



# The LaSallian



## Green Revolution

Everything you need to know about De La Salle and the National Situation

The Invisible Watcher . A Modest Comeback . Lamenting the Library  
Exclusive Interview with Dante Madriaga

# Mass for truth, accountability, and reform

MARCH 9 . SUNDAY . 10AM . AT THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

**11** Cover Story  
Band of Brothers

## University

**4**



University Bulletin  
KAMALAYAN

**8**



Editorial  
Righteous Anger

**9**



Exclusive Interview  
New ZTE NBN Deal Witness  
Dante Madriaga

**18**



Commentary  
The Invisible Watchers

**20**



SC Begins Handbook  
Revisions

**22**



Tapat Revives USG  
Proposal

## Menagerie

**23**



Life & Leisure  
University week  
The Soup  
Endo  
Apollo Justice  
LSDC-Jazz's Solitudes and Gazes  
Unang Ulan ng Mayo

**26**



Off The Beaten Track  
Between Books and the  
Treadmills

## Sports

**28**



Round-up  
Goodbye, PEP: Hello Animo  
Golfers Dominate  
DLSU adidas, ink agreement

**30**



A Modest Comeback:  
DE LA SALLE'S UAAP  
SEASON 70

**32**

The LaSallian  
SPORTS AWARDS

Cover Credit: Jennerson Ong  
Back Cover Credit: Jowell Carlos Mariano

# The LaSallian

**EDITOR IN CHIEF** | Paulo Jose Mutuc  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR** | Alejandro Almendras IV  
**MANAGING EDITOR** | Josef Aaron Lim  
**UNIVERSITY EDITOR** | Raymund Cuesico  
**MENAGERIE EDITOR** | Angela Velasco  
**SPORTS EDITOR** | Camille Bianca Pinto  
**ART & GRAPHICS EDITOR** | Carmela Prado  
**PHOTO EDITOR** | Jennerson Ong  
**CIRCULATIONS MANAGER** | Stacy Ybud  
**OFFICE MANAGER** | Krizia Martha Carriaga

**UNIVERSITY** Crezzelle Francisco, Zamanta Legados, Gale Maramba, Carlito Reyes Jr., Loraine Saguinsin, Alliv Samson | **MENAGERIE** Jemimah Ang, Marie Beatrice Angeles, Marielle Antonio, Nazrin Camille Castro, Ali Caronongan, George Chan Jr., Jabin Landayan, Sam Modina, Elvin Ngo, Darcy Reburiano, Rochelle Santos | **SPORTS** Philip Andrew Ang, Dean Cedrick Santos, Johannes Chiong, Celine Hernandez, Jefferson Quincy Reyes, Christine Marielle Suntay, Michael Gerard Sy, Katherin Anne Tingzon | **PHOTO** Erickson Jao, Alvin Lau, Ian Meru, Francis Garrucho, Ma. Erika Serrano | **ART & GRAPHICS** Kevin Ang, Samantha Ang, Johnalene Baylon, Airi Bianca Beltran, Francis Borromeo, Angela Kristine Garcia, Paul Matthew Jiao, Beatrice Ong, Abdul Onos, Allen Silva

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR** Rosanna Luz Valerio **DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PUBLICATIONS** Fritzie Ian Paz-De Vera

The LaSallian has its editorial office at 502 Bro. Gabriel Connon Hall, De La Salle University, 2401 Taft Avenue, Manila 1004. TLS can be contacted through telephone number 5244611 loc. 701, or through its e-mail address, the\_lasallian@yahoo.com. All contributions are subject to editing for clarity or space. None of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the express written permission of the Editorial Board.



Photos by Alvin Lau and Erika Serrano

## Lozada graces record-breaking Kamalayan

HOURS BEFORE THE FEB. 29 INTER-faith gathering to be held at Ayala Avenue, Makati, NBN-ZTE Senate star witness Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada asked a predominantly Lasallian audience in today's Kapihan ng Malayang Lasalyano (Kamalayan)—the most well-attended to date—to join him in the campaign for a "compassionate society."

"This people power will be prompted by compassion," said Lozada. "I want each of you to first fill your heart with goodness and compassion."

"You cannot think like an old person if you want to be part of the change," he added. The sentiment was echoed by Commercial Law professor Atty. Antonio Ligon and Br. Ceci Hojilla, who both urged students to join tomorrow's Makati rally.

The Senate witness arrived just before 5:30 pm at the Central Plaza, where the Kamalayan was held. Joining Lozada in the panel of Kamalayan speakers were Br. Mike Valenzuela and Hon. Teddy Casiño.

Green was the color of protest in the following day's interfaith rally, as hundreds of Lasallians from DLSU-Manila, College of St. Benilde (CSB), De La Salle Lipa, La Salle Green Hills, Zobel, and Dasmariñas

joined many others wearing green shirts and green bands in the interfaith gathering of civil society and religious groups at Ayala Avenue, Makati.

Leading the Philippine Lasallian Family contingent was De La Salle Philippines President and DLSU-Manila Chancellor Br. Armin Luistro. Meanwhile, among those who represented DLSU-Manila in the crowd were Student Council President Noey Arcinue (who co-hosted part of the protest's program of activities), Center for Social Concern and Action's Wadel Cabrera, Lasallian Pastoral and Student Publications directors Amy Galang and Fritzie De Vera, and Committee on National Issues and Concerns Chairperson Emmanuel Garcia.

Brs. Ceci Hojilla and Victor Franco, CSB president, marched with the rest of the La Salle group from Don Bosco Makati to Ayala Avenue.

The rally—primarily organized by the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines (AMRSP) and the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP)—was planned as a purely religious affair, with only former senatorial candidate

Koko Pimentel and Bro. Eddie Villanueva slated to speak. However, former presidents Joseph Estrada and Corazon Aquino were able to address the crowd as the program went on. NBN-ZTE star witness Jun Lozada was also on hand to appeal those present to "seek the truth" out of "love for the victims of corruption."

Earlier, Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Archbishop Oscar Cruz, and church leaders from the United Church of Christ and the Philippine Independent Church spoke to the people at Ayala.

Notable non-political personalities in the gathering were Gina Alajar, Pen Medina, Gloria Diaz, Carlito Siguion-Reyna, Kaka Inocencio, and Bibeth Orteza. The presence of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and the Makati Business Club (MBC) were also acknowledged.

Crowd estimates in the largest mass action against the Arroyo Administration since Feb. 15 vary wildly, with organizers putting attendance at above 80,000 while the police claiming only an eighth of that number came. (There were reports of arriving supporters being blocked by police at the North and South Luzon Expressways.)

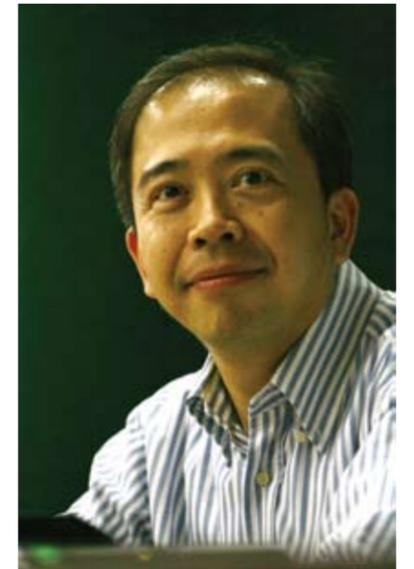


**"We'll cross the bridge when we get there."**

REP. TEDDY CASIÑO, in response to what would be done after a President Arroyo resignation.

**"You educate character by standing up for the principles you believe in."**

BR. MIKE VALENZUELA, explaining the Brothers' decision to be active again in the opposition movement.



**"I like the atmosphere here."**

JUN LOZADA when asked about the possibility of teaching in DLSU



Former Sen. Tito Sotto said, *estudyante lang sila, anong alam nila?* I say, "*Oo, estudyante kami: mapanuri, nakikiisa, naninindigan.* We are idealistic enough to know right from wrong and even foolish enough to muster all strength, passion, and resources to pursue these ideals."

NOEY ARCINUE shares her sentiments on the matter. She also delivered the line at the interfaith rally last Feb. 29.



**"This is your fight."**

BR. CECI HOJILLA in closing the Kamalayan

# Kamalayan

In their own words

UPDATES

**1 LA to vote on COE CAP impeachment**

The Legislative Assembly's (LA) Ethics Committee is about to vote this Friday on whether the impeachment complaint filed by Executive Secretary Jenn Lazo and LA representative Chichi Tullao against Engineering College Assembly President Leah Villalon will proceed with a formal trial. Tullao, in this regard, clarified that the Ethics Committee's deliberations will solely be based on Villalon's attendance record. A third of all LA representatives have to vote on the affirmative for the impeachment complaint to prosper.

"We're very confident that Leah won't be impeached," said Tapat President Justin Ticzon. "We're fine that the impeachment trial will push through on the basis of attendance only... we know that she, as CAP of Engineering, has pushed for a lot of advocacy projects and sustainable long term programs." Meanwhile, former Tapat President Jielene Sato explained that Tapat, through its College Governor Kaisie Mendoza, talked to Villalon and found out that she was unable to attend Activities Assembly meetings because she had to attend classes in a major subject.

Villalon, in her Feb. 25 letter of response to the Ethics Committee, said that she believes she has "performed and attended to the concerns of my constituents and subordinates at all times possible." She added that "the weight of attendance compared to the delivery and performance of an officer must be taken into a heavy account before any judgments must be made."

Finally, she said: "I would not have full control over a subordinate who is tasked to be responsible of attending the Activities Assembly meeting which was set exactly at the same time with my class and apparently, this caused the excess of absence of my Student Council unit without my prior knowledge."

**2 ITEO to conduct standardized class hours evaluation**

The ITEO will be conducting a survey in the coming days to determine the community's response to the standardization of class hours. As of press time though, it has yet to send letters to the different deans.

**3 Former World Bank pres visits DLSU**

As part of the Bridges: Dialogues towards a Culture of Peace event series co-hosted by DLSU through the International Peace Foundation, former World Bank President James D. Wolfensohn delivered a lecture entitled "Beyond East-West, North-South-Peace and prosperity in a four speed world". It was held from 2 to 4 pm on March 6, 2008 at the Teresa Yuchengco Auditorium.

BY ALLIV SAMSON AND ZAMANTA LEGADOS

**Comelec extends candidacy filing**



Photo by Jennerson Ong

The deadline for filing of candidacy was extended to 6 pm Tuesday, Feb. 26, after Santugon and Tapat failed to meet Comelec requirements in time for the Feb. 22 due date.

According to Comelec Chair, Jacob Lee, both parties were still adjusting to the newly implemented four-day school week which made it difficult to meet and coordinate with their respective candidates.

Tapat Executive Vice President, Justin Ticzon mentioned that they encountered problems which included getting the Discipline Office to sign the candidacy form on the morning of the last day when Atty. Caraan, director of the Discipline Office (DO) did not report to school until 2 pm that day. Meanwhile, Santugon President Francis Angeles explained that they unintentionally overlooked the requirement to seal and sign in the rush to beat the 6 pm deadline.

The decision on whether to extend the deadline was put to a vote, with 6 of the 9 Comelec members present agreed to it. Tapat and Santugon agreed to the extension when informed of the terms. Both parties made the Tuesday extended deadline. - BY AARON SITOSTA

**IMPORTANT GENERAL ELECTIONS DATES**

- MARCH 1** COMELEC Seminar
- MARCH 3** Start of Campaign
- MARCH 7** Debate, Open Forum, and Miting de Avance
- MARCH 10** End of Campaign
- MARCH 11-13** Voting Days
- MARCH 14** Counting of Ballots

**'New People Power' needed, says ABS-CBN news head**

The Filipino Department welcomed ABS-CBN news and current affairs head Maria Ressa in a talk on the role of journalists and the possibility of another People Power event last Feb. 22.

Ressa focused on the responsibility of journalists and their importance "especially in a democracy like ours." She relayed here experience in East Timor, Indonesia, and Malaysia. "Journalists and the way they operate is a mirror of the development of that country," she emphasized. She also stressed that it is important to have a global perspective in telling news.

The arrest of 51 journalists during the Manila Peninsula stand-off, according to Ressa, depicted an ethical dilemma when journalists become the news. The arrests, argued the former CNN correspondent, were a violation of people's rights: "Our democracy rests on the right of people to know... an informed public keeps a

democracy stable." The power of Filipino journalists, in turn, comes from the Filipino people's desire to know.

On the NBN-ZTE issue, she commented that in this instance, there is "a corruption that surpasses Marcos," thereby calling into question the nation's progress since the first EDSA Revolution. Ressa characterized EDSA I as one that restored democracy, while EDSA II was mere "political play." If there is a need for a fourth, Ressa said that "we must learn from the lessons of the past."

She said that People Power should only be used when there is absolutely no other recourse. She emphasized this point by saying that resorting to it weakens the country's democratic institutions. "Our generation has the capacity to redefine People Power," also pointing out that she could not see any president benefiting from such a movement in the near future.

- BY ANGELA VELASCO

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

**Reorganization of CAO groups looms**

Cultural Arts Office (CAO) groups Innersoul, Pops Orchestra, and the Chamber Ensemble will soon be merging "to maximize the resources of the University" and better accommodate performance requests from the academic community, CAO Director Glorife Samodio and Dean of Student Affairs Voltaire Mistades confirmed.

"We have this much number of scholarship slots allotted to CAO and this much equipment allotted by the university...With the resources we have, how can CAO efficiently respond to the needs of the academic community?" explained Mistades.

A merger proposal was prepared by Samodio, though she refused to divulge its details.

The DLSU Chamber Ensemble, as their name suggests, is composed of a small number of classical musicians that blend the sounds of instrument families like piano and string; the DLSU Pops Orchestra is an orchestra that usually plays popular music and show tunes. Innersoul, finally, is composed only of twelve main vocalists excluding trainees.

Mistades said that the Art in Action program, where students of Art Appreciation classes have to watch cultural arts groups' performances, was also a factor. He added that the idea actually came from Br. Andrew Gonzalez's vision of the University having its own chamber orchestra. "During the early 90s Brother Andrew felt that there was a need to educate the Lasallian academic community to the classical mold."

A full size chamber or symphony orchestra usually consists of eighty players, but the actual number of musicians employed in a particular performance may vary according to the work being played and the size of the venue.

The dean remarked that they are in the process of consolidating all of related proposals: "The idea of improving the delivery of the services and the quality of performance, if you take those as the essence of the proposal, then yes...In what final form



would that be? There is no decision about that yet."

DLSU Pops Orchestra member Rona Angeles said, meanwhile, that it was mentioned in the proposal that there is no cultural arts group to cater to the demand for performances in rock and pop music.

"It is because Pops is an orchestra. People perceive that if we were requested to perform, we come as big group that includes all our musicians. So it's almost as if it was mentioned that we (CAO groups) need to merge to cater to those needs and at the same time fulfill Br. Andrew's wish of a symphony orchestra," she commented.

Tuition discounts were also mentioned in the proposal, relayed Angeles. These are given because "the university expects them to perform and to bring the name of the university in cultural contests," said Mistades.

Angeles stressed, "For us, it (merger) is not necessary... It's an internal problem. We are not marketing ourselves properly." She added, "We've been in existence for twenty five years now. Even though it may sound pompous, we have a legacy to protect. It's one of the major reasons why we don't agree to the idea of this merger."

The DLSU Chorale has also voiced its formal disagreement with the merger, though it will not officially be part of it.

As for DLSU Chamber Ensemble President Pat Cabreto, "For now, we are trying to figure out what the merger is all about. So we just want to be open to what will happen. We're open to the idea."

Members of Innersoul refused to comment when asked about the issue. - BY LORAIN SAGUINSIN



Photo by Carmela Prado

"To whom much is given, much is required," according to GMA-7's Mike Enriquez during his Feb. 28 talk on broadcasting and the arts in the First Arts Congress.



Photo by Francis Garrucho

Randy Santiago sings with other alumni in the March 2 Grand Alumni Homecoming themed "Forever Verde."

**Librarian passes away**

University Library clerk Ulysses Lelis was declared dead on arrival at the Manila Sanitarium last Feb. 13.

According to Assistant Librarian Joel Gementiza, they were already finishing their work at the Periodicals Section between 7:10 to 7:15 pm when Lelis came asking for change for his P500 bill. Gementiza recalled that Lelis, who complained about pain in his chest, suddenly passed out and hit his head on the bookshelf behind him. Lelis was immediately brought to the University Clinic, then transferred to Manila Sanitarium.

"Bigla siyang nanigas tapos bumagsak. Medyo mabilis yung pangyayari (He just froze and fell. Things happened quite fast)," recalled Gementiza. Lelis was declared dead upon arriving at the hospital. He and fellow librarian Elizabeth Padilla said that according to the medical personnel, the impact of Lelis' fall caused damages to the vein on his lower back head skull that may have triggered his death. Lelis' colleagues, meanwhile, believe that he had a mild stroke considering his parents' medical history.

Those who witnessed the incident underwent counseling.

The 34-year old Lelis had been of service to the University for nine years as a library clerk stationed at the Circulations Section in the third floor. - BY ALLIV SAMSON

Editorial

Righteous Anger

All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing.

As calls for truth and justice in the face of Jun Lozada's revelations about the National Broadband Network deal with Chinese firm ZTE grow stronger and louder by the day, we are reminded yet again of this often-quoted Edmund Burke adage. The cacophony of voices, slowly but surely, is gaining ground among the silent, undecided majority, and is well on its way to a critical mass.

The possibility of another People Power revolution looms by the day, but the public, while indignant, remains ambivalent because of its fear of uncertainty; it worries about the prospects of a Noli de Castro presidency, of cancelled 2010 elections, of economic gains being reversed. Clearly, as the opinion polls suggest, it is angry, but holding out to see what course of action is best to take.

We say it is about time we stand firm around two principles: first, that the President should resign; second, that we should all abide by the Constitution.

That the President has lost her moral authority has been clear from the moment she admitted speaking to a Comelec official because she was "anxious" about her Mindanao votes during the 2004 presidential elections. And she has only made herself less credible since. She has refused to answer persistent allegations about her family's links with jueteng, and has been ominously silent on just about every government contract which has been publicly called into question. She has been unafraid to parcel key cabinet positions for considerations of loyalty than competence. Suffice it to say, she has squandered whatever mandate or moral authority she had—if she even had one after 2004.

Which is—and this would probably come as a surprise to many—even more reason why we should work within the system: the need for closure. The two Edsas deserve our veneration as definitive historical moments, but we strongly



**Our calls for the President's resignation have to be motivated not by personal hatred for her, but by a desire to strengthen our democratic institutions; our actions should be driven by a yearning to reclaim the "rule of law" which this presidency has so misused.**

feel that the movements responsible for both events failed to completely bring to justice those who necessitated their formation. Two decades after Edsa I, the Filipino people has yet to see the government make a proper accounting of how much of the dictatorship's ill-gotten wealth it has recovered and distributed to the proper beneficiaries; a mere 43 days after the Sandiganbayan convicted a rightfully disgraced president of plunder, this administration, for its own political survival, undid whatever respect and credibility our weak judicial system garnered from the painfully longwinded process.

In this regard, our calls for the President's resignation have to be motivated not by personal hatred for her, but by a desire to strengthen our democratic institutions; our actions should be driven by a yearning to reclaim the "rule of law" which this presidency has so misused. The continued struggle of the Sumilao farmers to reclaim their land, the chronic poverty of most of our people, the primacy of patronage and family over our politics—we believe these are

enough reasons for us to fight the good fight and take back our institutions: our Comelec, our Ombudsman, our Congress, our Chief Executive. (On a related note, we wish to remind our police and military that loyalty to this president, no matter how patriotic it sounds, will never be loyalty to the Constitution.)

Where do we start? Blinded by our selfishness and disillusionment, we have distanced ourselves from government too long. So as students, we must first overcome our aversion to politics and governance; we must convince ourselves that our future and the viability of our democracy rest on our willingness to re-engage ourselves in the difficult task of nation-building. We need to tell this government that we won't go away, that we will keep demanding truth, accountability—and basic services—from whoever is in power.

A government, with our vigilance, can and should be a force for the good. Our young, angry, and unceasing voices will make that change happen.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

On Feb. 28, **Dante Madriaga**, formerly a consultant for the **NBN-ZTE project**, emerged as a **surprise witness** in the Senate's ongoing investigation of the matter. In an exclusive interview with **The LaSallian**, Madriaga, who directly linked the First Couple to the deal, responded to accusations against his statements and his credibility as a witness. **Here are excerpts:**

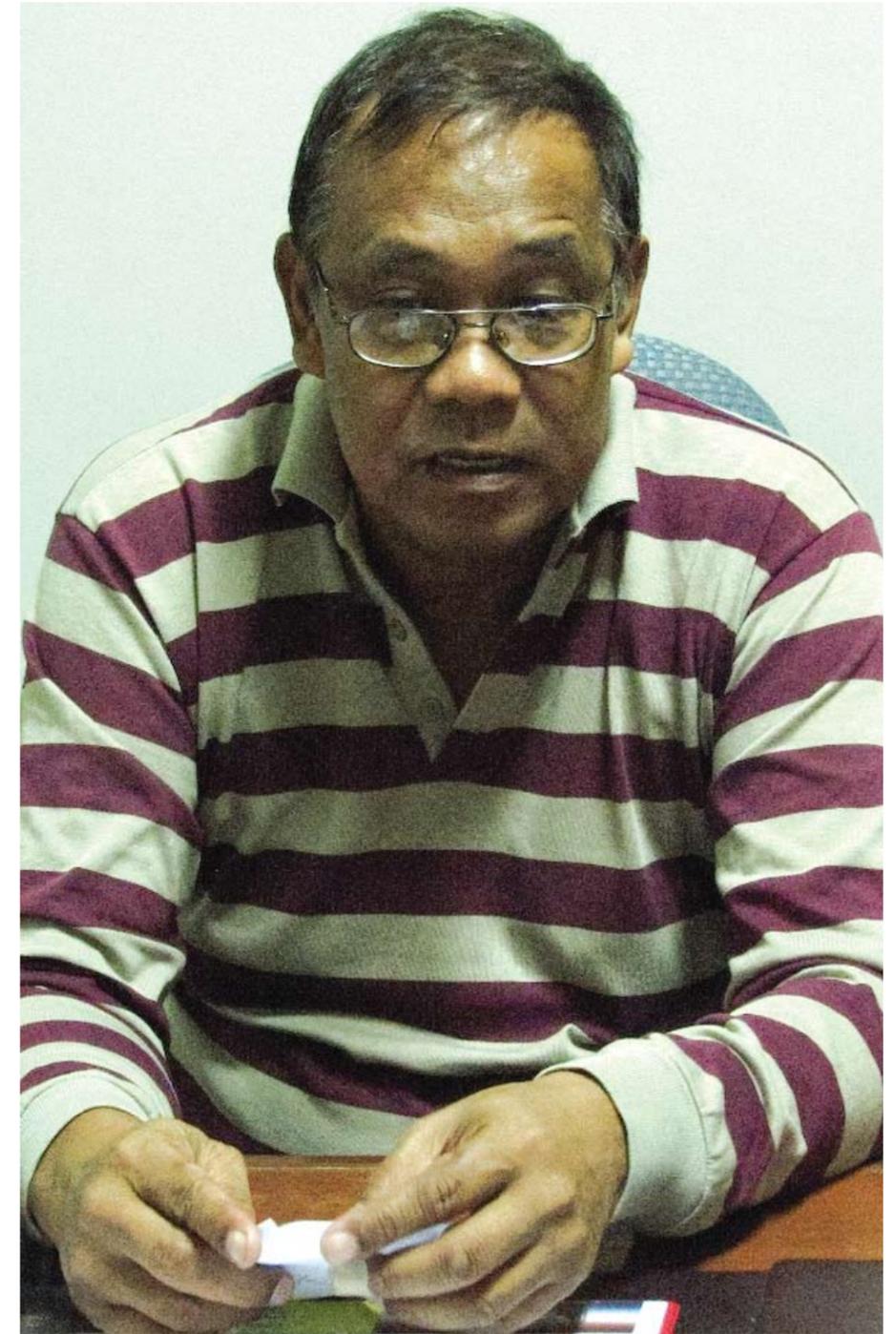


Photo by Krizia Carriaga

**What made you testify in the Senate?**

*Syempre tinatago mo 'yan sa sarili mo. Marami nga ang nag-didiscourage sa akin eh. Sabi nila ginugulo mo lang buhay mo. Tapos guguluhin mo 'yung buhay ng pamilya mo. Pero at one point parang nag-snap na. Tama na nga ito; makapunta na nga.*

*Ang nilapitan ko sa Senado si Ping (Lacson). Kasi si Ping 'yung nagsabi na humihingi ako ng pera, broker ako. So I went to him first. Sabi ko sir, pwede bang mag-explain sa inyo. Mabait naman si Sen.*

Lacson. *Nakinig. Nagtanong. Though sabi niya sige, pero may reservations pa rin ako. Pero i-mamanifest ko na pwede ka magtestigo. Tapos noong nandoon na ako, hindi pa man ako nag-oath taking, may mga administration na nag-tetext pa rin sa akin na sabi "kapag umalis ka na diyan, hindi ka pa naman nag-oath taking, kami na ang bahala sayo."* I don't know what that means.

(Of course I was hiding what I knew, and a lot of people were discouraging me and telling me that I would only be ruining my life. But at one point I snapped. I said

to myself, "I'll just go." I approached Sen. Ping Lacson because he was the one who said I was asking money, that I was a broker. So I went to him first, and I asked him if I could explain myself. He was kind; he asked and listened. Though he said he still has reservations about me, he said I could testify. Even before I had my oath taking, there were already people from the administration sending me messages: "If you leave—and you still haven't sworn in as a witness yet—we'll take care of you." I don't know what that means.)

**Sa pag a-air ng witnesses, 'di suportado. Yung akin kasi hindi evidence yun eh. I've said that from the very beginning. Kung testimonial lang from a second party source, hindi papasa sa ombudsman 'yun. And then you think na fair ang Ombudsman at DOJ (Department of Justice)?**

**The Senate, it has been argued, is not the right forum for the charges you're putting forward against this government, and that you should have gone to the Ombudsman.**

Sa pag a-air ng witnesses, 'di suportado. Yung akin kasi hindi evidence yun eh. I've said that from the very beginning. Kung testimonial lang from a second party source, hindi papasa sa ombudsman 'yun. And then you think na fair ang Ombudsman at DOJ (Department of Justice)?

(Mine isn't really "evidence." I've said that from the very beginning because a testimonial from a second party source won't be admitted at the Ombudsman's office. And do you think the Ombudsman and the DOJ would really be fair on this matter?)

**You say your testimony is from Leo San Miguel. Why do you think did he confide what he knew with you?**

Kasi part din naman ako ng group eh. Trabaho ko pagkasyahin sa design eh. So I did a good job for them; I did a bad job for the Filipino people. Kaya nga nakakalungkot after ka na mag-expose ng ganyan pagdududahan ka pa.

(Because I was part of the group. It was my job to make the deal fit into the design. So I did a good job for them (ZTE); I did a bad job for the Filipino people. That's why it's disheartening for people to doubt me even after I exposed this.)

**What can you say about allegations that your testimony is false because the First Gentleman just checked out from the hospital at the date you said he met Joey De Venecia?**

Sinabi nila [Dec.] 3, sabi ko [Dec.] 4 eh. Sabi nila kaka-dismiss lang daw niya sa hospital di ba? Wala naman siyang sakit nun eh. Nagpapacheck-up lang siya nun eh. Iba naman ang 3 sa 4.

(They said Dec. 3, I said Dec. 4. They said he just got out of the hospital, right? But he wasn't sick at the time; he just had a check-up. Dec. 3 is different from Dec. 4.)

**How about claims that you would not have surfaced if you got "your share" of the deal?**

It was clear in the beginning na "Eto ang allowances mo... Hindi ka kasali sa partehan. Kung gusto mo kumita ng pera, sa contracting nalang. Magdala ka na lang ng mga contractors at dun ka mag-commission."

(It was clear in the beginning that "Here are your allowances," that I was not part of any profit-sharing scheme. They told me that I should just get commissions from contracting.)

**Have you talked to Jun Lozada?**

Yun lang nung kumakain kami. Hindi naman kami magkakakilala actually. Wala naman kaming chance niyan mag-usap eh. Side 'yan ni Neri eh. Sila opposed sila sa project naming eh, so wala akong chance makipag-usap sa kanya.

(Just when we were eating in between Senate hearings. We don't know each other. Actually, we never have a chance to talk. He was at Neri's side, which were opposed to the NBN-ZTE project.)

**It was clear in the beginning na "Eto ang allowances mo... Hindi ka kasali sa partehan. Kung gusto mo kumita ng pera, sa contracting nalang. Magdala ka na lang ng mga contractors at dun ka mag-commission."**

**So you never met before all this happened?**

Hindi.  
(No.)

**What was your relationship with ZTE?**

Ang employer ko Pilipinas, Pilipino though nilagay kami sa ZTE. Hindi ZTE ang nagbabayad sa amin. So in that way, tama 'yung sabi nila na hindi nila ako empleyado. Hindi mo na nga maintidihan kasi maski sila nagkakabuhol-buhol na e. Una sabi nila finire out nila ako nung December. Paano naman nila ako iffire kung 'di nila ako empleyado? Etong mga taong eto 'di mo talaga maintindihan.

(My employer is a Filipino, though we were assigned to ZTE. ZTE was not the one paying us, so in that way, what the company is saying is right—that I'm not their employee. But things are more confusing now. First they said I was fired last December. But how could I get fired if I weren't an employee in the first place? I really can't understand these people.)

**There are those who claim that your cost estimate (\$130 to \$140 million) of the entire NBN-ZTE project is too low.**

Tama 'yung mga cost estimates ko. Sila yung hindi nila alam ang pinagsasabi nila.

Actually, alam nila 'yung sinasabi nila.

Totoo yung sinasabi nilang "moderate your greed." Etong Filipino group kasi greedy—sa ZTE, Kung ano kikitain niyo, yun din ang kikitain namin. Parang "double greed" nga eh kaya ganyan ang nangyari. Tapos sabi ng NEDA, hindi pwede ang satellite-based system. I-convert niyo sa terrestrial. Kasi magiging white elephant. Marami kang babayaran. Tsaka 'yung capacity 'di pa masyadong alam.

Mali pa rin ito kasi di ka pa rin maniniwala na \$140 (million) ang cost. Kasi ang prices nila kinukuha nila through retail. Eh alam mo naman kapag giant corporation ka, makaka-discount ka up to 40 percent.

(My cost estimates are right. They are the ones who don't know what they're saying. Actually, they know. What has been said—"moderate your greed"—was right. The Filipino group in the deal was greedy—they wanted to earn the same amount that ZTE stood to gain. It's "double greed" actually, because that's what happened. Then NEDA said that the system has to be converted from satellite to a terrestrial-based one because the project would be a white elephant given the many payments to be required and the unknown capacity.

The \$140 million cost estimate is still not believable because the prices are obtained through retail. And if you're a giant corporation, you can get discounts of up to 40 percent.)

**Totoo yung sinasabi nilang "moderate your greed." Etong Filipino group kasi greedy—sa ZTE, Kung ano kikitain niyo, yun din ang kikitain namin. Parang "double greed" nga eh kaya ganyan ang nangyari.**

**Do you see this entire "movement" dying down anytime soon?**

Well, I hope not. Dapat may mangyari dito, either from within or external.

(Well, I hope not. Something should come out of this, either from inside or outside the government.)

**What would you say to the President, her husband, and Romulo Neri?**

Sa First Couple: ibalik niyo 'yung pera. Kay Neri: lumabas ka na, you owe it to the people of the Philippines.

(To the First Couple: return the money. To Neri: come out; you owe it to the people of the Philippines.)

IN DEPTH

# Band of Brothers

Lasallian Brothers and students are coming together and playing important roles in the growing opposition movement. Why green is the new color of protest

by Alliv Lorelei Samson and Paulo Jose Mutuc

Photographs by Jennerson Ong, Alvin Lau, Erika Serrano, and Jowell Carlos Mariano



Our nation is beset anew by a serious and profound political crisis. The turmoil is spurred by allegations of fraud and deceit levelled against our nation's Chief Executive, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Though the charges have yet to be proven and we cannot discount the possibility that these allegations are orchestrated by forces with selfish interests, the present political turbulence has brought a heavy cloud of uncertainty over our already troubled nation."

That statement, Restoring Faith in Democracy, released two years ago by the Lasallian Brothers might well have been issued today. Because indeed, in very significant ways, this latest emergent movement for accountability on the part of President Arroyo and her government share important elements with the one that arose in 2005 over the Hello Garci? controversy—specifically, a charismatic rallying figure (NBN-ZTE witness Jun Lozada) and a broad coalition of activists and political figures spanning Edsa I, II, and III forces.

And as the Brothers' present ties with Lozada show, the ongoing movement is also one where De La Salle is playing a leading, prominent role.

Br. Felipe Belleza, Jr., brother president of La Salle Green Hills (LSGH), testified during the resumption of the hearing on the NBN-ZTE controversy at the Senate last Feb. 18 regarding their provision of a safe haven for the Lozada family. "The Brothers at La Salle Green Hills have been providing sanctuary to the Lozada family because of their urgent need. The Lozadas went to us because there was an imminent threat to their lives," said Br. Felipe. The Lasallian Brothers then released a copy of Br. Felipe's statement last Feb. 14 via a detailed chronology of events at their official site, www.lasallian.ph (See sidebar).

The Brothers are in this for the long run. In the words of Br. Mike Valenzuela: "We remain committed to supporting Lozada in his desire to speak out the truth. We uphold his right to speak the truth as he sees it or as he has experienced it. We are not in a position to judge the veracity of what he has presented or will continue to present as his testimony. That is for the proper investigating bodies to determine. Our only concern, as Christians and as religious, is to make it possible for this Filipino citizen to speak his truth without intimidation or any form of harassment. As we would for any persons who perceive that their lives are in imminent danger, we are committed to providing sanctuary and a safe abode for Lozada's family. We believe this to be our duty as Christians and as religious."

“Some people don’t like the idea of the Brothers being photographed next to some political figures,” said Br. Mike Valenzuela. He emphasized that the Brothers are not formally part of any political movement, but had been involved in calls for “truth, honesty, and integrity” in the Arroyo Administration from the very beginning.

The justification for such active involvement, on the Brothers’ part, is moral: “My real, real concern is we have really become a nation of liars and we have become very comfortable,” De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) President Br. Armin Luistro stated in the DLSP News Bureau website. “I’m not talking of little white lies; I am talking of a national consciousness that has become very used to and comfortable with other people’s lies.”

For its part, the Lasallian youth—as evidenced by an explicit reference made to it in the March 2, 2008 editorial—is increasingly becoming an integral part of the growing coalition calling for answers to questions of corruption and illegitimacy against the Arroyo Administration. Student Council (SC) President Noey Arcinue, most notably, is one of the pioneers of Youth ACT Now, a student-led alliance supported by the League of Filipino Students (LFS) calling for “truth, accountability, and meaningful change.”

The SC has released a manifesto regarding the NBN-ZTE controversy. According to FOCUS 06 Legislative Assembly Representative Richard Anciado, the last part of DLSU SC’s statement was the most difficult to finalize. In the end, the SC agreed on giving President Arroyo the choice to resign or surrender her position. “If she does not want to resign then we’re calling for the people who will work on her impeachment. If it succeeds, then we want her to surrender her position,” said Anciado.

“We are not calling for rallies. We are calling for the constitutional means to remove her from the position,” explained CATCH 2T08 Unyx Sta. Ana, Legislative Assembly Representative. She furthered, “*Kung walang papalit* (If no one can replace GMA), it doesn’t mean you don’t have to take her out of position. Because we believe that the main root of the problem that our country is facing is her (President Arroyo) and her leadership. No integrity in her leadership, no sense of morality. It starts from the head and it trickles down to the people below her.”

“It doesn’t mean that we’re releasing because the Brothers had their statement. This is our own stand and we will stand by it,” reasoned Sta. Ana. “We want the students to take part in searching for the truth.” Communal prayers were led by student groups at the Amphitheater from Feb. 18 to 21, and a Kapihan ng Malayang Lasalyano (Kamalayan) featuring Lozada, Rep. Teddy Casiño, and Br. Mike Valenzuela was held at the Central Plaza last Feb.

28. A basketball game between the De La Salle Green Archers and the Ateneo de Manila Blue Eagles is also slated for March 16 as a fundraiser for the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines’ (AMRSP) “sanctuary fund” for Jun Lozada. (During an earlier date, Feb. 17, a Mass for Lozada and his family was co-hosted by DLSU and AdMU at LSGH.)

“I believe that we should not stop and will continue encouraging the Lasallian community to step up to fight and seek for the truth,” Anciado stated.

This is not the first time De La Salle and the Brothers have actively taken part in the country’s political affairs. In 1986, the University was the first organized institution to support Corazon Aquino and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), and was, together with the University of the Philippines (UP), a major player in the First Quarter Storm of 1970. A forerunner to the present Committee on National Issues and Concerns was a Multi-Sectoral Task Force on the Elections, which recommended DLSU’s closure for a general strike; the modern-day Kamalayan, meanwhile, can be said to trace its roots to frequent on-campus lectures conducted by Jose Maria Sison, Bernabe Buscayno, and Chito Sto. Romana.

Fifteen years later, University sectors came together to draft a unified position against former President Joseph Estrada and to form an Alliance of Lasallians Against Erap (ALSA-ERAP).

**“My real, real concern is we have really become a nation of liars and we have become very comfortable,” De La Salle Philippines (DLSP) President Br. Armin Luistro stated in the DLSP News Bureau website. “I’m not talking of little white lies; I am talking of a national consciousness that has become very used to and comfortable with other people’s lies.”**



## The Church and the State

During politically tense and uncertain times, major religious groups who decide to be vocal about governance are either admired or reviled for their “intervention,” which, no matter the form, is said to undermine the political-legal doctrine of the separation of church and state. (The doctrine is more commonly referred to in the United States as “the First Amendment.”)

While Vatican II’s Declaration on Religious Liberty (*Dignitatis Humanae*) implicitly recognizes this “wall of separation” by defending the right to religious freedom, the late Pope John Paul II’s address to the laity, *Christifideles Laici*, stressed that “the common opinion that participating in politics is an absolute moral danger, does not in the least justify either skepticism or an absence on the part of the Christians in the public life.”

Nonetheless, Pope Benedict XV, in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, has noted that “a just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church.”

## Lozada’s “vision”

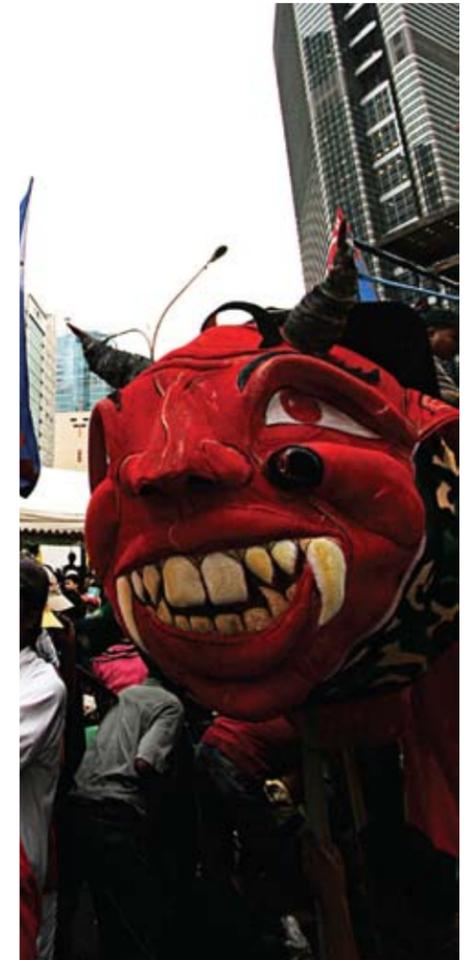
NBN-ZTE star witness Jun Lozada urged students to have the proper mindset before taking any action, in a Feb. 23 meeting with campus publications at La Salle Green Hills organized by the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP). “We must learn that we have already changed presidents twice already. Did it ever change us?” remarked Lozada.

So far, Lozada has resisted directly calling for the President’s resignation, though he has emphasized “compassion for the victims of corruption” as the right motivation for any mass action in his talks at several gatherings, mostly in Catholic schools, over the past weeks.

## Romulo Neri and EO 464

Former National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary-General and incumbent Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Romulo Neri’s alleged reluctance to reveal more of what he knows about the NBN-ZTE contract has been said to be simply a matter of Executive Order 464 (EO 464) still being in force. The Supreme Court, in *Senate vs. Ermita*, declared void its prohibition of police, military, and national security officials from appearing in Congress, but retained as valid the President’s right to “executive privilege” (withholding certain types of information from Congress, the courts, and the public) and disallowing department secretaries from appearing in legislative oversight hearings. Neri, meanwhile, has asked the Supreme Court to clarify the scope and meaning of executive privilege.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has called for the scrapping of EO 464 in its official statement dated Feb. 10, A Call for Communal Action. Malacañang, has formed a legal team to study the CBCP’s recommendation, but has yet to decide and dialogue with the bishops as of press time.



## What if GMA resigns?

Article VII, Section 8 of the 1987 Constitution clearly stipulates that “In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term.” The line of succession extends to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the entire Congress, depending on the circumstances. This process of transferring power, however, would begin only when the sitting President is found guilty of Lower House-initiated charges in a Senate impeachment trial.

Edsa II was upheld by the Supreme Court. It was declared a “peaceful expression of popular will” that set in motion former President Joseph Estrada’s ouster and consequently, the constitutional mode of presidential succession.

But while the one-year moratorium on new impeachment complaints against President Arroyo will only end in October, one has already been filed by known Marcos ally Oliver Lozano last Feb. 26. Former Senate president Jovito Salonga also lodged plunder and graft and corruption charges against the Chief Executive before the Ombudsman on the same date, arguing that the President is not immune to investigations from that office. The Ombudsman, Merceditas Gutierrez, has abstained herself from handling this case, given her close personal ties with the First Family.

## La Salle and Lozada: A Timeline

### JAN. 6, 2008, SUNDAY

The Lozada couple asked if they could seek sanctuary in the school for the safety of their children if the need should arise.

### JAN. 30 2008, WEDNESDAY

Mrs. Violet Lozada called Br. Felipe in his office around 11 AM and temporarily entrusted the four Lozada boys who are students of La Salle Green Hills to the care of the Brothers. She picked them up in the afternoon of the same day.

### FEB. 4, 2008, MONDAY

Mrs. Lozada called Br. Felipe requesting the Brothers to take care of the family. She came late in the afternoon after fetching her daughter from her school. The family spent the night in the Brothers' House. Carmen, Jun's eldest sister, arrived in the Brothers' House around 9:30 pm.

### FEB. 5, 2008, TUESDAY, AROUND 5:00 PM

Mrs. Violet Lozada reported that Jun Lozada was "missing." She was distraught the whole time while calling relatives and the media to help in the search for her husband. Two trusted Religious Sisters came early evening to comfort her and her children.

### AROUND 9:00 PM

Br. Felipe contacted Mr. Mike Enriquez, an alumnus of La Salle Green Hills and newscaster of GMA 7, to inform him that the Brothers were providing sanctuary to the family of Jun Lozada. The call to Mike Enriquez was made in confidence.

### AROUND 10:15 PM

Carmen called up Br. Felipe and told him Jun Lozada will arrive in La Salle Green Hills with the police.

### AROUND 10:30 PM

Jun Lozada arrived in a police vehicle with the markings Police Security Protection Office accompanied by Col. Mascariñas and about six (6) other policemen. Only the driver was in police uniform. Carmen and Br. Felipe met Jun Lozada at the entrance of the Central House of the Brothers. Immediately Jun, Carmen and Br. Felipe went up to the Brothers' House. Col. Mascariñas went up the Brothers' House and left shortly after. Jun Lozada embraced Br. Felipe and said, "Brother, it was a close call. I'm just so glad I'm alive." Carmen called Violet and Jun embraced her in the corridor of the cloister in the Brothers' House. The children also kissed and embraced their father.

### AROUND 10:45 PM

Col. Mascariñas talked with Br. Felipe and told him that he does not want media to know that Jun Lozada is in LSGH. Br. Felipe walked towards Gate 7 followed by a policeman and called the guard stationed at Gate 2. Br. Felipe gave instructions not to allow anyone to enter the campus, especially media, without his knowledge.

### AROUND 11:00 PM

The brothers and sisters of Jun Lozada arrived. They talked at the Lanai in the Central House for about 20 minutes.

### FEB. 6, 2008, WEDNESDAY

Around 10:15 am Jun Lozada was taken out of La Salle Green Hills by Col. Mascariñas and the policemen.

“These are dangerous and exciting times.” - BR. ARMIN LUISTRO FSC



**14 FEB** Candle Lighting at DLSU  
Students light candles outside the campus to call for truth and justice in government.



**15 FEB**  
Anti-GMA  
Protest  
in Makati

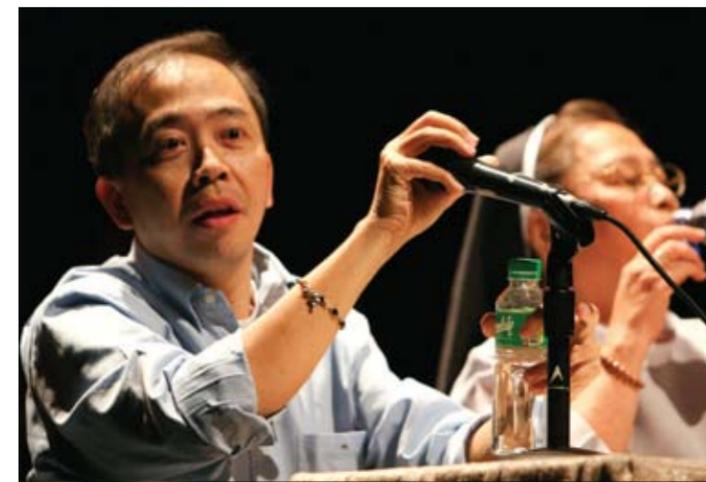
Roughly 20,000 protesters rush to Makati to voice their dissatisfaction with the current state of Philippine government.

**17 FEB**  
Eucharistic  
Mass at  
LSGH

A Mass co-sponsored by DLSU and AdMU is held in support of Rodolfo "Jun" Lozada's quest for truth and accountability.



**18 FEB** Senate Hearing about NBN-ZTE deal  
The Brothers testify in the Senate hearings about Jun Lozada's stay in La Salle Green Hills. This marks the first time Lozada is seen publicly with the now famous "green ribbon."



**21 FEB** Student Forum at  
St Scholastica's College

Jun Lozada visits the college for a forum with students discussing the NBN-ZTE controversy. Students ask Lozada candid, in-depth questions about the issue.

### AROUND NOONTIME

Sr. Roseanne from the Social Action Office of the CBCP arrived and talked to Violet and Carmen.

### AROUND 2:05 PM

Sr. Roseanne called to say that she had not yet talked to Bishop Broderick Pabillobut that she left word for him.

### AROUND 3:30 PM

Jun Lozada is returned to La Salle Green Hills by Col. Mascariñas

### AROUND 3:45 PM

Sr. Roseanne informed Br. Felipe that Bishop Broderick Pabillo will see Jun Lozada around 8:00 pm that day.

### AROUND 7:00 PM

Col. Mascariñas asked Br. Felipe to clear Mr. Mike Defensor to enter La Salle Green Hills to talk with Jun Lozada. Shortly after, he arrived with his wife and was met by Br. Felipe in the elevator lobby of the Brothers' Community. Jun Lozada and the former Secretary talked in the herbal garden of the community in the 3rd floor. Br. Felipe requested Col Mascariñas to move to the Lanai on the 2nd floor of the Central House Around 8:00 pm Bishop Broderick Pabillo arrived and was briefed by Br. Felipe. Around this time, Br. Felipe was informed that Atty. Bautista was coming to LSGH to meet Mr. Lozada

### AROUND 8:30 PM

Brothers Dodo, Armin, Felipe and Bishop Broderick Pabillo met in the office of the Br. Dodo.

### AROUND 9:00 PM

Brothers Dodo, Armin and Felipe and Bishop Broderick Pabillo went up to the Brothers' House. Carmen, Violet and the children were praying the rosary in the community chapel. Br. Felipe asked Carmen to call Jun Lozada at the request of Bishop Pabillo. Jun Lozada was, at this time, at the Lanai talking to Atty. Bautista. Jun Lozada arrived and narrated his story to the Bishop in the presence of the three Brothers and Violet. After his narration, Bishop Broderick Pabillo and the Brothers decided to support Jun Lozada in his desire to speak out.

### AROUND 10:15 PM

In order to ensure the family's safety, Brothers Armin and Dodo called the Religious. Around a dozen Religious came. Bishop Cortez also came. Bishop Broderick Pabillo proposed that a press conference be held at La Salle Green Hills.

### FEB. 7, 2008, THURSDAY, AROUND 12:01 AM

The Religious Sisters, Brothers and two Bishops met to discern and look at various options. Mr. Lozada was again invited to narrate his story.

### AROUND 1:15 AM

A decision was reached by Mr. Lozada, in consultation with the Bishops and Religious present, to hold a press conference at La Salle Green Hills and to have Mr. Lozada turned over to the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms immediately after.

### AROUND 2:00 AM

A press conference was held at the National Shrine of the Divine Child of LSGH.

**22**  
FEB

### Busina Para sa Katotohanan

DLSU students actively participate in a noise barrage calling for truth and justice along Taft Avenue, where cars blow horns and cause a traffic jam.



**28**  
FEB

### Kamalayan at DLSU

Jun Lozada graces the most well-attended Kamalayan ("Harnessing People Power for Truth and Reform: A Forum on the ZTE Investigation") to date. He encourages students to join the next day's interfaith rally, and is joined in the speakers' panel by Br. Mike Valenzuela and Teddy Casiño.



**25**  
FEB **EDSA Revolution (22nd Anniversary)**

Anti-GMA rallyists assemble at Welcome Rotonda and Cubao and march to Mendiola and EDSA Shrine to protest. Meanwhile, Jun Lozada, Corazon Aquino, and Br. Armin Luistro go to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Baclaran) Church for a Eucharistic celebration.



**29**  
FEB **Interfaith Prayer Rally at Makati CBD**

Between 15,000 to 80,000 people attend the largest gathering of opposition forces since Feb. 15. The interfaith rally is jointly organized by civil society and religious groups. Around 500 Lasallians from DLSU-Manila, College of St. Benilde, De La Salle Zobel, La Salle Green Hills, and DLSU-Dasmariñas join the walk from Don Bosco Makati to Ayala Avenue.



**27**  
FEB **Ecumenical Celebration at St Paul, Manila**

In a prelude to Feb. 29's interfaith gathering, groups representing the country's major religions come together at St. Paul College Manila.



# The Invisible Watcher

by Darcy Reburiano and Jabin Landayan  
With reports from Carmela Prado, Floren Faye Chua, and Crezzelle Francisco

As the General Election takes place, the Comelec once again assumes the role of watcher over the entire process—maintaining order, increasing awareness, and facilitating participation.

Unfortunately, despite the gravity of its responsibility, the Comelec is an almost entirely invisible and neglected body in the University. It lacks funding, manpower, and physical resources. It is crippled in terms of archiving statistics and documents, and its plans are often hampered by logistical deficiencies.

Any organization that wishes to be taken seriously must have money and manpower. The Comelec clearly lacks both.

Consider the budget allotted to the Comelec every year. Comelec Secretary Santiago Abad is appalled as he mentions the amount: a measly P7,000 to P10,000 to pay for ballots, forms, and other election-related costs every year.

Abad even goes on to mention that each vote already costs P3.50 per person (P2 for the form and P1.50 for the scanning and data gathering). Given last year's voter turnout was 63.57 percent of the 10,174 students of the University, the mathematics will readily show that the Comelec's entire annual budget is not even enough to cover the expenses associated with just gathering student votes.

**But more than financing problems, the most worrying problem facing the Comelec is its lack of autonomy. Every facet of the Comelec's existence is derived from the SC—which is composed of Tapat and Santugon members.**

Which forces the Comelec to look for other fund sources. This year, the Comelec received P22,000 from the Office of the Student Council President. For this General Election, Comelec Treasurer Joey Valinton reported that they also received money from the DLSU-Parents of Univesity Students Organization and the Achiever's Fund. Still, the total amount is not enough, according to Chairperson Jacob Lee, since they are currently in debt.

Manpower problems in the Comelec are also a major hindrance to the proper functioning of the organization. For one, Comelec relies solely on volunteer work. There is not even a formal acknowledgment that signing up for the Comelec means really participating in the elections. In fact, while a lot of students "volunteer," very few actually help in election days.

Comelec Vice Chairperson Joanna Reyes said they are also crippled by their non-partisan nature. "Wala kaming tao. Somebody would volunteer, but the person already has a party. Yun talaga yung problema kaya matagal ma-appoint [commissioners] (We lack people. Somebody would volunteer, but the person already has a political party. That's really the problem, and that's why it takes so long for us to appoint commissioners)," she said. "We cannot offer freebies and discounts unlike the two political parties in the University," Valinton added. Not only does this highlight the lack of available people to filter SC candidates, but it also underscores political parties' failure to inform their members that they cannot be Comelec officials.

Furthermore, the number of election volunteers is seriously cut down by the seeming lack of presence of the Comelec during the rest of the year. A lot of people are not aware of the Comelec's roles, and a few do not even know a Comelec exists. In fact, it was only last year that the Comelec was able to promote their organization in the freshmen orientation.

With such serious deficiencies, how can the Comelec be taken seriously? More im-

portantly, how can it hope to uphold electoral rules among parties more financially prepared and structurally organized?

## Forgotten past, inconceivable future

In terms of goals and history, the Comelec has some serious setbacks to contend with. The organization seems to have no sense of the past, and this problem is tied largely with their perennial lack of funding and resources.

The Comelec has a serious need for an archive of election statistics and documents. Money and manpower aside, this is made even more difficult by the small office space available to them—which they are made to share with the Debate Society at the third floor of the SPS Building after the Society lost a spot in the Council of Student Organizations' (CSO) office years ago.

The price of this historical disconnection is that the Comelec is unable to give a clear view of the trends of SC elections over the years: no reliable data on swings in voter turnout, election code violations, nor unresolved electoral issues.

A lot of the Comelec's goals—particularly those concerning voter awareness—are rarely implemented due to meager resources. What is admirable, especially for this batch of Comelec officials, is the body's genuine desire to improve the elections through means that do not take a lot of resources. "May mga proposal na lumabas na use yung PA (public announcement) system natin (There are proposals to use the University's PA system). Also, to ask the help of the publications to write about voter's education and publicize the whole election," Reyes replied when asked about their plans.

## Control and conspiracies

But more than financing problems, the most worrying problem facing the Comelec is its lack of autonomy. Every facet of the Comelec's existence is derived from the SC—which is composed of Tapat and Santugon members.

The Comelec primarily views itself as a non-partisan organization, and ideally, it should be given its mandate. This authority includes being able to call attention to election code violations. The Comelec's supposedly non-partisan nature, however, is compromised by the Student Council's control over it. Allocations made by the SC President to the Comelec, for example, can provide an avenue for a party-loyalist president to gain a large amount of control over an organization with already minimal resources.

The Comelec's responsibility is to uphold the Election Code, but it is the Legislative Assembly—also part of the SC—

that makes this set of rules. In this regard, several incidents of party members' violation of the rules being shrugged off due to technicalities have been reported, rendering the Comelec virtually useless.

Who appoints Comelec officials to their positions? No surprise, the Student Council. That said, what is to keep the dominant party in the SC from appointing individuals who, while non-party members, would be sympathetic to the ruling party's interests?

If the two parties merely alternate in exerting control over Comelec so that election rules seem useless, how can De La Salle even claim a democratic system in determining the composition of its Student Council? Clearly, the Comelec in its current form more closely resembles a puppet meant to represent "democracy," only to be trampled on by the combatants who control its strings.

Given the Comelec's current structure compromises its neutral nature, what can the Lasallian community do to bring at least a semblance of autonomy to the Comelec? While seemingly drastic, it would be essential to remove the Comelec from the jurisdiction of the SC. At this point in time, there are already Comelec officers, but succeeding officials should be chosen by the Comelec itself, with prospective candidates in turn voted by the organization's volunteers.

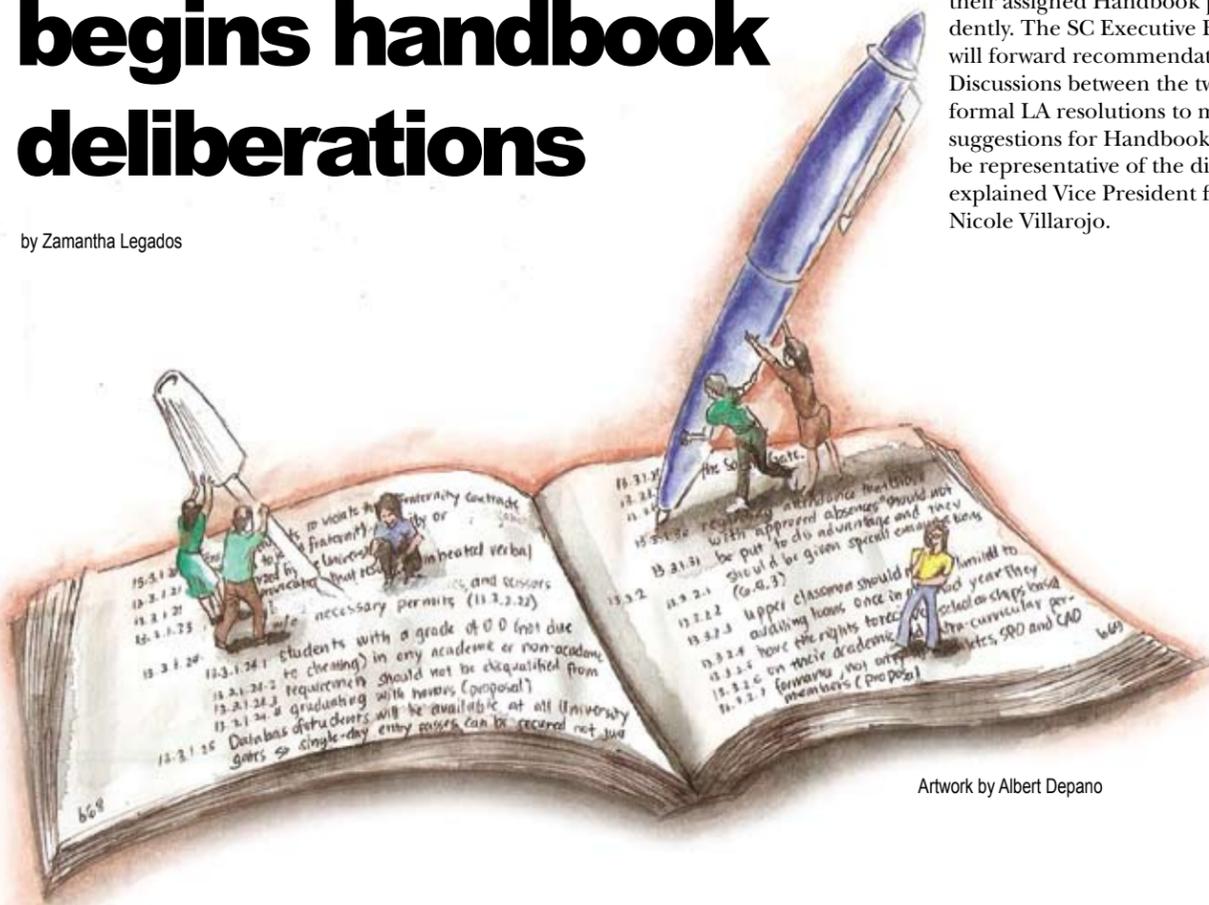
The Comelec's funding from the Student Council should also be increased and formally guaranteed, so that it does not depend on "donations" that vary with who is in power. With proper funding, the Comelec can enforce the Election Code with greater credibility. The question of who in turn will watch the Comelec given these scenarios would inevitably arise and require an answer, but the more important thing is that the Comelec would be judged on its own non-partisan terms rather than being relegated to the status of an invisible, unimportant organization.

**Any organization that wishes to be taken seriously must have money and manpower. The Comelec clearly lacks both.**



# Student Council begins handbook deliberations

by Zamantha Legados



Artwork by Albert Depano

**D**eliberations for Student Handbook revisions, which come every three years, will formally commence next school year. Dean of Student Affairs Voltaire Mistades, however, issued an open memo early this term calling for initial proposals.

Student Council (SC) President Noey Arcinue, in this regard, shared that while they are concerned about the effectiveness of their plans given the impending change in SC officers after the General Election, they are open to starting work on the Student Handbook now.

## An early start

To facilitate the work and generate “a richer pool of research and arguments,” Arcinue enlisted various SC units and the five Legislative Assembly (LA) committees.

A section of the handbook is assigned for review to an SC unit and an LA committee. Sections on grievance, student discipline, and social norms were given to the Office of the Vice President for Academics and the Students Rights and Welfare Committee. Section 3 was assigned to the Vice President for Operations and Communications and the LA committee on Resolutions Monitoring and Management. Activities-related sections went to the Vice President for Activities.

Gretch Santos, floor leader of the LA, shared that Arcinue balanced the work among the LA committees, who will study their assigned Handbook parts independently. The SC Executive Board, however, will forward recommendations to the LA. Discussions between the two will result in formal LA resolutions to make sure the SC’s suggestions for Handbook Revisions will be representative of the different batches, explained Vice President for Academics Nicole Villarojo.

**Currently, a student is not allowed to graduate with honors if he or she has a 0.0 grade in any subject by virtue of Section 10.4.3 of the handbook. However, Villarojo said they wish to relax this restriction by letting students with failures obtain academic honors provided that a grade of at least 2.5 is obtained during the retake.**

A majority vote is needed to either approve or disapprove a resolution. Once a resolution is approved as a student handbook revision, it is brought to the SC to be lobbied to the Student Handbook Revisions Committee, which includes the SC, the Council of Student Organizations (CSO), Faculty Association (FA), and representatives from the Council of Deans (COD). Consultants from other offices such as the University Registrar and the Discipline Office are also invited to give inputs, and the Dean of Student Affairs chairs the committee. (The faculty and administration have two votes each, while the student representatives only have one.) Discussions usually take two terms to complete, after which revisions are sent to the COD for approval. If the COD does not concur, the proposals go back to the committee. After another round of review, the committee’s decision will be final and binding.

## Past revisions

Major revisions leading to the present Student Handbook (dated 2005-2006) were directed at offenses, particularly those on ID and dress code rules. Minor offenses associated with those two policies were either minimized or done away with: Lost IDs now only pay a fine of P500, while a dress code slip system was put in place alongside a trimmed down list of prohibited clothing as a compromise for removing the minor offense on dress code violations.

Arcinue said proposed revisions for the first five sections of the Student Handbook should be ready by this term. She also mentioned that her priority is to create implementing guidelines for the committee’s procedures.

## Proposed revisions

One of the OVP-Academics’ proposals

is to re-lobby the inclusion of the Discipline Office’s protocol for apprehending students in the Student Handbook. This is to ensure that no discipline officer will follow the rules while students’ rights remain protected.

Another is the removal of the policy on dangerous objects (Section 13.3.2.22) that prohibits the bringing in of cutters, Swiss knives, and scissors without necessary permits from the Security and Safety Office as well as the DO. Tapat’s Vice President for Academics candidate and Education Assembly President Anil Ratanchandani is supporting this move.

Then again, “If the University lacks rules that protect the students, it says something about it,” according to incumbent VP Academics and Tapat presidential candidate Nicole Villarojo. Hence, she said an alternative policy will probably be needed.

Villarojo noted that while Section 6.9.3 regarding attendance says that those with approved absences “should not be put to a disadvantage” and that they should be given special examinations, the section is silent on other requirements which do not involve examinations—rendering it, in Villarojo and Ratanchandani’s view, a loophole that should be addressed.

Currently, a student is not allowed to graduate with honors if he or she has a 0.0 grade in any subject by virtue of Section 10.4.3 of the handbook. However, Villarojo said they wish to relax this restriction by letting students with failures obtain academic honors provided that a grade of at least 2.5 is obtained during the retake.

Ratanchandani said this is not unfair because “nothing is taken away from anyone” and that a progressive education where “you lessen competition among the students” and knowledge sharing is fostered

Aimee Chua, Santugon’s candidate for VP Academics and currently Business and Economics Assembly President, also proposes that “students with a grade of 0.0 (not due to cheating) in any academic or non-academic requirement should not be disqualified from graduating with honors.”

Chua is also proposing revisions on Section 5.2 Together with Santugon candidate for Treasurer Nadia Ong, Chua said there should be an increase in the number of scholarships made available to students. “Upperclassmen should not be limited to availing loans once in a school year. They have the right to avail of interest free loans as long as their funds are available... All students should also have the right to receive scholarships based on their academic and extra-curricular performance, not only the athletes, SPO and CAO members,” she explained.

Chua also wants a revision of Section

1.10, such that access to the DLSU database of students will be made available at all University gates so single-day entry passes can be secured not just from the South Gate. This, she said, is in order to not compromise students’ safety.

A revision for Section 8.11.1 is also being suggested by Chua so that “students taking up the modular program may drop courses up to the first three days of each module” with the respective refund. Another revision for Section 8.14 proposes that “special adjustment must remain for the first three days of the term. It is the right of all students to avail of the three day systematic adjustment especially the bigger colleges.”

Villarojo added that when one is AWOL (absent without leave), the university reserves the right to refuse admission. She said students in such conditions have to be informed why they cannot be readmitted, if the University decides so.

Ratanchandani also said that it is important to have a university committee concentrated on teacher training and curriculum review.

VP for Operations and Communications Stacy Carbonel and the Resolutions Monitoring and Management Committee, meanwhile, point out that Section 3.1 (“Oral arrangements or agreements are considered invalid”) should be reconsidered and made to read: “Oral arrangements or agreements expressed by a student to any one in the Lasallian community, wherein the receiver of the communication verbally agrees, is to be considered valid, unless otherwise stipulated.”

Carbonel and her team also want Section 3.6—which recognizes the SC as an “official channel of communication”—qualified by adding the following: “thru the official text message and/or e-mail blast sent by any elected and/or appointed Student Council officer.”

**Chua said there should be an increase in the number of scholarships made available to students. “All students should also have the right to receive scholarships based on their academic and extra-curricular performance, not only the athletes, SPO and CAO members,” she explained.**

# Tapat revives USG proposal

by Loraine Saguinsin



Artwork by Samantha Ang

The idea of a University Student Government (USG), first introduced by former Student Council (SC) President Saint Anthony Tiu, is being revived by Alyansang Tapat sa Lasallista presidential candidate Nicole Villarojo.

The USG involves separating the current SC into executive, judicial, and legislative branches. Villarojo said, however, that she is making minor revisions in Tiu's USG to better incorporate it into Tapat's platform for this General Election.

"It's about time that we push for the USG. I think it would do so much for the SC in terms of efficiency, proper checks, and balances. It would be trickling down to how political parties train their candidates. It would heighten student politics," Villarojo said.

## EXECUTIVE

The current SC Executive Board (EB) is made up of six offices: President, Vice President for Academics, Vice President for Activities,

Vice President for Operations and Communications, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer.

Under the USG, the six offices would be reduced to five: the three vice presidents would be replaced by vice presidents for internals and externals.

The Vice President for Internals would be in charge of student services and activities, as well as the monitoring of school facilities. On the other hand, the Vice President for Externals would be responsible for establishing liaisons outside the University, enhancing industry linkages mainly for practicum and thesis purposes, and making the USG visible with its external alliances like the Union of Catholic Student Council (UCSC).

The USG president, in turn, would be given veto power to overturn decisions of the Legislative Assembly (LA), similar to the capability of the Philippine President

of overturning mandates passed by the Congress. But the rest of the members of the Executive Board, nonetheless, could overturn this veto.

The president would also be given the power to represent the USG on all university committees, a task currently being performed by the Vice President for Academics. "The true role of the president is to represent the students in the highest policy making bodies aside from the Legislative Assembly," Villarojo stressed.

Meanwhile, each batch would only have one batch representative, who in turn would appoint a vice president to assist in the performance of duties.

There would be four major executive departments, one each for advocacy, student services, community development, and activity monitoring and approval (to take the place of the Activity Monitoring Board). Batch representatives could join only one among the first three departments because they cannot approve their own activities.

## LEGISLATIVE

Under the USG, the SC president would no longer have a seat in the LA, but would be capable of vetoing LA resolutions.

The representatives would also elect among themselves a Chief Legislator responsible for heading the LA and managing its budget, similar to the two chambers of Congress' House Speaker and Senate President. Also, the number of LA representatives would be reduced into one per batch.

In the Philippine Senate and Congress, majority and minority groups exist. Similar arrangements would also be made under the University Student Government. The political party with the largest elected member in the assembly becomes the majority, while the other becomes the minority. Both groups shall elect their own

floor leader. This arrangement aims to make the political parties more accountable for the training of their respective LA representatives and encourage intelligent discourse between Tapat and Santugon.

The number of LA committees would be reduced from five to three. The Ethics Committee would be transferred to the judicial branch while the Resolutions Monitoring and Management Committee would be dissolved because each sub-committee can print, photocopy, and arrange its own resolutions.

## JUDICIAL

Currently the Ethics Committee under the LA has the ability to discern whether to endorse an impeachment case. "When you're passing impeachment, it's not a legislative function," Villarojo reasoned.

A judicial branch would be created, with six of the twelve magistrates appointed by the Executive Committee (made of the EB and the College Assembly Presidents). A Chief Magistrate would be chosen, and each magistrate would hold a maximum term of two school years.

Villarojo emphasized that an appointed magistrate should not be a currently elected officer but someone who has leadership abilities and can stand her ground when passing judgment on conflicting issues.

The Commission on Elections (Comelec) would also be under the judiciary. There would be an Officers Monitoring Board which would take the job of the LA's Ethics Committee and investigate accusations of excessive absence, gross negligence of duty, or mishandling of funds against SC officers. The Monitoring Board would then forward its findings to the judiciary, which would render judgments.

## Santugon's take

A plebiscite with at least 50 percent plus one affirmative vote on the students' part, however, would be needed in order to implement the USG proposal, Vilarojo said. Prior to that, she explained that a series of student assemblies would be held to explain the USG to students.

"It would not be prudent for us to give our comments on the USG proposal," said Santugon Executive President Koko Ortuoste, when asked to give the party's take on the matter. This is because, according to Ortuoste, "it is a solution of the SC to a problem, not the issue in itself" and "is a proposal by a candidate of the other party [so] the full details of the proposal (with revisions) are not known to us."

Photos by Jennerson Ong and Jowell Carlos Mariano



# menagerie Life & Leisure



La Salle Dance Company Street and Jazz perform in the University Week's culminating night. On the same day, some faculty and employees present in their own variety show, Green Idol.



The night features the collection of fashion designer Stacy Rodriguez and shirt collection from Green Anthem. The show is directed by Anil Ratanchandani.



The culminating night's program is hosted by Lasallian and Rush TV's (Studio 23) TJ Valderama, CED's Sari Bernardo, and Peep Show's Dylan.

## EVENT 3.5 Animo Ignition and IBIZA Concert/Party

WHILE THE SUDDEN INVASION OF PEOPLE hawking goods and services is nothing new to students, Feb. 15 saw an explosion of booths lining the Sports Plaza, SJ Walk, and Central Plaza. Meanwhile, tucked in a quiet corner of the football field was an inflatable slide big enough to be visible from the

other side of Taft Avenue, completing the festive atmosphere of the University Week. Anton Diva, a DLSU alumnus and a stand-up comic, performed at the pre-show.

The culminating night's program, hosted by the hilarious TJ and a series of different co-hosts including Dylan of Peep Show fame, kicked off in the afternoon with a variety of student acts to entertain those who took the time to come on a Friday. Each college had its own presentation, from College of Science's (COS) "lab gown street dancers" to an emo-rock number by the College of Computer Studies (CCS). La

Salle Dance Company-Street and Jazz each rendered an energetic performance to an ecstatic crowd.

As the night wore on, big names like Kastigo, Hilera, Itchyworms, Saranggola ni Pepe, Inverted, Nescafe Soundskool, Concrete Sam, Fireplace Letters, and Urbandub, to name a few, finally came out to play to a highly charged La Salle crowd that congregated around the stage.

All in all, with over 1,000 attendees, University Week 2008 ended with a memorable evening of good music and definitely good fun. - BY AARON SITOSTA



Photo by Alvin Lau

**CONCERT 3.0**

**LSDC-Jazz's Solitudes & Gazes**

LONELINESS—IT IS INDELIBLY PART of the human condition, and one that has been repeatedly explored by literature and movies. For a fresh take on the theme though, look no further than La Salle Dance Company-Jazz's (LSDC-Jazz) 28th anniversary concert, *Solitude & Gazes*, at the Teresa Yuchengco Auditorium last Feb. 28.

A crafty concert from the very beginning, the design for performances was often very minimalist. A replica ship or a painting suspended above the stage, for instance, was enough to complete the scene. While it was

not as impressive compared to the elaborate set-design employed by LSDC-Street for Danz Dish a month ago, it did have its merits; the simplicity of the sets did not overshadow the dancers, and kept transitions between performances down to only a few minutes.

During each performance's interlude, the narrator would come out and give a cryptic monologue about the show's theme. Except for the times when the message becomes too poetic to understand in a few seconds, she did a good job of giving a short introduction to each piece. More importantly, she served as the all-important glue that bound the performances together.

Each performance is completely different from the next, and a different story is told with every action. For instance, one scene was a freeze frame where the scene

moves each time the lights go off. Then in another, four dancers dressed in indigenous Filipino garb danced onstage, only to be chased off by a group of city people. One of them is manhandled, and then abandoned to wallow in her misery.

The wide repertoire of dance styles from graceful ballet to frenetic rocking out brought the audience a unique experience with every act. There were very rare moments when the moves seemed a tad artificial (such as when they did things in synchrony), but all in all, the dancers did a commendable job in bringing out the emotion in every moment.

A performance that speaks to the aloneness in all of us and in all its guises, LSDC-Jazz's *Solitudes & Gazes* is an emotional tour de force. **- BY AARON SITOSTA**

**THEATER PLAY 3.5**

**Unang Ulan ng Mayo**

THE FIRST RAIN OF MAY IS SAID TO BE blessed and capable of curing all kinds of ailments and conditions. Coming after a long and hot summer, the rainfall represents a new hope and beginning for Filipino farmers. It also sums up the hopeful and redemptive message of Harlequin Theater Guild's *Unang Ulan ng Mayo*, a theater adaptation of J.I.E. Teodoro's Palanca-winning short story.

Set in the rural area of San Anghel, Antique, the story is about the character Victor's homosexual awakening. Crippled by polio, he struggles with hopelessness stemming from his disability and his disconnection from his seemingly aloof father, Leon.

Efren Morales then shows up at the Kalipay doorstep, beginning a star-crossed love affair whose eventual discovery completely tears the family apart.

Nonetheless, the play doesn't take itself too seriously. Bawdy gay Filipino humor is used throughout much of the story. Fortunately, that does not necessarily detract from the emotional pathos. The acting was done well; everyone managed to get into the mindset of each character almost to the hilt. Victor comes off as too emotional at times—something to be expected of his character—but Wilfred Cabrera played him well enough not to become unbearably ang-

sty. The maid's faux British accent was as phony as they come, but that was probably intentional for humor purposes. The coital scene, certainly the most ballyhooed part of



**INDIE FILM 4.0**

**Endo**



IN THE WORLD OF MAINSTREAM Philippine cinema where nearly everything is crass, obnoxious, and over-the-top, Jade Castro's *Endo* sticks out like an elegant sore thumb. Metaphorically speaking, if its contemporaries are cheap commercial beer, *Endo* is by contrast a fine wine: earthy and completely unpretentious.

The film revolves around the much-ignored issue of temporary employment. "Endo" is street talk for "end of contract," a term that contractual workers dread, since it signals their being hurled back into that limbo of unemployment. Leo (Abalos) has

long been accustomed to a life of impermanence; his jaded outlook translates to his short-lived affairs and awkward familial ties.

Jason Abalos, who is better known for his stints on teenybopper features like *All About Love* and *I Wanna Be Happy*, shows that he has enough maturity to tackle more serious fare. His performance is pleasantly sincere, but feels a little static; the real revelation, however, is Ina Feleo, daughter of Johnny Delgado. She brings a luminous fragility to her role as Tanya, the dreamer who challenges Leo's notions of happiness and satisfaction.

The thing about *Endo* is that it is a romance movie that refuses to be romantic. All sentiment is understated—so much so that it ironically underscores the emotion even more. Body language and expression, sans corny theatrics, serve to propel the Leo and Tanya's tentative relationship. Truthfully, there is nothing original about the premise of the love story itself: guy meets girl while ex-girlfriend (CJ Javarata) shows up to make things complicated. But set against the backdrop of some painfully real situations, *Endo* just becomes more believable.

With masterful direction and great acting, *Endo* sailed through the 2007 Cinemalaya Awards with the Best Editing honor, the Special Jury Prize, and a Best Actress nod to Ina Feleo. Truly these merits are well deserved: *Endo* takes a spot among the best of Filipino films, and in viewers' hearts.

**- BY GIANINA DENISING**

**TV SERIES 3.0**

**The Soup**

TIRED OF NONSENSICAL INVESTIGATIONS into the already-pathetic Britney breakdown? Itching for decent (read: non-showbiz oriented) news reports on local television? Thankfully, the heavens have heeded Filipino viewers' plea for sanity with the local premiere of *The Soup*, a smart and humorous half-hour program hosted by Joel McHale.

If there is a need for some mockery of popular media's ongoing absurdity, be assured that McHale is busily conjuring witticisms to return a sense of normalcy to TV programming. From start to finish, viewers are treated to thirty minutes of ludicrous television clips and sheer sarcasm. Laugh at the myriad of prosaic questions thrown at celebrities in the "Chat Stew" segment, or behold the disturbing and bizarre occurrences happening within the confines of the Big Brother house in "Reality Show Clip Time." McHale's effortless delivery of his punch lines, tastefully incorporated with his

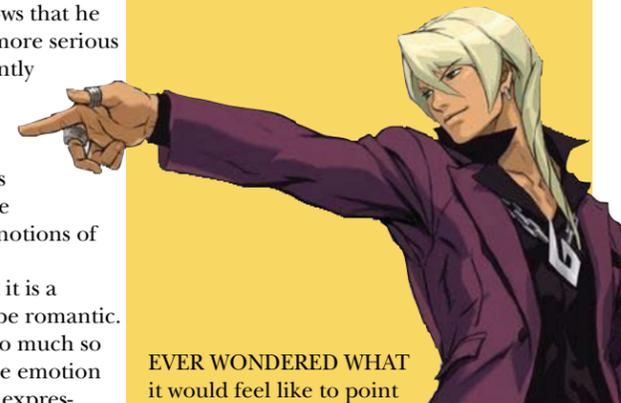
knack for satirizing the dismal condition of television, make this show an enjoyable watch. For intellectuals seeking mind-candy, *The Soup* asks: "Why are we watching the stupid things we watch?" An episode is enough to make you think twice about channel-surfing ever again.

Like every hearty dish, *The Soup* is more than just "yummy for one's tummy," but can also be ingested as "brain food" for those victimized by the tube's abysmal lack of rationality. **- BY ALI CARONONGAN**



**VIDEO GAME 4.0**

**Apollo Justice: Ace Attorney**



EVER WONDERED WHAT it would feel like to point your finger while shouting the word "objection" in a court trial? CAPCOM's latest sequel to their courtroom series *Apollo Justice: Ace Attorney*, promises to quench fans' thirst for more courtroom "action," and boasts witty dialogue and new, interesting features that make it one of this year's most anticipated titles.

Players who are new to the series will be immediately hooked. As defense attorney, you are tasked to find contradictions in witness testimonies. However boring this objective may seem, surprising turn-about cases and an intriguing storyline will surely make anyone ask for more.

The game picks up around seven years after the previous game's storyline, *Trials and Tribulations*. The player is now Apollo Justice, a talented rookie defense attorney. Some previous characters also make appearances especially Phoenix Wright, the protagonist of the past three games, who shows up as a totally different and unexpected persona.

The game's artwork is noticeably cleaner compared to the past sequels; character and background illustrations are depicted vividly. There are animated introductions now—a huge improvement from the manga style it previously had.

The new feature to note is the "perceive system": players can now detect witnesses' strange habits and mannerisms. When accompanied with the cases' contradictions, the perceive system adds an "awe value" to the game, which should make gamers say, "That makes a lot of sense!"

While *Ace Attorney* doesn't have a lot of replay value because of its interactive novel nature, the game still gives players a sense of fulfillment in completing the game because of the critical thinking involved. Political Science major or not, the *Ace Attorney* series will keep anyone hooked for hours. **- BY GEORGE CHAN**



## Off the Beaten Track

# Between Books and the Treadmills

by Gianina Densing and Jeff Salvado

Photo by William Cruz

College life is a bitch. Although students get to choose their own schedules, being a full-time student means very little time for anything else. Add that to the stress-induced habits of smoking and overeating, and we're all looking at a much shorter life span. The situation of this article's writers is no different, but in this edition of Off the Beaten Track, they will try to figure out whether a healthy lifestyle is really feasible in an environment that only encourages work and study. The challenge? Attempt to have a healthy lifestyle on campus to see whether it is possible to maintain one given the busy schedules we all have.

### The Plan

Jeff, a sophomore Advertising Management major, is a chain smoker and a binge eater. For his "healthy lifestyle," Jeff attempted to stop smoking, go on a diet, and go to the gym regularly. The diet would consist of a meal replacement shake for breakfast and dinner. He exchanged his rice and viand lunch for salads or lean meat. His workout consisted of 30 minutes of cardio and one and a half hours of

weight lifting, ideally done every day. He also traded his almost daily doses of bottled iced tea with Del Monte's Fit 'n Right line of fruit juices.

Gia, a frosh Communication Arts and Marketing Management major, is a caffeine junkie. Her task was to stave off coffee and carbohydrates, and to alternate jogging and swimming for 30 minutes each day.

This experiment was to run for two weeks: beginning on Feb. 11 and ending on Feb. 25. This schedule, theoretically, should make the tasks easier for them, since there are only three regular class days because of the Lasallian Enrichment Alternative Program (LEAP). The following week, however, would be tougher, as midterm exams ran from Feb. 18 to 22, projects to submit included. This would determine whether being busy in school would prevent students from living a healthy lifestyle.

### Dark Clouds Brewing

All was, of course, easier said than done. Right away they both realized they were facing an enormous task that required a lot of conviction and willpower. Jeff, whose classes start at 1 pm everyday, suddenly had to give up a few hours of shut-eye just to lift weights. He also needed to control his appetite, having to stick to the diet he planned himself. Quitting smoking was

relatively easier, as he was already short on breath from the gym. Gia's classes ran from 9:40 to 4:40, with little or no breaks in between, so it was easy for her to take smaller, more controlled meals. Unlike Jeff, she did not have a concrete diet plan, aside from regulating the portions of food she ate. But she did utilize all the old dieting tricks, like not having anything after 6 pm and drinking more water.

One of the main problems they encountered was the time constraint, especially during midterm week. Trying to incorporate their exercise programs into each day was also a challenge. As a result, they had to find creative ways of injecting physical activity into their daily routines. Gia took the stairs to all her classes, since most of them were on the 10th floor of the Br. Andrew Gonzalez building.

Aside from taking up their time, living healthier also took a lot of effort. They were strained physically and sometimes emotionally. Jeff did not have his amazing cancer sticks to give the impression that stress was being relieved, making him feel even more pressured. Gia had to struggle without the caffeine perk every morning. Sweets and desserts were out of the question as well. The two of them were exhausted, not only from the exercise, but also from resisting urges to have more food. Being around

food they knew they couldn't eat was a challenge to their self-control.

Cheating was, to their embarrassment, inevitable, but still, they tried to control and limit these little bouts of decadence. The last few days were especially torturous for them, but they were still able to reach their two-week deadline with a sigh of relief.

### Reaping the Rewards

In all, they were able to lose an average of five pounds each. Jeff, who occasionally had insomnia, was able to sleep much easier due to the increased physical activity and the absence of nicotine, which is a known stimulant. He was noticeably more energetic, probably because of the release of endorphins, an addictive euphoria-inducing hormone released through vigorous physical activity. Gia also found herself more active, and that her stamina increased as the days went on. Gradually she was able to adjust her schedule to accommodate her exercise regime, even finding time to join the fencing team. Without the need to spend on designer coffee and heavy lunches, she was also able to set aside more money for her savings.

### Fast Life, Fast Food?

So how conducive is DLSU to living a fit lifestyle? For the most part, the campus is

### BREAKFAST

1 glass Milo	120 calories
1 serving oatmeal, no sugar	105 calories
1 medium apple	75 calories
<b>Total:</b>	<b>300 calories</b>

### LUNCH

1 serving broccoli-ginger stir fry	50 calories
½ cup rice	90 calories
<b>Total:</b>	<b>140 calories</b>

### SNACK

1 chocolate chip granola bar	100 calories
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100 calories</b>

### DINNER

1 baked potato, with ½ Tbsp. butter	180 calories
1 serving pumpkin soup	280 calories
1 scoop vanilla ice cream	130 calories
<b>Total:</b>	<b>590 calories</b>

<b>TOTAL FOR THE DAY</b>	<b>1130 calories</b>
--------------------------	----------------------

Nutrition Intake

## Price Watch

### Non-Diet

Grande Coffee Jelly Frappuccino (Starbucks Coffee)	Php 160
Choco Boom Doughnut (Z2)	Php 25
Pesto Pasta and Drink (the Venue)	Php 100+

**Total Money Spent** **Php 295+**

### Diet

Bottle of Mineral Water (Agno)	Php 15
Chocolate Chip Granola Bar (Z2)	Php 35
Baon (Garlic Stir-fried Vegetables)	Php 0

**Total Money Spent** **Php 50**

**Total Money Saved on Diet Foods:** **Php 235+**

swimming pool, the running oval, and the weight training gym can be utilized by students, as long as there are no PE classes going on. Sports equipment can also be borrowed. In the perimeter of the campus is an Elorde Boxing Gym branch, while other fitness centers such as Slimmers World International in the Adriatico Square of the Pan Pacific Manila, Fitness First in Robinson's Place Ermita, and Gold's Gym in Glorietta are within reach.

### Feasibility Study

So, can a healthy lifestyle be maintained while studying in DLSU? The simple answer is yes, however, it takes a lot of effort to be successful in sustaining one. Healthier options are available at the cafeterias and physical fitness facilities are on hand, so certainly there is no excuse for not trying. The problem really is finding the balance between keeping fit and studying. Concentration in both endeavors is needed—equilibrium between the two must be achieved if one truly wants to succeed. With just the right amount of willpower and commitment, it is possible to live healthy while studying.

### Healthy Options

Amenities-wise, De La Salle tries its best to cater to the physical needs of the academic community. The Olympic-sized

## Golfers dominate 1st Intercollegiate Golf Championship



Photo by Jennerson Ong

The DLSU Golfers once again stood side by side with the glimmering color of gold, as the team captured the 1st Philippine Golf Foundation-National Intercollegiate Golf Championship from Feb. 20-21. DLSU's Charles Hong was given the title of Collegiate Golfer of the Year for his solid performance throughout the tournament.

Team De La Salle took the first leg held at the Splendido Taal Golf and Country Club, tallying 439 strokes, 22 strokes better than Ateneo Team I's 461. DLSU garnered 10 points for this leg, taking an early lead against Ateneo Team I (eight points) and UST's six points. The combined DLSU and College of St. Benilde (CSB) team, on the

other hand, finished fourth in the first leg. DLSU's Charles Hong took individual honors as the Low Medalist, with a -1 finish.

The second leg at the Mt. Malarayat Golf & Country Club, Batangas saw a different result from the first leg. The two Katipunan-based contingents, Ateneo Team I and Ateneo Team II bagged first and third honors for this leg respectively, with DLSU placing second. The results of this leg placed Ateneo Team I in a tie with DLSU, with 18 points apiece. Meanwhile, the De La Salle-CSB (DLS-CSB) group was tied with Ateneo Team II and UST with a score of eight points. DLSU's Justin Limjap bagged individual honors as the Low Medalist for this leg, with a +7 finish.

The third leg saw Ateneo Team I beat DLSU once again by two points, 26 to 28, while DLS-CSB grabbed solo third place. Miko Yee nabbed individual honors as the low medalist, extending De La Salle's streak of individual honors to three.

DLSU Golf started 2008 in the right way by taking the fourth leg of the National Intercollegiate Golf Championship in dramatic fashion. De La Salle won by one stroke, 483 to Ateneo Team I's 484, at the dreaded Andy Dye Course at The Eagle Ridge Golf & Country Club with Justin Limjap sinking a crucial putt to win the leg, tying the rivals in the overall standings, 46 apiece. DLS-CSB extended their lead by four securing them the 2nd runner-up position.

The final leg was held at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf & Country Club under harsh winds and cold conditions. DLSU finished the final leg with a 458 total, 17 strokes better than Ateneo's 475. "Ateneo was only trailing by two after the first round, when DLSU's Justin Limjap gave arguably the best college sports shot of the year by draining a long putt for eagle at the par 5 18th after gaining momentum from birdies on 16 and 17," noted team student manager and DLS-CSB co-captain Jed Bautista. DLS-CSB held on to finish as 2nd runner-up in the tournament. Individual honors went to Justin Limjap, for the second time, as he was given the award for low medalist of the leg for his +3 finish.

Team DLSU consisted of Geleen Handog, Charles Hong, Justin Limjap, Aran Olea of De La Salle-Dasmariñas, Marco Olives, PJ Plata, Miko Yee, and team captain Jorge Paez. Team DLS-CSB was composed of CSB Captain Jay Alvarez, Jared Sanson and Mac Arevalo of CSB, and DLSU captain Jed Bautista, Tristan Laxa, Migol Marcelo, Nico Sevilla, and Fern Zaldarriaga of DLSU. Other schools which participated in the tournament include the University of the East (UE), University of Sto. Tomas (UST), University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), and the British School-Manila. - BY JED GONZALES

## OSD looks for more tutors

PROMPTED BY COMMENTS and suggestions from varsity team coaches, managers, and members, the Office of Sports Development (OSD), has been looking for tutors for student-athletes in math, science, accounting, language, and philosophy subjects since the second term.

It was only during mid-term week of this trimester though, when the OSD, through the Information Technology Center's (ITC) HelpDesk, sent a University-wide e-mail "in search of students or faculty members to tutor student-athletes."

To be eligible for UAAP play, an athlete must pass the minimum number of units (12) a student should enroll in every trimester.

The office has been recruiting tutors "for some time now," but according to OSD secretary Edwin Reyes, it is only now that the program is being publicized because of the need for more tutors. The initiative, now headed by Marijin Gonzales, currently has six volunteers available for requesting athletes.

There are no monetary rewards for tutors, but Reyes remarked that tutors will be given snacks and possibly have better access to UAAP tickets in the future. Financial incentives are a future likelihood if the program gains popularity, he said. - BY KATHERINE ANNE TINGZON



Photo by Jennerson Ong

## Goodbye, Pep; hello "Animo"?

THE PEP SQUAD WILL BE RENAMED "Animo Squad" and will be subdivided into cheering and competitive groups for the next UAAP season, according to Office of Sports Development (OSD) Director Br. Bernie Oca.

The change will be an experimental one, said Br. Bernie, and based on the organizational models of the University of the Philippines (UP) and the University of Sto. Tomas (UST). This is to increase the Univer-

sity's chances of winning in intercollegiate competitions and, at the same time, improve cheering during sporting events.

The La Salle Dance Company, which will be involved in this restructuring, was informed of this change in January. Tin Umali, an LSDC-Street member, said that the change will make training schedules more difficult, and will most likely compromise LSDC techniques.

While many LSDC and Pep Squad mem-

bers are against the formation of the Animo Squad, auditions for the new team have already begun.

Br. Bernie admitted that he was expecting a lot of anxieties from the people involved because this system is completely new, but nonetheless said that he wants this kind of set-up be implemented to make room for positive changes with the squad.

- BY CHRISTINE SUNTAY

## DLSU, adidas ink agreement

DLSU-MANILA AND ADIDAS ON Jan. 30 agreed on a three-year branding deal, providing the University a scholarship fund while making the sports brand the official outfitter of DLSU-Manila sports teams and manufacturer of De La Salle sports apparel for the consuming public.

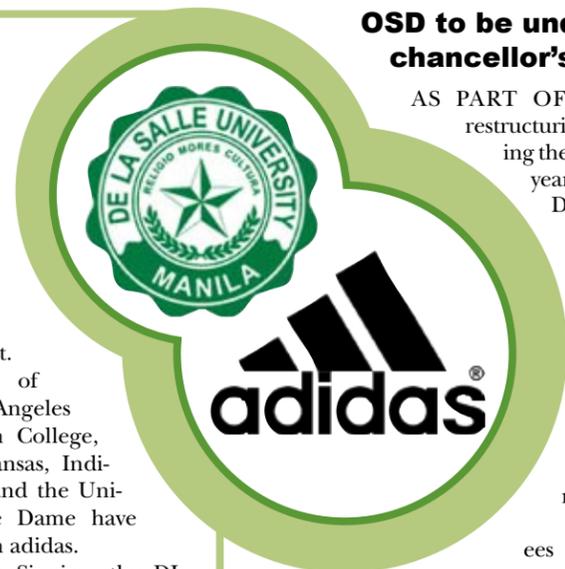
DLSU-Manila President and Chancellor Br. Armin Luistro FSC said that the partnership will help in attaining the University's goal of having P1 billion for scholarships in time for De La Salle's centennial celebration in 2011. "We need fresh funds. This is an ambitious project," said Br. Armin.

"We have put significance to the partnership by co-branding DLSU-Manila apparel similar to top collegiate programs in the United States," said adidas Philippines managing

director Joey Singian during the signing of the memorandum of agreement.

The University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA), Boston College, University of Kansas, Indiana University, and the University of Notre Dame have similar deals with adidas.

According to Singian, the DLSU-adidas co-branded apparel consisting of jackets, polo shirts, graphic shirts, and other accessories will be made available starting July at adidas stores in Rockwell, Glorietta, Megamall, Trinoma, and Gateway. - BY DEAN SEDRICK CARLOS



## OSD to be under new vice chancellor's office

AS PART OF ADMINISTRATIVE restructuring initiatives began during the beginning of the school year, the Office of Sports Development (OSD) is going to be placed under a new Vice Chancellor for External Operations starting next school year should the Board of Trustees approve it in their meeting this month, according to OSD Director Br. Bernie Oca.

The Board of Trustees will then evaluate the proposal most probably in their upcoming March meeting. Once approved, the said organizational change will take effect next school year.

"It will be directly under the vice chancellor... hopefully bureaucracy will be minimized. The structure of the sports teams is really representing the school outside the University, so it makes sense that it's part of the external operations department," justified Br. Bernie. In the current set-up, the OSD Director reports to the Dean of Student Affairs. - BY JEFFERSON QUINCY REYES

# A modest comeback: De La Salle's UAAP Season 70

by Jefferson Quincy Reyes  
With reports from Camille Pinto

We're back. We're one. Nonetheless, following a string of upsets, disappointments, and yet another ineligibility issue in the second half of UAAP competition, DLSU, with 194 points, is expected to finish just fifth among eight schools in the overall standings.

De La Salle ended its UAAP second half campaign with only a single championship to its credit after entering this phase of the season as defending champions in women's badminton, women's football, women's tennis, and women's volleyball.

The University of Sto. Tomas (UST), host of this UAAP season, will likely clinch its tenth seniors' general championship title. The University of the Philippines (UP) and Far Eastern University (FEU), on the other

hand, will either end up second or third, depending on how the final tally turns out. They have 219 and 215 points, respectively.

### Equally important

FEU and DLSU's contrasting fates in the race for the general championship highlight the importance of doing well in the generally lesser known second half events.

FEU surprised the rest of the league after securing a spot in the top three despite not having representatives in some events. The Morayta team clinched titles in football and track and field.

The University's lone championship came courtesy of the men's badminton team, which improved on its third place finish in Season 68. DLSU also improved its standing

in women's track and field. On other events, the Green and White plummeted: Most notably, the Green Spikers went from fifth to sixth; the Green Tracksters slipped to sixth from being second in 2005-2006.

According to Justine Marchadesch, team captain of the men's volleyball team, their mediocre finish can be attributed to the predominantly rookie make-up of the Spikers' line-up after many athletes left in view of the University's suspension.

Perennial contenders Lady Booters lost the women's football crown to Far Eastern University (FEU) in a deciding second game. Even so, Coach Hans Smit praised his team's performance: "They overachieved actually. I was even speculating that we would be lucky to get third place this year because of the

injuries I had. Fifteen rookies, three seniors from the first 11 and we started the UAAP with six or seven injured."

Stephanie Pheasant was named Best Defender, and Samantha Nierras was named Best Midfielder and Rookie of the Year. Coach Smit also commended rookie goalkeeper Haya Ibarra and co-captain Issa Camara for their strong showing throughout the season.

The Lady Spikers, meanwhile, had a legitimate chance at recapturing the women's volleyball crown upon entering the Final Four—until the UAAP Eligibility Committee headed by Rolando Perez forfeited all their wins since Jan. 15, because of a technicality regarding the playing status of leading scorer Jacqueline Alarca. Alarca continued to compete with the Lady Spikers despite a DLSU-approved leave of absence. As a result, the De La Salle volleyball team dropped from 6-7 to 3-11, ending this season at seventh. (The two volleyball teams' finishes notwithstanding, Chris Macasaet and Celine Hernandez were named Best Blocker in their respective events.)

On the same note, the Green Batters, Softbells, and Fencers retained their Season 68 places.

Perhaps the most disappointing finish of the season, however, was that of the men's football squad, which finished last after placing second to Ateneo de Manila in Season 68.

### Suspension factor

Why has Team De La Salle fared badly this time around?

Smit and Marchadesch think that the one-year suspension is the primary reason. The teams, they said, had to form the new line-ups primarily composed of rookies while more reliable senior players had already graduated. (The men's and women's football teams, for example, had 15 and 16 rookies.)

"The athletes don't really know the tradition in the UAAP, like that intensity and the pressure that's brought about by the league. So without any initial training or experience in UAAP, is another big factor [in the unsatisfactory performance of the teams]," Smit remarked.

Office of Sports Development (OSD) Director Br. Bernie Oca is of the same opinion: "Because of the suspension. During last year, we were not able to have many recruits that we wanted... they went to other universities. Then the teams were not able to join other tournaments as compared to the UAAP, so when they eventually played in the UAAP they did not have the experience."

## UAAP SEASON 68 & 70 Results Comparison

### DLSU FIRST HALF SPORTS

SPORT	RANK	
	SEASON 68	SEASON 70
BASKETBALL	8th	1st
	5th	6th
CHESS	2nd	2nd
	2nd	2nd
SWIMMING	4th	3rd
	3rd	4th
TABLE TENNIS	5th	5th
	3rd	4th
JUDO	4th	3rd
	3rd	2nd
TAEKWONDO	4th	4th
	3rd	5th
BEACH VOLLEYBALL	-	7th
	-	6th

Men's Division  
Women's Division

### DLSU SECOND HALF SPORTS

SPORT	RANK	
	SEASON 68	SEASON 70
BADMINTON	3rd	1st
	1st	2nd
BASEBALL	6th	6th
SOFTBALL	5th	5th
FENCING	6th	6th
	6th	6th
FOOTBALL	2nd	6th
	1st	2nd
TENNIS	1st	2nd
	1st	3rd
TRACK & FIELD	7th	6th
	3rd	4th
VOLLEYBALL	5th	6th
	1st	6th

Men's Division  
Women's Division

Source: Mr. Gerry Achacoso

Photos by Francis Garrucho, Ian Meru, William Cruz and Jennerson Ong

## UAAP SEASON 70 General Championship Tally

SPORT	DLSU	UST	UP	ADMU	UE	FEU	ADU	NU
Basketball	15	6	1	10	12	8	2	4
	4	10	12	15	2	6	8	1
Chess	12	6	8	2	10	15	dnj	4
	12	15	10	2	6	8	dnj	4
Swimming	10	12	15	8	dnj	dnj	dnj	dnj
	8	15	10	12	6	dnj	dnj	dnj
Table Tennis	6	15	8	2	10	12	dnj	4
	8	12	10	6	dnj	15	dnj	4
Judo	10	12	15	8	6	dnj	dnj	dnj
	12	10	15	8	6	dnj	dnj	dnj
Taekwondo	8	12	6	10	4	15	dnj	dnj
	6	15	12	8	4	10	dnj	dnj
Beach Volleyball	2	10	1	6	8	15	12	4
	4	2	1	12	8	15	10	6
<b>1st Semester TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>
Tennis	12	15	10	8	6	dnj	dnj	dnj
	10	15	8	12	dnj	dnj	dnj	dnj
Volleyball	4	15	8	2	6	12	10	1
	4	10	6	8	1	15	12	2
Fencing	4	15	8	6	12	10	dnj	dnj
	4	8	10	12	15	6	dnj	dnj
Badminton	15	8	6	4	12	10	2	dnj
	12	15	8	2	6	10	4	1
Baseball	4	12	10	6	dnj	dnj	15	8
Softball	6	10	15	4	8	dnj	12	dnj
Athletics	4	12	6	10	8	15	dnj	dnj
	8	12	6	4	10	15	dnj	dnj
Football	4	10	8	12	6	15	dnj	dnj
	12	10	6	8	dnj	15	dnj	dnj
<b>2nd Semester TOTAL</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>43</b>
No. of Events Joined	28	28	28	28	23	20	10	12
Average Point / Event	7.86	11.39	8.54	7.39	7.48	12.10	8.70	3.58

Men's Division  
Women's Division





## Team of the Year

### DLSU Green Archers

A series sweep, a championship trophy, two mythical five members, and an “Animo Night” celebration later, everything was back to normal in DLSU.

Who could possibly make the world seemingly come to a halt in a university normally preoccupied with other pressing matters? Who could possibly make Lasallians, excelling in their respective fields near and far, unite to yell “Animo La Salle!”

None other than the DLSU Green Archers, UAAP Season 70 Senior Men’s Basketball Champions—and The LaSallian’s choice for 2007 Team of The Year.

Indeed, who better to represent the Green and White than this scrappy team known for having the courage to beat the odds, doing more with less, aiming high, and finally achieving their ultimate goal?

Despite losing key players to graduation and being denied competing at the highest level of Philippine collegiate basketball for a whole season, the Green Archers exploded into the scene early last year to dominate off-season leagues. In the process they took home the 2007 Nike Summer League and 2007 Fil-Oil Summer Invitational League titles.

However, the off-season is one thing, and the UAAP is of another level entirely. Many argued that the current squad, left with only a handful of veterans from seasons past, lacked the talent to recapture the crown against their relatively battle-hardened foes in the UAAP—especially since they lost one season’s worth of experience.

And so brimming with an insatiable thirst for redemption and lost glory, this veteran team mixed with young talent began their uphill journey last July 7, 2007 against the UP Fighting Maroons in what was to be a season to remember... and the rest, as they say, is history.

# The LaSallian SPORTS AWARDS

by Philip Ang, Quincy Reyes, Dean Carlos, and Jed Gonzales

Photo by Jennerson Ong



## Coach of the Year

Photo by Francis Garrucho

### Franz Pumaren

As the common denominator in the Green Archers’ six titles over the past nine years, De La Salle may lose players regularly to graduation and the pro ranks, but as long as Coach Franz remains in the La Salle bench, DLSU will always be the team to beat.

That is why The LaSallian has chosen Coach Franz Pumaren as 2007’s Coach of the Year.

Indeed Season 70 may have been witness to one of the most storied basketball seasons we have seen in years. Here was a new DLSU squad, heavily lacking in experience due to a one year exile from the UAAP, looking to shock the world with a stunning comeback—and it was Coach Franz’s job to guide this team.

The road was not easy. The team’s first loss came at the hands of none other than Dindo Pumaren, Coach Franz’s younger brother, and his mighty University of the East (UE) Red Warriors—the squad that would dominate the elimination rounds. Losses to archrival Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) Blue Eagles would also dampen the team’s resolve.

Unfazed, Coach Franz guided his boys to stunning victories in the playoffs, knocking out the Blue Eagles in the clincher of a three-game series.

Then, in a fitting climax to what has been a fairy tale season for him and his Archers, he once again faced his brother and the previously undefeated Red Warriors in the big dance.

The Warriors may have been a superior team on paper, but they lacked something the Archers possess—that is a veteran coach who has seen it all before. Coach Franz steered the La Salle squad into an unlikely upset of the same UE squad that blew them out in their first meeting earlier that season.

As favorites—or in this case, as underdogs—the Archers proved that it takes a lot more than talent and skill to win a UAAP championship.

It also takes a certain six-time UAAP champion coach.

### Joseph Evans Casio

Game 2 of the UAAP Season 70 Finals. With La Salle leading by seven with 10 minutes left in the final period, University of the East (UE) used a 6-0 run to cut the deficit to one. The Archers turn to Casio, who drains jumper from downtown—a shot that has come to be his trademark—to stave off the attack. Then, with less than a minute remaining and DLSU up by just five, Casio, like three seasons ago, faked a shot, sent his defender flying by, and nailed another dagger as the shot clock expired.

That basket virtually sealed the game and DLSU clinched another title.

With his excellent play in the finals series, JV Casio shared finals MVP honors with teammate Cholo Villanueva. Moreover, he and fellow Green Archer Rico Maierhoffer were selected to be part of this year’s mythical five lineup.

Averaging 14.8 points, 4.1 rebounds, 3.4 assists, and 1.2 steals in the elimination rounds and postseason, JV Casio has grown into a dependable player capable of doing whatever is needed for a win. Whether it’s a clutch step-back jumper, a drive in traffic, a freethrow with the game on the line, a kick-out pass to an open teammate, or a sneaky steal, Casio can do it all.

Once again, when it mattered the most, Casio displayed his basketball prowess and winning mentality for the world to see. Only this time, he has the hardware to prove it.



## Male Athlete of the Year

Photo by Jennerson Ong

### Green Netters

For two consecutive years prior to De La Salle’s suspension, the highest spot that the Green Netters landed was third place. Season 70 was a different story, as the Green Netters swept their games and eventually emerged champions.

Fueled by mediocre past performances, the Green Netters’ core of Rhaul Angeles, Ricky Cajefe, Michaels Paclibar, Rodel Dawal, Kelvin Tim Ang, Bryan Chan, Ron Quimbo, and Iggy Bolisay had been training since their last third place finish. Their training intensified from November of 2007, resting only during the holiday season.

The first week of the new year brought a surprise to the team: An Indonesian coach was brought in to train the players lined up to play for the upcoming season for a week. “We enjoyed, learned a lot from our Indonesian coach, and brought our self-discipline to a higher level,” said Netter Ricky Cajefe of their experience with Coach Indra.

Their three-day teambuilding two weeks before UAAP competition was also effective. “The whole team was really inspired and [that] encouraged everyone to step up. We had an open forum one night that resulted to us treating each other as brothers and sisters, sharing one goal, that is, to be the champions,” related Cajefe.

While Cajefe, Angeles, Quimbo, and Bolisay will be graduating, the Netters are optimistic that they have what it takes to repeat their Season 70 triumph.

### Maxim Quilala

Prized Green Tankers recruit Maxim “Ixxi” Quilala was named Rookie of the Year in this last UAAP season, and for his impressive performances, The LaSallian has chosen him as its Rookie of the Year.

Ixxi bagged three gold medals in the 50, 100, and 200 meter backstroke. He also received one silver and one bronze medal in the 200 and 400 meter individual medleys.

Serious daily training is a routine for Ixxi, who is rightfully pleased with the good results of his pre-season workout.

His brother, team captain Mikki, on the other hand, said that he is pleased that Ixxi “was able to live up to all the expectations.”



## Male Rookie of the Year

Photo by Ian Meru



## Surprise Team of the Year

Photo by Ian Meru



**Female Rookie  
of the Year**

Photo by Alvin Lau

## Samantha Nierras

By Jefferson Quincy Reyes

She maybe a rookie in the UAAP football scene, but she is definitely not in the sport. A member of the women's national football team and one of DLSU's prized neophyte athletes, Lady Booter No. 20 Samantha Camille Nierras is UAAP Season 70's Best Midfielder and Rookie of the Year.

It was her late 85th minute goal that vanquished archrival Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) to earn DLSU a finals ticket to face top seed Far Eastern University (FEU) in the UAAP Season 70 women's football tourney. Her persistence, patience, and character on the field is reflected in her playing experience: She has been playing the sport since she was in the second grade. "I've been dreaming of getting to play UAAP football since I moved to the Philippines in the sixth grade," said this US-born athlete.

When asked about her feelings on the recent UAAP awards she received, this sophomore year BS Electronics and Communications Engineering student modestly commented, "It's great to be recognized as ROY and Best Midfielder. There are a lot of great players out there and it's an honor to be given those awards. I would have preferred that my team won the championship though." The Lady Booters only succumbed to the Lady Tamaraws after forcing a do-or-die match following a first game victory on penalty shootout.

"This is the first time I've played on a team with 15 rookies. I believe we could have won this season but we fell short probably due to lack of experience and a lot of us had injuries. [But] it was a lot of fun," she added.

Interestingly, her sporting career in DLSU did not begin in football. Samantha was initially under a basketball scholarship. Thus, she played for the Lady Archers in July 2007. After the UAAP basketball season, DLSU football coach Hans Smit asked her to play for the Lady Booters in the Unigames in October. It was only after the 2007 Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), where she competed as part of the women's national football team, did she join the DLSU women's football team and started training for the season.



**Female Athlete  
of the Year**

Photo by Alvin Lau

## Stephanie Pheasant

By Jefferson Quincy Reyes

Pheasant first started playing in the UAAP in 2002. Since then, Stef has been a member of DLSU champion squads. This recent UAAP Season 70, the sixth year EGC-APM (Education and Psychology) student assumed a leadership role for the rookie-laden squad.

Pheasant scored DLSU's first goal in the penalty shootout against Far Eastern University (FEU) in the two teams' first finals game, boosting her teammates' morale and leading them to a deciding match which, however, they did not win.

"This season is one of the hardest I've ever gone through. We had 15 rookies and most of us had major and minor injuries altogether. It was a tough year and although we didn't get what we wanted, we learned a lot from what we had to go through," she said.

Despite the difficulties, Pheasant undauntedly led the Lady Booters to a runner-up finish. With this, Coach Hans Smit is all praises for Pheasant, describing her as "hardworking, determined, good leader and loyal, smart and intelligent player."

Because of her tenacity, power and skill, she was named UAAP Season 70's Best Defender. Previously, she was Rookie of the Year (2002-2003), two-time Most Valuable Player (2004-2005 and 2005-2006), and two-time Best Defender (2003-2004 and 2004-2005). She was also MVP and Best Defender in the Philippine National Women's Open in 2006, MVP in the Adidas futsal league in 2005, and MVP in the Rudy Project Beach Football 2007.

When asked about her thoughts about her recent UAAP award, she, in true fashion, replied like a true champion: "Getting the award made me a bit happy and thankful that they felt I deserved it, but honestly I wanted us to be champions more than I wanted any of the awards."

# Lamenting the Library

by Darcy Reburiano

Two months ago, I went to the library to look for a reference for my thesis. I was in a bit of hurry; I wanted to get the reference before my next class begins. Suddenly, I ran across a friend inside the library, who asked me: "Tol, *San mo nakita yung book na hiniram mo dati?*" A bit annoyed, I told him that I couldn't remember, and added with sarcasm that that's what the OPAC was for. He replied in an equally sarcastic tone that the OPAC was down.

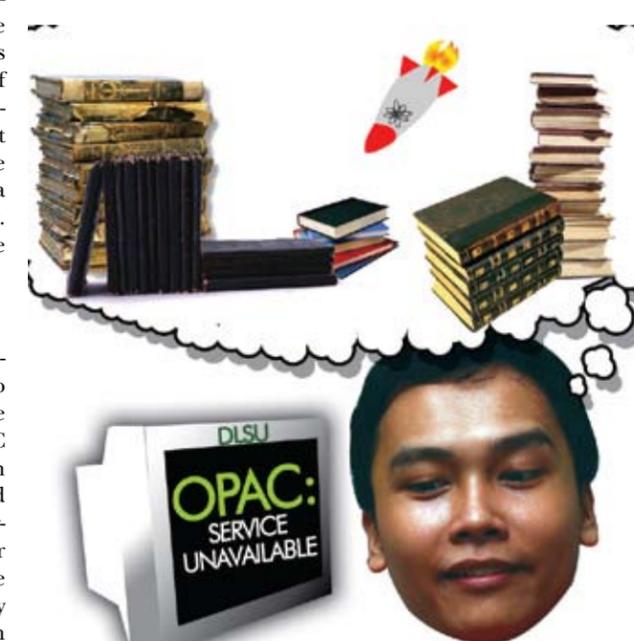
For two months, the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) of the De La Salle University Library experienced a major case of hardware failure. The hard drive that contains all the data of items in the library crashed. Library users could be seen wandering the library's floors looking for books like a bunch of souls in purgatory looking for salvation. I don't know about you, but seeing a "world class" university have students unable to properly find a book—well, it's pretty embarrassing. But far more embarrassing was the DLSU community's reaction.

### Over-reliance on OPAC

The DLSU-OPAC is pretty convenient for the students. Compared to other universities and colleges, the user-friendly interface of the OPAC is definitely easier to navigate than the archaic code-based system used in other campuses, so it's not surprising why it's heavily relied on for student research. But over-reliance on the OPAC extends to the library management as well. The reason why students had to play hide and seek with their references was due to the lack of a physical card catalog. It makes sense to make the card catalog obsolete since it's cheaper and easier to manage a digital means of archiving. But systems can fail, and as the recent hard drive crash demonstrates, what will be the alternative when high-tech fails?

**The students, most specially, don't seem to realize the importance of the library. There was no real community outburst of anger or even frustration when the library was barely functional for two months.**

And why was there little effort to even highlight the problem? I personally heard of the OPAC failure via word-of-mouth only, with no readily visible sign in the library saying that the OPAC was down. It's as if the library is trying to downplay the problem instead of providing at least some short term solution. Sure, a library card was issued in lieu of the unavailability of the "scanning" means of borrowing books. However, a short term replacement for sorting through books was not provided. The library obviously adopts a system in arranging its books—all those materials aren't arranged randomly. Why not provide a pamphlet that describes



Graphics by Jeremy Magnaye

how books are arranged, instead of letting students rely on memories of where certain books are placed during the OPAC failure?

### Community Apathy

While the library may have had some inadequacies during the malfunction, the OPAC failure was admittedly an accident, rather than a result of mismanagement on the part of the library itself. What the OPAC failure really highlighted was the DLSU community's apparent indifference to the fate of the library. This is a far more serious issue. The students, most specially, don't seem to realize the importance of the library.

There was no real community outburst of anger or even frustration when the library was barely functional for two months. I bare-

ly even heard conversations about the malfunction. Given that theses and dissertations are done every term in all colleges, I fail to grasp how the DLSU community could just ignore the fact that they have very little resources available with the unavailability of the OPAC.

Again, the problem I see is that of over-reliance. This time, it's too much reliance on the Internet. Let's face it, how many times did we go to Wikipedia to find an answer for a research or term paper? With the ease of use and the sheer amount of information available in the World Wide Web, it seems that books are things of the past. Not only can you search for information quickly, you can translate it quickly into the format you need for submission (cut and paste anyone?).

I resent such an idea. While a wealth of information is available online, how much of that information is reliable? Even the highly abused Wikipedia can be edited by anyone at any time, which can translate to erroneous data when used. The same could be said of other Internet sources. The digital realm has no system yet of monitoring plagiarism or downright use of wrong information. That's where books come in. Published material, by virtue of translating information into something tangible, can easily be scrutinized and compared. This means that information in printed references have to be reliable, lest someone contest them.

Ironically, a university that prides itself as "world class" seems to not even recognize the value of real, tangible, and reliable knowledge.

### The Death of Knowledge

During the 3rd Century BC, the oldest known university and first modern library was built: the Great Library of Alexandria. From this great repository of knowledge came the rules of geometry and the first mathematical proof that the world was round. It was destroyed almost a thousand years later, and humanity continues to lament the knowledge lost. The OPAC incident in DLSU somehow gave us a glimpse of the destruction of knowledge within the University. Unfortunately, no one even cared. With the basic foundation of learning—reading—not given importance in DLSU, we have dealt knowledge a killing blow.

The tyranny of some is possible only  
through the cowardice of others.

RIZAL'S LETTER TO THE WOMEN OF MALOLOS. FEB. 22 1899

