

**Velasco firm on
ambulant
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**IEh, Iskolar pa
nga ba?**

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**LOYALTY DAY:
Behind the (festive)
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A smiling Student Regent faced around 500 protesters minutes after the Board of Regents (BOR) adjourned its meeting last September 28 at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) building.

Student Regent James Mark Terry Ridon related that the revised policy report prepared by the Office of the Student Regent (OSR) was presented to the BOR for further analysis of the effects of implementing Tuition and other Fee Increases (ToFI). Possible suspension of the implementation of ToFI was also tackled in the meeting.

In addition, Ridon said he and UP President Emerlinda Roman will “talk” about the decline of qualifier turnouts in all UP units after the implementation of ToFI.

Awaiting the bat

Students lined up in Humanities building for the University Student Council (USC) and the Samahan ng Kabataan para sa Bayan’s (SAKBAYAN) “Armed and ready” armband wearing campaign and henna tattooing to protest against ToFI.

College of Development Communication Student Council chairperson Karen Lapitan was one of the students who lined up for henna tattoo.

“Kahit hindi ako affected, concerned [pa rin] ako sa

BOR to review policy report on ToFI

by Ralph Martin Rivas and Nikko Oribiana

freshmen. Malinaw ang pag-implement ng ToFI ay isang pagtalikod [ng UP] sa pag-cater sa mga matatalino at mahihirap na estudyante,” stressed Lapitan.

The USC also organized a snake rally that toured the lower campus to encourage students to attend the protest.

Moreover, a student congress was held last September 20 at the Makiling Ballroom Hall where Ridon was guest speaker.

Participants of the congress also raised issues such as the jeepney rerouting, eviction of ambulant vendors, tambayan phase out, ban on fraternities and sororities, and the proposed start of classes in September. Ridon encouraged students to discuss these issues with the administration.

The pitch

At 7 a.m. on September 28, students assembled at the Humanities building before marching to Carabao park for a short program. The crowd then trooped to APEC while jeepney drivers staged for a transport holiday on the same day of the BOR meeting (see related story on p.).

Some protesters were able to enter the APEC premises unchallenged. Succeeding batches were blocked by the University Police Force, citing security concerns. Through negotiation by the USC and the All UP Academic Employees Union President

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STUDENT POWER. Despite the scorching heat of the sun, around 500 UPLB students fearlessly chanted “Junk TOFI!” during the September BOR meeting at APEC.



Velasco firm on ambulant vending, rerouting issues

by Angelica Mendoza and Harriet Melanie Zabala

Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco stands firm in his decision regarding the eviction of ambulant vendors and rerouting of Public Utility Jeepneys (PUJs) in the campus.

Although Velasco had earlier given vendors verbal permission to sell goods at Freedom Park, he changed his decision and presented in his letter of response six memoranda prohibiting ambulant vending inside the campus.

Velasco also said that the end of the dry run of the re-routing is yet to be announced.

Ambulant no more

The University Student Council (USC) received a letter of response from Velasco last September 25 regarding their proposals to allow ambulant vendors to sell their goods inside the campus.

In the letter, Velasco said he could not favorably act on the USC's request because he wants to adopt the six memoranda issued by former UPLB chancellors. (See Table 1.)

Meanwhile, USC Councilor Christine Macabetcha said, "Sinabi na ni Chancellor dun sa dialogue nung August 31 na payag na

"Kami ay nababahala, dahil sabi daw ni Chancellor dadagdagan na naman yung memo namin na ipinagbabawal na kami ay magtinda. Pero, ipinaglalaman namin na makapagtinda pa rin kami."

siyang magtinda ang mga vendors sa Freedom Park, kailangan na lang ng letter of terms and conditions from the USC para maging formal. Tapos sa letter of response nya, anim na memo ang ipinakita niya na nagsasabi na bawal ang ambulant vendors sa loob ng UPLB."

The UPLB Perspective was present in the said dialogue and was able to record Velasco's statements. His exact words were, "Bibigyan ko nga sila ng lugar doon [Freedom Park] kung gusto nila pero hindi sila magiikot-ikot."

In an interview, Teresita Recto, President of the Ambulant Vendors' Association said, "Kami ay nababahala, dahil sabi daw ni Chancellor dadagdagan na naman yung memo namin na ipinagbabawal na kami ay magtinda. Pero, ipinaglalaman namin na makapagtinda pa rin kami."

"Hindi pa rin kami titigil sa pangangampanya para mapabalik ang mga manininda. At sa ibang

mga estudyante, dapat magbantay tayo sa mga ginagawa ng administrasyon," Macabetcha added.

Following a series of protests, a mass up calling for Velasco to reconsider his response was held last October 10 at Freedom Park during the Loyalty Day.

Transport holiday

To protest the implementation of PUJ rerouting, the Los Baños-Calamba Transport Federation (LBCTF), in charge of all jeepneys along the Los Baños – Calamba route, launched a transport holiday last September 28 disabling all forms of public vehicular operations from Junction to UPLB premises.

In a meeting with the LBCTF drivers held last September 23, the USC confirmed the support of 90 to 100 percent of drivers on the transport holiday.

Originally, a transport strike was planned but was aborted because a police officer said it was illegal.

A day before the transport holiday, a police officer who introduced himself as PO1 Villamayor dissuaded drivers from joining the said activity and even threatened them with charges of illegal assembly if students did not participate in the transport holiday.

An LBCTF driver who refused to be identified said the actual plan was that the transport holiday would last for a day, but Los Baños Vice Mayor Copie Alipon ordered it stopped by 10am. However, the LBCTF drivers were able to negotiate for extension until 12 p.m.

After the mobilization by around 500 students during the UP Board of Regents meeting, students marched from Humanities Steps to Junction at around 1:30pm. At Junction, PO1 Villamayor gave them only 30 minutes to hold the program. Representatives from the USC, Anakbayan, Samahan ng Kabataan para sa Bayan (SAKBAYAN), Center for National Studies, UP OIKOS, League of Filipino Students, and other student organizations expressed their support to the drivers who participated in the transport holiday.

Zenchin Geri Pormento of Sakbayan said, "Parang yung sinasabi nga nila na dry run, ay nagdulot talaga ng malaking abala sa mga estudyante, maraming mga estudyante ang nagrehistro na nahuhuli sila sa kanilang mga klase...isa pa, hindi sya naidaan sa demokratikong konsultasyon...pangalawa, sa skemang ito, binabali niya yung oryentasyon ng UP sa pagiging makamasa - hindi lang naman mga estudyante ang constituents ng university, andyan yung mga vendors at drivers... yung isyu nitong mga drivers ay hindi natin maihihiwalay sa isyu nating mga estudyante..."

Maria Elena Carlos of Anakbayan said, "Ang pagsama sa mga ganong protesta ay nagpapakita lamang ng militansya ng mga estudyante ng UP... sabi nga, ang UP ay isang komunidad, so kung ano man ang nakakaapekto sa iba pang miyembro ng komunidad at alam naman na 'yung mga batas

na ipinapasa ay hindi nakakabuti para sa kanila ay dapat lang tutulan..."

"Although academic organization kami, nakikita namin na mahalaga din na tumulong tayo sa laban ng mga freshmen kasi kapwa natin estudyante yun... nakikita din ng org namin na talagang represibo yung TOFI, pagpapaalis sa mga manininda at pagbabago ng ruta ng jeep..." said Allan David Carandang from UP OIKOS.

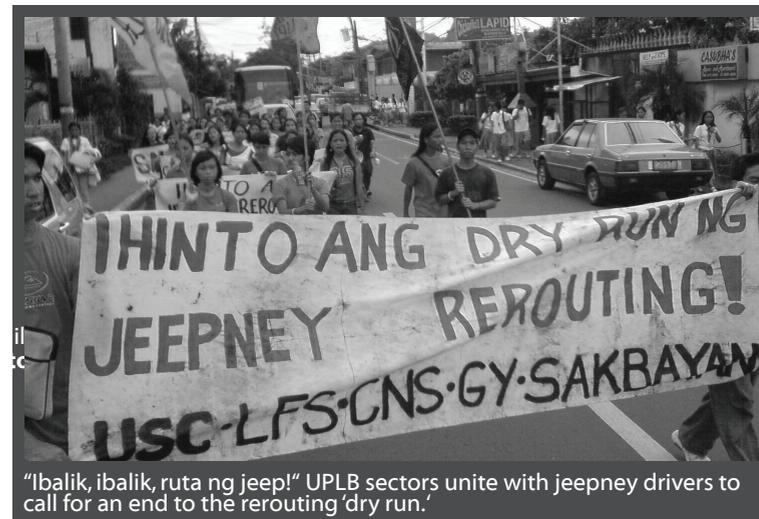
Mark Velasco from League of Filipino Students said, "Maraming dahilan kung bakit pumunta ang mga estudyante dun sa Junction... bilang mga iskolar ng bayan, nakikiisa sila sa panawagan na muling ibalik ang dating ruta nga jeep, kasi, bukod sa nahihirapan sila, naaawa din sila dun sa mga driver na bumaba ang kita..."

The protest yielded positive results as drivers were able to seek the help of Los Baños Mayor Cesar Perez, who was before reluctant to involve himself on the rerouting issue. Perez said he will mediate between the UPLB administration and the drivers on the issue.

Meanwhile, Velasco set conditions for the old route to be returned in a letter dated September 14.

These conditions include slashing student fare to four pesos and decreasing the number of jeepneys entering the campus to eliminate noise and air pollution.

Moreover, USC Councilor Rayan Brozula said the USC will continue asserting to stop the



implementation of the jeepney rerouting. Since the implementation of the jeepney rerouting, the USC has launched a signature campaign that has been gaining support from the students and other sectors in UPLB.

"Syempre ayaw natin ng rerouting kasi unang-una, hindi sya dumaan sa demokratikong proseso, walang konsultasyon na maganda...at isa pa, mula ng ipatupad sya nung August 1, nahirapan na yung mga estudyante...at saka, hindi talaga malinaw kung bakit binago yung ruta," Macabetcha added.

Meanwhile, the LBCTF sent three letters to the UP administration proposing a new route that let them pass through the Institute of Biological Sciences building.

In addition, the LBCTF warned the administration that drivers will continue to launch protest actions such as non-renewal of their stickers that serve as gate pass to the university, prohibiting them from entering the campus premises. If this will push through, the university is set to lose a source of income. The stickers cost about Php200 each.

As of press time, the LBCTF is yet to schedule a dialogue with Los Baños Mayor Cesar Perez. [P]

Table 1. Memoranda issued by former Chancellors regarding ambulant vending in UPLB

MEMORANDUM	DESCRIPTION
UPLB Memorandum No. 24 S. 1986 (July 2, 1986)	Policies and Guidelines on the Operations of Private Food Operators and Ambulant Vendors at UPLB.
UPLB Memorandum No. 30, S. 1989 (September 29, 1989)	Amendment to the Memorandum of Operations of Private Concessionaires and Ambulant Vendors at UPLB.
UPLB Executive Order No 1, S. 1990 (January 29, 1990)	Policies and Guidelines on the Operation of Food Stands/Kiosks in the UPLB Campus.
UPLB Executive Order No. 2, S. 1993 (May 19, 1993)	Policies and Guidelines on Food Retailing and Vending inside UPLB Campus.
UPLB Vice Chancellor for Administration Memorandum No. 18, S. 1997. (November 25, 1997)	Ban on Issuance of Business Permits within UPLB Campus.
UPLB Memorandum No. 090, S. 2003	Implementation of Security Measures at UPLB.

Source: Letter to USC Chairperson Leo XL Fuentes from Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco dated September 25, 2007

On Along's case Court denies accused APO members' petition for bail

by Remelizza Joy Sacra

The case on the death of BS Agricultural Economics '04 student Marlon "Along" Villanueva is done with the presentation of the prosecution's evidence last Sept. 19 at the Branch 36 Regional Trial Court (RTC), Calamba City.

Villanueva died Jan. 14, 2006 allegedly of hazing during the initiation rites of Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Fraternity, UP Los Baños Chapter. Confirmed APO members Dandy Dungo and Gregorio Sibal Jr., alleged suspects in the case, are detained at Philippine National Police-Calamba.

Petition Denied

During the June 5 hearing, the court dismissed the petition for bail filed by the accused, since the prosecution has presented "strong evidence" against Dungo and Sibal.

Presiding Judge Medel Arnaldo Belen said, "The court ruled [that] the evidences are admissible, and consequently decided [that] there was strong evidence to deny the bail."

The prosecution offered 28 exhibits with submarkings, including pictures of Villanueva taken during the medical investigation. Also included in the exhibits are the accounts of 10 people as filed in the documentary and statement of 14 witnesses in the testimony.

On the summary of the given testimony, Dungo and Sibal were both confirmed to be APO member and officer, respectively, after they have given false names as Jericho Paril for Dungo and Brandon Gonzales for Sibal. Also, the two matchsticks recovered from the clothes during the autopsy of Villanueva's cadaver were found engraved with words "Alpha Phi Omega, International, Collegiate Service."

Furthermore, the prosecution included the autopsy and medical records proving that the injuries suffered by Villanueva were really caused by hazing and not by a car accident or mauling incident. The records of Dr. Ramon Masilungan, medico-legal officer of the Philippine National Crime Laboratory, Region IV at Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City, showed that Villanueva has undergone hazing as shown by "the location, symmetry, and extent of the injuries" in his body.

Waiting for formal offer

After the prosecution presented their evidence, the accused were given 15 days of preparation from their last hearing for objections and comments. However, until now, the court is yet to schedule the start of another hearing for the defense.

Belen said the "defense has also 15 days

to file motion for recall and prosecution has 15 days from receipt to file comment and objection."

After the presentation of evidence, the formal offer of the prosecution will be presented in court. And once the court ruled the offer of the prosecution admissible, the defense has the right to file a "demurer."

"Right now, any discussion of the demurer is premature because the prosecution has not submitted the formal offer [yet]," said Belen.

Meanwhile, if the demurer was granted to the accused, then the accused would be freed and the case would end there. It means that the prosecution's formal offer is insufficient to find the accused guilty of the crime. However, if the demurer were not granted, the defense shall present evidence that they are not involved in any act of hazing which caused Villanueva's death. [P]

Roman to frats and soro: justify your continued existence

by Caroline Ann Diezmo and Harriet Melanie Zabala

UP President Emerlinda Roman issued Administrative Order (AO) No. 07-80 last September 10 requesting UP fraternities and similar organizations to submit a justification of their continued existence not later than October 19.

The AO was issued upon the recent death of Cris Anthony Mendez, Student Council Representative of National College of Public Administration and Governance in UP Diliman (UPD), and BS Agricultural Economics student Marlon Villanueva from UPLB last 2005.

Roman said the fraternities involved in the two deaths, allegedly from hazing, have to cooperate with the UP administration so that they and the families of the victims "can arrive at the truth."

She also stated in the AO that "courage, loyalty and integrity are not tested on number of paddles a person can endure but instead they were measured by the ability to admit a committed wrongdoing and to be able to face all of its consequences."

Lack of respect for human lives, she stressed, has no place within an environment of academic excellence like UP.

In connection to this, the University Student Council (USC) and Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) held a dialogue with fraternities and sororities in UPLB last Oct. 10 at the Makiling Ballroom Hall.

The 32 fraternities and sororities present during the dialogue agreed to hold the passing of requisites set by AO No. 07-80 unless a dialogue with Roman has been conducted.

Paul Manuales, Secretary General of IFC said, "May mga vague points kasi dun sa AO, katulad ng dahilan kung bakit hinihingi 'yung justification, ano 'yung mga criteria at kung

sino 'yung mga taong magsasabi kung enough na ba 'yung nakalagay dun sa justification. Hindi rin kasi malinaw 'yung subject (Ban on Frats) di maintindihan kung dating order na ba o proposal pa lang."

USC Vice Chairperson Charisse Bernadine Bañez said, "Sinabi pa [ni Prof. Severino Cuevas] na hindi lang justification ang titingnan, pati 'yung background nung fraternities at sororities – kung nagkaroon ba sila ng gulo dati, nagkaroon ba sila ng kaso...pero hindi nakasaad 'yun sa AO. Kaya nga humihingi ng dialogue kay Roman para ipaliwanag niya kung bakit may pangangailangan dun sa justification bago magjustify."

Manuales said, however, that the said order could be an eye-opener and a challenge for fraternities and sororities.

"This is an opportunity for frats and soro lalo na dito sa UPLB para patunayan na dapat pa rin silang mag-exist," he added.

He also identified the consequences of the said order. He said if they will not be recognized, they will not have the right to use university facilities and they will just exist as underground organizations and continue to hold their activities even without the permission from the UP administration.

However, Manuales said that USC's recognition of students' freedom to organize will be enough reason for their fraternities to exist.

Meanwhile, UPLB students expressed different views regarding this matter.

A member of Beta Sigma fraternity who requested for anonymity said, "Tutol kami sa paghingi nila ng justification kasi alam naman nila na sobra ang naitutulong ng frats and soro at saka mas matanda pa ang frat namin

kay Roman, institusyon na ang mga frat kaya hindi na kailangan pang i-justify ang existence nila."

Marcial Buladaco II, BS Agricultural Chemistry student batch '07 said, "Hindi naman yata tama iyon. Sana bigyan pa nila ng mas mahabang panahon ang mga fraternities para dito."

"Mas okay na yung patakaran na 'yun. Organisado at mas maiiwasan na ang mga illegal na gawain at karahasan sa ibang mga frat," said Mark Dominic de Mesa, BS Computer Science student batch '07.

Meanwhile, fraternities and sororities in UPD held a dialogue with Roman to clarify their questions regarding the said AO. In the dialogue, Roman said she only wants to see the good side of the said organizations and that there will be no sanction for late submission or nonsubmission of justification. [P]

"May mga vague points kasi dun sa AO, katulad ng dahilan kung bakit hinihingi 'yung justification, ano 'yung mga criteria at kung sino 'yung mga taong magsasabi kung enough na ba 'yung nakalagay dun sa justification."

KOMIKS



NSTP takers may face added components

by Rogene Gonzales and Mary Rose Toledo

In the coming semesters, the Department of National Defense (DND) may add programs to Literacy Training Service (LTS) and Civil Welfare Training Service (CWTS) course outlines.

In a symposium organized by the Department of Military Science and Tactics (DMST) of UP Los Baños last September 21 at the Makiling Ballroom Hall, environmental and disaster preparedness components were proposed to be added to the National Service Training Program (NSTP) courses (see sidebar).

Incorporated Components

UPLB Students need not worry of any drastic changes in NSTP courses according to Dr. Jose Medina, UPLB Director of Ugnayan ng Pahinungod, a university-mandated institution that facilitates CWTS and LTS courses.

He said that the components suggested were designed for colleges and universities that do not yet have a stable NSTP program.

“Kasi kung titingnan natin ‘yung concept, [the time allotted for the components] is too

long,” he said in reaction to the number of hours required for the course.

But Medina agreed that the Program of Implementations (POI) for environmental and disaster preparedness were concentrated on developing the skills and preparedness of students during actual disaster situations.

He added that he is yet to receive notice from the Administration to implement the proposed changes in the LTS and CWTS next semester.

But if given the go-signal, he suggested incorporating the POIs through six hours of disaster training component and 10 hours for Green Philippines Program (GPP) which could be integrated into LTS 2 and CWTS 2.

Medina stated however that there are already specific groups in the Pahinungod, both LTS and CWTS, that are already classified as GPP curriculum.

He believes that the Pahinungod, having been around for more than five years now, should still stick to its current program that aims to promote social awareness to students through community service and literacy training. Its

efficiency as an NSTP program can be seen in the way students approach activities in their respective non-Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (non-ROTC) courses.

Medina said it is already a required practice of the Pahinungod to submit the names of non-ROTC graduates concealed as serial numbers to the DND. He is also aware of the reason that graduates of non-ROTC shall

comprise the National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) (see sidebar).

Separate Curriculum

DMST-UPLB Head Col. Bonifacio Pollo said that the POIs were presented since he observed that the LTS and CWTS have no proper programs regarding disaster training as of now.

He also stressed that the main purpose of the POIs is to prepare the youth for security and socio-economic eventualities.

The three NSTP components are supervised by the DND. Pollo said that the DND has observed the lack of skills training in non-ROTC courses required for the NSRC.

Based on the assessment of the CWTS and LTS programs presented September 21, DMST found out that the decline of enrollees in ROTC is due to the perception that CWTS and LTS are more convenient and easy since these courses consume less hours, there are no drills, and uniforms are not required.

Moreover, some private educational institutions promote CWTS and LTS because of monetary benefits (100 percent of tuition in LTS and CWTS goes to the school which decides where to spend the money).

According to ROTC advocates, non-ROTC courses can also compromise national defense due to decrease in reserved officers, bring about a lack of pool for community-based projects, and make students more critical of the government.

Pollo clarified, however, that the ROTC has already incorporated the POIs on disaster training and environmental awareness as part of their course.

“Separate curriculum kasi ang non-ROTC. Inoorganize na lang sila kaya lang kung utilization, wala silang skills kaya nag-initiate ‘yung nasa taas [DND] na i-introduce ‘yung subjects na ganoon for them to be trained,” Pollo explained. [P]

Proposed Environmental Component:

Executive Order 579 encourages the formulation and implementation of Green Philippines Program (GPP) through the NSTP that has the following objectives:

- Taking back our forests and replenishing fallen trees with new, protected forests;
- Beautifying our barangays and cities;
- Building more urban parks and recreation areas;
- Purifying our water; and
- Cleaning up industrial sites.

At least 36 hours per semester or 72 hours in case of one summer program should be allotted to the GPP.

Proposed Disaster Preparedness Component:

This course includes survival, rappelling & high angle rescue having the following general objectives:

- Train the student in basic and applicable safety, rescue, relief and survival skills necessary during disaster situations; and
- Train the students at a level of competence so he may impart the same skills to others.

At least 16 hours per semester is the allotted time for this component.

The National Service Reserve Corps

Section 11.a of the Revised Implementing “Rules of Regulations” of the NSTP specifically states that:

“Graduates of the non-ROTC components of the NSTP shall belong to the National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) and could be tapped by the State for literacy and civic welfare activities, especially in times of calamities through the joint efforts of DND, CHED and TESDA, in coordination with DILG, DSWD, and other concerned agencies/associations.”

The Guidelines for the Establishment of the NSRC indicates that the Central offices of CHED/TESDA shall submit official national master list of registered NSRC members, with corresponding centrally-determined serial number to National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) through DND per school year.

FILE PHOTO



Endurance. Students undergoing ROTC program await for superior's command to rest.

Roman bans smoking in UP

by Mailan Ann Yancy Falculan

UP President Emerlinda Roman issued last September 5 a memorandum imposing a systemwide ban on smoking, tobacco sales and tobacco advertising to protect and instill health consciousness among university constituents.

Roman also urged all chancellors to take an immediate action and implement the said memorandum (Administrative Order 07-70) in their respective campuses.

The memo is in support of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and Republic Act 9211 or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 that limits tobacco sales and smoking in the country.

UP units in Diliman, Los Baños, Iloilo, and Mindanao were required to submit a cessation plan implementing a smoking ban to be executed in their campuses in three years' time.

According to the memo, the implementa-

tion of the “no smoking policy” is to be strictly carried out by the deans, directors, and heads of all offices in the university, as well as faculty administrators and security personnel.

Moreover, advertising and selling of tobacco products are banned within 100 meters of all UP campuses' perimeter. Tobacco companies are also prohibited from sponsoring campus activities.

Students, faculty, or staff members who will disobey the said provisions will be charged with simple misconduct on first offense and grave misconduct on subsequent violations. Heads of units who fail to implement, on the other hand, will be charged with grave misconduct.

Smoking areas can be arranged and assigned, however, as long as it is 10 square meters or smaller, located outside a building or academic core zone, and is neither of public display nor a tambayan. Also, indicated “smoking areas”

should bear graphic signs informing others of the bad effects of smoking.

UPLB constituents, as a result, raised varied reactions regarding the issuance of the memo.

“UPLB and other UP campuses are state universities so dapat democracy ang pinairal dito,” said Kim Yaneza, Communication Arts '07. “Meaning, pwedeng gawin ng student ang gusto niya basta justifiable,” she added.

On the other hand, Professor Glenn Lubugin from the Department of Humanities and a smoker, said that there has long been a prohibition on smoking in public utilities such as the “no smoking” memo.

“Though nava-violate ko siya, that does not mean that I disagree. It's an administrative order. Maganda siya especially for passive smokers,” he said.

He also welcomed the idea of designating smoking areas in the campus and wished for a massive information dissemination campaign of the memo.

Ranie Catimbag and Marjinee Ardeza, Communication Arts '05, both nonsmokers, asked for

more justification regarding the implementation of the said ban. They agreed that smoking is of minor concern compared to tuition and other fees increase, commercialization of education, and the like. They added, however, that there's nothing bad with this policy since smoking is not a separate issue of this university.

A business concessionaire, who refused to be identified said, “Susunod tayo pero dapat consistent and firm kasi parang optional, pinagbibigyan ‘yung iba. Dapat kasi huwag na ring maglagay ng smoking areas, kapag ganon kasi, may butas.”

He also believes that it would be better if tobacco companies are banned in the country instead of banning smoking only. He emphasized, however, that the bottomline of this issue is whether tobacco companies should be banned or the country will bear economic losses when this policy is implemented.

Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco, meanwhile, has already implemented the memo last October 3, prohibiting smoking in several areas in the campus. [P]



Sakbayan chair Rula Gongora leads the assembly of student protesters in Carabao Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BOR...from p1

Professor Ted Mendoza, students were eventually allowed to enter the APEC grounds where they held a program in front of the building.

Hannah Mae Dormido, Katipunan ng mga Sanggunian ng mga Mag-aaral sa UP Secretary General from UP Diliman, said protests were also staged in Palma Hall at UP Diliman, simultaneous with the BOR meeting in UP Los Banos.

Angel, a BS Computer Science '07 student who attended the protest said, "Sumali ako dito kasi naniniwala ako na mali 'yung pagtaas ng tuition. Nawala na yung pagka-State University ng UPLB."

First base

After the meeting, Ridon shared the results of the regents' discussion to the students. It was agreed upon that he and UP President Emerlinda Roman will "talk" to "thresh out a clean agreement in the entire policy."

Ridon said the meeting focused on the decrease in this year's qualifier turnouts after the implementation of ToFI.

"Yung situation sa UP Visayas, 10 lang ang nag-enroll sa BS Fisheries, considering na yun ang flagship program nila. For this program, it is quite insubstantial. Hindi pwedeng ganun. At the end of the day, the academic integrity of the University of the Philippines is compromised," Ridon stressed.

Gunning for a homerun (?)

Ridon said the next BOR meeting will be held in UP Diliman. He added that this next meeting may decide whether the ToFI will be "junked" or not. Also, he said that there is no definite date yet for the meeting, but shared that it may be held at the third week of October.

"Hinihikayat ko ang lahat na dumalo sa BOR meeting sa UP Diliman kahit na bakasyon na, upang ipagpatuloy ang laban kontra ToFI," he said. [P]

Summary of the Office of the Student Regent policy review on the tuition and other fee increases

Based on the official enrolment and initial socialized tuition and financial assistance program application data, freshman perception surveys, and informal student consultations, we have observed the following:

1. Low enrolment in almost half of courses in UP Diliman, particularly in low important courses with perennially low enrolment courses relative to the course quota, notwithstanding continued low enrolment relative to the course quota in BS Fisheries in UP Visayas (UPV) among others.
2. In some of the courses in UPV, low enrolment relative to the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT) qualifiers were observed, despite the relative market demand for these courses (BS Biology, BS Marketing and BS Accountancy).

With the tuition increase, it can be inferred that UP, instead of being the default university choice to its competitive advantage of low tuition with quality education, might now be in a state of free competition with other schools.

3. Parents and students relied not only on family income but also on outside sources such as salary loans, student loans, OFW remittances and scholarships to finance the students' enrolment. These measures, especially loans, might be unsustainable if employed throughout the students' stay in UP. Salary loans necessary decrease the disposable family income for other necessities in the long-term, despite the short-term benefit of facilitating actual enrolment in UP.
4. There were reports by some freshmen about difficulty in accessing the lower STFAP brackets, especially by those with OFW parents with no Income Tax Returns (ITR) and low-income families who do not regularly file their ITRs.

While acknowledging that every working person is obligated to file his/her corresponding ITR annually, UP must further re-evaluate its socialized tuition program to incorporate in its mechanism concrete social realities insofar as poverty and access to education are concerned.

5. In the autonomous units, most of the freshman units are in bracket C, but students in brackets D and E number only in the hundreds in UP units in Los Banos, Manila and Diliman. The low number of grantees might be due to the difficulty in accessing the lower income sections were precluded from entering UP altogether due to a confluence of factors, such as the high incidental costs of education and decreasing basic education standards.

6. Based on the UPD freshman perception survey, 82.8 percent of the 405 freshman consulted in the survey conducted by the School of Statistics Student Council do not approve of the tuition increase and 66.9 percent rejected the new socialized tuition program.

7. The reports of De Dios on the tuition structure and Atanacio on the STFAP were also revisited and reviewed.

The general policy declaration on greater dependence on other resources than state support as declared by the De Dios report seems misplaced in light of the principle of democratic access to education and widening participation. The UP administration should correctly situate its tuition policy by considering the concrete socio-economic conditions of the Filipino people.

Annual automatic tuition increases without student consultations do not have a place in the democratic environment of UP.

The income bracket D (Php 80,000-Php135,000) and Bracket E (up to Php 80,000) might not constitute much to enable these students to study in UP despite lower tuition in their bracket. UP must therefore reconsider the Php300 per unit tuition in Bracket D as well, in favor, at the very least,

if the nominal payment of laboratory and miscellaneous fees.

Bracket C (P135,001-P500,000) is observed as a catch-all bracket which includes very different employment profiles in its low and top end. At the P135,000 income level, students' parents might be the low-salaried government employee earning around P11,000 a month. At the P500,000 income level, students' parents might be middle-management officers in private corporations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A reaffirmation of the fundamental principles of democratic access and widening participation must be done through:
 - a. Official twice-a-semester UP administration-student institutions congressional lobbying for a higher UP budget.
 - b. Proactive student in the committees-in-charge if annual UP budget proposals
2. A suspension of the implementation of the new tuition policy for the second semester of 2007-2008, pending a comprehensive review of UP's financial health, the following are proposed:
 - a. Conduct a comprehensive and independent internal audit.
 - b. Form a multi-sectoral University Committee to further review the internal efficiency of UP.
 - c. Institutionalize a comprehensive donations system where projects and programs available for pledges and donations are prioritized for funding.
3. UP should allocate funding for system-wide popularization campaigns of less known courses through information drives.
4. UP must provide UPCAT qualifiers sufficient information on available public/private scholarship grants and the full mechanics of the STGAP and UP student loans.
5. UP should abrogate annual automatic tuition fee increases based on the prevailing inflation rate, but instead employ a review every five years with student consultations.
6. without prejudice to the fundamental contentions of the Office of the Student Regent on the new STFAP, the following policy changes are proposed:
 - a. Simplify access to STFAP, where bracket access shall be given to the students based on the submitted ITR pending full assessment of their socio-economic profile.
 - b. Review the STFAP mechanism, including but not limited to the formula on determining the brackets and the entire process of application and inclusion in the brackets.
 - c. Reconfigure the lower income brackets for the democratic access and widening participation.
 - i. Shift the default STFAP bracket B to bracket C, as the latter bracket generally represents the annual family income of majority of UP students without prejudice to possible adjustments of the income levels (Php135,000-Php500,000) covered by bracket C itself.
 - ii. Afford bracket D students free tuition and either subsidized or full-payment of miscellaneous fees.
 - iii. Increase annually the Php12,000 stipend to the students under bracket E.

Studes, lib staff clamor for convenient main library

by Mary Grace Lumenario and Princess Ann Mabilog

Students can no longer bear the heat in the library; staff can still do- perhaps.

Last September 18, a library personnel who refused to be identified, revealed through a phone call to the UPLB Perspective the lack of functioning airconditioning units in the Main Library.

As of press time, the basement and first floor of the building are the only areas with working units. Consequently, students were disturbed by the extreme heat at the library because of its malfunctioning airconditioners.

For Mark Anthony Pascual, BS Food Technology '06, the library is not properly ventilated though there are electric fans available. He also mentioned that there is already a disturbing odor from books due to extreme heat.

Meanwhile, Jayson Vedad, BS Chemistry '06, said that he could still tolerate the heat, but the books, subscriptions and the facilities such as computers remain his concern. He also appealed to the administration to act immediately on the matter.

"Students prefer to stay outside the library due to the hot temperature inside," said Ester Aquino, Applied Mathematics '07.

Furthermore, Roane Hergoso, Development Communication '04, said that since there is already an increase in tuition and other fees

including library fee, the administration should allot budget for the purchase of equipment needed by students.

Dorie Vargas from the Acquisition section of the library said the lack of airconditioner is their primary problem in the basement. She added that there are no windows in this area where air could circulate.

Vargas added that diseases such as simple cough and colds easily spread among the employees.

In addition, library janitor, Nestor de Pasion, said airconditioners in the basement and the first floor are turned on but no one can notice them because the air seemed hardly to turn cooler.

On the other hand, Vilma Anday, University Librarian, said "students and the staff need not worry anymore because the administration has already confirmed the renovation of the library."

Anday furthered that Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco and the Vice Chancellors of different departments will be transferring offices to the third floor of the Main library, while the Serials section will be moved to the area adjacent to the basement.

"The renovation will probably start on December, the moment the contract is finished," she said. [P]

VetMed student's death accidental, parents say

by Rhodora Ogrimen

"Jekjek never committed suicide nor did he intend to drink the chemical. It was an accident and unintentional."

This is the claim of Mark Chester (Jekjek) Lanzanas' parents, Roger and Esther Lanzanas, in a statement aimed to Perspective for cleaning spreading rumors that their son died because of suicide.

Jekjek, who was a Batch 2004 Doctor in Veterinary Medicine student, reportedly drank the formaldehyde (formalin) by accident while conducting an experiment in his room in their residence, last Oct. 5, Friday.

Jekjek who was said to be fond of bringing his school laboratory exercises at home, had put his glass of drinking water close to the 'unlabeled' drinking glasses which he used as containers (including the glass containing the formaldehyde). It was also said that he was unable to distinguish his drink because the

gas molecules of formaldehyde have already diffused in his room.

After the 'accidental drinking' he went out of the room at once because he felt a burning sensation in the throat; and had difficulty in breathing. He was also quoted saying, "Mommy nakainom ako ng formalin. Dalhin niyo ako sa ospital ayoko pang mamatay. Mahal na mahal ko kayo."

In an interview with the Perspective, his mother said that neither did she had scolded him nor had he had some quarrel with his girlfriend prior to his death.

Meanwhile, Rex Albert Espinas, a childhood friend and a co-member of Jekjek in the Knights of the Altar, has made a stand, as well, that it was an accident.

Lastly, Espinas answered all the rumors with "Bahala sila! Basta ang alam namin kung kilala niyo si Jekjek alam niyong hindi niya gagawin 'yun."

On the other hand, Dean Conrado A. Valdez and the faculty members of the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) were also shocked, at same time, saddened by the news of his death.

Valdez said that the college is planning to form a committee that will aid students with their academic problems, and deal with such cases.

The body of Lanzanas lay in his residence at Oarland Compound, Maahas and his interment was on Oct. 14. [P]



[P] extends condolence to the bereaved family and friends of Jekjek Lanzanas.

Letter to the Editor

This space is allotted for comments, suggestions, rebuttals, public apologies, and what not. We reserve the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Only signed letters will be published but names can be withheld upon request. e-mail us at uplbperspective0708@yahoo.com or drop by the [P] office



Isang Bukas na Liham para sa Lahat ng mga Empleyado ng U.P.

Sa darating na Oktubre 24, 2007, araw ng Certification Election (CE), ang ALL-U.P. WORKERS UNION ay muling kumakatok sa inyo upang magkatuwang na manindigan sa pagtataguyod ng interes ng lahat ng empleyadong administratibo ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas. Sa araw na ito, muli tayong boboto ng union na tunay na magtataguyod n gating mga karapatan at kahilingan.

Sa pagkakataong ito, nais naming banggitin ang limang taong tuloy-tuloy nating mga pakikipaglaban sa mga benepisyo at isyung nakakaapekto sa atin bilang mga empleyado ng Unibersidad, manggagawa, at mamamayan ng bansang Pilipinas. Ang masikhay at tuloy-tuloy na pagkilos ay nagresulta ng kongkretong mga tagumpay:

1. Dagdag na tatlong araw na special leave privileges (anim na ito sa ngayon, ang tatlo ay mula sa Civil Service Commission).
2. Dagdag na tatlong araw na job-related sickness leave.
3. Dalawang kaban ng bigas (approx. 50 kg) bawat taon na may halagang P1,000 bawat kaban. Mula 2003 hanggang 2007 ay nakakuha na tayo ng pitong kaban ng bigas na nagka kahalaga ng P7,000.00
4. Grocery allowance na may halagang P1,000.00
5. Annual incentive grant na P10,000.00, mula 2001 hanggang August 2007.
6. Retirees' benefits na 50% discount in confinement fees (pay ward) sa UP PGH net of 20% given to senior citizens (bagama't sa kasalukuyan ay pinag-uusapan pa ang implementasyon nito).
7. Implementasyon ng Gender Sensitivity Programs para sa mga empleyado at selebrasyon ng International Women's Day.
8. Pananatili ng mga kasalukuyang Day Care at mga probisyon para sa pagtatayo ng mga day care facilities.
9. Implementasyon ng night shift differential pay sa U.P. Diliman at U.P. Los Banos.

Note: Sa pagsusuma, lumalabas na ang ating naipagwagi at nakuhanag benepisyo sa UP sa nakaraang limang taon ay aabot sa P72,000.00. hindi kasama dito ang government mandated na benepisyo tulad ng PIB, clothing allowance, 13th month pay, at cash gift.

Bilang mga lingkod-bayan, sumasama din tayo sa mga aktibidad sa labas ng ating Unibersidad, tulad sa pakikiisa nting sa libo-libo pang kawani ng ating pamahalaan na nakikipaglaban para sa P3,000.00 across-the-board na dagdag sa sweldo ng mga kawaning pampubliko na nagresulta para magpatupad ang gobyerno ng 10% dagdag sahod simula ngayong Hulyo 2007, pagkilos laban sa pagtaas ng presyo ng langis, kuryente, tubig, at bilihin. Kasama din tayong nagrali laban sa gen. manager ng GSIS na si Winston Garcia sa mga ipinapatupad niyang mga bagong polisiya na kung saan ay binabawasan ang gating mga benepisyo. Aktibo din ang ating pakikilahok sa kilusan laban sa korupsiyon at anti-mamamayang mga patakaran ng kasalukuyang pamahalaan. Lumahok din tayo laban sa mga political killings lalo na ang naganap na pagdukot sa dati nating estudyante na sina Karen Empeno at She Cadapan.

Bagama't may mga nagging bunga ang ating pagsasama sa pagharap sa mga isyu at kongkretong mga pang-ekonomiyang benepisyo sa nakaraang limang taon, mas napakarami pa tayong kakaharapang isyu sa mga susunod na taon katulad na lamang ng patuloy na kontraktuwalisasyon at agency hiring sa ating hanay (na kung hahayaan natin ito ay baka sa mga susunod na taon ay kakaunti na lamang ang mga permanenteng empleyado sa U.P.), kasama na ang back pay ng COLA na matagal na nating ipinaglalaban na sa kasalukuyan ay nakabinbin pa sa Supreme Court (G.R. No. 153266 entitled Victoria Gutierrez v. Department of Budget ang Management, et al.).

Sa ganitong kalagayan, patuloy an gaming panawagan sa inyo na panghawakan nating ang mga napagtagumpayan nating laban at lalong isulong na maparami pa an gating mga tatanggaping benepisyo.

Sa pagtatapos, ipinapaabot naming muli ang taos-pusong pasasalamat at pagbati sal lahat dahil ang muling pagkakahirang ng ALL-UP WORKERS UNION (sa pamamagitan ng inyong boto) bilang sole and exclusive representative ng lahat ng non-academic rank-and-file na empleyado sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas ay nangangahulugan ng pagsuporta sa mga benepisyong naipagtagumpayan sa pamamagitan n gating sama-samang pagkilos.

All-U.P. Workers Union
Unibersidad ng Pilipinas

CONGRATS kina:

Justine Jesua Guanzon
Mailan Ann Yancy Falcular
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Liberty Notarte
Eileen Kae Relao
Faith Allyson Buensuseco
Jerome Dulin
Sheric Keigh
Mary Rose Toledo

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

Magsulat.
Maglingkod.
Magpalaya.
[P]

[E]h, Iskolar pa nga ba?



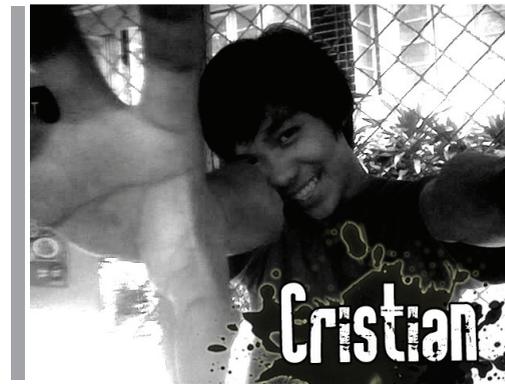
Campus
Cookie

Sil ang mga Kapit-patalim sa Bracket E

nina Angelique Alazada at Justine Jesusa Guanzon



Ang Unibersidad ng Pilipinas ay kilala bilang isang Pamublikong Unibersidad. At bilang isang pamublikong unibersidad, inaasahang maliit lamang ang tuition na binabayaran dito. Subalit dahil sa biglaang pagtaas ng tuition ngayong taon (P1000 per unit), maraming mga estudyante ang hindi tumuloy sa pagpasok sa UP kahit na sila ay nakapasa sa University of the Philippines College Admission Test (UPCAT). Ang Socialized Tuition Fee Assistance Program (STFAP) ay isang programa kung saan hinahati ang mga estudyante batay sa kitang natatanggap ng kanilang pamilya bawat taon. Mahirap ang prosesong pagdadaan bago tuluyang maaprubahan ang STFAP. Dagdag dito, iilang estudyante lamang ang kabilang sa mataas na bracket at marami ang nag-aapply para sa Student Loan Board (SLB), isang programang nagpapautang sa mga estudyante para ipantustos sa kanilang tuition. Lubhang naging mahirap para sa mga freshman ngayon ang pagpasok sa unibersidad dulot ng napakaraming balakid na humaharag sa kanilang daan.



Dalawang estudyante ang aming nahagilap, mga bagong Iskolar ng Bayan na kasalukuyang lumalaban sa napakaraming pagsubok, mga pagsubok ng pagbabago at pakikibagay. Ang dalawang ito ay kinikilala bilang mga "Bracket E".

[P]: Ano ang pangalan mo at ilang taon ka na? Saang probinsya ka galing? Saang paaralan ka nagtapos? Ano ang course mo?

I'm Maria Sabrina Laleine Ocampo, 17 years old, taga-Antipolo. I graduated from Ramon Magsaysay High School (Cubao). BA Communication Arts po.

Ako si Cristian Dave Bermodo, 17 years old, taga-Occidental Mindoro. Graduate ako sa San Jose National High School. Ang course ko ay Math and Science Teaching.

Pangarap na Unibersidad

Kada taon ay naglalabas ng pagsusulit ang Unibersidad para sa mga naghahangad na makapasok dito. Tinatawag itong UPCAT. Ang pagsusulit na ito ay sumusubok sa lebel ng talino ng isang estudyante kung nararapat siyang matanggap sa Unibersidad.

[P]: Paano ka nagka-background tungkol sa UP?

SABRINA: Sa school, alam naman kasi ng lahat ang UP, eh. Lahat kami nung third year pa ako, nakikita namin ang mga Fourth Year students na kukuha ng UPCAT kaya parang naging interesado ako, at alam nga ng lahat na maganda ang kalidad ng edukasyon dito at mababa ang tuition.

CRISTIAN: Sa school, sabi ng mga teachers.

[P]: Bakit mo dito napiling mag-aral?

SABRINA: Kasi ang UP ang Premiere University sa Pilipinas, it does not require too much in terms of tuition. At the same time may high quality of education.

CRISTIAN: Dahil DOST (Department of Science and Technology) Scholar ako, tapos parang 'yung mga graduate nito

finitingala at maganda nga ang kalidad ng edukasyon.

Ang buhay sa likod ng pangarap na unibersidad

Sina Sabrina at Cristian ay nangarap lang dati na makapasok sa UP at ngayon, mga freshman na sila dito sa UPLB. Ngunit hindi pa natatapos dito ang kanilang mga pagsubok dahil ngayon, ang pagtagal sa unibersidad ang kanilang haharapin sa mga susunod pang mga taon.

[P]: Ilang buwan ka nang hindi umuwi sa inyo?

Sabrina: Wala pang months, kasi kapag naman may time, especially kapag may okasyon sa bahay, umuwi ako, siyempre I miss my family.

Cristian: Mga lima na siguro, basta simula nung nagsimula ang klase hindi pa ako umuwi sa amin, mahal kasi ang pamasaha, eh. Siyempre namimiss ko yung pamilya ko.

Nagsisilbing pinto ng tagumpay ang unibersidad lalong-lalo na sa mga kabataang may natatanging talino at talento ngunit walang lubos na kakayahang tugunan ang pinansiyal na pangangailangan para sa pagkolehiyo.

Upang maging isang Iskolar ng Bayan, marami na ang naisakrisipyo at marami pang isasakrisipyo ang mga tulad nila Sabrina at Cristian. Nariyan ang mahiwalay sa kanilang mga pamilya sa unang pagkakataon. Nasabi man nila na may maganda ring dulot ang pagiging independent, nahihirapan din sila lalo na sa mga panahong may mga problema.

Pahirap sa Iskolar ng Bayan

Sa pagpapatupad ng Tuition and other Fee Increase, (ToFI), lalo pang nahirapan ang mga bagong usbong na Iskolar ng Bayan. Hindi man tuwirang sinasaad, ngunit naging kuwalipikasyon na rin ang pera upang makapag-aral sa UP.

Upang makapag-aral sa UP, kinailangan nilang mag-aapply sa

Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program (STFAP) at kumuha ng iba pang scholarship at tulong pinansyal.

[P]: Ano ang mga naranasan mo noong nag-aapply ka ng STFAP?

SABRINA: Mahirap, kasi ilang beses na akong nakabalik dito, super pabalik-balik, ang daming hinihinging requirements, dumating na nga sa time na nag-pray na ako bago pumasok sa office, tapos super hagilap ng pera para sa pamasaha at siyempre pambayad sa mga office na kinukuhanan ko ng mga hinihinging requirements.

CRISTIAN: Mahirap, maraming papers na kailangang tapusin, marami talaga.

[P]: Ano ang mga benepisyong nakukuha mo bilang isang Bracket E student?

SABRINA: Stipend, 'yun lang, meron pa ba?

Cristian Php 2000 per month na stipend. Bracket D ako before, tapos nagbayad na kami ng Php 7,000, pero ni-loan pa 'yun, saka ibinawas na 'yung bigay ng DOST.

[P]: Nakuha mo na ba ang stipend mo?

SABRINA: Oo, for four months, hindi kasi nakukuha every month eh.

CRISTIAN: Hanggang September pa lang.

[P]: Saan mo ginamit ang nakuha mong pera?

SABRINA: Pinambayad ng utang at bumili ng mga kailangan, kasi 'yun lang talaga 'yung inaasahan kong allowance, kaya habang hindi pa dumadating 'yung pera, nangugutang muna ako sa iba.

CRISTIAN: Pagkain, pinambayad ng dorm, 'yung mga ginagamit ko pang-photocopy, at 'yung mga pang-araw-araw na ginagamit sa school.

Kapos na tulong

Para sa mga Bracket E tulad nila Sabrina at Cristian, iisipin natin na sila ay mapalad dahil kabilang sila sa mga estudyanteng maliit lang ang tuition at may tinatanggap na ibang benepisyong tulad ng allowance kada buwan. Subalit kung ating susuriin,

kulang pa rin ang tulong sa estudyante na kabilang sa ganitong bracket kung ikukumpara sa ipinupuhunang oras, pagod, at pera para sa pabalik-balik na pamasaha dahil karamihan ay mula pa sa malalayung lugar. Marami ding Bracket E students ang nagsabing ang stipend nila ay hindi naman naibibigay sa oras at 'di rin nakasasapat sa kanilang pangangailangan.

Hindi madali ang maging STFAP benefactor. At hindi rin sapat na tulong ang hatid nito. Tulad na lang ng mga estudyanteng napabilang sa Bracket C (P600 per unit) at D (P300 per unit). Karamihan sa kanila ay nag-aapply sa SLB dahil malaki pa rin ang halagang binabayaran nila.

[P]: Ano ang natutunan mo sa isang semestrong pagtigil mo dito sa UPLB?

SABRINA: Maging critical, observant.

CRISTIAN: Natutunan ko na mayroon tayong karapatan na dapat nating ipaglaban. Marami rin akong natutunan sa academics especially sa Chemistry,

[E]h/p15



Cookie Kookie Questions

[P]: Favorite Expression?

SABRINA: Oh my God!

CRISTIAN: otistik!

[P]: single or taken na?

SABRINA: single

CRISTIAN: single

[P]: Favorite color?

SABRINA: red

CRISTIAN: blue(--,)

Beneath the Fireworks

by Angelica Mendoza

“Daan na itinuro ng ating pamantasang hirang, inilaan para sa ‘ting mga anak ng bayan.”

This is the central message of Isang Daan, the winning piece in the UPLB 19.09 Music Fest. The song best represents UP Los Baños and its journey toward its 100th year. Through the years, the university has transformed in countless ways. And as it enters a new century, this journey the university is taking is compromised – we are, again, in the brink of losing our way.

Uphill, downhill

Situated in an uncultivated farmland at the foot of Mt. Makiling, the UP College of Agriculture (UPCA) was instituted on June 1909 by Dean Edward Copeland and four other American professors. What started out as classes held in tents and houses of faculty members now emerged with more than 500 students having its own student council.

On November 1972, the college was proclaimed autonomous (through Presidential Decree No. 58), making it a full-fledged university, and UPCA became the heart of UP Los Baños. Only two months following the declaration of Martial Law, the university served as a device to carry out the ideals of Ferdinand Marcos.

As presented in UP Los Baños's website, the school had its share of misfortunes. It went through a crisis after it ran short of faculty members, seeing that more colleges were added to the set of courses. UP Los Baños was challenged a second time after World War II when it was converted to a concentration camp for war prisoners. The Japanese army tore down the whole campus, leaving almost no hope for reconstruction.

But they did rebuild.

Buildings were restructured and available

materials for teaching were gathered. Since the war, the university grew, now constituting more than 300 buildings and 30 colleges and institutes. From complete ruin, UP Los Baños was able to re-establish its promise – to provide quality education for those who seek it regardless of age, sex, class and political beliefs. The ability of the university to pick itself up after countless adversities is one of the reasons for its prestige.

It is now almost a hundred years since the university was built. UPLB nearing its 100th year of existence is a milestone that is very much anticipated and planned on. But behind all the enthusiasm and the grand celebrations is a plea: to save the education that is once again in danger.

Celebrating to remember, celebrating to forget

During the launching of the UPLB's Centennial Celebration, the Centennial Committee headed by Chancellor Luis Rey Velasco, promoted excellence, service and leadership in the next 100 years. This is depicted in the Centennial logo unveiled the same day. The logo shows the oblation and a sablay, the traditional graduation accessory, dressed in the university's colors, maroon and green.

But is this celebration a mere diversion from more pressing matters surrounding our country? Is this extravagant commemoration a deliberate ruse to make the people overlook the current status of the university?

There is nothing wrong with spending money on this event. When it comes to this kind of occasion, the people of UP Los Baños go out of their way to make it as memorable and extravagant as possible. Obviously, it is impossible for the university not to celebrate one of the most significant events in its history. One hundred is not just a number, but also a symbol of the school's growth and progress. One hundred is the representation of the adversities and privileges set upon this community. It is in this span of time that the university gained its prestige.

But as the first century of the university comes to a close, the studentry is bombarded with issues that compromise its status. With tuition and other fee increases, the Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program re-bracketing, and the poor state of facilities as the pertinent problems of students today, who could, for the most part, focus on celebrating the Centennial Year? How can we be all jolly and festive when we are aware that there are a lot of students who are greatly affected by these issues? The fact that few students attended the launching of the Centennial shows that they have more important matters to attend to.

Maybe if this celebration is related somehow

to the solution of these problems, students will take more notice of commemorating the university that the public holds in such high regard. This Centennial should also serve as an avenue to strengthen the core values and principles of the university.

UP education is bestowed to every anak ng bayan, cries the song. It is unsettling to think that just as the university is about to celebrate one of the most important occasions in UP history, it is also facing major issues. If only the national budget is well allotted, every student could have the education he deserves.

Priorities, priorities

From songwriting and digital film competitions to lifetime achievement awards, the UP system has been every bit positive on its plans for the celebration of its centennial year. The publicity is overwhelming and the hype is building up.

It is unlikely for all these plans to ensue. But if they do materialize, then this must be a sign that the entire body is working as a group to further the excellence of the university.

The Centennial celebration could either get in the way of our awareness of the critical issues in the university, or it could help us be optimistic amid all the troubles surrounding us today. The university is given another century to effect change and to fix what has been impaired by the school's current problems.

The need for this state university to provide quality and accessible education has not changed, even after a hundred years.

Isang Daan urges us to make change a pathway towards advancement. This celebration of the Centennial Year is not only for the administration, but for the students as well. And as UP students, it is required of us to readily face our challenges – with heads and kamaos held high.[P]



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Mr. Vermont P. Dia, FSC
Dr. Jose E. Hernandez, CSC
Dr. Artemio S. Salazar, CSC
Dr. Virginia R. Ocampo, CPC
Dr. Aurora M. Baltazar, CPC

Recently-conducted Centennial Activities

- Freshman Convocation
- CEMplangan, CHE Exposed, CVM Centennial Symposium
- UPLB 19.09 Music Fest
- Alumni Homecoming and Awards Night
- 89th UPLB Loyalty Day and Launching of Centennial Year

Plans of the Centennial Commission for UPLB

- Raise funds for faculty development to supplement the faculty members' inadequate salaries
- Advance research studies in Agriculture and Biotechnology and develop the PhD program in the College of Veterinary Medicine
- Present lifetime achievement awards to outstanding alumni
- Beautify campus landmarks

Isang Daan

Composed by Marie Angelica Dayao, BA Communication Arts '04

Isang daang taong pagsisilbi sa bayan
Isang daang taon ng kagitingan
Ginising ang ating puso't isipan
Mula sa pagkatulog ng kamalayan

Isang Daan tungo sa karunungan
Isang Daan tungo sa kagalingan
Daan na tinuro ng ating pamantasang hirang
Inilaan para sa'ting mga anak ng bayan

Dumating man ang hangin ng pagbabago
Iskolar, huwag patitinag, itaas ang kamao
Kasing lawak at 'sing taas ng langit
Ang abot ng isipan mo

Isang Daan tungo sa karunungan
Isang Daan tungo sa kagalingan
Daan na tinuro ng ating pamantasang hirang
Inilaan para sa'ting mga anak ng bayan

Magbago man ang panahon
Pamantasan nati'y di patatalo
Iskolar ng bayan noon at ngayon
Laging angat sa iba
Isang Daan tungo sa karunungan
Isang Daan tungo sa kagalingan
Daan na tinuro ng ating pamantasang hirang
Inilaan para sa'ting mga anak ng bayan

Did you know?

- UPLB has the largest land area among all the campuses in the UP system, including a 4,000 hectare forest reserve.
- Mt. Makiling has more species of trees than the whole of United States.
- Baker Hall once served as a concentration camp during the Japanese occupation. A monument stands at the back of the building which serves as a memorial for the soldiers who were imprisoned.
- The oblation in UPLB is made of cast concrete, while in UP Diliman it is made of bronze.
- UPLB is the center of international research centers - the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the APEC Center for Technology Exchange and Training for Small and Medium Enterprises (ACTETSME), the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEAMEO-SEARCA), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Center for Biodiversity.



Filipinos are familiar about former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada being the first president who underwent a formal impeachment trial. After a long wait for justice, finally, a verdict for Estrada arrived. However, one cannot say that people are contented with the given verdict. Read on and take a closer look at what lies behind Sandiganbayan's decision.

The Fall Of ERAP

by Faith Allyson Buenacosa and Eileen Kae Relao

Blast from the past

On October 2000, Government Chavit Singson accused Estrada of being the "lord of all jueteng lords" saying he received five-million-peso protection money from jueteng operations every month during his term. This, and the worsening political and economic condition, started people calling for Estrada's resignation. And on November 13, 2000, the House of Representatives filed an impeachment case against Estrada for several counts of bribery, graft and corruption, and betrayal of public trust.

The impeachment trial started December 7, 2000. Supreme court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. stood as the presiding officer and the 24 Senators as judges. Meanwhile, Clarisse Ocampo, an executive from Equitable-PCI bank testified that Estrada owned a P500 million bank account under the pseudonym "Jose Velarde."

The controversial "brown envelope" was presented to the court on January 16, 2001. The envelope contains a bank document showing that the P500 million was indeed an ill-gotten wealth and that Estrada had more bank accounts under different names.

Unfortunately, majority of the Senators (11 out of 21) opposed the opening of the envelope. The prosecution saw this as suppression of truth and an early sign of an acquittal. They then walked out of the courtroom along with anti-Estrada spectators. At 11:00 p.m. of the same day, militant groups and civil society led in gathering of a huge anti-Estrada crowd in EDSA Shrine to protest the suppression of the evidence.

After massive protests during EDSA 2, the Filipino's craving for justice and overhaul of the Philippine political system catapulted Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to presidency on January 20, 2001. as she took her oath in front of the EDSA 2 crowd and became the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines, another part of history unfolded.

Estrada, meanwhile, was arrested

and subjected to house arrest in his vacation house in Tanay, Rizal.

The present tread

Six years after being ousted, Estrada was sentenced with 20-40 years in prison following Sandiganbayan's guilty verdict.

The Ombudsman charged Estrada with a P4.097-billion plunder case on April 4, 2001. Moreover, minor charges of perjury were also filed against him for illegally using an alias and underreporting his assets in 1999.

Estrada's plunder case contained four charges. The charges were the acceptance of P545 million in protection money from illegal gambling, misappropriation of P130 million in tobacco excise taxes, collection of a P187.7-million commission from the sales of shares of Belle Corporation, and amassing and depositing P3.2 billion in the Jose Velarde bank account.

Will the Filipinos make a way to retrieve the presidency? Are we willing and ready to stage a people power all over again?

Another of Arroyo's predicament is her contradicting perception of people power, when in the first place it was people power that made her president. She tries to eradicate the notion of people power from the Filipinos. Clearly speaking, people power is the collective thought of the mass with a strong determination about a certain matter which is even higher than that of the president's power to rule over a country.

Retrieved wealth

According to the law, all of Estrada's ill-gotten wealth, including incurred interest, other incomes and assets including the properties and shares of stock will be handed over to the government. The question here is where all these money and properties will go and who will benefit from these.

Probably, the politicians, who have slier ways of benefiting from the money that

should be used for the people, will be enjoying the money. There could be no doubt this wealth will be kept in "good hands" for the second time around.

Estrada's verdict of 20-40 years of imprisonment serves him right. The only thing Filipinos should ponder about is the so-called "special treatment" accorded to him. Estrada said so himself: he is ready to be imprisoned in Muntinlupa.

Unveiled truth

On the other point of view, the prosecutor may reiterate the filing of perjury against Estrada since the said case is similar to plunder, in conformity with the given definitions of the cases and for the fact that there is a form of lying in stealing. Moreover, taking for granted that Estrada would be proven guilty with perjury, confusions with the verdict would somehow vanish, or if not, lessen eventually.

Plunder penalizes public officials who amass immense wealth through a series of criminal acts described in the statute in violation of public trust. On the other hand, perjury is the act of taking advantage of an official position and committing the offense in relation to his office.

Moreover, if one is accused of plunder, then most likely, one could also be accused of perjury, and vice versa. Hence, in the case of Estrada, people may say that the verdict, guilty of plunder, ordered upon him last September 13 was not unlike an oxymoron, a conjunction of two words which could really turn out to be very contradicting.

Therefore, why did the verdict turn out that way? Was it a sigh that the government, once again, was just playing a folly with the Filipinos?

The greater evil

For all we know, Estrada was the first president of the country formally convicted with plunder. It should never be taken for granted that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo are currently

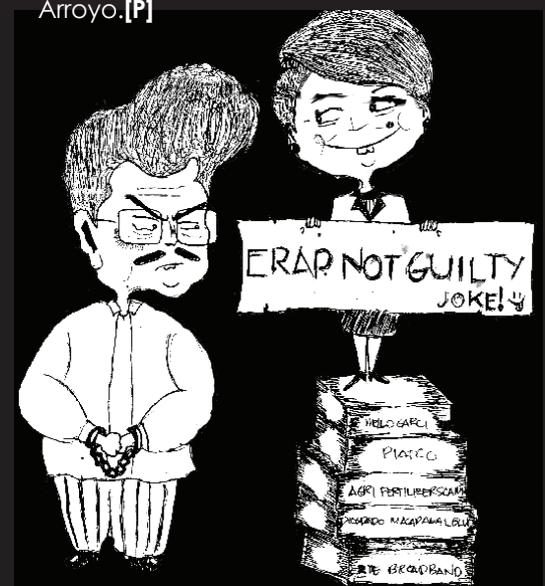
facing issues concerning various anomalies.

For instance, Arroyo is said to be involved with the construction of the overpriced Diosdado Macapagal Airport and Diosdado Macapagal Avenue. She is also involved in ZTE Broadband deal with China. And who would forget the Gloriagate Scandal ("Hello, Garci" issue)? There are also the unresolved political killings that already claimed the lives of 800 activists and journalist. In fact, this has caught the attention of the international community. On the other hand, the First Gentleman is also associated with different scandals, starting the Jueteng Payola Scandal. People keep on wondering why it seems that justice is not given whenever the Arroyos are the ones involved.

Perhaps, after all the visible and evil transgressions Arroyo inflicts the country with, most of us are already questioning her presidency. In fact, Crispin Beltran of Anakpawis recently filed a three-page impeachment complaint to the Ombudsman against Arroyo. However, Arroyo is yet to undergo formal trial. On the other hand, the impeachment complaint against Arroyo that has been filed to the Ombudsman should turn out to be adequate for it to be pushed through the impeachment process. And as the trial being conducted, Filipinos are the ones to decide again what would be Arroyo's fate. The truth should be unveiled. Thus, Arroyo must be judged rightfully and truthfully not only by the Supreme Court if the country, but also by the Filipinos.

The Philippines needs a thorough renewal of its whole political system. Arroyo should face all the consequences of her flaws. This requires the Supreme Court to be just in all its decision-making.

Filipinos cannot refrain from reacting on Arroyo's mishaps. Thus, it is probable that people will wrestle to oust Arroyo. [P]



LOYALTY DAY: BEHIND THE SCENES

(festive)



Arti[P]acts

by Rogene Gonzales

As banners and balloons gleefully showcase in bold letters the words “LOYALTY DAY” like in a local fiesta where people with color coded shirts and marching bands flock, a free day is given for you to patch things up. Either you continue burning the midnight oil or recover lost snoozing hours during your hell week.

But before you do any, the question slaps on your pimpled face and academically-draped mind - “What is it all about?”

Script: ‘Patriotic’ Volunteerism

On October 10, 1918, faculty and students of the UP College of Agriculture (UPCA) mass enlisted to the Philippine National Guard to fulfill Senator Manuel Quezon’s promise of providing 30,000 volunteers to the United States Army for World War I.

After undergoing a week long military training in Santa Lucia Barracks of Intramuros, Manila, the volunteers were transferred to Camp Claudio, Parañaque. They, however, were not sent to war because of the peace agreement between Europe and other nations signed a month after. They were eventually discharged from the camp on January 1919.

On October 10, 1919, the National Guard Day was recognized as tribute to the said volunteers.

Two years later, the UP Board of Regents approved the student body’s resolution of transforming the event into “Loyalty Day”, making it an official UPCA holiday. In 1933 it was formally established as the UP alumni homecoming.

Since then, Loyalty Day was celebrated with a showcase of parades and exhibits. Alumni guests of honor exchanged inspirational messages reminiscing the virtues of ‘loyalty and patriotism’ through affirmed oaths to the university.

Plot: American Loyalty?

With the emergence of nationalist and progressive thought that swept UP in the late 1960’s, the true essence of celebrating Loyalty Day has been subjected to skepticism.

An article titled *Loyalty Day: Resolved?* by Edgar Ticzon in the October 10, 1967 issue of *Aggie Green and Gold*, the official publication of UPCA, questioned the event’s relevance to UPCA students. The article cited that a generation gap between



Unveiling of the UP Centennial seal at DL Umali - one of the highlights of the 89th Loyalty Day.

advocates of 1918 was evident and no compromise can be achieved as long as it was celebrated based on its original historical context.

On the same year, student councils of UPCA attempted to abolish the holiday because it was said to be established with vestiges of imperialistic ‘puppetry’ or subservience to colonial powers.

According to militant students, the Philippines in 1918 was still under American regime and commemorating the mass enlistment contradicts ‘loyalty and patriotism’ concepts.

As resolution, the event was even renamed “Araw ng Diwa ng Los Baños” which brought about more controversy since objection was not only name-based but was deeply rooted in the event’s historical significance.

The 1918 volunteers supposedly rallied to the wrong country. And since the year count started on the National Guard Day, the question of “Loyalty to UP or Loyalty to the US?” surfaced.

Cast of Characters: Uncertain

Loyalty Day eventually retained its name. Decades past, tradition buried

the disagreements and the ‘secondary’ reason for celebrating the event – the alumni homecoming – stood as the primary motive.

However, UPLB students today are confused with its true essence.

“Parang pagbabalik tanaw yata ‘yun ng mga alumni para sa UP,” Joey* Chemical Engineering student ‘05 said.

Spinster* Biology student ‘04 was aware of the UPCA mass enlistment because it was discussed in her P.I. 100 class though she could not give more details.

Moreover, Klei* Economics student ‘05 said, “Hindi ko alam kung loyalty saan basta ang alam ko walang pasok.”

Meanwhile, Rogelio Vega, class ‘57 alumnus said that growing up in the campus has been part of his life and the day was a recollection of his roots.

“In the coming years, I expect a lot of changes, physically, for the betterment [of UPLB],” he said.

Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs Elpidio Agbisit, who was also the committee head of the Loyalty Day parade, said that the

89th Loyalty Day’s highlight was the UP Centennial launching in UPLB.

He honored the presence of the alumni especially the class of ‘57 who are celebrating their golden anniversary.

Agbisit also pointed out other activities such as community picnics, sports activities and the fireworks display at night.

Epilogue: 89 Years Later

With the theme “Celebrating a Heritage of Distinctive Excellence in Science and Technology” this year, does Loyalty Day indeed epitomize our ‘love for our country and Alma Mater’?

With the drastic fall of enrolment rate because of Tuition and Other Fee Increases, policy shifts such as jeepney rerouting and the proposed start of classes in September, one ought to wonder to whom ‘loyalty’ is really for. Does this day simply mask the westernization and commercialization of UP education?

UP being the premier state university should offer the Filipino youth democratic access to quality education.

The alumni have experienced that service. One of the compelling reasons for looking back without regret to their Alma Mater is that they have been given that right without immense compromise.

Why then, after 89 years of ‘Loyalty Day’ and a century after UP’s birth must we feel that UP no longer serves its purpose?

At the end of the day, do we not yearn our generation and for the next ones to have equal opportunity for a firm existence –far greater than a Christmas lit-Carillon and an awe-struck night sky moment?

We honor the past not to ignore the present and never to wound the future.[P]

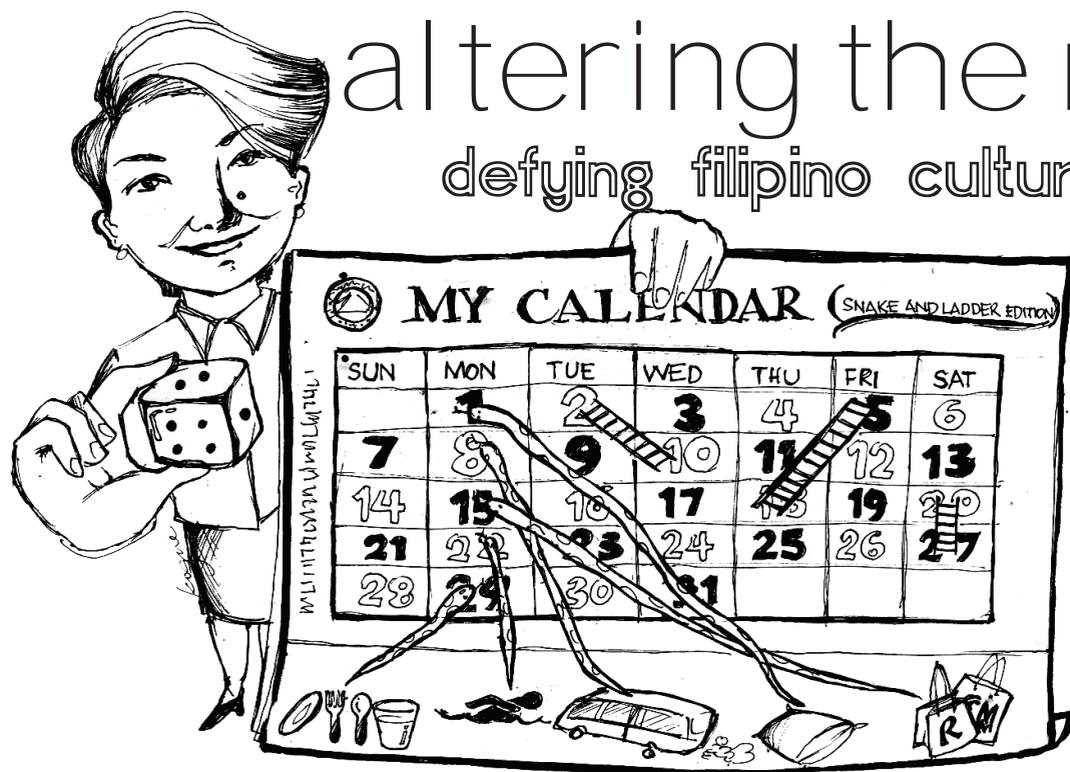
*Not their real names

References: *Horizon* Vol.30 Issue 3, September 1-15, 2001 | *Aggie Green and Gold* Vol. 45 Issue 1, October 1969 | *Aggie Green and Gold* Vol. 43 Issue 1, October 10, 1967

altering the rules of the game

defying filipino culture through holiday economics

by Sugar Marie Baula



“May pasok ba sa Monday?”

For the past months, one would always hear people, especially students asking the same question, whenever a usual holiday is coming up.

“Wala na naman.”

And for the past months as well, one would always hear people answer the question in this way.

It seems that having no classes on Mondays became a trend that people tend to anticipate; People perceive it as odd because they do not really see the point of scheduling Mondays as Holidays through the so-called Holiday Economics.

Starting point

The Holiday Economics trend started six years ago when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo introduced in her State of the Nation Address a policy that will attend to the country's fading travel and tourism industry.

The practice was soon enacted into law through Republic Act 9492 of 2007, an “act of rationalizing the celebration of national holidays” through Holiday Economics. With this, holidays whose dates do not fall on Monday or Friday, except those of religious importance, will be celebrated on the Monday nearest the original commemoration date. Only a few “unmovable” dates remained: Christmas Day (December 25); New Year's Eve (December 31); New Year's Day (January 1); Holy Thursday; Good Friday; Easter Sunday; Eid'l Fitr (October 13) and All Saints Day (November 1).

Call for modernity

Developing countries like the Philippines are heading the path of modernity with an established and stable economy, prioritizing infrastructures, roads and urban development among others. The government sees that Holiday Economics is the country's key to reach modernity through tourism. This, Ms. Arroyo said, is to achieve economic boost the country badly needs.

Tourism became a potential tool for the country to achieve this goal with the countless developed tourist spots consequently being backed up by Filipinos' hospitality and English proficiency that are plus points for most tourists. Recognizing this, Holiday Economics was then passed together with other laws to support and revitalize the local travel and tourism industry.

Tourism upshot = Economic growth

Since 2001 and before Holiday Economics became a law, the Philippine government has been adjusting several holidays to extend the weekend. In the same year, October 31 was declared a holiday, extending the weekend to a five-day All Saints' Day celebration. And come Christmas time, the government announced an 11-day holiday from December 22 to January 1, 2002. Gains on tourism-related industries are being attributed to these long holidays.

Jaser A. Marasigan, a Manila Bulletin columnist, cited examples of the effects of these long weekends to hotel, resorts and transportation. Resorts in Boracay experienced an occupancy rate of 100 percent, while in 2005, tourists flooded to Baguio City despite the Meningococemia scare. Land, sea and air transportation were fully booked. Doors were also opened for job opportunities and local industries had a chance to prosper. If these will continue, the country could experience a 3.5 percent growth in Gross Domestic Product, as computed by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

Now tourism is “geared towards attracting more visitors, extending their length of stay, and increasing the attractiveness of tourist products to encourage travelers to spend more.” Said Ms. Ma. Cherry Lyn S. Rodolfo, an economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific. What the country needs now are comprehensive and well-implemented government programs, to make tourism usher in economic growth.

Reality Check

If Holiday Economics was implemented to “encourage travelers

to spend more,” the government might have overlooked the fact that the people of this country cannot afford to “spend more” given the impoverished economic situation of the country.

Granting that the government has been successful in its aim to increase consumer spending, will the majority of the locals or just the businessmen who own the hotels, resorts, travel agencies, and malls, really benefit from this?

According to Raul Pangalangan, columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, “Holiday Economics, for sure, caters to the upper middle classes that have disposable money available for these jaunts. For the rest of the nation, whether to go to the beach or stay at home depends not on whether there is enough time, but on whether there is enough money.” This is especially true in a country like the Philippines where every centavo earned by the masses is very important.

Thus, it can be concluded that at the beginning, whether it is boost in local tourism and/or increased consumer spending that the government is aiming at, one would see that it does not really fit in the country's context.

Holiday What?

According to Holiday Economics, there are two types of holidays, one with “movable” dates and the other with “unmovable” ones. With this, one may see that through this law the very essence of these holidays, especially those that are movable are being diminished. This is because of the idea that the holidays with “unmovable” dates has a precedence over those with “movable” ones.

For example, Independence Day and Christmas Day are both declared

as holidays on their original dates and it is agreeable to say that both are just of equal footing in terms of importance. But then Holiday Economics says that if Independence Day were to land on a Tuesday it has to be commemorated on a Monday nearest to June 12. Christmas Day, which is “unmovable”, shall be commemorated only on December 25.

Filipinos are known as people deeply-rooted in their culture. Giving importance to events that molded the nation is a manifestation of it. But now, these events are just being rescheduled for one single reason—economic growth.

HOLIDAYS: New or New and Improved (?)

The perception that holidays are milestones in the country's history is now a thing of the past.

Holidays are now perceived as days to be observed for convenience—mere avenues for greater consumer spending to increase the country's income. The values of these holidays are degraded to just days without classes for the students and non-working ones for the employed. So, if these days happen to land on a day that is “inconvenient,” meaning on a day not conducive to spending, it is subject to change.

With Holiday Economics, the essence of commemoration, which should be promoted by the government by launching activities and programs that will indeed commemorate the person or the event a particular holiday is dedicated to, is neglected; but the “economic” aspect apparently is prioritized. It is quite obvious that the goal of extending these holidays is not for extended commemoration but rather

Holiday/p15

Such Sweet Academic Torture

by Lyka Manglal-lan

UP students define the last days of the semester up to the final stretch of classes as the dreaded "hell week" — full of exams, activities, group projects, and piles of paper works. What makes this difficult is that these things happen simultaneously. Imagine having five classes in one day starting from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. with no breaks, with each class having a long exam, plus papers to submit, and group projects to work on. You would definitely feel you are in hell. Students have even used the terms "nosebleed" and "bloodshed" to describe a difficult test or a hard falutin word.

"Ilang gabi nakong walang tulog! Ang dami ko kasing exams! May mga paper works pa kong isubmit! Hindi ko na alam ang uunahin ko. Last night, nagreview ako para sa apat na exams. Hindi ko napansin ang oras, pasado alas dose na pala ng hatinggabi. Tatlong tasa na ng kape ang naiinom ko. Nagtoothbrush ako sandali...At nagulat ako sa nasaksihan ko! Pagtingin ko sa salamin, nakita ko ang sarili ko! Wah! Nakakatakot! My hollowed cheeks and the dark rings around my eyes — lahat yon dahil sa pahirap na hell week! Ampf! Ang panget ko na pala! Mukha nakong bangkay! Palagi nalang pagod at walang tulog!

Sana matapos na tong kalbaryo ko. Hirap na hirap nako. I need to relax. Kailangang makabawi ako sa tulog! Kailangan maibalik ko ang dati kong "normal" na itsura. I need to rejuvenate.

—*Justine, BS Applied Mathematics, '05

UGLY . ME

Eyebags are common among UP students. Don't worry because after that horrendous hell week, you'll experience the much-awaited semestral break. Then, you can relax, take your beauty rest, sleep for as many hours as you want, feel the sweet life, play dota, gimmick till you drop, forget your failed exams and rejuvenate yourself.

Nitong last two weeks, hindi nako nakakakain ng maayos. Sa dami ng gawain, pati 'yun wala ng oras. Minsan, naglalakad ako sa may Cpark, katatapos lang ng exam ko sa Chemistry. Gutom na gutom na 'ko kasi hindi pa 'ko nakakapag-lunch. Nahihilo nako. Nanlalabo na paningin ko. Parang naghahalucinate na 'ko kasi lahat ng makasalubong kong tao nagmumukang pagkain sa mata ko! Lalo tuloy kumakalam ang sikmura ko. May exam pa ko sa Eng 2 mamaya, kailangan makakain na ako. Nakakatakot, baka lalong magulumihanang isip ko, kung anu-ano pang aparisyon ang makita ko, baka maging cannibal pa ko sa sobrang gutom. Mahirap na. Mag ingat ka. (hehe...)

—*Paula, BS Chemistry, '06

HUNGER . STRIKE

If you are grade conscious, then you must likewise be health conscious, it is true that during hell week, there are so many things to do with so little time available, but see to it that you have eaten enough to be able to acquire energy needed for your long day exams. You can also take vitamins. Do not overburden yourself. In between study periods, you can take a nap for a short while allowing your brain and body to lighten up and relax. Meditate. Take a short walk to clear your mind.

HELL WEEK HORROR STORIES



TERROR > PROF

Being tormented by terrifying professors of the university has two effects, either you'll be extremely afraid of him/her that you would not want to attend in his/her class and you do not want to see his/her face anymore or you'll be extremely afraid that you would not want to miss his/her class and you would comply with the requirements and participate well in class discussions. It somehow gives you a sense of responsibility because you do not want to fail or get embarrassed in case you are called to answer his/her questions.

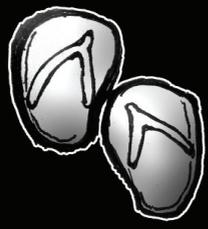
Friday na. May exam pa naman ako sa Sosc. Alas siete ang klase ko. Nagbreakfast muna ko. Naku late na pala ko! Pero parang may nakalimutan pa ko...hmm...anu kaya?...Ah, basta wala ng time para isipin ko pa yun... Pagadating ko sa classroom, tsik! Ayun naalala ko na! Kelangan ko ng bluebook! S***! Wala na 'kong pera! Nawala ang wallet ko kahapon sa may freedom park. Hindi ko napansin kung nawala ba dahil sa kapabayahan ko or may mabilis ang kamay na magnanakaw lang sa tabi-tabi. Singkwenta na lang natira sa balsa ko. Naubos ko pa pambili ng pagkain! Nakakainis! Panu na?! Bagsak pa naman yung first exam ko. 25% yun! F***! Kelangan maipasa ko tong pangalawa! Ang hirap mag finals! Nakakatakot! From cover to cover! Wah! Maya-maya, nakasalubong ko si blocmate...ayan may mauutangan ako...Naku, wala daw siyang pera, malapit lang kasi dorm niya kaya hindi na daw siya nagdala ng wallet... Wah! Panu yan? Kelangan ko lang ng isang bluebook! "Ah, bluebook lang ba kelangan mo? May extra ko dito." Sabi niya. Yes! Solve na! Salamat ng marami sa kanya! Makakapag-exam nako. Haay...Sana makaraos na din ako sa buhay estudyante...Academically and financially! —*MJ, BS Statistics, '07

UNEXPECTED DILEMMA

Some things really does not work out the way we planned it. Take extra care of your belongings especially during hell week. There are certain things we do not expect to happen. However, despite the bad luck and problems we are facing, there are also surprising circumstances that could somehow help us get through our problems. There are people to whom we can rely on in our unexpected times of need and assistance.

It is easy to be overwhelmed by students' stories and experiences during the very crucial times of the semester. For some, this could be their make-or-break moment, pass or fail. The success of a student in his/her struggle to maintain good grades and pass his/her subjects lies on practice and good study habits. Whether it's hell week or not, it is the students' responsibility and choice to give up or try harder. Our activities greatly affect our class standings whether we like it or not and whether we want to or not. If we do not want to be baffled and regretful in the end, we must do our best to succeed and think of ways in facing the so-called hell week.

Hell week is inevitable and we, the Iskolars ng Bayan, should be aware and open minded about it.[P]



Hodge Podge

Lyka Manglal-lan

Speech diversity

As I was looking through the transparent glass window of a car, seeing people pass by, I was reminded of simple memories of past experiences that made me smile out of the tranquility and boredom of the scene.

Ain't just a maid

If you own a cellular phone you have probably met "Inday" — the chambermaid with an extraordinary mastery in speaking various languages. She speaks English and Spanish, and if you think she has already forgotten her own language, you have to think again. Aside from her consistent fluency in Spanish and English, she has also dug deeper into the Filipino language. Perhaps, she might become a poet.

The Indays we used to know in reality are the probinsiyanas with district accents (Bisaya, Cebuano, etc.). But this interactive Inday of the modern century possesses intelligence and potentials in verbal communication. When asked by her master (who studied the dictionary overnight) with "How would you accept the fact that you are only a mere chambermaid in this extravagant mansion?" Inday responded, "Una camarera? Eres tan pathetic. La unica razon que inscribi tu casa es porque nada esta sucediendo dentro de tu casa cuasi-agradable. Quisera traer una poca clase en este hogar pero conjeturo que no puedo porque esta casa es fea".

To this, her master replied with an expletive. One time, when her master refused to include her in their walk to Enchanted Kingdom, she mused: "Don't limit my capacity in the four corners of this luxurious abode. Expose me to the real challenges of the outside world. I want to grow as an individual with dynamic experience."

It is funny and quite entertaining, but I don't see anything wrong. Though Inday's intelligence was quite exaggerated, it is not surprising that

"Those simple statements uttered unconsciously by ordinary people, made me realize and understand further the diversity of the people hanging around UPLB."

modern maids speak foreign languages for the reason that many Filipinos work abroad as domestic helpers. Sometimes those skills eventually boost them up to be highly respected so that one cannot presume that maids are just mere helpers, ignorant and incapable.

It was at the dreadful day of October 2, 2007 when the Philippines' attempt at development was prevented by none other than the President herself just for the pathetic effect of "political noise" shutting the hell up.

The National Broadband Network (NBN) project immediately attracted attention because of its \$329-million cost. However, this expensive project was supposed to be funded by our generous neighbor, China. Nevertheless, some saw it as overpriced, raising eyebrows of doubt and skepticism of several.

But, not long ago, Romulo Neri, then chairperson of National Economic and Development Authority, and Jose De Venecia III, surfaced and pointed fingers at former Commission on Elections chairman Benjamin Abalos Sr. They accused him of bribing

them so as to ensure that the Zhong Xing Telecommunication Equipment Company Limited (ZTE) will get the NBN project. Neri was priced P200 million for his endorsement and De Venecia US \$10 million, as he was a stockholder of ZTE's rival company on the NBN deal.

Because of the humongous budget allotted for the project, news on the accusations echoed on headlines all throughout the country. Public interest on the deal has doubled, if not more, and growing number of constituents are finding themselves little by little becoming concerned about the issue. And it seemed like PGMA was threatened by this.

As a result, our dear President cancelled the deal entirely, putting to waste efforts and attention the people concerned (Abalos, most especially) has put into it. And there's only one explanation for such action—she is guilty.

Come to think of it, all eyes were set on Abalos. All questions were addressed to and are all about Abalos. But why did PGMA act (extremely, at that) out of the blue? Concerned about Abalos' butt?

Truth is, she is afraid of her own wrinkled and dirty butt exposed. She is scared that the noise people are hearing would awaken their hearts and minds, resulting into a further

Ambut sa imo!

When I entered UPLB, I met different kinds of people who added color to my life. There are kikay and fashionista girls, cool emo rockers, highly intelligent humans, super outspoken beings, and of course the region-oriented probinsyanos and probinsyanas. I enjoyed talking to students with district accents or "puntos". I have a classmate in Biology 1 who is a native of Batangas. He always says, "Anu ga are?" and "Anu baga iyan?" I also have a classmate in PE 1 who came from Agusan del Sur, and most probably you know he's a "bisaya". The "bisayas" are commonly known for interchanging the pronunciation of the letters "i" and "e". Whenever he talks, his district accent becomes very obvious.

Anyeong Ha Seo!

Korea is invading our campus! It is apparent that the number of Korean students studying in UPLB is gradually increasing. Basically, they came here to study English. Out of the ordinary crowd of UP students, their physical appearances, language, and even their fashion statements can definitely make an eye-catching and head-turning sight. I remember a time when my friend and I were about to buy sundaes at Ministop, and to our surprise some Korean women are also nearby. "Sundae, fufufu!" said one of them. We, as well as the sellers, were awestruck. We could hardly understand what they were saying. After a short while, our minds began to get the idea - they wanted to buy four sundaes. "fufufu" meaning four, four, four.

Language is a structure of words and symbols that allows us to communicate with one another. It makes us recognize our differences and similarities. Those simple statements uttered unconsciously by ordinary people, made me realize and understand further the diversity of the people hanging around UPLB.[P]

[P] : Kamusta ang iyong first sem dito sa UPLB?

Ok lang naman. Masaya at exciting kasi marami akong bagong naranasan tulad ng late night na pag-uwi sa dorm.. hehehe...

-Andy Sam Aggulin BSEE '07

Masaya naman nakakamiss lang yung lutong bahay!

-Redj Umali BSAMat '07

Maraming adjustments ang kailangan kong gawin kasi ibang paaralan na ito, ibang tao na ang nakakasalama ko at isa pa ibang kapaligiran na ang titirhan ko. Masasabi ko rin na masaya ang first sem ko dito sa LB dahil marami akong nakakasalama at nagiging kaibigan at higit sa lahat masaya ako dahil kaya ko pala.

-Maurice Borromeo BSStat '07

Mahirap talaga ang buhay sa LB. Bukod sa hectic ang sked, nakakahomesick talaga. Kahit paano, masaya rin dito. Marami akong nakilalang mga kaibigan. Masaya rin ako sa mga subjects na tinuturo dito. Kahit ganito, I will keep my feet on the ground.

-Alvin Catipan BSChE '07

Mahirap pero masaya ganito lang talaga siguro maging isang oblation para sa bansang Pilipinas. Kailangan ang pikit mata nating sipag at tiyaga dahil tayo ang pag asa ng bayan. Mabuhay ang mga iskolar ng bayan!

-Aeron Ruazol BSCS '07



Campus Forum

No Fury So Loud

Kim Arvin Faner



Guilty Butt

investigation on the issue. She was frightened that people would find out that she was the mother bee of busy bees getting dirty. People talk—be it loyal allies or close friends—when the whole country is the one doing the questioning.

And Abalos is not an exception. He would definitely talk one way or another. And she is aware of that. So she cancelled the deal to avoid more unearthing of filth with more loyal allies turning their back on her. She deliberately killed the issue to avoid the constituents' making a bug deal out of the NBN project. She wants to avoid any investigation.

But then again, no investigations will be needed anymore. The guilty has just surfaced. Defying the impossible, the guilty screamed "I

am guilty!" while putting a stop to the issue at the same time. And she said, it was all because of "political noise." Believe us, dear President, we know that.

And now, the deal was cancelled. Nothing next should be expected to happen. Remote barrios will remain remote and poor because the NBN project, which was supposed to connect them with all of the other government offices through state-of-the-art technology, was cancelled. It would, as usual, be very hard for them to voice out their long-ignored-and-forgotten needs and stands on issues. And that's all because of political noise.

Last October 2, two were murdered—the NBN project and the political noise—by one killer (you know who)—leaving our country dying.[P]

Campus Forum



Eh di okay. Para maiba naman... Saka para iwas sa Holiday Economics ni Gloria... Saka para iwas na din sa mga make up classes...

-Dave Michael Odsique BSCS '07

Well, okay lang kasi una, hahaha ang bakasyon. Pangalawa, hindi na mamomove ang mga klase dahil sa maraming activities during the months of July to August.

-Debbie Paena BSChem '07

Pa-aircon muna mga room at pag nangyari yun tataas naman ang pagkunsumo natin ng kuryente. Ayoko dun. Hindi komportable mag aral pag mainit.

-Sam Navalez BSDevCom '05

I think dapat tingnan din nila yung ibang aspects nung pag move ng pasukan. In the first place, bakit ba talaga nila imo-move? Kung mas malaki yung benefits than the cost of moving the class on September di ituloy nila.

-Maureen Mestica BSABM '04

Kung ang rison nila ay tag ulan, eh matagal na naming tag ulan ang pasukan nasanay na ang mga studyante ang magandang gawin nila ibalik nila yung dating ruta ng jeep para hindi kami masyadong maulan.

-Kat Soriano BSDevCom '04

[P] :Ano'ng masasabi mo sa pag-lipat ng simula ng klase sa September?

[E]h... from p7

Math, Biology at English.

Ang nararanasan nila Sabrina at Cristian bilang isang freshman ay kasalukuyan ding dinaranas ng iba pang freshman sa unibersidad. Si Sabrina, sa kabila ng mga paghihirap na kanyang dinaranas, ay nagtititis at kakikitaan ng malaking pag-asa na magtagumpay sa hinaharap, mula sa kanyang mga positibong pananaw hanggang sa mga ngiti na sumisilay sa kanyang mga labi. Sa katunayan, pangarap ni Sabrina na mapabilang sa cast ng Ms.Saigon. Habang si Cristian ay kakikitaan ng labis na pangungulila sa kanyang mga mata, maaaninag din ang matinding determinasyon na makapagtapos ng kolehiyo at magtagumpay sa kanyang buhay. At tulad din ng ibang Iskolar ng Bayan, na sa kabila ng mga problema at pagsubok na humaharap sa finatahak nilang daan, kapwa kakikitaan ang dalawa ng paglaban. 'Yan ang Tunay na Iskolar ng Bayan, palaban, makabayan![P]

As the semester dumps its last but heavy pounds of shit it can bombard on my haggard but sensual body, I sit in the corner of my room, staring at my reflection on the spoon I hold.

The sepia feel of dawn, shadows emerging from the backs of the furniture that accent the room, and handouts resting peacefully on the floor. They all intertwine, creating the perfect ambience to reminisce. I play with the spoon, watching my reflection change every time the spoon is tilted. I think of how much I have changed, how a semester could transform an innocent island boy into a man with stupidity and wisdom homogeneously mixed in his bloodstream.

I recall the day I had to give my plane ticket to the clerk. My little brother screams my name. Tears roll down his cheeks, begging me not to leave him. My mother, left with only one breast from the operation she had to undergo last month, having a difficult time handling him. My father stands from a distance, yet I can still see his eyebags- roaring at him to sleep and take a break. My parents stare at me from the glass window, as if I was the trophy of their success. I laugh inside, still cannot believe they used to be servants of the church. Now here they are, watching the fruit of their "sin" leave to study in the best University in the Philippines, holding the child that fell from the stars for us to cherish and adore.

I wave them goodbye bearing the smile that makes girls melt. The sexy flight attendant welcomes me aboard the plane. I let her usher me to my seat even though I could find it myself for it is not my first time on a plane. I had to. I'm honing my flirting skills to snare the one I covet for so long. Damn, I am turning into a man.

My reminiscing was cut short by the shrieking creek of the door. Somebody comes to get the handouts.

The bundle of handouts wakes from its slumber, aroused by the feel of the hands that held them. I remember the days when I was the only one that benefited from its softness. I could remember erotica from which the hands

Holiday... from p12

the extended spending of people and the extended income the country will generate. Holidays have become less of a holiday and more of an economic strategy to serve the long-term goals of the country.

Holidays and Beyond

The implementation of Holiday Economics seems to be a frantic act solely for economic benefits. In this quest to attain the goals of the country, things long etched in the culture are now being sacrificed.

While it is important to attend to the economic problems of the country, it is equally important for Filipinos to stay rooted to their shared history and shared culture. These speak of how the Filipino society evolved to be a society so diverse. Looking back, everything

Mumblings



*Humdrum Days

One-way ticket to Nirvana

have given me. How skin contact could give me nirvana.

I induce myself to a wet dream, despite the presence of another person. I picture myself doing it again with the visitor for the first time. I know that it will never happen again, as I have started to stitch my own wounds. All that is left are memories that I too have loved, and how social norms prohibited me from loving continuously.

Did I just mention something about society? Wow, I'm really starting to sound like a sociology major. That's good, I have to practice for my interview. I bid farewell to programming and algorithms. I have finally realized what I want.

Hmm... it feels really weird arriving at this thought. Well, I guess that's just how you think after reaching orgasm.

The door closed. I look again at the spoon, watching my reflection change as I slightly tilt it to one side. I stopped tilting the spoon. Instead, I moved my head to change my reflection. I stood up, threw the spoon. Why use it see my reflection? I have a mirror, damn it! I head to the other room lit by a fluorescent lamp, leaving the sepia room.

I picked up the plane ticket on the sofa. Waved farewell to the semester; it waved back. I will go back to my island with memories that will serve as my instructor for this semestral break. I will be saying goodbye to the ones I have once loved.

To the degree program that I once prayed to meet the quota, may you continue to give rise to

technological advancement, and inspire others to shift out of it.

The one who licked off my virginity, saying goodbye to someone who will not be leaving at all is by far the weirdest thing I have done. Let us find what we seek for eons, and may we find happiness away from each other's arms. And for the record, I am so over you.

To my teachers this semester who made me masochistic because of their morbidly mind-grinding exercises, a new set of students (as well as my delinquent classmates) will learn from you next sem. Teach well, be objective, and alas, be evil.

To the humdrum existence, my life is no longer dull, for this semester gave me quite a lot of shit and piss.

I am free, off to the island where the land meets the sea. I will wait for the next events that will happen in my life. Foresight tells me that next semester is much quirkier, twisted, and suitable to cultivate my neurotic tendencies. I will go back to my island to lie on nature's bosom, to hug my brother, assist my mother, and talk to my father. I am free for now, and I will savor every millisecond of it. Goodbye. I am free. [P]

"I will go back to my island with memories that will serve as my instructor for this semestral break"

same people who were once so eager to know more about his roots, would start to forget when they had succeeded in obtaining independence for the foreign rule and start to refer to this day as a "Monday" without classes, extended rest from work and relief from stress caused by pressures of an ever-changing society.

The question to ask is to whom are these holidays offered to, not "May pasok ba sa Monday?"

The answer to this should not be "wala nanaman" in any tone, be it of confusion, anticipation or annoyance, rather, it should always be gratitude towards people and events that made us a nation, who were deprived of rights, who suffered, who sacrificed and who stood for the country to give us the history and culture that define our being a Filipino. [P]

No turning back

This semester, vigilance swept the walls of our beloved university. With armbands, placards, and henna tattoos of righteous dissent, the Iskolars ng Bayan, hand in hand with teachers, drivers, vendors, and workers, fought the pressing issues that consigned UP and the country in peril.

Policies are being implemented this semester aligning UPLB to whatever lofty beliefs of its administration. Student evaluations show the incapacity of the large lecture class (LLC) scheme to improve academic excellence of the students or fill in the insufficient number of competitive faculty. Such mechanism only divulges the degrading condition of UP education.

Editorial

As this semester starts, the UPLB ambulant vendors were also prohibited from selling within university premises as per Memo No. 90 issued by the administration. Considering them as “unregistered leasees,” and for purposes such as food and health safety and public security, the administration denied them the opportunity to work decently.

Jeepney rerouting in accordance to Memo No. 11 of the Office of Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs was also implemented. While the administration aims for a “smoke-free” and “noise-free” middle campus, the jeepney drivers’ income declined by at least P100 a day. The rerouting also inconvenienced many students and other passengers.

Most alarming is the 300 percent tuition increase that disenfranchised thousands of UPCAT passers the democratic access to UP education. Consequently, the tuition hike contradicted the very essence of UP as the university of the broader Filipino masses.

But we never kept silent or pretend to be blind. We seized resistance every time the situation demands us.

However, as we strive to claim our invaluable rights, a political ploy in the form of Human Security Act legitimized any impediment—harassment, torture, and death—to us tagged as “destabilizers.”

In times that our rights as citizens of a country supposedly bounded by sovereignty, we stand on the shoulders of democracy. Militancy has never allowed any UP president, Philippine president, or Human Security Act to silence the Iskolars ng Bayan. The culture of militancy is not only a norm that we must always adhere to. The reason that we never ceased to be militant is we never achieved freedom from this prevailing system dominated by vested interest of the powerful few.

Every end shall be a motivation for us to start anew.

As we enter the second semester of this academic year, the freshman populace had surpassed the hell of the finals week; yet as they leave the university, they are still haunted by the next semester’s P1000 per unit tuition rate as they try once more to enter the premier state university of the country.

The ambulant vendors still hope for the administration to reconsider their appeal. The jeepney drivers still solicit support from the local government for the repeal of the rerouting policy. The LLC will still be implemented next semester. The next Board of Regents meeting at UP Diliman this semestral break will tackle the proposal of the Office of the Student Regent to suspend the recent tuition increase. These are the things that call us to enshrine the thrusts of UP centennial celebration—“excellence, service, leadership”—by protecting UP from all forms of commercialization and privatization of education and by safeguarding the taxpayers, who pay for our education, from all forms of oppression.

To keep our track straight as we face the challenges of our time, there must be no turning back. [P]



Under Scrutiny

Chino Carlo Aricaya

Playing Deaf

September 28, 2007 leaves another mark on the century-old history of our university. In what could be the most participated mobilization this year, more than 500 UPLB students marched to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation building, most of them wearing red and black shirts, black armbands, and “junk TOFI” henna tattoos. This is to support the proposal of the Student Regent to suspend the implementation of Tuition and other Fee Increases (ToFI). To express solidarity with the students, jeepney drivers declared a transport holiday while vendors and faculty members also attended the event.

Once more, the studentry proved that they can consolidate to protest against the never-ending threat of ToFI approved by the Board of Regents (BOR) December 15 last year. The new freshmen composed the largest part of the protester’s population. It was commendable that many of them still possess the essence of being a Iskolar ng Bayan despite the burden of 300% tuition increase they carry. Evidently, the expression of a selfless UP student can never be enclosed in brackets.

Despite strong opposition of the studentry, the BOR, UP’s highest policy-making body, effortlessly passed ToFI. It appears that consultations and even the representation of the Student Regent are just for formality, a cover up for the disintegrating condition of democracy in the university—something that is very

hard to accept. Even with the presence of Student and Faculty Regents, it is as if the rest of the regents draw authority only from their private circle. These consultations and so-called concern for the students’ take on university policies are just fancy decorations to actually distract us from their usurpation of power and advancement of their personal gains.

Students took part in every TOFI consultation, and even sudden changes in venue of the BOR meetings were not able to stop Isko and Iska from exercising their right to be heard. The BOR tried holding their meetings in private subdivisions or

“Evidently, the expression of a selfless UP student can never be enclosed in brackets.”

remote places just to evade student protests, but so far they have failed. The students are more than willing to unite and act as one when it comes to fighting for the betterment of the university and the country. They never hesitated to resist oppression of their rights as students and as Filipinos.

Be it under the heat of the sun or the downpour of rain, the voices of UPLB students still reverberate for change whenever necessary. Though the BOR can pretend that no shout from the studentry can ever be audible enough, the Filipino people will not be fooled. They are still there to listen, and to attend to the cries of their children. Sooner or later the UP administration will hear more powerful voices, the very same voices that unified a nation and won back the cherished right to education and freedom of speech. But till then, playing deaf can be fatal. [P]

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