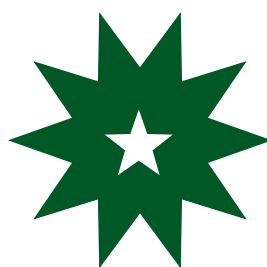


What would have been the fate of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada had he been a leader of another country?



Dig deeper into the rationale behind common student grievances against professors in the University.



PHOTO BY JENNERSON ONG

Empowered. Tao Po, a play presented during the GK One World celebration last Oct. 27, where DLSU was a part of. Shown above is a scene during the first of three acts, which depicts the Filipino youth.

Sinag ends dream run at World Solar Challenge

BY ALLIV LORELEI SAMSON

Covering a total distance score of 2,691 km., Sinag, the Philippines' first fully-functional solar car, was 11th to arrive at the finish line and was ranked 12th overall in the Challenge class of the 2007 Panasonic World Solar Challenge (WSC). The 3,000 km race started on Oct. 21 at Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex in Darwin, and ended last Oct. 28 at Adelaide, Southern Australia.

Despite being the heaviest and the tallest entry in the race, Sinag finished with a day to spare and reached the finish line at 4 pm, an hour before the cut-off time of the race that day.

The team achieved its first triumph when Sinag passed the scrutinizing test and the qualifying events to compete in the Challenge class of the race. A total of 41 entries took part in the World Solar Challenge: 23 for the Challenge class, and 18 for the Adventure class. (Challenge class cars were newly built for the event. Adventure class cars are those that have qualified for any previous event. There is also a Greenfleet technology class "for vehicles demonstrating new [environmentally-conscious] automotive technologies.")

Team Sinag was composed of 42 combined faculty and student members; 15 of those 42 went to Australia. The team had just seven months to complete the solar car,



PHOTO BY ALVIN LAU

while the rest of the competition had at least two years to prepare as regulars in the biennial event.

The story of the race

According to Kaiser Fernandez (IV ECE), Electrical Student Team Leader, Sinag ran between 50 to 60 km/hr during the race, while most of their competitors were on much faster speeds. Despite their safe velocity,

Sinag overtook a few cars that eventually did not make it to the finish line. The Philippine solar car only needed minor adjustments to its brake system on the third day, and maintained its position for most of the race.

Sinag was initially at 35th (inclusive of both car classes) to begin the WSC. Then, the team passed the first control stop at Katherine and climbed to the 21st spot. On the third day, despite problems with the brake system—which caused the car's tires to wear out faster than expected—Sinag reached the 11th position. "Every single day we encountered problems," recounted Overall Technical Team Leader Engr. Rene Fernandez. "Just one small mistake and you are out of the race," recalled Robert Obilles, the Overall Student Leader (IV ME).

On day four, Sinag reached Adelaide Springs and by that time has traveled 500 km. According to the World Solar Challenge's

SEE SINAG, PAGE 6

Tuition to increase by all-time low 3.61%

BY LORAIN SAGUINSIN AND CREZELLE FRANCISCO

THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S (SC) proposed 3.61 percent tuition fee increase (TFI)—the lowest in the University's history to date—for next school year was finally adopted by the Multi-Sectoral Committee on Budget (MSCB) during the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement last Oct. 31, 2007.

According to Yolanda Yao, chairperson of the MSCB and president of the DLSU-Parents of University Students Organization (DLSU-PUSO), this year's committee was prompt in approving the increase, approving the students' proposal after only two meetings. This year marked the first time that the student sector's exact proposal was adopted by the MSCB. Previously, the lowest TFI was at 3.828 percent, approved three years ago (SY 2004-2005).

The MSCB, which decides the University's annual tuition fee increase, is composed of the Student Council

(SC), the Faculty Association (FA), the DLSU Employees Association (DLSUEA) PUSO, and the University Administration. All the sectors in the committee have three representatives, with the exception of the SC which has four. Each sector is only allowed one vote.

Based on estimates shared by SC President Noey Arcinue, the Faculty Association (FA) proposed an increase that ranged from 10 to 12 percent using a purchasing power rationale; the DLSU-PUSO put forward a hike of between 2.5 to 2.7 percent, citing inflation figures; the Administration, meanwhile, set it at 0 to 1.7 percent.

Why 3.61 percent?

Deliberations on the TFI for next school year feature proposals from the previously enumerated sectors, which are largely based on next year's projected inflation rate.

A research group led by SC Treasurer Reagan Dykimching together with LA Representative Gregggy Chua and CSO Vice Chairperson Internals

SEE TUITION, PAGE 9

Lasallians recount Glorietta 2 blast

BY GALE MARAMBA

ON OCT. 19, 2007, THE WHOLE country was gripped with fear, as an explosion rocked the Glorietta 2 section of the Ayala Center in Makati at approximately 1:25 PM. With 11 people dead and more than a hundred people injured, the authorities are exploring a terrorist angle to the incident, though the true nature of the explosion is still unknown.

Despite initial police reports that speculated that the blast originated from the ignition of an LPG tank from Luk Yuen Noodle House, majority of the people who were present during the explosion believed that a bomb caused the explosion, due to the extensive damage and casualties.

The Glorietta shopping mall is frequented by thousands of shoppers daily, including Lasallians.



PHOTO BY KRIZIA PARAS

"It was a bomb"

One student even had minor wounds on her arm due to the falling debris caused by the blast. Anna Leah Pallon (I-POM) stated that she and her friend were dining at Tokyo Tokyo restaurant when the blast happened. "The floor just shook and it felt as if there was an earthquake," she described. "The whole place was

SEE LASALLIANS, PAGE 3

IN THE KNOW

THES-QS 2007 rankings released

Harvard University remained on top of the Times Higher Education-Quacquarelli Symonds (THES-QS) World University Rankings for the fourth straight year, with Cambridge, Oxford, and Yale rounding out the global top five. Tokyo University, at number 17, was the highest-rated Asian institution, followed by the University of Hong Kong (18th), Kyoto University (25th), National University of Singapore (33rd), and Peking University (36th).

For this year's rankings, THES-QS reported several changes in its survey methodology: reviewers' own universities were removed from distributed questionnaires; the applicable citation period was cut from within the last 10 years to the last 5 years, with data coming

from Scopus rather than Thomson ISI; full-time equivalent data for all personnel-related statistics were used; and scores for each indicator—peer review, recruiter review, international faculty ratio, international students ratio, student-faculty ratio, and citations per faculty—were aggregated to a z-score.

DLSU was ranked 392nd in last year's THES-QS survey. The University of the Philippines, according to an announcement in its website dated July 23, did not participate in the 2007 ranking, "due to time constraints." It was 299th in the 2006 survey. THES-QS has yet to release the list of universities ranked 201 to 400 as of press time.

Nobel Prize winners to visit De La Salle

Three Nobel Laureates and an ex-World Bank president will be visiting the University between this month to April 2008 as the Philippines co-hosts this year's Bridges-Dialogues Towards a Culture of Peace with Thailand, a program in the tradition of the 14-year old United Nations-sponsored European Peace Summits.

On Nov. 15, 1999 Economics Prize winner and Columbia University Professor Dr. Robert Mundell will deliver a lecture entitled "Economic Development by Fitting Globalization into the National Development Strategy." Dr. Mundell is known for his research on the effects of fiscal and monetary policies in open economies.

On Jan. 10, 2004 Laureate for Physics Dr. David Gross from the Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics will speak about "The Coming Revolutions in Fundamental Physics." March 6 will then see former World

Bank president James Wolfensohn discuss "Beyond East-West, North-South: Peace and Prosperity in a Four Speed World." Finally, on April 24, 1996 Peace Prize recipient and Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta will deliver a lecture on "Building a Culture of Peace and Development in a Globalized World."

Among the resource persons invited, those who will not speak in the University are 2004 Economics Laureate Dr. Finn Erling Kydland, 1975 Medicine Laureate David Baltimore, and 2004 Chemistry Laureate Aaron Ciechanover.

In 2003, Thailand became the first Asian country to host Bridges, which then featured 26 Nobel awardees and 76 partner institutions. Angeles University, the Asian Institute of Management, Ateneo de Davao, Ateneo de Manila, Mapua Institute of Technology, University of San Carlos, University of Sto.

Tomas, and the University of the Philippines will join DLSU in welcoming the Nobel winners.



CLOCKWISE: MUNDELL, GROSS, RAMOS-HORTA, WOLFENSOHN

'Use key locks,' SC tells locker users

BY CREIZELLE FRANCISCO AND JOSE TAMAYO

For the second term of the school year, the Student Council (SC) has obliged locker users to have key-operated instead of combination locks after several reports of theft-related cases were raised, said Student Council (SC) Vice President for Operations and Communications (VP-OPEC) Stacy Carbonel. "Safety is secured since key-operated padlocks are used," she reiterated.

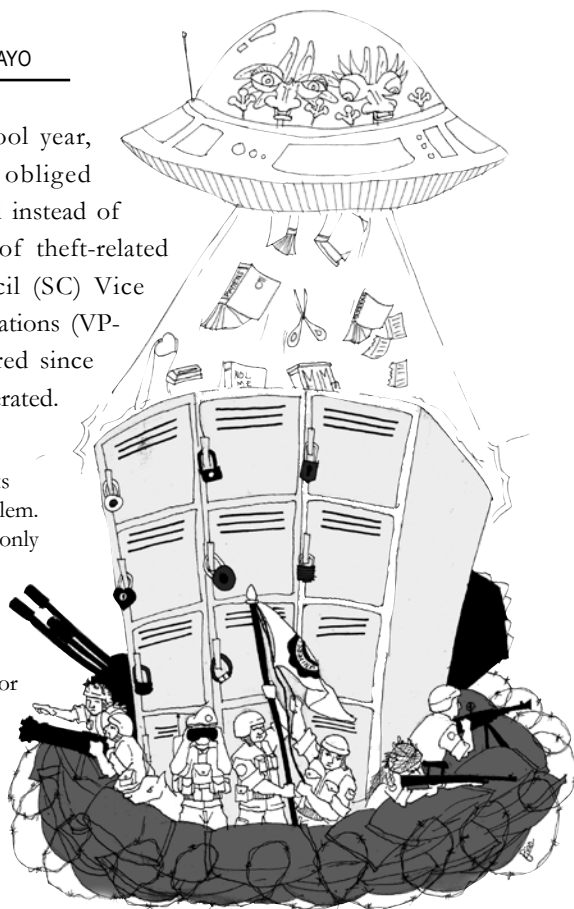
Carbonel said that her office is doing its best to find ways in order to address this problem. According to her, reports of thefts were isolated only to lockers with combination padlocks.

One instance of reported theft involved a book costing P16,000 and borrowed from the library was stolen from one of the lockers—and was later found in Recto, Manila, a popular place for bargain books. Carbonel clarified though that the book found in Recto is an "isolated and solved case." (The book was eventually returned to the University Library.)

There are currently 285 lockers under the Student Council Centralized Locker System, and the OPEC is aiming to have lockers placed in all buildings; one goal, at present, is to fill the entire ground floor of the Sports Complex with lockers to be procured over the next few years. The SC started the Centralized Locker System during the term of last year's SC VP-OPEC Jhoan Lim.

The Vice President for Operations also guaranteed the student that belongings in the lockers are safe despite cases of lost items in the locker, especially those found in the Yuchengco building, as long as users abide by the SC's rules on locker usage. She also urged University sectors to be more careful with their belongings, because "theft cannot be obsolete."

Katrina Ramoso (II-AE-BSC), a student who has leased a locker for two consecutive trimesters and has always used key-operated locks, said that she now has the tendency to double-check her locker if it is really locked.



The revenues generated from the SC-run locker service, which charges P70 per locker every trimester, go to maintenance, the Student Council Assistance Fund (SCAF), and Gawad Kalinga.

Freshman Mary Ann Valeros (I-CAM-AMG) said that the locker rental offered by the SC is really helpful, since she usually has a lot of things to carry.

Security guards and Disciple Officers constantly inspect the locker areas to ensure that nothing doubtful is taking place, according to Safety and Security Office (SSO) Director Dionisio Escarez.

ARTWORK BY PAUL MATTHEW JIAO

Three LA reps to leave SC; impeachment case ongoing

BY CARLITO REYES JR

HALFWAY THROUGH THE SCHOOL year, three members of the Student Council's (SC) Legislative Assembly (LA) have either terminated or resigned, and one LA representative is awaiting the resolution of impeachment proceedings against him.

Carrie Lapitan of FAST 2006 was forced to resign as a Legislative Assembly Representative early this school year for personal reasons. She filed a Leave of Absence (LOA) to leave for another country for about two weeks—rendering her ineligible to continue her duties as a member of the LA. Lapitan has since been replaced by an appointed officer from the same batch as approved by the LA, according to SC President Noey Arcinue.

A similar case arose this term, this time involving Jamie Pengson of EDGE 05. Pengson was also forced to resign from her duties to leave the country as well.

The most recent resignation from the LA came from Scott Toh of Catch 2009, who resigned for personal and academic reasons just before he was to be filed an impeachment complaint for exceeding the number of allowable absences.

The LA was divided on whether to accept Toh's resignation, reported SC Executive Secretary Jenn Lazo, because its members were afraid of setting a negative precedent. Eventually however, Toh was allowed to resign. Arcinue reasoned that Toh's family problems were sufficient grounds to let him leave. "We must choose the lesser [sic] evil, if he willingly wants to resign, then he should be allowed. It is his choice, so a person more committed and can do a better job can replace him," Lazo added.

Impeachment

On Oct. 22, an impeachment complaint was filed against Vic Teruel from Edge 07 by the College Assembly of Education President Anil Ratanchandani, Lazo, and CED LA representatives. The complaint, said Ethics Committee Chairperson Chichi Tullao, was prompted by Teruel's five straight absences in the LA sessions. (An LA representative can only have three unexcused absences.)

Teruel's action also falls under the newly

drafted and ratified impeachment code by the Ethics Committee, specifically with regard to "undermining the integrity of the Student Council" and "gross negligence of duty."

According to Tullao, Lazo and Arcinue, the three of them had a meeting with Ratanchandani and Teruel, reminding the latter to make a formal statement addressed to the SC before he leaves for the United States. The SC, however, did not receive any letter explaining his absences, but instead got one addressed to the College of Education (CED) Vice Dean for the purpose of excusing him from his academic duties. But: "The letter only excuses him for his academic responsibilities but not from his Student Council responsibilities," explained Tullao.

Another problem, Lazo pointed out, was that they had no idea Teruel was not enrolled for the second term—knowing it only when she was asked by Teruel for help in entering the University's premises.

For his part, Teruel, in an open session of the Ethics Committee for his impeachment case last Nov. 6, said that the reason why he was unable

to make the letter asked of him was because he was not able to see Ratanchandani's e-mail reminder to him, and that he needed to stay longer in the United States because of circumstances beyond his control. He also apologized for what happened in the course of the trial.

"We never wanted to go through this impeachment for this will even question the integrity of the SC as a whole, but we have to, especially when

we did our part by reminding him of what he was supposed to do but he did not comply," justified Ratanchandani. He also emphasized that the reason why it is important for them to continue impeachment proceedings is not simply to remove Teruel from his position, but to assure them that someone will replace him in the LA sessions. The impeachment, he said, is ultimately for the studentry's sake.

The Ethics Committee has yet to decide on Teruel's status, reported Tullao, because he is still in the process of filing an LOA with the CED Vice Dean. Nonetheless, should Teruel be declared a bonafide student, the committee has voted to go on with the trial and endorse it to the LA, which has yet to decide what to do with his impeachment as of press time.

The complaint, said Ethics Committee Chairperson Chichi Tullao, was prompted by Teruel's five straight absences in the LA sessions.



ARTWORK BY SAMANTHA ANG

Not so safe after all?

Fencing team captain Gazel de Guzman was crossing the street from Starbucks to Jollibee on her way home last Oct. 20, when she turned back to see a woman holding her cellular phone and wallet. Before the woman could go away, de Guzman grabbed the person's jacket and began shouting for help.

But to her dismay, "they (the security guard and pedicab drivers) just told me to hold the woman tightly so she would not escape," de Guzman said. Fortunately, the police came and arrested the woman—later found to be a member of the Sige Sige Sputnik gang; de Guzman has filed a case against the suspect, though the gang member's accomplice is still on the loose.

In an informal survey conducted by **The LaSallian** among 95 students about campus security, most respondents agreed that the University has the right security measures in place. It also appears that most criminal incidents in the DLSU vicinity involve stolen cellular phones and jewelry, as

well as encounters with strangers and bullies at night.

Also, the survey suggests that the precautions Lasallians frequently take are hiding one's valuables outside DLSU, as well as brisk walking and going together in groups. The students surveyed suggested that the University increase the number of security guards, and related security and lighting facilities around De La Salle. The University, they said, could also do a better job of orienting members of the community about security.

Security and Safety Office (SSO) Director Dionisio Escarez said that his office distributes leaflets to educate students about security on campus. He also said that the University has hired security personnel to patrol the campus' perimeter, and pointed out that DLSU has closed circuit television cameras (CCTV).

CSO revamps org accreditation

BY JULIE ANN YANG

IN AN ATTEMPT TO INCORPORATE student perspectives into organizations' accreditation process, the Council of Student Organizations (CSO) has adopted what it calls a "re-accreditation model." Now, aside from the report of the executive representatives of each organization, the CSO Executive Board is now provided data, in the form of student survey sheets and evaluation papers, to help give a more appropriate rating for each organization.

Accreditation will remain twice a year, with the scores obtained averaged (weighted 40 and 60 percent, respectively) at the end of the year. During the process, organizations, through their executive representatives, report to the CSO Board their activities and achievements for that term. The organization is then graded based on the presentation made. CSO Vice Chairperson for Internal Affairs John Benedict Cruz, however, clarified that the new procedure just "monitors how well organizations are doing," and is not meant to single out any "best" organization.

If an organization fails for the year, it undergoes probationary status for two years, and must reach a grade of at least 85 in the first accreditation in the third year, or it will be dissolved.

The most recent re-accreditation was

held from Oct. 15 to 19, with JPIA garnering a score of 92.31 percent; followed by JEMA, 92.28; and IMES, at 91.80. Rounding out the rest of the top scorers are ENGLICOM (91.71), BMS (91.09), ECES (89.91), CES (88.95), ECONORG (88.78), SME (88.69), NKK (88.63), ESA (88.13), and CHEMSOC (88). Two organizations, according to CSO, did not make the 75 percent passing grade.

"It's a formal and rigorous process, but nevertheless a necessity in order to ensure that organizations deliver quality activities and fulfill their mandates to their constituents. For me however, the CSO re-accreditation should not be the end goal of other organizations. It should serve as a springboard and continuing motivation to seek out better things for organizations and their members," JPIA President Marvin Chua said.

"The main purpose of re-accreditation for me is to monitor and ensure that organizations are indeed providing quality service to the Lasallian community. However, it does have tendencies of making organizations look good only on paper, so re-accreditation doesn't really tell us which really is the number one organization in DLSU," remarked JEMA President Alexis Tong.

IMES President Victor Cantor, however, was more critical of the process: "I personally believe that re-accreditation is not necessary simply because each organization has its own identity, meaning many different factors are involved which you cannot possibly compare with the others."



Break Free. Former president Joseph "Erap" Estrada, now a free man, went to Parola, Tondo last Nov. 11 to visit his household projects, and was warmly welcomed by the people there.

PHOTOS BY ALVIN LAU

NATIONAL SITUATIONER **Would a foreign nation pardon Estrada?**

BY RAYMUND CUESICO

We waited more than six years for a verdict, but it took only 43 days to grant a pardon to former President Joseph Estrada. Are Filipinos really that quick to forgive and forget, or is this really how politics works all over the world?

Nature of offense

Parallel to the experience of the Philippines with Estrada is Thailand's own dealings with its former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Both Estrada and Shinawatra were popular among the masses and as a result, were catapulted to the leadership of their respective countries. While Estrada was charged with plunder and corruption, Shinawatra was accused of virtually being a traitor to his nation. The primary reason for his downfall was the incident that involved the sale of 49.6 percent of the Shin Corporation—

Fact is, any administration cannot afford to simply ignore the influence that popular politicians exert on the masses.

the largest telecommunications operator in Thailand owned by Thaksin's family—to Temasek Holdings, a Singaporean company. This was viewed by many as the sale of an asset of national importance to a foreign entity, and eventually resulted in the military coup that took him out of power.

In perspective, the accusation against Thaksin weighs a lot heavier than that placed on Estrada's head. Even if there was betrayal of public trust when Estrada committed the act of plunder, he did not go as far as selling his nation to foreigners. Surrounding the main issue of the sale is the swift approval of the law that allowed Thaksin's family to execute the sale without paying taxes. To some observers, this was a great abuse of power for personal gain. Even though formal investigations were conducted, the ex-Prime Minister got off the hook rather easily, as he was cleared of any misdeed with regard to the tax issue. Currently, even though Thaksin is banned from entering politics for the next five years, he is still free to return to Thailand, where his safety is personally guaranteed by Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont.

Respect for elders

Obtaining the highest position in the land is no simple matter. Most world leaders have to go through

the ranks in a long political career before they get to lead the country. Whether we like it or not, Estrada belongs to this group, as he first began as mayor of San Juan, then a senator, then vice president before becoming president. In the process of rising to power, fame, and prestige, political leaders gain not only connections, but also a lot of age.

An example of a leader who was simply too old to put to trial is Suharto of Indonesia. Despite the fact that he allegedly stole close to \$35 billion, the Indonesian government has been unable to make him stand trial. After holding public office for almost half a century, he became too old and sickly to even appear before court, and consequently the government was unable to recover anything from him. To the credit of the Indonesian government though, they found a way to file cases against the immediate family of Suharto in order to obtain some compensation from him.

Estrada might not himself be totally incapacitated, but has already reached the age of 70, which according to our current president, qualifies him for an executive pardon. Aside from this, the six years that he spent under house arrest was already considered as jail time served. The essence of pardoning those who are 70 and above rests on two major arguments. One, the inmate would most likely have served for a long period of time before reaching the age of 70; two, a convict's physical health by this age has likely deteriorated to the point wherein serving a jail sentence becomes inhuman and unbearable. But six years is nothing compared to the decades that some inmates serve, and Estrada is still visibly fit for his age. In the process of comparing these two situations, it becomes rather clear that under the Indonesian setup, Estrada would still be serving his sentence along with being compelled to return the money that he obtained illegally while in power.

Outpouring of support

Throughout President Estrada's imprisonment, he was never lacking in support. This was most evident during the last midterm elections, when he was still regarded as the leader of the opposition despite a supposedly tainted reputation. In the international scene, Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan, has experienced a similar situation. Despite the fact that her government was dissolved twice on corruption charges and was forced to leave the country,

she remained the leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and continued to serve as the foremost critic of the government. After years away from home, she decided to return to Pakistan. The dedication of her loyal supporters was proven, as some of them sacrificed their lives in the recent suicide bombing attack on her convoy while they acted as a human chain to protect her.

Fact is, any administration cannot afford to simply ignore the influence that popular politicians exert on the masses. These charismatic leaders have a way of rallying people to their side, no matter what transgression they have been proven to commit. In the Philippine set-up, particularly in Estrada's case, this reality is most probably caused by the people's hero worship of their leaders. Any action of the government that is contrary to the opinion of those supporting these popular politicians will definitely create a backlash that may lead to the downfall of the current ruling power. In perspective, the mere fact that President Pervez Musharraf agreed to the return of Bhutto to Pakistan and even discussed possible power sharing conditions with her is even more outrageous than just setting the convicted former Philippine president free.

Tenure in power

Compared to other world leaders who are known for being corrupt, Estrada only stayed in office for a relatively short period of time (less than three years). This fact can be interpreted in two ways. One, he has done comparatively less damage than his corrupt peers, or two, he has amassed so much ill-gotten wealth in a very short period of time. Examples like Suharto and Mobutu Sese Seko, former President of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), held the presidency of their nation for over three decades, and as such were able to institutionalize corruption and were also responsible for generations of their countrymen growing in extreme poverty and widespread suffering.

Mobutu was exiled to Morocco when he was deposed, and that was just about all the punishment that he received. He died of prostate cancer after only four months in exile. Estrada's house arrest might not have been as long as a normal life sentence would last, but his time in heading the government was not that long either.

Running again for office

One of the added reasons given for Estrada's swift pardon was his public commitment not to run again for any elected post in government. This area of concern is one of the more controversial issues in the case of Peru's Alberto Fujimori. After being ousted by Congress, Fujimori sought refuge in Japan, where he planned his comeback into Peruvian politics. Despite being given a 10-year ban, his daughter, Keiko

Sofia, officially registered his name to the Peruvian National Electoral Jury during the run-up to the 2006 Presidential elections, though he was later disqualified. If these deposed politicians are allowed to return to power, then it would be tantamount to saying that the public has forgiven their past transgressions.

In hindsight, Estrada's non-interest in politics, albeit his already advanced age, displays a degree of acceptance with the way the entire trial process was conducted and the verdict handed down on him, although this does not necessarily contribute a valid reason for pardoning him. Other leaders like Fujimori apparently would like to erase the stigma of being ousted by returning to power as a sign that the citizens do not agree with the way he has been treated. Noteworthy is the fact that the Philippine Constitution bars Estrada from seeking the presidency, whereas Fujimori may still run for President once a probationary period lapses.

Cutting our losses

In many instances, the countries that ousted their leaders were primarily concerned with changing the existing government set-up and administration, so much so that the recovery of the stolen wealth did not become a priority. As long as the leader was replaced, the order of the state was restored and

In many instances, the countries that ousted their leaders were primarily concerned with changing the existing government set-up and administration, so much so that the recovery of the stolen wealth did not become a priority.

ordinary life resumed. The fundamental difference in the Philippines is that we expect retribution alongside justice. Our nation's impoverished state has apparently pushed us to the brink of zero tolerance for any form of material loss. Every time we are wronged, we seek just compensation.

The most glaring example would be the countless court cases filed against the late Ferdinand Marcos and his entire family that aim to not only convict them of their crimes, but also to receive monetary benefit in return for the plaintiffs' undue sufferings.

Overall, the fact that the pardon covers only the prison sentence and not the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth, makes the Philippine situation rather unique compared to other nations that have similar experiences. With regard to the initial question posted, it would seem that Estrada would not only be pardoned in a foreign land, he might even be made to come back to office—just like in the movies.

LASALLIANS FROM PAGE 1

covered in white smoke, and the ceiling started to fall. People were shouting so loudly everywhere."

Pallon and her companion, together with the restaurant's cashier and waiter, ran toward the fire exit. "It was a bomb. I don't have a doubt about it," she said.

A group of freshmen International Studies students were also present during the blast. They were in different places when it occurred. Steff Genato was dining at Food Choices, Kim Ngui was at the Nike store, and Charmaine Villaflores was in the parking area when the explosion happened. "The blast was really loud and shards of glass exploded along with it," Ngui stated. "I also heard three blasts. There wasn't only one," Villaflores added. Shortly after the blast, they quickly vacated the mall premises.

"We don't believe that an LPG caused the blast,"

they stated. "The damage was too extensive and the blast was really loud; I think a bomb caused the explosion" Villaflores added.

The bomb theory initially gained widespread interest as Chief Inspector Reynold Rosero of the Philippine Bomb Data Center said that traces of Royal Demolition Explosive (RDX) were found in the ruins of Glorietta 2.

Terrifying Implications

Marit Balagtas (I AB-POM) was able to witness firsthand the panic that the explosion caused. "Me and my friends were dining at Food Choices. I stood up, and that was when I saw people running from a distance. We eventually asked a saleslady and she told us that a bomb just exploded," Balagtas said. At that

point, they vacated the area quickly. "There were still some people who didn't know what was going on, some were still sitting down," she added.

When asked about her opinion about the possible cause of the explosion, she stated that it is possible that an LPG tank indeed caused it. "It is possible because the blast came from a restaurant. And I don't want to think that it was really a bomb. It's a really scary possibility," Balagtas stated.

The past few years have been witness to numerous bomb threats in public areas like malls—threats mainly attributed to forces supposedly out to destabilize the government. In response, security in malls and public transport has been beefed up, with security guards routinely conducting bag inspections.

Recent Developments

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has been insisting that the explosion was caused by the build up of methane gas in the basement of Glorietta 2 or the ignition of stored diesel reserves, despite the fact that their inquiry on the incident has yet to conclude. This finding, they say, is backed up by foreign investigators from the United States, Australia and Israel. On the other hand, Ayala Land Incorporated has said that its own foreign consultants have concluded that the explosion could not have originated from the combustion of methane or diesel.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has called for an independent probe to look into the explosion.

EDITORIAL
Sunrise

IN THE WELCOMING ceremony for members of Team Sinag last Wednesday, heaps of praise was showered on the students and faculty from the College of Engineering (COE) that made possible the Philippines' first fully-functional, internationally competitive solar car. After all, the health and mechanical risks the Australian outback presented to participants made even finishing the race an achievement in itself. Not all teams were as lucky, or as prepared for the desert: Early Adventure Class favorite Equinox from Stanford University, for instance, did not even get to cross the finish line due to problems with its tires. Sinag, on the other hand, placed twelfth among 23 entries in the Challenger Class. (Preliminary results, in fact, had Sinag at eleventh place—just a few hours shy of a top ten finish—after it reached Adelaide with a day to spare.)

So make no mistake about it: For simply having the audacity to field a car to the Panasonic World Solar Challenge (WSC)—not to mention doing it in just seven months and with flying colors—Team Sinag deserves all the applause it has gotten thus far. Nonetheless, we strongly believe that focusing solely on what the team has achieved in Australia would be seriously misguided, and would represent a tremendous waste of potential.

Sinag's success demands follow-through. On a positive note, the team's members have expressed a remarkable eagerness to build a successor to Sinag. That should set the tone and provide the momentum required of committed research and sustained ventures into cheap, renewable energy sources. With the global price of oil set to reach \$100 per barrel in a matter of months, Sinag's entry into public consciousness could not have come at a more appropriate and urgent time.

Which is why we disagree with the Chancellor's assertion that "all that matters is that we're the first to build a solar car in the country." On the contrary, over time, we think Sinag's worth will be judged

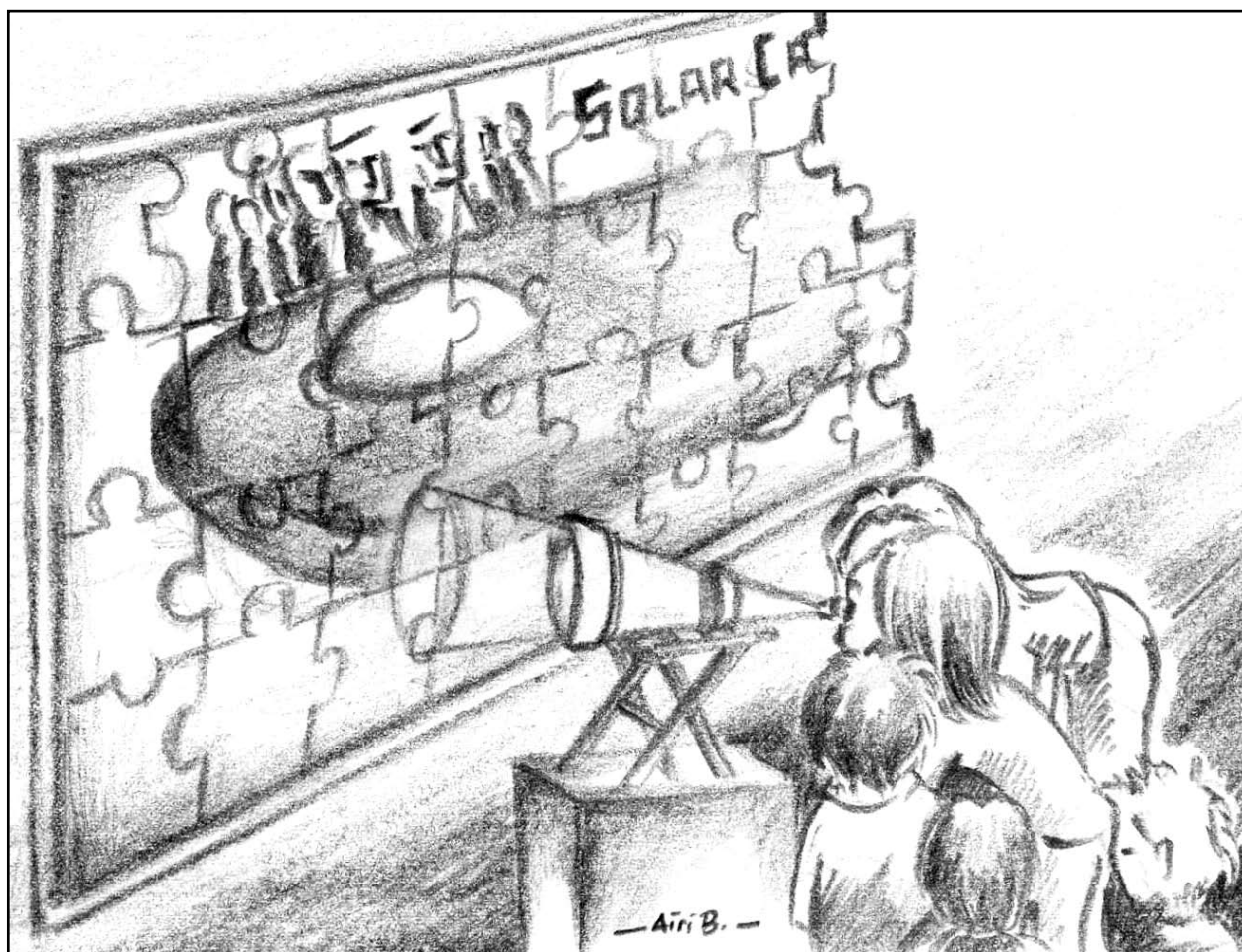
based on what precedent it will set for the University and the country.

Fortunately, if the Sinag experience has taught us anything, it is that this country has the resources to invest seriously in science and technology. What the University needs to do now is take the lead role in educating Filipinos about alternative energy and in exploring the practical and theoretical possibilities that Sinag has opened. But first, we will all need to move past that euphoric sense of accomplishment from having Sinag. That the idea of competing in the World Solar Challenge did not come from the University but from Ford Philippines, in this regard, should remind the academic community that we would not have had anything to be proud of had Ford Chairperson Henry Co not asked DLSU to get on board the solar car project.

The capability to build on Sinag's technology will also depend on the University's willingness to share its knowledge with other Philippine institutions. Again, there should be no reason why DLSU can't be more open regarding the science behind Sinag, as observed by Student Team Leader Robert Obilles, if it really wants the project to make a long-lasting impact; we welcome the day UP, Mapua, and similar science and engineering schools can compete alongside De La Salle in the WSC, because that can only mean a more secure energy situation for the Philippines.

Within the University, Sinag's triumph should motivate more students and faculty to engage more interesting and relevant problems in and out of the classroom. Initiatives that foster original, inventive thinking such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's PESO challenge deserve more attention on campus. (There are probably other undertakings as noteworthy as Sinag in DLSU that remain in obscurity.) There can be more avenues and better incentives for students to pursue projects like Sinag—something the Student Handbook revisions committee, which begins discussions this month, should keep in mind.

To a university that sees itself as the best in the country, Sinag should not be the light at the end of the tunnel, but the beginning of an adventure.



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Second thoughts

Raymund Cuesico

Lex Aeterna

Remaining neutral and inanimate is tantamount to contributing to the cause of evil

The greatest gift we possess is the ability to bypass reason and simply follow our hearts.

Do Good, Avoid Evil. This is the most basic ideological framework that brings about order in our chaotic world. Virtually every religion preaches some form of ethical and moral law that constrains, prescribes, and classifies the actions of man. Unfortunately, people have all but neglected this eternal law, and have instead crafted their own perverted sense of purpose that drives them to seek only what is perceived to be advantageous and beneficial to their individual souls.

A look at the very concept of good and evil reveals that it is rather intriguing in itself. Evil directly refers to the absence of good, but not the other way around, so that we have to exert extra effort just to make our actions produce a net positive result. Merely doing what is expected of us does not qualify as a good deed, whereas merely breaking the rules is immediately considered evil. Remaining neutral and inanimate is tantamount to contributing to the cause of evil as it produces no concrete contribution to better our world.

In a perfectly competitive environment, the gains of one results in the loss of others. Inasmuch as I would like to think that every person could strive to improve and better himself, we all have to accept reality that our actions have repercussions on other people. The best analogy that I have heard so far regarding this matter likened the presence of an individual in a particular area to a rock creating ripples in a pond. Every time we make a decision between right and wrong, we create a resonating sound that proclaims which side we favor. The more people profess their allegiance to one side, the greater is the imbalance that is created.

Mendicancy and its exponential spread over the growing population has always puzzled me, since there are so many people, even influential and powerful ones, who openly and aggressively attempt to stave off

this socio-economic pandemic. One of the most appreciated tidbits of learning that I was able to pick up in college is the concept of charging interest for borrowed money across time. From this lesson, I realized that it is this embedded principle that drives the economic classes to become further divergent. Simply put, it takes money to make even more money. Logically, if you do not have money in the first place, then you would have a limited opportunity to make any economic progress. Even with the presence of financial lending institutions, there is always this added burden to surpass the already steep interest rates being charged just to earn. As a result, businessmen are forced to raise prices in order to provide a buffer commonly called profit. Can we not have that extra sense of goodness to realize that for every small amount that businesses raise their profit margin, we eat up a more significant portion of what the poor could possibly spend on basic needs?

Entrenched in the workings of economics is the now popular topic of our environment. It is fact that the world's natural resources are being consumed and destroyed way faster than they can be replenished. Currently, efforts are being made worldwide to stop this gross abuse of mother earth. Unfortunately, our situation requires a lot more than just damage control, as there looms the bigger issue of changing the modern lifestyle of man and replenishing what has been lost. In this regard, technology plays a pivotal role, since it is the source of both the solution and the problem. While it is true that man has mined all the earth for the raw materials in the name of fueling research developments, there is still great potential for a clean and green future as alternative and renewable sources of energy are being explored. Personally, I am most intrigued at the possible extent with which we can recycle materials. Existing technology already allows us to construct robots using nanotechnology that are capable of rearranging the basic structure of matter

and forming it according to our own design. Can we not choose to focus all our research efforts on projects that will help us preserve and restore the pristine beauty of our environment?

Even academic matters must not be spared of moral criticism. I am appalled by the reality that the youth now considers cheating their way to a degree as part of their normal everyday lives. Just recently, I was shocked to overhear a group of students, supposedly responsible and running for honors, casually talking about the academic malpractices going on in their classrooms. These misdeeds ranged from simple copying of answers to the creation of elaborately designed codes used to transmit information between people when no such form of communication is allowed. The only bright spot in their discussion was when they shared their prior belief that indeed cheating is wrong. While it is true that the moral fabric of society has increased its tolerance of wrongdoings, we should remain vigilant and aware that such actions are evil. In a way, the common perception is that as long as students achieve high grades, they remain to be good students regardless of what they do to achieve it. Can we not look beyond the temptation of taking the easy way out and instead be honest about our own personal capabilities and limitations?

On a positive note, I was surprised to discover three wonderful traits that continue to reside among us through the shining examples of my fellow delegates in the recently concluded National Symposium of Young Lasallians. First, there is happiness and joy to be found in the service of others. Second, true love, which is selfless and makes us care more about someone special. Lastly, the greatest gift we possess is the ability to bypass reason and simply follow our hearts. Ultimately each one of us has what it takes to abide by the eternal law; we just have to will it.

The LaSallian

THE BASTION OF ISSUE-ORIENTED CRITICAL THINKING

14 NOVEMBER 2007

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Chances
are

Alejandro Almendras IV

We're not going to pay rent

Time and again, we remind the administration that any change affecting student life must be confronted to the students.



Alphabet
soup

Paulo Jose Mutuc

Fire in the belly

We need to get away from "let's move on" mentality

October 24, 2007—Amid an unusually tense and gloomy national situation just days removed from the Glorietta 2 explosion and merely hours before what was an impending grant of pardon to former President Joseph Estrada, the Supreme Court gave the Filipino people a reason—actually, two reasons—to hope: Two writs of amparo became effective on that day, compelling no less than the President and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to explain the disappearances of University of the Philippines (UP) students Karen Empeno and Sherelyn Cadapan, as well as the experiences of siblings Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo, who escaped from military custody.

To better understand and appreciate this action of the Court, consider the following: A few months back (July to be exact), the Supreme Court convened a multi-sectoral consultative summit to draft solutions to what seemed an ongoing and unabated manhunt against progressive elements of society. Toward the same end, last year's Task Force Usig and Melo Commission—the former formed by the Philippine National Police, the latter created by virtue of an executive order—sought to find conclusive answers, but were hindered by militant groups' wariness about their credibility. Earlier this year, even the United Nations—perhaps moved by the government's general indecisiveness to concretely saw it fit to send Human Rights Special Rapporteur Philip Alston to inquire about the extrajudicial killings. And just last week, the national government reported that the United States Congress—which itself facilitated hearings on the matter—was making further military assistance contingent on the assurance that the military and higher levels of government were following Alston's recommendations and taking concrete steps to end what Amnesty International has dubbed "a pattern of impunity."

Intriguingly, while the Arroyo Administration reported compliance with the American conditions for aid, it slapped Administrative Order 197 on Sept. 25—the same day the Writ of Amparo was promulgated—to claim "executive privilege" and effectively prevent having military personnel appear in court when served with the writ. Thus, we are now confronted with a largely unnoticed but nonetheless crucial "battle royale," in the words of former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, between the executive and the judiciary.

In the face of such a serious impasse (not to mention one that carries so much legal implications), what every self-respecting citizen ought to do, of course, is take a side—so seriously, if I may add, as if one's opinion were to lead to the greatest good if everyone believed so (Kant's categorical imperative, for all those who have forgotten INTPHIL). In this case, guess it is clear from the outset whose side I am on, but I will be more than willing to listen to someone who will disagree and argue that this government is on the right side of things.

The point is this: We need to get away from that "let's move on"/ultra-cynical mentality about Philippine governance and get back to substantive, vigorous, and partisan debate about the issues that matter. Because no matter

how much this government claims otherwise, the long-term survival of our democracy depends on more people becoming vocal with hard line opinions, while remaining open-minded and visibly engaging others to challenge theirs. We need conservatives and libertarians, not overly broad coalitions that have no well-defined policy positions. We need bloggers and pundits willing to stake their reputations in the public arena. Ultimately, we need to rekindle that passionate love affair we've always had with words and speeches, with ideas and ideals.

Our so-called "institutional fatigue" with rhetoric certainly hasn't always been there. I can recall some specific instances in our history when lively, intellectual disputes were the norm in Filipino public life. The street parliamentarians in Luneta trace their roots to the witty Spanish-era *balagtas*, and were probably inspired in later years by debates in the nearby old Senate. (Platypus Publishing's *20 Speeches That Moved a Nation*, in this regard, is an essential compendium.) The writings of Rizal, Del Pilar, and their compatriots provoked not a few Filipinos (though most likely indirectly due to the propagandists' use of the Spanish language, as historians will point out) to set in motion the 1896 Revolution. The proud tradition of a critical free press begun by that group of European-educated Filipinos in the 19th century found its proudest moments in the years leading to the two EDSAs, when citizens united themselves around an activist media movement that spawned, among others, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* and *Bulatlat.com*.

Sadly, our experiences with erratic development, stop-start reforms, and leaders and commentators of questionable character has led many of us to abhor eloquence altogether. (It hasn't helped that politicians in both chambers of Congress have reduced the once-privileged privilege speech to an exercise in showboating.) Sometime ago, we stopped listening and caring. The result? We've had anywhere from 300 to 800 journalists and activists killed over the past two years, yet there has been no convincing signs of widespread public outrage. This year alone, we came across a 12-year old girl who took her own life out of sheer hopelessness in the middle of poverty (Mariannet Amper of Davao), a state offender given a free pass at redemption, an outrageously covered-up state broadband deal, and a government that isn't afraid to give P500,000 outright to local officials. What's it going to take to make us all vocal and angry?

The reason why we've constantly had frustrations with sweeping reform movements as a people is that we did not have the courage and the conviction to see them through. Looking back at the outcomes of the two EDSAs (the two best chances we've had at national transformation since World War II), I guess it would be fair to say that we didn't "walk the talk"; we fell victims to our *ningas kugon* tendency.

Rhetoric, of course, could only get us so far. But at a time when even the fieriest of words cannot even provoke a response, one can only shudder at what new low our political state of affairs will sink to next until we find our voice and say, "Enough."



Brownian
motion

Angela Velasco

Of liberation and mind games

It surprised me that adults of supposedly "mature" age were not open-minded to the more rational aspects of the tradition they believe in.

Growing up, faith was an idea that was easily handed to me. Having studied in a conservative Catholic school, believing in God and Christian morals one must uphold came so "easily," since my innocence did not question the black and white picture they seemingly portrayed. Tradition was firmly set both at home and at school, with the supposedly "blasphemous" ideas being rejected during theological lectures since my teachers insisted they would send me straight to hell.

It was Jostein Gaarder's *Sophie's World* that changed my life, opening me up to new ideas that stood outside the conservative realm I had been raised in. I experienced the most vibrant exchange of philosophies, which dared to challenge the simple picture of "good" and "evil" painted by religion classes only based on tradition passed down from generation to generation. The concept of an absolute being was no longer limited to someone simply adored and obeyed, but whose existence and influence on the world was questioned. The things taught to me were no longer at opposite sides of the spectrum. Instead, the dark and light colors had converged, making it difficult for me to place what was really right and wrong.

The confusion involved was quite difficult for me to overcome. Through my last years in high school, I went into some sort of rebellion against the religious traditions forced and repeated into my system. I greatly disliked the religious discourse of my teachers in high school, since one's opposing opinion did not matter and only the book or teacher's stand was the absolute truth. Afraid of discipline records being tainted and causing some sort of scandal, most were

soft-spoken in disagreement. A lot of my other friends who have studied in conservative Catholic high schools also experienced such suppression, unable to decide what to do with such conflicting, free-flowing but more sensible ideas. It surprised me that adults of supposedly "mature" age were not open-minded to the more rational aspects of the tradition they believed in. Take that sexist idea we were taught less than three years ago: It's a woman's fault if she wears something revealing and gets raped.

In a country where the Catholic Church's traditions remain ever so influential in the government, family life, and the educational system, I wonder how far this inhibition of "opposing" ideas will take the large population of students in conservative schools. It is only in college that most are able to experience the freedom to develop their "off-tangent" ideas, exchange insights with a right mix of people, and be able to make their own decisions in the kind of faith or spirituality they want to believe in. Is our education really pushing the youth forward?

Although a deeper problem lies in the lack of books and classroom for public schools, one should not ignore the lack of truly stimulating discussion that allows students to think for themselves and make their own decisions in incorporating the new insights they learn with their previous knowledge. It is not favorable that the professor's ideas are simply absorbed by the student because "they say so." What brand of learning and what kind of thinkers do these conservative teachers hope to achieve with such forms of discussion?

A likely counterargument in response to all this would say that

tradition is only being upheld since this has been passed on, "tried and tested," and upheld by millions over the past centuries. It is not a matter of imposing ideas for the youth, but rather teaching the youth what they know to be good and true. However, this is not the impression that most people in our generation get. Instead, we are constantly frustrated and feel oppressed with our ideas. The supposed "forward" thinking education is supposed to promote is no longer felt.

Another reasonable explanation behind this would be that teaching these traditions are in hopes of providing a solid foundation for the students. Since these teachers have the responsibility of guiding students during their more formative years, they hope to inculcate the values that they feel have brought about only the best during their time. Although the youth deserve their right to freely think, they still need guidance from the more experienced and knowledgeable mentors that their parents relied on in order to develop their thinking for the future.

Although many will only reach the peak of their intellectual development during college, it is still important that those who favor the uptight traditional education still realize its disadvantage. True, the youth needs much guidance during their more formative years. Nonetheless, this guidance should not be one that stops them from going forward in what they believe in and learning new ideas from all kinds of people. We live in a world progressing through globalization; a world wherein the human race is constantly driving itself to reach its full potential. Who are they to stop the young ones from such progress?



Shaft art

Josef Aaron Lim

Recognition

It's not only respect that you give people when you pray for them, but also recognition

Recognition is defined as the appreciation or acclaim for an achievement, service, or ability. Last Oct. 27, **The LaSallian** recognized the excellent works and best staff from last school year's issues through the Silver Quill Awards. It is an awards night that gets together present staff and alumni annually. This is done on the month when the publication celebrates its anniversary. The night started with dinner, then some performances by staff and some talents outside the publication. It continued with the awarding proper with some introduction about the publication. Being part of the audience, it was very good seeing the staff having a good time with each other, not to mention seeing the smiling faces when they received their awards for last school year's works. Also present were some new staff that were recruited from this school year. You could see in their faces the drive to do so well this year to earn Silver Quill awards next school year.

Recognition is the acknowledgement of something's existence. All Saints' and All Souls' Day are holidays spent in the cemetery with relatives and loved ones who have passed away. I have always thought that these days were for us to give respect to the dead, and why we go to the cemetery and visit them. Maybe I have this notion because I have been visiting the same people every year. This year though, things was different. I visited my grandfather and grandmother from my father's side of the family. I usually don't get to do this since they are buried in Albay while I have always been in Cebu or in Manila.

I realized from our visit that it's not only respect that you give people when you pray for them, but also recognition. My grandfather died before I was born. My grandmother died on the same year I was born. Basically, I didn't really get to meet them or have any memories with them. But my visit to their tombs made me acknowledge their existence; that they were my relatives and that though I didn't get to meet them, they remain a big part of my life. They have influenced me in some way with the stories my dad shares to me about them.

The dead may have "passed away," but they still need the recognition that they have existed to truly rest in peace.

Recognition is the identification of a thing or person

from previous encounters. My family decided to visit our relatives in Albay because of the long weekend brought about by the holidays. The trip was not an ordinary one like meeting some relatives: It was a family reunion. The last time I saw my cousins and my hometown was seven years ago. We spent four days in the place, but it felt so short because of the so many things we wanted to do, and the so many memories to remember as a family. I needed stories to relive my memories and make me realize and prove that Albay was really my hometown. We reminisced about my father's school, house, mother's workplace, my sister's school, and the church where I was baptized. I spent time too with my eight cousins, and we stayed in one house. The whole thing was a totally new experience, since there were really a lot of people with me—something which I am no longer used to since I have lived alone for the past year. To add to that, I met aunts and uncles that I met for the first time. Overall, it was good to recognize people I have been with before.

Recognition, unfortunately, is something that a lot of people neglect, despite the fact that it's easy to do and can be done in so many ways. A smile and a pat on the back are simple signs of sincere recognition. These little things can be done everyday to make someone feel good. Done consistently, they can push people to do better in what they do.

Recognition fosters a happy and lively environment. It is vital among family or friends. I am sharing these experiences of recognition because I felt so good being with other people during the past few days. I realized that the reason was the recognition I gave these people. It also made me feel good because, in some way, I faced the reality I was in. Sometimes we also have to recognize the life we have lived, the life we are living, and the life we are planning to live.

The LaSallian is recruiting new staff. The publication recruits not only to involve students in the work of producing relevant output, but to recognize the talents that students have in writing and in the arts. Through **The LaSallian**, students can hone and improve their skills to prepare them for the bigger world of journalism.



Wisdom seeker

Carmela Prado

Shame and choice

The masses have to realize that if Erap can't stand by his word, what more by his people?

Voting is a right you can always choose to exercise, but only few choose to use it responsibly. The barangay elections last October allowed me to exercise this right the first time. It is sad and disappointing to see that even simple rules put up by the Comelec are not complied with. Imagine, even the young candidates running for Sangguniang Kabataan positions were still wearing awkward smiles while giving out flyers. All knew that any form of campaign was already banned on the day of election, but no one was following or reinforcing rules. Picture 41,000 more barangays doing the same thing. Kids in our rural neighborhood playing patintero a decade ago knew more about rules than these people. Why am I not surprised that a former president of this country convicted of plunder and sentenced to a life in prison was easily granted with executive clemency?

Shame on our president, shame on our fellow Filipinos who support this injustice, shame on our democratic country. I believe that the Filipino people was deprived of justice when former president Joseph Ejercito Estrada was granted pardon by our current president. A man convicted beyond reasonable doubt for stealing millions of pesos straight from the pocket of Juan dela Cruz has been easily freed from the crimes he had committed. He has "suffered" comfortably enough for six and half years during the duration of his house arrest. He doesn't deserve the pardon, for he was still unrepentant despite the court's clear verdict. He was even claiming at first that he will not accept any pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo. But what did he do? Maybe because of an absence of dignity and integrity, he went begging for freedom in a heart beat. Maybe dying in a dirty prison seemed like an inappropriate ending for an action star.

I am very much ashamed of my fellow Filipinos who continue to support him. Yes, he was a father, a friend, and a co-worker. But don't they realize that supporting this kind of cycle in our society, with the powerful ones always getting what they want, is equivalent to a slow but sure democratic suicide? The masses, which comprise most of Erap's supporters, have to realize that if he can't stand by his word, what more by his people?

Based on a true story: Julie (not her real name) was a typical girl from the province. She was an only child, and didn't have her father around from infancy to young

adulthood. Pledging to study in order to bring more food to the table and gain a little bit more success in life, she asked help from her aunt in order to finish tertiary level education. She worked as an assistant in her aunt's office, and went to school during weekends. Luckily, she finished college with a satisfactory grade despite her condition. Where is she now? Already married in her early 20s to a man who can pass as his father and who she hardly knows.

Maybe you are wondering why she did it. I am too. They say that college graduates tend to be more idealistic. After spending at least three years in a learning institution in the tertiary level, that institution would want to believe that it has equipped its graduating students with the necessary knowledge they need to pursue their careers. Colleges also make us believe that we can change the nation, and even the world, if we make the right choices in life.

As students go out to the world and realize what our alma maters want us to believe, unfortunately, everyone else—especially the older ones—will give them a smirk in the face and tell them to "get a grip."

We have to understand that what we are learning here in the University has its own blind spots in application to real life contexts, because they tend to be always complex. However, this complexity should not give us the excuse to turn our backs on what we want to do in life and what changes we envision around us. Older people expect young and passionate graduates to eventually lose their idealism. Sadly, I perceive that young individuals choose to give up because of facing challenges they were not planning to engage themselves in. Few are willing to endure and stand up to the bullies in society. Who are they? In Filipino culture, most of them are your family members.

So why did Julie marry that man? You see, the man is an Australian citizen but a Filipino by blood. She was pushed by her mother to marry that man because of the promise of a better life once they migrate to Down Under. Succumbing to the wishes of her mom and given an easy way to escape the hard life, she chose to marry that man even if it will feel like being abused every time they'll make love.

All I can say is that the fastest or easiest ways seem to be the most appealing choices, but always lead to disastrous consequences. Like a wide and fast rapid that leads to a waterfall, you will not know when you're nearing disaster until you hear the crashing waters.

SINAG FROM PAGE 1

Provisional results, Sinag climbed to 21st place from 27th overall and maintained its 11th place within the Challenge class. The next day, Sinag breached the 2,000 km distance from Darwin to Cadney, and easily surpassed the 1,000 km mark without having to rely on auxiliary power. This option was allowed by contest rules, but would have resulted in a deduction in the team's overall score.

"At first you want to win, but as we progressed we learned a lot from our experiences," said Engr. Noriel Mallari, Electrical Team Adviser.

Upon reaching the finish line, the team was welcomed by Adelaide Mayor Michael Harbison, Hans Tholstrup (the founder of the WSC and the first person to cross Australia in a solar car), the champion Nuon Solar Team from the Delft University of Technology Netherlands, and Filipinos from Australia. "They did not know us, but they waved proudly the flag," observed University President Br. Armin Luistro, referring to the Filipinos who received them in Adelaide.

Man against the desert

"[The] Challenge [was] more [about living] outside the road," said Mechanical Student Team Leader Mico Villena (IV ME). "It was our first time to go three days without taking a bath," Fernandez revealed.

Time was very crucial. Early in the morning, the team had to position the solar cells facing the sun in order to start charging the battery, and proceed to pack up late at night. The very cold temperature in the Australian desert during the dawn and the evening made it even more difficult for the team members to attend to their personal needs.

"In the desert where there are no facilities, the Animo shines so brightly," declared Br. Armin during the Welcoming Celebration last Nov. 7 at the M. Gaerlan Conservatory.

"We were one of those entries that many were excited to see; together with Senegal, Venezuela, and Chile," revealed Engr. Fernandez. Unfortunately, USB Solar of the Venezuela team had problems with the arrival of some parts of their car in Australia. But while their competitors offered spare parts to team Venezuela, the team still did not make it for the race, as told by Sinag's Overall Student Leader Robert Obilles.

Interestingly, "The information about the project is classified here in the country; unlike in the race [where] everyone shares their knowledge, talks about their technology and car, and even their strategy," commented Obilles.

Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, DLSU Manila Chancellor believes that the WSC "was a very healthy competition. It was not putting one another down. I find the crab mentality in Filipino competitions very distracting. And that I was glad that the students were exposed to this kind of healthy competition." "It was memorable how the teams competed," concurred Obilles.

Br. Armin is the team's 16th member

"The support was amazing!" said Villena. Team Sinag was surprised by the presence of Br. Armin. As stated in Dr. Quebengco's speech during the Homecoming, "It was the first project that went abroad with the president of DLSU."

The 15-man team in Australia never expected that the president of DLSU-Manila and De La Salle Philippines himself will camp with them during the 3,000 km race at the Australian desert. "We are honored to be with him. When we got there, he was even the one offering his services, which is not to be expected from VIPs," reported Obilles. Br. Armin, he said, wanted to learn more about the solar car so that he would be able to help the team in tasks like changing the car's tires.

One morning when the team was fixing a few minor problems in the car, Br. Armin served them coffee. "The only thing I can do well is to serve coffee to them," the Brother President candidly remarked. He also cooked for the team what he called "FSC rice," and drove the team's van while the members had lunch.

Br. Armin closed: "I have never bonded with anyone in the DLSU community as much as I have bonded with these fifteen... Team Sinag will be an important chapter in DLSU's 100 years."

The 15

"If I have to do it all over again, I would want to have the same team," uttered Engr. Fernandez. Meanwhile, also during the celebration, Assistant Project Head Engr. Jack Catalan proudly said that he was honored to be "a member of the greatest team that [De] La Salle could ever have." "Being part of the team is the best part," added Engr. Mallari.

According to Obilles, during the competition, the WSC Observer told him that Team Sinag was more relaxed and less likely to have tensions despite the problems they encountered.

"No incentive was needed. We just thought of it as a long final exam — without a grade," Obilles said in reference to the students' and faculty members' efforts during the project. "We still have to make our thesis papers, this is not yet it," explained Fernandez. "Unforgettable are our sleepless nights" replied Engr. Mallari. Villena shared that they had to learn to properly budget their time while working for Sinag.

There wasn't much sunlight on the last day of the race, but Team Sinag nonetheless finished earlier than expected. "This is how Lasallians work together in the worst conditions," narrated Br. Armin. "It was enough that I may not see the sun, but I know the sun shined brighter in the Animo," he emphasized.

Rare opportunity

"Do you think your engineering students are capable of building a solar car?" asked an alumnus to Dr. Quebengco. Her reply was unhesitating: "Yes, of course; that is what they are studying here".

An hour and a half later, the Chancellor received a call from Henry Co, chairman of Ford Group Philippines, to confirm if Lasallians were indeed willing to build a solar car. Dr. Quebengco affirmed this, and they agreed to meet that afternoon.

After the phone call, Dr. Quebengco immediately called for Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo, dean of the College of Engineering and Dr. Julius B. Maridable, vice chancellor for academics, to talk about the proposed plan and prepare a list of the team members to be readily presented to the Ford Chairman.

"Opportunities are sometimes like that; we have to make decisions and calculate risks," retold Dr. Quebengco, "[I thought that] this is a great opportunity for DLSU students."

At the end of the meeting with Co, the Chancellor, together with Drs. Gaspillo and Maridable, agreed on several important points: that the whole project will be gratis, that faculty members will guide the students, and that the majority of the team will be students. Engr. Noriel Mallari elaborated: "The setup is that we faculty, will make designs and that the students will give feedbacks and they will implement it."

Dr. Quebengco said that the whole project was strictly on schedule and that the race itself has been very stressful.

Lasallian pride

"The project was innovating. A lot of information that was needed for the project was not learned in the classrooms but during the duration of the whole project," Engr. Mallari said.

"Someone wants to buy the technology," Dr. Quebengco relayed during the Homecoming celebration, "but I told them 'No, it is not for sale. This is for our country.'" The Chancellor said that there was even a billion pesos being offered for SINAG's technology: "This is how important this project is, not only for [De] La Salle, but for the whole country."

The future is bright

"If there will be another SINAG, I will give again all my effort," pledged Engr. Isidro Marfori, CAD Team Adviser. "Thank you for believing," spoke a very grateful Engr. Emmanuel Gonzalez, while being handed an award during last week's celebration.

"Without Sinag 2, this exercise is futile because we won't be passing the knowledge we learned," furthered Engr. Fernandez. "As a faculty member it is our rule to share our knowledge and that we learn a lot," confirmed Engr. Mallari.

The team is already excited about the possibility of a Sinag 2, such that they have already taken note of what details to improve on to win the next race.

"[The] key to winning the race is the telemetry, and that strategy is important," explained Engr. Mallari. Finding the optimum speed with which to run the solar car has a great impact on a team's energy usage: If the car is going too fast, then the batteries will end up being drained. On the other hand, if the car is going too slow, then it will end up with a full battery and can go a lot faster.

For the mechanical aspects, Villena suggested the need "to make our own material like what other teams are doing to lessen our expenses." Added expenses were incurred, furthermore, from minor measurement problems that led to some designed parts no fitting in the car. In terms of design, Sinag was built with safety as a priority, which made the car a bit heavier than its opponents.

When asked if DLSU is willing to handle the next solar car project, Dr. Quebengco said: "If ever they won't give the next project to DLSU, we'd be glad to guide the next team. All that matters is that we're the first to build the solar car in the country."

DEATH: A NEW BEGINNING

“

LIFE IS WHAT YOU
CELEBRATE.
ALL OF IT.
EVEN ITS END.

”

JOANNE HARRIS,
CHOCOLAT



“

HERE IS THE TEST TO FIND
WHETHER YOUR MISSION
ON EARTH IS FINISHED:
IF YOU'RE ALIVE,
IT ISN'T.

RICHARD BACH

”



“

WE ALL DIE. THE GOAL ISN'T
TO LIVE FOREVER, THE GOAL
IS TO CREATE SOME-
THING THAT WILL.

”

PHOTOS BY ALVIN LAU AND IAN MERU

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DLSU's 'banner' research projects

BY ZAMANTA LEGADOS

At the start of the current school year, University President Br. Armin A. Luistro urged the faculty to pursue more nationally relevant research on five priority areas—poverty alleviation, environment and safety, youth-at-risk, globalization, and applied technologies. With this agenda in mind, what are the University's banner research projects?

Dennis Beng Hui, director of the Industry Academic Linkage Office of the College of Engineering (COE), and Dr. Alvin Chua, chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department, listed the Solar Car and the Micro-Hydro Project as promising research ventures.

The Solar Car, as publicized, is a test application of renewable energy research. On the other hand, the Micro-Hydro project headed by Godofredo Salazar, is using turbines to generate electricity in remote villages, and so far has been able to provide power to two Abra communities. A joint project of JICA, DLSU, and DOLE, this research started as a 1997 thesis, and through regular maintenance and enhancement, is still being developed.

The Chemical Engineering Department, with the Tokyo Institute of Technology, is working on "environmental protection technologies," specifically, "the use of catalysts in the production of synthesis gas (hydrogen and carbon monoxide) from natural gas which primarily contains methane gas." An ongoing related project is "Ethanol Production from Biomass using Reactive Distillation."

From the College of Computer Studies (CCS), Ethel Ong of the Software Technology Department reported that important work was being conducted by Rigan Ap-Apid and Onel Bartolomeo "pattern recognition as applied to facial or image recognition and medical diagnosis (such as scoliosis detection, ultrasound detection, skin disease detection)," in addition to Dr. Raymund Sison's studies on artificial intelligence for education and software engineering practices in Asia, and Dr. Rachel Roxas' three-year DOST-funded Hybrid Machine Translation System for English-Filipino.

An extension of DLSU is the Br. Alfred Shields Marine Station located in Lian Batangas, which houses classes and research work conducted by the Marine Biology sector of the College of Science (COS). With a sea water system which pumps saltwater from the sea, scuba gear, snorkeling devices, boats, and life vests, the facility (open to visitors for a P150 fee) has become an effective contributor to the surrounding community's well being. A 10-year coastal management plan—which includes

preventing incompatible use of areas (i.e. building a factory beside the marine station), generating livelihood, initiating rehabilitation of mangrove areas, and protecting organisms like sea turtles—has been drawn up. Fishers have been organized into cooperative groups, and the community has been educated in data collection to implement the plan.

The station has also become a community center for children on some days. Marine Station Director Dr. Wilfredo Y. Licuanan arranges an annual summer camp with volunteers from the Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA) to expose children to marine life. The lack of Academic Service Faculty (ASF) to aid in the supervision and facilitation of the station's needs and projects, however, prevents the pursuit of more programs.

Facilities for Research

The university houses some of the most high-scale research facilities in the country. Beng Hui says that the University's ergonomics usability laboratory, where a person's interaction with products can be explored, is the only one of its kind in the country. Chemical Engineering Department Chairperson Dr. Leonila Abella shared that the University, through its membership in the ASEAN University Network's SEED-Net, was able to acquire a Trace Gas Chromatograph, a Microwave Lab Station, and a UV/Vis Spectrophotometer, among other equipment, which will "further enhance the research capabilities of the department."

These facilities give greater opportunity for collaboration among the University's colleges, with industry, as well as with students. Patalinghug and Beng Hui emphasized that students are integral to the process: A student's thesis, for example, may originate from a faculty's ideas, but only be completed with joint efforts from a student and faculty member. Besides, "what they (students) need [to learn] are things beyond the book," remarked Beng Hui; otherwise, he said students might as well study by themselves.

Monitoring Our Progress

Nonetheless, University Research Coordination Office (URCO) Director Dr. Luis Razon reiterates that it is difficult to judge the value of a research project because it is undertaken to meet a specific concern.



Last year alone, "around 100" research projects were completed.

But Razon expressed that they are unable to keep track of all of research conducted by faculty members since there is no penalty for not reporting. He said it is their task though to facilitate research progress and help out in areas of difficulty.

Beng Hui explained that these unreported projects are most likely those that are externally funded by either private institutions, government

offices, or non-government organizations. While these need only be reported to URCO, they may be automatically directed to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (OVCR) or the Office of the Chancellor—which are the likely signatories to any memorandum of agreement—to address high level concerns.

Also, because they are externally funded, there is a measure of confidentiality with the research, since in some cases it is to cater to the needs of an office. But for internally funded research, everything passes from the research centers of each college, which monitors the activities for URCO.

Faculty members have to submit proposals to URCO usually via their colleges. URCO would in turn implement rules and aid in facilitating the research being done. The OVCR then enhances the research outputs of the University by setting up possible tie-ups and partnerships.

Ultimately, what is considered "banner research," according to Dr. Patalinghug, may differ between the general public and the scientific community. A research project, for instance, may rake in numerous awards and be deemed outstanding by field experts, but fail to interest a broader audience. And while applied research is more easily recognized, basic research for deriving new knowledge simply get less attention because they are published in journals less visible to students.

ARTWORK BY AIRI BELTRAN AND SAMANTHA ANG



TUITION FROM PAGE 1

John Benedict Cruz thoroughly studied the most applicable inflation rate to be used.

One of the major changes in the students' proposal was the usage of the school year (June to May) as the basis for inflation rate, instead of the traditional calendar year (January to December) used by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the Asian Development Bank. The students reasoned out that the University incurs expenses during that particular period and not during the calendar year. This change also arose from their observation that most estimates would grow increasingly inaccurate as the year progressed.

Another basis of the SC's proposal was the revenue structure of the University. Dykimching said that only approximately 52 percent of DLSU's expenses are really shouldered by the student's tuition fee, with the University generating revenue through other sources such as donations and special funds. "So even with this TFI, we could still expect the university revenues to be the same," Dykimching said. In addition, the SC defended this argument by saying that historical data has shown that even with the presence of major fluctuations in the breakdown of sources of revenue for the University, the percentage coming from tuition fee has remained constant.

Data from the Student Council Assistance Fund (SCAF) also showed that the number of students applying for loans increased this school year. But since the SC can only offer a steady number of loans, more students were unable to obtain financial help. This information was interpreted to mean Lasallian education is increasingly becoming out of reach even to Lasallians.

The SC also used last year's projection of MSCB as a cushion, since it was noted that inflation projections by the Administration and the FA both differed by an estimated 3 percentage points from the actual inflation rate. The SC's estimate of 2.9 percent for the year 2007 was the closest to the actual 2.7 percent recorded.

Lastly, the students' proposal also used a computation for a "TFI Threshold per student," wherein the projected increase in expenses was divided by the weighted average number of units taken each term by each student. This was done by getting a breakdown of the student population per year level for each college, and adjusting it accordingly to get the weighted average, since the rates per academic unit vary.

Reaction from other sectors

Yao happily exclaimed that this MSCB is "one of the best" she headed in her five years as chair.

Arcinue said that during the meetings, the Board of Trustees was initially asking for a TFI as low as zero percent to make DLSU education more accessible and help reach the goal of having more scholars. Nonetheless, Arcinue reasoned: "Even with that intention, we want to be sensitive to the needs of all the sectors of the community especially the faculty and the employees."

"As much as we want it (TFI) to be low, we can't really risk the professors leaving the University because the students will be the one having difficulty with that. We don't also want to sacrifice the quality of education that the students get," Cruz said. There was a temptation to accept the extremely low increase being proposed by the Administration, the student representatives said, but they realized that there will be dire implications if the University does not have sufficient funds to operate.

"I think the students and their parents will be happy with a low tuition fee increase of 3.6 percent," said Chancellor Dr. Carmelita Quebengco.

Quebengco further explained that the Administration is always trying to keep the delicate balance between maintaining competitive faculty and staff salaries and considering families' financial situations. "We are also very careful not to price ourselves out of the market, the most immediate effect of which will be on our student selectivity," added Quebengco.

On the other hand, the Faculty Association remained silent on the issue, while **The LaSallian** was not able to reach the DLSU-EA for comments.

Future Concerns

Arcinue said that, in the end, the approved proposal was closest to the one the administration recommended during the past few years. She also mentioned that it was critical that the MSCB remain independent from the Board of Trustees and the Lasallian Brothers. "We make sure [there is still the] autonomy [of] MSCB. If the Board of Trustees want to be vocal about it, [they only have one vote]," she remarked. The SC, she added, hopes that the MSCB will agree on a uniform basis for proposals in the coming years.

The SC President noted that the Faculty presented almost exactly the same proposal that they had last year. The rationale given for this was that the FA did not receive the statistics they requested from government offices in time for the MSCB meetings.

IN REVIEW

Kapihan ng Malayang Lasalyano

BY CREIZELLE FRANCISCO

LAST YEAR, DURING THE HEIGHT OF the "Hello Garci" controversy, the De La Salle Brothers surprised many by publicly asking President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo "to make the supreme sacrifice." This prompted the establishment of the DLSU-Committee on National Issues and Concerns (CONIC). The committee eventually saw the need for a venue where university stakeholders can regularly come together and discuss the issues. And so Kapihan ng Malayang Lasalyano (Kamalayan) was born.

Sharing the Mission of Kamalayan

Kamalayan, according to Wadel Cabrera of the Center for Social Concern Action and secretary of the CONIC, "should at the very least discuss and at most take action on these national issues." Kamalayan tries to cover as many topics as possible, including those that are considered as the "hot issues" of the day, as well as relevant topics not regularly talked about.

CONIC Chairperson and former dean of the College of Science (COS) Emmanuel Garcia

said that Kamalayan promotes critical thinking and concern about the country, and endeavors to gradually wipe out the stereotype that Lasallians are insulated from the realities of the Philippines. Student Council (SC) President Noey Arcinue, for her part, said that students ought to participate in Kamalayan, being citizens of this country.

On awareness and attendance

Since it is an open forum, Kamalayan sometimes has difficulty attracting many participants. The first few months of the regular forum were particularly challenging for COSCA, since they did not know how many would be attending. Arcinue believes that it is somehow not part of the University's culture to oblige sectors to attend a forum, though she added that attendance in Kamalayan has been steadily increasing. Even the forum has had its own share of developments, with student organizations beginning to sponsor these forums to engage topics they think are relevant. (**The LaSallian**, it may be recalled, was the first student organization to sponsor a Kamalayan. The discussion, held last July 25, was on "The Social Dimension of Sports.")

Arcinue admitted that there is a lack of awareness when it comes to CONIC projects, including Kamalayan, with most of those attending belonging to the student sector.

To encourage people to come, she said that

aside from placing Kamalayan forum schedules in the Lasallian Planner and giving frequency cards to participants, CONIC will also be conducting a Responsible Citizenship Campaign starting January 2008. The Committee also plans to invite more well-known speakers to attract more attendees.

Areas for Improvement

The very nature of the activity is rather limiting, since only a handful of people are able to attend. Arcinue noted that the University community is not too keen on holding big gatherings thus, as in the case of the Kamalayan, the reach in terms of participation becomes rather limited. On the part of the SC, Arcinue said that it is now their thrust to mobilize people on the batch level so that more people will be able to know about what is being discussed during Kamalayan.

Lastly, Arcinue shared that the process of choosing a topic still causes some problems. Even if these are planned ahead of time, breaking news often adds pressure on CONIC to react quickly. As a consequence, speakers become more difficult to invite. On a positive note though, Arcinue cited one instance wherein the speaker was not able to attend the engagement but those present continued to discuss matters relevant to the topic at hand. "There is still a long way to go," Cabrera affirmed.

COMMENTARY

Perennial Student Complaints

BY LORAIN SAGUINSIN

Students have an endless list of feedback about their professors, but ironically, most just keep quiet about it. So during the end of every term, it is not surprising to hear of students depressed with their grades, frustrated with their learning experience, and even discouraged from attending the University.

Crystal clear

Logically, it is usually during course card distribution day that most students file formal grievances cases against professors, as some are left in disbelief to receive grades far below what they had expected. This usually happens due to two main reasons. The first is because of unclear expectations inside the classroom. If students and professors have different notions on what qualifies a student to get high grades, each goes their own way throughout the fourteen weeks without clarifying this matter. So at the end of the term, students end up complaining how their grades were computed. It is important, therefore, for both parties to be clear about their expectations from the beginning of the term to avoid misconceptions.

Ideally, this problem should not even at all exist with the presence of a well-defined syllabus. A typical course would normally have a clear-cut breakdown of how the grade will be computed. Unfortunately, this setup is all too often altered or ignored either at the beginning of the term, or even on course card distribution day itself.

The other reason why students have complaints against their professors at the end of the term is because of lack of feedback exchange between the two. Students need feedback about their performance because it helps them know what to do and how well they are meeting their goals. These normally take the form of test results and verbal comments.

On the other hand, professors also need feedback from the students to see their effectiveness in delivering lessons and facilitating the class. But students usually

give feedback only after the midterms in the form of survey questionnaires conducted randomly by the Institutional Testing and Evaluation Office (ITEO). Problem is, by the time the feedback gathered from the survey reaches professors, the class is almost finished and there is little, if no time to adjust. In effect, professors will just have to apply the improvements they need for their classes in the following term. The current class then is the one that ends at odds with the situation. Aside from professors giving feedback to students, it is very important on the part of the students to provide constant feedback to professors on how well they are teaching in class for them to be able to adjust accordingly. When this two-way communication occurs, both parties feel greater satisfaction, and work performance is much improved.

Teaching effectiveness

Students also have also their own views about their professors' role inside the classroom. First and foremost, they perceive their professors, as experts in their own fields of study. It is because professors serve as a primary source of knowledge in the class. Therefore, it is naturally assumed that they should be equipped with sufficient information to impart to students.

But sometimes, students feel that their professors are not teaching what they are supposed to learn. One of the reasons is that even if some professors are present, their absence in class would be hardly missed because of their unusual teaching styles. There are times when professors lecture on subject matter that is totally

irrelevant to the lesson at hand. In other times, there is too much emphasis on certain topics, so much so that other areas of discussion are no longer explored or explained. In extreme cases, some professors even impart inaccurate and misleading information.

Other students also tend to question if professors are knowledgeable about the lessons they are discussing. Students can sense if what professors are teaching is related to topic at hand, and how well can they deliver it to the students. Students often start questioning their teacher's qualification to handle a certain topic if they cannot effectively deliver the lessons to be learned. This phenomenon is most commonly observed among fresh graduates, who lack the experience to teach, and among long-time professors who seem to be too self-absorbed in the manner and content that they discuss. Oftentimes, fresh graduates who become professors have to review the course material again before being able to teach, which is in stark contrast to the level of mastery that seasoned professors have. Under this argument, teaching methodology is also put into question. Some professors are all too happy merely talking to the blackboard or reading through the contents of the book or presentation without giving any additional input or explanation for concepts that are difficult to understand.

Disappearing act

Students have many complaints about some of their professors and among them are about the attendance in class.

Although it is acceptable for students to have their professors miss classes provided that they have valid reasons, this treatment does not extend to those who absent themselves without any explanation at all. Based on experiences from these types of professors, the students are the ones who struggle in assignments and examinations, particularly in questions beyond the grasp of mere self-study and need detailed explanation from the professor to be understood.

Punctuality is also expected not only from the students but more importantly, from professors. A professor's absence in class is greatly felt compared to the absence of one student, because the former is the one who transmits knowledge and facilitates learning. Without their presence, there will be no catalyst to lead students to the path of knowledge and discovery.

"Environmentally friendly"

The world's renewed attention on environmental issues has led to a surge in recycling, and it seems some professors have taken this to heart by reusing quizzes and examinations from previous terms.

Though many students gladly participate in this exercise, there are some who complain against professors who reuse their test papers beyond a term. There are those who realize that they will be the ones most affected by this arrangement, because this setting does not motivate students who want to pass their exams through their own merit and effort as they see most of the class hardly exerting any effort to learn at all.

Reality sets in

According to Student Council Vice President for Academics Nicole Villarojo, majority of the formal complaints that they receive from students are about the non-transparency of professors in the grading system. The very few behavioral cases which usually come from new professors in the campus are often dealt with informally.

Applied in an educational context, it is very important that students and professors make clear to each other the nature of their perceptions and expectations in the class to minimize role ambiguity. A better understanding of roles helps people know what others expect of them and how they should act. So if professors and students have role misunderstanding when they interact, then problems are likely to occur in the classroom setting.



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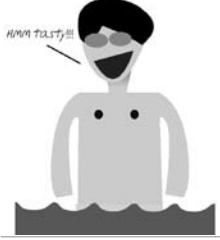
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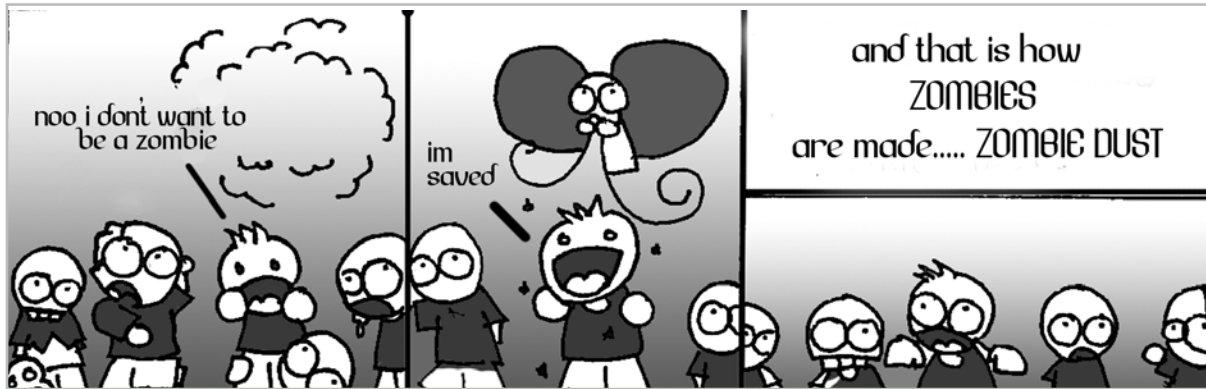
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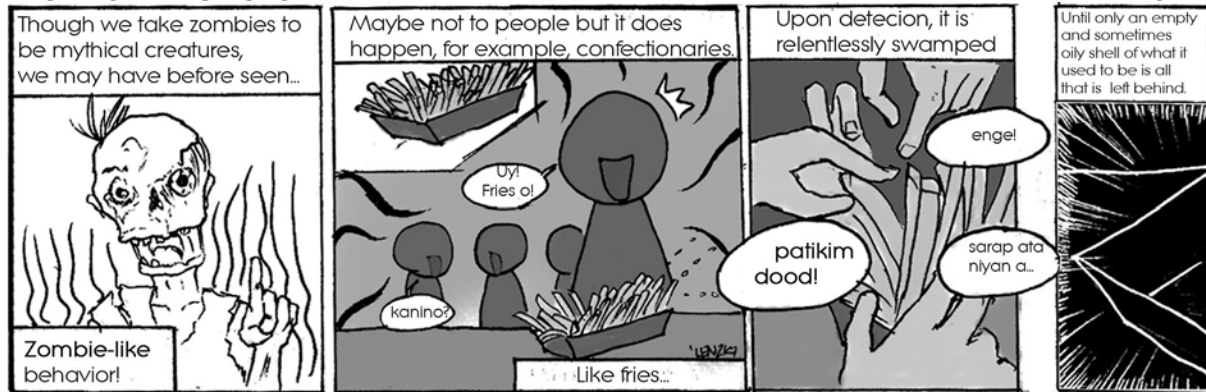
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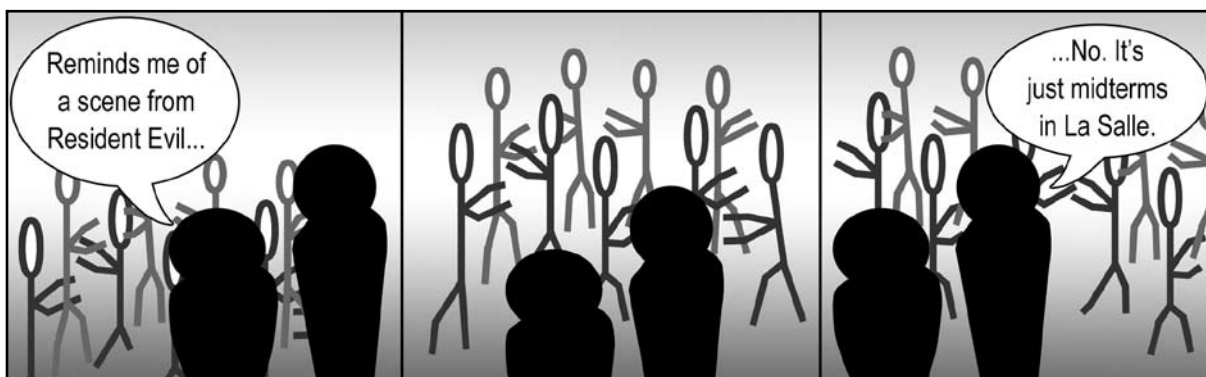
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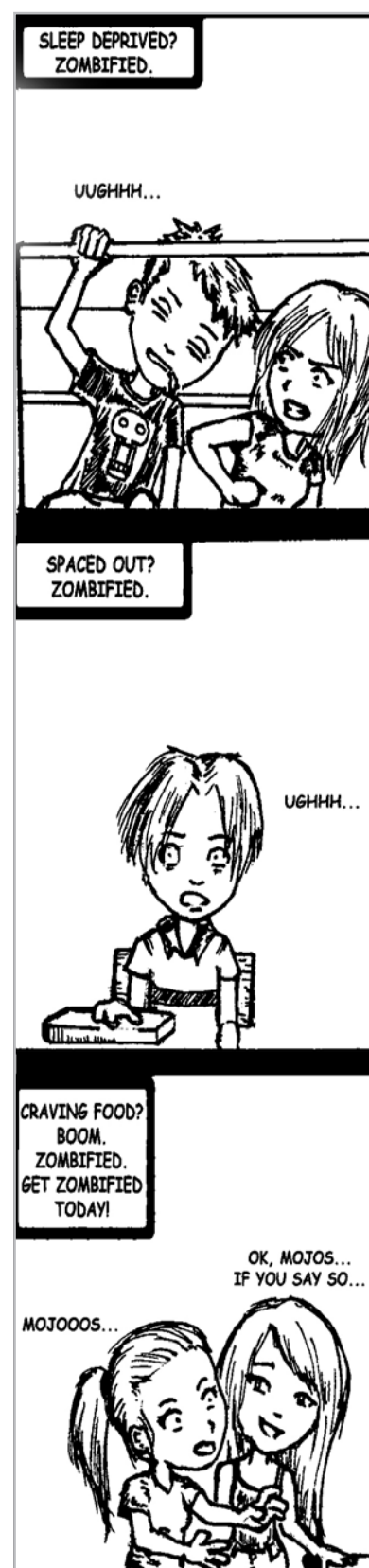
BEYOND THE DEAD-LINE

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IN THIS CORNER

"How do you treat the rules?"

COMPILED BY THE LASALLIAN SPORTS STAFF

"May code of conduct *po kami na sinusunod. Tapos general siguro yung* about academics that we have to follow. *Mabait kami, Like yung hindi magmura, inasan mag-absent, yung respect sa lahat.* And as much as possible, *ayaw ko bumagsak* (We follow a code of conduct. General rules that we follow include academic policies. We're good people. We don't cuss, avoid absences, and give respect to everyone. And as much as possible, I don't want to fail a subject)."

- **Karina Bacsain DLSU Trackster**

"We take [rules] seriously, especially our team's regulations. Like what our coaches advise us, we have to be serious and disciplined when it comes to following the rules. With that we learn a lot."

- **Alliv Samson, DLSU Lady Fencer**

"Personally, I observe rules. I have my own rules for myself. Being an athlete, it is important to follow [rules] so that you will be able to develop discipline which is the most important thing to learn to become successful. I also follow the rules of the school since I'm an athlete and there are people who look up to me so I have to be a good role model."

- **Joy Lanting, DLSU softball player**

"The body is a tool that needs to be taken care of. I eat right, sleep right, and exercise a lot for maximum performance."

- **Carl Mamawal, DLSU football player**

"I observe and follow rules. It's an innate action to be sensitive to my surroundings. And it just shows my attitude inside the field and how I apply to certain rules of the game. Furthermore as an athlete, I believe that it is also my responsibility to be a good role model."

- **Mafe Trinidad, DLSU softball player**

ERRATA

The article entitled "Physical Facilities and Facilities Checks" was written by Zamanta Legados and Hazel Dy.

In the article, "A College of Excellence," the Chemistry Department does not have its own Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer.

In the article "Student Leader Assess SC," Rexmond Fang clarified his statements by saying that it was not the Student Council's fault that they were not able to participate in the planning stage of the project. He added further that the CSO should have involved the SC more and that Jecah Ginete has personally been extremely cooperative with them during the tie-ups.

The names of the following people were misspelled: Mikhael Han and not Michael; Jecah Ginete and not Jevah; Katrina Roseos and not Katiran.

Part of the photo caption for the article on the Green Judokas should have read "gold medal" rather than "silver medal."

Athletes' usual hangouts

BY DEAN SEDRICK CARLOS, FRANCINE RICHELLE ONG, JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES, AND CHRISTINE MARIEL SUNTAY

AS YOU WALK ALONG THE University, it may seem that there are some places which always seem occupied, or in a way, marked as a sort of territory by the same people you see the last time you passed by. Chances are, you may have attempted to sit on one of the *tambayans* of the varsity teams.

Teammates in varsity teams—like freshmen in their first terms in the University—are almost always found together. It is due to this fact that there are certain places in the university that are marked as *tambayans* or unofficial hang-outs of varsity teams outside their normal training areas.

Currently the tables in the Central Plaza near the photocopy machine are a popular gathering place for the lawn tennis, table tennis, taekwondo, softball, and football varsity teams. The covered tables near the SPS Building (Br. Gabriel Cannon Hall) and the Amphitheater, on the other hand, are home to the DLSU track and field and swimming teams; soccer team members are usually seen at the tables at SJ Walk near Z2. In these places, student-athletes get to meet and spend time together. Sherry Rose Ong, now on her fifth year as



"Tambayan." The benches near the SPS are the Green Tankers' usual hangout place. PHOTO BY IAN MERU

a lawn tennis varsity member, fondly recalls how, during her freshman year, all of them had their bags taken by a discipline officer when they forgot to have someone stay and watch their things.

Tambayans are important for varsity team members for a variety of reasons. First, they serve as an extension of training hours, as rookies pick up valuable tips and advice from spending

time with veterans. These places also become avenues for current team members to update each other on their activities, and encourage people to join the varsities. "It (*tambayan*) made me love the sport more," exclaimed former DLSU Track athlete Toni Ocampo. Most importantly, these places provide student-athletes a sense of belongingness, identity, and a niche in the Lasallian community.

On the Rise: The DLSU Capoeira Club

BY JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES AND CHRISTINE MARIEL SUNTAY

SINCE BEING OFFICIALLY recognized by the Office of Sports Development (OSD) during the second term of last school year, the DLSU Capoeira Club—the first capoeira club in the collegiate level—has been growing and improving.

As part of its larger mother school, Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines (EBCP), the Green and White capoeira members busy themselves participating in various demonstrations for organizations inside and outside campus. Regular trainings are also being conducted every Tuesdays and Thursdays at the 10th floor of the Sports Complex. According to club adviser Richard Weinbrenner Dacalos, several members and officers participated in the EBCP's Brasilipinas 2007, a series of events from Sept. 9 to 23 in cooperation with the Brazilian Embassy, Havaianas, and Motorola which featured capoeira workshops, film showings, and music festivals. Brasilipinas also witnessed the 5th *Batizado* (Baptism), *Troca de Corda* (Change of Cord), and EBCP graduation ceremonies at Fr. Rafael Cortina S.J. Sports Center, Xavier School on Sept. 22.

Dacalos emphasized that there have been no local capoeira competitions because the sport has been around only four years in the Philippines since the formal establishment of EBCP as the first Capoeira school in the country in 2003. EBCP's chief instructor Professor Fantasma, however, has opened himself to the possibility of competitive capoeira "so that we can experience another side of Capoeira that we are not yet familiar with."

Nevertheless, Dacalos shared that some DLSU students and alumni recently traveled to Singapore to represent Philippine capoeira last Sept. 10-15 for an event organized by prominent capoeira master Mestre Ousado and his school Argola de Ouro Capoeira. "I'm proud to say many of those who consistently train with us not only focus on sequences learned in class but go further by searching for songs and history related to our art, Capoeira. They also actively participated in the events of Brasilipinas... Professor Fantasma often commends the

members of the DLSU Capoeira Club for their enthusiasm and interest in the sport," he said. "When we just started out, sometimes, sadly, the class would only consist of three students and even when we had over 15 students, they were mostly inconsistent in attendance. Now, we have a consistent number of students who are very enthusiastic about learning," Dacalos added.

Individual members of the DLSU Capoeira Club have also accomplished much, as evidenced by the number of students who have received their first belts in the recently concluded 5th *Batizado*, and by senior members who changed cords in the *Troca de Corda*. Dacalos shared that club president Jaime Benedicto skipped cords for the second time and is now a belt away from becoming a *graduado* (graduate). In the words of Dacalos, "As individuals I'd have to say that each student is constantly growing. Recently, several of the more consistent students of the DLSU Capoeira Club were rewarded for their dedication by receiving their first cord (belt) at EBCP's 5th *Batizado*. The baptism is an important event in a capoeirista's life. It is when she is welcomed into the Capoeira world by, as mentioned earlier, receiving her first belt (yellow in our school), and in our school, receiving their Capoeira name."

The belt system of Capoeira varies from school to school and is somewhat similar to the Taekwondo system. Corresponding colors for one's rank also depend on the school. It has been known that some schools do not have a belt system. For EBCP, according to Dacalos, the adult belt system is as follows: Yellow, Yellow-Orange,

Orange, Yellow-Green, Orange-Green, Green (*Graduado*), Green-Blue, Blue (*Formado*), Purple (Instructor), Brown (Professor) and Red (*Mestre*). Once a student receives the title of *Formado*, he is considered ready to teach.

Dacalos further takes pride in the significant improvement in consistency of attendance from students which is one of the main factors to evaluate the club's performance. "I remember when we just started out, sometimes, sadly, the class would only consist of three students and even when we had over 15 students, they were mostly inconsistent in attendance. Now, we have a consistent number of students who are very enthusiastic about learning." With this, Dacalos is optimistic that this trend will continue in the years to come.

"We plan mainly to continue facilitating training at DLSU. Keeping the same light, fun and supportive atmosphere. We hope to have more demonstrations within the DLSU community, so that more can appreciate the art we practice. Several organizations have asked us to help them sponsor a Capoeira class for LEAP in February," revealed Dacalos. Preparations are already ongoing for more events here and abroad in particular next year's *Batizado* and *Troca de Corda*.

As for the faces to look out for in the capoeira scene, Dacalos names the new batch of promising yellow cords from the DLSU Capoeira Club: Gaille Reyes, Nikko Espenilla, Archie Leonar, Jowell Mariano, Allan Tamayo, Abigail Asence, Karmine Duque, TJ Valderrama, Therese Seares, Jed Cenoura, Daniel Lynch, Justin Ylaya, and Luis Hernandez.



PHOTO BY ALVIN LAU

ATHLETE REVISITED

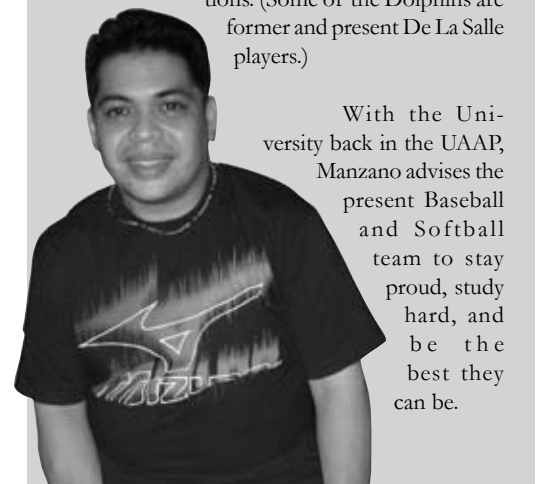
R.J. MANZANO

BY KATHERINE ANNE TINGZON

WITH TALENT AND HEART, R.J. MANZANO played and excelled for the De La Salle Baseball and Softball team from 1993 to 1998.

R.J., who has been playing baseball and softball for 24 years, was raised in a family that had a history of engaging in both sports. This third baser and catcher was instrumental in DLSU's 1995 baseball and softball championship in the UAAP. Eight years later, he was assistant coach to a champion De La Salle baseball and softball squad.

Manzano graduated with a Development Studies degree, and now plays for the Titans Baseball League. He also coaches the Cebu Dolphins which play in the Baseball Philippines league, while working for the Bureau of Immigration. (Some of the Dolphins are former and present De La Salle players.)



With the University back in the UAAP, Manzano advises the present Baseball and Softball team to stay proud, study hard, and be the best they can be.

12TH UNIGAMES... from page 15

event. LC Langit led the way for DLSU, as she bagged gold medals on 200 m backstroke, 200 m freestyle, and 400 m freestyle. Other gold medalists for De La Salle were Tessa Alcantara in the 100-meter breaststroke and Janina Sedilla in 200-meter individual medley. The Lady Tankers also took home the 4x100 meter freestyle relay gold medal. The next day, the Lady Tankers again won gold—this time in the 4x50 medley with Francesca de Guzman, Janina Sedilla, Alexie Laconico, and Kimberly Cornelio. Sedilla was in first place in the 200 m breaststroke; Langit topped the 100 m backstroke; and Tessa Alcantara garnered another gold medal by winning the 100 m freestyle event.

Green Tanker Enchong Dee prevented San Beda from ruling the first day of men's competition by winning two gold medals in the 100 m butterfly and 400 m freestyle events. The following day, the Green Tankers finished second and third on the 4x100 medley and 4x100 freestyle, respectively. Ixxi Quilala took the silver medal in 100 m and 200 m backstroke, while his brother and team captain Mikki Quilala finished third in the 200 m breaststroke and butterfly events.

"Okay naman ang performance ng team, sa women's nakuha na nila yun expectation nila na magchampion. Maganda ang mga pinakita na time ng mga swimmers. Ito na lang last event of the season kaya medyo relax na ang team (The team's performance was okay. The women's team met their expectation to be champion. The swimmers displayed excellent swim times. This is the last event of the season, so we're a bit relaxed now)," said team captain Mikki Quilala.

NETTERS 2-1... from page 15

Salle in a hard fought battle: They lost 18-21 to UST's Wilfredo Amoroso and Kevin Alfred Dalisay in the first set, but then grinded it out for an 21-18 win in the second before securing a 21-15 victory in the third and deciding set.

The Lady Netters found it difficult to adjust against UST squad for this round. Tigers Rose Ann dela Cruz and Jemellee Vicencio threw in aggressive smashes that helped them win over DLSU's Rachele Guerrero and Michelle Santiago, 14 - 21 and 11 - 21.

Again, DLSU's fate rested on the outcome of mixed doubles. In a closely-fought match (scores in the first two sets were 20-22 and 22-20), UST's Emmanuel Garcia and Chona Medina got the win though, thanks to errors committed by Green Netters Rhaul Angeles and Caitlin Chan in the final set.

Despite the loss to UST, the Green and Lady Netters' Coach Owen Lopez said he was satisfied with the teams' performance.

GREEN JOURNALS:

Jose Francisco Unson III

The first time I ever held a sword, I was still a grade school student. I had terrible form and little endurance that my coach struggled to turn me into something workable. I was not much of a fencer at 11 years old, but I enjoyed the sport. It was not something I could continue for many years though, and it was not until I was a DLSU freshman that I was able to come back to fencing. This time I was not just playing for myself, but for my alma mater. With this in mind, I pushed myself to excel and be at my very best.

For the years that I was in DLSU, the Fencing Team defined me: I scheduled my classes to accommodate my training; I skipped meetings with friends because I had training. I came home late every evening for months because I had to be at ULTRA. I would spend my own money on equipment that I would need because of a limited team budget.

I would train alone and find ways to push myself, seeing to it that not a day was wasted. I dedicated myself to the team and to the sport that I today have a very deep appreciation and love for.

Now, I'm a graduate, and no longer officially part of the team. No more pressure to lose weight and train every night. No more pressure to fix schedules to accommodate trainings. No more punishment for being late. The end of what had defined me for four years is something I look upon with mixed emotions. My pride is mixed with regret, happiness with sadness, and joy with sorrow. It is a very complex feeling for a number of reasons.

Regretfully, in my four years, I wasn't able to bring home a medal for my alma mater, and that is something I will always regret. I had my chances to accomplish this goal, but they'll always be only chances. If the goal of a fencer is to bring home a win and a medal, then there is no doubt that I failed at this. It sucks mightily.

Fortunately, I put my four years in another perspective, and take solace in what I was able to

"I miss what it means to be a fencer... I would want nothing more than to be the captain of my team once more and lead them one last time to the prospect of victory."

do for my team. Sometime during my second year, I became the team captain. We started with only about 15 fencers for both the men's and women's divisions, and had only one coach. Every other school in the UAAP had three coaches and plenty of fencers. The team suffered from little financial support, and never really had a steady manager. None of the fencers received scholarships. And

during the suspension of De La Salle, the fencing team lost its varsity status and received no funding at all that entire year, which threatened to mean an entire year of stagnation. In not so many words, the situation was dire, and it was difficult to know where to start.

Nonetheless, if greatness were ever means for the Fencing team, it would have to start from little steps, and I did my best to take steps in the right direction. I started

recruiting students who were interested to join the team, and while some would stay and some would go, today there are over 40 active fencers. It took a great deal of sacrifice, letters of request, and fundraising in order to arrive at the three-member coaching staff that now handles DLSU Fencing. Today, there is a coach for each weapon, and fencers receive the best training ever I would say in the history of the sport in De La Salle. The Office of Sports Development now has returned the team's varsity status, given funding for coaches, equipment, and even scholarships. The return of DLSU to the UAAP makes the pot even sweeter to every Lasallian student-athlete.

With all these positive signs, I am excited for my team because they are in excellent form and are complete. For the first time ever, DLSU will have a Women's Saber Team competing. With the experience of senior fencers and great coaches available to guide the team, success is not impossible. It is this promise and potential that leaves a pang of longing to pick up my sword and be a student again. I imagine myself suited up and stepping onto the metal piste, sword in hand and



PHOTO BY WILLIAM CRUZ

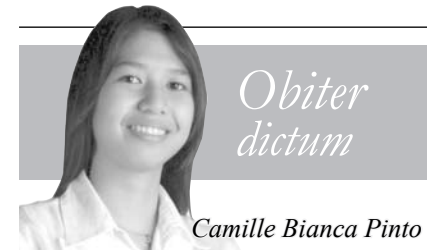
ready to defend De La Salle from all comers. I know I can amend for my past shortcoming and pull out the win, and this knowledge only adds fuel to the fire in me longing to compete.

But more than another chance to redeem myself, I miss what it meant to be a fencer: the evening trainings in ULTRA, struggling to be a student first and stay awake during class. Most of all though, I would want nothing more than to be the captain of my team once more and lead them one last time to the prospect of victory.

Unfortunately, these wishes will remain only wishes, for as melodramatic as it might sound, a new part of my life is about to begin. Nonetheless, I find myself drawn to my love for my team, my alma mater, and for fencing. I continue to go to training and contribute as much as I can to the young fencers in the hopes that what little I give might make a difference in the games to come.

In February, I know I'll be at my team's corner cheering them on, because while I may no longer be a student, I remain a Lasallian and a part of my team.

A Letter to the Editor



Sometime last month, I was surprised to see a letter when I opened my drawer in our publication's office. The letter, dated Sept. 25 and written by an anonymous alumnus (only the ID number was indicated), it was a comment on the "In this Corner" section of the September issue on some of the freshmen's opinions that held that the Green Archers seemed to have lost their determination to win. (To those who do not remember, we posed the question of whether the Green Archers would be able to make it to the men's basketball finals.)

Whoever you are, let me address the points you raised.

"In this Corner" is an opinion-based portion of the Sports Section aimed at learning Lasallians' perspectives on some sports issues. As far as I know, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. I know that you respect the comments that were raised and were only disturbed by what were said, but this does not mean that the people who did not see the team making the finals at the time do not support the Green Archers. What they just said, after all, were what they saw was the team's chances of getting to the championship round just after losing two straight games.

And look at what the Green Archers have achieved: they won the championship. Either they disregarded the "negative" statements made, or (more likely) they used these to further motivate them to win. As a writer, I am also exposed to these kinds of criticisms from former editors and fellow writers, but this does not stop me from working to improve on my craft. The Green Archers too are subject to criticisms, not just by sports analysts, but also their supporters, and those criticisms, as far as I know, only ignite their competitive fire. So, when the Green Archers entered the finals, I'm sure the comments made were simply set aside and taken note of; I'm confident the same people who made those testimonies were with me in cheering the team on.

The LaSallian sees itself as a bastion of issue-oriented critical thinking, and it is in line with this critical thrust that we give space to negative viewpoints. And we are very careful about everything we publish, which is why we section editors always have the Top Three editors of this publication go through all articles we've already edited.

I am thankful for the alumnus taking the time to read the Sports Section and making his or her concerns known. This has reminded me that criticisms will always be there, and as in the Green Archers' experience, can be made to inspire improvement. This has motivated me to look for ways to improve the Sports Section in terms of how articles are written and what articles are published. On the other hand, I would like to apologize for the delay in my response to the letter; this is because I was able to read the letter only after the October issue was released.

I also received comments about my October column, which pertained to the coach who I wrote had a bias in running his or her team. I was asked which coach I was referring to, and eventually learned that the coach I had in mind had the qualities I said were essential to good coaching. Nonetheless, I was disappointed that there are coaches, inside or outside the University, that really have a bias against some players.

I was more disappointed when the players of the team had the determination to win, but not the coach. I will not say more to protect the identity of the team, but as I pointed out last issue, the practices, determination, and skills of the players ultimately will not matter without a believing coach. A coach should unite his or her players and be a model to the team; otherwise, he or she does not deserve to be a coach.

GREEN GALLERY

BY MA. LINDA PROVIDO,
FRANCINE RICHELLE ONG,
JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES

LADY SOFTBELLE
MUNOZ
REGINA ISABEL

Known for her stealing and fielding expertise, fourth year BS Psychology Softbelle Regina "Reg" Isabel Muñoz had stepped on both foreign and local diamonds during her stay at Merriam Montessori Foundation where she, together with her teammates, left a mark of the winning Filipino pride. Reg, with teammates from schools such as Poveda College, Woodrose Academy, Assumption College, and De La Salle Zobel, finished sixth in the 2004 World Series held in Michigan. Moreover, their team also won two international competitions in the years 2003 and 2004. (One held in Australia, and the other, in Manila.)

As a DLSU Softbelle since 2005, Reg, with seven years of Softball defensive play experience under her belt, wants to develop her offensive hitting. More than skills improvement, Reg expects more harmonious play among her fellow Softbells which will hopefully lead to a championship in this UAAP season.

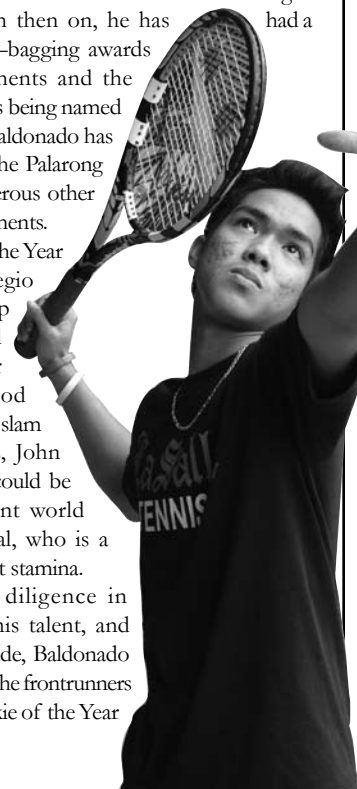
Love for one's sport, according to Reg, is what makes one continue to excel: "Hit like nobody's business. Hit like there's no tomorrow. Steal with your last breath."

GREEN TENNISER
BALDONADO
JOHN WILL

Multi-awarded tennis player John Will Baldonado will have more medals to collect when the second semester events in the UAAP unfolds. The 18-year old Marketing Management major was introduced to the sport when he was enrolled by his parents to take lessons in Colegio San Agustin. From then on, he has had a spectacular record—bagging awards in SEMG Tournaments and the PCA Open, as well as being named MVP year's ISTA. Baldonado has also participated in the Palarong Pambansa and numerous other international tournaments.

This Athlete of the Year awardee from Colegio San Agustin looks up to men's tennis world number one Roger Federer for his good strokes and 12 grand slam titles. Nonetheless, John Will's style of play could be compared to current world no. 2 Rafael Nadal, who is a baseliner with great stamina.

With his diligence in training, tennis talent, and mental fortitude, Baldonado will be one of the frontrunners for the Rookie of the Year award.

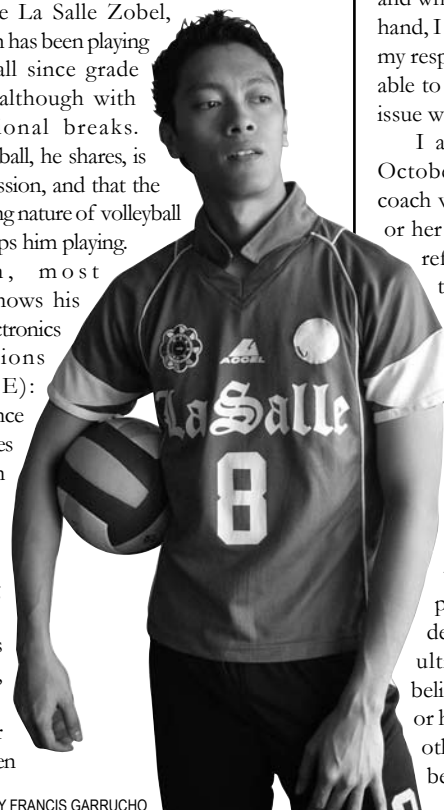
GREEN SPIKER
BOQUIREN
EMMANUEL

Now on his fifth year in college and fourth non-consecutive playing year, Green Spiker Emmanuel Boquiren is back this UAAP season as the team's expert setter, spiker, and leader.

Hailing from De La Salle Zobel, Boquiren has been playing volleyball since grade school, although with occasional breaks. Volleyball, he shares, is his passion, and that the challenging nature of volleyball is what keeps him playing.

Emmanuel, most importantly, knows his priorities as an Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE): "Mahirap talaga but once ma-set mo yung priorities and goals mo, gagaan kahit papaano." (It is really tough but once you set your priorities and goals, everything will be manageable.)

As for the team's chances this season, Boquiren is setting his sights on a final four appearance for the Green Spikers.



PHOTOS BY FRANCIS GARRUCHO

Jose Unson III, 14

The former captain of DLSU's fencing team lets us in on his thoughts on leaving the University, the current team's chances in the UAAP, and what it really means to be a student-athlete.



12th UNIGAMES, 15

The Green Jins, Green and Lady Booters, Tracksters, and the Tankers represented the University in the 12th UNIGAMES at Bacolod from Oct. 21-26. See how they fared against teams from all over the country.

Netters 2-1, 15

The DLSU Netters are getting some much needed exposure from the Youth Badminton Championship 2007 sponsored by Toby's in preparation for their upcoming UAAP competitive season.



The LaSallian SPORTS

VOL. XLVII NO. 6

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 14 2007

Lady Spikers surge past Ateneo

BY JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES

The DLSU Lady Spikers overcame number two seed Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) in three straight sets, 25-23, 25-19, 25-20, last Nov. 5 to remain in the hunt for the last semifinals berth of the second conference of the Shakey's V-League at The Arena in San Juan City.

Guest player Maureen Penetrante and Jacqueline Alarca poured in 15 points each to defeat the Ateneo opposition. Ateneo's Thai import and stalwart Lithawat Kesinee failed to keep up with the consistently exceptional play of De La Salle.

The two teams stayed close to each other in the first set. Alarca's soft tip gave DLSU the upper-hand at 23-22, and another point at 24-22, courtesy of a net error violation by the opponents. After Ateneo scored a point, a costly error gave De La Salle an easy win at 25-23.

Bea Pascual of the Katipunang-based squad gave Ateneo its early 0-2 advantage in the second set. Stephanie Mercado, however, tied the game at 2-2 and Michelle Datuin's tip gave DLSU the lead at 3-2.

The Green and White tossers continued their surge, as Mercado delivered the team's sixth point against 2 of Ateneo. But two consecutive errors haunted De La Salle, giving Ateneo breakaway opportunities to inch closer. An off-the-block shot by the Blue and White squad tied the game at 7-7.

Then again, Penetrante's down the line shot and a solid block catapulted the Taft-based squad to the driver's seat at 15-14.

An error committed by the Ateneo gave La Salle a four point cushion at 19-15. Alarca's quick center hit play further increased their lead at 21-15. Team Captain Reica Sae't's drop shot ended the set at 25-19.

DLSU went on to totally dominate the third set and took home its second win in five starts at 25-20. Alarca and Sae't's tandem block gave the Taft-based squad its biggest lead of eight points,

20-12, during the final set.

Kesinee's blocks and smart plays, nonetheless, gave the La Salle team a scare, and brought the Ateneo Lady Spikers closer, 23-20; Carla Llaguno hit the ball down the line to answer back and give DLSU a four point lead at 24-20.

DLSU is currently tied with the Lyceum of the Philippines University (LPU) Lady Pirates and Far Eastern University (FEU) Lady Tamaraws behind the number four seeded Adamson University (ADU) Lady Falcons.

Coach Ramil De Jesus admitted that his team really prepared for the game, and mentioned that pride really became a pivotal factor in winning their exciting match.

"Well maganda yung nilaro nila, talagang nag-prepare sila saka kasi yung pride kasama na rin dun, siyempre Ateneo yun (They played well; they really prepared and of course pride was a factor, because the opponent was Ateneo)," he commented.

But despite winning, the volleyball mentor said that he is hoping that the girls will not forget that they still have two important games to win to contend for the semifinals.

"Well we still have FEU and Adamson. Hopefully the momentum will stay on our side," De Jesus remarked

Other games

After winning its opening game against Letran, the DLSU Lady Spikers suffered consecutive setbacks on Oct. 30 and Nov. 2 against cellar-dweller Lyceum of the Philippines (LPU) Pirates and NCAA Champions San Sebastian College-Recoletos (SSC-R) in the Shakey's V-League second

conference elimination round. The Lady Spikers lost in five (23-25, 21-25, 25-22, 25-20, 11-15) and three sets (20-25, 22-25, 16-25), respectively, at The Arena in San Juan City.

Lyceum clinched its first win, thanks to guest player Estrelita Enriquez, Jane Jarin, and Sherrilyn Carrillo of the Pirates denied the Taft-based squad its second victory in four starts.

Numerous outside hits and miscommunication faults were committed by both sides, but De La Salle failed to capitalize on the Pirates' service errors. The Intramuros-based squad took the first two sets at 23-25 and 21-25 respectively.

The Lady Spikers' resilience, however, denied the Pirates a three-setter win and kept the game close. De La Salle's momentum carried over to the fourth set, as they took the fourth set at 25-20. Alarca's blocks and quick plays limited the Pirates' offensive and defensive plays. A commanding 12-6 advantage was hoisted by the Green and White squad, and the Pirates committed more errors. Stephanie Mercado's hit gave DLSU an 18-12 advantage.

In the fifth and deciding set, Carrillo's off the block shot and her two down the line hits gave Lyceum its first win in the V-League's second conference.

Lady Stags too hot to handle

The Stags' Thai import Jaroensri Bualae—with 20 attack points—delivered the goods for her team, catapulting them to the top spot and handing the Green and White squad its second defeat in three outings.

On the bright side for De La Salle, the team saw Michelle Datuin and

SEE LADY SPIKERS, PAGE 15



Under cover. Chie Sae't and another Lady Spiker blocks the ball for the win against Ateneo.

PHOTO BY ERIKA SERRANO

Fencers top Novice Open

BY FLOREN FAYE CHUA AND JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES

THE DLSU GREEN FENCERS posted impressive performances in this year's Novice Open at the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Fencing Hall in Pasig City, with Francis Madrazo and Christopher Ong ending at first and second in the Men's Epee and Men's Sabre divisions last Oct. 27.

Jason Corpuz, also from the Men's Sabre division, bagged sixth place overall.

Team Captain Gazel De Guzman said she was satisfied with the performances of the team. According to her, the players showed resilience despite lacking enough exposure and support. "They have done what were taught to them and they were really focused during their bouts," De Guzman relayed.

The Novice Open, she also said, was a good opportunity for the rookies to gain experience and improve their skills heading into UAAP competition: "Most likely these players who participated in the Novice Open will also be our players for this year's



Touché. A Lady Fencer hits her opponent.

PHOTO BY JENNERSON ONG

UAAP so we are really fielding them in these kinds of events." De Guzman nonetheless admitted that they still need to train harder and play more so they can improve on their standing.

In Season 68, only one fencer

bagged a medal, courtesy of a third place finish by Jun Veloira. This season, De Guzman expects to double their medal production.

"We have been training for a long time, I hope we could win more," she concluded.

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Tennisters compete in PCA Open

BY CAMILLE BIANCA PINTO AND FLOREN FAYE CHUA

TO BEGIN COMPETITIVE PREPARATIONS for the second half of the UAAP season, the DLSU Tennisters were back in action during the kick-off of the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open at the PCA tennis courts in Quirino Avenue last Nov. 6, 2007.

Veteran Lady Tennister Shirley Rose Ong suffered a straight sets defeat in the hands of Arra Micayabas, 4-7 and 2-6. At the start of the first set, Ong had the lead, 5-2, but blew it as Micayabas scored four break points to grab the advantage, 5-6. And with the score tied at 6-6, Micayabas won the first set, 6-7, through a 4-7 set tie breaker.

For men's doubles, the tandem of Green Tennister John Baldonado and Ivan Terrecampo defeated Jayson Benitez and Gabriel Gatchalian in three sets, 3-6, 7-6, and 6-2. After leading by a point in the first set at 2-1, Baldonado and Terrecampo struggled and lost the set. In the second set, again Baldonado and Terrecampo had the lead, 2-1, but lost their momentum to



PHOTO BY FRANCIS GARRUCHO

Service. A Lady Tennister aims for the ball.

trail, 4-5, though they were able to tie the set at 5-5 and eventually win it through a 7-6 tiebreaker. On the final and deciding set of the match, Baldonado and Terrecampo did not let Benitez and Gatchalian catch up as they started strong, 4-1, and went on to gain their first doubles victory as partners at the score of 6-2.

In UAAP Season 68, the Lady Tennisters were four-time defending champions and the Green Tennisters were champions.