for monthly rental of the Senate Building (excluding the P 500,000 for the Parking Space) and yet our elected lawmakers are not giving back the supposed amount of dedication expected of them.

It is therefore not surprising that the lower house decided to create a special task force to address the lack of mechanism to track the progress of the pending bills in the Senate. According to House Speaker Prospero Nograles, the House Ambassadors to Senate will monitor pending bills in the upper chamber especially those pertaining to "creation of new high schools around the country and infrastructure projects for national food security and productivity." It will also supervise the approval of Freedom Information Act of 2008, Career Executive System Act of 2008, and Environmental Planning Act of 2008.

This not to say that the Lower House is doing their best to expedite approval of their respective bills; they also have their fair share of delays. For one, the Committee Report on Rationalization of Fiscal Incentives is not yet done and the aim to have a more competitive economy is also suspended. The bill to increase excise tax

rates on sin products is still pending before the Committee of Ways and Means. I know that they have to be with their constituents from time to time, but they also have to consider the importance of attending to these bills.

I then urge the members of both chambers of Congress to be more responsible of their time as delays on discussing important matters can merit a lot of consequences for the country. With the Philippine vulnerability to the effects of US crisis, we cannot afford to adopt the 2008 budget again. If the administration really wants to prove their thrust in infrastructure development and modernization of the agriculture, then it's best to call on our lawmakers to expedite their discussion without sacrificing real evaluation on the proposed 2009 budget. Debates have now surfaced calling for our lawmakers to divert the focus of the large portion of the budget. Scrutiny must be employed in order to determine if it's best for the government to direct their efforts on the "sustainable livelihood and income for the poor" as proposed by Sen. Mar Roxas.

I urge our lawmakers to stop bickering pointless issues and just focus on the things that have to be tackled as soon as possible. The internal conflict among the Senators is not helping in speeding-up the hearings on the pending bills. They have wasted so much time questioning each other's actions that they are now forgetting the purpose of why they are elected in the first place.

I urge them to stop thinking about themselves and the upcoming 2010 Elections and just continue to do their job in Congress. Rather than spending a large amount of time in media for interviews and personal inquiries, they must learn to show the media they are doing their best to fulfill their plans for the nation through the laws that they passed. Elections will eventually come and once again, the Filipino people, including me, will vote. But the bills pending in Congress requires urgency more than ever.

I urge the people elected in office to demonstrate that they deserve the position given to them. Once and for all, I hope they will be willing to sacrifice another day in their "assumingly busy" schedule to devote more time assessing laws and bills our country should have.



In any case

Jabin Landayan

Knowing the issue

I'll try to find some and I'll bring 'em to ya!

There were already some flaws in the SC's "Memorandum Regarding the Plan of Making Monday as the Official U-Break of De La Salle University-Manila" dated October 10, 2008. Ang Pahayagang Plaridel's (APP) headline for their September issue was cited as their introduction to the letter addressed to the Enrollment Committee, the Vice Chancellor for Academics, and the Dean of Student Affairs.

Why would the SC need to cite the student publication when this issue was already discussed in the Convention of Leaders on September 18? If that meant that the student body's source of information was APP's article, then the SC failed to do its job of informing the students of the proposed move, when it already knew about it.

All of a sudden, text messages, instant messages, and emails were sent out trying to gather students' sentiments on the proposed move. Naturally, opinions gathered will be largely based on the limited information that the student publication provided. There were no efforts on the part of SC to organize a venue where students could raise questions to the Administrators, or at least give enough information for students to weigh the pros and cons of the proposal. How seriously could the Enrollment Committee, Council of Deans, and even the Board of Trustees consider the report on the gathered opinions when most of them were not thought about thoroughly by the students?

Had students considered that the move to a Monday U-Break could actually be good for their education—which students are primarily in school for, just in case they forgot—they might not have resorted to telling other students to wear red-colored shirts as "a sign of protest."

DLSU is not the only school, nor was it the first to be on a four-day class schedule. Collegio de San Juan de Letran has been operating under a four-day class week since 2004, and the University of the Philippines for longer. At the beginning of last school year, UP moved to a free day on Monday from the usual Wednesday in response to Monday Holiday Economics imposed by President Arroyo.

The move to a Monday U-Break aims to maximize the time students spend in the classroom. This is an answer to the Monday Holiday Economics. The trimestral system



Brownian motion

Angela Velasco

During the Convention of Leaders (COL.E) last September 18, the discussion regarding the dress code was left just like it had been a year ago: unclear and inconclusive. Student Council (SC) president Nicole Villarojo stressed that although more discipline is needed with regards to what other students wear, having a minor offense for dressing "inappropriately" is still not an option. In defense of this, she brought up the point that as college students, we should realize that there is a bigger responsibility at hand when there are no rules implemented.

What happened after the "dress code" became less of a requirement for students? Many students disregarded the unwritten rule of proper decorum that is needed in any professional setting. There's no denying that the number of too-short shorts, micro minis, and almost pambahay attire have been all too visible in the past two years. Although some teachers send out students or ban them from wearing a particular kind of clothing in our class, they do not have complete control of the students' attire as they've had another set of inappropriate clothes stored in their bags. Some teachers did not bother commenting on students' attire because of the possibility of being accused of sexual harassment.

But why is there a need for appropriate attire in the first place? And what makes a too-short bottom or a sanda instead of a t-shirt inappropriate? It is the disregard that we are entering the University (and not the

already rushes the learning in subjects. This takes another blow when classes are cut short by the weather or by public holidays. Some professors barely get through their respective syllabi at the end of each trimester. One can't help feeling shortchanged in not being able to learn everything that he was supposed to learn for that trimester. If moving the U-Break from a Friday to a Monday would help avert this problem, then it is worth considering.

Other logistical concerns, especially with regard to student activities, are just a matter of adjusting to the new setup. It can also be seen as a challenge for student organizations to entice students to attend their activities. If an activity is not successful, it should not hastily be blamed on the University's setup, but rather how interesting the activity was in the first place.

There was more effort exerted in informing students about the proposed change of the SC to a USG than the proposed move of the U-Break. The posters around campus telling students to vote are evidence enough to this. Which of the two moves have a direct and more immediate effect on the average student? Isn't the answer the issue that the SC should have focused more on?

When asked by CBS Reporter Katie Couric on what newspapers she regularly read to establish her world views, US Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin answered, "I've read most of them...with a great appreciation for the press." When pressed for specific examples, the Alaskan Governor replied, "All of them, any of them that have been in front of me all these years."

This has raised questions about Republican Presidential Nominee, Senator John McCain's choice for a running-mate. A consensus among political analysts and journalists in the US say that Palin is simply "not ready" to be the Vice President of the most powerful nation in the world.

Conservative columnist Kathleen Parker wrote for the National Review in her Sept. 26 column entitled Palin Problem, "Quick study or not, she doesn't know enough about economics and foreign policy to make Americans comfortable with a President Palin should conditions warrant her promotion."

In light of the current US economic crisis, Palin was asked for specific examples

Dressing up discretion

The choices we make - from dressing properly to studying well or lightly for an exam - have bigger consequences and bearings on others that we may not see at first.

comfort of our homes) that makes such clothes improper. We should consider that the environment we are entering is one where we engage in professional, crucial and educational decisions. Hence, it is also important that we look presentable in doing these acts.

More importantly, however, the consequence of your attire (or any choice you make), does not end with your discretion. There is a need to acknowledge the social system within the University. Such a system implies that we are accountable for what we do, and this includes an indirect influence of our actions on others. Hence, the right of teachers to send you out or ban certain attire come into play. Wouldn't it be easier if we considered what they deem as improper when choosing what we wear?

Such accountability means a sense of responsibility. And as previously mentioned, this responsibility goes on a social level. But let us not forget our individual responsibility where we find the origins of social responsibility. This aspect of our responsibility recognizes our capability to make rational decisions. According to H.L.A Hart and Tony Honore—from the book *The Mental Basis of Responsibility* by Walter Glannon—it also gives us a better sense of our distinction as human beings, garnering for ourselves a sense of self-respect. Hence, we are able to evaluate the changes that we bring about without the intervention of others.

Considering such aspects, one can conclude that a heightened sense of

of Senator McCain's efforts to push for stricter legislation of financial institutions in his 26 years in Congress. "I'll try to find some and I'll bring 'em to ya" was her reply to interviewer Couric.

It is not about highlighting the shortcomings of particular politicians, but showing how important it is that leaders of nations should be qualified for the jobs that they are "applying" for.

On a recent trip to Bangkok, Thailand as a participant in the ASEAN University Network Youth Summit, I had a firsthand experience of how leaders of nations convene to form treaties and international laws. The Summit was intended to be a platform for youth representatives from each ASEAN member state to exchange views and ideas then formulate concrete recommendations on the Role of the Youth in the Promoting the ASEAN Community 2015.

It was imperative that a participant was well prepared for the discussions by being familiar with the aims, objectives, and programs of ASEAN, especially for the youth. The highlight of the Summit was the drafting of a proposal for the ASEAN leaders in the ASEAN Summit in December later this year. If one did not do his homework and did not do any research on related topics, he or she would not be able to contribute to the discussion.

The Forum was a microcosm of the kind of fora that leaders of countries attended. If such a venue required its participants to be prepared for a discussion that would have international implications, what more the leaders of nations who would discuss legislations with worldwide impact?

With the 2010 Elections here in the Philippines fast approaching, presidential candidates should be criticized in the same way as their foreign counterparts. Such criticisms would show how intelligently candidates are able to handle questions. Also, it is a key of determining how much a candidate knows with matters that are part of the job.

Getting to know a politician should occur when they are still candidates, not when they are already in office. Unfortunately, this has been the case over our current president's terms. Once voters realize that they made a bad choice, it's usually a case of a little too late.

Upholding its thrust to protect student's rights, promote pro-student policies, and providing the students with quality academic services, the SC distributed guide booklets for the freshmen, conducted training on handling grievance cases, and is currently working on a proposal to abolish the course card distribution day next school year.

From the SC's viewpoint

SC President Nicole Villarojo shared that her platform is intended for the entire school year and she started on the projects she considered as priority agenda. These included environmental initiatives, the approval of the USG, and the Voter's Registration Campaign. However, she admitted that she was not able to pursue the campaign for first-time voters. "I suppose you can say that I wasn't able to accomplish it because of so much focus on the USG, SHB revisions and the environment initiatives," she commented. "Plus, of course, I have monthly commitments such as Kamalayan which I also have to give attention to." The SC President believed though, that the second term is a more appropriate time since they are more active.

Villarojo has a positive remark on the performance of the SC as a whole since the offices are trying to coordinate their activities across batches and colleges. "Of course, there's still a need to improve how fast the SC mobilizes people," she maintained. "On a scale of 10, I'd probably give the office an 8. We had a lot of noticeable achievements, particularly for the environment. We've had a successful run so far for the Student Handbook revisions and the USG has finally been approved," she concluded when asked to rate the performance of her office.

Vice President for Academics Aimee Chua also rated 8 for her office since they are yet to accomplish all the plans they included in her platform. The Achiever Scholar Program, Pahiram Libro, and the training on grievance procedure made the OVP-Academics visible for the first term.

Operations and Communications Vice President Gretchen Santos shared that there were platforms that she allocated for the second and third term. According to her, "a great extent of effort is being extended by other offices and batch levels, either by providing activities or advocacies. But for my office, I can say that we have performed well. Not all were finished because some of them require two terms, some even year-long." The OVP-Operations and Communications on the other hand were able to draft a Memorandum of Agreement facilitating communication from the internals of the SC.

The Administrator's perspective

Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, Formation, and Empowerment (LIFE) Director Evelyn Lopez-Esparrago said that the SC were more involved in internal issues specifically working up the USG and preparing for the plebiscite. She mentioned that the finality of USG and the possibility of the SC being restructured are some of the priorities of the SC to ensure that better services will be given to the students.

Although she shared that activities like the Pahiram Libro, the locker rental, and aid for the Grievance System are helpful for the students, Lopez-Esparrago believes that the SC should do more service-oriented activities since a lot of the people who voted for them are expecting them to be more visible.

According to her, it is normal for any organization to go through the process of forming the group, getting to know each other, finding each others' work styles and setting certain standards or norms in the organization. "Since this is already the middle of the school year, more or less, they have a good feel of the working relationships inside already that they can start moving out, giving more service to the others," she concluded. To properly implement streamlining of activities, she suggested that the College Assembly Presidents must try to be more visible with the projects they want to do for the student body.

She acknowledged that SC President Nicole Villarojo has been very effective and efficient in forming productive relationships not only with the administration but also with the different stakeholders, parents, faculty, and even companies outside the University. "I think she has represented the student body very well," she commented.

There are a lot of projects that is expected from the Student Council in the coming months. The success of their advocacies and projects will be dependent on how students see its significance and effectiveness.

The LaSallian

THE BASTION OF ISSUE-ORIENTED CRITICAL THINKING

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Melamine...

from page 1

been banned for merchandise and consumption in Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Burundi, Gabon, Myanmar, Singapore, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The United States, having initially banned infant formula from China except for ethnic stores mostly prolific in large Chinese communities, made no major recalls in the market except for White Rabbit candies. Investigations showed that none of their milk-based merchandise contained melamine, as reported by US Food and Drug Administration spokesperson Judy Leon.

The Culprit

Melamine, a white crystalline compound combined with formaldehyde to produce melamine resins involved in the production of plastic dishes, was incorporated in milk in about 20 percent of tested companies in China. The quality control watchdog, Li Changjiang, attests that it was to make its protein content appear higher than the true value, due to its high nitrogen content, even if the milk was diluted in water.

Effects of melamine to humans, excluding the cases of the infants, have not yet been tested. Although experts agree that it might have the same effects with the results of animal tests, which includes kidney malfunction and the formation of kidney stones when combined with cyanuric acid. Symptoms of melamine intoxication includes irritation in the eyes, nose, throat and mild skin irritation, blood in urine, a considerable decrease in urine excretion, signs of kidney infection, and high blood pressure.

Wearing off the fear

Trade Undersecretary Zanaida Maglaya sent a public warning that unlabelled milk products are most likely smuggled into the country and assurance of zero-melamine content could not be established.

The Philippine Supermarket Association has also withdrawn milk products until BFAD clears them free of melamine. SM Investments Corp. has already cleared its shelves of Yili, Mengui, and Mon Milk products after being found positive of melamine. Corazon Guidote, the company's

US Financial...

from page 2

names with capability to continue the firm's operations with a net worth of P49.5-billion as of December 31, 2007 and with over P170-billion in assets.

An article published in Philippine Daily Inquirer last Sept. 22, 2008 entitled 8 Lehman SPVs owe 2 banks P3.6B stated that the recently declared bankrupt Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., which took up bad assets from Philippine banks in bulk over the past four years, has at least eight Philippine special purpose vehicles (SPVs). These shell companies have underlying assets being run after by local creditors. Lehman Brothers has taken out soured loans and foreclosed property at a steep discount from various Philippine banks using the SPV framework, but it also borrowed about P3.6-billion from two banks namely Metrobank and the local branch of UK Standard Chartered Bank to pay for the purchase of these assets.

In the Philippines, a number of banks were able to sell bad assets in volume to Lehman Brothers namely RCBC, the former Equitable PCI Bank now Banco de Oro, Unibank, United Coconut Planters Bank, and Development Bank of the Philippines. However, Metrobank announced last Sept. 22, 2008 an appeal to put two of

investor relations officer, announced that customers who have already purchased the products could have them replaced with another brand.

As companies do independent investigation on their products, Alaska Milk Corp., Magnolia Inc., RFM Corp., Mead Johnson, and Kraft Foods have officially been cleared by BFAD that their merchandise have zero melamine content.

BFAD released its public announcement last October 7 relaying to the public a list of Chinese-branded milk products found positive with melamine content. It was also indicated that Anchor, M&M's, Vitasoy, Annum, Bear Brand, Milo and Monmilk do not contain melamine.

Consequently, it was found that Britain's Cadbury was one of the non-Chinese brands to have its recalled products melamine-contaminated. Swiss food giant Nestle, on the other hand, insisted that its products were not manufactured with tainted milk although Taiwanese investigation results yielded otherwise. Sandra Puno, Nestle Philippines director of communications, opened the idea of illegal importation and further explained that the company's raw materials came from Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United States.

Philippine Baking Industry Group President Simplifico Umali Jr. assured bread patrons that its member companies use neither Chinese-made flour nor milk. Starbucks Coffee, in connection with the arousing scandal, pulled out and replaced all their supplies of Chinese-manufactured milk ingredients.

Chief Nelson Yabut of Manila Station 11 emphasized his continued inspection of stores in Binondo district to see if Chinese milk and unbranded dairy products are sold, with a team of inspectors doing the same thing all over the nation.

Not only imported cow's milk

Senate President Jinggoy Estrada has already proposed Senate Bill No. 153 or "An Act Establishing the Philippine Goat and Sheep Center" to encourage the propagation of goat and sheep breeding that could both offer an alternative milk source for consumers and promote the livelihood of local farmers. Water buffalos, or carabaos, are also encouraged to be a

Lehman's SPVs under hold as part of their efforts to recover its investments. Also, they disclosed lending P2.4 billion to two Lehman Brothers SPVs. Overall, Metrobank has revealed that its total exposure to Lehman Brothers is \$71-million, of which \$51-million represents indirect loans to Lehman's SPVs.

According to Lorenz Tan from the Financial Management Department, the collapse of the investment banks will only have a minimal effect on the Philippine market. With this, the local and government institutions keep a rigid and conservative financial policy system which will certainly be protective of a similar event happening in the country. Moreover, he thinks that the banks that have been exposed are not as substantial as compared to their total investments and can eventually recover. He, however, strongly thinks that there will be a definite slowdown in economic growth given that the US is the country's primary trading partner.

On a broad spectrum, this financial crisis will have a definite impact on the lives of the working Filipinos. For one, the GSS and Social Security System (SSS) currently look to be in quite a mess due to major investments made

main source of dairy instead.

Former Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Dinky Soliman also promotes local dairy products in the height of this milk scare.

Although it is apparent that the Philippines mainly import dairy products from New Zealand and the United States, it is the dairy contents of milk-based products that are more inclined to contain melamine.

Other side of the story

Debates of whether melamine can drastically harm an adult human still continues. Some experts in Taiwan said that the amount of melamine to affect a human being is actually more than what one can consume—30 mg per day of 12 kg of food, more than one's average consumption of three kilograms per day.

The Chinese State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine also said that melamine-tainted milk could not harm adults unless they take two liters in a day.

DLSU dairy consumers react

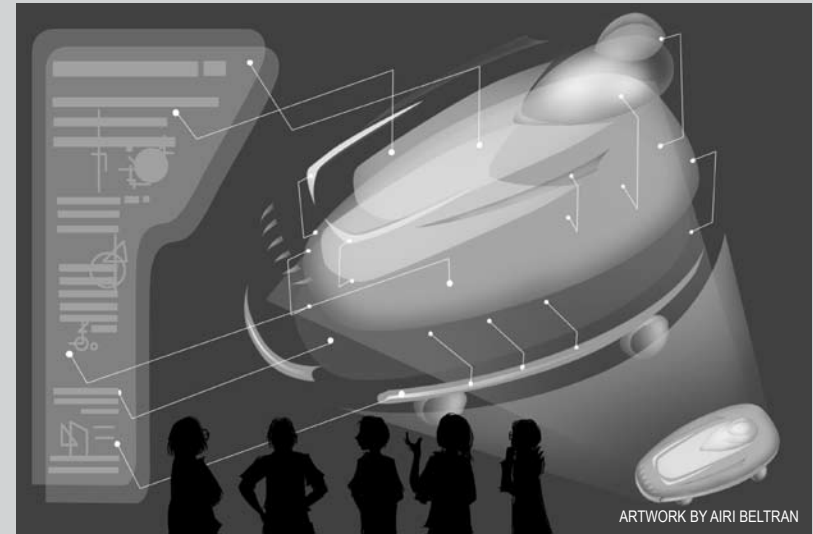
Consumers in the University seem not to have a diverse take on the situation. Nicole Andrick Callejas (II-BS-BIO), a scoliotic needing to maintain a prescribed daily dose of milk was recommended to be a lot more vigilant with melamine-tainted milk.

Nicarose Palad (I-ISA), who drinks milk at leisure, is a bit dubious with the promotion of goat, sheep, and water buffalo milk. "It depends if the government can provide us the guarantee that it's healthy," Diana Rueda (III-LMG), an avid consumer of yogurt and cheeses, although relieved upon knowing that only babies would suffer greatly from having a big amount of melamine intake, still suggested that the public be cautious. Murielle Heena Catabi (I-ECM-ACM), a regular Starbucks customer, is more reliant with the public announcement the coffee shop is posting on their counters than the untraceable rumor regarding the products in the shop having melamine content.

Only a 100 percent assertion that the dairy market in the country is melamine-free would pacify the turmoil that wound up among the consumers who constantly demand for health assurance.

Sinag 2 in progress

BY CREZZEILE FRANCISCO



"IT WILL BE A TOTALLY different car as we raced before," said Professor Rene Fernandez, Team Sinag's overall technical team leader, and faculty of Mechanical Engineering Department on the second Solar Car Project Sinag 2.

Set to compete on the 2009 World Solar Car challenge in Australia, the challenge will be to "design and build a car capable of crossing the vast and imposing continent of Australia using only sunlight as fuel." Fernandez said that Sinag 2 will be an improved version of the first solar-powered car in the Philippines made in 2007. Enhanced functions, changes in shape, and more powerful solar cells to be installed are few of the things that can be looked forward to in Sinag 2.

A major change on the project however is the tie-up of the Mechanical Engineering Department of DLSU to another university that has yet to be disclosed by the Philippine Solar Car Society, Inc. Fernandez clarified however that DLSU will be the lead university in the venture.

The department is now in the process of recruiting students for Sinag 2 in order to formally commence the planning of the car. Gradual increase in

activity is anticipated as the group will begin designing the car, selecting the nest shape, and deciding on the material to be used within the year. The department also opened the Sinag Design to all the students to get a view of what they think is the characteristic of the Sinag 2. Upon realizing that there are some areas that other departments and colleges are experts on, Fernandez also said they are tapping different sectors to help them, especially in marketing and web design.

The Solar Car will participate in the same event, the World Solar Challenge in Australia, October 2009. Fernandez believed that the undertaking is helpful for both the students and the faculty since they are "working on the area that is right at the forefront of research."

The Sinag, the country's first solar-powered car, on the other hand will be toured around the country for display in order to draw interest among young students. The decision of what is going to happen to it is upon the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Solar Car Society, Inc.

The Philippine Solar Car Society is aimed at producing viable and continuing program for the study and application of renewable energy.

DLSU bags 3rd in JFINEX

BY CREZZEILE FRANCISCO

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY participants ranked 3rd in the 10th Inter Collegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) held at Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last October 13, 2008.

The team composed of Ranier Macatangay (III-AE-MFI), Leah Francine Cu (IV-AE-BSA), and Daniel Jan Del Mundo (IV-AE-BSA) competed against 20 other teams who qualified for the finals.

This year's competition had the highest number of ICFC participants with 83 schools nationwide and four foreign schools who were automatically seeded in the finals.

According to Lorenz Tan, instructor of the team and Financial Management Department (FMD) faculty, the team has been preparing since April and the length of time they had was really an advantage. Since the coverage of the contest is the Chartered Financial Analyst Level 1 exam, the pool of students took review classes during the summer under the supervision of professors from the FMD and underwent a series of diagnostic tests to prepare them for the competition.

"We didn't expect that we would do so well, [though] we wanted to do well," shared Cu on the team's performance. She shared that they just feel blessed for being able to study most of the question asked. According to FMD Chairperson Rene Hapitan, it was announced after the competition that the score of the DLSU team is the highest of a third placer all time indicating that the representatives of the University fought competitively. "I even overheard the FINEX guys there saying, 'the order is restored,'" he added.

Cu mentioned that their coach convinced them not to be pressured with the expectations and just do their best. The performance of DLSU jumped from being the 6th placer last year to third this year.

The FMD Chairperson asserted that it is the conscious effort of the Department to do well consistently that is why a committee was formed to supervise it. He is also thankful for the support extended by the different sectors of the Lasallian community even during the earlier parts of their preparation.

Since the participants also had their academic concerns, Cu admitted that she learned how to be disciplined with her time. Aside from the funds, she said it would be better if there is a visible support from the school during these kinds of competitions. This boosts the confidence of the participants and at the same time encourages them not to think of schoolwork as a hindrance to join competitions outside the University. Contests like this, according to Tan, are opportunities for the school to showcase the brightest students and quality of education the University has to offer.

Hapitan said that one of the good things about the DLSU team is that they showed that they are really enjoying the competition. Macatangay said he was pleased with the experience since it holds great opportunities for students and gives the schools a chance to gauge themselves with others. He also admitted that he enjoyed training with his teammates which made things easier.

The competition which was created by the Financial Executive Institute of the Philippines (FINEX) through the Junior FINEX Committee (JFINEX) set up a steady exposure for the students to get experience through real practices and situations in the medium of international finance. It also aimed to identify and bring out the institutions that show evidence of exceptionally high education standards in finance.

DLSU last finished in first place in 2003.

Prof: Library resources underutilized

BY ZAMANTHA LEGADOS

Despite the University Library's records of an increase in the usage of electronic resources, a member of the Library Committee, Joel Tanchuco believes these remain underutilized.

Tanchuco, a professor of the Economics Department, believes that if the sum of the amount paid for the University Library's (UL) electronic databases and journals subscriptions were considered, it would show that these are underutilized. "If you are going to divide the lump sum into more number of users, the fee will become smaller." If this happens, the databases will not be underutilized.

When asked about the amount of a one year subscription of an electronic database, Ana Maria Fresnido, Library Director, responds that it is expensive. "The University really pays for this. Students may be unaware that these journals cost around one million pesos." Fresnido disclosed. Of the current databases, Science Direct is one of the more expensive while JSTOR costs less. As compared to the cheaper print journals, the online databases are more convenient and address the limitations of time and distance. When journals are duplicated, subscriptions to print journals are dropped.

Fresnido strongly argues against claims of underutilization since results from last year's usage show extensive usage of the online databases. From June 2007 until May 2008 alone, a total of 445,520 article downloads and almost three million searches have been made. Logins have been recorded at 268,198. These figures supports that the electronic databases are not underutilized. Furthermore, the first term off-campus access to online databases of this school year has increased by 46.35% from the first term figures of last school year. This she says, represents 90% of the entire patron database, including everyone from the faculty, administration, students, and academic personnel.

However, Tanchuco comments that the results "do not take into account how many people downloaded the articles... The counter is defective or deceptive in a way." It is possible that one student downloads numerous articles. In addition, the faculty members are normally the patrons that make the most use of these resources. Nonetheless, Fresnido is aware of this limitation and shares that an assessment of the usage is in its planning stage and hopefully will be conducted within the year. This will enable the UL to determine the actual number of users accessing the databases. "Only after that can we conclude if it is underutilized," says Fresnido, especially since many factors have to be considered, among which are price of the online subscription and the number of users.

The result of the assessment will also inform the UL whether or not there is a need to boost its efforts in marketing these resources.

Pollution...

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travel and transport cost, abate traffic and air pollution, attract investments and stimulate overall countryside growth."

DLSU's active involvement

With the impact of pollution around the country, DLSU is doing its part to safeguard the environment. In particular, DLSU promotes a "clean and green" environment inside the campus. The wide array of flora that can be seen all over campus may be the primary reason

Whose fault is it?

Regardless of the outcome of the assessment, Fresnido believes that the UL is doing enough in disseminating information. Library orientations are conducted for all freshmen students introducing them to the library's services, among which are the online databases. Announcements of on trial electronic databases are sent to everyone's mylasalle email addresses and are posted on the DLSU website.

The UL has also devised ways to make searching convenient to patrons. It may employ the Web Feat which enables a simultaneous and extensive search of all databases. The A-Z listing and the individual electronic databases are available for those who wish to limit their searches.

Not all Lasallians are aware of their mylasalle email accounts nor do they access these. Jhoanna Tamayo (IV-BS-ICTM), claims that she is not aware of this particular service. In her opinion, this service has not been publicized well. Although she knows about her mylasalle email account, she never accessed it...

Tamayo shares that her professors do not require her class to access these databases, nor do they inform them of these online subscriptions that can be very helpful to the students. Clint Siao (III-BS-IBS) echoes Tamayo's sentiments. He recalls his Basic Research Skills (ENGLRES) professor mentioning the databases but says he does not use the service since he is not aware of how to use it. For both Tamayo and Siao, the internet and the books in the library provide them with sufficient information.

Glenn Trias (III-BS-MFI) claims that he found out about this service from his friends and learned how to use it on his own. "But honestly, if we were not required to include sources from journals, I would not have any idea that DLSU subscribes to electronic databases," he declares. One who frequents the online subscriptions is Lorenz De Castro (III-BS-OCM). "Our Basic Communication and Study Skills professor taught us how to use it for our research papers, both in and off-campus. We use it to strengthen our researches and inquiries," he responds. De Castro also explains that journals are considered more reliable and that the authors are experts in their respective fields.

Fresnido hopes that the faculty members will encourage their students to use these resources. She suggests that the assignments faculty members require should make sure the students will make use of these resources.

Dr. Allan Bernardo, of the Counseling and Educational Psychology Department, advocates the use of academic journals. He shares that "academic journals, whether online or not, provide the most current peer-reviewed research from all over the world [and thus] provide the most recent advancements in the various disciplines." However, Dr. Bernardo does not think that undergraduate research is expected to be very sophisticated. Should there be any improvements in the current subscriptions, the ones who would benefit from them are the faculty and the graduate students.

and gastrointestinal effects, to name a few. Through the cooperation of various sectors, the campaign can be seen as a step in helping both the environment and the wellness of the students.

On the part of the Student Council, the Office of the Vice President Operations and Communications (OVP-OPEC) has started the Biodivie Project threatening substance "polystyrene." Polystyrene is considered as the human carcinogen since continuous exposure to the substance can pose acute health problems such as irritation of the skin,

DLSU rankings...

from page 1



INFOGRAPHIC BY JOHNALENE BAYLON

Tanchuco suggests that as teachers whose roles have a bigger benefit to society, they should go well beyond "typical" classroom discussion and complement these with new knowledge from journals. The problem, Fresnido thinks, also relies on the students who simply wish to copy information directly from the Internet. Although this may be the case, Tanchuco is hopeful that the faculty can help overcome this laziness. Dr. Bernardo comments that of the weak research projects he has encountered, common problems arise. It could be the case that the student did not really work hard at it, and took shortcuts. Weak researches also show a lack of proper research skills. Lastly, he says simply that students did not think hard enough. Nevertheless, Bernardo notes diverse outputs. "Some DLSU students are capable of doing superior work, while others do mediocre research work."

Tanchuco observes that some people do not like looking at journals. They think these are only for the academic. He admits that he was guilty of this when he was a student. But he realized that there are many things that can only be learned through journals. Fresnido explains that there are different treatments applied to the subscriptions. There are some databases that boast of a very academic collection such as the Science Direct, but there are also those, such as the ProQuest that are very student friendly and provide an easy read. "We have a diverse collection of online journals," Fresnido comments.

"The students now are very lucky... Everything is online. You can work from the comforts of your home... Back in the day, we did not have this," Fresnido reminisces. "I never imagined you can have e-books. Sometimes, these people, since they are born with these, they take it for granted," Tanchuco adds. He shares that DLSU has one of the most, if not most extensive collection of electronic subscriptions.

competitive market standing as much as they reflect it." He also pointed out that many respondents have been found to be largely unfamiliar with as many as one third of the programs they are asked to rate.

Another problem is that it was not specified who are being surveyed and changes in the ranking methodology are being implemented every year. An example is the change of citation reference data source from Essential Science Indicators (ESI) to Scopus last year. This criterion covers 20 percent of the scoring. Times explained that Scopus has a larger number of papers and journals than ESI so there will be greater representation from lesser-known universities with less emphasis on publication. Another change in methodology is that in 2004-2006, participating institutions were allowed to rate their own schools but was discontinued starting last year.

Changes in methodologies and unspecified respondents each year contributes to the highly volatile results of THE-QS world university rankings characterized by sharp rises and falls in rankings of universities.

Prestige Enhancer

University world rankings have been used to enhance the prestige of schools which especially garner high rankings. According to a 2007 international survey conducted by Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) based in North America, almost 40 percent of the respondents confirmed that institutions that have obtained a comparative advantage in the rankings would use their institutional position for publicity purposes. They used the results in press releases, official presentations, newsletters or websites. But because of the unpredictable and varying results every year, the ranking could be destructive when used in certain manners.

This was the case with University of Malaya (UM), the oldest public university in Malaysia. The school ranked 89th in the 2004 THE-QS World Ranking of Universities. The media

in Kuala Lumpur covered the joyous event. Huge banners that proclaimed the school's rank were scattered in the whole city. But the following year, Times composite indicator was changed and the identity of Chinese and Indian students in their school was correctly shifted from international to national. Their rank plummeted down to 169th. The public had an outcry and blames were pointed.

Marginson claimed that as consequence of the ranking, UM's reputation as one of Malaysia's strongest universities was thrashed. "The University of Malaya had dropped 80 places without any decline in its real performance (aside from spending too much on hubristic banners). In the drama of UM's decline there was no positive relationship between performance, competition and outcome. This does not generate useful incentives for better policy and management or better education or research provision. This is simply perverse."

In 2006, when DLSU ranked 392nd in the list, the school advertised itself as "the highest-ranked private university in the country." But they tried a different approach to promote the school when La Salle dropped out of Times' top 500 universities the following year. Now that DLSU is back on the list, the school had opted not to use them anymore.

In DLSU, according to Brian Bautista, the director of operations for DLSU's Marketing Communication Office (MCO), these rankings are important but they cannot use them as a marketing tool because these rankings are unreliable. He added that the rankings are unreliable because there are various groups conducting the surveys that are used in ranking universities. Each ranking list, universities are placed differently. And one cannot say which list is correct or wrong. The MCO rather uses facts about DLSU when promoting the university compared to the rankings that are being published. Bautista reasoned that this is because facts are not arguable.



Put to good use. DLSU Employees light candles as they celebrate the house blessing of the DLSU Retreat House, which was the DLSU Press Office before.

be trash, to something still usable for others," Santos said. The Biodivie Project will be implemented this term.

The Kapihan ng Malayang Lasalyano (Kamalyayan) is also a venue of discussion on issues of the environment. Last January 24, 2008, Jorge Buenaventura was invited to be one of the speakers for the Kamalyayan. Buenaventura explained the importance of the environment to Lasallians and he advocated one of the centenary projects of De La Salle Philippines: to plant one million trees all over the country.

Then DLSC official student publication: The La Sallite (charged P5.00 a year for subscription) Oldest surviving issue: August 31, 1947

The LaSallian

The oldest surviving issue of The LaSallian: October 1960 (check the Library) First Editor in Chief: Polo Pantaleon

This month in history 48 years through the pages of The LaSallian

There are two people I would like to meet: Ernido Agustin and Polo Santiago Pantaleon. Given the opportunity, I would only ask them one thing: What were you thinking?

Agustin was the man who christened our beloved publication The La Sallian (TLS) some 48 years ago. Pantaleon was our first Editor in Chief.

In this exercise of going back through hardbound collections of issues from years past, one gets to appreciate the rich history of our publication. Turning browned, withering pages, one gets to know the men—and eventually, women as well—through the ink that they have formed into words, photos, and art in a mission only they understood during their time.

It's fascinating how throughout 48 years, TLS has undergone many changes, both physical and cultural.

But one thing remains constant: The LaSallian has, is, and will continue to uplift the Lasallian consciousness through its pages that inform and inquire. Our pages have been without a doubt, an integral part of the history and development of our University.

With this in mind, we give you, our readers, a look through the pages of TLS over what has transpired over 48 Octobers that has helped shape DLSU what it is, and Lasallians who we are today.

To all the men and women that have been part of The LaSallian all these years, a tribute.

To Polo and Nido (can I call you guys that), men who were exceptions to the rule.

Jabin Landayan
Editor in Chief 2008-09

The La Salle is not a thing apart from Philippine society. What happens in the institution happens not in a vacuum, but in the context of the political, economic and cultural life of the nation. Its people are (above being La Sallites), Filipinos—members of the society undergoing a national metamorphosis backed up by a history of struggle against exploitative situations. Their lives and thought processes are not only affected by their training and experiences on campus, more fundamentally, by what they see and learn from society at large.

We have The La Sallian because we believe that only through an informed and committed citizenry can a better life be achieved in a republican, democratic set-up.

What should the proper role and function of The La Sallian be? Naturally, we must inform, for this is the basic function of any newspaper. We must discharge his responsibility accurately and fairly, for our first commitment is to the truth. In the presentation of issues, we shall always seek to present both the pros and cons of the problem at hand.

However, we not only must inform, we must also interpret the news. The news must not only be made clear, it must also be made meaningful. It is this vital function which we shall try to discharge most specially in our editorials. News must be analyzed with a view to understanding its wider implications.

Following logically upon these two basis functions, we must now adopt a wider perspective. We must now attempt to persuade.

Because we believe that we have presented the news fairly and accurately, interpreted it meaningfully, then we believe we can persuade our readers to follow a certain path.

The La Sallian should demand that it should persuade aggressively and forcefully without of course sacrificing the ethics of fair play, dignity and objectivity. In a university known not for its love for the lethargy of the mind, but for its boldness and radicalism in thought, The La Sallian cannot afford to be a passive receptacle to the interflow of ideas. It must not only react. It must initiate and force the issues, focusing upon those which it deems vital and relevant, keeping the students welfare in mind. Finally, The La Sallian cannot afford to remain completely neutral on current issues and controversies. It must take a stand buttressed always by the logical persuasiveness of well-reasoned arguments and moved by the soul of the Filipino. It must assert leadership on campus, initiate dialectics, struggle with the studentry and raise its consciousness to national and social levels.

We must have faith and understanding. We must believe that only through academic freedom can genuine thought survive. A writer has to keep on thinking, writing and asserting leadership. For as an academician of renowned integrity would put it, "It is better to be silenced than to be silent."

1960 "Lasso" Seeks Unity Among DLS Clubs

With a view to centralize the work of coordinating the different student activities in the college, the De La Salle Student Services Organization (LASSO) was revived. The LASSO was designed to encourage student participation in organized student activities. It also served as a representative body of DLSC with other schools and organizations.

1961 A delegation of Engineering professors attend the annual convention of the Philippine Association for Technological Education in Baguio. Along with representatives from other schools, as well as Engineers and technologists from mining and construction companies, they drafted resolutions for the development of technological education in the country. They called on the government to subsidize researches and provide funds for purchasing equipment. Another resolution was the adoption of a one-grade examination for mechanical and electrical engineering. This would place the two fields in the same category as civil, chemical, industrial, and mining engineering.

1963 As a first step toward the development of the brand of leadership in DLSC, La Salle Student Activities Coordinating Organization sponsors a student leadership seminar for 42 student leaders of the campus. Rev. Fr. Jaime Bulstao, SJ, head of Ateneo Guidance Center, and Prof. Aurelio Calderon of the Social Science Department were co-directors of the seminar.

1964 An editorial is published highlighting the criticism by a student from a reputable university that La Sallites were not aware "to realize, not just to know" what is happening outside their school fence." The editorial goes on not to rebuke the criticism, but support it in honesty. It was a call against student apathy, not asking for solutions to social problems, but for students to come in contact with the realities of the society in which they are part of.

1965 Joining the strong public reaction and with the full support and encouragement of the administration, the Student Council launched a drive for the victims of the Taal eruptions. A total of P841.80 was raised by the different classes, together with clothing and foodstuff.

1966 SC Steers Action For College Fair

With games, rides, fun-filled activities and an exhibit thrown in, a College Fair organized by students will unfold on December 3 and 4. The Student Council in getting the approval from the administration stated that the purpose of the College Fair was to foster school spirit among students, and to raise funds for a scheduled Junior Operation Brotherhood-Student Council project at Leveriza.

1967 First ever "Political Week" held on campus

The inaugural Political Week was held from September 29 to October 6, featuring a host of candidates for the 1968 National Elections. The Political Week was the University's way of "kicking up political dust" on campus as well as exposing students to electoral issues and campaign impressions of that time. Included in the activities was a survey of students' voting preference. Among the politicians giving talks were then Manila City Mayor Antonio Villegas, Congressman Pablo Ocampo, and Gov. Benigno Aquino Jr.

1969 Some twenty La Sallites, led by SC President Santiago Sta. Romana stormed into Malacañang Palace with the members of the Federated Movements for Social Justice and Reform of the Philippines. They confronted President Marcos with desired reforms for the country and condemned the total lack of concern by government officials of the masses. They condemned excessive expenditures of politicians, particularly in their campaigns in the face of widespread need, hunger, and suffering.

1970 Brothers Vernon Poore, FSC, and Paul Scheiter, FSC, criticized the studentry of DLSC, especially the Student Council, for their lack of effort to give relief aid to the residents of Leveriza affected by recent floods. The Brothers also emphasized the need for more La Sallites to involve themselves with people in the lower economic levels. The lasting effect of this criticism has been the studentry readily responding to provide relief aid for victims of natural disasters today.

1971 Student march

Some 500 to 800 La Sallites marched to Malacañang after skipping classes for the fifteenth time that semester to protest the "deterioration of national state of affairs highlighted by President Marcos' suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus." The rally proceeded from Taft Ave. to Malacañang, and passed by several colleges. The protest was spearheaded by the Lupong Makabansa (Nationalist Corps), The La Sallian, and the Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan. Representatives from the Administration and Faculty were notably absent.

1976 Delegates of the 2nd National Students' Conference passed an overwhelming majority vote to reinstate autonomous student bodies. This was after any student organization resembling a governing body such as a Student Council was banned upon the implementation of Martial Law years back. During the Conference, students were called not only to serve the people and the country, or to participate, but also to "be the conscience of the people." The appeal of the restoration of student councils was to be forwarded to the office of the Defense Secretary.

1980 Students find themselves worried with plans of shifting to a trimestral calendar was heavily favored by the Admin. The Admin however, assured the students that they were being considered in their meetings and that the Trimestral Plan would not be implemented without a "Perfect Plan." It meant that the trimester would only be implemented with a system that would not adversely affect the student body and the faculty.

1981 The Council of Representatives (CORE) hold their first session on the Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) in a bid to ultimately revive the Student Council. The objective of the Con-Con was to draft a constitution for the SC of DLSU, which would later be presented to students for ratification. The Con-Con was made up of one representative each from the CORE and the CSO, as well as 15 university-wide elected year-level representative.

1982

The Admin remains firm on its decision not to renew the contract of part-time faculty, Mrs. T. Religioso. In an effort to avoid the conflict from turning into a court battle, the SC mediated to bring the Admin and Religioso to negotiate. Religioso demanded a retraction of the reasons why her contract was allowed to expire: "failure to comply satisfactorily with the terms and conditions of probationary contract; and teaching is deficient in substance and depth." Several students started a signature campaign to reinstate the Chemistry teacher. The Admin, represented by Vice President for Academics Dr. Paulino Tan, eventually committed to a retraction provided Religioso handed in her resignation.

1983

Manila on the March
Public demonstrations following the assassination of Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino reached a critical mass on Sept. 21. 500,000 multi-sectoral marchers converged from various points of Metro Manila at Lwasang, Bonifacio. Sept. 21 was declared as the National Day of Sorrow by the opposition. The demonstration came at the heels of a rally staged by 10,000 students on Sept. 15. The rally was a result of the Ninth Metro Manila Student Leaders' Forum held a few days prior at the UP College of Manila. In attendance were various student groups such as the League of Filipino Students, College Editors Guild of the Philippines, Student Christian Movement, and Kamalayan. Students that were present came from various universities, among them UP, UST, UE, Mapua, Lyceum, PUP, St. Scholastica's, and DLSU.

1987

In a response to La Salle's statement of democratic commitment, President Cory Aquino expressed appreciation for the University's "desire for peace, stability and national unity, especially as it came in the wake of tremendous difficulties in the life of our nation." The President's letter was addressed to Vice President for external affairs Wilfrido Villacorta and was published in the Manila Bulletin on Oct. 10. The President avowed to protect freedom and democracy. 3,682 students, administrators, faculty, and employees signed the La Salle statement.

1988

After almost seven months of construction, the P9-million DLSU Library air-conditioning system was made operational in the second term of this year. As this developed, the SC looked into the possibility of lowering the "energy fee" charged to all students to support the estimated monthly expenses of the library. The SC, together with the DLSU-PUSO planned for fund-raising activities to lower the P130 fee.

1989



"The Price of Rubbing it in"

"Being the champions of (UAAP Season 52 Men's Senior Basketball) infused a feeling of pride, honor, and euphoria into the DLSU community; a feeling that simply could not be silenced." To celebrate its victory, the Green Archers were paraded throughout Manila including a once over at Recto Ave. This led to its defeated opponents' FEU students stoning the motorcade. "No less than six vehicles were sacrificed for our pride," showing the extent of damage that private vehicles suffered. A girl received a shard of glass in her eye after the windshield of the Nissan Stanza she was riding was shattered. The motorcade's organizers were reluctant to shoulder the cost of the damages, prompting the SC to launch "Operation Tulong" to help the owners of the damaged vehicles. This event was a painful lesson learned for a case of gloating over the defeated.

1991

"80-77. We played the game."

The shortest editorial ever written in the history of The LaSallian came as the Green Archers were not awarded their trophy after defeating the FEU Tamaraws. The trophy was not given since the FEU coaching staff filed an immediate protest. FEU claimed that Antonio Espinosa should not have been allowed to continue playing after committing his fifth and final foul. The table officials, however, signaled that he only had four, prompting Archer coach Derick Pumaren to recall Adi Papa who was already supposed to replace Espinosa. Even though neither team scored nor any fouls committed in the four seconds that passed after play resumed, the game was still put into protest. The win gave the Archers its third consecutive championship.

1992

In a move to help cut down insurance expenditures, DLSU formed its own non-life insurance agency named 1911 Insurance Agency Corporation (1911 IAC). The company is responsible for the collection of non-life insurance fees from each college within the University.

1993

OSD devices Athlete's Code

"The athletes are becoming spoiled brats," Football coach and OSD facilitator, said of why the Code of Conduct was conceived. After a series of unpleasant incidents, the Code prescribed guidelines for all the athletes to behave with accepted standards of good behavior. It also aimed to promote sportsmanlike behavior, including respect for coaches and teammates, especially when representing DLSU.

1994

"Frat squabbles spark tighter security measures"

Back when Fraternities were still recognized by the University, two encounters between Tau Gamma and Domino Lux fraternities forced the Security Office to implement stricter measures regarding visitors to the campus. Students from the College of St. Benilde and "anyone not officially enrolled in any of the colleges within the main campus" had to log-in as visitors at the South Gate.

1995

In the wake of reports that the ROTC Special Units were being organized and used as a frat-like organization, then ROTC Commandant, Maj. Jesus Ancheta ordered the disbandment of all ROTC Units in the University. This was coured through a memorandum dated September 26, and was effective immediately. The memorandum came just weeks after the death of freshman engineering student and Midsmanship Officer Seth Lopez in an alleged hazing incident.

1996

The Blue Babble Battalion and the Blue Babble Band faxed a letter of apology to the Lasallian community for their halftime performance in a La Salle-Ateneo game. In the said performance, two members of the cheering squad donned green jacket with the letters DLRT, and used the same jacket to mop the floor of the hardwood. This act enraged not just the crowd present at the game, but also insulted the entire Lasallian community.

1997

The Admin and the student body state that they are in favor of House Bill 9395, more popularly known as the Magna Carta for Students. While most universities followed the COCOPEA's urging to suspend classes as a silent protest against the implementation of the bill, DLSU held regular classes.

1998



Admin and EA sign CBA

After three years of failed talks, the Administration and the Employees Association finally agreed on a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). The CBA contained agreements on employees' rights and economic benefits such as signing and Christmas bonuses, as well as a rice subsidy. Earlier talks failed after a consensus over computations and its justifications was not reached.

1999



In connection with upgrading the ID system, bar code readers were scheduled to be installed at the gates of DLSU. This marked the start of the full automation of scanning IDs when entering the University.

2000



Student empowerment was once again the buzzword behind the suspension of three major policies of the Student Handbook. The "no-eating policy," public display of intimacy, and inappropriate campus attire was temporarily lifted in aims to foster student empowerment by instilling responsibility in students.

2003

The Supreme Court confirmed a leakage in the Bar Examinations held at DLSU on September 21. Justice Jose Vitug, chairman of the 2003 bar examinations secured sufficient evidence to decide, in an en bank resolution, the nullification of the entire exam. He said that the decision was made "to preserve the integrity and sanctity" of the Bar results.

2004

The 30th Anniversary of CSO was marked with a silent protest due to the disapproval of significant activities proposed by student organizations. Members of CSO posted the letters, documents and processing forms of disapproved activities on a billboard and placed at the Central Plaza. This came after the Convention of Leaders, where student leaders raised concerns on issues that affected the welfare of organizations. The common complaint was that the Office of Student Affairs' "bureaucratic processes" and "strictness" hindered the processing of student activities.

2005

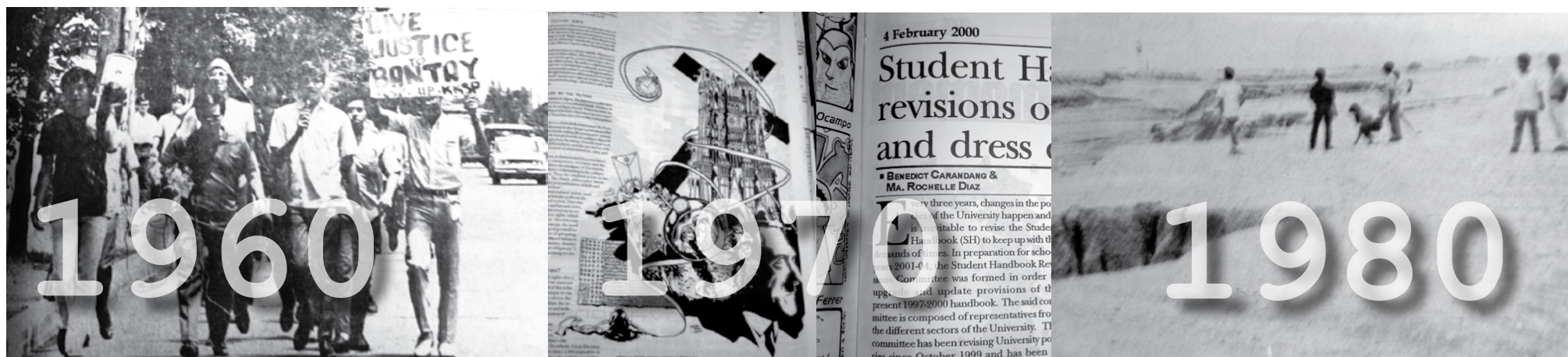
DLSU admits it unknowingly fielded an ineligible basketball player for the past three years. DLSU had to forfeit all the games in which the player was involved. Consequently, DLSU had to surrender its UAAP Season 67 championship trophy and the runner-up position of this season. Ultimately, all DLSU teams were suspended from competing n the UAAP the following season.

2006

Following a series of important policy decisions made by the Council of Deans (COD) regarding University rules, the SC negotiates for a seat in the Council. Then SC VP for Activities Melai Lazaro argued that the students should have voting powers since a lot of discussions in the COD directly concern students. The COD reassured the SC that student welfare was a priority in all the discussions, but nonetheless did not grant the SC a place in the COD.

2007

The COD agreed on a schedule to pilot test a four-day class week. In the new schedule, all classes were to have standardized 1.5 class hours. Lectures were to be held on Monday-Wednesday, and Tuesday-Thursday shifts, with the laboratory classes moved to Fridays. The Ubreak was also moved to Friday, making it longer from 2:40 to 6:00 in the afternoon.



WHAT THE FACT?!

The average bed is home to over 6 billion dust mites.

http://www.funfunfunfacts.com/fun-facts/funny-interesting-facts.html



POPTOWN

THE LASALLIAN



BRAIN TEASER

It's impossible to lick your elbow.

source: http://www.funfunfunfacts.com/fun-facts/funny-did-you-know-facts.html

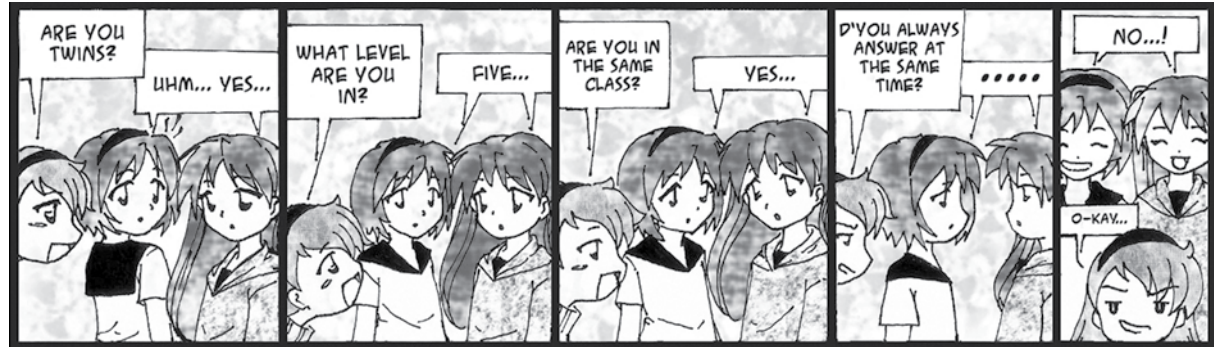
SUPER STEADY LANG



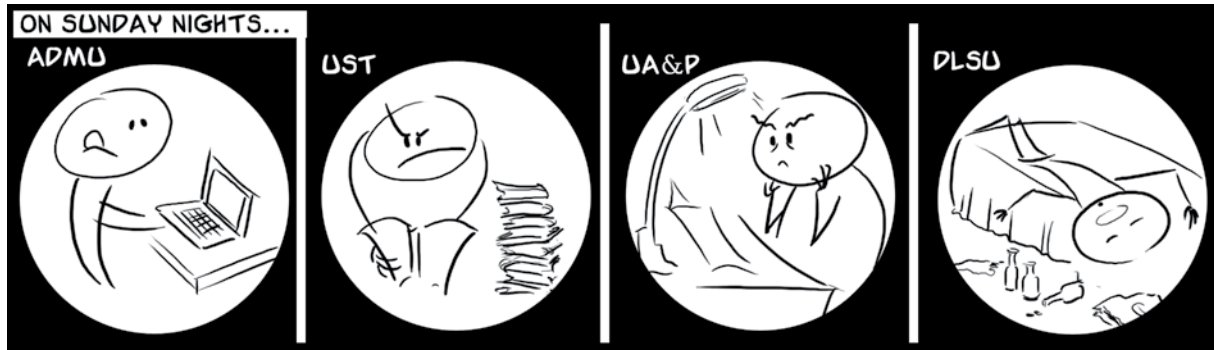
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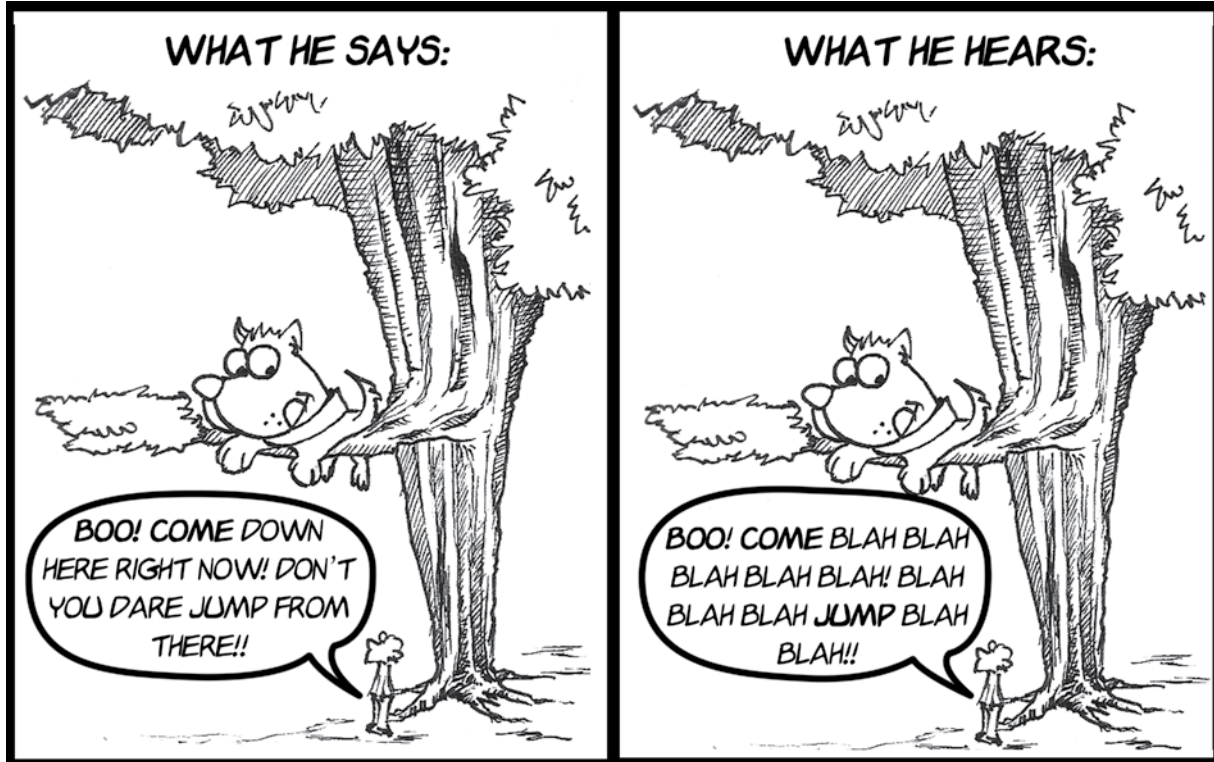
TITLE GOES HERE



MONDAY U-BREAK



BEN AND BOO



HOROSCOPE CORNER

Horoscope corner containing 12 entries for different zodiac signs: Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, and Capricorn. Each entry includes a small illustration and a short paragraph of advice or prediction.

MISS ALUCHA

Miss Alucha section containing 12 entries for different zodiac signs, similar to the Horoscope Corner but with a different format and illustrations.

KAMPUS KORNER



PARANOID SAMANTHA ANG



BRATINELLA JOYCE SY



UNIVERSITY/SPORTS

THE LASALLIAN

Green, Lady Judokas clinch 2nd and 3rd Overall

BY MORGAN SAY
EVEN AFTER BAGGING THE MOST NUMBER OF GOLD MEDALS, the Green Judokas only finished second in this year's UAAP Judo Championship held at the UP College of Human Kinetics Gym last October 4-5. Despite the loss of veteran Judoka RJ Musa, the Green Judokas still maintained competitiveness, managing three gold medals and one bronze. The minus 100 kilogram weight division was won by Rick Jason Senales, the minus 73 kilogram won by Christian Joseph San Pedro, and minus 60 kilogram weight division won by Gerald Raymond Teruel. Antonio Emilio Fernando won the bronze in the minus 90 kilogram weight division. Richard Cristobal of the minus 73 kilogram division was not able to compete after being disqualified as he weighed in 4 kilograms over the weight limit.

GREEN GALLERY

LADY SOFTBELLE OLIVES KYLA



'PUSH YOURSELF TO THE LIMIT' SAYS 17-year old, first year Communication Arts and Advertising Management Major, Kyla Marie D. Olives. This perky Assumption Antipolo graduate discovered the sport of softball by chance. Knowing absolutely nothing about the sport, she tried out for the team in her school's intramurals. She then discovered that she really loved softball, so she joined the club and eventually made the varsity team. It was only when she joined the International Little League Association of Manila (ILLAM) that she really learned how to play competitively. Contributing her enthusiasm to the DLSU Softbells, Kyla won Athlete of the Year and the Best Softball Player award last year. Previously playing competitive golf and gymnastics, it is evident that she is very versatile. This versatility carries on to the pitch, where she can play pitcher, second-base and outfield. She aims to win and be part of the next UAAP champion team. 'I'm pretty happy with my team right now; they're all very open and fun to be with. So, I guess I expect each person in the team to go beyond their normal selves' she said.



PHOTO BY ALVIN LAU

LADY SOFTBELLE LACSAMANA NADINE



EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLD BERNARDINE ANNE Lacsamana, or Nadine for short, is a very dedicated softball player. She practiced regularly ever since she joined the softball varsity in the fifth grade in PAREF Woodrose School. She was influenced to play softball by her younger brother who started playing baseball even before the first grade. She enjoyed watching his games and longed to play as well. She was also influenced by her friends who all had the same desire to play softball. This first-year Interdisciplinary Business Studies major, values softball as more than just a sport. She says, 'Softball isn't just a sport that hones your skills but it also builds one's character. During games, you learn how to work with a team, and at the same time, you get to enjoy the sport.' This manifests her love, hard work and commitment to softball. Her coach from grade school to high school, Nina Serafico, contributed a lot to her softball career. She believed in Nadine and always challenged her to become a better player. Nadine promises to do her best to help the team win more games and hopefully championships for years to come. Playing pitcher and outfield, Nadine believes that 'Anything worth doing is worth doing well.'

Tutorial for athletes commenced

BY CREZEILE FRANCISCO
INCLUDED IN THEIR responsibility of providing quality services for the students, the Office of the Vice President for Academics (OVP-Academics) started their Athletes Tutorial Program (ATP) for the school year. According to Redg De Vera, Project head of the program ATP is a continuation of the service offered by the OVP-Academics which started few years ago. The program aims to provide free tutorial services for the athletes in the University. There is a pool of tutors from the OVP-Academics who are willing to take tutoring loads anytime within the term to teach the athletes in the courses they are having hard time understanding. 'We want the athletes to achieve holistically,' De Vera said. For the second term of the school year, the office began a more structured way of offering the service. Unlike before, athletes can already avail the assistance as early as the first week of classes. This aims to establish the fundamentals of the lesson to the athletes instead of trying to teach everything after the midterm week. According to De Vera, historically, the athletes are accustomed to approach their academic assistant only after midterms or before the final exam wherein they already know they are likely to fail. The new system answers the problem by starting as early as possible especially when the athlete is having hard time understanding the first few lessons. De Vera relayed that he received positive feedback from the athletes and tutors with respect to the new system. Since the basics will be taught and soon the tutee will understand the lessons, the service will only be supplemental to what is being discussed in class. To ensure that learning takes place, the athletes who avail of the ATP will have to abide by the guidelines set by OVP-Academics. This includes meeting with the tutor regularly, reading in advance, and answering exercises that the tutor will prescribe. De Vera said that they never encountered problems when it comes to compliance on the part of the athlete. The service is available to all the athletes in the University. Although their pool of tutors is limited, they try to cater to the needs of all athletes as much as possible by outsourcing the service of Professional Organizations who can also help tutor the athletes. De Vera ensured that continuity of the program will be monitored since it is a year-long endeavour of the Office of Sports Development and OVP-Academics. He believed that there is a need to support the athletes in their academic concerns. The program aims to make the athletes more well-rounded and balanced individuals. 'Being the bearers of the school's name, they would make the school proud not [only] because they excel in the sport they [are] part of but also in their academics,' De Vera concluded.

PRESS RELEASE The Outstanding Coeds-The Outstanding Young Men launched

BY CARLITO REYES
In the spirit of recognizing the exemplary efforts and performance of Lasallians, the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) sponsors The Outstanding Coeds-The Outstanding Young Men (TOC-TOYM). It is one of the three award giving bodies of the Lasallian Excellence Awards. As an award giving body, it seeks out individuals who uphold the standard of excellence and exemplify the ideals of a Lasallian Achiever for God and Country. TOC-TOYM aims to give recognition to students who possess the qualities of an outstanding Lasallian. It is important that these individuals have a holistic development in their academics and extracurricular activities and find avenues of growth for self and the community. Serving as the foundation of the Awards, the Vision-Mission of the University inspires the qualities

a TOC-TOYM awardee should have. These include academic excellence, leadership, service, commitment to development, ethical behavior and the sense of nationalism. TOC-TOYM started in SY 1984-1985 and continues to uphold the same objective of giving due recognition to outstanding Lasallians. However, it was only in SY 1993-1994 that the concept of a model Lasallian was conceptualized. TOC-TOYM 09 has the same set of objectives being carried out by the central committee for this project organized by CSO Executive Treasurer Audrey Concepcion and Ma. Francesca Tomaliwan. According to Tomaliwan, 'There are four phases that a nominee has to undergo which are the paper screening, interview, group dynamics and individual exam. For the first phase, a nominee has to get an application kit from the TOC-TOYM booth. In order to be given an application kit, he or she must present a clear my.lasalle grades print out to validate whether he/she passed the basic qualifications. Afterwards, he/she must surrender the kit after the accomplishment of the requirements at the CSO Office at SPS 402. The last three phases test a nominee's capability to deal with internal and external situations. The assessment for the emerging TOC-TOYM winner would be an accumulation of how well he or she did in all the four phases.' Tomaliwan explained that TOC-TOYM is relevant to the Lasallian community to let the students know that their efforts in the class setting and service to the community do not go unnoticed. 'Also, it is to let them feel that there is a third party who appreciates what they are doing and so they could be proud of the accomplishments they have. TOC-TOYM is one of those opportunities wherein they can showcase their true identity and capability as an outstanding Lasallian,' she added. Last year's nominees were Aimee Chua, Kathleen Sanchez, Bryan Asis, Sergia Estrella and Noelle Arcinieg. Bryan Asis was declared winner for last year. Application period is from October 20 to November 7 of this year.

DLSU 3rd in GC race

BY JABIN LANDAYAN

With a title in women's chess and second-place finishes in men's basketball, judo and swimming, De La Salle University is in third place of the University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP) General Championship (GC) race with 121 points.

There have been mixed results for the teams in green and white. Five teams finished fourth, and there were two sixth-placed finishes—DLSU's lowest among all events.

At the end of the first-half of Season 71, DLSU trails the UAAP Overall Champions for the last 10 seasons, University of Santo Tomas (UST) with 167 points, and Far Eastern University (FEU) with 126 points.

UST won the men's division in swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, and beach volleyball; while the women won the taekwondo event. Despite not fielding athletes in judo and swimming, FEU is in second place having not finished lower than third place in any of the events they joined.

The GC race uses a point system wherein the champion gets 15 points, the runner-up 12, the third-placer 10 and so on, for each event.

This season's hosts, University of the Philippines is in fourth place (120), winning the women's judo event. Ateneo de Manila University is in fifth (98), winning the men's basketball and judo, and women's swimming events.

Rounding out the rankings, University of the East is in sixth (77), Adamson University seventh (47), and National University eighth (25).

The second-half of the season will start in November with football, volleyball, baseball, softball, tennis, track and field, badminton and fencing.



PHOTO BY JURIC CANCIO

Most Valuable Player Ernest Lorenzo Dee finishes off with 63 points as he tops seven divisions of the UAAP Swimming Championships.

Green Tankers sweep individual awards at swim meet

BY JABIN LANDAYAN

LED BY ERNEST LORENZO DEE, THE DLSU Green Tankers finished second in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Season 71 swimming championships held last Sept. 25-28 at the Trace Aquatics Center.

Dee captured his second MVP honors after doing his best Michael Phelps impression, taking seven gold medals. He won the men's 50-meter butterfly in UAAP record time (25.81 seconds), and captured golds in the 100-meter butterfly (56.56), 200-meter individual medley (2:14.58), 200-meter butterfly (2:10.50), 400-meter individual medley (4:50.38), 800-meter freestyle (9:06.82), and 1,500-meter freestyle (17:18.51).

Timothy Vincent Yap was named Rookie of the Year after taking the gold in the men's 200-meter freestyle (2:01.31),

and silver in the men's 1500-meter freestyle (17:50.04).

The Green Tankers, with 211 points, finished behind the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) Tiger Sharks, who won the men's title after 19 years with 223 points. The University of the Philippines (UP) finished third with 176 points. The Lady Eagles won the women's title for the first time in UAAP history. They edged UP by the slimmest of margins, 216-213. The Lady Tankers finished fourth with 124 points.

The Quilala siblings also featured heavily in the swim meet. Maxim Quilala won gold in the men's 100-meter backstroke (1:03.31), while brother Emmanuel took the bronze in the men's 200-meter breaststroke (2:36.61). Carmine Marie Quilala won bronze in the Women's 100-meter backstroke (1:09.84).

UAAP GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP TALLY		UST	FEU	DLSU	UP	ADMU	UE	AdU	NU
Basketball	M	6	10	12	4	15	8	2	1
	W	10	15	6	12	4	1	8	2
Chess	M	12	15	8	2	1	6	10	4
	W	10	12	15	8	4	6	DNJ	2
Swimming	M	15	DNJ	12	10	8	6	DNJ	DNJ
	W	10	DNJ	8	12	15	6	DNJ	DNJ
Table Tennis	M	15	12	8	10	4	6	DNJ	2
	W	12	15	8	10	6	DNJ	DNJ	4
Judo	M	10	DNJ	12	8	15	5	5	DNJ
	W	12	DNJ	10	15	6	8	4	DNJ
Taekwondo	M	15	10	4	8	12	6	DNJ	DNJ
	W	15	10	8	12	4	6	DNJ	DNJ
Beach Volleyball	M	15	12	6	8	2	1	10	4
	W	10	15	4	1	2	12	8	6
1ST SEMESTER TOTAL		167	126	121	120	98	77	47	25

SOURCE: MR. GERRY ACHACOSO

DLSU fighters swept at URCC University Challenge III

BY JABIN LANDAYAN

PERENNIAL RIVALS DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY and Ateneo de Manila University faced off once again, this time, in the ring. The highlight of this year's Colt 45-URCC University Challenge was the three-fight match between rivals De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University.

In the first fight of the match, Lasallian Doi Rodriguez was overwhelmed by Ronnie Ticao of Ateneo despite the former's efforts to match his opponent's attacks. Rodriguez nearly caught Ticao in an armbar in the first round, but Ticao managed to escape from the submission attempt. In the second round, the Atenean proved to be too much for Rodriguez, as he was eventually brought to the mat, mounted, and finally submitted with an armlock.

DLSU's Niko Presbitero started strong against Ateneo's Ryan Marquez in the second fight. Presbitero utilized ground-and-pound attacks to gain the upper hand against his opponent. But the tables were turned late in the first round as Marquez was able to mount Presbitero and finish the round with a flurry of punches. Marquez capitalized on the momentum after the break and submitted Presbitero with a rear-naked choke in the second round.

The last fight of the night saw DLSU's Paolo Gomez tap out to Ateneo de Manila University's Mikhail Ignacio due to an armlock in the first round. The valiant Gomez was not able to answer his taller opponent's striking and was eventually taken to the ground before being submitted. It was the shortest of the three-fight match.

In its third year, the Philippines' own proving ground for Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), the Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) partnered with Colt 45 to

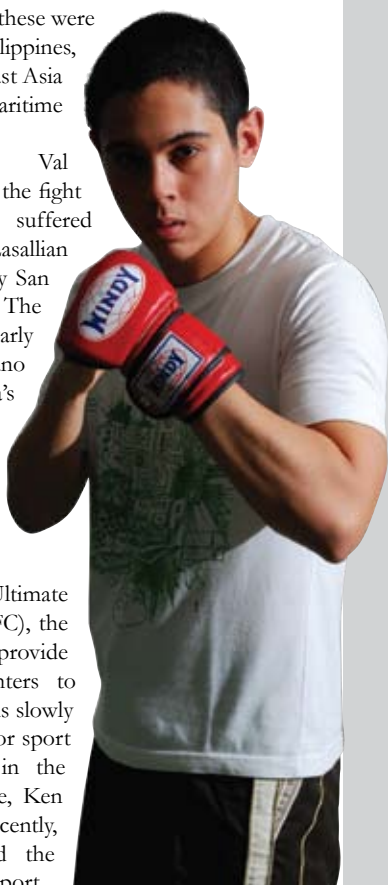
bring together young Filipino fighters from various schools around the country. Among these were the University of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, East Asia College, and Philippine Maritime Institute just to name a few.

Another Lasallian, Val Castellano, was also part of the fight card. However, Castellano suffered the same fate as his fellow Lasallian fighters as he was beaten by San Beda Alabang's Mike Dula. The referee stopped the fight early in the third round as Castellano was not able to answer Dula's attacks.

The Colt 45-URCC University Challenge III was held last September 27 at the A. Venue Events Hall in Makati City.

With the fame of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), the URCC has been helping to provide a venue for Filipino fighters to showcase their skills. MMA is slowly becoming a popular spectator sport in the country. Legends in the sport such as Royce Gracie, Ken Shamrock, and most recently, Chuck Liddell have visited the Philippines to promote the sport.

PHOTO BY JOWELL MARIANO



La Salle reacts to Ateneo Bonfire

BY JABIN LANDAYAN

IN A LETTER TO DE LA SALLE SYSTEM PRESIDENT BRO. ARMIN LUISTRO, FSC, Ateneo de Manila University President Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, apologized to the Lasallian community for an incident during a bonfire at the Ateneo campus last Sept. 30.

The bonfire was held in celebration of the Blue Eagles' UAAP Men's Basketball Championship victory over the Green Archers. Some of the firewood used for the bonfire had names of the entire Green Archers, and coach Franz Pumaren painted on it.

"Despite our rivalries in sports, we are both committed to Christian values and what was done is certainly a violation of values we share," Nebres said in the letter, dated Oct. 2.

Nebres said none of the school officials "saw it ahead of time, because the wood pile was covered by a [tarpaulin] against the rain until the time came to light it."

In an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Br. Bernie Oca, FSC, Vice Chancellor for Lasallian Mission and External Relations, and DLSU's representative to the UAAP, said "Our community accepted [Ateneo's apology]."

Pictures and reports about the bonfire spread throughout blogs and online basketball forums as students and alumni of both schools expressed their displeasure of the incident.

"Being inside their campus, there's also some responsibility on the school's [Ateneo's] part," said Benjamin Uichico, De La Salle Alumni Association (DLSAA) Executive Director. "For the alumni, we'd like to look at it as an incident, it happened. Of course we look forward, we move on." Uichico added that prior to the incident, the DLSAA even wrote to Ateneo, congratulating them with the victory.

It should be noted that such acts are nothing new between the two rival schools. Fried chicken—representing eagles—was thrown in front of the gates of the Ateneo campus as the motorcade to celebrate the Green Archers NCAA championship in the 1940s passed through Loyola.