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Philippine Collegian



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University Committee Submits Unfavorable Report on Living Conditions

Unsatisfying existing conditions in dormitories and boarding houses around the campus were raised by the lengthy, detailed report submitted by the Committee on Students' Living Conditions to the President of the University.



TARGETING TERRORISM

Revisiting America's War on Terror **Lathalain/06**

Ang Iskolar sa pagguhit ng kasaysayan

Editoryal

Naiguguhit ang sariling puwang sa kasaysayan, hindi sa pananamihim at pasibong pagmamatyag habang nasa gilid ng mga tunggalian, kung hindi sa lantad na pagsulong sa mata nito at pagpapahayag ng paglaban.

Sa ganitong pagharap ng mga sektor ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas sa pagsasailalim sa bansa sa Batas Militar noong 1972 umugat ang pagwasak sa toreng garing na niluluklukan ng pamantasan, na nakatuntong sa pagpiling sumalunga at sumuway sa likong dikta ng dating pangulo. Naging kasangkapan noon ang ating mga silid-aralan sa pagpapalawig ng pagtutol sa talamak na katiwalian at pagsupil sa karapatan ng mga mamamayang maghayag at makianib. Sa pamamagitan ng pulong ng mga mag-aaral at mga kasamang kabataan, nailunsad ang malawakang mga kilos-protesta, na bagaman dinahas ng mga kasangkapan ng diktadurya, ay matagumpay na nagsalarawan ng tumitinding paglaban sa mga palisiyang nagtaguyod sa kapakanan ng iilan. Naging sanhi naman ng pagkamatay ng tatlong dating patnugot ng Collegian ang pagpapasyang patuloy na maglathala ng pag-usig sa mga kalabisan ng pamahalaan.

Ngunit hindi naging sapat ang pagsasama-sama noon ng mga mamamayan at pakikiisa sa kanila ng pamantasan, na nakapagpataksik sa dating pangulong Marcos, upang

mapigil ang pag-ikot ng kasaysayan tungo sa kanyang pinagmulan. Sa pagkakataong ito, dalawampu't limang taon buhat nang ipatupad ang Batas Militar, nanunumbalik ang lantad na paglapastangan sa karapatan ng mga mamamayan.

Nagpapatuloy ang pagpaslang sa mga tumutuligsa sa pamahalaang Arroyo at ang kanilang sapilitang pagkawala, na maitutumbas din sa ilegal na mga pagdakip at pagkukulung noong dekada '70. Walang katiyakang nanaig nga ang kagustuhan ng mamamayan sa huling halalang pampanguluhan noong 2004 sa harap ng hindi naisasarang usapin ng pandaraya ng administrasyon. Sa gitna ng magastos na paglaban ng militar sa binansagan nitong mga rebelde, hindi naman napaglalaanan ng pondo ang kakulangan sa mga pangangailangan gaya ng pagkain, panirahan, edukasyon at kalusugan, na siya mismong pinag-uugatan ng mga pag-aalsa. Sa kabila ng mga ito, sa waring pagbuo muli ng imahe ng isang Bagong Lipunan, ibinabdila ni Arroyo ang pagpasok ng mga mamumuhunan, paglakas ng piso kontra sa dolyar, at sa pangkalahatan, pag-unlad umano ng ekonomiya.

Taglay ang kasaysayan nitong iniukit ng pakikisangkot at pakikipanig sa usapin ng mga suliraning panlipunan, muling inaasahan ang UP na tumangan ng pananaw na taliwas sa palasak at mapanira sa mga naghahari, na silang nagpapangatili ng mga kawalang-katarungan. Ngunit, sa halip na umampat dito, tila gumagatong pa ang UP, sa katauhan ng kanyang pamunuan.



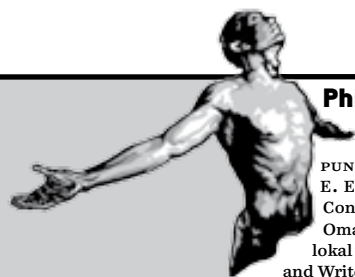
Sa ating panahon, isinasantabi ang mga prinsipyong silang dapat pinaninindigan, at pakikisama sa kabuktutan ng pambansang pamahalaan ang nagiging pagharap ng ating pamantasan

Sa pagpapataas ng bayarin ng mga mag-aaral ngayong taon, nasa alanganin na rin ang karapatan ng mga kabataan na makapag-aral, lalo na at ginawa itong masamang huwaran ng iba pang pampublikong pamantasan. Nahaharap din ang mga komunidad sa loob ng UP sa palagiang banta ng demolisyon upang bigyang-daan ang pagtatayo ng mga gusaling komersyal sa halip na akademiko. Nabubuo rin ang mga plano para sa marangyang pagdiriwang ng sentenaryo ng UP, habang maitatanong ang kapakanan ng kapwa akademiko at administratibong mga manggagawa sa loob nito. Sa ating panahon, isinasantabi ang mga prinsipyong silang dapat pinaninindigan, at pakikisama sa kabuktutan ng pambansang pamahalaan ang nagiging pagharap ng ating pamantasan.

Habang tinatahi ng pamunuan ng UP ang bagong kasaysayang

lumilihis mula sa higit na makabuluhan nitong nakaraan, tayong mga iskolar ng bayan ang silang inaanyayahang makisangkot, manindigan at tuwirang magpahayag ng pagtutol sa kasalukuyang pamahalaan, na nakaaabot ang kabuluhan mula sa mga sulok ng ating pamantasan hanggang sa higit na naghihirap na lipunan.

Wala sa ating pagpipilian ang magsawalang-kibo at manahan sa lilim ng kaalwanan. Dahil mula noong panahon ng Batas Militar hanggang sa kasalukuyan, tunay na hindi naikakabit ang bansag na iskolar ng bayan sa kung sinu-sino lamang, kung hindi sa mga tumaglay ng tatak nito ng pagpili, pagpanig at pagkilos. Hanggang nananatili ang mga nagbabagong-bihis na anyo ng kawalang-katarungan, palagian ang pag-asa sa bawat henerasyon na kumilos nang akma sa hamon ng kanilang panahon. □



Philippine Collegian Opisyal na lingguhang pahayagan ng mga mag-aaral ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas - Diliman

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Ebidensiya laban sa SR, tumitibay

“Mystery man” uncovered



■ Militant groups slam Mike Arroyo in a demonstration at Welcome Rotonda, hours after Jose “Joey” de Venecia III identified him in the September 18 Senate hearing as the “mystery man” in the ZTE deal scandal. Arroyo, who fled the country on September 17, allegedly threatened De Venecia against continuing his bid for the National Broadband Network project. ALANAH TORRALBA

Noemi M. Gonzales

Bagama’t dalawang ulit nang hindi pumunta ang mga miyembro ng Sigma Rho (SR) fraternity sa National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) upang magpaliwanag hinggil sa umano’y pagkakasangkot nila sa pagkamatay ni Cris Mendez, may mga ebidensyang nagpapatunay ng pagkakasangkot ng SR sa kaso, ani Atty. Joselito Olivares, abogado ng mga Mendez.

Ani Atty. Carlo Vasquez, pinuno ng anti-terrorism division ng NBI, muling tumanggap humarap sa NBI sina Miko Borra, Raul Grapilon at Ronald Chua noong Setyembre 13, gayundin sina Ryan Bacay, Crispin Calimson, Reggie Agustin at Andoni Santos noong Setyembre 14, sa kabila ng nauna nang pagpapatuwag sa kanila ng NBI noong Setyembre 6 at 7. Hinihinalang kasama ni Mendez ang mga nabanggit na miyembro ng SR noong naganap ang hazing.

Tumanggi ring magbigay ng pahayag sa NBI si Dr. Francisco Cruz na nagdala kay Mendez sa ospital

kung saan siya idineklarang dead on arrival.

Sa halip, dagdag ni Vasquez, sumulat sa kanilang opisina ang abogado ni Cruz at ng mga miyembro ng SR upang sabihing tumatanggi silang magbigay ng pahayag at haharapin na lamang nila ang anumang kasong ihahain laban sa kanila.

Agad na isasampa ng pamilya ni Mendez ang kasong paglabag sa anti-hazing law laban sa mapatunayang sangkot sa pagkamatay ni Mendez matapos ang imbestigasyon ng NBI ngayong Oktubre, ayon kay Olivares.

Namatay si Mendez, 20 taong gulang at nasa ikaapat na taon sa kursong public administration, noong Agosto 27 sa hazing ng hinihinalang mga miyembro ng SR.

Iba pang testigo

“[NBI is] in the process of building up the case against na-involve na SR,” ani Vasquez.

Nauna nang nagbigay ng pahayag sa NBI ang guwardya ng Pasong Tamo Village sa Pingkian, QC, kung saan hinihinalang naganap ang hazing, at ang may-ari ng tinutuluyang boarding house ni Mendez sa Krus na Ligas, QC na si Gemma Jimenez. Kinumpirma rin ni Vasquez na mayroong mga miyembro ng SR na maaaring tumestigo sa kaso bagama’t tumanggi ang NBI na magbigay ng detalye ukol sa imbestigasyon.

“Mabagal man po [ang imbestigasyon] ay umuusad naman,” ayon kay Cristina Mendez, ina ng biktima.

“I’m satisfied with the progress of the NBI investigation. All evidence, so far, point toward SR as the culprits,” ayon kay Olivares.

Dalawampu’t isang araw na ang nakalipas mula noong mamatay si Mendez.

Pulong sa UP

Samantala, noong Setyembre 14, nakipagpulong ang pamunuan ng UP sa mga kinatawan ng NBI at ng QC Police District (QCPD) upang hilinging bigyang-proteksyon ang mga testigo sa kaso. Ani Special Investigator Roger Sususco, lahat ng interogasyon sa mga testigo ay isasagawa na lamang sa loob ng kampus.

Maghahain ang administrasyon ng mungkahing pagpapatalsik sa UP ng mga mapatunayang may kinalaman sa pagkamatay ni Mendez matapos ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon, ani Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Elizabeth Enriquez. Kaugnay nito, tutulong ng NBI at ng QCPD ang UP na mangalap ng sapat na ebidensyang magtuturo

SUNDAN SA P.11

Call center sa PUP kinundena ng mga mag-aaral

Noemi M. Gonzales

Dahil sa ipinangangambang pagtindi ng pagkomersyalisa sa edukasyon sa pamantasan, mariing tinututulan ng mga mag-aaral ng Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) ang napipintong pagbubukas ng isang call center sa gusaling ipinatayo ng Commission on Higher Education (CHED) sa loob ng kampus.

Itinayo ang isang palapag na gusali noong Mayo ngayong taon ayon sa proyekto ng CHED na magtatag ng mga call center para sa mga mag-aaral ng state universities and colleges, ani Victoria Naval, bise presidente ng PUP.

Nakatayo ang P200-milyong gusali ng call center malapit sa pangunahing kampus ng PUP sa Pureza, Sta. Mesa, Maynila.

Walang malinaw na kontrata

Kawalan ng malinaw na kontrata sa pagitan ng PUP at CHED ang sinisising dahilan ni Henrie Enaje, student regent (SR) ng PUP noong 2006 hanggang 2007, sa kalituhan ng mga mag-aaral at ng pamunuan ng PUP sa tunay na estado ng call center sa unibersidad.

Bagamat parehong ahensya ng gobyerno ang CHED at PUP, nara-

rapat lamang na magkaroon ng memorandum of agreement (MOA) na magbibigay-linaw sa pamamahala ng gusali, ani Enaje. Dagdag pa niya, iligal ang naging konstruksyon ng gusali dahil wala kahit isang papel na naihapag sa Board of Regents (BOR) ang presidente ng PUP at ang dating pangulo ng CHED na si Carlito Puno.

Pinabulaanan ni Guevarra ang kawalan ng proyekto ng kontrata. Aniya, ang MOA ay nasa pag-iingat ng assistant director ng CHED na si Atty. Julito Vitriolo na kasalukuyang nasa Estados Unidos.

“The BOR does not need to approve the project because CHED’s decision has more weight than the [BOR’s decision]. PUP is under CHED,” dagdag ni Guevarra.

Ayon pa kay Naval, limitado lamang sa pagpapagamit ng lupa ang bahagi ng PUP sa pagbubukas ng call center. Aniya, CHED at hindi PUP ang nakipagnegosasyon sa mga kumpanya ng call center na Enterprise Strategy Group at Philippine Long Distance Telephone Communication Aventus.

hindi magbabayad ng renta sa lupa ang CHED sa PUP ngunit bilang kapalit, isasalin na sa pamunuan ng PUP ang pamamahala sa naturang gusali makalipas ang limang taon, ani Guevarra.

Practicum sa call center

Samantala, ipinanukala ng administrasyon ng College of Communication (COC) at College of Languages and Linguistics (CLL) na gugulin ng mga mag-aaral ng mga kolehiyo ang kanilang on-the-job training sa nasabing call center simula sa susunod na semestre, ayon kay Enaje.

Ayon kay Jerwin Coronel, tagapangulo ng konseho ng mag-aaral ng COC, ipinahayag ni COC Dean Roberto Soriano noong Hulyo 2 na sa nasabing call center tatapusin ng mga mag-aaral ng Broadcast Communication (BC) ang 150 oras nilang practicum, sa halip na sa radyo gaya ng nakasaad sa kurikulum.

Dagdag pa ni Eunice Carla Remito, tagapangulo ng konseho ng mag-aaral ng CLL, maaari na ring tapusin ng mga mag-aaral ng English and Foreign Languages ang kanilang practicum sa call center kapalit ng pagtuturo sa hayskul.

Ayon kay Enaje, nakatanggap sila ng balita na tatanggap ang mga mag-aaral na magsasagawa ng kanilang practicum sa call center ng P300 kada araw, higit na maliit sa P500 average na suweldo ng isang regular na empleyado ng call center.

Hindi pabor si Dekki Morales, propesor ng Ingles sa PUP, sa panukalang gawing practicum ng

mag-aaral ang pagpasok sa call center dahil lantaran umano nito ng itinutugma ang edukasyon sa interes ng merkado.

“Kung sa call center din lang babagsak ang mga estudyante, para saan pa ang apat na taon? Hindi naman kailangan ng degree doon, basta magaling mag-English,” ani Morales.

‘Di wastong gamit ng idle assets

Kinundena naman ng kasalukuyang SR Sophia Prado ang pagpapagamit ng lupa ng PUP sa proyektong call center ng CHED lalo na’t layon nitong ipagamit sa pribadong kumpanya ang itinayong gusali. Aniya, dapat na inilaan sa akademya ang idle assets ng unibersidad.

“Isa itong income-generating scheme ng admin para ma-augment ang shortage sa budget, patunay lamang na unti-unti nang nawawala ang suporta ng gobyerno sa mga SUC,” ani Prado.

Kinuwestiyon din ni Prado ang pagpapagawa ng practicum ng mga mag-aaral sa call center. Ani Prado, dapat munang aprubahan ng BOR ang mga pagbabagong isasagawa sa kurikulum bago ito ipatupad.

Ipananukala ni Prado na imbestigahan ng BOR ang kontrata ng gusali sa pulong ng BOR sa Setyembre 20. □

After five years as runner up

UP Pep regains crown



High kicks

■ The UP Pep Squad strut their spunky "rock star" routine in this year's Cheerdance competition on September 16 at the Araneta Coliseum. UP emerged as this year's champion, breaking UST's five-year winning streak. ALANAH TORRALBA

Glenn L. Diaz

The crown is back. Displaying a near flawless "rock star" routine complete with goth-inspired maroon and black attire, the UP Pep Squad finally broke its dry spell by snagging the 2007 University Athletics Association of the Philippines (UAAP) Cheerdance Competition championship at the Araneta Coliseum on September 16.

Bringing home a trophy plus P172,500, the win is UP's fourth since the competition began in 1995, after achieving a three-peat from 1999 to 2001. UP won over the heavily favored and defending champions University of Santo Tomas (UST) by mere 0.5 points, 92.66 to 92.16.

Running on a five-year winning streak, UST's Salinggawi Dance Troupe (SDT) donned yellow wigs as they danced to old tunes this year. The Far Eastern University (FEU) Pep Squad, with their "Happy Feet"-motivated routine, meanwhile, completed the top three with a score of 91.66.

A fall in one of SDT's initial pyramids proved costly for them. The UP Pep Squad, meanwhile, put on an almost perfect show with stunning synchronicity, high levels of difficulty for their stunts, and an even higher level of spunk due in part to the theme they picked this year.

Known for their innovation and creativity in the sport, the UP Pep Squad introduced trends that were

later imitated by other squads. In 1998, it dropped the customary skirts for pants for the first time. In 2001, it incorporated taekwondo moves in its routine and in 2003, it formed the first ever all-male pyramid in the competition.

"UP has always been known for its uniqueness so we used the 'rock star' theme to deviate from the usual novelty songs and cheer-mixes," UP Pep Squad Team Captain Andrea

Gonzales said. "It has never been done before, so we did it."

"Everything from the music and drumbeats, to the routine, the costume, hair and make-up, props, cheers, everything was rock. I think we were able to justify it. It wasn't dark and gloomy," she added.

For instance, the squad incor-

porated the music of Wolfgang's Sanctified and Metallica's Enter Sandman into their number. Their costumes, predominantly maroon and black, completed the "rock-inspired" effect.

"All we were aiming for during the competition was a perfect run which the whole team and the UP crowd would be proud of. We performed for UP," Gonzales said. "We were already at peace with whatever the result would be and getting the championship only made that feeling better."

The criteria were 50 percent for choreography, 30 percent for synchronization, 10 percent for audience audibility, and 10 percent for costume. This year also saw the first time when the event organizers did not require an obligatory cheer for the major sponsor. □

sportscene



kikipag-usap ang mga abogado ng SR sa pamunuan ng UP.

Nauna nang napabalita na magsasampa ng kaso ang SR kung hindi ipawawalang-bisa ng UP ang tatlumpong araw na suspensyon sa mga opisyal ng SR. Sinuspinde ng administrasyon sina Raul Grapilon, Ronald Chua, Andrew Selah Dela Rosa at Armand Lorenze Sapitan. Matatapos ang 30 araw na suspensyon sa mga opisyal ng SR sa Oktubre 5.

Samantala, pupulungin ng University Student Council ang mga miyembro ng sorority at fraternity sa pagsisimula ng ikalawang semestre upang talakayin ang anti-hazing law. □

Ebidensya MULA P.3

sa mga sangkot sa pagkamatay ni Mendez.

Batay sa Revised Rules and Regulations Governing Fraternities, Sororities and Other Student Organizations, maaaring mapatalsik mula sa unibersidad ang sinumang mapatutunayang sangkot sa hazing matapos ang paglilitis ng Student Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT).

Pagsasampa ng kaso ng SR

Wala pang kasong isinasampa ang SR laban sa administrasyon ng UP ukol sa pagsususpinde sa mga opisyal ng SR, ani Enriquez. Dagdag niya, hindi pa muling na-

police briefs

John Alliage Tinio Morales

Only half of crimes in campus solved

Only 50 percent of the crimes committed in UP Diliman since January this year were resolved by the university's security forces.

UP Diliman Police (UPDP) records showed that 54 out of the 122 cases filed with the UPDP were considered closed. Although four months away from the closing of the year, the number of crimes for the past eight months have already surpassed the 110 cases recorded in 2006.

Almost 70 percent of the crimes recorded were theft, robbery and hold up or roughly P2.2 million worth cash and properties stolen, which is more than double of last year's losses of P1 million.

Seven fraternity-related incidents and two cases of sexual harassment were also recorded.

UPDP Officer in Charge Bernie Baltazar attributed the low 50 percent crime prevention efficiency to the lack of police personnel, even with the added civilian police Special Security Brigade and 200-strong security guards roaming the university's four hundred-hectare land area.

Currently, 55 police are deployed in the campus, some of whom serve as private guards of the high-ranking UP administration officials. "Kulang na kulang ang equipment ng UPDP [at] ang iba pa ay nabubulok na," he said, citing as an example the three dilapidated police patrol mobile.

Car theft gang nabbed

A five-member car theft gang was caught redhanded by the UPDP forces on September 4 at the College of Mass Communication (CMC).

Lt. Stanley Fabian disclosed that the UPDP Task Force Basag chanced upon the suspects using screw drivers to force open a vehicle at the parking lot of the CMC.

The suspects tried to escape using a red Toyota Revvo, with plate number WHH-652, towards the direction of Commonwealth Ave. where the police finally cornered the gang. At the UPDP station, the police recovered laptop computers, cellular phones, and other personal things worth P150,000, which were looted from previous robberies.

Police identified the suspects as Idelmar Petalyin, Rodney Casing, Amelia Estrella, Ceterino Bayhon and Francisco Reyes, who are all from Rizal province.

"Siguradong miyembro sila [mga suspek] ng sindikato. Hindi sila nahuhuli dahil paiba-iba sila ng sasakyang ginagamit," Baltazar said.

Fabian disclosed that the gang was targeting vehicles at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice and the parking lots of the colleges of Business Administration and Public Administration. "Sa ngayon, wala nang naitatalang [insidente ng] bukas-kotse matapos silang maaresto," Fabian said.

In its five-month investigation, the police established that the gang usually attacked on Tuesdays and put a scratch on the right side of the target vehicle. Fabian added that the gang, listed as one of the "most wanted" robbery groups in the campus, was responsible for at least 20 cases of robbery in the campus this year.

The suspects were charged with theft at the Quezon City Police District, where they are currently detained.

The UPDP, meanwhile, is on the lookout against another gang known as the "Biking in Tandem," whose operation is to snatch ladies' bags and cellular phones in open areas. □

BUKAS PA RIN ANG KULÊ PARA SA MGA BAGONG RETRATISTA, LAYOUT ARTIST, ILUSTRADOR, WEB STAFF, AT MGA MANUNULAT SA BALITA, LATHALAIN AT KULTURA

[WRITERS] Bring two bluebooks, a pen, and a portfolio of sample works (may be submitted later). You may join **News, Features,** or **Kultura.** Filipino and/or English writers welcome. [ARTISTS] Submit a portfolio of your works (to be returned, don't worry). **Illustrators,** bring bond paper and art materials of your choice. **Photographers, web staff and layout artists,** bring two bluebooks and a pen. **Exams may be taken anytime at the Kulê office, Room 401, Vinzons Hall. Freshies are most welcome!** For questions, text Jerrie 0920.308.2303 or email kule0708@gmail.com

Anti-graft campaign continues after Estrada conviction

Victor Gregor Limon

Deposed president Joseph Estrada may have already been found guilty of plunder after more than six years of court proceedings, but according to student and youth leaders, the fight against corruption in the government continues.

In its 212-page decision, the anti-graft court Sandiganbayan declared Estrada guilty of amassing more than P4 billion worth of gambling payoffs and commissions from the sale of shares of a real estate firm.

Estrada was sentenced to reclusion perpetua, or 20 to 40 years in jail, and was ordered to surrender his rights to a mansion and two bank accounts holding P731 million excluding interest.

Pending further notice, Estrada was sent back to temporary detainment at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been under house arrest since 2004.

"Corruption today is the issue"

While Anakbayan National Chair Eleanor de Guzman welcomes the ruling as it reaffirms the people's will in ousting Estrada in 2001, she said the more pertinent issue today would be Gloria Arroyo's accountability for corruption in the government. Arroyo succeeded Estrada in 2001.

UP Diliman University Student Council Chair Shahana Abdulwahid also said Estrada's conviction should only be the start of a more aggressive campaign against corruption. The youth should remain vigilant and should participate in protest actions against corruption in the incumbent administration.

"Hindi mabubura ng verdict [kay Estrada] ang katotohanan na marami pa rin ang naghihirap na mga Pilipino ngayon, at dahil ito sa patuloy pa ring corrupt practices sa gobyerno," she explained.

De Guzman named a number of malicious big-money projects the government pursued: the Broadband deal, the Philippine National Railway Project, and the cyber-education program, among others. "Dapat na panagutin din si Gloria

sa kontrobersyal na projects na ito," she said.

De Guzman also said Estrada's conviction does not legitimize Arroyo's mandate because of the massive electoral fraud she allegedly perpetrated in 2004. She added the verdict will not result to political stability, because political stability will be attained only if the administration will rid itself of corruption.

De Guzman also said that Anakbayan and other militant groups are also discussing the possibility of filing against Arroyo a graft case which would cite, among others, Arroyo's alleged use of fertilizer funds in her 2004 elections campaign.

Jinggoy, Erap lawyer acquitted

The Sandiganbayan, meanwhile, acquitted Estrada's son Senator Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio, who were both Estrada's co-accused in the plunder case. Estrada was also acquitted of perjury for allegedly falsely declaring his assets.

Estrada and his lawyers turned down any offer of pardon and vowed to dispute the guilty verdict by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Sandiganbayan before September 27.

The National Bureau of Investigation is still on the hunt for Estrada's other co-accused, who are currently in hiding: Yolanda Ricaforte, Jaime Dichaves, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.

Ricaforte, the wife of former Tourism Undersecretary Orestes Ricaforte, was Estrada's alleged personal auditor who kept track of jueteng collections. Dichaves, a supposed member of Estrada's "Midnight Cabinet," claimed ownership of the Jose Velarde bank account reportedly owned by Estrada.

Tan, Alfaro and Rajas were alleged to have opened the bank accounts into which suspected tobacco tax kickbacks for Estrada were deposited.

Only a handful of pro-Erap rallyists

Anticipating violent protests from Estrada's supporters in the event of a conviction, the Philippine National Police deployed a 6,000-strong police force to seal roads to Malaca-

ñang, with additional 2,000 soldiers as reinforcements, but only 600 to 700 pro-Estrada supporters showed up according to police estimates.

In a survey by the Social Weather Station, 57 percent or majority of Filipinos expected Estrada's acquittal, while only 36 percent expected a conviction.

Signatories of the plunder case against Estrada, like the anti-graft alliance Plunder Watch, however, said they were no longer very keen on having the deposed head-of-state convicted, even before the judgment day. "[We have] long given up on the plunder case," said Carol Araullo, convenor of PlunderWatch.

Araullo explained in media reports that the Sandiganbayan trials have become heavily influenced by Malacañang that signatory groups of the plunder case stopped attending the trials towards the end of 2003.

"[We found ourselves] having to address more pressing issues spawned by the Arroyo administration: the worsening cases of corruption and plunder, the systematic and nationwide slaughter of activists, and the almost total subservience to US and foreign monopoly capital dictates." □

Bespren



■ Ipinahayag ng tinatayang 300 taga-suporta ni dating pangulong Joseph Estrada noong Setyembre 12 sa labas ng Sandiganbayan ang kanilang pagtutol sa hatol na "guilty" sa salang pandarambong, na may parusang 40 taong pagkakakulong. TIMOTHY MEDRANO

Paninigarilyo sa UP hinigpitan

Victor Gregor Limon

Naghigpit ang kasalukuyang regulasyon sa paninigarilyo sa mga kampus ng UP matapos magpalabas ang pamunuan ng UP noong Setyembre 5 ng bagong palisiya hinggil dito.

Sa bisa ng Administrative Order (AO) No. 07-70, bawal nang manigarilyo sa buong kampus ng UP Baguio, UP Diliman Extension Program sa Pampanga, UP Manila (UPM), UPM School of Health Sciences sa Palo, Leyte, at UP Visayas sa Cebu at Tacloban.

Sakop ng palisiyang ito ang loob ng mga gusali, mga lagusan, mga parking area, at mga hardin sa pamantasan. Ipatutupad din ito sa Philippine General Hospital sa UPM, mga pagamutan sa mga kampus, mga establisimyentong umuupa sa lupa ng pamantasan, at mga sasakyang

dumadaan sa mga kampus ng UP.

Samantala, sa malalaking kampus tulad ng UP Diliman (UPD), UP Los Baños, UP Visayas sa Iloilo, at UP Mindanao sa Davao, patuloy na ipagbabawal ang paninigarilyo sa loob ng mga gusali. Nakatak-dang bumuo ang mga chancellor at dekanong nasabing mga yunit ng panukala kung paano ipatutupad ang palisiya sa kabuuan ng mga kampus sa loob ng tatlong taon.

Ayon sa AO, paninigarilyo ang pagtataglay ng anumang sigarilyong may sindi, hinihithit man o hindi.

Hindi na rin pahihintulutan sa ilalim ng AO ang pagbebenta at pag-aanunsyo ng mga produktong tabako sa loob ng 100 metro mula sa mga hangganan ng mga kampus.

Pagpapatupad

Ipatutupad ang nasabing AO ng lahat ng mga dekanong, mga tagapangulo ng mga kagawaran ng bawat

kolehiyo, at iba pang mga tagapamahala ng mga tanggapan ng UP. Nasa pagpapasya ng mga opisyal ng bawat yunit ng UP kung ipagbabawal din ang paninigarilyo sa mga komunidad sa mga kampus.

Ang sinumang estudyante, guro, o empleyado ng UP na lalabag sa nasabing AO ay sasampahan ng kasong "simple misconduct" para sa unang paglabag at ng kasong "grave misconduct" naman para sa mga susunod pang paglabag.

Ayon sa mga panuntunan sa UPD Student Handbook na huling nirebisa noong 1998, ang sinumang may kasong "misconduct" ay maaaring patawan ng parusang mula sapilitang paghingi ng tawad hanggang pagpapatalsik sa pamantasan.

Bagaman sang-ayon sa palisiya si UPD University Council Chair Shahana Abdulwahid, kailangan pa rin aniyang sinsinin muna ang

SUNDAN SA P.11

Foreign students arrive, fresh from their home countries. Every artifact, object, and piece of literature becomes a grammar lesson as they are quick to notice that just about everything, from road signs to instruction manuals, are printed in English. They are elated about being in the Philippines, known as a country conducive for learning English.

Taste Test

Most of these students rely on student exchange programs from their respective governments or universities in order to study in the Philippines. The rest, meanwhile, had to pay with their own resources. Kim Hyo Jin (Rika), 21, and Lee Sang Seo (Mancer), 24, hailing from South Korea and taking up journalism, got a scholarship made possible through a partnership between Hallym University and UP Diliman.

As an international corporation offering education for foreign students proclaims, affordable overseas degrees and tuition fees, economical accommodation and living expenses, inexpensive travel cost, and student-assisted visa application all serve to market the Philippines to prospective students from other countries as “the place to be.”

To be able to study in UP, foreign students must pay the university the appropriate education development fee (EDF) per semester. The EDF ranges from US\$30 for undergraduate resident aliens to US\$500 for non-resident aliens taking up graduate studies. Despite the EDF, foreign students, apparently, still find the cost of education relatively cheaper.

According to the Department of Tourism, the Philippines is the world's third largest English-speaking nation. It is not surprising, then, that the country has become a haven for foreigners seeking to hone their English-speaking skills. “My purpose of visiting is to improve my English,” says Rika with a smile, doing her best to pronounce the words properly. Says Mancer, “[Studying] English here is very cheap. I try to study English [as well as Philippine] culture and [its people's] lifestyle.”

Slip of the Tongue

The fluency of Filipinos in the English language is rooted in the years following the colonization of the Philippines under the American banner. According to Prof. Gonzalo Campoamor III, as early as 1901, free public and secular education were made available by Americans as a subtle means to further their influence. English was used as both the medium of instruction and the language in which textbooks were written to train the Filipinos to be fluent in the colonizers' mother tongue. The American government eventually handed the educated Filipinos the proverbial keys to the city. Since then, Filipinos have boasted of their fluency in the native language of the American people.

The Philippines thus becomes an alternative to other countries that offer more expensive English education. According to Hannah, a Korean student taking up tourism, “[the] Philippines has [a] good educational system for studying English.” The Philippines becomes a steppingstone for foreign students on their way to succeed in an Americanized

world market, where English has become the medium for business and trade.

For the foreign student, learning English is only a means to an end. The option to learn English enhances his/her chances of landing a high-end job in his/her homeland. For the Filipino, on the other hand, mastery of the English language becomes essential for survival in an environment where English proficiency does not necessarily mean having a competitive edge in employment.

Fluency in English has become almost a staple in the country, as evidenced by the recent boom of Business Process Outsourcing – the contracting of a business task to a third-party service provider – such as call centers. English proficiency in the Philippines has become an intangible, intellectual resource, an end in itself. The lack of national industries in the Philippines, moreover, limits the

Filipino professional's chances of being employed and confines his/her options to either seeking a higher-paying job abroad or working cheap for some multinational company based in the country.

Code Switching

Saki Arima, 19, is currently taking up International Relations. She intends to learn more about Southeast Asian development by staying in the Philippines for six months, believing her experience in dealing with the poor communities in the country to be an asset when she graduates and goes back to Japan. Yoshio Minami, a 22-year old Japanese student, also thinks that studying in the Philippines will help him when he graduates as community development major and finds work in a non-government organization or a travel agency, due to his interest in Philippine culture and ability to speak in Tagalog – a skill he acquired from taking Tagalog as an elective in Japan.

The characteristics that foreigners often enumerate when talking about Filipinos – the very concept of “Filipino values” integrated in their psyche – have become commodified due to the government's effort to market the Philippines as the most ideal place for foreigners to improve their English-speaking skills. The so-called traits of Filipinos – hospitable and hardworking – are geared precisely to render the country as an ideal site for foreign investment.

One can see the parallelism between cheap labor investments in the country by multinational companies and the phenomenon of foreign students flocking to the Philippines to become well-versed in the language that arguably dominates the globe. The Filipino's proficiency in English attests to the Philippines' subservience to the United States' market. Evidently, the American

Mikael Angelo
S. Francisco

Tongue Tied

FOREIGN STUDENTS AND THE LIMITATIONS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

mother tongue has set the standard for the rest of the world. The Philippines, thus, is more of a pawn than a player in international relations.

Mancer, Rika, and many others like them continue to dream. Eventually, they will graduate. Upon returning to their home countries, they will most likely succeed in their chosen fields, whether slowly or rapidly. Chances are, they will rise to the top ranks, thanks in part to the English-speaking skills they acquired in the Philippines from their Filipino friends and professors. The Filipinos – the students, tutors and professors who have mastered the English language – can only both dream and dread. They dream of a life abroad and dread the prospect of being constrained to a cubicle at work, underpaid, for a multinational company. □

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Tatlong Maria

Labintatlong taon na pala ang nakalipas, pero nandito pa rin silang tatlo. Wala na sigurong makakabuwag pa sa tibay ng samahan nila. Sa tuwing nakikita ko silang magkakasama, parang gumagaan ang aking pakiramdam. Lalo na kung may presswork, naaalihw ako dahil sa masaya nilang pag-uusap. Minsan nakasama ko sila sa kwentuhan. Naantig ang aking puso dahil lahat na yata ng pagsubok sa buhay ay napagdaanan na nila bilang magka-kaibigan. Lalo na ng magkaproblema ang isa sa kanila.

Mahirap ang pinagdaanan ni Ate Vilma. Dahil sa labis na pagmamahal sa kanyang asawa, sukdulang itakwil siya ng magulang dahil sa pagsuway niya, na 'wag sumama dahil menor de edad pa siya noon. Pero sumama siya sa lalake at nagbunga ang kanilang pagmamahalan.

'Di rin ito nagtagal dahil maaga ding kinuha ng Maykapal ang kanilang supling. Lumipas ang 14 na taong pagsasama at buhat noon ay 'di na sila biniyayaan pa ng anak. Kasabay 'nun ang pagkasira ng kanilang pagsasama. Umabot sa puntong nagloko si lalake; dahil sa kagustuhang magkaanak, natuto itong mambabae. Dalawang taong nagbulag-bulagan at nagbingi-bingihan si Ate Vilma. Kahit mismong hipag na niya na si Ate Sharon ang nagsasabi, 'di niya ito alintana dahil na rin sa labis na pagmamahal sa asawa. Pansamantala siyang umalis upang makapag-isip-isip.

Dahil na din sa kagustuhan ni Ate Sharon na matigil na ang kalokohan ng kapatid ay pinauwi niya si Ate Vilma.

Dito na niya natuklasan ang lahat. Nahuli niya si lalake na may iba ng kinakasamang babae sa loob pa mismo ng kanilang tahanan. Parang gumuho ang mundo ni Ate Vilma ng mga sandaling 'yon. Tanging si Ate Sharon ang naging sandalan ni Ate Vilma. Halos itakwil si Ate Sharon ng kanyang mga kapatid at magulang. Wala siyang pakialam kahit magalit pa ang mga ito sa kanya dahil sa

pagtulung niya at pagkampi kay Ate Vilma, dahil mas nanaig sa kanya ang katotohanan na nagkamali ang

kanyang kapatid kung kaya't 'di niya ito kinunsinti.

Sabi ni Ate Vilma, tao lamang siya na nagmahal at nasaktan. Wala siyang magawa kundi tanggapin ang katotohanan na kahit kailan ay di na sila magkakaayos pa ng asawa. Minabuti ni Ate Nora na patirahin muna sa kanila si Ate Vilma, pero dahil sa kagustuhan na makapag-isa ay nagpahanap na lang siya ng mauupahan. Humanap si Ate Nora ng bahay na mas malapit lang sa kanila. Gabi-gabi ay binibisita niya si Ate Vilma upang masiguro na kumakain ito ng tama, o kaya'y isinasama sa Paskong Pasiklab upang malibang siya at makalimutan ang kanyang problema.

SABI NI ATE VILMA, TAO LAMANG SIYA NA NAGMAHAL AT NASAKTAN

Silid 401*

'Di nagsisipi si Ate Vilma dahil isa lamang daw itong leksiyon na kanyang natutunan. Sabi nga nila, hindi lahat ng araw ay puno ng kalungkutan; siyempre mayroon ding kaligayahan. Makalipas ang dalawang buwan, nakatagpo si Ate Vilma ng bagong pag-ibig. Sa tulong ni Ate Nora at ng landlady nito, muling nakapag-asawa si Ate Vilma at sa pagkakataong ito masaya na siya sa piling ng asawa, na kanyang minahal at patuloy na nagmamahal sa kanya ng labis. Sa ngayon ay may dalawa na silang supling; si Emmanuel at si Ruth.

Wala na sigurong hihigit pa sa samahan nilang tatlo, na kahit nag-aaway, nag-aasaran, nagtatawanan, nagkakapikunan ay nagkakaayos din sa bandang huli. Mami-miss ko yung samahan nila, lalo na 'yung matitining nilang halakhak kung ang tema ng usapan ay tungkol sa kabastusan at nakatambay sila sa kusina habang humihigop ng mainit na kape. Mami-miss ko si Ate Nora sa tuwing pinapaalala niya na may hono na. Ganun din si Ate Vilma na madalas akong kwentuhan ng tungkol sa kabastusan at pati na din si Ate Sharon na laging nagtatanong kung kami ba ay kumain na. Salamat sa kanila at kahit sa maikling panahon na inilag ko sa Kule ay nakasama ko sila at napasaya. Kahit papaano ay naging parte na din sila ng buhay ko. □

*Para kina Ate Amy, Ate Trinie at Ate Gina.



Chris S. Agrava

Family Dancing*

Pumunta akong Bulacan noong nakaraang Sabado, kasama ang ate ko, upang dalawin ang kuya ko at ang una kong pamangkin. Nanganak ng malusog na batang babae ang asawa ni Kuya noong Set. 11. Pabiro kong sabi kay Kuya, sana huwag lumaking terorista si Euniz.

Ika-27 kaarawan din ni Kuya nang puntahan namin sila. Sa daan, bumili kami ng keyk, mga prutas, at mga gamit ng bata. Masaya naman kami ni Ate. Maingat ang pagkakadiseno ng icing sa keyk na nagsasabing "Happy Birthday, Jem." Saka ko na lamang nakita, nang makarating kami sa bahay nila, na humulas na pala ang puting asukal sa keyk ni Kuya.

Nakatira sina Kuya sa isang maliit na kuwarto sa bahay ng pamilya ng kanyang asawa. Nagtatrabaho si Kuya sa call center, kahit nakapagtapos siya ng computer engineering sa isang unibersidad sa Maynila. Walang trabaho ang kanyang asawa. Alam kong kahit gusto nilang bumukod, hindi kakayanin ni Kuya na buhayin ang kanyang pamilya nang mag-isa. Humiram pa nga siya ng pera kay Papa, pambayad sa ospital.

Agad akong lumabas ng kuwarto nang makita ko ang sanggol sa kama; napakaliit niya at pakiramdam ko, hindi kakayanin ng munti niyang katawan kahit mga titig lamang. Kinunan ni Ate ng maraming litrato si Euniz, ipadadala niya kina Mama at Papa sa US. Sa labas, habang nagyoyosi, narinig ko ang tawanan nila. Naisip ko, okey na. Naubos ko ang kalahating kaha ng Winston Lights.

Iba ang init sa Plaridel, matataas pa rin ang mga talahib sa paligid, at pagta-tricycle pa rin ang pangunahing kabuhayan ng mga tao roon. Kahit si Kuya, naengganyo na ring bumili ng motor. Napamura ako nang malaman kong mahigit isang daang libo ang hinuhulugan niya kada buwan.

Pagkatapos naming mananghalian, lumabas ako para muling magyosi. Lumabas din si Kuya at humingi ng yosi. Tinanong ko siya, "So, masaya ka naman ba?" Sabi niya, "Bakit hindi?" Hindi niya sinagot ang tanong ko, pero hindi ko na ipinilit pa.

Kumukurba na ang likod ni Kuya, at malaki ang kanyang ipinayat. May pilat siya sa kanyang bum-bunan, makinis na makinis at noong una'y hindi tinutubuan ng buhok. Wala naman iyon dati. Sabi ni Papa, baka dahil lang sa stress. Napansin ko, habang nagyoyosi kami, may kaunti nang buhok, puting-puting buhok, sa kanyang pilat.

Inaya niya akong muling pumasok upang paghathan ang dala naming keyk. Sinindihan ko ang tatlong maliliit na kandila, at kinunan ni Ate ng litrato si Kuya habang hinihipan ang munting mga baga. Habang hinihiwa ko ang keyk, iniisip ko ang trabahong maaari kong pasukan, ang mga gatas at damit at iba pang gamit na bibilhin ko para kay Euniz, ang sasabihin ko kay Kuya bago kami umalis para hindi na siya masyadong mag-alala at mag-isip. Para tubuan na ng itim na buhok ang kanyang pilat. Para sa susunod, hindi na tanong ang isasagot niya sa tanong ko.

Tanging "Ingat" lang ang nasabi ko bago sumakay ng bus pauwi. □

*pasintabi kay David Leavitt

Domestic drama

Kawawa naman ang bahay, my mother always says when she scolds me for going home late. Alagaan mo naman. Though she lives in Dubai, she is wont to call me almost daily, checking up on everything, from my studies to our pets to the household bills. Today, she reminds me to call my dad in Cebu. Nasa ospital pa yun, she tells me, may bara daw sa artery niya. Kamustahin mo.

She hangs up, and as I place my phone back in my pocket, I receive a text message. It's my youngest sister. *Kmusta k n?* she asks. I don't know how to respond. Here I am, stuck in the middle of rush-hour traffic, in a jeepney overloaded like my bag stuffed with books and laundry. The young driver likes his music awfully loud. And home is still more than an hour away. What can I tell her?

I decide not to reply, as usual. Somehow, it seems different when she asks me how I am. Though I don't respond, she still tells me she misses me, that she's tired, that she may not come home again this weekend. She studies medicine--cardiology, I think--some-

where in Manila, and stays in a boarding house. *Balang araw*, she tells me, *kapag nasa States na 'ko, magiging mayaman akong doktor*. She promises that when (or if?) she finally rakes in the money, she'll fund whatever art projects I have in mind.

My two other sisters, meanwhile, are in Dubai with my mother. One of them, the eldest, is married with three kids. Sometimes, she sends me books or shoes. More importantly, she sends me and my youngest sister to school. Once, when she was still here, she told me that they might settle in Dubai for good. *Wala na tayong mapapala dito*, she said. *Meron pa naman*, I told her. She shrugs, and we fell silent. *Alagaan mo yung bahay ha*, she told me. *Kahit bulok na yan, it's still our only house*.

My other sister, the middle one, left for Dubai only this year. A UP graduate, she is still out of a job. *Makuto pa rin ba*

si Aldo? she asks me, referring to our ten-year-old pet dog. *Namimiss ko na ang bahay. Mag-email ka naman ng pictures*.

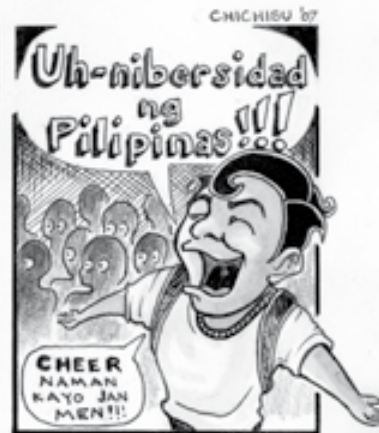
Somehow, I can't seem to grant such a simple request. Some days I look around the house to take photos. The images I see, however, aren't things you'd like to send your family abroad: Empty beds abundant with idle pillows, an inactive computer gathering dust. My uncle, who takes care of the house when I'm in school, asleep on an old rocking chair. A bright pink census sticker on our mailbox (I wonder what my uncle told the NSO people when they stopped by). My nephew's toy cars stored in black garbage bags, and boxes of romance novels left behind by a sister.

Family pictures on display, like motionless understudies in a domestic drama. The refrigerator--now stocked with chicken nuggets, hotdogs and bacon--missing my mom's cooking. A sad, flea-ridden Aldo, restless on the living room table. Me, unlocking our gate in the middle of the night, weary from the long trip home. □

Martin V. Aurora

THE IMAGES I SEE...ARE I'T THINGS YOU'D LIKE TO SEND YOUR FAMILY ABROAD

BUKNY the CAMPUS WALKER



DOPPELGANGER
timothy medrano



Awkward ang espasyong ito dahil wala ka pa. Sana kasi merong magandang retrato na ilalagay dito, o kaya maayos-ayos na layout para walang weird na space. Kaya kung matino kang tao, mag-apply ka na bilang retratista o layout artist ng *Collegian*. Umakyat lang sa Slid 401 Vinzons Hall at dalhin ang mga bagay-bagay (see p.4), hanapin si Tim o Mark. :)

The ala Nightwalker- by Chris S. Agrava Edition

On such times I bolt out of room 401, marami talagang kabalaj-balaj na eksenang mabalaita, even myself. Ahahahahaha-ohuoooohou (hala, naging cough na) :)

SPARE PARTS
Akez: Ano nang nagaganap sa mga spare parts ng Anti-Tofi campaign? (Hulaan nyo na lang): E di hayun, jji-noin na lang nang jji-noin sa iba para umaksyon.
Akez: Ah, I see. Mabababura ang tofi nyan! pfft!

FEZES
Poised na poised ang beauty ko na rumampa along the acad oval across AS steps nang i-betray ako ng aking four-inch heels at nataplok upon turning my eyes on my right side at bumulaag ang naglalakihang fezes ng mga urrez from the Association of Picture Sessions Maniac. Ako tuloy ang ang nawalan ng fez in front of gwepong joggers!

SCENE OF THE WEEK
sa bahay ng dating kulet editor: Toktoktok... Allie Alembong: Nanjan po ba si Meg? Sa'n na po ang birthday party niya? Kapatid ni Meg: Ay, bukas pa ang party...

SAGUTAN
To Lala Fayette: Witch ka! You didn't give me warning on this. hmpr!!
P.S. I am certain to feel enraged. Wallow with me to avenge myself through this favorite section of mine, and yours too, unless of course, I perish.
☐ ANA KUMIRINA



Paninigarilyo MULA P.5

mga panuntunan kung paano ito ipatutupad, lalo na sa malalaking kampus gaya ng UPD, at kung paano titiyaking maparurusahan ang mga lalabag dito.

“Paninigarilyo, di kailangang ipagbawal”

Binatikos naman ni Student Regent Terry Ridon ang mas mahigpit na palisiyang ito ng pamantasan hinggil sa paninigarilyo. Hindi naman aniya kailangan ang pagbuo pa ng bagong mga panuntunan dahil may kakayanan naman ang mga estudyante ng UP na ilugar ang kanilang paninigarilyo. “Disiplina lang naman ‘yan,” paliwanag niya.

Ayon naman kay Brgy. UP Campus Capt. Isabelita Gravides, makatutulong ang bagong AO para mas maisakatuparan ang umiiral na smoking

ban sa komunidad at maiwasan ang malaking panganib sa kalusugan na dulot ng paninigarilyo. Una nang ipinagbawal ang paninigarilyo sa mga pampublikong lugar sa Brgy. UP Campus noon pa mang 1990s.

Sang-ayon naman si Narry Hernandez, pangulo ng Samahan ng mga Manininda sa UP Campus sa pagbabawal ng pagbebenta ng sigarilyo sa UP kahit na malaking kabawasan ito sa kita ng mga manininda, dahil para naman umano ito sa ikabubuti ng mga estudyante.

Hindi pa makapagbigay ng karagdagang detalye ang tanggapan ni UPD Chancellor Sergio Cao kung paano ipatutupad ang AO at kung nasimulan na ang pagbuo ng bagong panuntunan para rito.

Ipatutupad ang nasabing AO bilang pag-ayon sa Republic Act No. 9211 o ang Tobacco Regulation

Act ng 2003 na nagbabawal sa paninigarilyo, pagbebenta, at pag-aanunsyo ng mga produktong tabako sa mga paaralan. Binanggit din ng AO ang Artikulo III, Seksyon 5 ng Konstitusyon na nagsasabing dapat na pangalagaan ng pamahalaan, at ng mga yunit nito gaya ng UP, ang “karapatan sa kalusugan ng mga mamamayan.” ☐

txtback MULA P.10

MASYADONG MALIIT ANG MGA LETRA. MAYBE U CUD USE BIGGER FONT SIZE BY SHORTENING D ARTICLES OR IMPROVING D LAYOUT. 04-07749

SAGUTAN

to 04-40004:wla k s uplb.ska kung ang nb2sa mu s kule,that's reality.dinadivUlge lng nila.kung ngre2kLamu k,wg k n lng mgbsa. 06-69516

to 04-40004: magazine nman ang tinU2koy m0s uplb perspective. That's y ibA ang kUle dhl p2loy taung minumulat s isyu ng lipunan at mga responsibilidad ntn if ever hndi tau tnatamaAn

ng mga tabloids! 06-58267 ba bc to 07-78413 d kslnn ng kule kng bumbba an quality ng prnt ng kule.ayw kz clng bgyn ng funds ng up admin.s suggestion m n mng-hingi clan g pera frm d s2dnts, bt d k mnguna s pgbbbgy?2tl saung ideya yn. 05-05536 to 06-01454: haha, pahya k n0h.Stick 2 facts k pang nalalaman jan.Research k muna bgo k mgcOnclude. 04-01104 to 06-01454: frnd easy langEkahit ilang percent ang itinaas, apektado pa rin ang mga estudyante..at ang tono mo, parang galit sa tibak?nafifil k our one of those filing elite?di pala ako tibak..kung yan iniisip mo..ngcomment lang. 04-54989 to 06-01454:300 to 1500 is 233.3 increase?

Db my math17 kau?An0ng grade m0 dun?03-21181 cswcd

to 03-28574: H0w can u affirm dat willie's a gud guy, he dsnt evn knw u exist.Dhl b my mga kakilalal kng mga tao kng mga tao n mplit s knya, mkggwa k n ng gnyang cOnclusiOn? 04-01104

to 07-31712: inaAsahan q rn ang sagot ni c.a. agrava, pero wla.he's a pRfesioNal.he didn't use kule 2 engage in a word war. 05-40662 Jam

NEXT WEEK'S QUESTIONS

1. Ano'ng masasabi mo sa panukalang ilipit ang pasukan sa buwan ng Setyembre?
2. Kung ikaw ay isang halaman, bakit?

Smoking Kill(ed)

Frank Lloyd Tiongson

I am constantly hitting the wrong keys in the keyboard because of trembling hands. I cannot even move the mouse accurately in the perpetual typing-deleting that lies behind the construction of this paragraph. Before writing this piece, three cigarettes were consumed. Most likely, before the next paragraph, I would have smoked another one.

So there goes another cigarette. I am still lightheaded. By now, the nicotine must have completed its course in my bloodstream. They call this state “vertigo.” It is such state that I have always substituted to soberness – through a cheaper, more accessible, and most of all, legal, medium which is cigarette smoking. It gives me a reason not to be compelled to stick to time-constraints and other small demands. During those brief moments with a cigarette in hand, time and reason become distorted – breathers, so to speak.

Puff banning

I have met a lot of people because of this habit. I learned to smoke during my first few months in UP, fresh from a clean, healthy high school lifestyle. For smokers, it is elementary to initiate a conversation and find occasions to meet. One just needs to ask for a light or a spare cigarette. It is for this reason that most of my friends are smokers.

Our world in the campus, however, is about to become smaller. Recently, the UP administration has formalized a policy that enforces a strict smoking ban that comes with the prohibition of its sale and advertising within the UP system. The ban, according to the memorandum, is in accordance with Republic Act 9211 or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003. Implementing guidelines are yet to be formulated by the local administrations headed by the chancellor (*see related news story*).

That spells the end of the trail of smoke following me on the way to class. As long as I am inside the university premises, I will have to stay calm without the assistance of chemical compounds.

Coded meaning

Not that the imperatives to quit smoking are not compelling enough. Scientifically, politically, morally, smoking is bad. The severe health risks that come with cigarette smoking are posed not only to the smoker, but also to the people in his/her vicinity. Environmentalists have also assailed smokers for their immense contribution to air pollution, aside from their propensity to litter cigarette butts everywhere. It is said that if smoking was never invented, lung cancer would be a rare ailment since around 90 percent of the world's lung cancer patients are smokers. Thousands, moreover, die every second because of smoking-related diseases.

The sheer indifference with which I process all these facts amazes me, a card-carrying addict. I light



The product of the tobacco industry is not the cigarette, but the smoker

one as soon as I wake up in the morning and finish eating, and currently use it to punctuate almost every paragraph of this article.

According to Mark Nichter, an anthropology professor from the University of Arizona, smoking can be seen as a code of meaning or a semiotic. He explained that cigarettes “serve as symbols as well as props that allow people to imagine as well as act out constantly varying roles on the stage of everyday life.” After all, consumption is one of the primary ways we structure time in a consumer society. Consumption events punctuate the flow of everyday life as we move from school or work to leisure time, according to Nichter.

Smoking as a semiotic can be further understood in terms of the signifiers proffered by popular culture. In literature, Sherlock Holmes has been depicted as a pipe-smoking sleuth who could solve crimes using deductive reasoning. The quintessential first-world rebel, as exemplified by James Dean, has also been rendered as perpetually smoking cigarettes. A myriad of stereotypes can be recalled: the seductress, the rebel without a cause, the coffee shop intellectual, the power-broker, and a host of others.

Undermining the fetish

Cigarette smoking is, thus, a classic case of the promotion of a product not just through advertising, but its portrayal in media and society in general as well. In terms of marketing strategies, tobacco companies have hailed smoking not only

as a means to “look cool,” but also, ironically, as a form of rebellion “against the establishment.” The cited industry has long banked on individual free will and expression as a selling point.

There are no complex mathematical formulations involved to figure out that there is absolutely no material gain in smoking. I, for one, have already uselessly spent around P100,000 on cigarettes, consuming around a pack per day, in a span of seven years as a smoker. It is not, therefore, the irrational desire for a product in a consumer society that is drawn out. What can be highlighted is the capacity of capitalism to promote an overall “culture of desire.” As pointed out by critic Avital Ronell, “it is only about producing a need for itself.”

Smoking, thus, is the ultimate commodity fetish. Ronell then poses a rhetorical question: “What better commodity could there be than a product that produces nothing but an insatiable desire for itself?” Evidently, the product of the tobacco industry is not the cigarette, but the smoker.

Conversely, it is not only the smoker who has become hooked to smoking. The tobacco industry continues to generate colossal profits for itself and billions in terms of revenues for the government, which, in turn condones the large-scale production of cigarettes. While it may leave a temporary breathing space for non-smokers, a selective smoking ban borders on futility as long as tobacco companies remain hooked to profit.

Exactly 18 cigarettes have been consumed in the making of this article. My head now feels heavy; there is a bitter taste in my mouth. I could have finished this article two hours earlier if I did not pause every few minutes for a smoke.

I am not wary of a smoking ban. After all, a few steps away from a prohibited space are cigarette vendors who will gladly oblige my addiction for a few pesos. I might be thinking of quitting, but I'm hooked. The choice has already been made for me. □

REFERENCES

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