

the **REVIEW** *magazine*

The Official Student Publication of Northwestern University April 2007



Fiat Lux!



the
Review

OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION
OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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*Balintataw is the official student publication
of Northwestern University Laboratory High School*

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A word from the editor

School year 2006-2007 has ended but it does not signal the end of the *Review* as a watchdog. Despite the short span of time working to advance the welfare and interest of the students, we believe that we have done our best to elevate the students' concerns and grievances to the administration.

The *Review* had its fair share of criticisms. It has been branded as anti-administration, anti-Supreme Student Council, unfair, and irresponsible by narrow minded individuals who are blinded to see the real situation. They wanted to be at the center stage pretending to be good but in reality, they are wolves in sheep's clothes. But the fight is not against personalities but of issues that greatly affect the students.

We tried zooming the real condition – tuition fee increase, internet fee hike, energy fee and other form of fees that we feel have disadvantaged students. We had hoped that concerned authorities would recognize our agonies. We posted students' complaints and sentiments in the paper but we failed to see positive action on issues that were raised. Once again, we ask that the administration will place the interest of the students over and above other interests.

While not all university officials were pleased with the issues we wrote, some have summoned us to their offices for stories not suited to their taste; still, thank you is an understatement we accord the administration for its support in the exercise of academic press freedom. But more than anyone else, we give all due recognition to the students for they are the real owners of this publication. We are grateful for the students who have trusted and shared their sentiments to the *Review*.

Probably by the time this article sees print, the tuition fee increase for S.Y. 2007-2008 shall have been enforced. What should be heeded is the welfare of the many that equality must be served to everyone in the university rather than the will of an unenlightened few. That is, after all, what university has been touted to be — an educational institution established to serve the people from all walks of life.

Things Graduates will Miss after leaving School

Congratulations to all graduates!! You now have finished your easy life in school and will now enter the doors of the real world-no *baon* and no *kupit*-that's your fault, why in the hell did you have to graduate?!(Ha,ha,ha!)

The *Review* has just listed some of the things you graduates will probably miss and/or do right after graduation. Read on and find out which paragraph suits you. Here they are:

After graduation, I won't need my seatmate anymore. He/she will be of no use to me since those blasted days choked with wretched examinations, primed to make students lose what's left of their sanity due to excessive thoughts of our boy/girl-friends, what to wear next Wednesday, how to fix our hair and/or the next plan to survive horrific tests like these that make my overly undersized brain bleed!

After graduation, I will forget I had ever connived with my classmates and made those over obvious cheating arrangements readily noticed by our instructors. I will forget I ever wrote my *kodigo* on my palm or any other part of my anatomy, the wall nearest to me, the arm rest of my chair or anything the ink of my ballpen can write on.

After graduation, I will forget how I got sacked by my pesky instructor when I was caught during one of his/her daunting examinations that used to make my eyes pop out and lurk around the room to keep me from being buried deep in the pits with the word B-A-G-S-A-K!

After graduation, I will forever keep the memories of that teacher who kept me going to school. I will miss the way he/she talks in front of the class. I will miss how he/she discusses our lessons no matter how dead boring it is; the way his/her behind quiver when he/she writes on the

board and (for female teachers only) seeing her thighs when on her uniform. I will also forever miss ogling at my crush during classes; the way I throw looks at her and fantasize being with her.

After graduation, I will miss sleeping at the library. For some reason, it feels good to sleep inside that vast room, surrounded by immensely myriad set of books that works wondrous for me they make me go to sleep! I will also miss sleeping during classes. I will miss the voice of my instructors during discussions that make me go to a state partway between sleeping and walking. Nice!

After graduation, I will miss vandalizing the comfort rooms of the university. I will miss the graffiti I call art on those once clean and spotless walls of the school. I will miss spelling out the human genitalia on the walls and more so, drawing them on it. To give another idea, here's one: "*Hawak mo ang kinabukasan ng bayan!*"

After graduation, I will miss the hours of making *tambay* inside and out of the school, discussing my own lessons with my buddies using my own raunchy armalite mouth fully loaded with bullets that spew out mockery, obscenity, contempt, or just plain *chismis* almost beating the hell out of Ozzy Asbourne.

After graduation, I will miss cutting classes. Sitting back and puffing my pack of cigarette is a surefire way of killing time which should have been spent inside those sickening classrooms full of other people, that, if I knew better would sell their balls to shut the eternal-like talk of that person in front because of his/her continuous blabbering of ...arg, who cares?! Good thing I'm done with the!

After graduation, I will miss going to internet cafes outside school. I will miss wasting my *baon* playing on-line games. I will miss playing *Ran-*

the way my swordsman brutally sways his sword, or the bow and arrow of my archer with her impressive grace and finesse, the cool shaman with her mystique, or my rough brawler, who, of course, brawls a lot. I will also miss playing other on-line games like Khan, MU, Flyff and Gunbound with my *barkada*.

After graduation, I will never again have to pay thousands of pesos for somebody else to make me lengthy research and term paper and thesis. I won't have to sell my parents' cow, goats and the whole poultry just to have a grade I did not really earn. There will be no more defenses- to hell with that defense! I'm already a graduate! (you may now laugh out loud) I also take back all the curses and unkind words that spewed out from my mouth when my fervent panelist asked me to answer questions about my thesis so alien to me that I think they're from the millions of light years from the rotting mother Earth! *Adun Turedas!*

After graduation, I will never again have to make excuses and alibi just for that overzealous security guard to let me inside the campus. I will never again wear my anti-fashion uniform which pretty much serves as my gate pass.

After graduation, I will be free from the bars of school. I will never again come back in this wretched parcel of land except when there are parties or any other occasions that have food, liquor, cigarette, women or drugs in it.

After graduation, I'll get me my own job lest I be one of those *tambays* who does nothing but get drunk and watch sexy chicks and other people pass by them. I will look for a job suited for me and I will love that job to earn good money (which I will spend mostly on my vices and for my load)

Now, you decide, have you seen who you are from the choices above?

-Crème de la Crème-

Once graduation fever is already high, almost every graduating student has a story to tell. Stories of how they have triumphed despite life's problems and difficulties. Others start telling stories of their sleepless nights cramming for the undergraduate

thesis: how they went through the 'eye of a needle' by their inquisitive panelists, exhausting almost all their finances just for editing, printing, editing and printing. Some students recall how they wanted their teacher or teachers to be sick all throughout the semester and be replaced immediately so that they'll be freed

from tons of homework and projects. And the deadline, oh, the deadline!

But every graduation, there are those students who excel and they deserve cheers for a job well done! But let's get to know the stories of some of the Crème of the Crop, how they have made their college life fruitful.

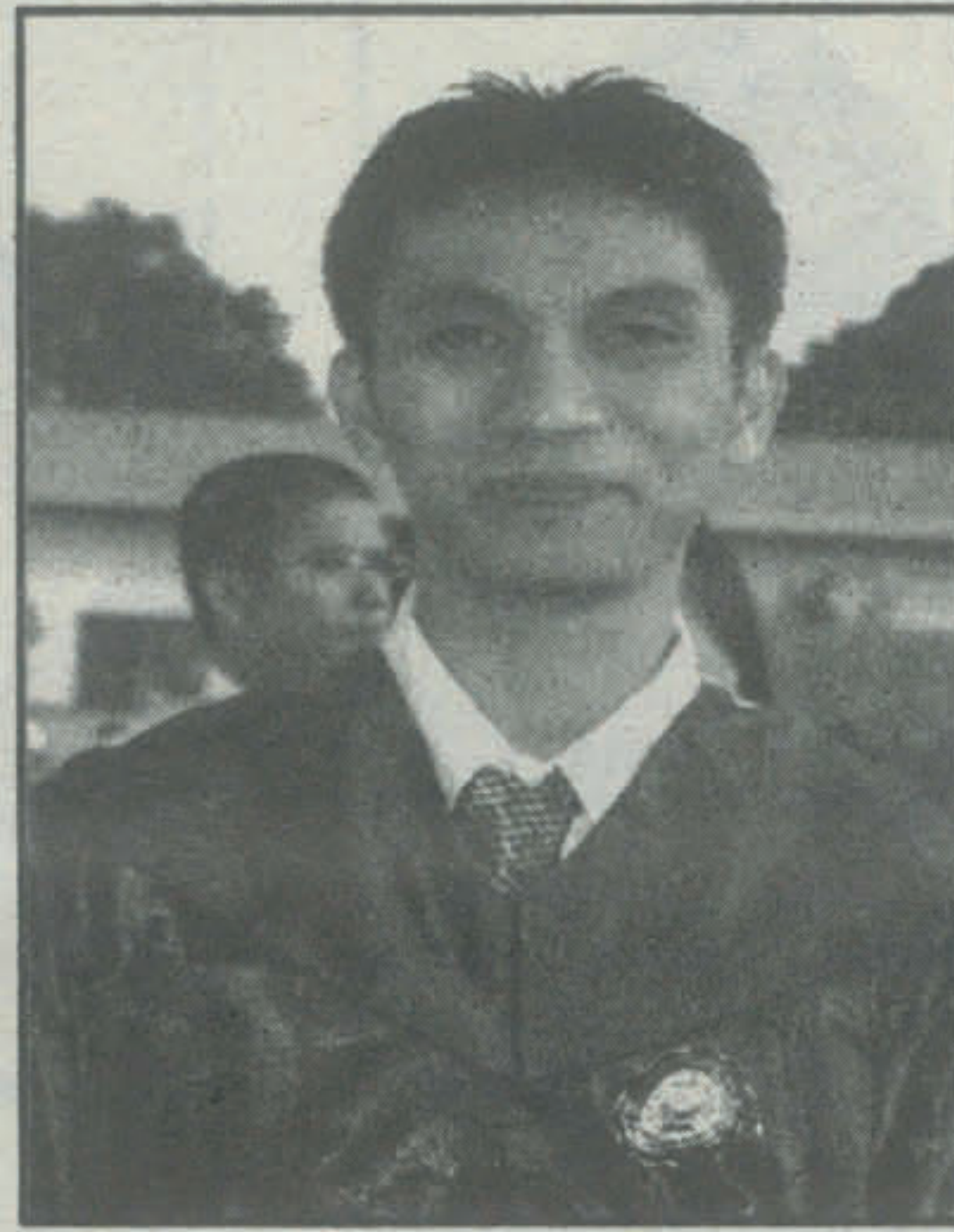


Monnet Valenzuela
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Commerce
GWA - 1.45

Monnet's dream is simple— to finish her college education, land a job, and help her family. Upon receiving her diploma, she felt contented for finally ending her long year of sacrifices; her tears and failures being rewarded. Leading the graduates is a far off dream for her.

"As a recipient of the scholarship grant of the Ilocos Norte Provincial Government, I was able to enroll here at Northwestern University," Monnet recalls, adding that she tried to make it a point to maintain the required average.

Her sleepless nights bear fruits as she was included in the list of academic scholars. She also joined the college organization to enhance her leadership skills.



Allan M Utleg
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor in Secondary Education
Major in Filipino
GWA - 1.49

"Four years ago, my only goal is to finish the course the Lord led me to take," Geoffrey shares, "and because of this goal I had focus." That is how Geoffrey (popularly known as "Ian") said when asked what brought him to Northwestern University.

A graduate of a Theology degree, Ian said he was at first hesitant to enroll at a secular university. He felt that it will be a different world for him. During his first year, students thought that he was an instructor, a law or masteral student, because of his actions and "pastor-like" get up, but yes, he is a preacher. Eventually, his college life went normal after some adjustments.

Ian represented the university in an oratorical contest and Bible quiz



Madonna May T. Guerrero
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor in Elementary Education
Major in English
GWA - 1.49

during the YMCA's Regional Conferences in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan and Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. In his second year in the university, he became the public information officer of the Supreme Student Council. He was also elected president of the College of Business Education. He has attended various seminars and conferences that added color to his college days.

A consistent academic scholar and recipient of the Nicolas Nicolas Scholarship, Ian graduated *cum laude*.

"Despite the frailties and failures, my goal would not have come true if not for the grace of God," Ian admits.

"I have been elected SSC President for two consecutive years. As an officer, I learned many things that made me a more competitive student," Renato bares.

Who would forget his lines the first time he ran for SSC presidency, "*ibosesan dakami babaen ti botos yo, tapno maibosesan dakayto met iti administrasyon seknan kadagiti problema yo?*" Because of these famous lines, Renato captured the presidency not once, but twice!

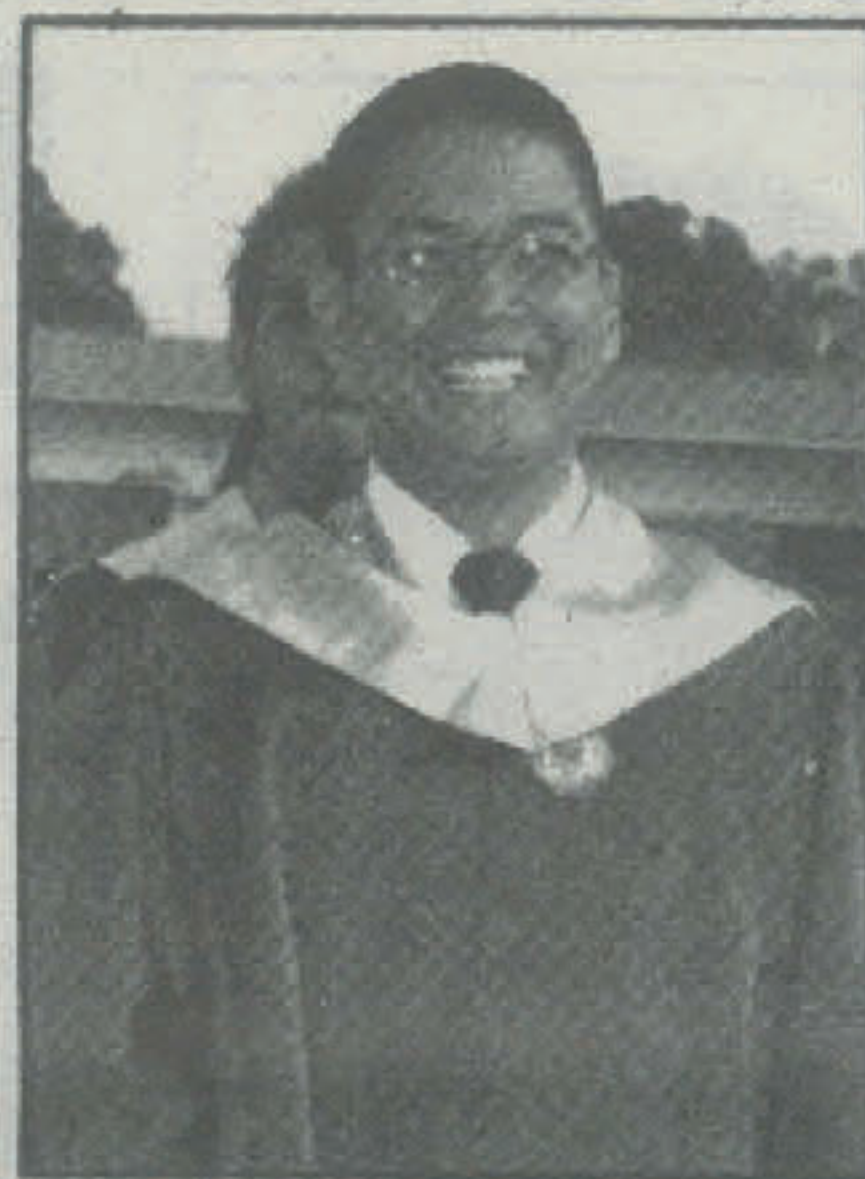
A former staff member of the *Review* before he decided to run for SSC president, Renato had the chance to represent the university at the Regional Higher Education Press Conference in San Fernando, La Union in 2004 and Luzonwide Higher Education Press Conference in Subic in 2005. Renato also attended various conferences and seminars which he thinks have contributed much in developing his personality and leadership qualities.

But dreams, perhaps that includes his childhood dream of becoming a president of the country nearly collapsed when he lost his father a year before he was to graduate. But he proved to be stronger than ever before. He successfully finished his course and graduated *cum laude*.

"With my two years as SSC president, I have read criticism from the *Review*, but I am thankful for it made me a better Renato Balisacan, Jr. Thank you *Review!*" says Renato.



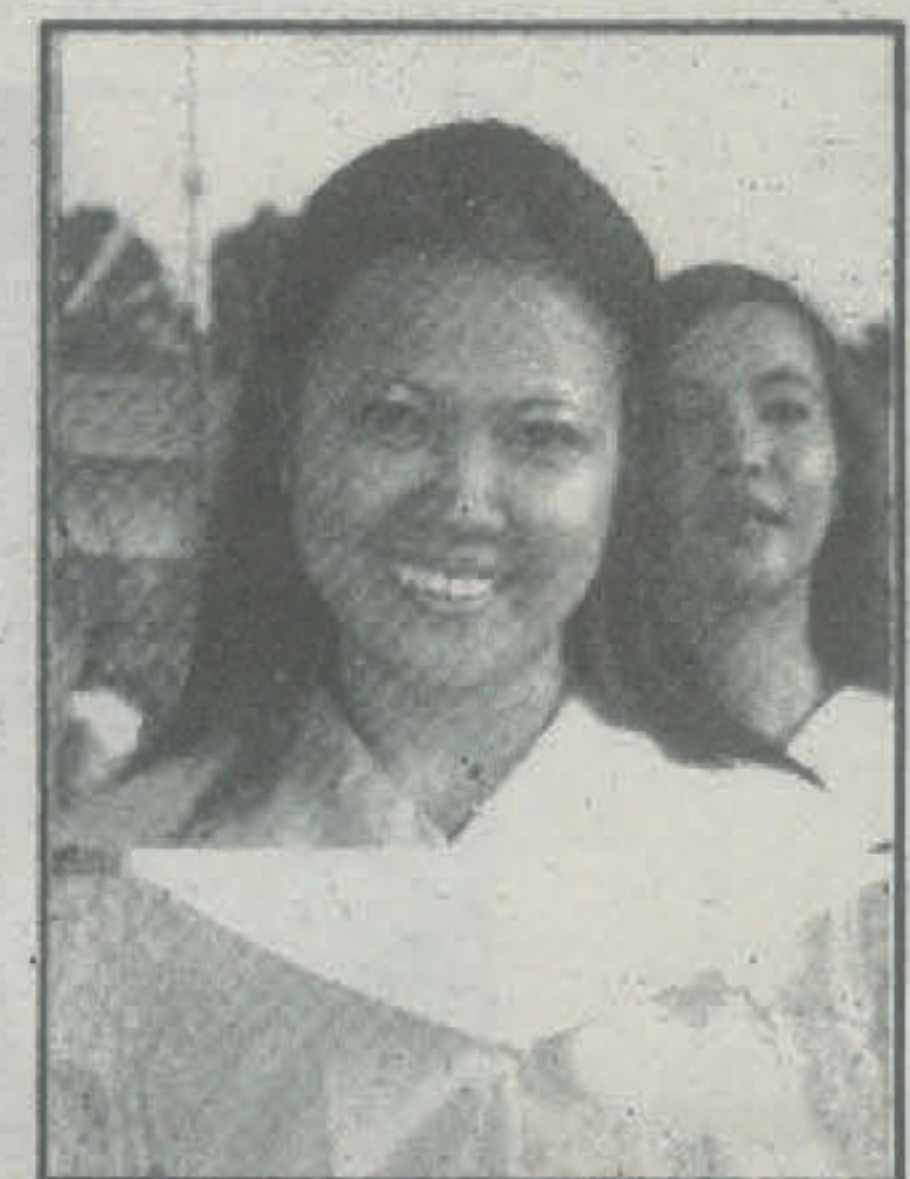
Cory B. Tapiru
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science
in Commerce
GWA - 1.53



Geoffrey M. Badua
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science
in Commerce
GWA- 1.54



Renato R. Balisacan, Jr.
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts
in Political Science
GWD - 1.61



Rosie R. Agruda
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science
in Commerce
GWA - 1.64



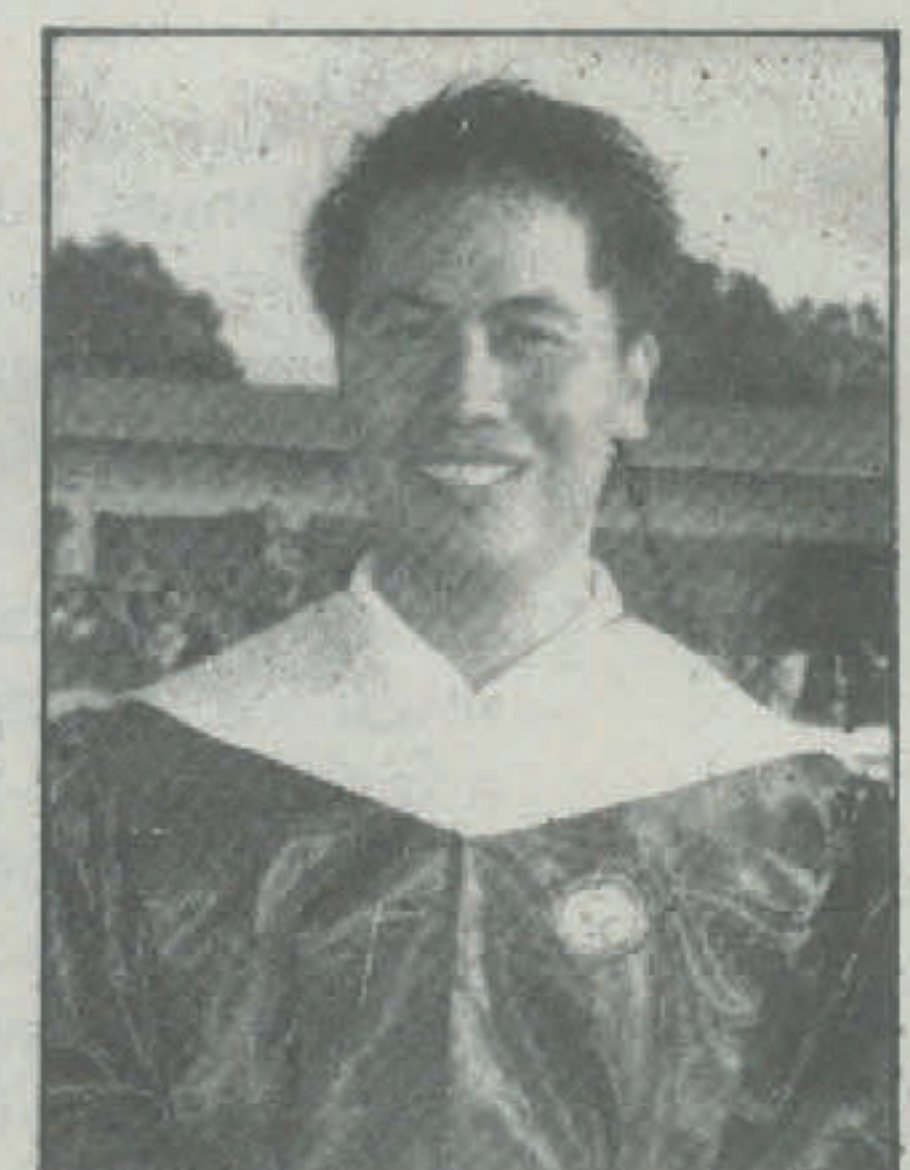
Monaliza Ganal
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Biology
GWA - 1.69



Jenny S. Pante
Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science
in Accountancy
GWA - 1.73



Leiveryn A. Ramos
Special Academic Award
Bachelor in Secondary
Education Major in Filipino
GWA - 1.68



Fernando C. Agudo
Special Academic Award
Bachelor of Arts
in Mass Communication
GWA - 1.52

CA Justice Reyes, speaker at 75th Grad Exercises, honored Conferred with Doctor of Laws degree, *Honoris Causa*



CA Presiding Justice Ruben Reyes, third from left, with university officials and CHED officers after the conferment.

Northwestern University conferred the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, to Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Ruben T. Reyes during the 75th Commencement Exercises where he was the guest of honor and speaker.

In conferring the honorary degree, the university recognized Reyes' contribution to the judiciary. It noted his work as a member of the bench who leads by example. He holds the record of zero backlogs and nurtured a vision of a "Court of Appeals that is righteous and reasonable in its decisions and resolutions, responsible and responsive to the challenge of judicial service."

The university also acknowledged his advocacy of legal and judicial reform initiatives and his dedication and unyielding effort in the quest of liberty, justice and truth. It also recognized his excellent record of public service and leadership, and contribution to the enhancement of the legal profession as author of a bar reviewer on special laws and several articles published in law journals and reviews, as bar review lecturer and speaker in law seminars and symposia that made him as the chief pillar of the Court of Appeals.

The Presiding Justice took numerous post graduate summer studies in the United States, which includes his Harvard Law School 1st Workshop for Law Teachers and Scholars, Academy of American and International Law, Appellate Judges

Seminar in Wyoming, California Judicial College, National Judicial College and in The Hague, Netherlands on International Criminal Law.

Justice Reyes studied law as a working student and scholar at the Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila where he also served as law council president and law editor of the MLQU.

He gained two Supreme Court awards on judicial reforms and over a dozen citations as Presiding Justice.

Born in 1939 in Hagonoy, Bulacan, Reyes is married to a provincemate, Atty. Ellie Cruz-Reyes of Baliwag. They have four children: Pastor Winston, Dr. Roselin, IT consultant Jason Immanuel, and lawyer Tammy Ann

University cites businessman-philanthropist Emilio Yap

Another man of sterling character earned the admiration of Northwestern University even as he was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Dr. Emilio Yap, a pillar in the business circle, was recognized for his "unique and untiring efforts to uplift the dignity of his fellowmen because of his true character as a leader, businessman, entrepreneur, family man, brother, and living hero of every Filipino."



University president Ben Nicolas with Emilio Yap at the conferment rites held at the Manila Hotel and attended by other school officials.

His achievements and astonishing generosity to the Filipino race and innumerable citizens of other nations have been acknowledged by the university. His service in the business arena includes more than 50 years in various capacities and as chairman of the board of the Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation, Centro Escolar University, the Manila Hotel and Chairman Emeritus of Philtrust Bank.

What endears him to Northwestern as a model of his mold is that Dr. Yap at 82 never retired and will never retire in his various civic and social services. He is an institution who will forever touch the lives of every human being.

Alumni reunion

Remembering the Good Old days



The get-together of alumni hosted by Dr. Aida Cuanang at her house evoked memories of the past. The guests took time out to pose with the host.

I felt like an intruder (though invited by virtue of being the *Review* editor) when I attended a get-together party of alumni, a prelude to the grand reunion of the 75th Diamond Jubilee of Northwestern University. The party was hosted by Dr. Aida A Cuanang in her newly built three-storey mansion in San Nicolas last January this year. Her guests were almost all graduates of Northwestern University of way back years. The guests brought with them sweet memories of their stay at Northwestern University.

One recalled being placed inside a small makeshift detention cell roughly four feet by four feet because he was drunk when he entered the campus. He was only released after he was sober. The guests

laughed at his story, not because of what happened, but because of the joy of reminiscing the good old days.

More than the detention cell, each story told showed how the institution nurtured them making them successful in their chosen field or career.

Dr. Raymond Liongson recalled that before he was finally admitted to the university (Northwestern College then), Mr. Nicolas Nicolas who was then the registrar, had preached to him "sermon without a text" castigating his brand of student activism. But the almost turned-down Liongson led his batch in receiving their diplomas. The former *Review* editor is now listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*, and now professor of Leeward Community College, a campus of the University of Hawaii. Who and where he is right now, he attributes this to the school acknowledging that he was "nurtured in the owl's nest."

At the grand reunion, alumni here and abroad shared precious escapades and experiences. But what touches the soul during the night was when all the participants sang by batch (40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and 2000s) the Northwestern Hymn and capped it with the traditional Auld Lang Syne. A participant described the atmosphere "as very nostalgic" where graduates of different batches joined hands together to seal another momentous event.

Truly, everyone had a fruitful experience to share that a single night was too short to accommodate all memories, glancing back the years under the wings of Northwestern University. Though parting is a "sweet-sorrow," all went home with beaming smiles. A night of walking down the memory lane made it all!

As the saying goes, "there is no place like home!"

-Fernando C. Agudo

JANSEN DINAH ANDRES

MISS LAOAG CITY PAMULINAWEN INTERNATIONAL 2007

Jansen never gave up joining beauty pageants although she only landed a semi-finalist slot in the 2005 Miss Northwestern University. After Miss NWU, doors were opened for her to join other prestigious beauty pageants. In 2006, she bested other 15 contenders for the Miss Association of Barangay Councils and won when she smartly answered the question during the final Q and A. She brought home not only the crown but also other awards: the *Best in Talent*, *Ms. Role Model*, and *Most Articulate* awards.

As Miss ABC 2006, represented the association in the Search for Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen International 2007.

"When it rains, it pours," says Jansen, "Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen International 2007 was very tough."

"I really cried when I was called the winner, I didn't expect it knowing that the other candidates were prettier and some even came from across the Philippines!"

Few days after she relinquished her Miss ABC crown, she embraced another responsibility as the Miss Laoag City Pamulinawen International 2007.

She gamely gives in to the *Review's* probe of her heart!

What drives me to join beauty pageant are... to enhance my confidence, meaning to overcome my shyness, to develop my talents and skills, and to meet new faces.

If beauty were power I would... change the negative attitude of people.

The most beautiful person for me is ... my mother, she is a real beauty queen for me.

My favorite part of my body is... my pair of eyes! They are very expressive and they communicate to others what I really feel.

What I hate about me is... my being too friendly that I don't even get mad at my friends although they do something wrong to me. I am too pasensyosa (patient)! Kahit nilalait at niloloko ako ng harap-harapan, okay lang (Even if they make fun of me, I'ts okay with me). In return, I give them my killer smile! (Laughs out loud!)

The most important lessons I have learned from beauty pageants are... to have trust in myself and to be humble always.

If I were to change something about me, that would be... nothing, because of what I have and who I am, I have achieved one of my greatest dreams in life, "to become a real beauty queen!"

The thing I love the most about beauty pageants... they give us new shoes, swimsuit, casual dress (he!he!he!), and oh, they provide food for us (I love to eat kasi)... But seriously, what I love about beauty pageants aside from what I already mentioned is the price of winning the "crown of friendship." Win or lose, the feeling of having new friends is different!

I always remind myself before going on stage that... God, my family and friends are with me for support I need most. I also



say these words to myself "Jang, trust in yourself, you can do it, enjoy and keep smiling!"

I get nervous in front of the crowd when... I hear people shouting and yelling my name. I'd lose my concentration every time I hear my name.

The part of the beauty pageant I hate most is... actually nothing! I love every part of the pageant most especially the Question and Answer portion, it is where you maintain your poise under pressure.

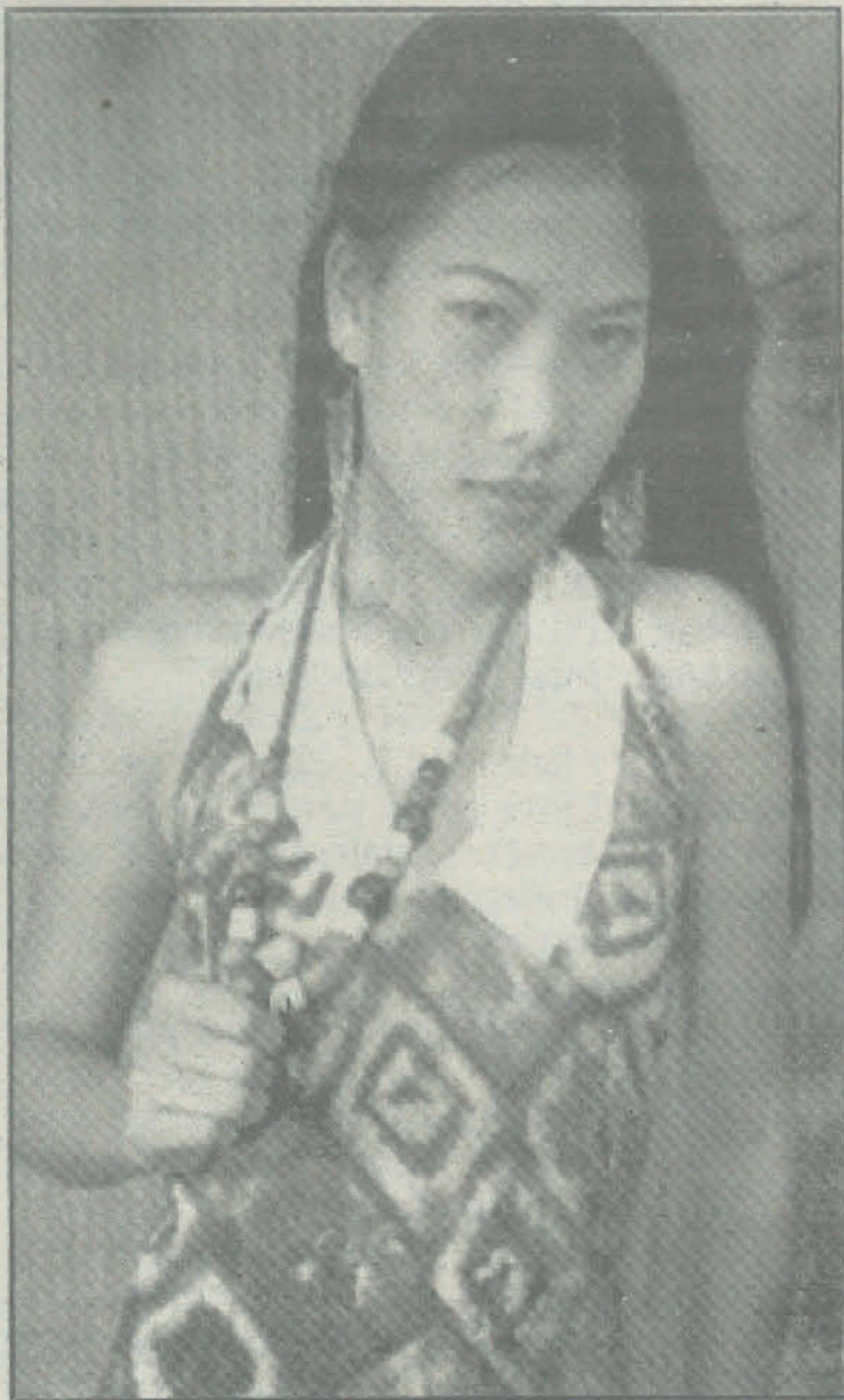
My initial reaction when they called me a winner was... speechless and like I needed some air to breathe! I don't know, I can't explain.

Being a beauty queen is... indeed a job, along the prizes come the responsibilities of being a servant, Ambassador of Goodwill, and a role model to my fellow youth!

KRISHELLE VELASCO

Miss Northwestern University 2007

Krishelle never expected to win the title of *Miss Northwestern University 2007*. But because of her impressive answer during the final round of the *Question and Answer* portion, besting the other candidates, she won the judges' nod.



A single award would have been fine for her. She regrets that the award she was hoping for went to one of her fellow candidates. She sang the *I Can Make it through the Rain*, in her own version, but her golden voice was not recognized, or so she thought.

"I only hoped for the *Best in Talent* award," says Krishelle, "but when the award went to a fellow candidate, I thought the competition was over."

But something bigger award awaited her and the college she represented. The long wait of the College of Engineering Architecture and Technology to reign in the university's prestigious beauty pageant has ended. While her college almost hit the crown last year, her performance this time sealed her college's victory for the crown this year.

"I was shocked," says Krishelle when her name was called the winner. "I could not believe it. It was far from what I had expected!"

Now the bubbly Civil Engineering student turned beauty queen shares her heart.

What drives me to join beauty contest is... the privilege to represent my college.

If beauty were power I would... change the world into a peaceful place.

Being beautiful is... not only what you wear on, or the make up on the face, but being beautiful is most significant in the inside, the inner beauty of a person.

My favorite part of my body is... my pair of eyes because I believe that it is the window of my soul.

What I hate most about me is... when I don't understand myself at times. [Sounds crazy ha!]

The most important lessons I have learned from beauty pageants are... first, to believe in myself, second, to be brave enough to face all the challenges, and third which I think is the most important is to always keep my feet on the ground.

If I would change something about me, that would be my... nothing. I feel blessed with myself so I don't have to change anything.

The thing I love the most about beauty pageant is... when all my friends gather together and show me their support, of course, that includes my family.

I always remind myself before going to stage that.... I can do it! This fight is not only for myself but also for my family and the people who believe that I can do it.

I get nervous in front of the crowd when... I am about to answer the final question.

The part of the pageant that I hate most is.... When I get rattled that it distracts my focus and concentration.

Being a beauty queen is... difficult but happy.

A grand entrance and a grand exit best describe my memories of Northwestern

• Fernando C. Agudo

It sounds embarrassing to admit that I was already in my late twenties when I returned to college for my Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication degree. Each time my classmates and even my teachers asked me about my age, I would always ask them to proceed to the next question. But there could never be more embarrassing than my unforgettable experience the first time I was with a thousand students in that memorable Student Center.

Sitting at the floor of the Student Center that Saturday afternoon where the NSTP coordinators gathered all the NSTP students for the sectioning, I didn't expect I would be placed on the spot. Almost all new-found friends already had their sections. With crossed fingers, I began hoping that my name will be called next so that I could join them. But the next thing I heard was a loud voice from an NSTP coordinator with a microphone shouting at me and said: "If you don't want me to be your teacher, I also don't want you to be my student."

I turned red. I waited for an NSTP coordinator to come and rescue me as I was new at the university, but no one dared to share a hand. I felt like I was in the middle of the Student Center with all eyes on me. I wished that after that day,

no one recognized my face because of that very embarrassing situation. That was almost three years ago.

Despite the awkward experience, I was able to move on. I was elected president of the National Service Training Program but because of individualism and tough competition among NSTP instructors at that time, the organization was not successful as it should be.

I became more active in my extra and co-curricular activities, though I made a promise to myself before I enrolled in the university that I will never be into any extra and co-curricular involvements. I joined the *Review* and started as news editor and later became the Editor-in-Chief. I never thought that to be with the university's official student publication would entail challenges. But as member of the publication, I travelled to nearby San Fernando, La Union, to as far as Naga City and Tagaytay City.

I represented the university and won in various competitions, both in writing and extemporaneous speaking contests—local, regional, and national as well, that made me feel proud as a true blooded Northwesternian!

My being part of the University's Career Guidance Program for two years added color to my college life. I had the chance to be with other people, and met new faces. But there is one thing I will surely miss, the stage, oh the stage, where I have hosted almost all programs, events and activities of students in span of three years.

College life is somewhat fascinating and fulfilling for it creates avenues for students to explore their leadership qualities and skills. There are heights to conquer and fears to face in order to achieve excellence.

But the nightmare of embarrassment that happened three years ago was repeated but at a different setting. Few days before my graduation, while having a hearty conversation with friends and some of the teachers at the jam-packed CAS office, a university official, upon entering the door and without pausing confronted me with a raised voice for allegedly spreading the rumors that "I am the only student who will graduate" in the program I was enrolled in. Worst, I was branded "unethical" and that I was demoralizing other students. All who were in the room were quiet, again, all eyes were on me. Worst, I was also accused as a "spy" and a "sip sip" to one of my instructors. Dreadful remarks that I wasn't able to contain them. I asked where the official got the information. Parents allegedly went to her office and told all those remarks. No formal investigation was called to find the veracity of the students' allegation! The tone of her voice reminds me of my awful experience with the NSTP coordinator.

I had a "grand entrance" and a "grand exit" in the university! But despite these traumatic experiences, I have loved my Alma Mater and I hope to come back and see the university achieve fully its mission and vision.



Adviser's Desk

● DR. AIDA A. CUANANG

Classroom icons missed

The school's *Diamond Jubilee* is over and is now a part of history. Fireworks painted the sky. Thanksgiving and praises, foundation re-enactment, search for beauty queens and outstanding alumni, exhibits, fora and tableaux that brought heart throbs, teary eyes, laughter and reminiscences that bonded once more the graduates of yesteryears, hovered the atmosphere.

For me, there was a vacuum somewhere because I dreamed of a celebration more complete. I was longing for a group of great men and women in the academe who persistently and unselfishly shared their talents and knowledge to majority of graduates of NWU – up to this time.

I would like to remember the icons of the classrooms who had influenced and touched lives teaching, administering, consoling and counseling students and contributing their material wealth and sharing their intellectual mind to mold important figures in our society today. From these great mentors we owe numerous laurels, ways of life, attitudes and discipline, dedication to work and dignity of labor, fear of God and love of country, good grooming and human worth. All these we credit to these great mentors. Let not the 75 years bury the good deeds—let these be etched forever in our memories.

The discipline inculcated by a man who trained the gentlemen to do and undo their necktie in the split of a second was Mr. Nicolas Nicolas, the President of the Board and Registrar of Northwestern College. A very excellent Psychology instructor, he did not only distinguish himself with his US Education but also his countless neckties and military haircut that spelled neat grooming. I remember

the “tro-V” men in his circle that included Mr. Apolinario Aquino, Mr. Cecilio Burigay, Dr. Agapito Factora, and Mr. Carmelo Taylan.

The other group of well dressed men in the campus in barong were retired superintendents and supervisors from the Department of Education and prestigious universities in Manila.

Mr. Severino Caridad, Mr. Bartolome Monje, Dean Domingo Mangapit and Mr. Fernando Taggaoa commanded respect and admiration with their strong personality, articulate presentation of lesson without looking at books or syllabus. The awe was sustained by their resonating voice that kept ringing till you meet the following session.

Another group sported embroidered polo barong. This was led by (Ret) Consul Doroteo Vite, PhD, Col. Mariano Ruiz, Mr. Jimmy Foronda, Engr. Pascua, and Engr. Adriano Lucas.

Women professors of high caliber, who can remember all the contents of the textbooks, also gained the admiration of their students. They included Prof. Justina S. Monje, Prof. Magdalena Taggaoa, Prof. Lourdes Domingo and Mrs. Filomena Nicolas. These classroom icons displayed mastery of the subject matter, observed punctuality and perfect attendance in the classroom and school affairs, rain or shine.

Dress code during those times was not written. It was a matter of “show and do” with the craze of modernity (70s). Younger female and male faculty members established the dictum of fashion in the campus. I recall the late Mrs. Aurora Mayor, Miss Teodora Gee, Mrs. Leonila Jose, Mrs. Erlinda Gloria and Mrs. Lourdes Domingo *dressed to the T* with authority.

Youthful members of the faculty who brought to the campus city craze were: Mrs. Epifania Arzaga, Miss Teresita Suguitan, Mrs. Irma Mariano, Miss Evelyn Baraoidan, Miss Amelita Ramiro, Miss Flora Salvador, Mrs. Catherine Abadilla, Miss Carolina Valera and Mrs. Margarita Dagdagan.

These instructors matched their fine taste for fashion with the way they conducted their classes. It's no surprise if majority of their students still remember them.

Their male counterparts likewise impressed the students. I remember Mr. Alex Zapanta, the always well-groomed Physical Education teacher who oftentimes reported to work in a long-sleeved shirt (*trubenize*), the sleeves rolled to his elbow with matching tie, or a signature T-shirt that fitted him like an executive. So with Mr. Facundo Ramiro, the Spanish teacher who carried his outfit well that he could be an authority in good grooming. Mr. Ramiro also possessed a good voice. He also served as coach of the school's orators.

Fresh graduates, some of whom were UP-bred, also caught the admiration of the students. They included Miss Adelaida Figueras, now Dr. A. F. Lucero of the UP Languages Department, Miss Emy Lucas, a chemist, Miss Eden Blanco, the consummate fashion icon, Mrs. Lilian Velasco, Engr. Teresita Dumayag, and Mrs. Anabelle Castro, now Dr. Anabelle Felipe, and Mrs. Melanie Domingo who is now connected with the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

I also remember the Spanish instructors who drove the students crazy memorizing and conjugating Spanish verbs. No student at that time could pass the subject under the late Atty.

Advisers desk.. p. 24



Carpe Diem

● FERNANDO C. AGUDO

Gracias Review!

While some universities and colleges in the province offer tuition fee discounts, here at Northwestern University, we are constantly slammed with tuition fee increase.

The tuition fee hike seems endless as the administration again applied for a 10 percent increase. Should the Commission on Higher Education hand down the approval, the increase will be effective School Year 2007-2008. Incoming freshmen will be paying Php 308.21 per unit up by Php 28.02 from the old rate at Php 280.19 per unit. For old students, they will be paying the old rate Php 280.19 per unit but they are not exempted in the increased miscellaneous fees.

There was supposed to be a "consultation" but it was not a consultation; it was a mere meeting between student leaders and representatives of the administration to formally inform the students that, again, the school had already filed an application for tuition fee hike.

Why do students yell for consultation? Simple. We feel that the administration is ignoring our sentiments. During the meeting, participants were shocked over the matter. We understand that Northwestern University is a private institution and therefore it is its prerogative whether to increase tuition fees or not to sustain its existence. For previous increases, students howled because, again, they were not consulted over the matter. Is there a need to exaggerate the request for consultation before any increase will be imposed? *Kailangan pa bang i-memorize yan?* (Do we still need to memorize that?!)

After the administration has applied for increase, comes the meeting. What is the logic of calling for a meeting when we can no longer

voice out our concerns? We just waste our time arguing with each other, raising our voices and blood pressures, for in the end, it was the administration's proposition that prevailed. There is nothing new anyway. The increase will be for: (1) salary of faculty and employees; (2) improvement of facilities; and (3) ROI (return on investments.)

Why are we opposing increases? For the n^{th} time, students are dissatisfied with the services of the university. Incompetent instructors, poor internet services (where until now the issue on internet fee hike last semester is still unresolved), incomplete classroom facilities, equipment, and the list goes on.

Another, most instructors and employees of the university do not have the guts to flaunt their pay slip. They don't want to show (we learned from some faculty members) not because they receive much but because of their 'low, very low salary'. When there is a tuition fee increase, instructors and employees should be singing *Hallelujah*, but we cannot hear that from them. Why? No increase has ever happened! Where have that seventy percent gone? Is the teaching profession now indeed a charity?

Good for those instructors who have received their retroactive pay, like one instructor who received a sum of P17,000 pesos! But how about the ordinary and part-time instructors and employees? Are the rich getting richer, and the poorer? Give the seventy percent to whom it is due then that would be it!

Like the tuition fee hike is the nonstop construction and renovation of buildings, the latest of which is the canteen.

Of course we need buildings for classrooms, a better canteen (hopefully better food follows!), but where will we get students to occupy these classrooms if we have unvarying increase of tuition fees? Who will shoulder the maintenance of these buildings?

School Year 2007-2008 is yet to come but incoming freshmen already face the burden of tuition hike for the administration has applied for a 10 percent raise. Not a good marketing strategy. Other colleges and universities in the province offer tuition fee discounts. If for example, the university aims to have an increase of 500 enrollees every semester, it would not reach its goal since a constant increase of fees is a deterrent to luring more students!

Plus, the university pays 1.9 million pesos quarterly for loans. But the chief accountant said that this has nothing to do with the tuition fee hike. Let me ask the marines!

~o~

Few days before the April 10 mass graduation, I received SMS from my schoolmates asking me whether graduation would push through. I wondered where these people got the information. I immediately inquired from some of the teachers regarding the rumors. It turned out that the graduation they were referring to is the clinical graduation of the College of Allied Health Sciences students.

Yes, the clinical graduation almost did not push through. Why? I asked some nursing students and they said the school wanted the clinical graduation scrapped to lighten the burden of the parents. Wow, very well said!

But the students pointed out: *Apay na pananggato ti tuition fee*

Carpe Diem... p. 23



POST YOUR BILLS

● CHARWIN C. BELISARIO

We never learn from experience

“Fraternities no longer serving their purpose.”

That was the title of a recently published article in the *Review* which discussed how fraternities have deviated from their noble cause. The article further noted that fraternities have evolved into a disgraceful group of brawlers eager to pick a fight to whoever they meet in the streets, corridors, hallways and even **INSIDE** the school.

Last January 19, 2007 at around 9:30 in the morning to be exact, students from two rival fraternities, *Samahang Ilocano* and *Beta Kappa*, blatantly came to blows with each other inside the campus.

Authorities found out that these fraternity members had a previous scuffle and seeing each other by chance, they decided to have a **PART II** right inside the campus!

Reports showed that a certain Jovan Dimapuro, a member of the *Beta Kappa* fraternity, approached a member of the rival fraternity “to fix things up.” However, the SI member, Mark Alvin Castaneda, still evidently resentful of Dimapuro, refused to settle their differences. Or maybe he thought, “*Hey, there’s a bottle! Why won’t I break it on his head and maybe laugh about it after?*” which he really did but failed miserably! The *Beta Kappa* recipient of the blow took that as an act of war, so he gave the SI member one.

After these students were apprehended and brought to the Dean of Student Affairs’ office, a second brawl ensued without the guards even noticing it. A scholar from the College of Criminal Justice Education, Erniefel Caoli, sustained an injury at the back. The

suspect has been identified as Jonathan Macugay of the College of Business Education.

Macugay successfully escaped since the security guards were not aware of the incident inside the campus. Police have launched a manhunt.

Question: Why are some members of fraternities becoming violent?

Ferdel R. Ricardos, detachment commander of the security force, said the stabbing was a retaliation of the *Samahang Ilocano* against *Beta Kappa* as the latter’s member, Castaneda suffered a cut in the upper part of the eye.

This incident only showed the extent of violence these fraternities can do to show other fraternities and the public who’s more superior. But is this really the measurement of superiority? **NO!**

Digging deeper into the issue, how did these students get to smuggle these weapons inside the campus despite the strict rule banning weapons inside? Simple, they just walk through the gates! The school security doesn’t do body search. Hell, it would be a waste of precious time! By the time all students are body searched, classes would have been over.

But according to Mr. Ricardos, the school had issued a memo to the security force to conduct a body search on students entering the campus. He said that it has been quite a while since an incident like this happened in the school that is why the security forces became lax. But after the stabbing, the security guards started doing body search again at the request of the DSA. They confiscated a rusty knife from a CJE student and a flat

metal rod from a high school student.

For those who are planning to make a sequel of the incident, **READ THIS:** The school can get you suspended doing these things. Worse, they can and will put you in the black list. This means you can not enroll any course in this university unless you use another name.

Worst case scenario, the school can expel you once it deems the violations you have committed are far too grave for suspension. As a consequence, you will have a hard time enrolling in other schools since the institutions will try to find out why you were expelled.

Other schools may take you in or not depending on their policies.

If suspension, black lists and expulsions are “*so what’s*” to you, guess what, it doesn’t end there. There’s also the so-called **POLICE RECORD** waiting for your name/s to be written in it! Good luck!

Judging from the previous events involving these groups, fraternity members have portrayed that fraternities are a repulsive lot to be affiliated with. All that they have shown recently are crimes and disgraceful acts that continue to bother other people.

They do more harm than good.

It could be their pride, arrogance or hot-headedness or they just want to show off what they can do with their “brothers” Well, where did it take them?

The hospital. Suspension. Expulsion. Prison.

A day after the Commencement Exercises in 2006, negative

Post your bill... p. 24



SSC President Speaks

● RENATO R. BALISACAN JR.

Keeping the flame of academic freedom

I feel that the SSC continued to make student's interest as its priority. It was not easy to be serving more than five thousand students. But with the help of the officers who remained dedicated in good and bad times, we were able to overcome all the challenges. But the position doesn't end there.

Leadership is not a mere position, it is more of action. In order to maximize the leadership capabilities of colleges and interest club officers, the SSC conducted a leadership seminar with the theme "Towards Students Empowerment, Lighting the Torch of Academic Freedom." With this activity, I strongly believed that student organization officers were empowered and informed of their duties and responsibilities both as leaders and students.

Loitering cases in the university has long been a problem of the school administration and the SSC. Thus, to minimize if not eradicate loitering, the SSC installed several benches at conspicuous places in the campus that also served as additional resting nook for the students.

The council believes that the students are the core of its leadership. With that, the body always involved students in various activities such as Students Forum and even during the university's 75th Golden Jubilee. The SSC also initiated that fraternities become active partners for student-friendly activities.

In those two years as SSC President, I saw the importance of funding in order to make all students programs and activities achievable. I also observed that organizations find it hard to implement programs because of lack of budget; hence, with the approval of all college presidents, we imposed fines on absences incurred during the foundation anniversary. The rationale of this measure is to raise sources of funding that would defray necessary expenses. Rest assured that all collections were utilized for the benefit of the students.

At the time (and most of the time) when the university planned to increase tuition fee and other fees, the council remained to be for the students. The *Manifesto of Unity*, which states its strong objection of the tuition fee increase, was able to unite students

SSC President Speaks... p. 24

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a third year nursing students on my summer affiliation. All in all, I paid Php 20,080 for my 12 days of affiliation.

Some friends and classmates encouraged me to write this letter because we were quite disappointed about the kind of place where we stayed during the activity.

The dormitory where we stayed was named after a saint who was baptized Domingo de Guzman in 1170 Caleruega, Castile. He was known for his GENEROSITY and sold all his possessions to help feed the poor during the famine in 1191. He emphasized the importance of education and spent most of his life preaching. He died in 1221 and was made saint (canonized) in 1234.

Sadly, the dormitory is not up to the values of the saint. The moment we arrived there, everyone was saying "detoy ti binayadan tayo ti Php 20,000?!" with hints of disappointment.

It was hot. The single air conditioner and electric fan were obsolete and inadequate for the people inside our room.

The drainage system of the communal bathrooms was wrecked. Most of the shower rooms in the bathroom are flooded, the water didn't drain and majority of the showers didn't work.

The rooms were not that pleasant. The thin sleeping pads were all terribly dusty!

The food— especially the FOOD — was awful (I would have used the term appalling or maybe dreadful but that would have been an understatement)! I remember a friend saying "Maymayat pay ti rasyon ti preso ngem detoyen". Just base your assumptions from that.

The rice didn't taste like rice (?). I didn't eat the rice for the first three days. Then, like a miracle, it started to taste like real rice the succeeding days.

I remember this one dish. It was *bagoong and saluyot* plus I think *papaya or squash*. I can't be sure. All I could taste was the *bagoong*, for Christ's sake!

They also served us *tinola*. Delicious right? Yah! Except that they separated the meat from the soup to make two dishes! Geez!

There was also this dish, banana plus the round things they put in *halo-halo*. It must be a house special. It was my first time to see that kind of dish and it was damn sour!

One time, I went down for breakfast. It was before eight o'clock! The girl serving the food said "sorry po, wala nang hotdog, egg nalang" I stared at the girl for a while. Could this qualify as a famine! I mean, many hadn't eaten at that time yet.

I also remember this one dish (if you can call it that). It was water plus six leaves of malungay and there were also these white things that look like coagulated pieces of milk. I didn't dare touch that.

Letter to the editor... p. 24

A rejoinder to the *Manifesto of Unity*

The following is the administration's comment on the *Manifesto of Unity* of the Supreme Student Council regarding tuition fee increase

Paragraph 1

The burden of increased tuition fee will fall on the shoulder of our already financially distressed parents. The open worsening economic problems further exacerbate the situation. It is therefore logical to assume that the increase will result to decrease in the number of enrollees, as statistics in Northwestern University has shown the decline of enrollees from a high of 5,835 to a low of 5,151.

Comment:

The worsening economic condition of the country has affected all sectors including educational institutions. It affects both the client and the institution. Whether we like it or not, life indeed is getting harder and harder.

To set the record straight, the decline of enrolment is not a decline "per se" but attrition of students of the College of Allied Health and Science. The college dean strictly screened the 2nd year students. All those with failing grades were no longer admitted to the next year level. This strategy is adopted so that only the qualified students will be retained considering that nursing students take the licensure examination. Also, statistics show that there was a decrease in the number of high school students who graduated in the School Year 2005-2006. This follows the decrease in the number of our enrolment. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that the decrease in enrolment was brought by increase in tuition fee. Almost all private as well as public institutions cannot help but to increase their rate because this is the only means of coping with the economic downfall of the country. This may sound like a cliché but it is a reality that all of us have to face.

Paragraph 2

Likewise, issues on the internet fee and energy fee which were collected this year have not been fully resolved and fully utilized but then again the administration is planning to increase fees when the students are not satisfied with the service they get.

Comment:

While it is true that there were problems in the use of the internet, this was not intentional. The university requested INEC months before the opening of the SY 2006-2007 for the installment of transformers to service the PMB but INEC was not able to do this right away. The university cannot risk overload the existing transformers because this would be dangerous. To remedy this, schedule for internet use was made to different computer laboratories for students to avail of. On the other hand, the energy fee was charged only to those air-conditioned rooms and it was assessed when the air-conditions were operational on pro rate basis. Furthermore, the internet fee was used to buy additional computer units for the internet laboratory at the library, making a total of 50 computers.

Paragraph 3

The increase in miscellaneous fees should be enough to address all the financial needs. Unfortunately, said increase has not resulted to improve delivery of services.

Comment:

Research made in other schools shows that our miscellaneous fees are lower compared to theirs. The claim that "the increase has not resulted to improve delivery of services" seem to be very incongruous with the visible development of facilities, equipment, and services that the univer-

sity is providing to its clients. It is noteworthy to mention that Northwestern is the only institution that provides students and outside clients a 50-percent discount in the clinical laboratory, dental, and medical services. The university's efforts to expand the canteen shows its willingness to cater to a larger number of clients to provide a quality service that would be availed of by all students and employees. This therefore concludes that the miscellaneous fees charged by the university are far incomparable with other school who do not seem to provide the same services we are giving to our students.

There are other charges, reforms and improvements instituted by the administration but these do not happen overnight. The result of these changes do not take effect immediately. The administration assures that the financial resources of the institution, whether these come from the miscellaneous fees or other sources for that matter, are properly utilized and maximized.

Paragraph 4

Moreover, it is very clear that on the day of consultation, the exact inflation rate is still unknown, thus the assembly was not properly informed.

Comment:

There are timetables that we have to meet in applying for a tuition fee increase. CHED has not given yet an advisory regarding inflation rate when a consultation was made with you. However, upon receipt, the SSC President was advised regarding the 6.2 % rate based on inflation computed by NSO.

Paragraph 5

That we observe before the date of consultation, there were no notices posted concerning the administration's plan to increase tuition fee. This

Manifesto of Unity... page 24

Balintataw Page

Balintataw is the official student publication of Northwestern University Laboratory High School

Take a bow

B*alintataw* is the official publication of the Laboratory High School. It adheres to the principle as the image of truth. It serves as a medium in opening the minds of the students. It chronicles the glory of victory and agony of defeat.

Publishing a school paper is not all about researches, interviews, free foods, and pressworks. Writing is not the only responsibility of the editorial board. They need to prioritize the interest of the students at all times. It is the medium of comment and criticism.

It is unfortunate to note that the staff encounters problem every time the school paper puts up an issue. Deadlines of articles are sometimes not met. Oftentimes, the beat is on the same schedule of an exam or submission of projects. Time management has to be mastered for both ends to meet. Secondly, the staff members usually beg their parents to let them stay through the duration of the presswork. The staff works for six straight hours just to finalize their articles.

Sweat, tears, pressure, fatigue, sleepless nights are the investments of the staff just to produce an issue. It is a test of patience and dedication.

The members, from the adviser to the editor-in-chief down to the staff have flaws. Experience and comments had been helpful in allowing them recognize their own capacities and limitations. And despite these imperfections, the staff finds fulfillment in their work.

Balintataw has taught them the value of hard work, discipline and truthfulness, patience is promoted, whether waiting for a computer to be vacant to encode an article, or waiting for the other staff to finish the articles.

Writing for *Balintataw* has opened the staff's eyes to the world far from imagination and idealism. The experience the staff had in writing, no doubt, has taught them well.

Keep the fire of truth burning!

Balintataw '07

To lead or not to lead

- D. Matias
- Z. Sablo
- M.H. Acanto

Attitude plays an important role in success or failure. People who love their works are more productive than those who merely do a work.

Leaders must possess such quality. Officers must have good attitude. Without it, they are useless. Officers should join hands together so that they will successfully attain their goals.

Balintataw stresses its principle to address the needs of studentry, to entertain the complaints of the students.

Let's get the NULHSians' reaction about the works of the officers this S.Y. 2006-2007.

"Achievement or accomplishments are not that possible. Most elected officers this year assume the position for popularity and much for the grades and credit they could get.

But still I believe some of our officers did their responsibilities as far as their position is concerned. It's just that there has been less effort exerted and probably most students elect their officers because of "friendship not leadership."

— *Lady in d'H2O*

"I appreciate the deeds of the room officers because they can discipline their classmates."

— *Dante Bumanglag I-Love*

"Officers must implement the rules at the start of the school year and not the at end of it. We have observed that most of the officers also do not wear the prescribed uniform."

— *Mark Kim D. Fathy Mae. B. Charmaine A. II-SSC*

"Good because they do their duties very well."

— *Jelly Ann Cruz I-SSC*

"Tabla! Inconsistent... Proposed projects are not seen... they used to be the role models but it turned out the other way around... but in fairness to other officers... (Who took the office by heart). I salute them for showing their best as leaders."

— *GM*

"The classroom officers made a good job because they did their part to be good leaders and good students too."

— *Cute 21*

"The officers this S.Y. didn't do what I expect them to do. They made things from bad to worst."

— *Elemento '07*

"Some of the officers didn't do their job well I didn't see a project implement."

— *Ms. 11*

"They are supposed to follow the rules they implement."

— *Hazeline Duldulao IV-Chastity*

"Not good because most of the promises the officers said during the campaign period have not been implemented and what's worst is some CBS officers do not wear their uniform."

— *Heisty Reyes I-SSC*

To the officers, the question is: to lead or not to lead...? Change must begin in you to make things better. What are you waiting for?

NU-LHS Forum

(We want to know the NULHS's view on anything that is significant to society. Contributions from the NULHSians, faculty and alumni are welcome)

Who's going to pay for your tertiary education?

• Joyce Ann Quezada

Had students lived inside a basketball court, I would have cried "foul" many times before and now.

December 15, 2006 marks the change of the course of education in the country. While the Filipinos were too busy and too occupied wrapping their gifts and preparing for *Noche Buena* at last year's Christmas season, there was a hocus-pocus happening within the University of the Philippines-Diliman which may alter the lives of students, parents of students and those yet to be born. The 300% Tuition Fee Increase Proposal (TOFI) was finally granted and – here is the catch – the incoming freshman students of the UP System shall endure the woe of paying their lives off for an education that is worth more than what an average Filipino citizen can earn. Together with diminishing subsidies for State Colleges and Universities (SCU), this approval has transformed the Philippine education from right, to privilege.

The quality of education we have in our country is legendary. We hear countries frequently distinguishing the superiority of our learning and the competence of Filipinos globally in terms of literacy. But through the years and through

the pursuance of TOFI, the quality of our education is doomed to swim the arid seas of contempt and derision. What is the use of an education unequivocally stolen right before we acquire it? What is the use of an education that is obviously becoming the right of the rich only? Is it education?

It is a shame to come from a country that does not give importance to quality education. I would never be proud of a country that deprives its own citizens of their right to acquire liberal education without financial constraints.

The approval of TOFI in UP will spawn more complicated things. First, it will be easier for the administration to insist the privatization of the university which has long been an issue. Second, it will be very simple for the administration to continue severing the already thinning subsidy for SCUs. Third and worst, more Filipinos will be unable to get hold of that "privileged" education.

When we speak of education, we do not just speak it as one part spaced out from the needy and from the wealthy. When we speak of education, it is not just about those learning from public schools, state owned colleges and universities. Education is not just a matter of who gets it and who does not; it is not merely for students alike; most significantly, it is for mothers and fathers who allow their hands be

calloused and their eyes be popped out right from their skin.

Granted that you are within the comforts of private schools, but where will you have recourse to when even public schools have become quasi-private in terms of the fees they are asking you to pay? I do not know. Will you be proud coming from a country that has deprived your underprivileged friends and relatives of an education you have enjoyed in an exclusive school? I will not. Don't you feel afraid for your sisters and brothers? I do.

Amidst the blast of celebration, don't you think it's only fair to contemplate over the dying education of the country? I would not allow these concerns pass me by, besides they are happening just right under my nose.

Sadly, we do not exist inside a basketball court where we can count how many times we have won our battle over the bids of those who administrate us. We are living in reality; a reality that is giving our fathers and mothers so much torture.

Joyce Ann Quezada, NULHS '03 is an Academic Excellence Awardee of the University of the Philippines – Baguio. She was the Features Editor of Balintataw and the Class First Honorable Mention of Batch '03.

Please, let mediocrity be over

• Deaf

It hurts to hear that the quality of education in Northwestern University is below par. Students do their very best to excel. Teachers likewise practically shed blood to mentor. We have the biggest campus in the city. We are International Standardization Organization (ISO) 2001-certified. Yet, the students struggle to have quality education.

It hurts! It's frustrating! It drains! Not just the strength but spirit!

Please! Let mediocrity be over! What's wrong with us? The students? I beg to disagree. Our teachers are intelligent. Then, what's wrong?

Is it because of the low salary of the teachers that's why they are

not giving their best? Is money the main reason of teaching? I think not. Then how come most teachers don't give their best? Is it because our mentors are mediocre, that's why we end up mediocre too? Most teachers give only what common to their students. Some are below average. Students need new strategies in learning. We need to be encouraged.

Could it also be the lack of learning facilities? We have facilities in school, but they aren't enough to enhance students learning skills. They aren't enough to feed our hungry minds. There's still some part missing, and I think, they have to fill that up so we can be on top.

Or is it because of the failure of management to hire highly qualified

teachers? The mission of the university states that it is committed to mold the students to be excellent. But how can students be excellent if teachers aren't outstanding? How can we be at our best if teachers aren't qualified to teach? We need teachers to challenge us. Teachers who can really teach us well and learn from. The increase of students population in the university is not an excuse for the management to hire unqualified teachers, just because they need mentors. Remember the mission we aim to be globally competitive. But we remain mediocre.

Being the lowest is very tiring! We must reach the top spot! Please! Let this mediocrity be over!

Commentaries

People come in many different shapes and sizes

Marc Kim Duldulao

I know God has created me according to His own image and likeness. I blame no one about the image I have because God is the greatest sculptor for me. Though people have the same image, I wonder why we differ in shape and size. Why some are big, small and medium in size, why some

are fat, thin, curvaceous crooked and even bamboo shaped.

Just as bodies have different shapes and sizes, our faces do have. Faces may come in square, heart, oblong and other shapes. But whatever shapes and sizes we have, our personality speaks louder. We should

not be judgmental with the physical attributes but instead we should praise and be thankful to God for such works of art.

We have to remember God is not after physical appearance. What matters most to Him is the goodness of our heart and mind.

If I could talk to Superman

Charmaine Alonzo

Every one of us really loves to watch different cartoon characters. Sometimes we idolize them just like Superman, Batman and Spiderman. Maybe the reason why anyone really idolizes them is because of their heroism.

If I will be given the chance to talk with a fictitious character it would be Superman. He helps people who are victims of injustice. Aside from that, he loves children because sometimes he used to fly with them.

Superman has a good heart because if he convinces children to fly with him, he always brings them at the park, on the top of the mountains and elsewhere. If I could talk to Superman I would request him to fly me and explore the beauty and wonder of the world. This is my elusive dream in life since I was young. And if this dream comes true, I want to go to China where I could see the historical buildings and learn different cultures and

traditions. Next is Japan, where I could see modern technologies, and lastly, in United States so I could experience touching the cold snow. I really love snow.

I know this won't happen because he's just a fictional character. Although I don't have power to fly I believe I could be like him in some ways. I could be a super girl in my own little ways

VIRTUAL GAMES.... FOR YOUTH?

- Liezel Tupinio
- Vanessa Manarpaac

They are familiar to us by now, the virtual 3D chat game (OZ World). The immensely popular Ragnarok Online and the redefined multiplayer, R.O.S.E., with enormous maps and colorfully rendered 3D graphics. These Massively Multiplayer Online Games (MMOGs) have allowed individuals from all over the country and different walks of life, to interact in dynamic, virtual communities. These Level-up games are certified blockbuster but it disturbed us a lot.

The online games have badly influenced many students. They have replaced the traditional games in the lives of young students

without them knowing the negative effect of playing computer games.

Parents send their children to school to gain knowledge to have a better future. But, students do not value the sacrifices of their parents instead: they neglect their studies because of computer games. During their vacant periods, students waste their time playing at computer shops. They absent themselves from their classes and sometimes cut their classes, too, just to play computer games. Some teachers even go to computer shops just to check their students in those shops. Some students also skip recess and lunch just to save money for their addiction to online games. If students focus on computer games, they will lack interest in their studies. They will no longer study their lesson anyway they have already failed in their class as a result of their interest to on-line games.

We cannot stop this addiction because even older students, who

should be models of the young ones, are also addicted to it. Computer shops also allow the minors to play virtual games even during class hours. Teachers have done their part in disciplining the students but still the latter continue doing it.

With the kind of scenario, who shall we blame? Shall it be the teachers who are tired of calling the attention of the "addicted" students? The parents who do not advise their children? The management of computer shops who allow students to play computer games during class hour? Or the students who do not know to discipline themselves and to value things they have.

There is nothing wrong in playing virtual games. In fact, it helps us develop our skills. But we should not spend all of our time playing. We should choose what we play because there are online games that could harm our mind. We must spend more of our time studying.



Editor's Desk

● KRISTOFFER CASTILLO

Success comes from its blessings

“One’s success can be measured not by what he has and who he will be after many years but by counting all his blessings that he received and bringing them back to Him.”

After 75 years since the institution was founded, Northwestern University celebrates its diamond anniversary. NWU rejoices not only for its newly built buildings and the glory that it receives, but also for what it receives from its students, employees and alumni. Now, the university shines and glitters like a diamond as it thank God and the people who have been a part of its bountiful years.

The time has almost come for the seniors to finish their high school years. Two months are left before the LHS will hold its commencement exercises. We still have two months to spend with our high school teachers, classmates and friends before we bid goodbye to them. So, on behalf of the fourth year students, we would like to thank God for the help that He has given us; to our teachers for guiding us and for not letting us down.

The *Balintataw* staff had fun in San Carlos City when we attended the Regional Schools Press Conference. And this year, a *Balintataw* staff member brought the bacon to Laoag City and to Northwestern University. Our sports writer, *Gerald Madamba*, won seventh place in Sports writing-English category.

These would not have happened if it weren't for those who helped us raise funds for the conference. Thank you very much for your support. May you receive more blessings for your generosity.

I can't believe that time ran so fast, school year 2006-2007 will soon reach its end. And by that time, we, fourth year members, will say farewell to *Balintataw*. We had encountered many experiences in the organization. We will never forget those times we walked along the bridge at night, when we ate empanada and “blue”, when we bought same accessories, when we had presswork and go home late at night.

We had a lot of fun and those memories will not be forgotten. I will always treasure them. We thank *Balintataw* for those memories. For the next staff, keep on writing and bringing glory to NWU-LHS.

Mabuhay ang Balintataw!

To NWU-LHS, to Batch '07, and to *Balintataw*, congratulations for the accomplishments! And for those who helped us go through the years, thank you very much!



VIEWPOINT

● ANGELICA HERNANDO

Dump Tasks

It's hard to lead a cavalry change if you look funny on a horse.

“If I'm given a chance to win. I will do my best to fulfill my responsibilities and tasks.”

“I will continue the unfinished projects of the previous officers, so vote for me.”

“No ibutos dak nga officer i-promise ko nga ipatupad amin nga projects mi detoy nga school year.”

These are the famous lines often said by the elected officers of the department during the campaign period. They usually brag their achievements, discuss their platforms and promises countless projects. But are the campaign speeches of the officers enough to prove they deserve to be leaders?

Being an officer is no joke. It is an easy task. You need the cooperation of every student to do work. You need commitment to fully perform the duties.

Such qualities, I think, are lacking in some officers. It has been observed that some officers don't do their responsibilities. They don't mind about their commitment. Have they forgotten their campaign speeches? Where are those promises? Are they all gone?

An editorial column-page in our last school year has tried to give a picture of the problems confronting the student leaders of the department. And the problem is all the same – no changes have been seen in LHS, no projects have been implemented in the department!

Another school year is about to end. Please remember that leaders serve as models for other students.

The Central Board of Student (CBS) is the highest student government of all student organizations in the department. It represents and carries the interest of the studentry.

It is frustrating to note that for six years, the CBS has not implemented a single project. The promises they made are all gone. Sure, they had conducted seminars but are these enough to fulfill their responsibilities? Their enthusiasm to lead easily faded. *Ningas cogon!* As the cliché goes “Leadership is in action and not in position.” *Aramid pakakitaan.*

Students and teachers might raise their eyebrows upon reading my column for I, too, am an officer. Why am I criticizing my fellow student leaders? Not to exclude myself but I want the other officers to wake up, to set things right.

Viewpoint... p. 23

ket saan yo met nga panpanunuten a pakadagsenan dagiti nagannak kadakami? (But why is it that when you increase tuition fees you do not consider it a burden to our parents?) Well articulated statement.

To the students who fought for the clinical graduation, you rock!

People who hold a position of power and influence are usually feared and respected. But nowadays, most are feared not out of respect because the power they wield could come in handy when people around them could become a pain in the neck.

Power is very deadly when not handled well. Power cheats, destroys, and kills! When power goes in to the head of a person with a position, you can be sure that the person loses all his good values, that is if he/she has any. It's worse if you consider him/her a friend. You think all's well and the least thing you'd know is that your most trusted friend (you assume!) already had mixed venom in your relationship! You wake up one morning and your find the atmosphere to be already bleak, a sign that the relationship had already collapsed because of the animal called power.

Heard from people bragging that they are "approachable", "easy to be with", and could discuss with them anything under the sun? Watch out, for when they already have squeezed the juices of their positions, they will swallow all their *consuelo de bobo* statement! They pretend to be nice, but actually they are vultures ready to eat their prey. They are the vultures that contribute disgrace to an institution, organization, or the society as a whole.

The predator's smiles are well rehearsed. You couldn't help but believe that they are real. Eventually the predator will become your friend, *amiga, kumare or kumpare*, adviser and confidant in the guise of friendship. They use you and when they don't need you anymore or you become a threat to them, they will drop you like a hot potato! By all means, you'll be out of their way! You will be dragged down!

Lo and behold behold, doomsday awaits those whose souls are corrupted and are decorated with lies! Destruction of a hundredfold measure lies ahead of those whose hands are marred with cheating! For the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you!

Let me share a story published last April 18 at the Philippine Daily Inquirer with the headline *UP Baguio graduates first summa cum laude*. Somehow I can relate with the situation. This regards the case of Jahzeel Abihail Cruz, a 20 year old journalism major who was earlier disqualified by the University Council, the academic body that approved the candidates for graduation.

The council decided not to give Cruz the highest scholastic honors despite the fact that he obtained a weighted grade of 1.15 in all courses in the Bachelor of Arts in Communication program because of technicality. Cruz had an under-load in the first semester of the school year and had re-enrolled his thesis course which he earlier worked on and also had an "incomplete grade." The university rules disallow students who obtain high weighted grade but have enrolled with less than 15 units of academic courses to be conferred the 'honor title' even if such students' grades qualify them to be summa cum laude or magna cum laude as the case may be.

Cruz's college appealed to the council and the long excruciating wait for him ended when the body reversed itself and approved the summa cum laude honors to Cruz along with the other five BA Communication and BA Language and Literature students who were conferred with cum laude honors.

The PDI story said that during the council deliberation on Cruz's appeal, UP Baguio Chancellor Pricilla Macasantos informed that she reconvened the body to "make sure the decision we made was a good one to both the faculty and the students."

"(We want to make sure) justice is served and that we do not deny anyone what is due him/her based on a technicality alone," the PDI quoted Macasantos as telling the council composed of professors.

Congratulations Jahzeel Abihail Cruz!

The *Review* will forever be in my heart! The experiences are worth-keeping and remembering. Since the administration approved (I presume) the existence of the publication, I appeal that it gives the student writers the freedom due them, not only in writing but also in managing the publication fund.

To be with the publication provides a venue of learning new things and

developing leadership abilities. But more than that, the staff could also train themselves to be good stewards not only of the responsibility of putting out the paper but also of the publication fund. Let the student writers manage the publication fund, and if they fail, make them accountable. Anyway, the school has all the means to make the staff accountable for whatever mistakes they commit. Just like my case. I was almost dropped from the list of graduates because some people thought I wouldn't return the unused Php 1000 plus from a seminar we attended. I had the money ready for turnover but it was just that I had other concerns to attend to and deferred the turnover until all my priority concerns had been addressed. See, if you have all the means to make the staff account their responsibility in the publication then why can't they be trained? Why be afraid?

Train them and not deprive them of exploring new horizons. At the end of the day, they will be accountable to the students because the publication fund is the money of the students!

Mr. President, I was once told by a university official that you are the most misunderstood person in the university. Somehow I would like to agree to that. If you think you are liberal now, be more liberal! Do not allow your office to be mocked. Define the *sipsip* in your administration and fire them as soon as possible. In that case, you will no longer be the most misunderstood person in the university!

Again, the *Review* made me stronger! It made me distinguish fakes from the authentic. It made me realize that not all good people around you are genuine!

Gracias *Review*!

Viewpoint...p. 22

Change begins in us. Even how great our plans are, even how wise leaders we are, if we do not put our hearty to our work, we are useless.

Those concerned, responsibility is given to us by other people who have trust in us. It is, then, expected that we perform our duties well. Once we fail to do our tasks, the confidence and trust people have in us will be lessened.

So, walang personalan po...!

feedbacks spread like fire about how the top graduate delivered his valedictory address. Again, the day after this year's graduation, the same thing happened. It was history repeating itself.

Dějâvu?

To speak on behalf of almost 900 graduates, is understandably tough. But being conferred with high honors, much is expected from the speaker.

If it were true that a CHED official phoned a university official to say that the school should at least screen its student speaker, then this ISO-Certified institution is relaying a poor signal from its grounds. Now who is to be blamed?

Last year's experience should have served as lesson. In other universities, the University of the Philippines for instance, the top graduate is not necessarily the graduates' representative to deliver the valedictory address. Honor graduates undergo screening process. Whoever shines has the privilege to speak on behalf of the graduating class regardless of general weighted average. Why not? The person who will speak does not only represent himself or herself, but the university as a whole.

Now almost everyone blamed the person who delivered the speech last graduation. Poor girl! Heard that a university official even scolded her for that matter. But what could be the possible reasons why this happened?

First, I guess this is the result when college deans (not in general though!) put too much weight on competition among students. In return, they neglect to see the bigger picture. Having earned

Manifesto of Unity... p. 16.

is clear violation of the Commission on Higher Education mandated memorandum specifically Article 3 paragraph 11, subparagraph 2 which states that "notices must be posted at the conspicuous places within the school campus at least thirty days before the actual consultations."

Comment:

While it is true there were no notices before the consultation, a memorandum was sent to all SSC Officers and interest Clubs for a meeting regarding this matter. This is better strategy since in the previous years; notices were posted in the bulletin boards only to find them gone the next days. Also, there were postings made later when the suspension of the CMO #14 series of 2005 was

the highest general weighted average does not necessarily follow that a person is an eloquent speaker.

Second, this shows that the university lacks programs that train students to maximize their public speaking skills. In fact, we have potential orators, debaters, declaimers, and the like, but until they graduate, their skills are not developed because of either lack of programs or dearth of teachers who encourage, inspire and nurture students to maximize their talents.

I hope this will not happen again in the years to come!

Adviser's desk... p. 12

Arsenio Caluya without memorizing Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios*. Students who took the pre-requisite Spanish subjects under Mr. Antonio Maquera had to be attentive because Mr. Maquera, like Atty. Caluya, taught in Spanish and seldom used English to explain the Spanish words. The students had to look for meaning in their Spanish dictionary.

All our instructors at that time commanded respect and admiration and I share the observation of a colleague in the *Review* (70s staff) that not one occasion were they items in the school paper. They showed authority and demonstrated competence and mastery of the subjects they were teaching. Above all, most of them were nurturing mentors. Students whose lives they touched have made them as their models as they pursue their individual field of endeavor.

disseminated but the following day, they were gone.

Recommendation: A bulletin board with lock at the DSA should be constructed where important notices are posted.

Paragraph 6

In addition, it was made clear to the assembly that the seventy percent (70%) incremental proceeds of this year's tuition fee increase were used for the payment of increase of salaries, wages, allowances, and other benefits of the teaching and non-teaching staff. We feel the dilemma of losing good and competent teachers only because they receive low salaries.

Comment:

A Certificate of Compliance that 70% of the incremental proceeds were

to speak up through their signatures. But at the peak of the issue there was somebody who discouraged students to air their grievances and meddled with the activities of the council. The lady instructor's famous line to her students, "You don't need to be an activist!"

I beg to disagree. The students must be vibrant in fighting for their rights. I always believe that students must be "activists" to protect and advance their right.

~o~

I am now a graduate of Northwestern University. I know that more challenges await us we step out from the four corners of the campus. The real challenge is find a job and show to the world how competitive NWU graduates are.

To my fellow Diamond graduates, good luck to all of us!

Letter to the editor... p. 15

And oh yeah, we also shared the dormitory with students from La Union. They were nice! They were like a bunch of howler monkeys shouting at each other when they were in fact just two feet apart. They also had their own FM radio—every one of them. Coupled with their built-in amplifiers, they made a wide range of music to choose from. Alien music!

People are not the only inhabitants in that dorm; they also said there are ghosts in there. Well, that's according to some affiliates, and others before us.

The problem here is the college didn't give the students the chance to choose the place to stay in.

Nursing Students, Level III

used to increase salaries and has been posted in the bulletin boards.

Further, CMO # 14 series of 2005 has been suspended by CHED for implementation. CHED has given in to the request of an association of private school to remove the cap on tuition fee increase because the operation of private schools are not subsidized by the government.

Regional Press Conference



Paul Garido
Editorial writing
English category



Al Hadji Rieta
1st Photojournalism
English category



Fernando Agudo
2nd News writing
English category

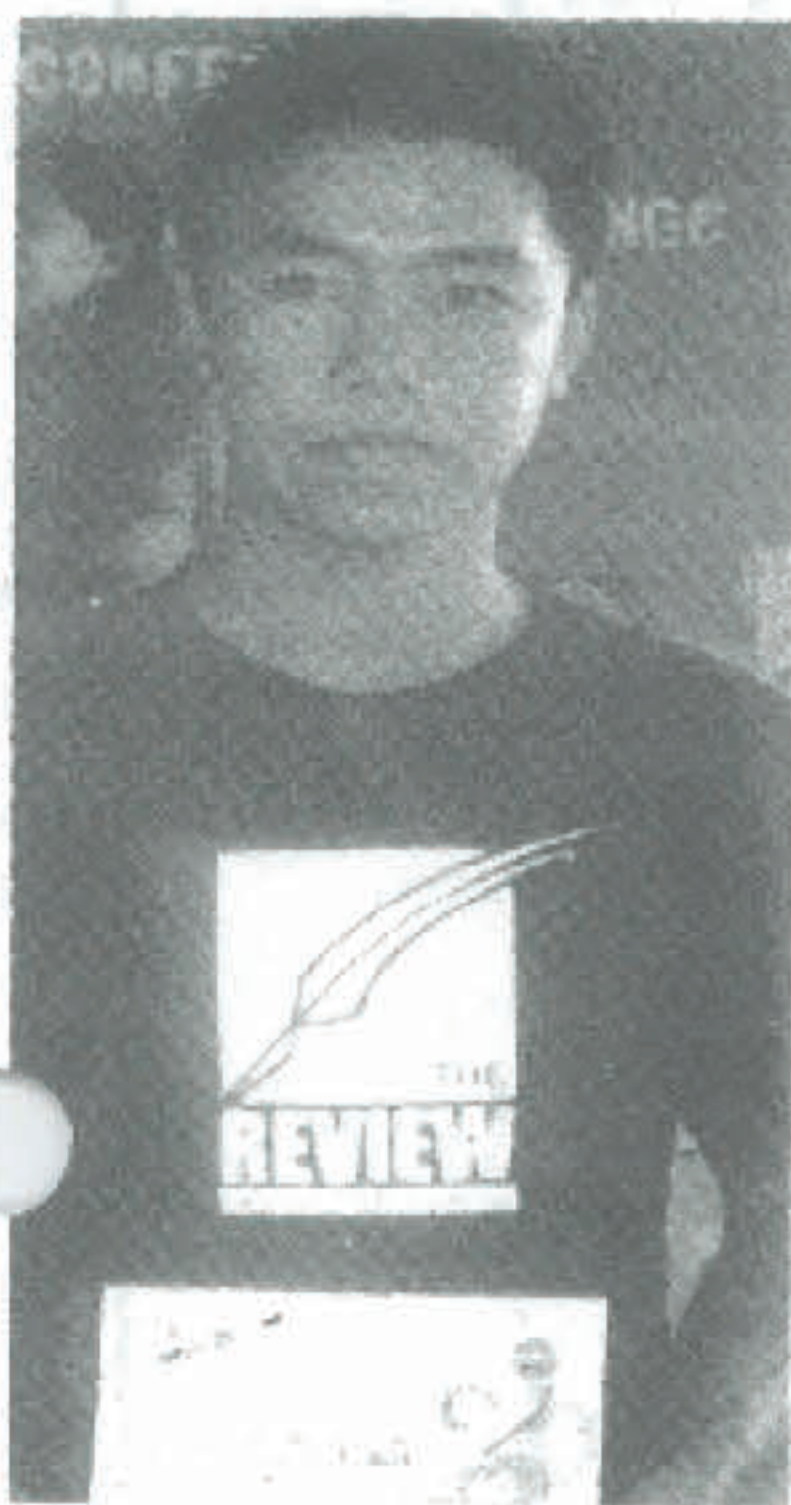


Leslee Mangoangui
3rd News writing
Filipino category



Charwin Belisario
5th Sports writing
English category

Awards Galore



Mark Leo Vicente
9th Cartooning
Filipino Category

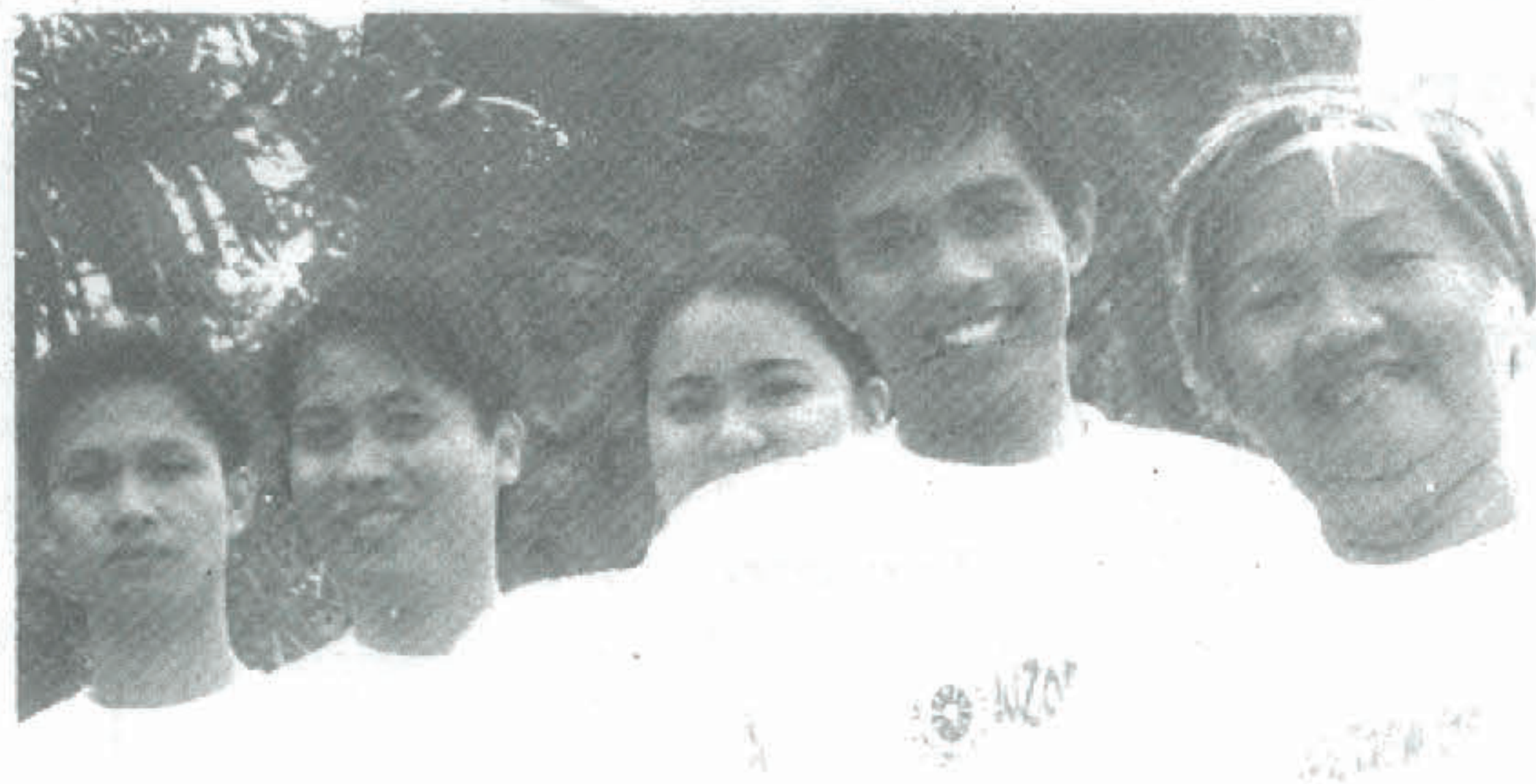


Lei Ganal
8th Feature Writing
Filipino Category



The winning writers with their coach-trainer Ms. Juliet Pascual (left)

Luzonwide Press Conference-Tagaytay City



Delegates to the 6th Luzonwide Regional Higher Education Press Conference with the adviser Dr. Aida A. Cuanang.



Al Hadji S. Rieta
9th place Photojournalism
English Category



Fernando C. Agudo
6th place Newswriting
English Category

The speaker in one of the occasions I attended had said: "there is no perfect person, no perfect place, and no perfect time. There is only perfect moment."

I reflected on what the speaker said. There suddenly, my memory brought back the sweet and enriching memories. I was engulfed as I journeyed down the memory lane and was more fascinated when my memory refreshed me "the events I cherish the most, the time shared with the people I dearly love... and on, and on, and on!"

Overwhelmed by blissful reminiscence, I gasped and whispered, "perfect!"

Not all the experiences were rewarding, though, and the *Review* was a witness. But at the end of the day, after all the lessons learned, and the character refined, you would probably agree that indeed there are perfect moments, and some of these perfect moments are inscribed in this paper.

Ink blots, letters fade, articles vanish but memories last forever!

FERNANDO C. AGUDO