

Tinig ng Plaridel

the official student publication of the UP Diliman College of Mass Communication

Year 30 Issue 2

<http://www.tinignplaridel.net>

July 15, 2009

CMC orgs slam student code

By Rachel Miranda
and Jenin Velasquez

At least 12 out of 15 College of Mass Communication (CMC) student organizations are joining the outcry against new rules and regulations for UP Diliman students.

The college-based organizations had disagreed with several provisions in the 2009 Student Code of Conduct, which was drafted in January by a five-person review committee composed of faculty members and school officials.

Among the code's contentious provisions were the new criteria for an organization to be recognized by the university.

The new definition of a university-recognized student organization requires that an organization comprise one in every five hundred students of the eligible student population to qualify.

It also requires 49 percent at most of an organization's members to come from one college.

The Public Relations and Advertising Society (UP PRAdS) said the new quotas do not respect "respect the diversity of student organizations" and may force them to aim

for quantity over quality of members.

These criteria, if approved, will revoke the university recognition of PRAdS and another group, Samahan ng Mga Mag-aaral sa Komunikasyon. They said more than half of its current 40 members are from CMC.

Benefits of being a university-recognized organization include a chance of gaining a *tambayan* and possible financial assistance. They could also use UP's name, seal, as well as utilize facilities and premises for cheaper rates.

Meanwhile, rules for college-based recognition will be left for the colleges to decide.

A direct insult

In addition to the existing rule prohibiting freshmen to join fraternities and sororities, first years and transferees from other schools will be banned to apply membership in organizations.

Cineastes' Studio president Candice Perez said in a statement that organizations help first years adjust to life in UP with programs such as the annual Freshmen Orientation Program Committee and block-

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Gawad Plaridel awardee Kidlat Tahimik, also known as Eric de Guia, wows the audience as he moves to a native Igorot dance as part of his lecture. An adopted son of Ifugao, Tahimik has lived with the natives, teaching them how to use technology in documenting their lives - tradition and culture- through film. (Roehl Niño Bautista)

Tahimik makes noise at Gawad Plaridel

By Maria Katrina Elaine Alba

Allow your *sariling dwende* to speak to you for the indio-genius to come out.

So said Gawad Plaridel awardee Kidlat Tahimik on July 3 to budding independent filmmakers as he danced onstage and honored his mentor for becoming his inspiration.

Stripping from a blue toga and a Macintosh notebook to a pink shirt and a red *bahag*, the Father of Philippine independent cinema danced to the Ifugao beat—a defiance from the traditional speech-giving during the awards.

"If we nurtured them (independ-

ent filmmakers), I think we will acknowledge Philippine films as one of the best, culturally-sensitive to the nature of the *sariling dwende* (inner dwarf)" he said.

Also known as Eric de Guia, Tahimik emphasized the importance of the *sariling dwende* to an indie filmmaker. He described it as "rational and cautionary," existing in everyone and enabling an exclusive view of the world to produce a unique work.

A former president of the UP student council, he described his style with "*kapa-kapa* films, *pukpok-taktak* architecture, and *bahala-na* scripts."

UP Diliman Chancellor Sergio

Cao remarked of him saying, "People often fail to see the visionary in the peculiar."

Bienvenido Lumbea, National Artist for Literature, agreed and said "His films are a journey to the soul of a Filipino."

Cosmic mispronunciation

Tahimik, director of internationally-acclaimed 1977 film "Mabangong Bangungot" (Perfumed Nightmare), credited the concept of the *sariling dwende* to his best friend and mentor Lopes Nauyac.

Nauyac had once mispronounced indigenous to sound as, "we in the genius culture," prompting Tahimik to stay with the Ifugao for more than 10 years and teaching them

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Staff Regent: Confirm Student Regent

By Franz Jonathan de la Fuente

The UP Staff Regent expressed hope on Tuesday that Charisse Bañez be finally confirmed as Student Regent (SR) once she submitted her audited financial statement.

Clodualdo "Buboy" Cabrera, the sole representative of the university's professional and administrative personnel on the UP Board of Regents (BOR), said that the incoming SR deserved to be confirmed at the soonest possible time.

"I see no other reason to further delay her confirmation. By not confirming Bañez, her mandate to serve is practically ignored, and the studentry is deprived of representation," he said.

Despite Bañez's selection in Iloilo last April and her fulfillment of the SR requirements, the BOR still delayed confirming her as SR during their meeting last June 25.

Cabrera, who was elected staff regent early this year, said the BOR acknowledged Bañez' selection but could not formally recognize her until she cleared up her case with UP Los Baños (UPLB).

The BOR had also requested Bañez, the former UPLB university student council (USC) chairperson, to submit the audited financial statement of the council during her term, particularly on the cash collection and budget for the UPLB February fair.

Because of her non-confirmation, Bañez could only be an observer during BOR meetings. Resolutions she proposed must first be endorsed by outgoing SR Shahana Abdwulhid.

Bañez described the request for auditing as a clear manifestation of the administration's efforts to delay her confirmation on the BOR.

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Dean: new *tambayans* by December

By Katherine Elona

The construction of permanent *tambayans* for student organizations is expected to be completed by December, according to College of Mass Communication dean Ronaldo Tolentino last Tuesday.

He said the construction of the official *tambayans* and the refurbishment of the college canteen would be finished by the end of this year, thanks to the one million pesos given by Senator Edgardo Angara.

"The validity of Angara's one million-peso donation will only last

until this year. Hence it has to be used (by December). Otherwise, it will have to be returned to Angara," Tolentino explained.

Previously, the Office of the Campus Architect (OCA) had completed a plan for a 3.2 million-peso complex that will house the *tambayans*, canteen and offices of staff cooperatives.

However, Tolentino said the college dropped the plan in favor of using the aforementioned donation to renovate the mechanical room behind the main building to accommodate both the *tambayans*, which

will lodge 17 of the organizations, and the canteen.

Initial plan of buying huts as temporary *tambayans* was scrapped since the permanent structures will already be available by the end of the year, said CMC student council chair Rupert Mangilit.

"Furthermore, huts are harder to maintain, as they might get infested with termites," he added.

The administration and the student council had already agreed to provide a temporary *tambayan* for recognized organizations at the

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Admin denies bias with new rooms

By Alexandra Francisco

No strings attached here.

The College of Mass Communication (CMC) administration last week denied any partiality with the two-million peso renovation of M209 and M211, as funded by the Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI).

CMC dean Rolando Tolentino said donations are welcome as long as the donor doesn't interfere with the academic curriculum.

"Academic freedom is all we hold on to in UP," he said.

If the agreement affected the degree programs and favored PDI, the agreement would have never been signed in the first place, he added.

Journalism professor Rachel Khan, the department chair during the agreement signing, also agreed that the donation hardly affected

the degree programs.

"And what would PDI ask for in exchange?" she said.

Meanwhile, CMC Student Council chairperson Rupert Mangilit said that despite being given "in good faith," the donation led students towards a mainstream-oriented mindset.

Although it's not imposed, Mangilit said the presence of private entities would gradually compromise the orientation of the journalism department and the balance between the importance of mainstream and alternative press.

"As students, we could be thankful that donations spared us from paying additional lab fees (but) we can survive without them," he said, adding it was better if the college received higher government subsidy.

But Tolentino said the govern-

ment could not provide funds for renovation, so they sourced from private institutions and alumni.

PDI president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez expressed hope that the national daily would be "prosperous enough" to continue funding CMC's infrastructure projects.

Rooms M209 and M211, inaugurated the Inquirer.net classroom and PDI newsroom respectively on June 29, were repainted and equipped with new air conditioning units, tables, chairs and projectors.

The 17 brand new flat-screen computers are used by the layout and online journalism classes at Room M211.

The Philippine Star, the Coca-Cola Company and other alumni had also funded the renovation of other rooms and facilities in CMC.

Former UP head mocks Con-ass in SONA

By Cielo Marjorie Goño

It would be very stupid of the Pres. Gloria Arroyo to back up a Constituent Assembly (Con-ass) on her upcoming State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 27, according to political analyst Prof. Francisco Nemenzo.

"I think it will be really foolhardy for Arroyo to pursue that (Con-ass) in her SONA given the strong opposition coming from several sectors. It will be a sign of how desperate she is," said the former University of the Philippines president.

Considering that several groups and churches, business clubs and even United States representatives were against the charter change, it would be a reckless move of the administration to convene a con-ass on Arroyo's 9th SONA, according to Nemenzo.

"And we're not even sure if she can reach the ¾ majority (of the Congress) in the SONA that is required to convene a Con-ass. Even (House Speaker) Prospero Nograles is doubtful if they can reach that number," he said.

On June 2009, the House of Representatives had passed House Resolution 1109, which called Congress to convene a Con-ass and propose constitutional amendments.

"I am not against the charter change itself. I recognize that our constitution is defective but I am worried with the provisions that our Congress might introduce," Nemenzo said.

Some congressmen said they were concerned the charter change would be more lenient towards foreign ownership. This is contrary to speculations that the changes aimed for term extensions by shifting to a parliamentary system.

"Although these (economic) provisions are not respected by the current administration, they still serve as our last defenses against the encroachment of foreign capital," Nemenzo explained.

In addition, student groups in the university also expressed their fears that the constitutional amendments, although economic, could spill over to the education sector.

Mangilit, a member of the Student Alliance for the Advancement of Democratic Rights-UP, said UP had adopted pro-commercialization policies through tuition and other fee increases and tie-ups with business entities.

"This is a challenge to us to remain vigilant and concern on the course of events related to the issue of charter change," Mangilit said.

SR ...

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"The UPLB financial statements are publicized, as stated in the 1984 constitution, in the student publication The Perspective. Auditing is therefore unnecessary. Plus, the BOR is not a quasi-judicial, fact-finding body to begin with," she said.

Aside from the audited financial statement, Bañez was also required to issue written and oral apologies to certain UPLB officials, after the UPLB student disciplinary tribunal found her guilty of "deliberate discourtesy" and "gross misconduct" two days after her selection as SR last April.

The UPLB administration officials accused her of uttering derogatory statements against the college

As Congress session draws near Campus pubs oppose right of reply

By Hon Sophia Balod and Erica de Guzman

With two weeks before the State of the Nation Address (SONA) and the resumption of Congress, campus publications in UP register their stand once again against the Right of Reply (ROR) bill.

Solidaridad, an alliance of UP campus publications and writing organizations, stands firm in its statement against the House Bill 3306, or the ROR bill.

"This is reflective of the long history of the Arroyo administration in repressing the media. Besides being unconstitutional and exploitive, the intention of the bill is clear: to burden and obstruct media's reportage," Solidaridad-Diliman consul-general Larissa Mae Suarez said.

The ROR bill, which is expected to be discussed when Congress resumes on July 27, obligates the

Printing services offered by CMC-SC

The CMC student council will be offering desktop printing services for students by the end of July. Council officials said it will spare students from rushing to the Shopping Center or printing at higher rates at the library or the Bahay ng Alumni. Offered rates will be as low as one or two pesos per page.

New DZUP transmitter to be raised by end of sem

The brand-new transmitter for DZUP 1602, the CMC-operated radio station, will be erected at the Balara filter on the last half of the semester, said college officials last June. Residents of the affected area were relocated. The transmitter will allow DZUP to broadcast to the Greater Manila Area, reaching

News briefs

as far as Cavite and Bulacan.

CMC dean appoints new dep't heads

Last June 30, CMC dean Rolando Tolentino officially appointed the new chairpersons of each department: Prof. Rosa Maria Feliciano for Broadcast Communication, Prof. Alfonso Deza for Communication Research, Prof. Eduardo Lejano for Film and Prof. Maricho Lambino for Journalism.

Also chosen were: Prof. Jose Lacson, Jr. as Graduate Studies department chairperson, Prof. Clarissa David as Faculty Coordinator for Academic Program and Research, Prof. Arminda Santiago as Faculty Coordinator for Film, Theater and Extension Services, and Prof. Theresa Jazmines as Faculty Coordinator for Alumni and Resource Relations.

Tambayan ...

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Media Center, right beside the TV studio.

"We have already requested for tables and chairs for the temporary *tambayans* which orgs can use until year-end, when the *tambayan* complex is pegged to be finished," Mangilit said.

(With reports from Rachel Miranda and Maria Ernica de Guzman)

secretaries handling her case, calling them "the gentleman/lady from (office)".

For "the sake of expediency," Bañez had agreed to have USC's financial statements independently audited and submitted it yesterday.

But Bañez said this should be the final step in the long process towards her confirmation, "It should be clear to the BOR that this has to be the last straw, that I have to be confirmed right away after this."

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media to publish or broadcast the replies of those who feel violated by a report or commentary.

It also mandates that the reply be released "in the same space of the newspapers, magazine, newsletter or publication, or aired over the same program on radio, television, website or through any electronic device" within three days.

Suarez said the ROR bill does only put strain on the publication's editorial judgment and content but also on its meager budget. Most student publications could only release two to four issues per semester, and thus cannot comply with the three-day reply period proposed in the bill.

"The SONA is fast approaching and we encourage all school publications to become more active in asserting their rights," she added.

To remind the students of the bill's impact on media and press

freedom, Solidaridad held a forum entitled "Direct Response" at the Faculty Center, July 13.

"It will come as no surprise if the bill gets passed on its third reading," Rowena Paraan of National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) said during the forum.

She said that the Lower House has been very active in pushing for the bill in the past months, even to the point of offering "water-down" negotiations on the bill's provisions.

The NUJP, along with other media organizations, continue to encourage other media outfits to join the cause of junking the bill. As of press time, 62 of 200 house representatives oppose the bill.

"We'll make it as politically costly as possible for them (congressmen) to pass the bill," Paraan said.

Roland keeps it rolling: the perks and pains of deanship



Dean Rolando Tolentino

Roehl Niño Bautista

By Hon Sophia Balod and Jo Javan Cerda

A reserved parking space, a private bathroom, television appearances and invitations to important events are some of the perks a regular faculty member does not enjoy, unless he has been given the highest position in the college—the deanship.

For Dr. Roland Tolentino, the newly appointed College of Mass Communication dean, these perks may go along with the huge responsibility of heading a diverse college of more than a thousand students and faculty members.

"It is the priority of every dean to create solid and responsive academic programs that will cater to the needs of the students while maintaining the standards of UP education," he said.

Tolentino, 44, plans to strengthen both undergraduate and doctorate courses in communication. He also proposed a Ph.D. program on Media Studies or Ph.D. in Communications, Media and Culture that aim to consolidate the four programs

currently being offered in the college: Broadcast Communication, Journalism, Film, and Communication Research.

His projects also focus on student-centered programs such as the revival of the flagship festival of the Film Institute, "Pelikula EK!" a student experimental film festival. He also promised in his vision, mission and goal statement the establishment of organizations' headquarters (*tambayans*), a broader Wi-Fi connectivity and the free use of electricity to students who use computer notebooks for their studies.

Serving as dean for a month now, he finds the overall reception of the students and faculty overwhelming.

"Since the nomination period, students and colleagues have given me their full support. I wasn't surprised that I was chosen because of the mileage I had," he said.

Rupert Mangilit, CMC Student Council chairperson and former vice chairperson, said in his speech during the deanship turnover cere-

mony that when the former council found out about Tolentino's nomination, they did not hesitate to endorse him.

Tolentino, who ironically never got to set foot as a student in the University of the Philippines, received his undergraduate degree in economics and master's degree in Philippine studies at the De La Salle University. He later on took his doctorate degree in film at the University of Southern California under a Fulbright scholarship.

"UP is quite exceptional, with liberal education in and out of the classroom," he said when asked why he decided to teach in the university.

"The students here are still the best," he added.

Despite the eight-hour office work he has to deal with every day, he still prefers to spend his free time in the campus, jogging and hanging out with his friends. He even feels sad during holidays when there are only few people in the campus, he added.

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Mouth-off: Gloria vs. Iana

By Jean Lander Agor and Cake Evangelista

Watch out Gloria, there's a new girl in town.

For the past years, Gloria's, a well known canteen with its numerous branches in the UP Diliman, has been the main food source of the students of the College of Mass Communication. With its convenient location – right inside the college – it's no wonder most of the students have been flocking towards its stainless steel stalls, lining up to buy quick fix snacks, to breakfast and lunch meals, and even the perennially needed yellow pad and blue book.

But just last summer, the canteen was moved from its room in the second floor of the CMC Main Building to its present location at the Film lobby of the Annex due to the renovation of the Philippine Star room. What started out as a temporary arrangement lasted until the start of the current semester.

The cashier and food counters were moved in front of the auditorium while the tables and chairs for dining were left upstairs in the Skywalk.

According to Gloria's cashier Ate Susan, the arrangement would only last until the completion of the *tambayan* complex, where a bigger area will be given to the canteen. Ate Susan said that Gloria's would stay in CMC as long as they are needed, but with regards to until when, she can't honestly say.

Then, a new restaurant enters the food scene and sets up shop at the



Café Iana

Roehl Niño Bautista

college right beside the CMC.

Café Iana opened its sunshine yellow air-conditioned gates last June at the College of Music. Originally, a coffee shop, with its headquarters located at E. Rodriguez, Quezon City, Café Iana wanted to introduce a restaurant-esque ambience to the campus food experience.

Lino Bautista, Café Iana's branch manager, said in an interview last July 6, "The owners tried to put up branches in UP, supposedly in the Math Building." But when an opportunity to bid for a spot in the College of Music, the owners

seized the chance, Bautista said.

Café Iana offers a wide variety of food choices: rice meals, pasta, sandwiches, salads and even cakes and other pastries. Bautista said the cakes are a hit with the customers. The *sisig*, on the other hand, is their best seller, he said.

Bautista, however, was quick to say that even with the restaurant feel of Café Iana, their prices are still competitive with the market. "Our edge is in the (food's) appearance, quality and presentation," he said.

And it's no surprise that some

location, because the café simply has "better choices."

Bautista even admitted that although their patrons have been a mix of students, it seems that more and more Mass Communication students have been dining at Café Iana. The availability of coveted free Wi-Fi Internet and electric plugging might also contribute to Iana's growing clientele.

Still, some CMC students still prefer to buy their food at Gloria's.

Nicki Dans, 19, a film student, said buying lunch at Gloria's is still convenient. "It's here. There's no effort to go anywhere (outside the college)."

Ana Gaddi, 18, also a film student agrees. "When I'm hungry and I'm in CMC, I buy lunch here," she said.

Dans and Gaddi also said they like the many food choices offered by Gloria's. "I like the fact that the food changes daily," Dans said.

Both, however, said that not having chairs and tables at the same floor is their immediate concern.

As of now, there are still no updates about the renovation of the *tambayan* complex except for a supposed donation by former Sen. Edgardo Angara of Php700,000 for the *tambayans* and Php300,000 exclusively for the renovation of the canteen.

Whether it is the menu, the ambience, or the service, the presence of "another woman" will certainly challenge the current queen. This is one girl fight that will certainly affect not just the men's, but everyone's stomachs.

Tinig ng Plaridel wants you!

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Interested? Submit a portfolio to the editors or send us an e-mail at tinigngplaridel@gmail.com. You could also contact Sophia at 09065840747 or Rachel at 09216466826

Freshies are welcome!

Is the “Big Quake” a fake?

By Cherrie Ongteco

“I accidentally elbowed a pregnant woman while rushing out of the canteen.”

This was the kind of panic Dr. Alfredo Lagmay, a volcanology expert, had to experience to save his life during the 1990 earthquake.

Also a professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS), Lagmay recalled feeling the ground shake like hell and hearing the violent clanging of metal pipes.

With thousands of people dead and millions of properties destroyed, the 1990 quake would forever haunt Metro Manila as it celebrates its nineteenth anniversary on July 16. Coincidentally, in the past few weeks, news has been circulating that another “Big Quake” will soon strike the city again.

All that thanks to Metro Manila’s geological vulnerability. The city is practically surrounded by several earthquake generators such as the Manila trench, the Philippine fault,

the East Valley fault and the West Valley fault (Marikina fault). With these facts at hand, is the news about the occurrence of the “Big Quake” a rumor or a fact?

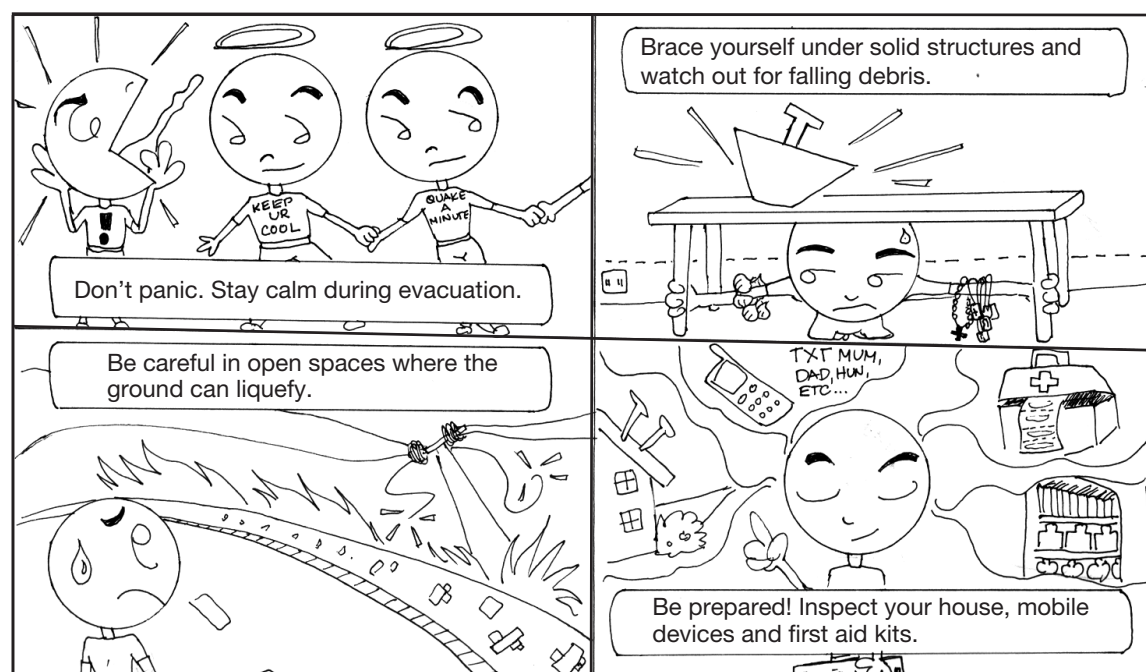
“This statement is true today, will be true tomorrow, and has been true in the past,” NIGS professor Emoy Rodolfo said in an interview last July 7.

News about the nearing earthquake is also based on a study on seismic hazards assessment of Metro Manila by Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, former director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and other geological experts.

Findings show that the recurrence interval of the seismic activity along the Marikina fault is between 200 to 400 years.

“The last one happened a little more than 200 years ago, so if the

What to do during an earthquake



Barry Cyrus Viloria

recurrence interval is anytime from 200 to 400 years, then it’s roughly about time to expect a big earthquake happening,” Lagmay said.

The predicted magnitude of the “Big Quake” is 6.0 to 7.0, based on the length of the Marikina fault. A magnitude of 6.0 to 7.0 is already strong enough to damage buildings and destroy lives.

In the face of the uncertainty and perils of an earthquake, “It is im-

perative for us to prepare for it the best way we can. We prepare for it so as to mitigate the consequences of the hazards,” Lagmay said.

Safe infrastructures and hospitals, secure supply of potable water, stand-by evacuation centers and properly designed buildings are just some of the ways we can prepare for the earthquake. If an earthquake as strong as that, which happened in 1990 strikes anytime soon, the

number of damaged property and more importantly, the loss of lives may be reduced.

According to a Philippine Daily Inquirer article, the 1990 earthquake killed an estimated 1,621 people with most fatalities located in Central Luzon and the Cordillera Region.

That day, the magnitude in Quezon City was around 4.0 to 5.0.

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What they didn’t learn at CMC Roland ...

By Marc Cayabyab and Dawnavie Dadis

ABS-CBN correspondents Karen Davila and Abner Mercado returned to UP Diliman not to bring the latest news but to teach young hopefuls about the power and responsibilities of media. As former *Iskolars ng Bayan*, they shared lessons about media’s impact on society during the “Correspondents’ Docuniversity” forum held at the College of Mass Communication Media Center TV studio.

“Beatipul”
Broadcast journalist Karen Davila emphasized on the role of media in informing the viewers of the harsh realities in our society. Using her documentary entitled “Ang Klase Ko,” she tells of the alarming conditions students have to endure in an elementary school in Payatas, Manila.

The documentary featured a disturbing student distribution per teacher in Payatas B Elementary School. A staggering 146 students were taught by one teacher in a small classroom, with around seven students sharing a single desk. These conditions result in the students’ poor class performance.

In this case, the reality is nothing near “beatipul” — a simple word the students failed to spell.

“It alarmed me that my children can spell a simple word as ‘beatipul,’ and they can not,” she said.

Journalists, therefore, should



Abner Mercado and Karen Davila

Melanie Mae Entuna

take the initiative to tell a story “outside of themselves.” Through documentaries and news reports, a broadcaster does not only tell a story but also inform the public.

“We want to show that this is the next generation (where) children aren’t learning anymore,” Davila said. “Broadcasters are called to be agents of change,” she added.

A matter of following one’s heart
“Life is a long journey,” said

award-winning broadcast journalist Abner Mercado in Filipino, as he gave the audience a dose of the high-stress level job of a media practitioner. In his documentary featuring the triumph of the first ever Philippine Mt. Everest Team, Mercado showcased the extreme conditions the team had to face in order to survive and to reach the summit.

Relating the journey of the moun-

taineers to that of aspiring media practitioners, Mercado stressed the importance of following your heart in order to achieve genuine happiness.

Mercado, however, firmly believes that no reporter, no matter how passionate, should ever risk his life for the sake of covering news.

“Is there a dead journalist who could still report his story?” Mercado said. It is, after all, the duty of the reporter to take care of his crew.

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Known for being a staunch activist, Tolentino hopes to make the college a pro-active institution in the intervention and mediation of media issues. He admits, though, that there are still tensions between him and other faculty members that need to be overcome.

“I don’t think there’s anything wrong with being an activist. After all, an activist strives for social change and what he does is always within the context of the larger society,” he said.

With 35 more months in the highest position in the college, Tolentino has clear goals in mind: to change the mindset of the people and to strive for more student-friendly facilities and academic programs without compromising the university’s excellence.

The idea of dying for a news report only defeats the purpose of covering the issue so that the public may be properly informed.

He also emphasized the media’s role as shapers and movers of the nation and how only we, as Filipinos, can eventually save our country from utter ruin and despair.

“Don’t give up on this country,” he finally said.

CMC orgs ...

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handling.

Meanwhile, the Journalism Club said the restriction was a “direct insult to the intelligence of the first years and UP itself.”

“(We) think that at most the limit should be only a semester so that there will be ample time for freshmen to integrate and inform themselves regarding organizational activities,” the group added.

Also changed in the code were the qualifications to obtain a *tambayan*. Under the code, organizations will be granted hang-outs based on “academic and extension activities, awards received (and) disciplinary records of (their members).”

PRAdS said these conditions limited *tambayans* to just organizations with academic and socio-civic pursuits, which not all UP organiza-

tions focus on.

The organizations also perceived the lack of consultation with students in writing the new code.

The Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs (OVCSA) said the committee to draft the code was formed in July 2006. The draft code was released March this year on the OVCSA website for feedback.

According to the primer attached to the draft code, 150 faculty members, non-faculty personnel and students from the Diliman and Pampanga campuses served as informants for the committee.

The Broadcasting Association said the code had “no specific objections to justify each provision and no consultation.”

Joyce Alaine, Broadcasters’ Guild vice-president, said the code contradicted the university’s essence of being an “institution for the free.”

Also opposing the code are the Union of Journalists in the Philip-

pines-UP, Sining at Lipunan, Cinema, Cinema Arts Society, DZUP Radio Circle, and the Communication Research Society.

The Mass Communicators’ Organization and the Circle of Research Enthusiasts said they could not comment on the issue. The Graduate Studies Association was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The draft code was released by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs on its website on March 2 for comments. The office said the process of creating the code began in July 2006.

Fifteen days after approval by the University Council and the Board of Regents, the new code of conduct will supercede existing rules governing students and student organizations in UP Diliman and UP Pampanga.

(With reports from Hon Sophia Balod and Cherrie Ongteco)

It’s game ...

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second place and only behind UST by 2-6 points. According to women’s co-captain Charisse Esmale, they considered it a learning experience and had been working on their weak points since then.

The VST’s training program had also improved with the aid of former member EJ Abilo, currently with the Philippine Sports Commission, who helped coordinate their in-land training with their underwater training.

Two more months before the swimming competition, the VST members were clocking in extra hours to develop their skills further and be properly armed for battle. With the effort they’re putting into preparing for Season 72, the VST would definitely be able to swim back to the top.

Taek jins spar for crown

UP’s Taekwondo (TKD) team ranked 4th and 3rd place last season in the men’s and women’s division respectively. This year, things were looking brighter as they continued to improve their skills and update their techniques, said head coach Cesar Mateo.

The team has six new members, two males and four females. Fresh blood hailing from various schools such as UP Integrated School, Dili-

man Preparatory School and La Salle had been carefully scouted by the coaches.

Although TKD was not a team sport, the UP Jins were closely knit and very supportive of each one’s endeavors. However, since individual skills are top priority, each one focused on improving their weaknesses. Mateo counted the athletes’ lack of exposure in competitions for various weight divisions as something that the Jins had to work on.

The taekwondo competition was slated to be in September and Mateo was hoping more people would come and watch the games. “Support from the UP community really means a lot,” he said.

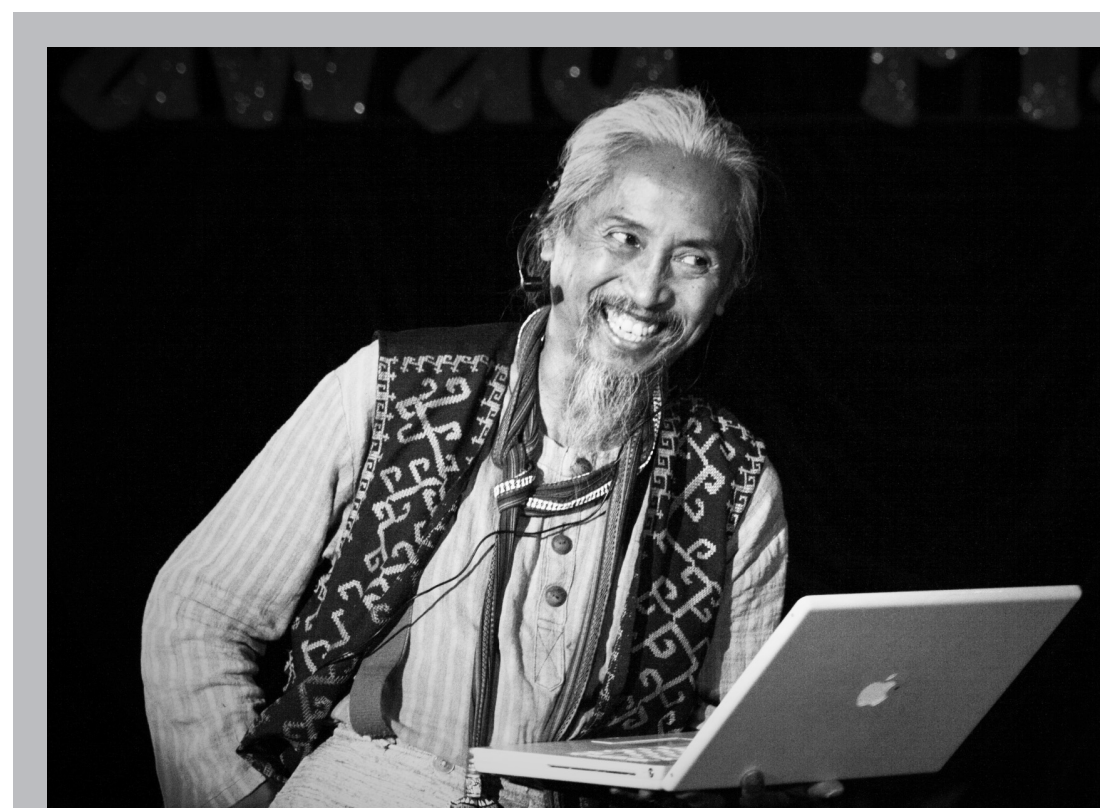
Is the ...

from page 4

There were no reported structural damages in the University of the Philippines Diliman, Lagmay said.

Dr. Lagmay and his colleagues were able to identify quake faults in the UP community. One starts from UP village, one to the northwest of the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Educational Development; another fault along C.P. Garcia continuous to the Marine Science Institute and the back of Kamia Residence Hall, to Balara exits.

(With reports from Nikki Palacio)



Kidlat ...

from page 1

how to shoot their own films.

“I was teaching them but I was learning much more,” said Tahimik.

The filmmaker, who had a master’s degree in business administration at the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business, took the mispronunciation a step further into *indio-genius*, referring to the Spanish period when Filipinos were called *indios*.

Culture of resistance

Thus during his speech, Tahimik lauded his “Gedi warriors”—a play on Star Wars’ Jedi knights—who he said developed a culture of resistance to the “west’s American Idol super-orientation.”

Highlighted during the presentation was Nauyac, represented by fellow Ifugao proxy, who Tahimik conferred a doctorate from what he called the “University of the Sariling Dwendwe.”

In lieu of a diploma, Tahimik awarded Nauyac a bamboo camera and said, “He pointed me in the direction of the *indio-genius* in the country.”

The filmmaker said he is presently working on a film about a man from the Cordillera region who joined and survived Magellan’s world expedition. Despite the western influence he gained, the man was able to retain his *bahag* culture.

In a tribute video made by film professors, Tahimik—father to three sons—said, “I have an obligation as a father, not just to my children but also to the next generation.”

Celebrating the indio-genius

Kidlat Tahimik presents clips of his “indio-genius” friends during his Gawad Plaridel lecture (above left) and joins Carol Bello of the band Pinikipikan onstage with his bamboo camera (left). A recurring comment during his lecture was an apology that his lecture wasn’t as “academic and scholarly” as those of previous Gawad Plaridel awardees. *(Roehl Nino Bautista)*

Jo Javan Cerda

The way they play

Growing up, I had the opportunity as a child to make friends with all the other children in our neighborhood. We would play outdoor games whenever we're bored, and our favorites were the classic patintero (a game where you need to pass through human obstacles) and the hide-and-peek.

Like any other games, ours were governed by a set of rules we need to follow just so conflicts would not happen and brawls would be prevented. Children could be pretty passionate and competitive, too. If someone tries to violate the rules to gain an advantage (like going beyond the line to tag an opponent in patintero or hiding very closely to the base in hide-and-peek), we call the person nang-gagago, or someone who tries to make a fool out of us. We did not like sneaky playmates. We were all aware of the principles of fairness and sportsmanship, even if we were just kids who wanted to have plain sweaty fun.

Rules forever govern our daily lives, whether we like it or not. Be it from your normal outdoor sports to your conduct as a student, business policies in the office and of course, the Constitution and the laws of the land. Rules are here to give commensurate punishment to violators, to deter others from committing the act and more importantly, to uphold a value that each one recognizes and espouses.

They are the politicians who want to gain advantage over their opponents by circumventing the law. In plain terms, we call them "nangagago."

In the context of how laws are being followed in the Philippines today, the ever-mounting series of lawsuits and cases of imprisonment serve as constant reminders of the situation. But what's more surprising is that the violators are not just the usual hoodlums we know, sometimes they disguise themselves as reputable personalities. They are the politicians who want to gain advantage over their opponents by circumventing the law. In plain terms, we call them nangagago.

Try turning on your television during prime time and expect for yourself a barrage of early campaigns masking as political advertisements. Loren Legarda is seen holding a tree seedling and campaigning for the environment; Gilbert Teodoro is almost Superman by offering himself as a refuge to victims of natural disasters. Who of course, can forget Mar Roxas's transition from Mr. Palengke to Mr. Padyak? And there's Manny Villar saving the day for overseas Filipino workers who got their hernias sticking out because their employers raped them.

Section 80 of the Omnibus Election Code and Section 4 of Commission on Elections Resolution 7767 tells us that "It is unlawful for any person or for any political party or association of persons to engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity outside the campaign periods."

Premature campaigning can disqualify an aspiring political candidate, because according to election laws, it is unfair to others with political ambitions, too.

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Editorial

Kill the bill

Those who still remember the Right of Reply bill (RORB)– which was shelved a few months ago– are anxious to know its fate once Congress resumes to a joint session on the 27th, while the country awaits what is ideally the president's final State of the Nation Address.

The bill is among the issues that might be tackled by the President once she speaks at the House of Representatives. After all, she did say that she will veto the bill once it passes both Houses.

That is, if there is any intention to put any attention to the topic at all.

As in recent news discussions, the RORB has been taken out of the limelight. Hayden Kho's taped sexual escapades enjoyed so much media exposure that almost no one noticed HR 1109 (constituent assembly) until the day congressmen started voting on it.

The same risk stands for the RORB: it might get passed while everyone is looking at the other direction. The dangers, of course, transcend all media. The RORB mandates the media to publish the reply of any individual or party

who feels offended by a news report or commentary. The bill, in effect, legalizes any pressure exerted by powers-that-be on media.

Even scarier is the "chilling effect" the bill could create on media practitioners. Critical outlook on pertinent issues might be sacrificed due to fear of the bill, preventing the press to fulfill its role as watchdog for the people

With the 2010 elections in mind, the

The bill, once approved, will hit media directly like a gas bomb releasing poison to the air, choking and blocking all reporters in their pursuit of the truth.

bill is more than susceptible to abuses by candidates for free publicity. They can cry that they have been accused, and have half a page or a minute of air-time all to themselves for free.

The bill, once approved, will hit media directly like a gas bomb releasing poison to the air, choking and blocking all reporters in its pursuit for the

truth. The bill poses threat to all media practitioners, even to us, student journalists, researchers, filmmakers and broadcasters.

Prior restraint is the last thing we need when we are being trained to go after the truth; to be critical in assessing, analyzing and addressing information that matters to people. The right of reply bill does not, in any way, provide for that learning. Nor does it help us become responsible and informed media men in the future.

What it does is pose a threat to press freedom, the sole avenue in demanding responsibility and accountability to people who swore before the law to serve the nation.

As mass communicators, bloggers, and texters, we should not, for one second, put our guard down against this bill. We, of all people, should know the enormity of its impact not only to media but also to the public they serve.

Time is fast slipping away until the Congress lays its verdict upon the bill. In a few days, we might have our press freedom taken away from us—just like that—if we don't act now.

Krishna Belle Meniado

Dine in, please

Think canteen or cafeteria. Matching chairs and tables, territorial seating systems and let's face it, food-line shabbiness, yes? All these in one place, less than ten meters away from each other, yes again? No, not in our college.

For one, we are not cliques from teen films like "Mean Girls" who sit in particular tables – we are not in high school anymore, for crying out loud – so we dine where we want to as long as the place is vacant. There is also little cutting in lines at the sometimes-sluggish food servers. What is worse, our canteen already went its separate ways: the food counter down the first floor and the dining area above it.

On the first day of school, I was appalled when I stepped into the food-haven-turned-new-classroom fresh with unscathed chairs and desks and sleek air-conditioning. First, I thought "Hooray! Classes are going to be more engaging!" But the idea of the canteen bearing the invisible tagline "Order below and eat above!" was not enticing.

Gloria's canteen said this arrangement will last until the completion of the tambayan

complex, which has not even started yet. Now, students are not only burdened by the loss of tambayan for organizational meetings, but are also vexed by the inconvenience of our canteen services.

So what we do is flee from it and go outside. We let our stomachs digest deep-fried sea creatures, or fill our lungs with second-hand smoke, at a food stand nearby. If there's more to spare, we retreat to a neighboring college where a hotshot café that offers hot meals on sizzling platters and free WiFi make us fuller and more comfortable. Or if missing the first fifteen minutes of the next class is no big deal, we even end up in Chocolate Kiss or at the Shopping Center, smothering ourselves with rich flour-based delicacies and home-cooked meals.

If you miss the old canteen, hate carrying your plate around the college or running off to some other building for lunch, that's great.

That makes two of us, friend. Sure, it may not have been the best but it was a happier place. It was a refuge for hungry minds and thirsty talkative mouths, a room of salvation from boring lectures, a place for gossip and meetings, and hey, even a production set for our class shoots.

Now let me ask you this: don't you feel our canteen deserves a place to call its own?

But the idea of the canteen bearing the invisible tagline "Order below and eat above!" does not entice.

Vox populli

Ano ang pinaka-memorabile (kalog, win, fail) na note ng prof mo sa paper mo?

"SD and E did a very good job in the content analysis". Camille and Mikko

"Uno (1.0). Un na yun! Haha!", Pepe's bitch

"U had a great title. The end.", polaraid

"I would hve given u a higher grade f u got d name of d awardee right" Hahaha., nimrod

Naglagay yung prof ko ng smiley sa dulo, tabi ng grade. Kewl., bluebusticket

How do you find our new college dean? What are your expectations?

Lurve it. HAHAHA, toni

wala akong masabi kundi magaling si Rolando!, thewayrolandomakesmefeel mo?

Ok naman. pero sayang wala na yung cool haircut niya from 2007. Mas pormal-looking na siya! :, mintychocs

With the new dean around, wala na gaanong byurukrasya sa admin. Madali siyang makausap about concerns., Superhuman

Tinig ng Plaridel welcomes all comments, suggestions, non-violent reactions and monetary contributions. Text TNP<space>name<space>your message to 0906.584.0747 or 0921.646.6826. Aliases and pseudonyms are acceptable. Anonymous messages will not be considered for publication. No textmates, spam or advertisements, please.

Riziel Ann Cabreros

Media-spree-rogative

Over the past few days, you probably have had a great deal of Michael Jackson since his untimely death a few weeks ago.

Almost every television channel had a tribute show for MJ, radio stations aired MJ-themed playlists almost on a daily basis, new fan sites and cyberforums emerged in the Internet, and his memorial service had live media coverage in various networks worldwide. Sure Jackson's death is newsworthy. MJ's name itself calls for it. He reigned as the King of Pop, well-respected and looked up to because of his ingenious contributions to the music industry.

But here's the catch: while many people are so absorbed in grieving over the artist, threats of terrorist bombing has reached Metro Manila, prompting the Armed Forces of the Philippines to alert the city.

Was editorial judgment sacrificed for entertainment? Was Jackson's death coverage overdone? Which is more pressing: soldiers targeting the Metro or a fan's anguish over his idol's death?

The questions are rhetoric. The same questions could be applied as we look back at the media coverage of A(H1N1) influenza and Hayden Kho's "sexcapades," especially with respect to the more important issues the public has the right to know about.

Broadcast, radio, print, and online media all put these issues in pedestal, giving A(H1N1) a frontpage treatment most of the time—as if no other news matters besides it.

Take these as examples: schools have been shut down for weeks in fear of disease outbreak. Classes were paralyzed and people did panic-buying on gas masks and medicine.

Although reports were generally informative, the media fed their audience with sensationalized news.

Thanks to the Health secretary's statement pleading to schools to stop canceling classes because of unnecessary alarm and fear of the

flu, the panic was neutralized.

Again, we were reminded that the cases of flu outbreak we have in the country are mild, and that dengue fever is much more pervasive and dangerous than A(H1N1).

While a contagious flu was a forgivable and valid candidate for a banner treatment, the Kho-Halili sex scandal certainly was not. And while how this scandal landed a Senate hearing is yet another story, Kho's sexcapades were given so much publicity that other pressing matters such as the constituent assembly and charter change were taken out of their rightful limelight.

While sex scandals and the demise of a renowned personality are juicy topics for trivial gossips, at the end of the day, news of public concern will still have the biggest impact on people.

It is the duty of the media to inform and educate the public. With that in mind, it

is but important to note that poor editorial judgment is a form of disservice to the public.

Instead of being accountable and responsible media practitioners, the mainstreamers went overboard in reporting events, giving blown-up treatment to some issues to the extent of overlooking others.

The media's editorial prerogative depends on several players of the game. Media outfits, which are profit-oriented institutions, rely heavily on ratings and advertiser's perception.

What sells to the public is what the television and the radio broadcast. What appeals to the masses is what the press publishes. What tops the ratings is what advertisers buy.

Surely, the media follow a vicious cycle where the top-bidding advertisers, media entities and the public are related to one another.

And at the end of the day, it won't hurt to ponder once again how we can resolve the seemingly blurry lines between giving the public what they badly want, and giving the public what they truly need.

The choices may be hard to make, but their consequences are much even harder to take.

The way ... from page 6

But Comelec even tries to argue in favor of the early campaigners. In a press conference last May, spokesperson James Jimenez invoked a provision on Republic Act 9369 or the poll automation law, saying that individuals who wish to run in the 2010 elections "will only be recognized as candidates at the start of the campaign period and not after fil-

ing their certificates of candidacy by November 30."

So it's a free-for-all campaign for the next five months. We can't blame the politicians for broadcasting their vanities every day even if it's unfair to other aspiring candidates; the law permits it anyway. It became more of an issue of technicality instead of the need to uphold the values of fairness and decency.

It's the Philippine government! What do we expect?

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Tinig ng Plaridel is a member of the UP System-wide Alliance of Student Publications and Writers' Organizations (Solidaridad) and the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (CEGP). It is also an academic partner of the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR).

Bulldogs chomp on Maroons

Lackluster performance disappoints Coach Aboy

By Mark Allan Cervantes

The UP Fighting Maroon's quest of an improved season in the UAAP started on the wrong foot with a 64-74 loss against the National University (NU) Bulldogs last Sunday.

"It was really disappointing," said Coach Aboy Castro. "I definitely know that they can play better than that."

UP started off blazing from both ends of the court, leading the game with rookie Anton Padilla scoring 9 of 18 points against NU's 10 in the first quarter. The Bulldogs, however, managed to force turnovers from the Maroons and converted them into points, pushing UP scoreless for almost half the quarter and grabbing a 29-36 lead by the end of the 1st half.

Second half wasn't any better as the Bulldogs continued to pounce on the lifeless Maroons, thanks to rookie Kokoy Hermosisima who scored 9 of his 12 points in the third quarter. NU extended their lead to 9 by the end of the quarter.

UP foiled any hope of a comeback when they started the last quarter with several turnovers. The Bulldogs barked on the Maroons' shortcoming and blew the gap to 21 points, courtesy of NU's guards Kevin Batac, Ajeet Singh, Michael Luy and their 6'4" veteran Mon

Ponferada who posed a big problem in UP's inside game.

Despite the Maroons' sudden outburst at the last two minutes of the game, it was too late to wrench victory from the Bulldogs' grip.

UP listed 37 turnovers, two short of the UAAP record of 39, ironically recorded by NU in 2005. Before the opening, the Maroons deliberately trashed the Bulldogs with 78-39 and 72-47 victories at the Nike Summer League and the FilOil Flying V Pre-season Tournament respectively.

According to the team, the absence of veteran point guard and current team captain Arvin Braganza, who was down with pneumonia, obviously hurt the Maroons. Reserve guards Mike Gamboa and Miguel Reyes didn't handle the ball well against the pesky defense of the Bulldogs.

"He was a big loss today because he's the most senior of us all," said Castro. "He could have broken down the pressure of NU. We really miss that type of leadership right now."

It was a terrible start from a team expected to have a break-out season this year, but they should get themselves together as they face a stronger Adamson University Falcons – who lost by a point to the University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers in their first game – this



UP Fighting Maroons rookie Alvin Padilla drives past Micheal Luy of the NU Bulldogs. Padilla made 9 of his 11 points during the 1st quarter. (Roehl Niño Bautista)

coming Saturday.

"We just want to get as many wins as we can, and we end in the running for the final four later on, then so be it," said Castro.

(With reports from Roehl Niño

Bautista and Kat Angco)

Scores:

NU 74—Hermosisima 12, Singh 10, Ponferrada 10, Malanday 10, Luy 9, Batac 9, Baloran 9, Terso 4, Manito 1, Roy 0, Magat 0, Fabula 0,

Cabaluna 0.

UP 64—Padilla 11, Gomez 11, Reyes 9, Lopez 9, Co 9, Sison 4, Maniego 4, Hipolito 3, Reyes 2, Jurruena 2, Gingerich 0, Gamboa 0, Astorga 0.

It's game time!

It's UAAP season once again, and it's time to get those cheers ready to support our teams as they battle it out in their own respective sports.

By Katrina Angco and Ela Teodosio

Fighting for improvement

The three victories of the men's basketball team (MBT) in Season 71 weren't enough to bring them to the Final Four, but it certainly showed that they were still very much capable of winning.

One year tougher and more mature, the MBT was more than ready to compete in the UAAP once more, said head coach Aboy Castro. They had been preparing ever since the last season's basketball tournament ended and were now ready to reap the rewards of their hard work.

With only former team captain Jay Agbayani graduating and several players transferring to the reserve pool, the MBT was still intact and their chemistry was undeniable.

Team building activities over the summer such as an "Amazing Race" around UP, yacht-sailing in Subic, as well as reflecting on an inspirational book challenged them not just physically and mentally, but also spiritually as these brought the guys even closer to one another. Moreover, it gave them a better idea of the roles they play for the team.

Veterans Arvin Braganza, Woody Co and Martin Reyes shared the duty of being this year's team cap-

tains. The three players, along with speedy point guard Mike Gamboa and center Magi Sison, would continue to lead the Maroons both in offense and defense.

Sison, a part of the Smart Gilas RP Youth Team, brought in the confidence and experience he gained by training with the national squad.

Five new guys suited up for the Maroons this season. Two of them were part of the team's reserve pool last year. 6'2 Alvin Padilla, who used to be with the San Beda Red Lions in the NCAA, is a skilled perimeter shooter but could also function as a point guard. Along with Padilla was another guy who made the tallest MBT recruit line-up yet, 6'3 Carlo Gomez from St. Claire High School.

Even more good news was the three fresh out of high school ballers who chose to play for UP, even though they were highly-recruited by other teams in the league. There's UAAP '71 Juniors MVP Mark Jurruena from the Adamson Baby Falcons. He topped the juniors' competition in points and was second in rebounds and blocks.

Expect tougher defense with the

addition of another point guard, La Salle Greenhills standout Mikee Reyes.

And who says only Ateneo has its share of blond and blue-eyed ballers? Guard-forward Moriah Gingerich from Faith Academy joined the UP squad to help out with hustle plays as well as contribute in offense.

Castro promised "a lot more closer games" with the guys being quicker than last year, not just in terms of moving the ball, but also when it came to defense. The team's rebounding skills had also improved, added Castro.

Even though the general goal of the MBT is to be more competitive, Castro maintains that getting into the Final Four is "doable," with the determination and optimism the players are showing. But they are also hoping more people would watch their games and cheer for them, because the UP community's support helped a lot in getting them revved up.

Surely, many, if not all, UP students would love to see the MBT reach the Final Four.

Swimming to victory

Numerous awards both in the

men's and women's division are testament to the dedication and passion that the UP Varsity Swimming Team (VST) had for their sport. They had proven that they were one of the teams to beat at the UAAP, but they still believed that there's always room to grow as better athletes.

"We always tell them that their biggest opponents are themselves," said junior coach Luica Dacanay.

For the VST, self-confidence was an important part of being a swimmer. "When you're underwater, you have to be confident enough for you to perform your techniques well," added Dacanay.

But confidence certainly didn't equal complacency, as each of them knew they had to couple passion with hard work. The men's squad lost four of its members to graduation, and the remaining swimmers had to double the work in order to fill the empty spots, said co-captain Roy Lapiz. They geared to get back the crown they held for five consecutive years.

The lady swimmers, on the other hand, were very happy with their performance last season. They won

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