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A Writer's Sanctuary Is the People
Dakom, PUP pubs join Lunduyan '07

Advancing campus press solidarity, The Communicator, the official student publication of Polytechnic University of the Philippines – College of Communication (PUP-COC) together with PUP's premier student publication The Catalyst and CB Torch of PUP-CB participated in the annual College Editors Guild of the Philippines' Ateneo De

DAKOM/see P3

IGP, call center blamed

Bicameral Meet approves P40.2M budget cut

Hernan Aguacito

Expect the clamor of the PUP community be echoed on series of massive street protests.

This was after the bicameral meeting held last November 12, 2007 at the Batasang Pambansa, Commonwealth, Quezon City paved way for the approval of the P40.2 million-budget cut.

The full implementation of the budget cut will push through the next school year. It only needs the ratification of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to legalize the collective decision of the legislators.

Because of IGP's

In an early budget deliberation on October 11, the Congress formally declared an P8 million budget cut on the annual P576 million funds distributed to 13 branches

and extensions across the nation.

But the change on the fund incise happened the following month after discovering that PUP is reportedly gaining big investments from its Income Generation Projects (IGPs) particularly, the establishment of the Multi-Site Business Process Outsourcing Incubation Contact Center (IMBPO-ICC) in the university-owned premise.

IMBPO-ICC is a P300 million joint project of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and call center company, E-Services Global Solutions (eSGS).

On his statement on PUP-News, the official newsletter of PUP, President Dante Guevarra disclosed that the University stretch is an ideal site for IMBPO-ICC and it

could benefit students by training and hiring them.

Newly elected Student Regent (SR) Sophia Prado on the contrary, stressed that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was an accord between CHED and eSGS only and that PUP would unlikely benefit from the said project since the content of the MOA is relatively unclear.

The effect

In an interview with Prado, she emphasized that the budget cut will hit several sectors in PUP and will cause for delay in salary and benefits of teachers and other faculty staffs.

But she likewise reiterated that the students would be the most affected by the budget cut since the funds aimed to service the fundamental

BICAMERAL/see P2

AACCUP to reconfirm COC accreditation

Ma. Victoria Conde

After being accredited for Level III, College of Communication is expecting visitors from Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) for COC Accreditation-Reconfirmation on December 14.

The one day visit indicates an evaluation of COC's four strongest areas namely Curriculum and Instruction, Extension and Community Development, Research, and Faculty.

The first two are the top picks of the Accrediting body while the other two are named by the faculty for they have the prerogative to fill out two areas which they believed as the strongest

areas.

Accreditor's rating on the said areas will start from zero as the lowest to ten points as the highest score. Dean Robert Soriano is confident that COC will achieve the same result as the previous accreditation where, "in the entire Philippines, both private and public schools, COC ranks first in the accreditation rating on the Specialization Communication Arts."

"Accreditation reconfirmation is conducted every three years. If ever COC proves its worth in three years with flying colors, the PUP admin will provide the highest budget allocation to College of Communication," Dean Soriano disclosed.

PUP's Most Celebrated Victory

COC studes reign on SOP Music Video Awards

Ma. Victoria Conde and Ea Gesika Acaylar

Richard Librada and Darlene Abegail Quito, second year Broadcast students prevailed the bests on SOP Music Video Awards as they bagged seven out of eight major recognitions, including the special award on the star-studded awarding rites held at UP Theater, Diliman, Quezon City.

Awards sweep

Librada with his production team, Amaranta Productions outshined other finalists as his music video "All out of Love," Dennis Trillo's carrier single was awarded the best SOP Music Video.

He proved his worth even more as their entry garnered

three more major awards namely Best Story Concept, Best in Videography, and Best Director.

Quito and her production team, Amplified ranked 2nd best as their music video "Candlelight Romance" with Yasmien Kurdi on helm was recognized the Best in Video Editing and Texter's Choice Award.

Aside from SOP Bling-Blings, the award given to the winners, Librada's production team received the total cash price of P200,000 pesos with P50,000 on each category won. Quito's team gained P100,000.

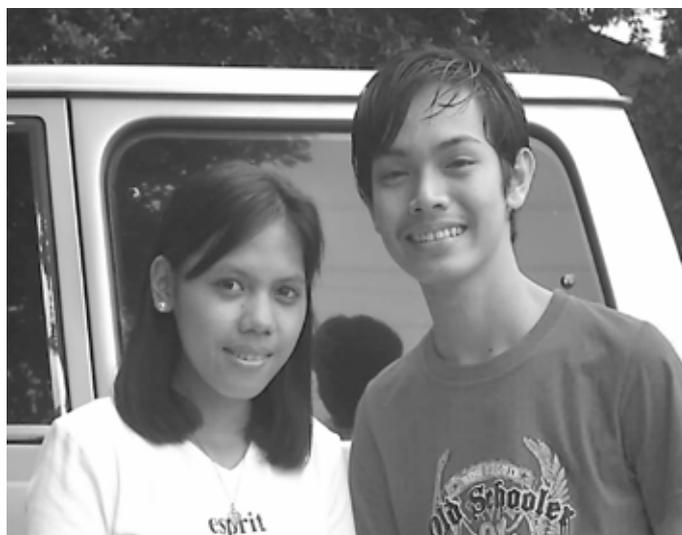
Librada praised Trillo's acting performance "because Trillo enhances more the over-

all feel of the music video to tell the story visually." No wonder Trillo brought home the Special Award for the Artist's Best Performance in a Music Video.

Edge from other finalists

"One of my strengths is my production team," which according to Librada was also seen by his consultant Director Hector Macaso as his edge from other finalists.

Librada and Quito grabbed SOP's call for music video entries by submitting the entries "Kahon" and "Possibility," both MTV productions from PUP-College of Communication.



PUP sweeps the first SOP Music Video Awards with Darlene Quito's and Librada's production teams, both from BBrC II-4.

Bicameral Meet...

from P1

needs of every student would be again limited.

"With the budget cut onboard, the University might find itself succumbing on commercialization in the form of IGP boosting because most of the branches and extensions of PUP can't survive on its own," a worried Prado said in a statement.

Protest for a cause

To condemn the P40.2 million budget cut and the State's abandonment on Education, an estimated 300-strong Iskolar ng Bayan led by the Office of the Student Regent (OSR); Sandigan ng Mag-aaral para sa Sambayanan (SAMASA), the alliance of progressive groups in PUP and student publication members from The Catalyst (TC), The Communicator of PUP-

College of Communication and Business Torch of PUP-College of Business joined the "full blast protest" on November 12, 2007.

The Iskolar ng Bayan bravely marched the streets of Sta. Mesa to Mendiola, with the advocacy of eradicating the prevalent issue on budget cut.

SR Prado believed that the said approved proposal could be blocked with the cooperation and support of every student.

"Bilang mga iskolar ng bayan, dapat lagi tayong alerto sa lahat ng mga hakbangin ng administrasyon. Bilang mga susunod na tatangan ng kalagayan ng bansa, lubusin natin ang mga responsibilidad na hawak natin bilang mga kabataan...Sa mga kamay natin nakasalalay ang magiging kinabukasan ng

mga susunod pang iskolar ng bayan," Prado said.

However, Prado stressed that the Guevarra administration should also do its part in halting the approved budget cut.

Prado told The Communicator that she was disappointed with how Guevarra handled the issue, discarding the budget cut concern as a manifestation of State abandonment. "Wala, tinanggap lang niya kung ano yung nakuha natin. Lumapit siya sa iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno para manglimos."



Professor Felix Cabahug takes on the challenge as the new Chairperson of the Department of Journalism

Cabahug takes DOJ Seat

After two months of having Prof. Felix Cabahug as the officer-in-charge, Special Order number 2017 s. 2007 certifies his promotion as the new Chairperson of the College of Communication Department of Journalism (DOJ) last October 23, 2007.

DOJ Seat was vacant when the former DOJ Chairperson Professor Angelina E. Borican assumed as the director of the Office of the Vice President for Research and Development (OVPRD) at the PUP Main Campus last August.

In an interview with Prof. Cabahug, he bares goals of achieving excellence for his department, and assures the continuance of the projects made by the former DOJ Chairperson, "We will have to keep up the good work. I hope they (students) will continue the good work and will excel in all areas not only in Journalism. We will try to excel in all areas, kasama na ako dun".

by Anne Dominique
delos Santos

PASAN: CMMA's Best TV Prod

Lalaine Panganiban & Maricris Magno

Strike two. After "Pundido" clinched the top nods in ABC 5's Dokyu: Ang Bagong Mata ng Pinoy Documentaries, students from The Polytechnic University of the Philippines - College of Communication (PUP-COC) adds another media recognition in the field of student documentary.

"Pasan," A documentary detailing child labor in the steep mountains of Wawa, Montalban grabbed the Best TV Production tilt in the 29th Catholic Mass Media Awards held at Marie Eugene Theater of the Assumption College on October 25, 2007 in Makati City.

The winning piece from BBrC 4-2 depicts the "children working like adults and the dangerous nature of work involved that puts their lives into possible peril."

Also, the documentary revealing boys - ages 10 to 15, some even younger testifies the growing rate of child labor in the country.

"Each child wants to pursue his dreams," affirmed Director Maria Adria Victoria Sicam after seeing the boys' suffering from a two-hour walk carrying big sacks of coal and getting only fifty pesos while the younger ones were given only five pesos.

The production team led by Sicam triumphed over

two student documentary finalists from PUP, "Pundido" and "Isla Pulo," and three others from University of the Philippines, Lyceum of the Philippines University, St. Louis University.

Twelve BBrC flicks vie on Horror fest

Arlyn Amboy, Roi Anthoni Lomotan and Trixie Espiel

The COC community will have the scare of their lives as ghosts come and haunt the college's open grounds for the launching of the first horror film festival, produced by fourth year BBrC students.

Dubbed as Horror Telesine Fest, the intercollegiate competition features twelve darkly themed digital films showcasing the intensive hard work of fourth year BBrC students under the supervision of Professor Harold Palad.

The proudly produced films were judged last October 12-13 by acclaimed indie filmmaker Siegfried Sanchez (Anak ni Brocka), ABS-CBN graphics editor Rey Bonifacio, and Dean Robert Soriano.

Playdate Problems

Reinel Mendoza, the over-all head of the film's organizing committee told The Communicator that due to some conflicting issues with the Internal Audit regarding the limit of ticket reproduction, the premiere showing of the 12 digital offerings was moved from Nov. 12, 13, 15 & 16 to Nov. 19, 20, 22 & 23.

But the playdate was again adjusted to Dec. 3, 4, 5 & 6 to make room for better preparation on the film viewing rites with regards to accommodation and the venue.

Production Costs

When asked about the production costs, Mr. Mendoza said that they had sealed the amount of P 50,000 as the maximum limit. "Yung iba nagpasponsor tulad ng Alabok, yung iba naman kanya-kanyang pera."

Dian Valerie Antazo, the executive producer of film entry Baysak on the other hand said that the entire production outfit resorted into getting close friends to act in their film.

"Nasa diskarte yan," she added.

Production Proper

"The making of the movies depends on the length of production days. "Yung iba natatapos ng limang araw, yung iba anim..." Mendoza asserted when asked about the number of days the production outfit has ventured in finishing

SC holds GA with Admin

Michael Cabial

The MassCom students went head to head with the PUP Officials as they attended the annual General Assembly organized by COC student council at the Bulwagang Balagtas last August 28 2007 to confirm several issues within the college and the PUP system-wide.

These concerning issues were supposed to be answered by the PUP President, Dr. Dante G. Guevarra.

However, Pres. Guevarra was nowhere to be found at the general assembly due to his appointment with the launching of Carlo J. Caparas' "Komiks" held outside the Bulwagang Balagtas. Guevarra sent his representatives on the G.A. led by his lawyer, Atty. Augustus Cezar, Eng. Roland Viray of Special Projects Office (SPO), Mr. Randy Alcantara of Business Operations Office and Mr. Jimmy Gutierrez of Student's Services.

The G.A. delegates clarified issues on TOFI, COC Theatre, Beautification Projects and Power Supply Failure. The PUP Officials on the other hand, refused to give clear answers on the issues they discussed.

COC reaps awards on U-wide Contests but fails to join Acad stints

Jenny Ortiz, Joy Lauron,
& Jerome Lucas

Despite disqualification on several academic contests due to "handling disputes," College of Communication (COC) still emerged triumphant on several university-wide contests inline with the 103rd anniversary celebration of PUP.

"Midwives if Souls," an undergraduate thesis from Kean Meredith R. Mateo, Jerwin S. Talusan and Joselito C. Tan of batch 2006-2007 bagged the Best Student Research Award while BBrC 4-3 placed first on the Audio-Video Presentation Contest with their entry, "An AVP on Total University," Prof. Edna Bernabe on the other hand, emerged a runner-up on the university-wide Faculty Essay Contest.

COC also outshined other colleges, branches and extensions of PUP with the COC Cheering Squad defending their crown as the champion of this year's Cheer Dance Competition and Ms. Jaynell Calingo winning the annual singing tilt, "PUP Idol 2007."

"Walang may Kasalanan. Walang Dapat Sisihin." This was the statement of Dean Robert Soriano when asked about the College's failure to join academic contests.

"Its either natambak ang letter sa taong nakareceive noon o late talagang dumating," he concluded.

Both Riza Mendiola and Student Attache Jordan Ga denied "negligence issues" regarding COC's failure to comply with the selection process of the Academic Contest with the former saying that they are "an organization who would like to help him (the Dean) to find participants" and the latter blaming the selection committee for not accepting the late entries.

A Writer's Sanctuary Is the People

Dakom, PUP pubs join Lunduyan '07

from P1

De Naga, Naga City, Camarines Sur with the theme "A Writer's Sanctuary is the People."

Delegates of the press convention are also major student publications from Luzon like The Philippine Collegian from University of the Philippines-Diliman, Outcrop from University of the Philippines-Baguio, Matang Lawin from Ateneo De Manila, Pillars from Ateneo De Naga, Technozette from Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, Quezonian from Manuel Luis Quezon University, The Bedan from San Beda College and Mountain Collegian from University of Benguet just to name a few.

Lunduyan rites

After the opening of the convention, delegates experienced Basic Mass Integration (BMI) that aims to discuss and understand the situation of Bicol Region's marginalized sectors like the women, gays, workers, peasants, migrants,

teachers, and indigenous people.

Aside from the BMI, Lunduyan offered classroom discussion and Basic, Intermediate, Advance Journalism Skills Training (JST) such as Opinion Writing, News Writing, Features Writing, Editorial Cartooning, Photojournalism, Online Publishing, Lay-outing, Lampoon Writing, Advocacy Journalism, Copy Editing and Headline Writing, Poem and Children's Literature Writing, Basic Theater and Short Filmmaking.

Critical and socio-political issues of our time were also discussed in the convention. Just and Lasting Peace, Human Rights, Mode of Production, Liberation Theology, Globalization, Philippine Social Realities, Laws and Ethics of the Press, Campus Press Situation and Philippine Education System were only a few of them

Gawad Emman

Three PUP student writers Argie Aguija (BJ 4-1), Joyce Llanto (BBrC 3-

1) and Rowena Cahiles grabbed the top nods in Essay Writing (English), Essay Writing (Filipino) and Literary respectively at this year's 3rd Gawad Emman Lacaba, an annual literary contest of Lunduyan.

The 3rd Gawad Emman Lacaba also paid tribute to the victims of "desapercidos" and extra-judicial killings through poetry-reading sessions and cultural performances.

FAB! '07: A Film Proposal Fest

It was not for the mere reason of compliance, but instead, the recent FAB! '07 A Film Proposal Festival held last November 9, 2007, was indeed a showcase of talent and creativity, a celebration of artistic freedom and imaginative ingenuity.

Spearheaded by the 4th year students of Broadcast Communication, under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Robert F. Soriano (College Dean and also the adviser for Film Aesthetics, host subject for the event), the festival was comprised of 20 original movie concepts which competed for recognition under the following categories: Audio Video Presentation, Movie Poster, Mini-diorama (Set Design), Original Soundtrack and moreover, the Fashion Show, which included Best in Basic Make-up, Best in Character Make-up, Best in Costume, and Best in Aesthetic Effects.

The event launched off with an afternoon program held at the COC lobby, emceed by the bubbly and witty tandem of Phillip Vincent Franco Sinco from BBrC IV-4 and Marie Joy Pring of BBrC IV-2. During the program, the AVP of the film entries as well as the movie posters were shown for judging and for public viewing, as DBC Chairperson Prof. Edna T. Bernabe and Prof. Daniel Deopante rate each entry, respectively, according to the prescribed criteria. This was followed by the judging of the Mini-diorama in which film entries gave the onlookers a glimpse of the movie set. This category was judged by Mr. Willy Malabanan.

And to culminate the event, a high glam creative fashion show was held during the evening at the COC Carpark with Prof. Robert Baldago and Ms. Doris Bleza as judges. It was a unique mix of fashion statements, which presented the major characters of the film entries in their appropriate attire. It wasn't your usual show of ramp modeling. Each entry had its own creative stunt, which even included short dramatizations of scenes from the original movie concepts. And who would disagree that the prosthetics were believable?

The FAB! '07 Film Proposal Festival had propelled students to actually think and work like professionals. Sure, it took time, effort, and a lot of thinking, thinking, and thinking from both the students and the organizers on how to make the film proposals and the even itself worth being labeled as produce of quality future broadcast communication practitioners. And it was a great learning experience for everyone, and more so, another proof of COC excellence and unity.

by Chloe Hazel Cansanay

COCians attend 1st ComRes Conference

Maria Luisa de Veyra & Demetrio Ragua

To continue the tradition of providing relevant and timely information to the public inside and outside the University, students from Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Communication attended the first Communication Research Student Conference at the Plaridel Hall, University of the Philippines-College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC), Diliman, Quezon City last Sept. 5.

Selected Communication Research and Journalism Students of UP-CMC presented their term papers and thesis on students coming from various universities and colleges.

Research studies which passed a rigorous review conducted by the faculty are the following. Understanding Virtual Relationships: Two Approaches for measuring and constructing online communities; Politicizing Gender, Engendering Politics: News frames on Print and Television; Analyzing the News: Issues of Content, Credibility and Literacy; Communication and Media in the context of Workers, Voters and the Family; Harnessing New Media for Continuing Needs: Gamers, Chatters and Mobile Phone Users; Learning, Marketing and Sharing: Communication Technologies as tools of Diffusion were discussed on the event.

Representing the best from the previous school year, these thesis and research papers passed a rigorous blind review conducted by the faculty.

Dr. Elena Pernia, Dean of UP-CMC said that Communication Research is the third oldest degree program in the college and is one of the pillars as it counts among its graduates the leaders in academic and applied communication and media organizations, in new and emerging media establishments and in government.

In addition, Dr. Pernia also stressed that there are many important messages that can be learned from the researches that are presented in the conference and that there is a great hope that the researchers today may be tomorrow's stars in various communication and media industries.

Angelito Bautista, a student from BCR 1-1D expressed his elation on his experience, "Maganda yung seminar, madami akong natutunan."

The Communication Research student conference is an annual venue where students from different universities and colleges can share their studies with their peers and mentors within and beyond the University.

Journ Guild holds Journfest rites

Nathaniel Silvano

Journalism Guild, an academic organization in COC initiated another Journalism Festival this year to showcase the skills of Journalism students.

The annual event with the theme "Upholding Integrity Through Future Journalists" was conducted last September 3, 4 and 7 at the COC AVR.

Journ Fest challenged the 50 participants through contests including News writing, Editorial writing, Editorial cartooning, Feature writing, Poemtopography, Essay writing, Quiz Bee, Spelling Bee, and Profile Feature.

During the awards night held last September 7, the winners were given medals, certificates, gift packs.

Jeanielyn Lajara, Chairwoman of Journ Guild was very satisfied because half of the population of Journalism students joined Journ Fest 2007.

This year's Journ Fest will not be possible without the aid of Prof. Angelina Borican, director of PUP Research Management Office and adviser of Journalism Guild.

The winners in the academic contests are as follows:

News writing:

- 1st place Jennibeth Reforsado (BJ4-1D)
- 2nd place Sheree Mari Tagle (BJ4-1D)
- 3rd place Malou dela Cruz (BJ2-1D)

Editorial writing:

- 1st place Reignell Francisco (BJ4-1D)
- 2nd place Augie Monica Miclat (BJ1-1D)

3rd place Jovilet Abila (BJ2-1D)

Editorial cartooning:

- 1st place Kit Isaiah Bernal (BJ1-1D)
- 2nd place Joan Jane Balote (BJ4-1D)
- 3rd place Jan Brian Kristoffer Soliven (BJ2-1D)

Feature writing:

- 1st place Reignell Francisco (BJ4-1D)
- 2nd place Jennibeth Reforsado (BJ4-1D)
- 3rd place Augie Monica Miclat (BJ1-1D)

Poemtopography:

- 1st place Roi Anthoni Lomotan (BJ1-1D)
- 2nd place Anne Dominique delos Santos (BJ2-1D)
- 3rd place Elijah Caguioa (BJ1-1N)

Quiz Bee:

- 1st place Ma. Carissa Mabunga, Ma. Veronika Sanchez, and Erika Vizcarra (BJ3-1D)
- 2nd place Jerold Dalmacio, Maricris Faderugao, and Mary Anne Sanchez (BJ1-1D)
- 3rd place Reignell Francisco, Rachele Anne Gonzaga, and Ginny Riobuya (BJ4-1D)

Spelling Bee:

- 1st place Ma. Virginia de Guzman (BJ4-1D)
- 2nd place Ginny Riobuya (BJ4-1D)
- 3rd place Kathleen Ann Inocencio (BJ3-Irr.)

Essay writing:

- 1st place Raiza Aricayos (BJ2-1D)
- 2nd place Jerome delos Santos (BJ3-1N)
- 3rd place Aizha Mavizha-zha Llave (BJ2-1N);

Profile Feature:

- Winner Jerome delos Santos (BJ3-1N).

Editorial

TOTAL DEHUMANIZATION

We are never a priority of this self-serving State, and never will we be.

Education is meant to be humane, not a blundering endpoint for those who could not afford. And with the responsive call of the Arroyo government to neglect support on State Universities and Colleges (SUC's) by pushing for it to stand alone through selling out of the private lands for drastic commercial abuse and not giving it a considerable subsidy – we are witnessing more than just a decay in this colonialized, repressive and commercialized system on education.

This is total dehumanization. But tertiary education has never been worst here in PUP.

We have a University President who is trying to bolster a "Total University makeover" through institutionalizing Income Generating Projects (IGPs) and receptively offering its academic spaces for Integrated Multi-Site Business Process Outsourcing Incubation and Contact Center (IMBPO-ICC) and other investments custom-made for the benefit of those who brokered into the deal. While the entire PUP Community is left nested with dilapidated classroom facilities and the lack of it. Is this the "Total University makeover" that we really want?

Infiltrating commercialization in the academic confines of PUP merely emphasizes the State's abandonment on education. Together with the administrators of this University, they are coaxing us to believe that private companies investing their money to milk on our university's resources will save this educational institution from the crisis it is currently facing, a further proof that both GMA and the PUP administrators are heedless of their responsibilities to advocate quality and affordable education.

Secondly, we have Congressmen and Senators who are never aware of our plight. By making unscholarly assumptions based on the University's earnings from commercialized lands and IGPs – they have approved the P40.2 budget cut from a supposed proposal of only P8 million incise on PUP's insufficient P576 million annual funds.

The bicameral decision only needs Arroyo's authorization to officially implement the budget cut next school year. When ratified, this will hit hard many institutional funds and services in the entire University system-wide composed of 13 branches and extensions. Delays and cut on employment salaries might just happen; the students, majority of which are among the nation's poor, might shoulder expenses needed to overhaul on the university's misgivings.

This injustice brings nothing but stabbing on the entire PUP Community. While our legislators are busy spending away their pork barrel on personal interests and receiving half a million "cash gifts" from Malacanang, we are choked by spiraling cost of living and the repressive orientation of education here in this university.

Lastly, we have apathetic students who never immerse themselves on the many injurious issues of PUP. But this can't be blamed on their ranks, since factors of "brainwashing" and threats perpetrated by the admin and some faculty members are most likely evident within the campus system.

It's just so sullen that as proprietors of the country's "bastion of activism," most students have embraced the culture of apathy; not minding that collective determination to fight the oppressors could pave way for a revolutionized platform on education, and possibly for a major change.



Morning View

Annabelle Nuñez

History is the best teacher

I'm not a Korean novel fan but I admit that I enjoyed watching Jumong, just as how much I enjoyed Jewel in the Palace before. These novels reflect the Korean history and culture.

During the final episodes of Jumong, there was one thing that the show would want to portray – the value of knowing one's history by heart. There was a scenario wherein one of Jumong's sons felt greedy so he decided to kill the King to grab the power. Then I said that they should have thought the children about their history wherein this was also what happened back to Jumong's childhood. His former kingdom had lost its power because of jealousy and greediness.

When I was in High school, I hate memorization so I don't enjoy studying Social Studies and I don't treat it as an important subject. For me, I only memorize Ghandi and Confucius to pass the exam and forget them later on. I used to believe that their names and deeds are not necessary for me to succeed.

I think one of the reasons why most of the students find history as a boring and non-sense class is because our teachers did not explain its importance. What we know is that, they are only teaching the subject because it is a part of the curriculum and what they were saying are just part of the textbooks that

we have to learn. We'd never realized that history is as essential as our names.

The country has been through environmental and political dilemma. These parts of our history but we never learned from them. How many typhoons and floods have we experienced? Have we tried to do something to lessen its effect? Do we protect our trees? The ecosystem? These are just the same things that keep on repeating.

How many EDSA revolutions we've been through? We deserve the kind of government that we have. Why? It's simply because we are the ones who are electing them (or it is because we are letting them to cheat us). We keep on voting a gambler, a cheater, a corrupt official. We are still voting their wives, their sons and daughters, their families. Even a convicted rapist was convicted before.

Experience is the best teacher. And these experiences made up of our history. We should not treat it as something that made the present, but a past that we could learn from to use for the betterment of the future. History repeats itself. It might be to the others. Just like the repression that DAKOM experienced, it's currently happening to the other publications.

So, Yano asks... "Kumusta ka na?"



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Crashing the JPEPA deal

Rigid on its ambition to dominate the global market, Japan desperately pushes for bilateral agreements with neighboring Asian countries. Through Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) –euphemized as a bilateral treaty “to promote mutually-agreed economic goals with the partner country,” it not only vows to protect its slumping global influence due to economic recession in the 80’s and strict competition with imperialist giants US, EU and China, but also pushes for a broader control on tariffs and trade with countries it has been trying to toy around since the outbreak of World War II.

Such expansion has already reached the Philippine shores, with GMA and her cabinet effusive on backing the Japanese-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), attempting to vanguard support on her political interests just like what Bush does. Although it has been signed last September 9, 2006 by former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Arroyo on the Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki and has been ratified by Japanese Diet, the parliamentary body of Japan – JPEPA, fraught by thronged protests and criticism, still is battling out a chance in the Senate through a series of hearing that tackles the issue

of economic impacts, investments, environment, movement of natural persons, constitutionality, agricultural trade and movement of goods and services.

Luckily during one of the Senate hearings, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and other resource persons from Malacanang failed to establish the bizarre claims of economic benefit and job generation the country would get upon the approval of the bilateral agreement. What they showed us are provisions in the treaty that are detrimental to the welfare of our countrymen.

It ratified by two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate, JPEPA will cause huge amount of scar to our economic and social condition. Only Multinational corporations and some Agribusiness and Industrial outfits that are just local subsidiaries of heavyweight foreign companies will benefit from the strangled deal. Also, the elimination of tariffs on Japanese products will prompt stricter competition with the local industries, triggering the unemployment of thousands of workers.

The promise of labor export policy especially on the health sector might sound melodically sweet at first, but tearing it core to core –the country might find itself on an absolute brain

drain with the thousands of its skilled labourers fleeing the country for promises of a stable future. What’s worst, we will be a nest for tons of environmentally-sensitive products like incinerator ashes and a possible dumping site for Japan’s toxic wastes, which entirely disregards all health and environment laws like the 1989 Basel Convention on Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous and Toxic Materials, Toxic Substance and Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act of 1990 and RA 8749 also known as the Clean Air Act.

All of these, for the benefit of Japan.

Bilateral treaties, on its strictest sense, should be mutually beneficial. If advantageous only to one party, it loses the concept of rationality, therefore, betraying the terms of agreement and the compromise that co-exists.

Delving on the similar scenario, entering into JPEA would mean sacrificing the interest and the democratic potency of the entire nation only to favour the claws of Imperialism. Debunking, or much better –burying it six feet underground should by all means, be done to JPEPA.

All of these, for the benefit of our countrymen.

Constant Craving

Jerome Philip Ricamata



Left Untitled

First, tip-tap beats searing across shimmering circles. Then, anxious feet briskly shuffling through narrow walkways. Head turns and neck bends are evidences of a scenario’s uneasiness. Aloof sidesteps and tiptoes unusually dominate an asphalt field. These are poisonous cha-cha-chas to natives residing in their long-time barang-barangs. Grannies, yagits and people of different ages hastily pack their things while brave enough binatilyos line-up before truncheon and hammer armed men who are desperately trying and urging to reach their shanties. These are their cha-cha. A samba to sustain and a tango to protect their barang-barangs. So, you think you can dance?

Such a bitter reality that bites up to the smallest morsel of every Filipino. Inhabitants flood the urban areas while ironically, rural inhabiting people needs to march few meters just to reach their nearest neighbor. Until now, I don’t know what Manila has that makes town folks go gaga over it. Though Manila’s facade seems to be that of milk and honey, it doesn’t follow that it is our key to development. The result of this inevitable scenario, squatting, then comes the bitterest sequel; Demolition. The frequent demolitions seem to be bad music to the ears of these squatters which they automatically needed to dance with.

Whatever you may call it, name it and they shall dance to it. Whether it is a rumba that forces them to leave the silong where inay’s 47th birthday party was celebrated or a pasa-doble that will destroy the house wall which was once a home to the peg of bunso’s duyan. They would gladly finish those dances just to salvage their sweet memories. Sweet memories that have stayed and lingered in their shanties since their residence there.

But not every dance step is always in beat. Just like the salsa and any other dances there, one wrong step then your ensemble of tip-toes and steps will falter to pieces. This is the present situation of these squatters. They’re like dancing but not in beat. Dancing without music. After demolition, they will either look for another place to squat or add to the thousands of homeless families. This is the next music that they need to dance with. The government says: Relocate them! But they seemed to add insults to their injury by relocating them to what seems like aswangs’ and tiktiks’ kuwebas due to the remote barrio they assigned to them.

The last resort that these people think is that through education they will achieve success. But with the latest move of the government to slowly privatize and commercialize education, where are they to go? They will either add to the statistics of illiterate Filipino or add to the number of unemployed citizens which will just make the scenario worse. As far as I know, our university is the only school that the poorest of the poor can afford to enroll. With the threat of tuition fee increase and the slow transformation of our university in to a hub of commercialization, how can we ensure that the less privileged Filipinos can still be professionals amidst their lack of money?

The gradual increase in the amount the government cut to our budget is a hint of self-subsidy. With this gradual increase also brings an increase in the IGP’s (Income Generating Projects) that the university does. Ever wondered why the top floor of NALRC, the largest structural library in the Philippines –which ironically lacks books- is a home to a computer gaming center? Where in fact according to law, computer gaming centers, motels and billiard halls should keep distance to a school.

We should try to stop this before it’s too late. I have friends, in a particular university, who are now having a hard time because of Tuition fee increases. Of course we don’t want this to happen to future iskolars ng bayan. CONDEMN THE 40.2M BUDGET CUT. STOP COMMERCIALIZATION OF EDUCATION.

Truth About the Facts

Ma. Victoria Conde



An isolated case

A child who is hopeful about life has a strong expectation that life in general things will turn out fine despite trials and frustrations.

But what if a child, since birth, is met repeatedly with toxic emotions that every time he seeks comfort he senses tension rather than affection.

If this is the case a child must expect a bothered life ahead. A life filled with emotional turmoil that when not prevented, overcome or properly handled will make a child more suspicious than trusting, pessimistic than cheerful, and timid than confident.

Although maturity is apparent to older people the destiny of a child is determined by how his parent coaches him in getting what he wants and resolving dispute in positive manner.

So when troubling news about Marianne, the 11-year old girl who committed suicide alarmed the public only one question leaped out of their minds: How could a kid commit suicide? Had she not appreciated the ways of the children? If only she had

known that people at some point of their lives wanted to be a child again even for a while. Had she not felt the infinite joy of being lifted to the air trusting that a person close to her heart would catch her? If only she had considered living longer than eleven years maybe she would appreciate life and its complexities.

Marianne’s decision to solve her problems through desperate means manifests the ineptness of her family and institution that should be teaching her emotional literacy. Her parents fail in making home the primary school that cultivates the child’s emotional and social competence. Thus, making Marianne a failure as well in fulfilling her roles in life better.

So what will you expect from our country where its foundation, the family, is frail in bringing up civility in our communal life. Who cares about the roles of the government in a society. Who cares about the children dying because of extreme poverty. The bureaucrats are not even bothered about these realities. As long as Peso continues to boost

our President will always have her excuse— Marianne’s tragedy is “an isolated case.”

“If character development is a foundation of democratic societies” we must consider the roles of the families in disciplining children, motivating their kids, in guiding themselves, and keeping their impulses under the control of reason.

Self-control is the key to avoid tragedy of errors, to avoid unfair battles and undeserved punishment. If only our government appreciates the value of delaying gratifications, there will be no room for ‘isolated cases.’ If they will only try to put aside their self-centered focus and feel the pain of millions of people who are in severe poverty as their own, impeachment is not necessary.

But optimism is a great motivator. School, as our second home, must be able to save children from falling on the pit of moral dilemmas. School must correct the children’s moral deficiencies and take the roles of failing families in educating life skills, not just academic.



SAGANANG AMIN. Dedicated to the homegrown works of artist in the field of literature, film and music. Whether it's the latest Wenn Deramas flick with onscreen favorite Eugene Domingo once again on the helm or pot-session music of some dude wearing dreadlocks and bohemian shirt, the review crew shares their "humble" thoughts on local piece of work and tries their shot on making verdicts.

***** Behold... A masterpiece equivalent of a Brocka or a Sionil! This will surely go down in history
 **** A very promising work of art. Expect that this will be a hit among critics and art geeks.
 *** Mediocre. Maybe a stroke of brilliance, but not indelible enough to be seen.
 ** "YAWN" If I could only turn back the time and return it to the nearest retail store.
 * A complete deterioration on the quality of art. Cultural revolution, anyone?



Book Review:
MACARTHUR
 Anne Dominique delos Santos

Taliwas sa magaan, masayahin, at may modernong pagmumulat ng limang naunang libro ni Bob Ong na abnkkbsnplako?!?, Bakit baliklad magbasa ng libro ang mga Pilipino, Paboritong Libro ni Hudad, Alamat ng Gubat at ang Stainless Longganisa ay ang MacArthur na may mabigat, maaksyon at ma-dramang tema.

Rating:



Umikot ang nobela sa buhay ng apat na magkakaibigan na may iba't-ibang estado sa lipunan. Sinasalamang ng MacArthur ang kahirapan, kaguluhan, at kabulukan ng sistema sa Pilipinas kaugnay ang mga isyu ng relihiyon, talamak na pagbebenta at paggamit ng iligal na droga, korapsyon, prostitusyon, pagtaas ng krimen at katiwalian ng mga serbisyo publiko. Tuwiran ang naging pagsasalaysay ng may-

akda gamit ang mga salitang hindi kadalasang nababasa sa mga tradisyunal na aklat na nagbigay aksyon sa buong kwento. Mabigat man ang tema ng nobelang ito ay may mga linyang pinauso na pumatok sa kabataan gaya ng "Abnormalite", "Sabogaloids" at "Bwakangnamo".

Hindi nabigyang solusyon ng may-akda ang mga problemang natukoy niya ngunit nagbigay pag-asa ang pagtatapos ng kuwento. Ang pagbabalik loob, pagmamahal at pagtanggap ay nagbigay liwanag sa masalimuot na kwento ng MACARTHUR.



Album Review:
The Powder Room Stories
 by SKARLET
 Ian Emmanuel Urrutia

Colorful, poised and dazzling theatrical -Skarlet's debut solo record. The Powder Room Stories mints intro strong Montmartre cabaret-biographical sketches, a courtesan diva's tale of desolate love, and lustily musical interpretations either Broadway guru Baz Luhrman or jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker wouldn't mind listening to shortly and have a cup of tea. Whether it's the silken vocal flexes that borders from powerful and mesmerizing or the distinguished diva presence, Skarlet's voice is the defiant element that makes The Powder Room Stories simply a clear-cut Broadway jazz opera donned in spunky rock chic.

A cross between Sarah Vaughan and Nina Simone, Skarlet's vocal style has precise sense of rhythm and has a chameleon-coat towards slow and fast tempos, scat singing, standard ballads and falsettos. In "Birdy bop" she hops, leaps and frantically plays on random notes and improvised syllables like cold ice melting on suave, summer heat; while on "Anguish," the gentle cover of "One way ticket to the blues", and the dreamy temperament of "Stay with me," Skarlet sings like Billy Holiday weeping gracefully in 30's night club suit.

Rating:



She absolutely knows how to tone down, establish vocal theatrics within certain limits that doesn't overlap the genius of the horn and rhythm section, and yet it sounded as if her presence is the heart and soul of the entire song. Thus, Skarlet proves that she is more than just an overnight fixation, but an epitome of real class.

In The Powder Room Stories, Skarlet is also at her best subdued to swingy jazz anthems particularly the opener track "Skarlet," a name with spangled equivalent to Broadway chanteuses Satine and Roxie. The title track flirts over blaring trumpets and sax, lively and piercing drums and subtle piano with Skarlet's voice just as plain and acrobatic on conviction. The fact that she has mastered unlikely similar terrain with her ska endeavours Put3ska and Brownbeat All Stars makes it easy for Skarlet to tap on the upbent and bouncy numbers.

Fashionably controlled, Skarlet's vocal designs are also worth mentioning in the swingy yet steadily soulful tracks like the Edgar Avenir arranged "The Way that you do" and the sheer track "Joy", which completely honest performance that showcases her chops for

topform versatility.

The only tagalong track on the album, "Babae ka" pimps on latin tropicalia rhythms, samba beats, stripped down guitars and subtle orchestral arrangement that elegantly rolls like a ball of yarn. It's one of the fine moments of the album, not because of its marginal beauty and unsophisticated appeal but for the reason that its sincerely written and interpreted in the course of a dignified woman aiming for equality and change. Skarlet's raw but carefree emotion also stirs to the song's conviction; her treatment goes beyond just the powerful showcase, but real deal sincerity of what it is to be society's dictate of a woman -often delineated, oppressed and subjected as sex objects.

Even on the last track, "Words behind the tears" unarguably in her most depressing tone, Skarlet ponders with ache as if she rolls cocaine and intensely yet clearly sings out of a realization of her desperate love. It's deeply affecting how Skarlet interpret the closing track with such evident pain that you left wondering why her final narrative in The Powder Room Stories has to be miserable and depressing. Maybe, just maybe -hurt is the price for love. And it defines The Powder Room Stories, as a tragic opera of big band sounds and Skarlet's search for her fictional portrait as a woman in love.



Film Review:
Ataul For Rent
 Jerome Philip Ricamata

Fresh from the memoirs of Halloween, you would think that a film titled "Ataul for rent" is one big scare.

Basing it on it's slated first week November play date, I would have expected white ladies and creepy crawly thingies if I didn't know that it was a serious drama film. But though it's genre is drama -as what other reviews say- the film was just right. No tear-jerker lines, no over the top slapping scenes and most specially no dilemmas brought about by stereotypes such as exchanged babies in a hospital nursery or long lost brother which turns out to be your boyfriend.*nah*

Set on "Kalyehong walang lagusan", a typical slum area in urban Manila. An eskinita with a no turning back attitude. Here, pokpoks, bugaws, snatchers, drug addict and people of

Rating:



the like flock as if it is their land of milk and honey. The story starts and ends with Guido played by Joel Torre, who owns a coffin rental shop -thus the title- and also doubles as the embalmer, while Pining expertly portrayed by Jacklyn Jose is the official make-up artist of the corpse. She also sidelines as a manikurista and make-up artist for the living using the same make-up she uses for the dead. *saweeet lolz*

The story progresses on the deaths of the residents of kaleyehong. Certain narrative threads are infused with the progression of the story of Guido and Pining. The movie has a great tinge of dark humor and really has a cool and artistic ending. Not to give you spoiler, but let's say that I am a big fan of artistic anti-hero movies which we usually see on Brocka's movies. The movie was artistically made but with a very evident traces of reality. A reality

so real that you would view life scary and pathetically at the same time. *weird?*

With senior indie actors, you are assured that your hundred bucks is worth this 93 minute film. I would like to commend Irma Adlawan's acting which deserves a standing ovation. The only thing I noticed in this movie is the lack of market appeal. I can count with my fingers and toes all the people inside Megamall's cinema 3. So sad that a movie worth watching was overran in ticket sales by a poorly produced comedy movie and a cheesy romantic boy-wins-girl-then-fights-then-wins-girl-again type of movie. That's the back fall of movies which have substantial themes. Good thing there are international film festivals that serves as haven and heaven for indie film directors.

Ricky Lee once said that it was directors and scriptwriters who are generally underrated and unappreciated in a movie production. That's why I give full credits and kudos to Neal Tan, the director and writer of the movie! *cham jal heat au yo!*



Chenelyn kimverly: Pen Pen de chovarloo de chemerloo de eklavoo, hao hao de chenelyn de plongk chenes, sifit dapat iipit, goldness filak namumuleklek sa tabi ng chenes.

Chenelyn forte: ate tama na ang kabuktutan mo, madame na kong narinig na angal sayo, sa mga ginawa mo, ate please tama na.

Chenelyn kimverly: wit ka maloud, nasasang a song ako, wa pakels ako sa kanila... hmmm...sige malalayloez ako muna di ako magiging hard. Okei

Chenelyn forte: pero...

Chenelyn Kimberly: HUH! Andameng pipol ang natuwa kea sa'kin at nainis din nga ung iba dun sa una kong pinasabog na issue noong una akong magsulat dito sa pinakabongga kong kolum sa dakom, at eto na naman akech, ang mujer na dadaigin si mothra sa kagandahan, ako si Chenelyn Kimberly, nagbabalik...kicking and alive...heeyahh.

Pompyang numero uno: U-WIDE na ang lipad ng lola mo.

Sa paspread ng wings ko at pagfly ko sa peyupi sinta kong paaralan ay nasight ko ang u-wide aniversaryo week ng peyupi, with matching wave pa ng hands si pareng ted pylon saken at pagkindat si mabini ng mapadaan ako sa kanla last tym, anyways going back, Ang eventus gaya ng sa colej week ay wit ko rin nagustuhan! Bucket caño? dahil not enough vitamins kasi ang u-wide anniversaryo as in walang sinabawang gulay, kea wiz naging makulay ang buhay.

Though panalo ang colej ko sa mga contest gaya ng Peyupee haydol, at cheering squad, ay never ng nadagdagan ang awards n kulehiyong itechiwa when it comes to academic contest (am just wondering y?) As in, wala man lang naipadala sa mga academic contests ang mga lola mo? Tas nagsisihan pa ang mga lola niyo kesho si Manong Mr. Clean daw and the Cluberfelds ang siseyhin, si Dean or ang former motherboard org slash echepuwers na Comchoke!! Kakaloka ever... Haru jusko baklang palitaw? bucket kaya? how sad naman.. where did the academic excellence go? bucket puro extra CuricuLar tayo ngaun...awu.. tanung lang naman un ng usiserong ipis, daba oh xa xge baboo na may gimik aketch ngaun sa Singapore magtutuwarlaloo ako para madaig si mothra. tsuk!

Pompyang numero dos: sto niñong gala, at ang himala ng folder.

Huwat? Sinech itey na mega super sikat sa kanyang patok na lines? imagination mo sister, itong diwang itey ay super mega bongacious ang rampage as in shinning, shimmering, not-so-splendid ang drama ng lola mo! Plangak! As in parang Sto. Ninong Gala si mama, napaka colorful ng kanyang mga trahe de boda na parang curtain ng mga hotel at bus with matching caregiver on the side.

Pasabog ang lola mo! Grabeysius sister! Ang mga mala-melanie marquez na lines niya na na kinatatampukan ng:

Bullet no. 1: "What's your paper here?" (translation: anong papel mo rito?)

Bullet no. 2: "You, you, you, the both of you three."

Bullet no. 3: "Go the faculty office, later, right now." (translation: pumunta kayo sa faculty office mamaya nagaun na!)

Bullet no. 4: "Are you sure ka na ba?" (sorie daig si kris aquino)

Bullet no. 5: "The more, the menier" (super dame ah 300 clan ba yun?)

Bullet no. 6: "Its a blessing in the skies" (may blessing daw sa sky ang lola mo)

Bullet no. 7: "the professor should profess"

At madameng madame pang ibang awit, titik, bilang at iba pa ay kumakalat sa textus world na pwede na ngang i-ring bind at gawing libro. sorry bob ong at Melanie Marquez madedethrone ka na ni madamme sto niñong gala.

Anu vez! At balita ko si madame sto. Niñong gala ay may kumikitang kabuhayan sa room as in mega collect siya ng mga folders sa mga stujents at wiz na bumabalik ang folder, well cheap, mura lang naman yun diba but, as in sigaret butt., bakit naman ang ibang professor pag nagpaproject at nagbalik ng project may kasama pa ding folder db?eh bakit xa wala na?, kasama ba ña sa mga aparixon nya ang mga folders na yon para magkamilagro o minamagic nya ang mga folders at ginagawa nyang mga tela yun para may panramapa sya or worst piso tumpok ba ang drama ng lola mo? wag ganon! Cluelaloo ko sa mga gromulang sabik sa chismis: STO. NIÑONG GALA is on the loopse na naman at naghahasik, pag nakakita ka ng caregiver sa tabi nya habang naglalakad sa gitna ng lobby sya na yun.

Sinabi nang tama na ang pagiging machuva chenez chenelyn mo chenelyn Kimberly...bakit di ka makinig ah! (galit)

Chenelyn Kimberly: at sinech itey?

Chenelyn Katigbak: Ako si chenelyn katigbak ang panganay sa ating magkakapatid...

Chenelyn Kimberly: huh?!!!!????!!!!

Ano na ang mangyayari kay chenelyn Kimberly ngaung lumitaw na ang kapatid nilang panganay na si chenelyn katigbak?

Abangan ang susunod na paglabas ng issue na ito..

PAUNAWA:
Ang mga nabanggit ay pawang mga opinyon at saloobin mula sa iba't ibang tao na nagtatanong at nagtataka at minsay nagreklamo hinggil sa isang paksa at usapin. Hindi nais ng kolum na ito na gumawa ng gulo o ng anumang hindi pagkakaunawaan sa pagitan ng bawat isa. Sa mga matatamaan, wala pong pikunan. Panatilihin natin ang peace and harmony.
Maraming salamat po.

--- Chene Boy, ang epal na Chuva chuvs ng Chene-Twins



Kung may reklamo, sumbong, suhestiyon o reaksyon... sumulat kayo sa amin at ipagbigay-alam sa dakom opis.. o kaya naman ay i-email sa

coc.dakom@yahoo.com

Maaari rin kayong lumahok sa ONLINE Forum Discussion ng Dakom. Mag-register lamang sa **FORUMS Section** ng

http://www.dakom.tk

DAKOM *memorate*

Hindi mahalaga sa akin ang anumang karangalan, ang makita ko lang na masaya ang buong BBrC 2-4, panalo na ako!

Sa totoo lang, hindi namin inaasahan na mapapabilang kami sa pitong finalists ng SOP Music Video Awards. Ang nakatutuwa pa ang dalawang entries na ipinasa namin ay parehong nakapasok.

Hindi pa rin ako makapaniwala na finalist kami, hanggang tinawagan kami at pinapunta sa SOP-GMA7. Sa pag-akyat ko sa stage don lang pumasok sa utak ko na totoo nga. Habang tinitingnan ko ang mga tao na pumalakpak sa amin parang nanalo na kami.

Akala ko ang paglalabanan namin ay ang music video na aming ipinasa. Hindi pala, gagawa pala ulit kami ng bagong music video kasama ang Artist (Dennis Trillo) at Consultant Director (Direk Hector Macaso) na nabunot namin. Maswerte kami sa kanila.

Sa paggawa pa lang concept ng kanta ni Dennis na "All Out of Love" ay talagang pinagpuyatan at pinaghirapan na ng bawat isa sa amin. Nakakapagod pero nawawala 'yon kapag nakikita mo na nagkakaisa ang buong grupo.

Noong ginawa namin ang music video ni Dennis, nakakakaba dahil binigyan lang kami ng 7 oras para tapusin ang nasabing video. Dahil sa pagtutulungan ng buong production staff natapos namin ito sa loob ng 4 na oras. Ganon din ang editing, maayos naming nagawa.

"Hindi po kami PUP lang, PUP kami..."

- Prof. Harold Palad

Sabi nga ng mga ka-prod ko, "Manalo o matalo man kami, ang mahalaga nai-enjoy namin ang bawat sandali at sobrang saya na nabigyan kami ng pagkakataon na gawan ng music video si Dennis Trillo!"

Hindi namin akalain sa awarding na makukuha ng PUP, ng grupo namin (Amarantha) at grupo ni Darlene (Amplified) ang pito sa walong awards. Napakabait talaga ng Panginoon dahil sobra-sobrang biyaya ang binigay nya sa amin!

Pinasalamatan naming ang lahat ng taong sumuporta sa amin mula umpisa hanggang sa huli. Mula sa aming **mga Artist** (Dennis Trillo at Yasmien Kurdi), **Consultant Directors** (Hector Macaso at Topel Lee), **PUP** (Dr. Dante Guevarra, President), **COC** (Dr. Robert Soriano, Dean; Prof. Edna Bernabe, Chairperson DBC; Prof. Harold Palad, Adviser; COC faculty), **ang aming mga pamilya** at sa lahat ng tao sa likod ng aming tagumpay. Maraming, maraming salamat!

Siguro ang naging sikreto ng aming tagumpay ay dahil parte kami ng PUP. Ang PUP na paggumagawa ay may **Puso**, may **Pang-unawa** at higit sa lahat may **Pananalig sa Diyos!** Yan ang tunay na tatak ng PUP!

Richard Librada
BBrC II-4

Best Director, SOP Music Video Awards 2007

TANONG KOMUNIKASYON

tinipon ni Sugar

"Anong masasabi mo sa P 40.2 milyong budget cut sa PUP na ipinasa ng kongreso?"

"Ito ang pinakamalaking budget cut matapos ang malaki ring budget cut noong 2005. Lubos na makakaapekto ito sa ating mga estudyante dahil siguradong tayo na naman ang papasan ng krisis na ito. Unang dapat singilin-ang administrasyon, dahil nagpasa ng budget proposal ang admin upang malaman ng mga mambabatas ang tunay na kailangan ng ating pamantasan. Naging batayan din ng malaking budget na ito an gating mataas na IGP's o Income Generating Projects na pinakamalaki din sa lahat ng mga State, Colleges, and Universities. Ikalawa, ang administrasyong Arroyo, dahil sa pagpapabaya nito sa sector ng edukasyon. Nakakakuha ng malaking budget ang pambayad sa utang panlabas at pagpapalakas ng santahang Pilipinas samantalang 2% lamang ng proposed budget ang para sa edukasyon na pundasyon ng ating lipunan."

-Archival Domingo Alvarez, BJ 4-1N

"Para sa akin, di makatarungan ang pag-cut ng P40.2 milyon sa PUP. Naghihirap na nga ang PUP, mas ginigipit pa nila! Di talaga makatarungan!"

- Jane Aninipot, RC 1-1N

"Siyempre hindi ko gusting magbudget cut dahil kapos na nga tayo sa budget, babawasan pa? Paano na lang yung mga branches ng PUP sa probinsya, baka lahat magsara na dahi sa liit na pondo. Susunod na dito ay ang pagtataas ng tuition fee. Paano na lang yung mga hindi na kayang mag-aral dahil sa gastos?" - Tim, BCR

"Ok lang, kasi kaya naman ng magbayad ng magulang ko ng mataas."

-Ashley

"Sa pagpapatuloy ng laban ng Iskolar ng bayan, may bago na namang pasakit para sa aming estudyante. Ang pagkakaroon ng P 40.2 milyong budget cut ay tunay na nagpapalungkot sa amin. Kapos na nga ang budget sa edukasyon, binawasan pa. Anu na ang kahahantungan ng mga Iskolar ng Bayan?"

-Ramp, BJ 2-1

"Hindi ba nila nakikita na nag-iimprove ang P.U.P. kaya bakit pa kailangang bawasan ang budget para sa school? Deserving naman ang mga PUPians sa ginastos ng gobyerno dahil matatalino ang mga estudyante ng P.U.P! Dapat nga dagdagan pa eh!"

-coldfire

"Yung hindi pa nga nababawasan, kulang pa para ma-accomodate lahat ng needs ng university, pano pa pag binawasan?"

-Boots, Archie, Pat, Mylene, Bez, Renz, BBrC 3-1D

"Sobra na talaga sila! Hindi makatarungan. Sadyang inilalagay tayong mga PUPians sa kagipitan na hindi naman karapat-dapat!!! We deserve a good budget for a good education!!!!"

-Babylyn D.

"Di ba nga, mas kailangan ng isang state U. ang mataas na budget? Kung bababaan pa eh baka naman wala ng matamasa ang mga estudyante ng PUP. Mayroon pa ngang iba dyan na gumagawa ng sariling pagkakakitaan dahil sa mababang budget."

-Ronjay, BJ 1-1N

"Bakit kaya hindi mag-initiate ang mga nasa PUP admin o kaya faculty na mag-walkout o rally? Tatalag maging sila tutol sa budget cut. Yun bang kahit isang araw lang, tapos buong PUP community, at may media coverage para talagang maramdaman ng gobyerno na seryoso tayo. Kasi yung paunti-unting tibak na nagrarrali wala namang epek sa kanila noh."

-waterver



COC ENSEMBLE December 12 NBN 4 December 14 Studio 23's Rush TV "Christmas Rush" at SM MOA Centerstage Theater	Dramatical Monologue - Basic Acting Workshop - Theatrical Play (Claro M. Recto Hall) 1:30-4:30PM (Tentative) El Heredero Ritwal Gal 6: 1-7	Development 10:00AM-5:00PM at COC-AVR December 11 Leadership Enhancement Training Seminar 1:00-5:00PM at COC-AVR	December 4 Wake Ang Huling Pakay Baysak December 5 Black Prelude Durungawan Iskapular December 6 Sipol Relica Palahaw
TEATRO KOMUNIKADO December 3-7 - Teatro Kom Week - Contests Sikat Ako Improvisation Acting	COMMUNICATION TALENT & TRAINING CENTER December 10 Talent Workshop and Personality	HORROR FESTIVAL SCHEDULE December 3 Katiwala Maisa, Duwwa, Tallo Alabok	

KOMIKS . KOMIKS



The police officer yanked Carlos' hands away as he tried to fumble for support in a desperate attempt to keep his balance. He staggered as another blow hit him squarely just above his navel, the excruciating pain making his body collapsed totally and hit the grounds on all fours.

The grassy ground, though quite soft, failed to lessen the physical and emotional pain that clouded his whole body. He even failed to utter a scream as another blow, this time to the head, finally send him lying on his back, like a helpless cockroach seconds away from being squashed by a merciless shoe.

Droplets of blood and sweat spattered everywhere, but still, he fought to keep his senses. Through his slightly closed, bruised eyes, he glance at the dark shadows of his oppressors, four grim shadows, their official uniforms glinting on some parts, illuminated by the half-past full moon's serene light.

The place, he knew, was completely deserted except for themselves, and he couldn't suppress the feeling of fear and despair by the thought that that unwelcoming place would be his final destination, that in that place he will finally be dragged by the scythe of Death. Cold. Alone..

"Don't tell me you'll come with them again?" his wife interrogated the morning earlier, just right after breakfast. Her tone was soft, but it was very evident that she's extremely worried, her kind eyes examining his husband as he changed his clothes. 'I know that your fighting for our good Carlos, but you're just risking you're life. You're fighting against rich people Carlos... Powerful people..."

Carlos smiled and caressed his wife. "You don't have to worry Sita. It's just a simple meeting. And being the group's leader, I should be there of all people." He leaned forward and kissed her on the cheek, and ignoring his wife's silent contemplation, he set off.

Along the way he couldn't help feeling the guilt as he took the dusty

road towards his destination. He won't be attending a formal meeting at all, but a protest demonstration that he and his colleagues planned several months ago. The demonstration was against the plan of the government to forcefully remove them "squatters" and be relocated into somewhere they think inadequate just to make space for a new shopping complex intended to increase the level of tourism in the country as well as the number of local investors.

For them it was way too easy, he thought. They don't know all the hardships and difficulties he triumphed over just to build his a home that will shelter his new family. Yes, to them it was just filth, an eyesore, but to him, it's an abode filled with love and compassion that no other dwelling could possibly overthrow.

Just imagine Carlos' rage when he heard the governments plan, and he quickly set in to action by calling his neighbors and formed a small assembly and he was chosen to be the leader as expected.

From the very start his wife failed to accept his revolutionary affiliations. She kept on telling him that they can do nothing about it, and even advised him to turn his back at his proud principles and avoid clashing with the "giants", for she believe that just like any other who attempted the same thing faced the same fate. Failure.

But of course, Carlos just shrugged them all. "If not him, who? If not now, when?" he always say, quoting his line from one of his favorite novels.

All these thoughts troubled his mind when suddenly a loud gunshot filled the air. A pandemonium had broken out. Sounds of sirens sent a weird chill on his body as flashes of red and blue light showered the place with grim luminescence. He saw police officers hitting his fellows, and he saw some of them running away from the scene, evidently to save themselves.

One of them, in a rush to flee, still managed to stop and told rapidly what

happened. It turns out that somehow the "giants" discovered their plan and decided to make an "advance counterattack". The man even advised him to escape before rushing off and leaving Carlos on the spot..

He never thought of doing such thing, but the moment his informer left him, Carlos just found himself being hit by two officers and was forcefully rushed into a patrol car.

Anything happened with a blur. He even failed to know what happened to his colleagues because he was brought to a different station. There he was brutally violated, beaten black and blue.. He just found out that one of the police officers was killed during the fiasco, and the latter's fellows could not identify the killer, but stresses that certainly, the person belongs to Carlos' party and he being the leader, would pay the price instead.

Night approached. Carlos was quite certain that his wife desperately searched for him but he knew that it's now too late. His thoughts all came back to the present as his head receive another hard blow, this time delivered by something very hard. Cold.

Despair and fear devoured him, even so the kind that enveloped him were fear and despair far greater than that of his own death, but by the thought that many generations of radical minds who had fought only for their right and what is truly right and come before him was slaughtered and gripped by the greedy "powerfuls" menacing talons. That time, real tears cascaded down his damaged face as he thought of his wife and their would-be-son Miguel. How many families like theirs would be crushed by those 'talons'?

He heard the soft clicked of a gun before it was drowned by the laughter of his murderers.

Carlo stared directly into the moon just as a loud, terrifying bang filled the moonlit sky, and the voluminous darkness of death completely crept over him.

Of Sparrow That Weeps

Senses Awakening

Roi Anthoni Lomotan

Do YOU SMELL, the foul odor?
Of the tarnished soul of leaders...
They, who just seat blissfully on the throne,
And acting deaf to their people's moan.

DO YOU FEEL, the callused hands?
Of those who don't belong to affluent
clans...
But those dark, dirty, greasy beggars
instead,
That block you in the path you tread.

DO YOU HEAR, the cries of a child?
He needs some who'll listen to his plight...
May tomorrow be a different day,
That he would no longer work, and he
could play...

DO YOU TASTE and savor the sweetness
of life?
When there's someone dying hungry!
They just scrap garbage for food,
Something that would bring them no
good...

Now, DO YOU SEE?
That we're living in world of apathy.
Well these people doesn't need your
sympathy,
Somehow, do something to ease their
agony...

11 Anyos
* adie

Minsan, may isang ako
Na May kapos na tinig
At mga musang nakabitin

Walang kamalayan
Sa mundong ginagalawan
Na naghahatid ng buhay ng walang
katiyakan

Minsan hinangad ang pagbabago
Huminto man ang tibok ng puso
May umagos mang dugo
Iaalay sa lupang ipinangako

Karunungan para sa lahat
Hustisya sa katiwalaang talamak
Mamulat sa mapaniil na sistema
Maging daan sa tunay na paglaya

Hihiling na lang ba at mananalangin?
Sinong makikinig sa aking mga hinaing?
Saan ba mapupunta ang mga titik nito
Kung bulag at bingi ang lahat sa inaasam
kong pagbabago?

Kailan ka kikiilos, kailan ka lalaban?
Mahid ka na ba sa suliranin ng bayan?
Kailan ka magsasalita, kailan ka haharap
Mawawalan na lang ng saysay ang mga
pangarap

Riles punx

Pardz

Gazing urban stories of black-clad orcs
Horsing the night away with their fake
Chucks
And oddly one-sided bangs,

I realized that comfort
Was only short-lived
As it was in band concerts

You gang-bang in moshphit
Sweat in loud, amplified music
'Til your ears sore in fantasia
While you let your house,
A tiny, smelly hut --
Harried by the sound of train
Every minute of it
Was harassing noise,

No melodic, three chord progressions,
Badly sung lyrics
To sing to;
Served only are jolting quakes,
Near to death chants bewailing trouble,
Swiveling dusts to and fro,
And a daily reminder
That you've half-spent your life
Near the rusting rails
Of Sta. Mesa
Miserably dreaming over
Kurt Cobain telling you
Why life was always "all apologies"
And letting your mind weigh heavily
On where to get money
For a single puff...

But tonight,
You don't have to think about
The next place to settle
Or another rowdy, near-rail shanty
To plant your next rock star fantasy
You don't care whether
Someone's stepping at your
Fake Chucks
Or wiping out that oddly one-sided
Bangs of yours.

Because at this very moment,
The world is yours --
Woozing over guitar ramblings
And noise that was never
As harassing
As the whooshing sound of the train.

Red and Indigo

Adam Ant in Nature

The Sun has a face, I cannot longer endure,
It sears, flying over me, in a still place,
And it can't be moved,
Only the time could,
Wane its shone glory
Or rather its gore between-
His bleeding departs in the night;
'Red and Indigo' in the sky blighted,
'Half truths, lies' are still to be secrets.
Before the moon let us stare,
At her splendor, tolerating our covet
That she is existing and tactile
It is but he sun to be blamed
Of what had made us 'believe'
That in every day he leaves
There is a bounty after a sleep
As we rest under his ray

One World, She

Penedpeiper

The rain has fallen from the cloud of
gloom
The fountain of sadness has showered
more tears
It was never this worse before
this heart was never flooded with so much
pain

Nostalgia provides a smile for a second
the dawn added the darkness
the stars were bright but they were very
far
farther than ever

The light of life fades
as the world rolls up at her back
mighty men can't help, they can only
watch her struggle
it was only up to all her capability

Her limits were reached but she remains
Silent, quiet as she screams her pain
She was stronger yet falls weak
She was great but still not enough

The world changes rapidly but remains
the same
She was the witness
The victim
The suspect

The world was big, they can't see her
But she was mighty
She love herself, she left it was enough
She was the world.

CULTURAL Vandalism

a defacement of the (op)press(ed) freedom mural

Ian Emmanuel Urrutia

Bitingly ironic. A press institution such as the National Press Club (NPC) censored a work of art by providing alterations on the mural depicting the critical yet accurate state of the press and its struggle.

The 8x32-foot painting, showing a man reading a newspaper on the street amid a busy urban crowd of ordinary people and press freedom advocates from the Spanish colonial era up to the present deluge of unabated political killings was allegedly defaced so as to please its guest of honor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during the unveiling rites on October 26, 2007 at the NPC building in Intramuros, Manila.

The night before GMA was to unveil the press freedom mural in commemoration of NPC's 55th founding anniversary, the NPC hired an unknown artist to modify the "leftist marks" and those with references critical to the Arroyo government, outraging not only the commissioned artist that created the painting – the Neo-Angono Artists Collective (NAAC) but also the ire of everyone seeking not to distort hardcore truths on the press freedom situation in the country.

Slipshod alterations

Alterations on several parts of the mural are evident. The statement of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) assessing the effects of Human Security Act on press freedom as held by the focal figure was replaced by a hideous bird-monster in a cage. On the other hand, the name of IFJ's local member, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) was erased from the banners of demonstrators.

Revision was also done on the headline of the newspaper Dr. Jose Rizal is holding. "Press Freedom Fighter's Son Abducted," was changed into "Press Freedom Fight is On," while the pictures of Edita Burgos and her missing son, Jonas Burgos

were defaced; a further proof of the government's denial to solve the spate of extrajudicial killings.

Bastardized in the portrait are columnist Randy David whose hair and beard are lengthened and former martial law detainee/columnist Juan Mercado, whose white hair color was changed into black. These two are considerably one of the most recognized journalist-critics of the State fascism, joining the ranks of Conrado De Quiros and the late Chino Roces.

The father of Philippine Revolution, Andres Bonifacio didn't escape the damage-inducing modification. His Alibata "K" tattoo on the left arm was repainted with a cheesy red heart pierced by an arrow, unmindful that the historical significance of the Katipunan sign have traced our early resistance on colonialism and infringement of our identity as Filipinos.

Other unreasonable alterations are the blurring of red on the plate number of an FX taxi "ZTE 200" and the change made to the taxicab's body number from "EO464" to "EON464." the former being alluded to the NBN controversy which caught the ZTE corporation and the government of an exposé (remember the P200 million-bribe offered by then Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos to Romulo Neri) while the latter is Executive Order 464, which prohibits the officials of executive department from testifying in the congress without the permission of PGMA.

The adverse of neutrality

In the wake of the mural controversy, NPC denied accusations that it has maligned the integrity of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective by making revisions on the commissioned work. They reiterated that they are justifiably responsible for the work because they paid for it and it is said in the mutual agreement that the painting should not reveal any political sentiment since NPC doesn't want to be identified with the left, the right or "the center."

However, Richard Gappi, President of NAAC divulged that under the contract premise "the artist had free rein" to paint the mural based on the theme of press

freedom.

NPC's leaning on a certain standard of neutrality and apolitical stand only meant for their espousing of the status quo. Denying details of press freedom struggle and the pressing issues of our time and beyond is merely selling press freedom to another assault. As such, the integrity of the work of art should be reserved to what it is since the account of truth can never be changed or tampered.

Total disrespect on art

But long before the NPC mural controversy struck discussion forums and opinion page of dailies, world-renowned painters Pablo Picasso and Diego Rivera had already experienced bastardization and censure from the commissioning body that asked for their work of art.

Picasso's anti-war masterpiece "Guernica" was covered with a blue drape after former US-Secretary of the State Colin Powell went in UN Security Council Chamber to highlight and discuss the importance on war of aggression in Iraq. Picasso's Guernica details the ruthless attacks of Guernica, Spain in support of the Franco dictatorship. The piece was an updated parody on the US' war of aggression using the issue of alleged global terrorism and nuclear weapon threats to cover up its imperialist desires.

Diego Rivera's huge mural, "Man at the Crossroads" was destroyed and hold away in wheelbarrows after Rivera failed to compromise with Nelson Rockefeller, the owner of Rockefeller Center to change the face of communist figure Vladimir Lenin. Rivera, however repainted the mural at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and renamed it "Man, Controller of the Universe."

Those who undermine art as a powerful medium for change should likewise think. For years, it has hid secrets and exposed universal truths. And for more years to come, it will stay and judge history by its preservation of truth – interpreted across multiethnic boundaries and mashing-up of ideologies.

Art is scared, after all.



SAAN nga ba makikita ang salitang “Kayamanan”? Paano nga ba maisusulat ang katagang “Kabataan”? Ang mga taguring “Pag-asa ng bayan”? Mag-aaral ka. Magbabasa. Magsusulat. Ngunit hanggang kailan?

Magandang Pagsisimula?

Nakatutuwang isipin na taun-taon, patuloy pang dumarami ang bilang ng mga kabataang nakapagpatuloy ng kanilang pag-aaral at nabibigyan ng pagkakataong tamasahin ang buhay kolehiyo, patunay lamang na marami pa ang mga “Pag-asa ng bayan”. Marami pa silang mga nakasaad sa propesiya, na lilikha ng pagbabago at tutugon sa pangangailangan ng lipunan.

Unti-unti nang yumayabong ang mga punlang itinanim. Nakatataba ng pusong pagmasdan ang mga butong tila kahapon lamang, maingat pang inilalagay sa paso at ngayoy isa nang ganap na halaman. Sa masusing pag-aalaga, unit-unti nang nagiging makatotohanan ang dating pangarap lamang, nagiging ganap na ang balintataw.

Hinding-hindi na talaga matatawaran pa ang galing at abilidad ng mga kabataan kung usaping pagpapa-unlad ang pag-uusapan. De-kalibre’t de-kalidad kung maturingan.

Subalit sa pagdaan ng panahon, bakit tila nauubos na ang mga tinuran ni Rizal?

Bagong henerasyon na raw kasi. Iba na ang takbo ng globalisasyon. Kailangan alam mo kung paano makipag-sabayang sa mga banyaga dahil kung hindi, ‘di ka magkakapera. Hindi ka yayaman.

Nakalulungkot isiping wala na talagang libre sa mundo. Halos lahat na lang ng bagay may kaakibat na kabayaran. Ultimo edukasyon binabayaran na rin ngayon, na kung saan, taun-taon na lang tumataas upang ‘di umano’y makamit ang edukasyong de-kalidad. Kung kaya marami ang humihinto sa kanilang pag-aaral o dili man, namamasukan sa iba’t-ibang kumpanya bilang mga working students.

Ito nga ba ang tamang pagsulat ng salitang “kabataan”?

StuGent: Swerte o Malas?

Sa patuloy na pag-inog ng globalisasyon sa buong mundo, hindi maiiwasang makisabay ang bayan ni Juan dela Cruz. At dahil sa ang pangulo pa ng kanyang bansa ang sumususog sa napapanahong trabaho, tuloy-tuloy pa nga ang pagtangkil dito ng mga Pilipino....

Palubog na ang silahis ng haring araw. Mainit. Maingay. Nagising si Jeff sa lakas ng tunog ng alarma sa kanyang telepono. Alas-singko na ng hapon. Bumangan siya... inihanda ang kanyang mga gamit. Bagaman pagod pa dahil sa maghapon pag-upo at pakikinig sa guro sa pinapasukang unibersidad ay pilit na kinukundisyon ang sarili para sa isa na namang “araw” ng pagtatawag. Hindi na kumain. Pagkaligo, agad na nagbihis at mabilis na nagpaalam sa mga kasama sa inuupahang

boarding house at nagmamadaling sumakay ng FX, sa wari’y may hinahabol na kung ano.

Pagbaba ng FX, bitbit ang bag na naglalaman ng ilang pagkain at habang kikip ang kanyang jacket, mabilis na tinahak ni Jeff ang daan patungo sa pinapasukang opisina. Masaya siya sa araw na yaon. Bakas ang ngiti sa kanyang labi na tila binigyan ng UNO ng propesor na ubod ng sungit at bagsik. Sweldo kasi. Lumiko siya sa isang kalye, “Ortigas”. “Heto na ako...”, sa isip-isip niya. Nginitian ang gwardiya at sinukbit ang ID upang makilala. Nakalagay sa strap... Polytechnic University of the Philippines..... Siya si Jeffrey Banaag, isang iskolar mula sa College of Hotel and Restaurant Management, estudyante sa umaga at ahente sa gabi.

Malalim na ang gabi. Lumipas ang mga oras at nagsisimula nang kumurot ang kanyang tiyan, salamat sa mga baon niyang chichirya. Patuloy pang tumakbo ang oras. Kasabay ng pagpikit ng mga mata ng karamihan para sa isang mahimbing at matiwasay na pagtulog ay ang pakikipaglaban naman ni Jeff sa antok.

Ang gabi ni Jeff ay hindi naman naging kabagut-bagot, may mga kasama din siyang matiyagang nagtatrabaho at pilit lumalaban sa tukso ng paghimlay. Mga tulad niyang nagbebenta ng produkto ng kumpanya, nagbibigay impormasyon, nanghihikayat na bumili ang kausap, humingi ng credit card number, higit lalo ang murahin ng kausap... Silang mga Call Center Agent o mas magandang tawaging StuGents (call center students). Silang mga bampira kung tawagin ng iba. Mga tulad ni Jeff na puyat at pagod ang matinding kalaban. Walang kikitain kung bibigay agad ang mata. Kung kaya’t patuloy siyang lumalaban. Hindi pwedeng hindi. Marami ang umaasa sa kanya. He’s the man...

Sa pagsapit ng ika-apat ng umaga, tapos na ang pansamantalang kalbaryo ni Jeff. Dahil mamaya lamang, sa muling paglubog ng araw, muli na naman siyang makikipaglaban. Magbebenta. “Kuha na tayo ng sweldo...” Labis ang kagalakan ni Jeff sa narinig. “Magkano kaya sweldo ko?” Tanong niya sa sarili. Sa wakas, magkakapera na naman siya. Makakabili na siya ng libro na lagpas tao ang presyo. Yes! He’s the man...

Mukha ng nakalulungkot na reyalidad

Taong 2003 nang magsimulang umusbong ang call center industry sa Pilipinas at ngayon, umuukopa na ito ng malaking porsyento sa merkado. At dahil dumadagsa na nga ang demand para sa mga call center agent, marami na ang nahuhumaling na sumabak sa ganitong trabaho. Kahit sino pwedeng pumasok. Ngayon, basta matatas kang mag-Ingles pwede ka nang kumita ng malaki. Nakapanghihinayang na hindi na malaking basehan ang kung ano pinag-aralan mo.

Nakapanlulumo lamang isipin na maging mga estudyante pinapasok ang ganitong trabaho. Nagpapakita lamang ang ganitong senaryo na tila nililipad na ng hangin ang mga dahon ng aklat. Nakababahalang unti-unti nang inaamag ang kaalamang siyang matibay nilang sandata upang magtagumpay sa buhay. Tuloy, ang dating mga student, nagiging stugents- mga estudyanteng call center agent. Mga estudyanteng ang pagtulog ay tanging sa pangarap lamang subalit wala sa plano.

Nakalulungkot na ang oras na inilalaan sana para sa pag-aaral ng leksyon, ipinagpapalit na lamang sa mabilisang pagkita. Sa hirap nga naman ng buhay.

Humigit-kumulang sa P10,000 hanggang P15,000 ang kita ng isang stugent kada buwan. Depende pa sa kumpanya, depende sa empleyado, depende sa dami ng araw na ipinasok mo at depende sa perang ipapaso mo sa kumpanya. Hindi na masama kung ikukumpara sa kinikita ng mga estudyanteng crew sa mga food chain. Pagod na, nakakunsumi pa. Halos kalahati lamang ang sweldo kumpara sa pagod. Ngunit hindi nga ba masama?

Ayon sa sarbey, umaabot sa humigit-kumulang P70,000 hanggang P120,000 kada buwan ang sweldo ng isang ahente sa mga bansang Singapore, Amerika at Australia. Malayung-malayo kumpara sa kita ng lahi ni Juan. “Cheap labor”, ika nga. Kaya naman di maipinta ang kaligayahan ng mga foreign investor na nagnenegosyo rito dahil sa liit ng ibinabayad sa mga empleyado. Tubong lugaw nga naman sila sa bansang ito. Sino nga bang hindi matutuwa?

StuGent: Patuloy na Pakikipaglaban

Parte na ng buhay ni Jeff ang pagpupuyat. Sa tulad niyang bampira, tila nakamamatay ang pagtulog. Kahit pa masama sa katawan, tuloy pa rin sa pagtatrabaho at pag-aaral. Kahit pa lumagpas sa bababaang terminal dahil sa sobrang antok, ayos lang. Kasi, he’s the man. Kahit pa makatulog sa klase o dili kaya, lumiban magkaroon lang ng panandaliang pahinga, ayos pa rin. Kasi, he’s the man. Kahit pa magmukha ng mas matanda sa tunay na gulang, ayos lang. Kasi, he’s the man... ayos lang, dahil pagdating ng kinsenas he’s the man... ngunit ang inaakalang mataas na sahod kumpara sa ibang part-time jobs, sisiw din kumpara sa kita ng nasa ibang bansa. At kahit huminto na sa pag-aaral dahil sa perang kinikita; di makapag-aral ng maayos dahil laging puyat, ayos pa rin kaya?

Ayon sa Pangulong Arroyo, senyales daw ang pagdagsa ng mga mamumuhunan ng isang maunlad na ekonomiya sa Pinas. Lilikha raw ‘di umano ito ng maraming trabaho na sagot sa naghihikahos na kalagayan at kumakalam na sikmura ng maraming Pilipino. Kung kaya’t nanghihikayat pa siya na suungin ang ganitong trabaho.

Dahil din sa marami na ang nag-iisip na malaki ang tsansa na kumita nang malaki sa pagiging call center agent, kaunti na nga lang talaga ang nagtutuloy sa pagiging isang propesyonal. Sapagkat, marami sa mga nagtapos ng kolehiyo ang umaasa na lamang sa ganitong trabaho, kahit hindi akma sa propesyong minsang tinahak.

Kunsabagay, hindi rin maitatatwa na kung hindi dahil sa mga call center agent na Pinoy, hindi magiging tanyag ang Pinas bilang “customer service nation”. Malaki pa rin ang puwang nila sa pagpapalago ng ekonomiya.

Ilang taon pa mula ngayon?... Ilang punla pa ang itanim at dadamitan ng mapagpalang alabok upang yumabong?

Ilang estudyante pa kaya ang mag-aaral at magiging “agents” at hihinto kalaunan...

Mag-aaral ka. Magtatawag? Mag-aaral ka. Magpupuyat? Mag-aaral ka. Mangangayayat? Mag-aaral ka. Magtatrabaho?

Ok, Spell StuGent?

Hernan Aguacito at Arlyn Amboy